

# Research on Xinjiang Language Contact Under Multi-prism Perspective\*

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**Abstract**—The article discusses the language contact of Xinjiang minority language and Chinese from the six aspects of history, status quo, law, process, relevance and trend. It aims to introduce the theory of language contact in Xinjiang in an all-round way and provide reference for language contact research in other regions.

**Keywords**—Xinjiang language; contact; research

## I. INTRODUCTION

The need for communication makes direct or indirect contact between a person who speaks a language and a person who speaks a language or a culturally dominant language. This contact is called language contact. Although there are thousands of languages in use in the world, no single language can be said to be purely independent. Because the development of language contact is inevitable, it is of great significance to study it. On the one hand, it can reveal the development mode and trend of language under the influence of external factors and internal factors; on the other hand, it is the best combination of linguistics, sociology, history, and culture.

Xinjiang, known as the Western Region, is the intersection of the four major civilizations and the three major languages. Numerous ethnic tribes, frequent economic exchanges, harmonious ethnic relations, and a long history of exchanges provide a rich and detailed corpus for the study of language contact.

## II. A HISTORY OF LANGUAGE CONTACT IN XINJIANG

### A. Before the Sui Dynasty

During this period, the languages of Xinjiang were mainly in Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan languages, supplemented by Altaic language. The contact status was mainly: the contact within Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan languages, the contact between Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan languages. In addition, it includes internal contacts in Altaic language and its contact with Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan languages. Due to the completion of the Indo-

Europeanization, the northern and eastern Tarim Basins are mainly used in Torah language; the western and southern passed Kothon Saka language; Chinese language is widely used as an official language in addition to the Loulan and Gaochang Han communities. It is no longer limited to the communicative language with the Central Plains regime; Gandhara language was once popular in the southeastern part of the basin. Turkic language is mainly used in the grassland area of the northern Tianshan Mountains. Tianshan North Road is mainly represented by the contact between Sino-Tibetan language and Turkic language; South Road is mainly the contact between Sino-Tibetan language and the Torah language.

The result of language contact in Xinjiang before the Sui Dynasty was: a large number of borrowing words appeared in different language languages, frequent mixed language codes, common bilingualism, higher Chinese language field level, and lower level of Indo-European language field, zooming out and so on. The long-term impact of language contact in Xinjiang is the emergence of mixed language in the Central Plains, namely Buddhism Chinese.

### B. During the Liao and Song Dynasties

During this period, the language contact of Xinjiang was mainly in Altaic and Sino-Tibetan languages, supplemented by Indo-European language. The contact status was the within contact between Altaic and Sino-Tibetan languages, the contact of Altaic and Sino-Tibetan language. In addition, it includes contacts between Indo-European, Semito-Hamitic and Altaic, Sino-Tibetan languages. With the rapid development of Turkic language, Indo-European language gradually lost its original status and gave way to Turkic language. Before 840 years, Turkic language was widely popular in the north and south of the Tianshan Mountains, and then replaced by Uyghur language; Sogdian language was the most important. The commercial communication language is applied to the Silk Road; the use of Chinese in the three states of Yi, Xi and Ting three states is more common, and the status as a communicative language between the local government and the Dufu is strengthened; ancient Tibetan language is used in the official in the southern and southeast part of the basin. After the completion of the Tiller-Uyghurization process, Islamization began to emerge in the rule of the Karahan Dynasty. Bounded by harmony in Kothon, Uyghur language is used in

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the eastern region; the western region originally used Uyghur language, and later influenced by Islam, and adopted Hakania language. The scope of use of Saka language is still in the area of Kothon and Loulan. The use of Chinese in Kothon and its east is not limited to Buddhist translation and official communication, but also into ordinary life. Arabic was used as the religious sacred language on the upper level of the Karahan dynasty.

