

# An Investigation on the Part-Time Job Social Behavior of English Majors

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Received: August 25, 2021

Accepted: September 24, 2021

Online Published: October 12, 2021

doi: 10.5539/elt.v14n11p16

URL: <https://doi.org/10.5539/elt.v14n11p16>

## Abstract

The social part-time job is an important social practice, which can make college students integrate into society in advance and lay the foundation for future employment. This article investigates English majors in a normal university in Jiangxi Province via the questionnaire and personal interview. It aims to understand the current situation of college students' part-time work, analyze the problems and difficulties in the process of part-time work, and explore countermeasures, so as to enrich the research on college students' part-time work behavior and improve the safety and effectiveness of college students' part-time work activities, which provides reference for the cultivation of applied talents in colleges and universities.

**Keywords:** college students, part-time jobs, security, efficiency

## 1. Introduction

"College students' part-time job" refers to the social practice activities in which college students use their spare time to obtain material or spiritual returns through mental or physical labor for specific organizations or individuals (Fu, 2012). At present, many experts and scholars have carried out research on college students' part-time activities, mainly focusing on the purpose, significance and value, motivation, role and influence of part-time, ways to obtain part-time jobs, factors affecting part-time jobs, problems and countermeasures encountered in part-time jobs, optimization of part-time schemes, sense of part-time acquisition, part-time performance, part-time legal rights protection, etc. (Peng, 2005; Li Fan, 2013; Cronina, 2015; Gu, 2018; Jia, 2020; Tang, 2020; Gao, 2021; Mao, 2021). Some studies have found that college students' part-time job can not only reduce the family economic pressure, improve social practice ability and improve the employment rate, but also accelerate the transformation of local universities to applied technology universities and improve the ability of local universities to serve economic and social development. The research also shows that there are many problems in college students' part-time jobs, such as the low professional relevance and technical requirements of many college students' part-time jobs; The part-time management of college students is chaotic, students' rights and interests cannot be guaranteed, and students' safety accidents and salary deduction occur from time to time; College students' part-time job conflicts with learning (Yu, 2012; Zhao, 2014; Zheng, 2020; Wen, 2020; Wang, 2021). On the whole, most of the existing research objects on college students' part-time job are general college students, the scope of which is relatively broad, and the research on English majors is relatively scarce. This paper intends to investigate English majors in a normal university, so as to enrich the research on college students' part-time behavior, in order to provide reference for improving the safety and effectiveness of college students' part-time behavior.

## 2. Research Methodology

### 2.1 Research Subjects

The subjects of this study range from freshmen to seniors majoring in English teaching and business English in the foreign language college of a normal university in Jiangxi Province, a total of 280 students, including 244 female students and 36 male students.

### 2.2 Research Instrument

This study obtains data through questionnaire survey and personal interview. The questionnaire adopts the "questionnaire on social part-time activities of English majors" (self-made questionnaire). The questionnaire

items mainly cover the value and significance of part-time work, the purpose of part-time work, the types and forms of part-time work, the problems and difficulties encountered in part-time work, the gains in part-time work, the suggestions put forward for part-time work, etc. The interviewees are 20 students randomly selected from the surveyed students. The interview time of each student is 10 minutes, which aims to explain the answers to the questionnaire.

2.3 Data Collecting

This study uses spss23.0 (Statistical Product and Service Solutions) software to conduct descriptive statistical analysis on the 280 valid questionnaire data collected.

3. Research Results and Analysis

3.1 College Students' Attitudes and Views on Part-Time Behavior

3.1.1 College Students' Views on the Importance of Part-Time Behavior

The results of the questionnaire survey show that (Table 1): college students generally recognize the importance of social part-time jobs. 98.89% of the students believe that part-time jobs are very important. Through part-time jobs, they can obtain knowledge, enrich experience, broaden their horizons, improve their communication skills and exercise their practical ability, lay a certain foundation for future work and obtain certain economic remuneration.

