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The Preservation and Transmission of Dialect Culture in the Context of Language Ecology

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Abstract

As an important part of Chinese language and culture, dialects are facing a serious crisis in the context of language ecology. This paper discusses the current situation and problems of dialect culture preservation and transmission from the perspective of language ecology, and proposes corresponding countermeasures and suggestions. Specifically, the article analyzes the current situation and problems of dialect culture, including the decline of dialect culture, the lack of dialect education, and the destruction of dialect resources, from the perspectives of the value and significance of dialect culture, the current situation of preservation, the way of transmission and social responsibility. In response to these problems, this paper proposes various countermeasures to protect and inherit dialect culture, including formulating relevant policies and regulations, strengthening dialect education, carrying out dialect culture propaganda, establishing dialect culture archives, and excavating dialect resources, so as to promote the work of protecting and inheriting dialect culture.

Keywords

Language ecology, Dialect culture, Protection, Inheritance, Countermeasures

1. Introduction

Dialect culture is an important part of Chinese language and culture, and it is also one of the important carriers of traditional Chinese culture. However, in the globalized language environment, dialect culture is facing unprecedented challenges. In the process of modernization, dialect culture has been gradually marginalized and neglected; its inheritance and development are facing serious challenges. Therefore, how to preserve and inherit dialect culture has become an urgent issue. This paper will start from the perspective of language ecology, and then it will discuss the current situation and problems of the protection and transmission of dialect culture, and put forward corresponding countermeasures and suggestions (Chen M, 2021).

2. Problems Faced by Dialect Culture in the Globalized Language Environment

2.1 Decreases in Language Speakers

With urbanization and increased migration, many people are leaving their hometowns for cities or other places in search of work and life opportunities. This trend has led to a decrease in the number of dialect speakers, as many people in new environments are increasingly using the standard language rather than the dialect. Young people are being exposed to the standard language more in school and in society, which has led to a decrease in the use of dialects in everyday life. In addition, as new generations grow up, dialect speakers are becoming older, which increases the risk that dialect culture will disappear. This situation may also lead to an imbalance in the linguistic

ecology of the dialects, as the decrease in language users may lead to changes and loss of the phonological, lexical, and grammatical structures of the dialects. At the same time, the reduction of dialect speakers may also affect the transmission and development of dialect culture. Dialect is an important linguistic and cultural resource, which contains rich folk culture, customs, habits and values, etc. It is important for maintaining local cultural diversity and promoting cultural exchange. Therefore, preserving and passing on dialect culture is crucial to maintaining diversity, promoting cultural exchange and fostering local cultural development.

2.2 Language Environment Changes

With accelerated urbanization and modernization, many traditional scenes of dialect use are gradually disappearing. For example, traditional town and community culture is gradually declining due to urbanization, which makes the preservation and protection of the dialect language environment a great challenge. Modern architecture, public transportation, and urban planning have also had a significant impact on the dialect language environment. Modern buildings use more standard languages, such as announcements, advertisements, and signs in public places like shopping malls, hotels and office buildings, which indirectly lead to a decrease in the use of dialect scenes. At the same time, modern public transportation has also led to a change in the environment in which dialects are used. For example, the construction of highways and the popularity of vehicles have led to the gradual decline of traditional transportation methods, such as walking and cycling, while the use of highways and motor vehicles is more often in the standard language, which has also reduced the opportunities for dialect use. In addition, changes in urban planning have led to significant changes in the environment in which dialects are used. The advancement of urbanization has led to the increased use of standard languages in urban planning, such as city maps, street naming, and building naming, which has also reduced the opportunities for dialect use. With the development of urbanization and modernization, the dialect language environment has also changed a lot, which poses a great challenge to the preservation and transmission of dialect culture. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen the preservation and transmission of dialect culture, so that more people can understand, use and transmit it.

2.3 Changes in Dialect Context

As modern life progresses, the use of standard languages in professional, educational, cultural and recreational contexts is becoming more widespread, leading to a decline in the use of dialects. In the professional world, dialects can give the impression of being "rustic"; so many people choose to use standard languages to enhance their professional image. In the education sector, schools and parents are focusing more on children's academic performance and language skills, which may lead to more learning and use of standard languages rather than dialects. In the cultural and entertainment spheres, the popularity of media such as television, movies, music, and the Internet have all had an impact on dialect use, as these media prefer the use of standard languages over dialects. All of these factors have led to a decrease in the number of scenes in which dialects are used, thus gradually depriving the culture of dialects of the ground for transmission and development (Zhao Qingjun, 2022).