From Sui Dynasty to Song Jin, the result of language contact in Xinjiang is that there are a large number of borrowing words in different language languages, a large number of language bottoms, more common language codes, more bilingual and even multilingualism. The linguistic level of Chinese, Turkic and Uyghur language has been continuously improved, and the languages transfer and languages fusion has begun to emerge. The long-term impact of language contact in Xinjiang is that the same language begins to differentiate.

### *C. During the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties*

During this period, the language of Xinjiang was mainly based on Altaic and Sino-Tibetan languages, supplemented by the language of Semito-Hamitic. The contact status was the contact between Altaic and Sino-Tibetan languages, Altaic language and Sino-Tibetan language. In addition, it includes contacts between Semito-Hamitic language and Altaic and Sino-Tibetan languages. Before the 16th century, the Tianshan North Road was in Kepchak, the South Road was mainly in Chagatai, and the eastern Tianshan residents used Uyghur language. With the popularization of Islam and the Islamicization of the Mongolian nobility who ruled Xinjiang, the use of Chagatai extended to the north and south of the Tianshan Mountains. The Oirat Mongolian language exists in the grassland area. Arabic is popular among intellectuals who believe in Islam. After the 18th century, with the formation of the main ethnic groups in Xinjiang, the ethnic groups lived mainly in their own languages. Since the northeastern tribes, such as Manchu, Xibo, and Daur, moved into Xinjiang. Manchu and Chinese, which are the common language of the country, are widely used.

The result of language contact in Xinjiang during the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties was that a large number of borrowing words appeared in different language family languages, the degree of language influence was intensified, the code mixture was more random, the language combination phenomenon was more common, bilingualism and even multilingualism were used, and the transfer phenomenon became more and more serious. The language level and pragmatic functions of many, Chinese and minority languages are clearer. The long-term influence of language contact in Xinjiang is that the languages originating from the same ancestor begin to be independent.

## III. THE STATUS QUO OF LANGUAGE CONTACT IN XINJIANG

### *A. The Influence of Language Structure*

#### *1) Chinese influence on Uighur and Kazakh*

*a) Voice effect:* increase the phoneme and the new phoneme combination mode. Compared with Uyghur, the addition of /w/, /f/, /z/, /h/, /j/ in the Uyghur and Kazakh language, where /h/ is the remains of the Toshiro language; /w/ is the effect of the result by Russian; /f/ is the performance of Arabic infiltration. Although many people suspect that /z/, /j/ is also influenced by Russian, it is actually closely related to Chinese.

*b) Word impact:* increase the number of words and enrich the means of word formation. On the basis of abandoning a large number of Arabic and Persian loanwords, Uighur and Kazakh actively absorb Chinese loanwords, ranging from cultural words to basic vocabulary. Uighur and Kazakh language also introduce the abbreviated and compounded forms of Chinese.

*c) Grammatical influence:* the development of modal particles is more in-depth, the number of quantitative words is greatly increased, and the development trend from morphological means to analytical means is obvious. In modern Uighur and Kazakh language, there are not only interrogative modal particles, restricted modal particles, but also imperative modal particles, votive modal particles, exclamatory modal words, request modal particles, and indefinite modal particles.

#### *2) Influence of Uighur and Kazakh on Chinese*

*a) Speech influence:* the semantic difference is expressed by non-sound quality phonemes. The upper tone value is changed from 214 to 53, the individual phonemes are mutated and the complex vowel is changed into a single vowel. Influenced by the emphasis of Uighur and Kazakh language on the last syllable, Chinese dialects in Xinjiang are often read in half, and the tone field is mainly high-profile.

*b) Vocabulary impact:* borrowing Uighur and Kazakh vocabulary, the concept of quantity is simplified, and individual special words are added. Xinjiang dialects use transliteration, free translation, and wall-to-wall to borrow a large number of Uighur and Kazakh vocabularies.

*c) Grammatical influence:* the word order sometimes borrows the unique SOV form of the Altaic language, the preposition of the morphological sign, the quasi-morphological sign, the cancellation of the complement, and the addition of the narration. Influenced by the verbs of the Uighur and Kazakh styles, similar forms in Xinjiang Chinese are also in the form of verbs.

