

Research on Language Interoperability Planning in Border Port Areas

Taking Manzhouli, Inner Mongolia as an Example*

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Abstract—The language interoperability planning in the border port area under the "Belt and Road" is an important aspect of interoperability. By reviewing the conceptual connotation of language planning, it is considered that the language interoperability planning of the Manzhouli Port is required in the construction of the "Belt and Road" and the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor, the regional economic development of the port, the language environment planning, and the improvement of the language interoperability of the subject. On the basis of exploring the ontology, status, and acquisition planning of language interoperability, it is pointed out that language interoperability planning has the functional significance of serving the development of society.

Keywords: *language planning, language interoperability planning, Manzhouli Port*

I. INTRODUCTION

Language interoperability is the main way to achieve interpersonal communication. Language interoperability is particularly important in cross-lingual social interactions. Since the "Belt and Road" initiative was proposed, "interconnection" among countries along the route requires language interoperability. Language interoperability planning refers to the planning of language proficiency for different subjects. The language interoperability of border ports is the basis for communication between different participants in the economic construction of the "Belt and Road", connecting Chinese and foreign trade channels, international trade at ports, and regional economic development. Taking the construction of the "Belt and Road" and the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor as the background and combining language planning as a theory, the necessity, main content, and practical significance of language interoperability planning at Manzhouli Port were discussed.

II. LANGUAGE PLANNING AND LANGUAGE INTEROPERABILITY PLANNING

A. Language planning

Language use is the process of consciously using language as a tool for communication. From the individual perspective, it is an active speech act aimed at achieving communicative intentions. Language use at the social level is related to the needs, adjustment, standardization and management of language used by groups, social organizations and countries to better improve and play the social function of the language. It is generally believed that language planning as an academic concept was first defined by Haugen as "an activity that prepares normative orthography, grammar, and dictionaries to guide the use of written and spoken language in a heterogeneous speech community". [1] With the integration and development of different disciplines, language planning has continued to expand the conceptual connotation and research directions, from the study of status issues such as language ontology and official language selection to the integrated research and development of the value, function and application of language in social life. The goal is to coordinate and resolve language use and communication issues at the social level. Language planning is mainly an official act that has non-official domestic language selection and use, choice of bilingual schools, social organization or enterprise internal language use and overseas language development planning. Therefore, language planning is the conscious, purposeful and planned standardization, rationalization and institutionalization of language functions by language subjects and management behaviors.

B. Language interoperability planning

Language planning's specification of the language ontology and its status function is the planning of language ability, language behavior and its users, and is a kind of capacity planning involving language ability. "Language interoperability" is an important prerequisite for interpersonal communication, mutual learning of civilizations, economic and trade exchanges, mutual trust and reciprocity. It specifically means that people

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communicate in a language that they can understand. [2] Language interoperability requires the ability to communicate with each other, which is mainly manifested in the ability to communicate between individuals, groups, and countries. It can be obtained through voluntary acquisition of other languages and official or unofficial opportunities for other languages. At the same time, language interoperability is the implementation of language ability and can be classified as one of the contents of language planning. Non-official language interoperability is the basis for effective communication and participation in social life among members of society. Language interoperability planning at the official level is a booster for economic and cultural exchanges based on building an international image of language and culture in the country and expanding language interaction. In China's border port areas, multilingualism often coexists, as well as cross-border languages or foreign languages. The use of languages is diverse, and the language interoperability often becomes an obstacle to communication. The language interoperability in this article refers to the "language interoperability" at the macro level, specifically, the same or cross-language spoken and written language interoperability and native and cross-border language spoken and written language interoperability in the border port area.

III. NECESSITY OF LANGUAGE INTEROPERABILITY PLANNING FOR MANZHOU LI PORT

Manzhouli is a border hub port connecting northern China, Mongolia, Russia, and European countries. And it is also the largest land port in China. Language interoperability planning of Manzhouli port is the actual needs of regional economic and cultural development at the port as well as the "the Belt and Road" and China-Mongolia-Russia economic and cultural cooperation and exchanges.