2.4 Shifts in Language and Cultural Identity

Users also gradually identify with the standard language, and adopt it as their primary language, and this shift in cultural identity has a negative impact on the transmission and preservation of dialect culture. As a special form of language, dialects have strong regional cultural characteristics and unique cultural connotations. The cultural values and information carried by dialects are of great importance in the local area. However, as the cultural identity of dialect speakers gradually decreases, the cultural connotation of dialects also gradually disappears, which makes the transmission and preservation of dialects face a great challenge. In addition, as modernization advances, there is a growing demand for standard languages. Many professions, education, culture and entertainment require the use of standard languages for communication. This has led many dialect speakers to face pressure to use standard languages, which they believe will improve their social status and competitiveness. This perception and mentality has had a negative impact on the transmission and preservation of dialect culture.

2.5 Impact of the Media

With the development of media, the use of standard languages is becoming more and more common in television, radio, and the Internet, while dialects are appearing less and less in the media. This trend has led to a gradual de-

crease in the exposure and awareness of dialect speakers, and the transmission and preservation of dialects is facing increasing challenges. On the one hand, modern media technology has made the standard language more clear and accurate in the media, which has led many people to believe that the standard language is more standardized and beautiful, while the dialects have become outdated and crude. On the other hand, many dialect speakers have begun to gradually accept the value and status of the standard language, which they perceive to be more in line with the needs of a modern society, and this has exacerbated the decline in dialect use and the shift in cultural identity. In addition, the popularity and accessibility of media has led dialect speakers to gradually shift to standard languages, which are easier to access information, communicate and interact with in the media. At the same time, many media organizations prefer the standard language because it is more easily accepted and understood by the general public, which has led to the restriction and squeeze of dialect use and expression in the media. This shows that the development of the media has had a profound impact on the transmission and preservation of dialects (Wang H, 2019).

3. How to Preserve and Pass on Dialect Culture

3.1 Measures to Preserve and Pass on Dialect Culture

Dialect education is one of the important measures to preserve and transmit dialect culture. We can do this in the following ways. Dialect education in schools: Strengthen the teaching and promotion of dialects in school education. For example, by offering dialect courses and organizing dialect culture activities, we can cultivate the younger generation's recognition of and interest in dialect culture, so as to enhance the use and transmission of dialects. Community dialect education: Strengthen the transmission and promotion of dialect culture through community education activities and community dialect culture festivals, etc., so that dialect culture can penetrate into community life and enhance the use and transmission of dialects. Dialect research and protection: Strengthen the research and protection work on dialects. For example, establish a dialect corpus, formulate laws and regulations on dialect protection, and set up dialect research institutions, so as to provide scientific support for the protection and transmission of dialects. Dialect culture transmission projects: Through dialect culture transmission projects, such as dialect movies, dialect music, and dialect operas, dialect culture is presented to a wider range of people, so that more people can understand and identify with dialect culture. Parental guidance: Parents should guide their children to learn and use dialects in the family, impart knowledge and skills of dialect culture, cultivate their children's recognition and interest in dialect culture, and help to pass on dialect culture.

3.2 Dialect Digitization

Dialect digitization is a method of digitizing the written and phonetic data of a dialect language through modern technology, so as to facilitate research and learning for future generations. This method can preserve the cultural heritage of the dialect language, preventing the loss and loss of dialects. Through the method of dialect digitization, we can record and analyze all aspects of the dialect's words, vocabulary, grammar rules, and phonology, so that future generations can better understand and grasp the linguistic characteristics and cultural connotations of the dialect. Currently, dialect digitization has been widely used. Some dialect linguists and cultural scholars have used digital technology, then recorded and preserved the phonetic and textual data of dialects, and established dialect corpora. These dialect corpora can not only help researchers to conduct research on dialect languages, but also provide rich teaching materials for dialect education. In addition, the digitization of dialects can spread dialect culture through channels such as the Internet and mobile devices, allowing more people to understand and learn the dialect language. For example, some dialect culture promotion platforms provide information on dialect speech, text, and video to dialect speakers worldwide through the Internet and mobile devices, making the dissemination and preservation of dialects more convenient and widespread. Digitization of dialects is an important dialect culture preservation and transmission measure, which can effectively preserve and transmit the linguistic characteristics and cultural connotations of dialects, leaving a precious cultural heritage for future generations.

3.3 Strengthen the Research and Protection of Dialects

Dialect research is one of the important measures to protect and inherit dialect culture. As a part of regional culture, dialects have rich cultural connotation and historical value in terms of language script, phonetics and grammar, so research on dialects not only helps to gain an in-depth understanding of local history and culture, but also helps

to promote the transmission and preservation of dialects. There are many specific tasks that can be carried out in dialect research, such as collecting and organizing dialect language and phonetic data, establishing databases of dialect phonetics, texts, and dictionaries, and promoting internationalization and disciplinary exchanges in dialect research. These efforts can help preserve dialect culture, enable more people to understand and learn dialect culture, and promote the transmission and development of dialects. At the same time, dialect research needs the support of professional talents. In the academic world, there is a need to establish a more complete dialect discipline system, train more dialectology professionals, and promote the in-depth development of dialectology research. In addition, there is a need to strengthen the promotion and popularization of dialect culture, so that more people can understand and identify with it, thus better promoting the transmission and protection of dialects (Fiona Willans, 2017).

