

## Research on the Realistic Path to Language Policy in Yunnan Directly-entering-socialism Ethnic Areas

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### Abstract

The basic essence of language lies in its production practicality, meaning language is generated in the interaction between people and the objective world, and the communication between different people in the specific production and life process, and it is a renewable resource that can promote the social development. In addition, the core essence of language lies in its humanistic creativity, in this sense, language is not only created by people through practice, but specially serves people's survival and development. The appearance level of language actually lies in its availability and culture feature. And the selection of language can not only be closely related to the productivity of local society, but become an important carrier and representation of the local culture society. Therefore, this chapter mainly explores the value orientation and implementation model of the language policy in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas from the perspective of language resource.

### Keywords

Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas, Language policy, Realistic path.

### 1. Introduction

Language resource owns the social, inheritance, diversity, value difference, scarcity, sharing and developing characteristics. Social characteristic means that language resource is the products of social activities and also exists in society. Without society, there is no language or language resource. Inheritance refers to the long-term preservation and inheritance of language resource through the related information carriers. Diversity can be reflected both in the number of language resource, but the resource type. Value difference means that language resource is valuable, but different languages and even different resource forms in the same language also own different values. Human resource can be the core element. Scarcity means that some languages face the endangered situation and also used by only few people. In this way, the language (knowledge) corpus resource, application resource and learning resource of the language are scarce, even including those language talents. Sharing means that the ethnic group has the language resources of others if people of different ethnic groups learn and master the languages of other ethnic groups. The key to the culture of a country is to carefully master a language. The sharing of language resource plays an increasingly important role in our life, which can not only increase language resources, but promote the world and society harmony. Developing feature refers to the availability of language resources, while the frequent availability also can bring the greater value. Human resources themselves can be developed, and the integration of different language resources actually can bring greater benefits (Chen Zhanqai, 2005; Chen Peng, 2016).

Resource integration is to integrate the related parts into a new organic whole to fully achieve the optimal allocation, functions strengthening and efficiency improvement. In detail, on the one hand, it can integrate a certain language resource, including changing the ownership of the talent department to achieve integration of talent resources and also integrating the decentralized language learning platform into a unified platform. On the other hand, multiple resources can also be integrated, such as the combination of human resource and language ontology (knowledge) resource, application resource and learning resource. The existence of language policy is to manage and reallocate language

resources, balance the supply and demand conflicts between existing resources and the actual needs of local people, as well as further guide the integration, development and utilization of resources. In this way, it can fully promote the contemporary social and economic development and also improve local social welfare. On this basis, the language policy in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas should have the following value positions during the promotion process.

## **2. Promoting the autonomous economic development of the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas**

The development of the national language and common language culture in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas of Yunnan Province not only relates to the improvement in the regional population quality and the promotion of the traditional culture, but the inheritance of multi-ethnic culture, the regional economic development and social progress, as well as the social unity of people, and even the long-term peace and stability of the motherland. In view of the fact that the economy in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas of Yunnan Province is still lagging behind, the primary task is to disseminate the advanced scientific and cultural knowledge, and also cultivate and transport scientific and technological talents for the regional modernization, in order to ensure the sound and sustainable economic development. Therefore, during the inputting process of common language knowledge and culture, the policy should give the priority to the dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge and also the cultivation of applied talents.

As the result of human society understanding and transforming nature, the advanced science technology actually plays a essential role in promoting the material and spiritual civilization development. In addition to providing the necessary traditional resources of textbooks, reference books, extracurricular reading materials, language teachers and other traditional resources, it is also very important to integrate the modern language learning methods into the courses when constructing the language learning system, such as intelligent learning, smart learning, MOOC, micro-learning and other emerging learning techniques and methods. Secondly, given the imbalance development in the economic construction, cultural heritage and school education among the different Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas, those significant differences can affect and restrict the positive development of those ethnic groups, therefore, language policy needs to play a role in adjusting and eliminating these imbalances. What's more, based on the reasonable language planning for the local families, villages, schools and communities, the policy implementation agencies can effectively improve the sense of ethnic identity and belonging in those Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas, thus increasing the sense of psychological identity, enhancing the autonomy of development and promoting the progress and prosperity of all ethnic groups.