A. Needs for the construction of the "Belt and Road" and "China-Mongolia-Russia" economic corridor

The "Belt and Road" is not only a road of economic and trade among the countries along the route, but also a humanistic road of cultural exchanges, mutual learning of civilizations, and building a community of shared future for humanity. Language interoperability is not a decisive factor in foreign trade, but an intangible psychological bond and tangible communication tool for mutual trust and reciprocity. Language interoperability can enhance emotions and build a relatively stable social relationship based on trust. Official and non-official language interoperability planning is an important way to improve language interoperability. In the context of the "Belt and Road" initiative, Inner Mongolia has been designated as one of the 13 provinces and autonomous regions of the Silk Road Economic Belt, relying on the Northeast-Eastern Inner Mongolia Economic Zone to strive to build an important window open to Northeast Asia. International cooperation requires "interconnection", and "interconnection" requires language interoperability. The Manzhouli is a port city that connects China, Mongolia, Russia, and European international routes. The official and non-official language interoperability and planning are the

guarantee of language exchange in the foreign economic and trade exchanges. The language interoperability planning is helpful for the signing of foreign economic and trade cooperation agreements in port areas. The cross-border personnel exchanges, customs inspections, national laws and regulations, and language barriers caused by differences in social culture and customs can be solved. The languages involved in the planning of Manzhouli language interoperability include Chinese and Russian, Chinese and cross-border Mongolian and local Mongolian dialects. The coordinated planning of national and local language interoperability is to further leverage the geographical advantages of the port area, attract foreign investment, expand exports, accelerate the construction of port infrastructure, improve trade capabilities, improve and enhance the image of international ports, build a harmonious, effective, and beautiful life environment, manifest the self-confidence of the national language and culture, establish an international image, and express the objective national language security in border areas.

B. Demand for economic and cultural development in port areas and urban language environment planning

Export trade, cross-border tourism, and the tourism industry with regional ethnic characteristics are important components of regional economic development of Manzhouli Port.

The Manzhouli Sino-Russian Mutual Trade Zone started a trial operation in 1996, and has formed a comprehensive operation model of business circulation, exchanges among inhabitants of a border area, and tourist shopping. The inhabitants of a border area can enjoy a certain amount of tax exemption for imported goods in the mutual trade zone, and China and Russia implement a 24-hour customs clearance policy with convenient procedures, which promotes the sustainable development of mutual benefits of trade among inhabitants of border area and cross-border tourism. According to statistics from the official website of the Manzhouli Municipal People's Government, the total number of border tourists in the past three years was 823,000, 82.8, and 703,000, of which the number of foreign immigrants was much higher than that of the Chinese, with an average of about 65,000 per month. Participants in different forms of social activities, such as exchanges among inhabitants of a border area, foreign trade, cross-border travel, and domestic travel, have different backgrounds in the use of the language. Language interoperability planning is required to meet the communication issues of participants across languages and different levels of language ability. Language interoperability planning and improvement are the binders to enhance foreign cooperation and exchanges in border ports and establish stable economic and trade relations. In the process of economic development and co-construction of the "Belt and Road", the language interoperability planning in the language environment planning of the Inner Mongolia port area will help improve language interoperability, give full play to the implicit and explicit economic value of language and its cultural symbols, and is the comprehensive demand

for the economic, social and cultural development of the port area based on "interconnection".

C. The need for the language interoperability of the spoken subject in the port area

The urban area of Manzhouli is dominated by the Han nationality, and the neighbouring Xinbaarhuzuo Banner and Xinbaarhuyou Banner are Mongolian settlements. The language is mainly Chinese, Mongolian, and Russian in cross-border commodity transactions and social interactions among inhabitants of a border area. Therefore, the language interoperability planning of the Manzhouli Port area is based on Sino-Mongolian, Sino-Russian and Mongolian-Russian. Observations reveal that the Chinese language is mainly used in social life and daily business transactions in the urban area of Manzhouli. The Russian Commodity Street in the Mutual Trade Zone and the Sino-Russian Commodity Street are the main places for small commodity transactions. The main language used in commodity transactions is Chinese. When there are Mongolian or Russian customers, the calculator or gesture communication is mainly used to solve the problem of language incompatibility. The Russian "backpackers" with fixed booths in the Russian Commodity Street have almost no knowledge of Chinese. They also use third-party communication tool calculators to set prices and negotiate with each other. To a certain extent, this situation shows that the language interoperability of the subject of merchandise trade and social life in the region needs to be improved. Improving the language interoperability between verbal communication subjects is the most direct and effective way to realize the function of "passing emotions and expressing ideas" in language. Therefore, the planning of local and cross-border language interoperability in the port area is not only the need to improve the language ability of the speech subject itself, but also the need to build a harmonious and coexisting linguistic ecological environment.

IV. MAIN CONTENTS OF THE LANGUAGE INTEROPERABILITY PLANNING OF MANZHOU LI PORT

The goals of language planning are the establishment, guidance, promotion and management of users' language ability and language application ability specifications. Language interoperability planning is the language planning behavior guided or implemented by the speech subject itself or the official, including the ontology, function, and acquisition planning of language interoperability.