Table 1. College Students' Understanding of the Importance of Taking Part-time Jobs

| Question   | What do you think of the importance of taking a part-time job? |    |                      |           |                    |                     |
|------------|--|----|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Choice     | Of importance  | no | Of little importance | Not clear | Of some importance | Of great importance |
| Percentage | 0%   |    | 23.33%               | 1.11%     | 57.22%             | 18.33%              |

3.1.2 The Purpose of College Students' Part-Time Behavior

According to the questionnaire survey (Table 2), accumulating social experience (90%), earning money (84.44%), improving their comprehensive practical ability (82.22%) and enriching their college life (81.67%) rank among the top four. This shows that for college students, part-time jobs can not only help them expand their horizons, enrich college life, accumulate experience, improve their communication, office and social skills, but also earn some pocket money.

Table 2. Purpose of College Students' Part-time Behavior

| Question   | What is the purpose of your part-time job? |                              |   |  |   |                      |
|------------|--|------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| Choice     | Earn money                                 | Accumulate social experience | Improve their comprehensive practical ability | Enrich college life and enrich your own experience | Influenced by surrounding classmates or friends | Parental requirement |
| Percentage | 84.44%                                     | 90%                          | 82.22%  | 81.67%   | 30.56%  | 7.78%                |

3.1.3 The Type Tendency of College Students' Part-Time Behavior

According to the questionnaire survey (Table 3), the students who choose part-time tutoring or educational institutions are the most (83.33%), and the second, third and fourth are "choose the part-time job they like" (66.11%), "choose the part-time job related to their major "(58.33%) and" choose the work study program in school" (27.22%). The number of students choosing catering service (21.11%), publicity and promotion (9.44%), print shop (8.33%) and distributing leaflets (4.44%) is relatively small.

It can be seen that the primary consideration for college students to choose part-time jobs is their future career direction, followed by preferences, majors and distance.

Table 3. Types and Tendencies of College Students' Part-time Behavior

| Question   | What part-time job do you usually do? |          |           |                  |                     |             |                         |            |  |  |
|------------|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------|--|--|
| Choice     | Tutor or educational institution      | Catering | Promotion | Related to major | Distribute leaflets | What I love | On-campus part-time job | Print shop |  |  |
| Percentage | 83.33%                                | 21.11%   | 9.44%     | 58.33%           | 4.44%               | 66.11%      | 27.22%                  | 8.33%      |  |  |

### 3.1.4 Ways for College Students to Obtain Part-Time Jobs

The survey results show that (Table 4) there are many ways for college students to obtain part-time jobs, among which the recommendation of classmates or teachers (72.78%) is the most common form, followed by direct interview with units (47.22%), Internet search also accounts for a large proportion (30%), and there are not many resources such as posters and small advertisements (22.22%). This shows that the first choice for college students to find a part-time job is the job introduced by their classmates or teachers, which is safer and more reliable.

Table 4. Ways for College Students to Obtain Part-time Jobs

| Question   | How did you get a part-time job? |                                       |  |           |  |         |   |     |                |
|------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|--|---------|---|-----|----------------|
| Choice     | Network search                   | Recommended by classmates or teachers | Posters, advertisements or other resources | small and | Door to door publicity to part-time institutions | door of | Go directly to the part-time unit for interview | for | Other channels |
| Percentage | 30%                              | 72.78%                                | 22.22%                                     |           | 20%  |         | 47.22%  |     | 35%            |

### 3.1.5 Characteristics of College Students' Part-Time Behavior

The survey results show that (Table 5), most students like to try different forms of part-time jobs, do what is appropriate, and do part-time jobs from time to time. It can be seen that college students are vigorous, energetic, willing to try and have the courage to accept challenges.

