

The Protection and Research of Miao Language

-- Take Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture as an example

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Abstract: In recent years, the development of national language is delayed and influenced by the development of the overall environment. In this paper, Wenshan-Miao language is taken as an example, and the reasons for the plight of the development of Miao language are obtained through research and investigation, and proposed solutions. Reasons include inadequate policy publicity, reduced application scope, high learning difficulty and difficult language urbanization. Countermeasures: increase publicity; establish ethnic areas; set up Miao language related posts; establish Miao language database.

Keywords: Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture; Miao language; Language protection

1. Introduction

In recent years, influenced by the overall environment, a variety of ethnic minority languages have been listed on the protection list of endangered languages, and the Miao language is no exception. Miao nationality is a large ethnic minority in China, so Miao language is selected as the research object. Through the research and investigation of this paper, we can sort out the reasons for Miao languages development dilemma, find solutions according to the reasons, promote the inheritance and development of Miao language, and formulate effective measures for how to protect, use and inherit the language.

2. Literature review

Except for the Hui and Manchu nationalities, who have all used Chinese, the other 53 ethnic minorities still retain their own ethnic languages. The origin of the Miao people can be traced back to the Chiyou period. According to ancient records, "Three Miao", "Nine li" and "You Miao" are the earliest tribal groups of Miao people. "Mandarin · Chu Language" contains "Three Miao inherit the virtues of nine Li", "after three Miao and nine li also". Yan Shig, Annals of the Book of Han · Geography, said: "The three Miao people have a Miao family." These claims, combined with the Miao story, basically explained that the Miao people originated from the Jiuli tribe. In the 21st century, China has emphasized strengthening the protection of ethnic minority languages^[1]. In 2008, the predecessor of the "Language Protection" project was the "Language Resource Database". In 2011, the Miao-Han Dictionary was published to collect the commonly used Miao language.

3. The sound pattern of Miao language

SHUAB NAF, Voice Master Watch					
b	p	nb	np		
bl	pl	nbl	npl		
m	hn	f	v		
d	t	nd	nt	n	hn
dl	tl	ndl	ntl	l	hl
z	c	nz	nc	s	
dr	tr	ndr	ntr		
zh	ch	nzh	nch		
j	q	nj	nq	sh	r
ny	hny	x	y		
g	k	ng	nk	ngg	h
gh	gh	nggh	nkh	w	

Figure 1. Initial consonant table of Miao language

Miao language belongs to the Chinese-Tibetan language family of Miao Yao nationality, and the internal branch is complex. Many scholars have divided the Miao language into three dialect branches, namely, western sub-dialect, eastern sub-dialect, and Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan Miao language. The Miao phonetic system in Wenshan Prefecture belongs to Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan Miao language, which shows the characteristics of many initials and few finals.¹ There are nasal crown sound and plug sound sound, the tone is divided into flat, up, go, into four.^{2]}

SHUAB NDANGT Rhyme List				
a	ai	an	ang	ao
e	en	er	eu	
i	ian	iang	iao	
	in		iu	
o	ong	ou		
u	ua	uai	uan	uang
	ue		un	

Figure 2. Miao vowel table

SHUAB SHAB GHREL Voice Table							
b	x	d	l	t	s	k	f

Figure 3. Miao Tone table

4. Investigation and research

4.1 Survey sample

The ethnic villages and ethnic townships in Wenshan Prefecture were investigated respectively, and the questionnaires were distributed, supplemented by the interview method. Through the collected questionnaires and the results of the interview, the first-hand information was sorted out. A total of 246 questionnaires were distributed, and 191 were effectively recovered except for the Han, Zhuang and other ethnic groups. The basic information of the respondents is as follows:

essential information		number of people	scale
sex	man	90	47.12%
	woman	101	52.88%
age	0-12	3	1.57%
	12-18	4	2.09%
	18-28	86	45.03%
	28-50	58	30.37%
	More than 50	40	20.94%
occupation	peasant	17	8.90%
	worker	29	15.17%
	teacher	25	13.09%
	student	38	19.90%
	service industry	41	21.47%
	liberal professions	16	8.38%
	public functionary	10	5.24%
	privately or individually-owned business	15	7.85%

Figure 4. Basic information table of interviewees

According to Table 4, it can be seen that among all the respondents, women are more numerous, and the age population of 18-28 and the age population of 28-50 are more people and students engaged in the service industry, which is related to the time of the survey and the cultural customs and cultural level of local residents.

4.2 Problems found

The publicity of government policies has a certain geographical range and time range, and the audience is small. The sample results of the survey show that among 191 people, only 66 people have knowledge of the governments ethnic language protection policy. The rest are not aware of government policy; the use of Miao language decreases. Among the 191 respondents, only 56 would use Miao language to communicate in daily life, while the rest said that they would not use Miao language in daily life; Miao language is difficult to learn. The combi-

nation of Miao language and accelerate the loss of Miao language and accelerate the urbanization process.^[3]The acceleration of urbanization leads to the ambiguity of urban and rural areas and the strengthening of common language, leading to the difficulties in the development of Miao language.^[4]

4.3 Countermeasures and results

Strengthen publicity efforts and expand publicity efforts. Relying on the wide influence of interconnection, publicize relevant policies, such as Kuaishou, TikTok; set up ethnic streets to increase the frequency of Miao language. In ethnic streets, when communicating with ethnic compatriots, communication is more convenient, and the frequency of Miao language will gradually increase; increase the posts of Miao language, promote teenagers to learn Miao language spontaneously, and establish the Miao language database.^[5] Save the relevant materials of Miao language, maintain the integrity of Miao language, and provide basic information for the learning of Miao language.

4.4 Research results

Miao language Garden is a small database of Miao language established through investigation and first-hand Miao language information. The small database combines the language data we collected during the survey, including the Miao Lusheng culture, marriage and funeral culture and other important cultures. In recent years, the president of the Wenshan Miao Association has been managing the Miao related affairs in Wenshan Prefecture. He has spent a lot of time to find ways to promote the inheritance and development of the Miao language and culture. He personally went to various ethnic villages and recorded them. Under his leadership, he presided over the collection of "Wenshan City Miao reputation of ancient books" is now published. The Miao language garden records many related cultures, and here is just a list. Its establishment is a small experiment on the inheritance of the Miao culture. Relying on the function of the Internet, it has its transmission ability and wider range.

5. Conclusion

Through investigation and study, it is found that the Miao language is still used in the local community, but beyond this range, it is reduced or not used for communication; In the use of family language, most adults use Miao language to communicate with children, and in order to make them better adapt to the development of society, they use Chinese or Mandarin. Most people are confident in Miao language and express their willingness to inherit and develop it, but a few people are pessimistic about it, indicating that it has no substantial impact on their lives and their attitude towards its inheritance is also pessimistic. Through investigation and study, this paper finds some reasons that lead to the predicament of Miao language development, including the weak propaganda of government policies, the narrow use of Miao language, the difficulty of learning Miao language and the predicament of Miao language development caused by urbanization. In view of these reasons, this paper puts forward four suggestions, namely: using the advantages of the Internet to publicize Miao language protection policies, increasing publicity channels, strengthening publicity, establishing ethnic areas and increasing the frequency of Miao language use. Expand the use of Miao language, strengthen the education of Miao language learning for teenagers, establish a database of Miao language, maintain the integrity of Miao language development, and provide effective learning materials for Miao language learning. These measures can slow down the loss of Miao language and play a positive role in the protection of Miao language.

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