A. Corpus planning of language interoperability

The purpose of language corpus planning is to standardize the language form so that members of the society can use it correctly. [3] Corpus plans for language interoperability in border areas can be divided into national and domestic language interoperability plans. The language interoperability is manifested in two levels of oral and written communication. The national language interoperability planning includes the planning of language specifications in the process of improving transnational language interoperability. The Manzhouli area is dominated

by China-Russia language interoperability planning. It is necessary to compile a practical Sino-Russian bilingual dictionary or manual, standardize Russian loan words, contract documents, terminology in Sino-Russian translation of product descriptions, and "cultural conflict" in cross-cultural communication. Corpus planning of language interoperability is premised on official guidance and norms, so as to achieve the management and planning of language competence, language use standardization, language selection in urban language landscapes and public signs, and standardization of terminology of participating subjects. At the same time, informatization of language and text should also become the content of language interoperability planning. For example, in order to solve the problem of language incompatibility such as "numerical symbols" used by computers or mobile phones to enter prices in border commodity trade, the development and application of Sino-Russian small language identification databases or apps such as daily language, business language, customs clearance, and tourism language can assist communication in order to meet and improve Sino-Russian language interoperability.

B. Functional planning for language interoperability

Language function planning refers to the planning of the different functions of language in social life. It is based on language ontology and status planning, and takes the value and role of language and language phenomena at different functional levels as tasks. [4] Functional planning for language interoperability is the activity of planning language functions and social functions in different fields due to communication barriers caused by language or dialect differences. The language interoperability planning of border port areas takes the function of language in dynamic digital media technology in foreign trade exchanges, exchanges among the inhabitants in the border area, cross-border tourism, domestic border tours and related language environments, static Sino-Russian bilingual or multilingual guidance boards, publicity boards, and road traffic instructions as the tasks. For example, it is required to increase the Chinese and Russian language sensibility and the experience of emotional and aesthetic functions, so as to enhance the awareness of the language interoperability between Chinese and Russian people in border areas. Positive and beautiful emotional experience helps to enhance the motivation of users' language interoperability, and promotes the social function planning of language interoperability between Chinese and foreign languages through the further planning business types of language, cross-cultural communication and media landscape style of urban architecture language and multilingual official and unofficial website construction, etc.

C. Acquisition planning of language interoperability

The acquisition plan was proposed by Cooper, considering language acquisition or learning of a new language as a plan to increase the number of users. [5] In other words, it is a planning for the use of language or the acquisition of new language ability. In essence, language interoperability is the basis for whether people have the

language ability to communicate with each other. Language interoperability can be acquired through acquisition planning, of which the improvement of individual language ability is the direct way. Russian and general foreign language acquisition planning is the actual demand for the language interoperability planning of Manzhouli Port. At present, the main Russian professional talent training institutions are Manzhouli Russian Vocational College and Manzhouli College. The social acquisition of the improvement of the Sino-Russian interoperability is manifested by the mutual acquisition of Chinese and Russian language in the process of Sino-Russian border people's commodity transactions based on instrumental needs or the natural acquisition in the social exchanges between Chinese and Russian border residents. The planning of foreign language interoperability in port areas can be set up through reasonable foreign language education planning, such as cultivating composite foreign language talents to meet the employment preferences of commerce, administration, and large multinational enterprises and establishing corresponding talent training models. The language interoperability planning in the border towns can take practical, convenient, and targeted "fine, accurate, fast" language training. The language interoperability acquisition planning is based on the overall needs of local people, social organizations, trade groups and officials as the premise. It is necessary to build a planning model of "educational acquisition + social acquisition" for language interoperability ability of professional and general talents, so as to improve local language service ability and foreign language service ability based on language interoperability.

V. CONCLUSION

Language interoperability planning is a planning activity in which language can better play the communication function and social responsibility. The language interoperability planning of Manzhouli Port is a language-based medium for foreign economic, trade, and cultural exchanges, and is also the way to realize the added value of language economy and its social functions. It helps to build a mutually trusted and beneficial business environment for small trading and to create an open and harmonious foreign exchange environment. At the same time, language interoperability planning requires the guidance and standardization of the national language policy. By fully mobilizing the willingness of individual language interoperability, the enthusiasm of enterprises, institutions and social organizations, the national language and local language service capabilities of the port area can be improved.

Language interoperability facilitates the "Belt and Road" interconnection. The planning of language interoperability in frontier border areas aims to give full play to the function of language in social life, with the purpose of effectively communicating with participants, highlighting the actual social needs of language intercourse and the humanistic function of emotional exchange. In the context of the "Belt and Road", the language interoperability planning of border

port areas is conducive to realizing the social functions of the language serving the economic development, establishing a good image of the international port, providing the national language service ability, promoting the international communication of Chinese and the national language security.

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