Table 5. Forms of Part-time Employment of College Students

| Question   | What is the form and duration of your part-time job? |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Choice     | Keep doing a part-time job and keep doing it.        | There are various forms of part-time work. Do it when appropriate and from time to time. |
| Percentage | 20%  | 80%  |

As for the types of part-time jobs of college students, the questionnaire survey results show (Table 6): 27.78% of college students have not done part-time jobs, 27.22% of college students have done one kind of part-time jobs, 45% of college students have done two kinds of part-time jobs, a total of about 72.22% of college students have done part-time jobs, and have accumulated some social part-time practical experience.

Table 6. Types of Part-time Jobs for College Students

| Question   | How many part-time activities have you engaged in? |        |               |
|------------|--|--------|---------------|
| Choice     | Never  | One    | More than two |
| Percentage | 27.78%   | 27.22% | 45%           |

When college students choose part-time jobs, they generally consider jobs related to their major, and only 26.67% of them choose irrelevant part-time jobs (Table 7), which shows that most students want to improve their professional ability through part-time practice and lay a foundation for future career development.

Table 7. Correlation Between Part-time Jobs and Majors of College Students

| Question   | How is your part-time job related to your major? |                  |                  |                    |
|------------|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Choice     | Completely irrelevant                            | A little related | Somewhat related | Completely related |
| Percentage | 26.67%   | 23.33%           | 43.89%           | 6.11%              |

As for the time when college students take part-time jobs, the survey results indicate (Table 8): 87.22% of college students take part-time jobs in summer vacation, followed by weekends in winter vacation and peacetime. The interview results also reveal that many students believe that it is best to take part-time jobs during holidays and weekends, because this period of time is relatively free, and it is not easy to conflict between part-time jobs and learning.

Table 8. Time for Students to Take Part-time Jobs

| Question   | When do you usually work part-time? |                 |                                    |               |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Choice     | Winter vacation                     | Summer vacation | After school from Monday to Friday | Usual weekend |
| Percentage | 48.33%                              | 87.22%          | 16.11%                             | 38.89%        |

### 3.1.6 Purpose of Part-Time Income of College Students

The income from part-time work of college students is mainly used to subsidize living expenses (44.44%) or buy long-time favorite items (41.67%), and only 2.22% of college students use part-time income to pay tuition fees. Students' part-time pay is not rich, so it is difficult to reach the amount of tuition fees (Table 9).

Table 9. Purpose of Part-time Income

| Question   | What does your part-time income usually buy? |                         |                                     |        |
|------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Choice     | Pay tuition                                  | Pay for living expenses | Buy the item wanted for a long time | others |
| Percentage | 2.22%  | 44.44%                  | 41.67%                              | 11.67% |

## 3.2 The Harvest of College Students Taking Part-Time Jobs

### 3.2.1 College Students' Understanding of Self-Worth Realized by Part-Time Job

The results of the questionnaire survey (Table 10) demonstrate that 67.78% of the students believe that their self-worth has been reflected by engaging in part-time activities, that they have grown up and can make their own contributions to their families and society. The interview results suggest that some students believe that part-time salary can be used as their living expenses, reduce some burden on their family and increase their sense of achievement; Some students feel that the biggest gain is that they have gradually become more cheerful from introversion, become more careful and serious, learn more time management methods, no longer do things blindly, master a lot of office technology, and their ability has been greatly improved.

Table 10. Students' Understanding of the Embodiment of Part-time Self-worth

| Question   | Do you agree that "your value has been reflected by taking a part-time job"? |                 |         |                 |               |
|------------|--|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------------|
| Choice     | totally disagree   | Fairly disagree | unclear | Fairly disagree | totally agree |
| Percentage | 2.78%  | 15.56%          | 13.89%  | 55%             | 12.78%        |

### 3.2.2 The Relationship Between College Students' Part-Time Behavior and Future Job Hunting and Entrepreneurship

The results of the questionnaire survey (Table 11): most students believe that taking part-time jobs can accumulate relevant experience, improve pressure resistance, enhance communication skills and improve work adaptability. Up to 78.33% of the students mentioned that part-time job can improve their stress resistance, which shows that part-time job is a good exercise opportunity. Through part-time job, students improve their self emotion management ability, learn to adjust their mentality, learn tolerance, and become more confident, optimistic, tenacious, cheerful and mature.

