

An Overview of Research on Family Language Planning

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Abstract—Family language planning is part of the micro-fields of linguistic policy and language planning. As for more and more children grow up in a bilingual or multilingual environment. We view the family as an important social linguistic environment. This paper briefly expounds the theory of micro language planning and focuses on the family language planning. And in this paper, the importance of family language planning, influenced factors and implications on family language planning are examined in depth. The development of foreign language education in family language planning also should be put into action positively.

Index Terms—family language planning, factors, implication, foreign language education

I. INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important part in cross-cultural communication. And Language gradually changes from the soft power of the state to the solid power of the state. In recent years, many scholars have noticed the importance of language planning and had many achievements. Language planning is the intervention, management and allocation of language resources for government departments and related agencies, and it involves many aspects of social life. Specifically speaking, language planning consists of three dimensions: macro, meso and micro (Kaplan & Baldauf 1997). Macro language planning usually refers to the rule of state or government in a macro level, it is usually performed by the government departments, intended to influence the way of discourse within the social and cultural practice. Meso language planning mainly refers to the maintenance and rehabilitation of language, which goes to formulate and implement corresponding plans and policies for the protection and rehabilitation of these languages. Moreover, from the micro perspective of language planning, it includes various fields, such as the family, school, management department, production department, law enforcement agencies, sales and services, community and social organization structure. Micro-language planning is the principal form of language planning in the miniaturization, individualization and localization. In the early 1980s, Kaplan first launched the study of micro-planning practice and achieved fruitful results. Since then, Barkhuizen & Knoch (2006), Baldauf (2006) and Canagarajah (2005) have further studied and improved this type of language planning. There has not much research on family language planning. Therefore, family language planning is the subject of the paper.

II. FAMILY LANGUAGE PLANNING

Family Language Planning is less effective in a time when social mobility didn't occur, and people speak their parents' mother tongue in their families. But with the advent of globalization, the role of family language planning has become more and more prominent. Family language planning refers to plans and ideas that affect the language use of family members and so on. Family language planning is the foundation of language planning. From the existing results, the focus of language planning is primarily on the use of language or language problems in the public. But the language structure of the family is often neglected (Wiley & Wright 2004, Robinson & Richard Brecht 2006.). Therefore, the study of family language planning can provide meaningful empirical support for language planning research. Moreover, China is now forming a "multilingual" society, where parents will consider how their children will use language and which language to be used in the future. The parents will also formulate their own language planning for their babies. Therefore, family language exerts a fundamental influence on children's language development.

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY LANGUAGE PLANNING

With the language of human beings improving gradually, we finally move out of the animal kingdom, and we have the words to say goodbye to barbarism and enter the age of civilization. The importance of language to human beings can be overstated. And language is important to ensure that individual's existence, quality and development of life. Therefore, in the process of developing national language planning, family language planning gradually presents its own importance.

A. FLP Can Get the Solution to Language Problems in Society

There is a duality or multiplicity of things in the world, so is language. It has special social resources, which can be used by people to make full use of its infinite resource value and create great collective wealth. However, it can also

become a complicated language problem, which causes great harm and burden to the society and needs people to cope with it seriously. In other words, effectively solving language problems will facilitate the rationalization of language resources. Therefore, I think family language planning can efficiently balance the language problems in society. For example, when parents come from different areas; they have two distinct dialects, and they use either mandarin or dialects during the communication. In this way, we can develop productive language resources (regardless of its value) and solve the problem of language hegemony and language diversity.