## **3. Guiding the multicultural innovation in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas**

Human civilization can be composed of different cultures. And different cultures collide with each other, absorb and develop together in the process of social development, but each culture also tries its best to maintain its own unique value and charm (Li Xiaochaung, 2014). The human activities, social groups, and human beliefs and ideas must benefit each other and be connected with the cultures. All ethnic groups in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas of Yunnan Province have retained their traditional cultures for a long time, and their respective traditional cultural education also covers their traditional production and life education. These can not only include the daily knowledge and skills, traditional farming techniques and folk crafts, but the national ethics and moral education, such as respect for the elders and young children, a diligent and frugal outlook on life and unity and love for others. In addition, it also involves the education of national history and culture, such as their origin, development, heroic stories, ballads, dance and poetry. And the development of traditional cultural education for all ethnic groups is always based on establishing a healthy cultural outlook, and recognizing the objective existence of multiculturalism among various ethnic groups.

Therefore, during the formulation and implementation process of language policies, it is very essential to scientifically and objectively understand the relationship between modern and traditional cultures transmitted locally.

Both cultures are the basic contents of human society and culture, and without the distinction between primary and secondary. At the same time, it is also important to timely achieve the conscious integration to recognize the traditional cultures of various nations, which means to utilize the multi-ethnic cultures to infiltrate the modernity culture, as well as realize the continuous integration of modernity culture and national culture. As we all know, cultural inheritance is not only a cultural process, but an educational process in essence, therefore, it is necessary to comprehensively and reasonably grasp the allocation of various language and cultural resources especially when implementing language policies related to school education. However, the school education is a direct way of cultural inheritance, and educational activities themselves are also a way of expressing the regional culture. School education, as a bridge between the traditional culture and modern culture, requires to timely create a tolerant, inclusive and innovative learning environment, so that the national cultures can coexist with the mainstream cultures, and also enhance the sustainable development of the entire language and cultural resources.

#### **4. Promoting the development of education modernization in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas**

To achieve the modern social development in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas, the first step is to achieve the education modernization. The education modernization in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas of Yunnan Province involves the modernization of concepts, such as reorienting the function of ethnic education, further clarifying the training goals and development directions of modern school education, which can help gradually form the educational concepts meeting the needs of social development in ethnic areas. The modernization of the ethnic education system should establish a modern ethnic education management system compatible with the social and educational development of ethnic regions, in order to promote the healthy development of ethnic education through the policy guarantee mechanisms.

Concerning the modernization of the national education, the related scientific knowledge and humanistic achievements should be reflected in the courses, and imparted to ethnic members through the school education. In addition, the modernization of the training objectives of ethnic education should actively cultivate the ideological consciousness, knowledge skills and emotional value needed by ethnic members to adapt to the social development of ethnic regions, which can effectively provide the talent guarantee for the modernization of ethnic groups. The modern ethnic education methods or means also means that the school education should pay attention to popularizing and applying modern network technologies to improve the quality and effectiveness of education. And only the modern ethnic education can bear the heavy responsibilities of promoting the national modern development.

However, the language policy and education policy are also inseparable from each other. With the education modernization process in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas and the effective input of language learning, it can help converse and adjust the functions of language resources, as well as promote the successful implementation of related education policies.

#### **5. Assisting build the Belt and Road demonstration area**

There are a total of 372 border villages among the 1,179 administrative villages in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas of Yunnan Province. They are not only important regions on the border with Southeast Asia, but the significant open gateway along the Belt and Road. But the Belt and Road Initiative actually requires the language to pave the development way (Lu Jianming, 2016). The effective implementation of language policy in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas of Yunnan Province can not only strengthen the bilateral communication, but become a significant way

to fully acquire the 'linguistic dividends' in the political, economic, diplomatic, military, cultural, educational, scientific and technological aspects of those countries and regions along the "Belt and Road". While the natural geographical advantages of the social resources in those Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas also provide the corresponding support to undertake the construction of the Belt and Road demonstration zone.

