

Diversification and Unification Thoughts on the Development of Dialects

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Abstract—Dialect is a differentiated language produced in the development of human society. It has diversified pronunciation patterns and carries the cultural memory of residents in a region. In the era of globalization, with the increasingly frequent communication between human in different regions, the voice of using a unified and standardized language becomes increasingly louder. Diversification and unification became two trends in the language movement. To have a dialectical view of the two trends, we need to understand the history of the development of dialects, clear the influence the dialect gives to residents. This paper analyzes the efforts made by various countries to promote standardized languages or protect dialects, discusses the value of these measures base on China's national conditions to provide ideas for the current and future social language development.

Keywords: *dialect protection, language unification, diversification, dialectical, global perspective*

I. INTRODUCTION

With the development of science and technology and the progress of human society, political, economic and cultural exchanges between different regions have become increasingly frequent, the demand for a unified standard language is growing rapidly. More and more people are learning the standard language. Campaigns to promote standard languages have been launched around the world, such as the "mandarin promotion" campaign in China and the corresponding campaigns in Britain and France [1]. The popularization of standard language has achieved good results. But to a certain extent, the large-scale promotion of standard language has caused a shock to traditional dialects. Dialects are at risk of being weakened and lost [2].

Dialect is a differentiated language produced in the long life and production of human beings. Dialects originate from languages and have relatively differentiated pronunciation patterns and diction habits. Dialects show the characteristics of regional distribution. They bear the cultural memory of the residents of a region and become the common cultural wealth of the people in a region[3]. Some dialects retain the language habits of ancient times and become living fossils of culture. The distribution of dialect population can reflect the change of population. Dialect has become the carrier of human spirit, culture and even civilization, which has high protection value[4]. People are the main body of the use of dialects. The inheritance of dialects needs to maintain the vitality of dialects and the groups that use dialects. In other words, to preserve the

diversity of languages, to preserve dialects, we need to use dialects.

In today's era of global unification and diversification, the choice, choice or coordination between language unification and diversification has become a problem we need to solve. To fully understand the two trends, we need to understand the process of the formation of dialects, the significance and impact of dialects on human development [5]. Learn about efforts to promote standardized languages around the world and existing efforts to protect dialects. This article will also take China as an example, combined with specific national conditions for analysis, to provide ideas for the language development in China at present.

II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Language is the sound of information, the most important human communication tools, the main way people communicate. Language is used to preserve and convey the fruits of human civilization. Language is one of the important characteristics of a nation. Generally speaking, each nation has its own language. There are now 5,651 languages identified in the world, according to the handbook of linguistic and linguistic communication tools published in Germany. Of these, more than 1,400 have yet to be recognized as independent or dying languages [3]. The term dialect has different meanings in different regions. In the Chinese concept, it refers to the language of a certain region that is different from the standard language, without considering the kinship relationship between languages. Dialect in the population of Europe is a linguistic concept[4]. According to the European understanding, a language that differs from the standard language and is only spoken in one region is a dialect. Population migration leads to geographic isolation, which in turn leads to the differentiation of specific dialects. With the passage of time, the gap between dialects gradually increases, and the internal characteristics of dialects gradually become obvious, so it is possible to produce new languages [5]. The concept of dialect in this paper is based on the concept of dialect in the language pedigree standard proposed by the European school of language comparison. In other words, in imitation of biology, it is assumed that several languages evolved from specific ancestral languages. According to the kinship relationship of each language, it is divided into several language families. In today's world, there are seven language families: Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan, Altaic, Semitic, Dravidian, Caucasian and Uralic [6].

Chinese belongs to Sino-Tibetan language family, which is generally divided into 13 dialects [3], and each language can be divided into many sub-dialects. The 13 first-level Chinese dialects are: Mandarin, Jin dialect, Cantonese, Xiang dialect, Wu dialect, Hui dialect, Gan dialect, Hakka dialect, Northern Fujian dialect, Southern Fujian dialect, Eastern Fujian dialect, Central Fujian dialect and Puxian dialect [7]. These dialects come from ancient Chinese and are more complex for Indo-European dialects. The Indo-European languages have the largest number of native speakers in the world. Indo-European languages can be divided into Germanic, Roman, Celtic, Baltic, Slavic, Hindi, Iranian and other languages[8]. And within each language group, there are internal divisions. The existence of dialects expands the variety of languages and becomes an important part of language diversification. Standard language is the official language stipulated by laws or relevant policies of various governments. Compared with dialects, standard languages have prescribed pronunciation standards and diction habits, and are promoted by the government.