B. FLP Is Conducive to the Development of Children's Language Acquisition

China is a multi-ethnic country with a huge population. And the development of children's language can affect the direction of national language planning. Thus, when a child is born, parents should consider whether to let their children learn mandarin, whether it is a dialect or a national language and should think about when a child contact with a foreign language and start making family language plans. For example, an American linguist married a Serbian wife. They lived in a French-speaking city in Canada. The couple agreed to use German when communicating with their children. But this is a decision that takes into account the language surrounding the child, because children can learn English well in North America, children can also learn French from their surroundings (three varieties of French- in the school they learned French; and communicating with their neighbors, they learned French from Quebec; and playing with the children of French consular staff they learned the standard French.). On the other hand, in the survey of adolescents, it shows that the influence of parents' language awareness on the use of children's language is gradually weakened. Because of increased socialization of children and children's own language awareness, they prompt children to adjust their rates of using code in a unique context. For example, the survey of Nanjing primary and middle school students showed that the use of Nanjing dialect increased gradually with the increase of its age. Although many people have different emotional recognition of Nanjing dialect, they gradually realize the local identity and entertainment function of Nanjing dialect.

C. FLP Promotes Language Identification

Language, as a unique communication tool for human beings, is responsible for building personal identity, enhancing the sense of identity, while promoting interpersonal communication and interpersonal harmony. The influence of family environment on language selection and identity of language users mainly comes from the parents' attitudes towards the heritage language and the different experience of language users. Guardado (2010) investigated language, culture and identity of three Hispanic middle-class families. It turned out that the parents of the three families had given the heritage language multiple meanings. They expect their children to become bilingual or multilingual in a cosmopolitan world view of acquiring the language of their ancestors and to break the boundaries of region and have a broad vision. On the contrary, if the parents of interracial families had a negative attitude toward the heritage language, they do not encourage their children to learn the language of their ancestors in the process of growing up, their children will have little recognition of their own national heritage language (Shin 2010). Another example is over 50% of the Brazilians abroad are women, a proportion which seems to be even higher if we consider the number of mothers whose children attend Brazilian Portuguese language lessons in complementary schools in London. There are schools in which a lot of mothers were Brazilian migrants married to fathers of different countries, thus the relevance of the role these women play in the maintenance of their language. Furthermore, these women believed that these values and identity would be acquired by their children by the mere fact of speaking their mother tongue. This is the reason why they considered it important to pass on their language to their children. Even some people think that it is patriotic to learn mandarin well, and they also think that they have an identity of Chinese.

IV. FACTORS IN FLP

Wu wei (2003) believed that family language's changes were caused by changes in family language members and external environment. Thus, we believe that there are other factors that directly influence the maintenance of language and the transfer of language.

A. Language Ideology

We consider that there is a vital factor that directly influences maintenance of a language and transfer of a language, namely, language ideology. It mainly sets the basic framework for children's language development within the family. This framework can reflect both the language awareness of parents and the basic attitudes and awareness of language acquisition and development in the whole society (Shohamy 2006, Schiffman 1996). Language ideology is a conscious awareness of the nature of a language and the role of language in human life (James & Garrett 1991) and it is recognition of a language and a recognition of what can you do with a language and how you should use it (Li Wei & Moyer 2008). Kroskrity (2000), and other scholars believe that the different forms of a language can identify different social groups and language form as a part of daily life can identify the social identity and the typical behavior of a speaker. The speaker (and the listener) will notice and judge these identifiers, thereby creating different language awareness to help explain the differences in the language. Language awareness is not an abstract concept. It emphasizes the perception and consciousness of individuals or groups on language function and language form, which can directly

influence people's language behaviors in language. Why do some family members turn to mandarin? Why do some parents have some kinds of language expectation? Why do we form some kinds of linguistic attitude or linguistic identity? These are built on people's understanding of a language. Thus, we believe that the development of family language needs to carry out language awareness activities. Parents' language awareness plays a crucial role in family language planning and family language practice. Language awareness is the basis of language practice and language planning. And the language behaviors of family parents are closely related to their language awareness. Therefore, under the impact of family environment, the relationship between parents' language awareness, language practice and the final language acquisition of children has a progressive relationship.