Table 11. Relationship Between Part-time Job and Future Job Hunting and Entrepreneurship

| Question   | What foundation do you think can be laid for job hunting and entrepreneurship in the future by taking a part-time job? |                             |  |   |        |
|------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---|--------|
| Choice     | Accumulate relevant experience and social experience   | Improve pressure resistance | Strengthen communication skills with leaders, colleagues and customers | Be able to handle changes and respond flexibly in future work | others |
| Percentage | 88.89%   | 78.33%                      | 75%  | 69.44%  | 20%    |

## 3.3 Difficulties and Countermeasures of College Students Engaging in Part-Time Job

### 3.3.1 Difficulties Encountered by College Students in Taking Part-Time Jobs

The questionnaire survey found that although the problems encountered by college students in the process of part-time work are different, the common problems are low part-time pay, remote workplace, long working hours, compressed learning time, potential safety hazards and insufficient ability to be competent for part-time work. It is considered that the students with low pay are the most (57.22%), and few college students believe that part-time job will affect their academic performance (4.44%) (Table 12).

Table 12. Difficulties Encountered by Students in Taking Part-time jobs

| Question  | What problems do you have in your part-time job? |
|---|--|
| Choice  | Percentage                                       |
| High intermediary fee                           | 13.33%   |
| The location is far away                        | 56.11%   |
| Long working hours                              | 36.11%   |
| Poor environment                                | 20.56%   |
| Low remuneration                                | 57.22%   |
| Learning time compression                       | 29.44%   |
| Decline in academic performance                 | 4.44%  |
| Insufficient capacity                           | 25%  |
| Communication difficulties with part-time units | 12.78%   |
| security  | 25%  |
| hidden danger                                   |  |
| others  | 15%  |

The interview results show that students also encounter the following problems and difficulties in the process of part-time work. Part-time work has a large workload, high work intensity and boring work. Sometimes they need to do some work unrelated to their major. Generally speaking, students can basically face difficulties, strive to find countermeasures and improve their ability to solve problems.

### 3.3.2 Assistance that College Students Hope to Get When They Take Part-Time Jobs

Through the questionnaire survey of college students on "what help the school, the government and relevant departments provide in part-time employment", the results indicate that (Table 13): 91.67% of college students hope the school and the government provide part-time employment platform to provide them with safe, reliable, systematic and convenient part-time information. 77.22% of college students believe that the relevant national legal departments need to improve the relevant legal provisions to protect the rights and interests of college students' part-time employment, provide strong legal protection for college students' part-time job hunting, and effectively safeguard students' personal rights.

Table 13. The Assistance College Students Hope that the School, the Government and Relevant Departments Will Provide for Their Part-time Jobs

| Question   | What kind of help would you like the University, the government and relevant departments to provide for college students' part-time activities? |   |   |
|------------|---|---|---|
| Choice     | Schools carry out more part-time training for correct guidance  | The University and the government provide part-time employment platforms for college students | The relevant national legal departments shall improve the relevant legal provisions to protect the rights and interests of college students in part-time employment |
| Percentage | 72.78%  | 91.67%  | 77.22%  |

72.78% of college students believe that the school should carry out more part-time training lectures to correctly guide them, especially freshmen, who have just entered the door of the University and are new to the society to engage in part-time work. They are inexperienced, simple minded and easily deceived. Schools and other education departments should guide college students to avoid detours, guard against being deceived and make part-time activities more safe and effective.