III. MATERIALS AND RESEARCH METHODS

A. Promotion of Standard Languages

With the development of science and technology and the progress of human society. Political, economic and cultural exchanges between different regions have become increasingly frequent. The demand for a unified standard language is growing. More and more people are learning the standard language. There are campaigns around the world to promote standard languages.

France's efforts to popularize standardized languages can be traced back to the 1539 villegrotte act, which explicitly stipulated in article 111 that henceforth French legal documents must be entirely in French. Shortly after the enactment of the villegrotte decree, French succeeded in displacing Latin in legal documents. In 1635, the famous college DE France was founded to regulate the French language. In 1992, France amended the constitution by adding the sentence "the language of the republic is French" in article 2, further establishing the attitude that France only recognizes French as the official language [9].

America is a nation of immigrants. English, native Indian and other immigrant languages form the linguistic environment of this society. Faced with the complex population composition and language habits, the concept of language consistency is very strong in the minds of the heads of the American governments[10]. Driven by this language idea, the United States hopes to develop a strong language policy. But the laws are difficult to legislate because of race. Hu sorted out the American legal policies in the language planning and language policy in the new century[11]. The enactment of the uniform law on English as the official language of the United States involved extremely complex issues, such as economic burden, racial discrimination, patriotism and national unity. So far, 14 states, including Connecticut and the district of Columbia, have no official language. The English as the only official language of states and territories have Illinois, Arkansas and so on [12].

In Japan, the Meiji restoration of 1868 set off a wave of reform in all walks of life. In order to make the country rich and the army strong as soon as possible, the centralization of power was accelerated. One of the measures taken is to eliminate dialects in the whole country and realize the unification of communication. Dialects were banned from government documents in 1875[13]. Dialogs in mid-Meiji literature also eschewed dialects. In 1903, the Putonghua survey committee began to investigate the dialects to select the "standard language", which established a solid position for the Tokyo dialect to become the "standard language", while other dialects became inferior. The negative evaluation of dialects, such as "humiliating dialect" and "ugly dialect", lasted until after the war and reached an unprecedented level with the arrival of "high period of economic growth", which was the so-called "extinction period of dialects" in the history of Japanese dialects [14].

Since 1986, China has made the promotion of Mandarin the primary task of the language work in the new era. China has rolled out the work of introducing Putonghua into schools, and the slogan "please speak Putonghua" can be seen in schools large and small. The state promotes Putonghua as the national language [13]. China is a unified multi-ethnic country. As for the language policy of ethnic minorities, Chinese law stipulates that the languages of all ethnic groups coexist on an equal footing and all ethnic groups have the freedom to use and develop their own languages. The state encourages ethnic groups to learn languages from each other[15]. Putonghua shall be taught in the Chinese courses offered by schools that teach the languages of ethnic minorities, and Putonghua shall be used in the occasions when Chinese is needed in ethnic autonomous areas.

B. Protection of Linguistic Diversity

In 1968, the United States passed the bilingual education act, all referred to as the "primary and secondary school education bill VII". In 1967, congress held a series of hearings, invite language educators, school administrators and teachers, psychologists, social workers and the participation of the representatives of each language protection organizations on the bilingual teaching of extensive debate [16]. There are special organizations for the preservation of American dialects. The American Dialect Society was founded in 1889 to focus on north American English and its Dialect as well as other languages. Its members include scholars, teachers, writers, and others. The United States uses the method of compiling dialect dictionary to record and protect dialects. After the initial work, linguists spent decades collating data, searching for rare words and tracing their origins. In the United States film and television works and other published audio-visual media, there is a linguistic diversity. In contrast to mainstream eastern American English, a large number of publications with a southern American accent have been published.

The national dialects of Japan are divided into local dialects and Ryukyus dialects. Local dialects are divided into eastern dialects, western dialects and Kyushu dialects. The Ryukyus dialect is classified as Umami, Okinawan and Shimon do dialects [17]. After experiencing the cruel "purge movement", people began to reflect on the "standard language

omnipotence" at the cost of losing themselves, and realized that the use of a single communicative language has its limitations, and dialects are an indispensable part of daily life in specific regions[18]. After a period of high economic growth and the struggle to leave Asia and enter the European Union, the Japanese have regained their confidence and begun to re-examine their native culture. People change gradually from total negation of dialects in ideology. Meanwhile, the folk also actively carried out activities to dig and save dialects[11].