B. Changes in the Language Environment

Changes in the environment can be also given an impact on the use of family languages. In recent years, a lot of migrant families have come into the city from the countryside, and most of them use their dialects in the hometown. They don't speak mandarin or other dialects. After getting into the city, their language dialects caused their communication barriers in the face of a strange environment, which led them to learn mandarin and other dialects as soon as possible. As it is, family's language changes and becomes bilingual or multilingual.

C. Changes in Family Members

The flow of members within a multi-ethnic country causes changes in family members. China is currently undergoing rapid development of urbanization. In this process, the most obvious change is the large augment of urban population and the floating population. In 2012, the statistics of the national bureau showed that China's urban population exceeded 690 million, with a floating population of about 260 million, and the floating population accounted for 16.53 percent of the total population. It estimates that the structure of Chinese cities is increasingly complex. Language makes the relative stability and the variability of a society. The change of urban residents' structure will inevitably lead to the change of urban languages, especially the family language.

V. IMPLICATIONS OF FLP

At present, China faces frequently population flow and complex language use. Particularly, there are phenomena of dialect and Putonghua. China should adjust its own policies in time to comply with the development of the time. At the same time, in the age of globalization, supporting linguistic diversity is now a permanent topic. Therefore, we should support the diversity of languages to enrich the language resources and solve the language problems caused by language resources' complexity. Because Language resource and language problem are dialectical unity, accompanied by each other. Therefore, I have some points as following:

A. The Family Language Should Be as the Complement of National Policies

The use of family language should be based on macro-linguistic policies. National language planning has always been passed on layer by layer, but it has not implemented smoothly. For example, in terms of the formulation of the language planning and language policies of ethnic minorities, the regional departments only respond to the national call, but the language situation in the region has not changed at all. Therefore, I think that if we want to protect language resources and to solve language problems, we should start from family language planning. At first, we should collect statistics, understand the geographical situation, then coordinate and develop language planning.

B. Encourage Family Members to Balance the Importance of Both Dialect and Mandarin

In recent years, due to the development of traffic, network technology and so on, people's language style is also changing. For parents from different regions, they should not only learn mandarin or other dialects to adapt to other environments, but also communicate with their families in their own dialect to show their affinity. However, under the changing environment, some families will deliberately teach their children mandarin to adapt to the environment. Therefore, they can only understand parents' s dialect but can't speak, unfortunately neglect the importance of dialect. Dialects are also included in the country's wealth, and influential dialects are highly sought after by foreign scholars. In this way, diverse dialects represent the diversity of national culture and bring wealth to our country. Therefore, we should be doing good publicity, and positive guidance.

C. Focus on the Language of Mobile Families

Countries need floating population to drive economic development, but language training for them is not considered. If the language is not understood, it's hard to go on working. In recent years, some scholars have studied the situation of migrant workers' language, and some scholars believe that they should pay greater attention to the vulnerable groups in the disadvantaged situation, namely the language education of migrant workers' children. Because many obstacles to children's language influence their better adaptation to urbanization.

VI. DEVELOPMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN FLP

After 1978, foreign language education in our country has developed rapidly, especially in English education. In

March 1979, the Ministry of Education issued a circular on strengthening foreign language education. It proposed that language's layout should have strategic vision and long-term planning. The principle of language is: The main task at present still is to develop English education energetically. But we should also pay attention to other common languages such as Japan, France, Germany and Russia. At present, the number of students in primary, middle and high schools in China is 130 million, more than 57 million and more than 10 million respectively. Students mainly develop foreign languages such as English, Russian and Japanese, of which English accounts for a large part. I think the family in the foreign language education planning also played a very important role. This paper puts forward some questions worth considering.