*3) Interlanguage produced by language contact:* Language contact leads to the generation of interlanguage. In Xinjiang bilingual teaching, this interlanguage is produced in the process of learning Chinese. It is not a mixed form of Chinese and Uighur and Kazakh, nor a local

variant of Chinese, but a national variant of Chinese. Chinese used by Uighur and Kazaks in Xinjiang is a national variant of Mandarin Chinese, which is different from the local variants of the language, although it is similar in form.

### *B. The Impact of Social Function*

The language evolution caused by language contact includes two aspects: one is the change of language structure, which has both vocabulary changes and changes in speech and grammar; the second is the change of language function, including language function. Lifting, language use, and language transfer, etc. The indicator reflecting the rise and fall of the language function is the number of users of the language and the area of use.

The changes that have occurred after the contact between Chinese and Uighur and Kazakh are: the scope of use has been expanded and the number of users has increased greatly. Chinese is not only an official business language, but also a daily communication language. Chinese is not only the main tool for the exchange of ethnic minorities and Chinese, but also the main tool for communication between some ethnic minorities. The changes that have occurred after the contact between Uighur, Kazakh and Chinese are: the scope of use is reduced, and the phenomenon of dual use and conversion to Chinese appears.

### *C. The Influence of Bilingual Education*

The reason for the phenomenon of bilingualism or multilingualism is mainly the migration of people caused by social, political, economic and other reasons. That is, when the newly moved population in a certain area contacts with the local population, there may be a bilingual phenomenon. Therefore, language contact plays an important role in bilingual teaching, especially in Xinjiang.

1) *Language contact leads to the emergence of bilingualism:* The dual use of language refers to the phenomenon of bilingualism, that is, a phenomenon in which a nation adopts another language or languages in addition to its native language. The emergence of bilingualism in the language community will inevitably stimulate the user's motivation to learn and improve the effectiveness of bilingual teaching.

2) *Language contact leads to the emergence of ethnic variants:* This kind of national variant refers to the regular and systematic mother tongue structure that is repeated in different degrees in Uighur and Kazak (except for natural acquisition and classroom teaching and full control of Chinese). It is a kind of Chinese variant.

3) *Language contact causes different languages to be affected differently, thus affecting the choice of bilingual teaching modes in different ethnic groups:* It is imperative to choose bilingual teaching mode or formulate bilingual teaching principles according to the language relationship and even the language level and functional scope of the affected people.

4) *Language contact leads to differences in bilingual teaching among different ethnic groups, which in turn makes the standards for measuring the effectiveness of bilingual teaching different and high:* Therefore, for groups that use language with weaker social functions, the phenomenon of language use is relatively common, and the effect of bilingual teaching is also obvious. On the contrary, it is not obvious.

## IV. THE LAW OF LANGUAGE CONTACT IN XINJIANG

In a certain area, due to the special geographical environment as well as social factors and language factors, some languages that are not related to each other form a collection. In this collection, although there is no typological and epigenetic relationship, the language penetration is carried out in a layered manner because of mutual contact, so that the differences between the language families are getting weaker and lighter, and more and more commonality. This commonality in turn makes the language relationship within the collection closer. Because they live together in one region, they play different social functions. The language with the widest range of use and the highest level of language is the strong language. Because strong language has more influence on other languages than reaction, it is located at the bottom of the language field and also at the center of the set. Correspondingly, the language with a lower level of language is located in the outer layer of the collection. The language groups in a certain area are gradually interacting and merging through collections and levels, and finally achieve language use and language replacement. The law governing the language to operate according to this pattern is called language contact affecting the law of the circle. Starting from the commonality of language and the characteristics of regional language, combined with the diachronic development of language, we can see that the law of circle is the law of language contact in Xinjiang. This is because:

