

A Study on the Identity and Inheritance of Hailufeng Dialect in the Context of County Urbanization - Based on the Perspective of Language Socialization

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Abstract: Based on the theory of language socialization, this paper discusses in depth the identity and inheritance of the Hailufeng dialect in the context of county urbanization. By analyzing the influence of the changes in social structure and cultural environment in the process of urbanization on the Hailufeng dialect, it elaborates on the mechanism of language socialization in dialect identity and inheritance. Taking into account the actual situation of the Hailufeng area, the study examines the dialect acquisition, usage and attitude changes of different groups in the process of language socialization, and puts forward strategic suggestions to promote the identity and inheritance of the Hailufeng dialect, so as to cope with the challenges brought about by urbanization, and to protect and inherit this unique local cultural resource.

Keywords: County urbanization; Hailufeng dialect; Identity; Transmission; Language socialization

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1. Introduction

With the accelerated urbanization of China's counties, the diversity of regional cultures is facing a new test, in which the dialect, as an important carrier of regional cultures, is becoming more and more prominent in terms of its identity and inheritance. Hailufeng is located in the southeastern part of Guangdong Province, and its dialects have unique linguistic features and cultural connotations. Under the background of urbanization, it is of great practical significance to study the identity and inheritance of Hailufeng dialect. The theory of language socialization provides a new perspective for us to understand the development of dialects in social change, through which we can deeply analyze the interrelationship between dialects and the social environment, and provide a basis for the formulation of effective protection and inheritance strategies.^[1,2]

2. Overview of the Theory of Language Socialization

(1) Connotation of language socialization

Language socialization refers to the process by which an individual gradually becomes a member of society and masters the corresponding social and cultural knowledge through language learning and use in the social environment. It emphasizes that language is not only a tool for communication, but also an important medium for social and cultural inheritance and identity. In the process of language socialization, individuals acquire language

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rules, language meaning and language-related values and behavioral norms through interaction with social institutions such as family, school and community.

(2) Pathways and mechanisms of language socialization

1) Family and kinship network

The family is the primary place for language socialization. In the family environment, children initially acquire the phonology, vocabulary and grammar of the dialect through daily interactions with parents, elders and other relatives. The way relatives interact with each other, their language choice preferences, and their transmission of language values profoundly affect children's acquisition and identification with the dialect. For example, folk stories and family history told by elders are carried in dialect, so that children receive local culture while learning language.^[3]

2) School education

School is another important institution for language socialization. In the school environment, students not only learn the formal body of knowledge, but are also influenced by the school's language policies and educational practices. Despite the importance of Putonghua in school education, local dialects still have a role to play in school culture and teacher-student communication. School curricula, choice of language of instruction, and school cultural activities all influence students' attitudes toward and ability to use dialects.

3) Community and social interaction

Community is an important field for individual language socialization. In the community, people further consolidate and expand the use of dialects through interactions with neighbors, friends, and so on. The community's language environment, cultural activities and social norms all influence the process of individual language socialization. For example, traditional festivals and celebrations and folk activities organized by the community provide opportunities for the use and transmission of the dialect and strengthen the residents' identification with the dialect.

3. The Impact of County Urbanization on the Social Environment of the Hailu Feng Area

(1) Population mobility and social structure change

Urbanization has prompted large-scale population mobility in the Sailufeng area, with the rural population gathering in towns. This population movement has changed the original social structure, and the traditional social network based on blood and geographic relations has been gradually broken, and new social relations have been formed in the towns. The convergence of populations of different geographical origins has made the language environment more complex, the frequency of dialect use in public socialization has been affected, and the traditional mode of dialect inheritance has been challenged.

(2) Economic development and lifestyle transformation

Urbanization has brought about rapid economic development in Hailufeng, upgrading of industrial structure and significant changes in people's lifestyles. The rise of new industries and the increase of employment opportunities have attracted a large number of laborers. In economic activities, the advantages of common languages such as Putonghua in business exchanges and workplace communication have gradually come to the fore, and the scope of dialect use has gradually narrowed. At the same time, the penetration of modern lifestyles, such as urbanized living patterns and consumer culture, has led to changes in the cultural identity and values of the younger generation, and a reduction in the importance attached to dialects.

(3) Cultural integration and change

With the advancement of urbanization, cultural exchanges between Hailu Feng area and the outside world have become more and more frequent, and a variety of cultures have merged with each other. The influx of modern urban culture and popular culture has had an impact on local traditional culture. In terms of cultural dissemination, media such as television and the Internet use Putonghua as the main language of dissemination, making the younger generation more exposed to and receptive to the culture of the common language. The share of local culture in the cultural market has been relatively reduced, and the space for the transmission and development of dialects, as an important part of local culture, has been squeezed.

4. The Current Situation of Surface and Land Surface Dialects in the Process of Language Socialization

(1) Acquisition and use of dialects by different age groups

1) The elderly

Elderly people have completed the process of language socialization in a traditional social environment, and dialect is the main language for their daily life and emotional expression. They are proficient in the Hailufeng dialect, which carries their hometown memories, folk culture and traditional values. In the family and community, the elderly are the main inheritors of the dialect, passing on the knowledge and culture of the dialect through communication with their younger generations.