First, the advent of globalization has promoted the spread of English in the world, and it is no exception in China. Many families are under a clear plan for the cultivation of children's English. In doing so, on the one hand, they prepare children for future career development; on the other hand, they also fulfill the requirements of school education. Because English is a compulsory subject regardless of whether it is in primary school, secondary school or university, it is the threshold for children to have access to various educational opportunities. If you want to become an excellent person, you must learn English well. Thus, more and more families are creating opportunity to help children learn English. Therefore, parents' efforts in developing their children's English are in stark contrast to their indifferent attitude toward children's dialect learning. This contrast profoundly reflects the language of parents in the process of cultivating international citizens in a new era. Our research shows that in the family language planning and practice, parents regard English-American English, Anglo-American culture and English native speakers as models, and these models have become the target of children's English learning. Although the macro-social environment plays a more fundamental role in children's language acquisition, the role of family language practice and parental language ideology in maintaining mother tongue may be greater than the promotion of foreign language learning. However, for the number of urban families, parents' linguistic orientation and management practices undoubtedly play an extremely important role in children's language development and acquisition. Because of the parents' personal experience, they realized that globalization posed new requirements on the language ability of the workforce. These understandings in turn translate into their guiding ideology for planning children's language development. Does parents' extreme identification to English really meets national policy?

Second, although the development of small languages has gradually been increasing in recent years, parents are still at a bottleneck when compared to English. The family's desire for children's English goes far beyond other foreign language learning. The phenomenon impedes the formulation of the national plan for training multilingual talented people. Families should value foreign languages. Because of the development of globalization, the demand for foreign language talents has been further escalated. Merely grasping English can no longer meet the current need of all-round development of our country. Therefore, from English in major to English plus foreign languages training is imminent transformation. To master the professional talent, not only on their own knowledge and cultural literacy has improved to some extent, but also for children's future employment it would be a good point. According to McCarthy data companies, 2010 ~ 2012 foreign languages, such as Spain, Korean, French and other professional employment rate has entered the top 50. It exceeds the employment rate of English majors who has received the "red card" warning (Lu jinsong 2013). At present, foreign language classes are initiated in universities. It is clearly that the development of foreign languages will be stagnant and can't be valued. Confronted with such a situation, I think that family members should first have such a sense to develop children's multilingual development. Moreover, other aspects of child's development can get benefits, for example: multilingual children have good memory, excellent communication skills, creativity and much more.

It is noteworthy that, in carrying out family language planning, not only to consider the development of Chinese, but also attach to the cultivation of foreign languages. If necessary, linguists are required to provide guidance for family on language and the rational cooperation of family language users. Only in this way can we respond to the national language policy and adapt to the changes of the time.

VII. CONCLUSION

With the advent of globalization, urbanization, almost every family generally has been becoming bilingualism or multilingualism, so it is necessary for every family to do well in accordance with the laws of language and social development, and to do well in language planning that is in line with the guidance of national language policy and promotes the healthy promotion of family members' language ability. Therefore, the national language planning should be done in a practical way, beginning with the micro language planning and starting from family. A country is consisted of many families. The spread of language from families would be a vital step. Moreover, families influence children's language acquisition and other aspects of their life. Members of a family should follow demand of the current situation. And if necessary, linguists needed to provide guidance for families on language. What kind of impacts will China language culture have on the national language policy and family language planning research.

In a word, family language planning is the most terminal language plan of a society, but we can't just stick our minds to our home. We should consider about political, economic, cultural, and linguistic conditions at the same time. Also, through combing the characteristics of immigration or inheritance of families' several generations, we examine family's language awareness with methods of historical materialism. Rational planning will be submitted constructive opinions

and suggestions. At the same time, family language planning is incorporated into language plans for various levels such as community, domain, industry, country, and supranational, forming a multi-grid and three-dimensional planning pattern.

However, some studies use sociolinguistic investigation methods to describe the family's language attitudes, but they cannot deeply reveal the causes of family language changes and the internal mechanism of family language planning. Therefore, the author proposes that the study of family language planning in the future should adopt a scalable planning to study the interaction between children and parents, families and schools, communities, society, and countries. Finally, it is expected that more scholars will study and explore together, improve the theoretical system, and conduct groundbreaking family language studies that suit the national conditions.

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