3.4 Strengthening the Construction and Promotion of Dialect Media

Building and promoting dialect media is an important measure to preserve and transmit dialect culture. With the development of modern technology, the construction of dialect media has become easier and more convenient. Dialect media can include radio, television, Internet, social media, and other forms. The construction of dialect media can help dialects to be more widely disseminated and promoted. Through dialect radio, TV and internet programs, more people can understand and learn dialects and gain confidence and interest in using them. At the same time, through highly interactive platforms such as social media, dialect users can easily communicate and share, facilitating the exchange and spread of dialect use. In addition to the construction of dialect media, emphasis should be placed on the promotion of dialect media. More people can learn about and use dialect media through advertising, publicity and promotion. In the process of promoting dialect media, we need to pay attention to balancing the ratio of dialects to standard languages, and to avoid neglecting the importance of standard languages. The construction and promotion of dialect media is important for the preservation and transmission of dialect culture. It can make more people understand, it can also promote communication and interaction among dialect speakers (Ruby Rong Wei, 2018).

3.5 Increased Parental Guidance

The role of parents in the family is very important for the transmission and preservation of dialect culture. As the closest people to their children, parents' words, attitudes and behaviors will directly influence their children's values and habits. Therefore, parents should strengthen the guidance and transmission of dialect culture in the family. First, parents can use dialects in their daily lives, and then teach their children some simple dialect words and sentences, so that they can feel the charm and usefulness of dialects. In addition, parents can also take their children to some dialect culture activities, such as dialect song competitions and dialect opera performances, so that they can experience the charm of dialect culture firsthand, and thus enhance their sense of identity and interest in dialect culture. Secondly, parents can focus on the transmission of dialect culture in family education. Family education is the first lesson in a child's life, and parents should pass on dialect culture through family education. For example, tell the history and cultural background of dialects, and teach children traditional knowledge and skills of dialect culture, such as dialect songs and dialect dances. Parents should also encourage their children to learn the standard language while also letting them learn and preserve dialect culture, so that they know the importance of dialect culture and the responsibility of preserving it. Parents can work with schools and social organizations to promote and pass on dialect culture. For example, cooperate with dialect culture associations to organize activities, such as dialect culture experience camps and dialect culture lectures, and cooperate with schools to offer dialect language courses, so as to provide more opportunities for children to learn and experience dialect culture. Parents play a vital role in the family, and their guidance and behavior can have a profound impact on the growth and values of their children. Parents should play an exemplary and leading role in the transmission and preservation of dialect culture, establishing the right values and habits for their children, and helping the dialect culture to be passed on (Sviatlana Karpava, 2018).

3.6 Establishing Dialect Communities

Establishing dialect communities is one of the measures that can be very helpful for dialect transmission and preservation. A dialect community can be a gathering place for dialect speakers, giving them the opportunity to come together to communicate, share and learn about the culture of the dialect. This interaction not only enhances

the relationship between dialect speakers, but also strengthens the use and transmission of dialects. By organizing various dialect culture events, dialect communities can make more people understand and enjoy dialect culture, and promote the transmission of dialects. For example, a dialect song concert can showcase the charm of dialect songs, and attract more people to understand and learn them. Dialect drama performances can make people feel the charm and uniqueness of dialects, and further deepen their identification and interest in them. Dialect storytelling can help the younger generation understand and learn the culture of dialects, and thus play an important role in the preservation and transmission of dialect culture. In addition, dialect communities can also provide dialect learning resources by building a dialect database of dialect audio, video and text, thus allowing more people to learn and use dialects. This approach is very beneficial to the transmission of dialect knowledge, and it also provides more ways for dialect users to learn dialects. Establishing dialect communities allows dialect users to better communicate and interact with each other, strengthens the transmission and protection of dialects, it also allows more people to understand and learn dialect culture, ultimately contributing to the development and prosperity of dialects.

4. Conclusion

In modern society, the use and transmission of dialects face many challenges, but as a unique linguistic and cultural resource, dialects have irreplaceable value. In order to preserve and transmit dialect culture, we can take various measures, such as dialect education, dialect digitization, dialect research, dialect media and parental guidance. Through the implementation and enforcement of these measures, we can better preserve and transmit the dialect culture, so that it can be inherited and developed in modern society.

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