2) Middle-aged people

Middle-aged people have experienced a certain degree of social change in their formative years. They were educated in the dialect at home, but gradually came into contact with common languages such as Putonghua at school and at work. In daily communication, they are able to flexibly switch between dialect and Putonghua, choosing their language according to different social situations. However, with the development of urbanization, their use of Putonghua in some formal situations has increased, and the use of dialects has relatively decreased.^[4]

3) Young people

Young people are a group of people who grew up during the period of rapid urbanization. They receive Mandarin-based education at school, and under the influence of mass media and network culture, the common language plays an important role in their language use. Although they are able to understand dialects in their home environments, they are less expressive and less frequently used. Some young people even have a certain neglectful attitude towards dialects, believing that they lack practicality in modern society.^[5]

4) Children

In the current urbanized environment, children's language socialization process has been greatly affected. In school education, Putonghua is the main language of instruction, and the home language environment has also changed due to parents' educational concepts and social interactions. Many children have limited exposure to and learning opportunities in the dialect, have a low level of knowledge and mastery of the dialect, and the transmission of the dialect is at risk of intergenerational disruption.

(2) Characteristics of dialect use in different social scenes

1) Family scenes

Family is one of the important places for dialect use. In traditional Hailufeng families, dialect is the main language of communication among family members. However, with the development of urbanization, the phenomenon of language switching has begun to appear in some families, especially in the communication between young

couples and their children, and the proportion of the use of Putonghua has gradually increased. However, in some traditional large families or rural families, dialect is still the core language of family communication, playing an important role in passing on family culture and telling family stories.

2) School scene

In schools, Putonghua is the language of instruction and the common language on campus. Although some schools also carry out activities related to local culture, dialect has a low status in the school education system. In teacher-student communication and inter-class communication among students, Putonghua is the main language and the use of dialects is somewhat restricted. This school language environment affects students' acquisition and use of dialects, making it difficult for dialects to be passed on in school culture.

3) Community scene

In urban communities, the use of dialects is more complicated due to population mobility and cultural diversity. In some traditional communities or areas inhabited by local residents, dialect is still an important language for communication among residents, and cultural activities organized by the community may also use dialect as a medium. However, in newly built communities or commercial areas, Mandarin has become the main language of communication, and the use of dialects has decreased in the scene. In rural communities, the use of dialects is relatively stable, but with the development of rural urbanization, the use of dialects has been affected to some extent.

5. Influences on the Identity of Hailu Feng Dialect from the Perspective of Language Socialization

(1) Influence of family language socialization mode

1) Family language choice and inheritance awareness

Parents' language choice in the family plays a key role in children's dialect acquisition and identity. If parents insist on using the dialect in family communication and emphasize the transmission of the dialect, children are more likely to acquire and identify with the dialect. On the contrary, if parents reduce the use of dialect for various reasons, such as pursuing their children's Putonghua proficiency or adapting to life in towns and cities, their children's exposure to and learning of the dialect will diminish, thus affecting dialect identity.

2) Family culture and dialect inheritance

Family culture and dialect are closely connected. Folk culture, family stories, traditional skills, etc. inherited in the family are carried and spread through the dialect. A rich family culture can enhance children's emotional identification with the dialect and make them realize the important role of the dialect in passing down the family culture and local history. For example, in some Hailu Feng families, the ritual ceremonies and traditional handicraft production told by the elders through the dialect have stimulated the interest and love of the younger generation in the dialect.

(2) Interaction between school education and language socialization

1) School language policy and practice

The language policy of the school directly affects students' attitudes towards and use of dialects. If schools only emphasize the promotion of Putonghua and neglect the educational value of dialects, students' cognition and identification with dialects will be inhibited. On the contrary, if schools can reasonably incorporate dialects into the education system while promoting Putonghua, such as offering dialect courses and organizing dialect cultural

activities, students' identification with dialects can be improved.

2) Campus culture and dialect inheritance

Campus cultural atmosphere also has an impact on students' dialect identity. A campus cultural environment with local cultural characteristics can create conditions for dialect inheritance. For example, schools can create a strong dialect cultural atmosphere by organizing activities such as dialect recitation contests and dialect art performances, so that students can feel the charm of dialect and enhance dialect identity in the process of participating in the activities.

(3) Relationship between community environment and language socialization

1) Community language ecology and dialect use

The language ecology of a community determines the survival and development space of dialects in the community. A community with a strong dialect-using atmosphere can provide residents with more opportunities to use dialects and promote dialect transmission and identity. On the contrary, in a linguistically diverse and Putonghua-dominated community environment, the use of dialects may be limited and residents may identify less with them.