Firstly, President Xi Jinping formally proposed "promoting the establishment of an embedded social structure and community environment among all ethnic groups" at the Second Central Xinjiang Work Symposium. The Directly-entering-socialism ethnic groups of Yunnan Province can play the demonstrative role in the border "embedding", thus forming the living pattern of the border area and the common product of "national corridor" and "landscape". Specifically, in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas of the northwest Yunnan, compared with the Nu and Dulong ethnic groups, the Lisu ethnic group, being a long-term dominant population ethnic group, has always been in a "shared dominant position" in terms of ethnic characters and religious beliefs. At the same time, Miao, Yao, Hani, Dong, Jingpo, Yi, Zhuang and other ethnic groups have formed the overlapped living pattern in those ethnic areas, while the Dai, Dong, Deang, Brown, Achang and other ethnic groups share the common belief of Buddhism, especially the "flower arrangement" living pattern has further led to the frequent communication and interaction with each other. Although the Lahu ethnic group mainly lives in the Puer and Lincang of the Lancang River basin, they also have lived in the neighboring or common areas with the Dai, Hani, Brown, and other ethnic groups for a long time. In overseas areas, these ethnic groups are mostly concentrated in Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand of the northern and northwestern mountains of the Sino-Indian Peninsula, thus forming the "neighborhood" relationship. The 'embedding' community living environment has always provided the possibilities for the frequent exchanges and interactions among Yunnan's multi-ethnic groups for a long time, in order to form the harmonious and united ethnic relationship.

Secondly, the "people oriented exchanges" foundation between those cross-border ethnic groups in Yunnan and neighboring countries can be greatly conducive to the rapid advancement of the "Belt and Road" initiative in Southeast Asia. The Belt and Road Initiative always focuses on the policy communication, facility connectivity, trade facilitation, financial cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, which aims to form a regional and global community of shared interests, destiny and responsibility and further promote a new round of open evolution in the world. Among them, "people oriented exchanges" is the social foundation of the "Belt and Road" construction, thus the relationship between the nations lies in the people's friendship, and the communication between their hearts. Due to the complicated turbulence of international geopolitics, the friction of national interests and the changing nationalist sentiment, the "Belt and Road" construction would inevitably suffer setbacks and resistance during the implementation process. Therefore, only when people of all countries get along harmoniously based on the mutual understanding and recognition can we promote the smooth implementation of the above four aspects, and the achievement of the grand human community of destiny. The ethnic groups in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas of Yunnan Province live in different countries, but they share the same ethnic origin, common culture and psychology.

Given the historical migration and intermarriage factors, the cross-border ethnic groups in different countries can not only belong to the same cultural community, but can be closely connected by blood. And the close connections between the culture and blood precisely can make those cross-border ethnic groups maintain the endless and frequent interactions. Compared with those areas along the "Belt and Road", which require the external forces of the policy, infrastructure, economy, trade and finance to win the support, those Directly-entering-socialism ethnic groups can expand their cooperation to other areas based on the cultural identity. Based on the geographical, kinship, karma and divine relationships, the border people have established the extensive social networks with the same ethnic groups in major Southeast Asian countries of Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand through the marriage, mutual trade, celebration of festivals, worship of Buddhist temples, business work and official visits. In addition, the multi-dimensional cross-border interaction has also promoted the all-round integration in the ethnic, cultural, economic, and spiritual levels in those multiple

countries. The economic and social development of the Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and northern Thailand has formed a profound interdependent relationship with and China, and especially Yunnan's opening-up strategies, thus laying the foundation for the stable and diversified development of the Belt and Road Initiative in Yunnan.