- The structural similarities of different languages, especially non-relative languages, in the same region make them clustered into groups, which have internal generality. The driving force behind this collective is the structural convergence or mutual association caused by language contact, as well as social and geographic factors. Of course, it also contains certain political factors.
- In language groups, the role of language is determined by cultural and social functions. The pluralistic characteristics and language competitiveness of Chinese culture determine that Chinese is the core of the language group and the top language. Other languages are arranged in order of function size and language level.
- The universality of language contact leads to the inevitability of language influence, that is, Chinese at the center has an influence on the surrounding language, and the surrounding language also has an influence on Chinese. This effect is manifested in the structure is the approximation of the language

features within the group, and even the language mix; the performance is that the core language advantage is more prominent, while the extra-nuclear language function is successively decremented, and the function of the outermost language is the easiest to lose of.

- The level of language function determines the size of the impact, that is, the higher the level, the greater the impact; the lower the level, the smaller the impact. As a top-level language, Chinese has a greater influence on its language structure than the counter-influence, and thus becomes the basic layer or “bottom layer” of the affected language (unlike the surviving language of the replaced language in the alternative language).
- The influence of language also has its depth. It starts from the structure and then goes into the function. It starts with vocabulary borrowing, and then it is the influence of speech and grammar. From the beginning of language, it is the language transfer again. At the same time, mixed language is the structure influence and function. The critical point of influence.
- Within the language group, the stronger the strong, the weaker the weaker, the more the core language functions continue to expand, and the integration and unification of language is the trend. Language maintenance and language development are the dilemmas of language groups.

## V. THE PROCESS OF XINJIANG LANGUAGE CONTACT

Referring to the general linguistics and sociolinguistic perspectives, under the influence of the interaction and dependence model of language contact, the process of Xinjiang language contact influence is: contact — absorption — reconstruction — convergence — mixing — selection — competition — disappearance.

### A. Contact

The sufficient condition for contact language interaction is that the language has various forms of contact, and no contact has no effect. The necessary conditions for contact are the various forms of interaction between different societies.

### B. Absorption

The language after contact will use the other party as a reference to find the language components that are not available to them, and then absorb them in each structural layer. This absorption is divided into the surface layer and the inner layer, the surface layer is the absorption of speech and vocabulary; the inner layer is the absorption of the grammatical structure.

### C. Reconstruction

The initial absorption may be untouched, but under the influence of national psychology, this absorption must be

localized and designed to be accepted by the whole people and become an intrinsic component of the mother tongue.

### D. Convergence

In the process of contact at all levels of language, the contact language has a structural similarity, which is reflected in the phenomenon governed by rules, that is, a language rule is not directly attached to another language, but is digested. Adapted to gradually infiltrate into its structure.

### E. Mixing

When more structures infiltrate, the boundaries of the two languages become more and more blurred, and it is easy to form a language alliance. In particular, the language with a lower level of language is more similar to the language structure with higher level of language after borrowing the structure.

### F. Selection

Choice and selection refer to two aspects: First, after a certain language structure is directly borrowed, it is transformed in the beneficiary language, so the borrowing structure and the reconstructed structure co-occurrence, and finally one structure is eliminated, and the other is retained and accepted; second, social communication requires language users to choose a language with a high level of language and strong functions to promote language use and transfer.

### G. Competition

Language competition is mainly manifested in the use of functions, areas of use, and loan and loan relationships. Language competitiveness is divided into: political competitiveness, cultural competitiveness, economic competitiveness, population competitiveness, word competitiveness, and religious competitiveness. Language users often decide which language to use or transfer based on these six synergies.

### H. Disappearing

The role of language competition is to consolidate the functions of dominant languages, and the function of weak languages is greatly weakened. There are three main outcomes: weak language is endangered, function is getting smaller and smaller, and finally becomes the bottom of the victory language; strong language absorbs the characteristics of weak language and forms a new language; because there is no most powerful language, the bilingualism long-term continuity.