2) Community cultural activities and dialect identity

Community-organized cultural activities are important for dialect identity. Traditional folk cultural activities and local art performances use dialect as an important medium. By participating in these activities, residents can enhance their emotional identification with the dialect and their understanding of cultural values. For example, the Mazu rituals and Ying song and dance performances in the Hailufeng area use the dialect, and these activities not only pass on the local culture, but also strengthen the residents' identity with the dialect.

6. Strategies for Identity and Inheritance of Hailu Feng Dialect Based on Language Socialization Perspective

(1) Strategies at the family level

1) Strengthen the awareness of family dialect inheritance

Parents should enhance their sense of responsibility for dialect inheritance and recognize the important role of dialect in family culture and local culture inheritance. In family communication, they should try to use dialects as much as possible and create a good dialect learning environment for their children. Parents can stimulate their children's interest in dialect and cultivate their ability to express themselves in dialect by telling dialect stories and teaching dialect children's songs.

2) Inheriting family culture and dialect integration

Closely integrate family culture with dialect inheritance. Give full play to the dialect in family gatherings, traditional festival celebrations and other activities, and pass on family history, folk culture and traditional skills through the dialect. Encourage family members to participate in dialect-related cultural activities, such as dialect calligraphy, dialect paper-cutting, etc., to enhance the dialect characteristics of family culture and improve children's emotional identification with the dialect.

(2) Strategies at the school level

1) Adjusting school language education policies

Schools should emphasize the educational value of dialects while promoting Putonghua. Formulate a reasonable

language education policy and incorporate dialect education into the school curriculum system. Dialect elective courses and local culture school-based courses can be offered to systematically teach students about dialects, including their phonetics, vocabulary, grammar, history and culture. At the same time, in the teaching process, focus on cultivating students' dialect listening, reading and writing skills.

2) Creating a dialect cultural atmosphere on campus

Actively create a campus cultural atmosphere with local cultural characteristics to create conditions for dialect inheritance. Schools can organize various dialect cultural activities, such as dialect recitation contests, dialect speech contests, dialect cultural performances and so on. In the construction of campus culture, dialect elements are incorporated, such as setting up dialect culture walls and displaying dialect works. In addition, teachers are encouraged to use dialect on appropriate occasions to enhance dialect interaction between teachers and students and to improve students' sense of identity with dialect.

(3) Strategies at the community level

1) Optimize the community language ecological environment

The community should actively optimize the language ecological environment to protect and promote the use of dialects. Residents can be encouraged to use dialects in the community through community publicity and community conventions. In community public spaces, such as community activity centers and parks, set up dialect exchange areas and regularly organize dialect exchange activities to provide residents with more opportunities to use dialects. At the same time, management of the community language environment should be strengthened to avoid excessive exclusion of dialects.

2) Enriching community dialect cultural activities

The community should give full play to its role in dialect inheritance and organize colorful dialect cultural activities. Activities such as dialect folklore and cultural festivals, dialect art exhibitions, and dialect story lectures can be carried out to attract residents' participation. Through these activities, the charm and cultural value of the dialect are demonstrated, and the residents' sense of identity and pride in the dialect are enhanced. In addition, the community can cooperate with schools and cultural institutions to carry out dialect inheritance programs, forming a good situation for the whole society to participate in dialect inheritance.

(4) Strategies at the social level

1) Promotion of dialects by mass media and network platforms

Mass media and network platforms should increase the dissemination of dialect contents. Television and radio stations can open dialect programs, such as dialect news, dialect interviews and dialect variety shows. Newspapers and magazines can open dialect columns to introduce dialect knowledge and dialect stories. On online platforms, users are encouraged to create and share dialect-related content, such as dialect short videos, dialect audio, and dialect blogs. At the same time, the government and cultural institutions can carry out publicity activities on dialect protection and inheritance through online platforms to raise social awareness of the cultural value of dialects.

2) Government Policy Support and Social Resource Integration

The government should introduce relevant policies to support the protection and inheritance of the Hailu Feng dialect. It should increase financial investment in dialect research, dialect education and dialect cultural activities, set up special funds and encourage scientific research institutions, schools and social organizations to carry out dialect-related projects. The government can encourage cultural enterprises to develop dialect cultural products, such as dialect movies and dialect games, through tax incentives, subsidies and other policies. At the same time, it should integrate social resources, establish a social network for dialect protection and inheritance, and promote

collaboration and communication among all forces in dialect inheritance.

7. Conclusion

In the context of county urbanization, the identity and transmission of the Hailufeng dialect faces many challenges, but from the perspective of language socialization, the preservation and transmission of the dialect can be promoted through multifaceted strategies at the family, school, community and society levels. The theory of language socialization provides a comprehensive perspective for understanding the development of dialects in the context of social change, emphasizing the interaction between language and social environment. By paying attention to the position and role of dialects in the process of language socialization and taking effective measures, we can enhance the identity of dialects among the residents of the Sailufeng area, realize the sustainable inheritance of dialects in the process of urbanization, and protect and promote the unique local culture of the Sailufeng area. This is not only of great significance for the cultural development of the Hailufeng area, but also provides a useful reference for other areas to protect dialects and local culture in the process of urbanization.

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