## 4. Result Discussion

Through questionnaire survey and personal interview, this paper understands the current situation of college students' part-time behavior. The results show that college students can generally recognize the value and significance of part-time. Their part-time objectives are clear, their forms of part-time work are diverse, they

have a certain sense of safety, and they have gained a lot, but at the same time, college students also encounter many difficulties and problems in the process of part-time work, students can basically face difficulties and solve problems, which greatly improve their social practice ability.

#### *4.1 College Students Having Clear Objectives and Various Forms of Part-Time Work*

Most college students have a clear goal of part-time work. Their main purpose is to accumulate social experience, obtain more economic support and economic independence, experience the fun and sense of achievement of creating value through labor, and experience the happiness of growth. A vast majority of students recognize the importance of part-time work and believe that part-time work can not only exercise and improve their social practice ability, but also subsidize their families. Students choose various forms of part-time work. Part-time work includes physical work unrelated to their major and mental work closely related to their major. Many students believe that as long as they have the opportunity to experience different part-time jobs, they can exercise different abilities. There are various ways for college students to obtain part-time information, among which the introduction of teachers or classmates is the most important and reliable channel.

#### *4.2 College Students Generally Pay Attention to the Safety of Part-Time Jobs, But Their Awareness of Prevention Still Needs to Be Strengthened*

Through questionnaires and interviews, it is found that a vast majority of students believe that when taking part-time jobs, safety is paramount; they should have strong identification and vigilance, have a certain crisis early warning scheme, and pay attention to the authenticity of part-time jobs to prevent fraud. Students generally believe that the best way to obtain part-time jobs is to be introduced by acquaintances, recommended by teachers or classmates or asked directly in stores, and do not rely on advertising or online information. If the school provides part-time work study programs, try to stay in the school. After all, it is safer for students. College students should protect their personal information and do not mortgage their ID cards. When doing part-time work, keep a distance from the service object and boss, and learn to protect your rights and interests. However, some students are still eager to find part-time jobs and will be lucky to find part-time jobs through the Internet, posters, small advertisements and other resources. The lack of awareness of prevention should be highly valued by parents, teachers and schools.

#### *4.3 College Students' Part-Time Job Has Important Practical Significance, and College Students Gain a lot from Taking Part-Time Job*

Social practice plays a very important role in promoting college students' employment. College students' active participation in social practice can further test, correct, make up and construct their knowledge structure, cultivate their ability of self-education, self-management and self-development, adaptability and social ability, so as to accumulate social experience and work experience, Establish a correct outlook on career and career selection, adapt to the market and obtain employment smoothly (Kong, 2019). Through part-time jobs, college students have expanded their horizons, learned more professional knowledge and skills, understood the development trends and industry requirements of different industries, learned the art of time management, learned interpersonal communication skills, learned skills and methods to deal with work difficulties, learned an optimistic attitude towards life, and become more responsible and responsible. They become more independent and strong, more frugal, cherish the existing good life, and study harder, so as to lay a good foundation for job hunting and employment in the future.

### **5. Suggestions for College Students Taking Part-Time Jobs**

Part time social practice activities are of great significance. They are not only conducive to the growth of college students, but also improve the level of social, economic and cultural services of colleges and universities. However, there are still some problems in part-time work, which need to be attached great attention to by students and all sectors of society. It is necessary to gather forces from all sectors of society to promote the development of part-time social practice activities, to improve the safety and effectiveness of part-time social practice activities, this paper puts forward the following suggestions based on the research results.

#### *5.1 College Students Need to Establish a Correct and Scientific View of Part-Time Work*

Firstly, college students should understand the legal knowledge related to part-time jobs and the market situation of part-time jobs, improve their awareness of self-protection and law, and avoid the risks of part-time jobs. Secondly, college students should correct their attitude towards part-time practice. Part-time work is important but not necessary. Don't simply follow the trend because students do part-time work. Thirdly, the choice of part-time time needs to be reasonable and appropriate, so as not to affect learning. College students had better do part-time jobs in their freshman or sophomore year, preferably in the summer vacation, so that part-time jobs and

learning are not easy to conflict. Finally, college students need to have scientific part-time planning and reasonably choose the type of part-time. Part time is best related to major, which can better improve professional quality and prepare for future employment. If students have a wide range of interests, they can also try different types of part-time or independent entrepreneurship that they like and are not related to their major.