## VI. THE ASSOCIATION OF XINJIANG LANGUAGE CONTACT

Different types of language contacts can cause different language influences, which is actually an ideal model. According to the time, level, mode, degree and register of language contact, language contact can be divided into five categories: shallow contact, middle contact, deep contact,

deeper contact, and deepest contact. The corresponding influences are:

- The result of shallow contact is the borrowing of cultural words only. Language contact is essentially cultural contact. Therefore, the most sensitive and easiest loan project is cultural words, that is, borrowing cultural words from the other language to describe a cultural phenomenon that you do not have.
- The result of the middle layer contact is a certain adjustment in speech. As the contact time increases, it means that the cultural words borrowed temporarily will be determined and become the vocabulary of your own language. The use of loan words makes the voice that was originally replaced by the mother tongue change: the mother voice position changes, the new phoneme is added, and the phoneme combination mode is added. These voice effects are integrated into their voice systems as contact time and depth increase.
- The effect of deeper contact is language lending on the basis of voice and vocabulary. According to the theory of language penetration, the penetration of contact language always begins with cultural words and gradually transitions to general vocabulary; on the basis of word lending, fixed new phonemes and combinations. Then the two slowly penetrate into the grammatical structure. The borrowing of this grammatical structure is determined by the imbalance of the language structure.
- The result of deep contact is that the structure type of language changes. There are three kinds of changes: first, vocabulary borrowing is less, and the common words of the ancestral language are the main ones, but the grammatical structure is another language. Second, the pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar are influenced by two languages, which can be regarded as a mixed-race language, that is, the true sense of Creole. Third, grammar and vocabulary are mostly borrowed from the same language, and the essence is to pave the way for language conversion.
- The result of the deepest contact of language is the change of language function, which includes language field lifting, language use, and language transfer and language fusion. There are two modes of this language function change: one is that the language has changed the type, and the grammatical features are common to the contact language, that is, the boundary between the two languages is very vague, and it is impossible to distinguish whether it is a different language or a dialect. At the same time, language use and language transfer will naturally proceed. Second, the language type has not changed completely, but the language has been affected by deeper layers.

## VII. THE DEVELOPMENT TRENDS OF LANGUAGE CONTACT IN XINJIANG

### A. *Language Use*

The status of Chinese as a common language of all ethnic groups has been continuously strengthened, and the influence and penetration of Chinese into other languages has been increasing. At the same time, all ethnic groups in the region have both languages, the phenomenon is widespread, language transfer is more prominent, and endangered languages will appear more.

### B. *Language Learning*

Language contact leads to the emergence of bilingualism, and bilingualism will exist steadily for a long period of time; language conversion will be the final result of the development of bilingualism. Therefore, large-scale bilingual teaching and mutual learning activities will greatly improve the level of Chinese to the minority bilingual learners, and facilitate language transfer. It is undeniable that economic principles in language use are becoming more and more prominent, language emotions have become hot spots, and the contradiction between mother tongue maintenance and learning Chinese exists within a certain range. As the frequency of language contact increases, the national variants that it leads will continue to develop in standard Chinese, which will help ethnic minorities learn Chinese. Due to the different levels of language contact, there will be some differences in the bilingual teaching effects of different regions and different ethnic groups. This difference will change with the change of language relations.

### C. *Language Development*

Language contact leads to grammaticalization, which will eventually lead the national language and Xinjiang Chinese to Pichin, which will form an invisible obstacle to language planning. In addition, language contact is the spread of cultural boundaries across the geographical boundaries of language, which involves cultural immigration, which in turn will promote the recognition of national identity by users of affected languages. It is gratifying that the mechanism of the spread and spread of Chinese in minority languages has become increasingly obvious and will become more and more perfect, and it is increasingly restricted by the laws of language contact.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

Language contact is the inevitable stage of language development. The laws, processes, and associations of the language contact of Xinjiang minority language and Chinese have a high reference value for us to study language contact in other regions, especially in the northwest. At the same time, it should not be overlooked that the development trend of language contact plays a subtle role in our language planning. To this end, we need to strengthen the study of language contact theory, and gradually form a new discipline — contact linguistics.

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