Finally, people are the moving cultural carrier during the frequent interaction process of the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic groups. In this sense, the modern experience of neighbors and border people in China and their learning achievements can be quickly transmitted to their home countries, which can help form the comparable public opinion power between the two countries and further force officials to respond positively. The official exchange visits between Xishuangbanna Mengla County and Laos Fongsari and Udom Say, Red River Estuary and Vietnam's Old Street, Dehong Ruili, Burma and Nankham have become frequent, and related government departments of the two countries also hold irregular joint meetings to deeply discuss those issues of the economic and trade cooperation, port clearance, ethnic exchanges, joint education construction, ecological protection and heritage tourism. It can be expected that the Chinese wisdom displayed in the road of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation will play an important role in solving the governance dilemmas of the economic downturn, ethnic and religious conflicts, inequality and injustice problems globally. At the same time, in the construction process of the demonstration area, it can also promote to actively improve the national language ability, build its own mainstream culture, and further transform language and culture from the secondary means of achieving economic and diplomatic goals into the language and cultural resources of the spiritual appealing, social cohesion, market attractiveness, ideological influence and psychological driving force. On this basis, it can effectively promote the prosperity and development of cultural industries and cultural undertakings in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic groups.

For that reason, in the implementation process of language policy, it is important to focus on the construction of the Belt and Road demonstration area and the improvement of the national language abilities. The introduction of supporting language resource planning programs and implementation rules can attract those people in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas, especially in the border areas to get involved into the construction of the demonstration. At the same time, they can actively participate in language learning and cultural exchange, as well as consciously assume the task of spreading China's excellent culture and building a harmonious frontier.

## **6. Improving the implementation of language policy in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas**

Policy implementation is a dynamic process, in which policy executors take various actions of the interpretation, promotion, experimentation, implementation and monitoring to transform the policy concept into actual results based on establishing an organization and using various resources, in order to achieve the process of the set policy goals (Chen Zhenming, 2009). Therefore, when building an efficient policy implementation path, it is very necessary to consider the specific policy demand, policy implementation idea, policy implementation model, policy promotion path and policy operation mechanism.

Currently, the basic pattern of the language policy in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas is built based on the theory of the "unity in diversity of the Chinese nation" (Yunnan Provincial Civilization Unit, 2017). The dialectical relationship between "diversity" and "unity" can be represented that, "diversity" is a necessary condition for "unity", while the "unity" is an inevitable result of "diversity". These two factors are deeply integrated and indispensable from each other. There is a similar dialectical relationship between Mandarin Chinese, which is the embodiment and the important carrier of the "unity" culture, and the languages of various ethnic minorities, which are the important embodiment and carrier of the "diverse" cultures. As a "common language among ethnic groups", Mandarin Chinese always maintains the communication and connection of different national spirits. Regardless of the deep influence of language or the use of language, it indeed reflects the "unity" pattern for the Chinese nations. At the same time, the minority languages, being the "diverse"



side of this pattern, have coexisted with "unity" in the history, even at this stage or for a longer period of time. This is the basic characteristic of language relationship in China and also formed by history. Therefore, both the Mandarin Chinese and the minority language have its own rationality and reason for the proper development, and neither should be inappropriately biased (Ren Jiantao, 2019). Therefore, in terms of the specific arrangements, it is necessary to properly arrange and adjust the language policies according to the actual needs of the people's production and life, in order to better adapt to the local conditions by taking advantage of the situation and timely avoiding the extremes. In the future, it can help achieve the harmonious coexistence and balanced development of Mandarin Chinese with the languages of various ethnic minorities. Based on the essential nature of language, the language policy demand in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas can be summarized into the following two aspects:

### **6.1 Policy demand under the practical guidance of language production**

In view of the basic nature of language producing the essence of production practice, the language can be generated based on the practice, while the language is essentially an important resource required for the creation. Especially in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas, the production and life of the language inheritance can be the important way to accumulate the rich knowledge and experience, but the basis for improving scientific and cultural knowledge and mastering technical skills. What's more, with the regional location and humanistic environment, language policy in those ethnic areas also needs to regulate the language psychological function, economic function and political function, making it reasonably and effectively play a positive value-added role in those areas.