China has also taken more measures to protect dialects. In China, dialect is regarded as an intangible cultural heritage. China has enacted the intangible cultural heritage law, which protects languages including dialects at the legal level [19]. At the same time, the consolidation and archival retention of dialects were promoted across China, such as the record and consolidation of dialects in Shaanxi province [20]. Against the backdrop of the campaign to promote standard languages, China still leaves room for dialects. For example, in Jiangsu, southern Fujian, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao regions, apart from the mandarin station, the traffic will also use dialect station [21]. At the same time, art media works using dialects are also published for the society. In addition to Cantonese film and television songs, there are interesting dubbing works created by mandarin dialects (Zhengyuan mandarin, Sichuan and Chongqing mandarin). In addition to the government's actions, civil society is also helping to protect Chinese dialects. With the improvement of national quality in China, more attention has been paid to the diversity of languages, and there have been many online media activities and original online works related to dialect protection.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Historical Significance of Dialects

Language exerts an imperceptible influence on the user, including differences in psychology, language acquisition, identity and even mode of thinking. Dialect, as a kind of differentiated form of language, also has the above-mentioned influence. At the same time, as the subject of language differentiation, the unique content of dialects shows the historical cultural characteristics, and the similarities and differences between dialects reflect the flow of population and the historical events with characteristics. Dialects are important carriers of human culture and civilization. The influence of dialect on human beings has also been brought into modern civilization. Dialect has become a collective symbol in people's real life. People form a collective of self-cognition through the connection of dialects in production and life. In the development of globalization today, such a role will have an impact on regional human exchanges and production cooperation. At a macro level, language plays a role in facilitating the study of history. In addition, the study of ancient dialects can also reveal the changes of population, speculate the cultural patterns of civilization and the corresponding historical events. A study of the ancient Chu dialect, for example, explores the relationship between the central plain of China's warring states period and the local dialects of the Yayan, the official language of the time. [22].

Similar research methods are also reflected in the dialects of modern China: mandarin is the most widely used dialect among the seven Chinese dialects. The wide area of mandarin is related to the large population migration after the song dynasty. The migrating population not only brought a large number of labor force, but also brought the dialects of the relocated areas, which promoted the integration and development of languages. Wu dialect, Gan dialect, Hakka dialect, Cantonese and Fujian dialect are concentrated in the southeast of China, which reflects the geographical characteristics of the mountainous region and relatively stable population flow characteristics.

In Japan, dialects also provide a basis for academic research. Some Japanese dialects still retain the ancient phonology, grammar and vocabulary, so they become an important basis for exploring the origin of Japanese language. "Located in the Kinki culture on the edge of the Toyama county is known as" The Old Saying museum ". The dialects of the Kansas region also retain a large number of archaic forms of expression. If said no amount of auxiliary verbs "ん" and said the auxiliary verbs "やろう", etc. Still have the old saying of "あかし" contain "red い" and "Ming るい" two kinds of meanings, pass west words absolutely the same with them. Other regional dialects are also more or less full of traces of archaic language. In a word, the higher up the river, the more ancient words are preserved, while the lower down near the port, new words including "Common language" are common, that is, language spreads from bottom to top [11].

B. Cultural Significance of Dialects

As a carrier of culture, dialect has a very rich significance of cultural inheritance. Dialects contain the cultural information of the birthplace of dialects. Some words with specific meanings have a strong flavor of life. For example, the "Keca" in the Chinese dialect of Zhongyuan mandarin, which stands for broken crock, represents the containers that local people often use. The words contained in these dialects have rich cultural connotations and historical stories, which have become a living book of local culture. In China, dialects are an important part of the intangible cultural heritage. Local operas, such as Peking Opera, Henan opera, Yue opera, Huangmei opera and Pingju, the five most famous operas in China, all use local dialects.

In the modern commercial society, dialect also plays an important role in the cultural industry. In Japan, the most notably in Osaka in 1911 created the club commonly known as "ヨシモト". The humorous joke dialect talk show of Artist んま is a household name, for its popularity make enough. Japanese dialects have also become a bright spot for industrial innovation. Tourist resorts around Japan, especially the dialects of the Tohoku, Kyushu and Kansai regions, are booming, with towels, door curtains, ceramics, pendants, key rings, phone CARDS and so on printed with famous phrases of local dialects. The "dialect industry" is in full swing, ushering in the peak era of the commercial economy[11]. However, Cantonese audio-visual works, dialect programs and dubbing works in China have a wide audience and are welcomed by people. In the United States, a large number of southern

English accents greatly expand the linguistic diversity of American movies and television programs. It can be said that dialect works still have a wide audience and have a high value in the commercial society. The communicative meaning and influence of dialects. Being as differentiated language, the meaning and influence of dialects are more reflected in interpersonal communication.