#### *5.2 Parents Need to Care More About Their Children and Give More Emotional Support*

On the one hand, parents need to improve their understanding, know more about the development requirements and career development prospects of their children's major, know more about the advantages and disadvantages of social part-time work and potential safety hazards, and give children scientific part-time practice guidance. On the other hand, parents need to care more about their children. If their children are engaged in part-time work, parents should communicate with their children in the form of friends, give more spiritual support and be a strong backing for their children. Parents need to know about their children's part-time employment, and often remind their children of the safety problems of part-time employment. Parents need to remind their children that part-time employment is appropriate, talk with their children more, understand their children's part-time employment, and provide timely help and support to their children. At the same time, parents should not give their children too much pressure on part-time jobs, and should not excessively connive at their children to spend in advance or compare consumption through part-time jobs.

#### *5.3 Colleges and Universities Need to Strengthen Part-Time Publicity and Education and Build A Part-Time Service Platform*

Firstly, colleges and universities should strengthen the publicity and education of part-time social practice to guide college students and help them form a correct and scientific view of part-time work. For example, colleges and universities can carry out part-time lectures, part-time training sessions, part-time experience exchange sessions, part-time unit lectures and so on to improve college students' understanding of part-time work. Secondly, colleges and universities need to set up special part-time departments for college students, establish rules and regulations for college students' part-time work, and provide timely psychological counseling; mediation help and legal assistance after students' Part-time rights and interests are damaged. Thirdly, colleges and universities should build part-time offline and online network platforms to provide convenient and safe services such as part-time knowledge and information exchange and feedback for college students. Finally, colleges and universities should create more part-time work study opportunities for students. Colleges and universities also need to strengthen school enterprise cooperation to create more part-time opportunities for students.

#### *5.4 All Sectors of Society Need to Work Together to Promote the Effective Development of College Students' Part-Time Activities*

On the one hand, the relevant government departments should issue laws and regulations on college students' part-time behavior to protect the legitimate rights and interests of college students engaged in part-time work; The state needs to strictly control the part-time market, standardize the order of the part-time market, strengthen law enforcement, and seriously deal with the fraud of intermediaries. On the other hand, enterprises and institutions should strengthen their sense of social responsibility and mission and standardize the part-time employment system. Enterprises need to constantly strengthen cooperation with schools, provide more part-time jobs conducive to knowledge application and career development for college students, provide understanding and support for part-time college students in terms of time, economy and emotion, and improve their part-time salary and welfare, Help college students improve their employability and comprehensive competitiveness, so as to find a job matching their knowledge level, personality characteristics and ability when they graduate.

## **6. Conclusion**

At present, the employment situation of college graduates in China is challenging. More and more college students choose part-time work to accumulate social experience, improve social practice ability and alleviate the economic pressure of their families. Part-time work has become an important part of contemporary college students' life. The survey results show that most college students devote themselves to social part-time practice to contact and understand the society. On the one hand, in the process of part-time work, they improve their social practice ability and gradually clarify their future work direction; On the other hand, college students have also achieved certain economic independence, realized certain personal and social values, and achieved growth. However, in the process of part-time job, college students also encounter many problems and difficulties. College students themselves, their parents, colleges and all sectors of society need to work together to improve the safety and effectiveness of part-time job and help the cultivation of applied talents in colleges and universities.

## Acknowledgements

This study was financially supported by Students' Scientific Research Project of Nanchang Normal University of China (19XSKY14), and "11531" Construction Project of Nanchang Normal University of China (English Language and Literature Discipline Construction, Project of Humanities and Social Sciences of Nanchang Normal University).

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