The language psychological function of the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas can be mainly reflected in the sense of belonging during the sharing process. And a sense of belonging can naturally form when a person communicates with people from the same ethnic group in a common language in other places. Then, members of each nation are naturally willing to speak their own language that they are familiar with, and also hope that people of other nations can give them sufficient respect, which can be seen as one of the important signs of their friendships. In the end, people of each nation hope to further develop their own language on the basis of inheritance, in order to strengthen the mutual communication and understanding, as well as enhance its development cohesion.

The language economic function of the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas is to further study the scientific and cultural knowledge and technical skills through improving language skills. In detail, the improvement of the scientific and cultural quality and technical skills of residents in the region will definitely increase the levels of productivity and also promote the rapid economic improvement, thereby promoting the broad masses of people to get rid of poverty and to quickly step into a well-off society. Secondly, the improvement of language level also enhances people's cultural quality, expands the cultural market share and further stimulates the consumption, which has a beneficial impact on regional economic development.

### **6.2 Policy demand under the guidance of language usability**

Language is generated in the interaction process between people and the objective world, and the communication between different people in the production and life. Represented by the spiritual wealth, it also reflects people's material production activities and their results (Ma Ruixue et al., 2018), thus directly forming a cultural phenomenon and becoming an integral part of the cultural category. The diversity of cultures in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas also determines the diversity of language resources. In the current "unity in diversity" pattern, the ability to properly deal with the utilization and distribution of language resources can relate to the successful management of ethnic relations.

Language and culture are interacted mutually, the usability of language means the sustainable development of culture. On the one hand, language is not only a carrier of culture, but a catalyst from the perspective of the cultural essence of language. It is the rapid development of various cultural factors and carriers that has promoted its own culture advancement, while the inheritance, development, maturity and dissemination of language are often important ways and characteristics of

cultures. Culture is the soil and essence of language generation, development and maturity, especially the mature development of various cultures will definitely promote the vigorous development of language and various cultural factors. As the original intention of the national language policy is not to cause the decline of cultural diversity, how to maintain the availability of languages has become one of the demands of regional language policies.

The improvement of policy implementation mainly relies on the unification of moderately balanced development and hierarchical development, the coordination of sustainable development and leaping development, as well as the unification of exogenous development and endogenous development.

## 7. Conclusion

The development of language and culture in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas cannot be indispensable from the guidance and control of language policies and planning. In order to effectively ensure the implementation of the language policy in ethnic minority areas, it is very necessary to build a scientific, rational and systematic policy system, and further form the multi-party cooperation and efforts in the related undertakings. Specifically, the first is to clarify the value orientation of language policies in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas, and determine the core values of promoting regional economic development, inheriting excellent ethnic cultures, promoting education modernization in ethnic areas and building "Belt and Road" language and culture demonstration zone, as well as further guide the policy implementation agencies to clarify the division of labor and strengthen functional planning, in order to ensure the scientific and efficient implementation of policies.

The following is to improve the reasonable implementation mode of the regional language policy and the planning to facilitate its promotion, in order to ensure the complementary Mandarin Chinese and minority languages and cultures in the implementation process. The third is to reform and innovate the institutions and mechanisms of the policy implementation in the Directly-entering-socialism ethnic areas, strengthen the governmental connection with all sectors of society to provide the related financial resources and motivation for the promotion of language policies. Moreover, it can also stimulate the working enthusiasm of all sectors of society to participate in language and cultural work, and further mobilize people to form the implementation and promotion system in language policies, in order to form the virtuous circle and active interaction to ensure the smooth realization of the language policy goals in those ethnic regions.

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