Language is the product of human communication, while dialect is a regional communication carrier reflecting the characteristics of the population. On one hand, dialects provide users with communication tools with the characteristics of social identity. On the other hand, dialects create barriers for the communication between different dialect users. Dialect has the function of identification. A popular example comes from the university parcel bomb case in the United States in the 1990s, in which linguists judged that the killer was from Chicago, had a doctor's degree and was of a certain age from the words in the notes. On the face of it all, the features match the background of Kosinski. Similarly, in social communication, we can also use dialects to identify ourselves and each other. In an external environment, we need to use dialect form to carry out intra-group identification. This role of dialects also has an impact on labor and work in society [23].

In social work, dialect can have an embedded influence, which is reflected in the working mood and interpersonal relationship of employees. It is found that racial similarity affects individuals attitudes towards working groups and their intention to quit. An important potential mechanism in this relationship is the identification process, that is, attachment to individuals, objects, groups or organizations is generated by the recognition of the attitudes, values or goals of the model. According to social identity theory, people's identity is largely derived from the social category they belong to. Demographic attributes are often the basis of self-identification and the first impression of an individual. According to demographic clues, people are divided into different social groups. Similar people are divided into the same social groups as the self (internal group), while different people are divided into different social groups. "dialects connect people with similar social environments geographically and culturally to form independent social groups. It provides them with social identity. In the socialized division of production, people often identify members of the same group in dialect. The basis of this phenomenon is the large number of dialect masters and users [24]. In China, many people still speak dialects as their first language. Despite nationwide efforts to instill mandarin, in many parts of China, especially busy southeast Asia and the coast, dialects remain the language of the streets and factories, and in some places the language of trade in east Asia.

C. Significance of Language Unification

The role of designated unified standard language in modern society is mainly reflected in the unification of the country and social production needs. Language is a tool of human communication, which has the function of cultural significance and identity recognition. Therefore, for a country with diverse languages, in order to reduce the gap between different social groups of residents in different regions, and to avoid internal contradictions; In order to maintain the unity of the country and

the nation and improve the cohesion, the language should be standardized. As Liu in the modern sense of the mandarin language media puts it, mandarin is the language of communication media, if you want to live in a modern society, there is no unified language cannot be based on the communication with people, vigorously promoting mandarin, is conducive to people's social interaction, the political economic and cultural construction of socialist modernization also depends on a unified language medium positive role.

In the era of global mass production, people from different regions are working in the same production place. Not only in terms of production, but also in the process of urbanization, more residents from different regions move into cities. With the development of human society, standard language is needed more and more in work communication and life. This need is not only intuitive, but also consistent with the principles of economics. From the perspective of linguistic economics, the root of language competence premium is its human capital attribute. The higher the language ability, the lower the probability of information asymmetry and the lower the transaction cost. Language ability make transaction cost reduction, improve the interpersonal relations, bring more economic benefits. Therefore, in modern society, the emergence of standard language adapts to the needs of politics and social development. Within the existing social framework, standardized languages will continue to serve humanity.

V. SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

As a developing country, China is still in the process of modernization and urbanization. China is also a country with a long history, which has created a variety of Chinese dialects. In the face of such national conditions, the Chinese people should adopt the correct way to promote the standard language and realize the modernization process of the society. At the same time, the Chinese people should also realize that dialects are a precious cultural heritage left to China by history. It is of great significance for cultural inheritance, historical research, social governance and economic development to protect dialects and diversity of Chinese languages. Therefore, the standard language should be promoted while leaving room for the survival and development of dialects. Promote the equal status of dialects and Putonghua. The bilingual education of Putonghua and dialect can be encouraged in the areas where dialects gather. In regions where there is a big gap between local dialects and Putonghua, it is necessary to carry out the work of bilingual stations and other dialects users. To protect and record dialects and related intangible cultural heritage, to publish researches and records on dialects, or to write books in dialects. In terms of public media, dialect TV channels and programs are allowed, and market adjustment is made according to audience rating. In addition to government regulation, private capital can be appropriately encouraged to participate in the recording and protection of dialects. Encourage economic behavior related to dialects and make them part of local life and production.

Language policy is an important work of national governance. Nowadays, standard languages and dialects play an important role in society, culture and economy. According to the language policies and effects of each country, should the

language be unified or diversified? It's not a binary question. We can neither abolish and suppress other dialects in order to promote a unified standard language, nor slow down the work of language standardization in order to simply use dialects. We should integrate social development with cultural protection and respect the rights of language users. To promote the bilingual and diversified development of language may become the trend of language policy.

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