

Literature Review of Language Planning and Language Policy since 21st Century

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Abstract—As a major part of sociolinguistics, language planning has become a major research topic for many scholars. As a branch of Applied Linguistics, language planning is not a theoretical field of academic research, but mainly based on solving language problems in society. In the past 50 years, language planning research has been deepened and the coverage has gradually expanded. Especially, since 1990s, language planning has become a subject of rejuvenation, which has increasingly highlighted its importance and research prospects. This paper will review and analyze the general situation of language planning research in the past 20 years at home and abroad, and look forward to the future trend of language planning research.

Index Terms—language planning, language policy, linguistics

I. INTRODUCTION

LPLP, as a typical noun phrase, has two different denotative meanings. In the first level, it refers to the actual language planning practices, which is more often than not done by governments, institutions or organizations, etc. Just as Kaplan & Baldauf (1997, p15) noted, "In one sense, our knowledge of language planning is probably as old as recorded human history as it is a part of how people use language." In the second level, LPLP signifies an independent academic discipline whose primary task is to study those actual language planning practices. According to Wright (2004), LPLP as a recognized subject of academic research can be traced back to the Post-Second World War time with a history of no more than sixty years. Human language planning has a long history. However, after the Second World War, language planning was established as a recognized professional course in universities. The real academic research of language planning started roughly in 1960s.

The definition of LPLP varies from scholar to scholar, depending on their viewpoint of this discipline. Cooper (1989, p30-31) listed as many as twelve and abroad by the time of his writing. However, there is no need to review these definitions one by one, but some well known scholars whose definitions could be considered as representatives of dominant ideas of LPLP research at that time. The chosen definitions are listed as following: definitions after the publication of Haugen's 1959 article.

"Language planning is deliberate language change; that is, changes in the system of language code or speaking or both that are planned by organizations that are established for such purposes or given a mandate to fulfill such purposes.....for solving language problems to find the best (or optimal, most efficient) decision" (Rubin and Jernudd, 1971, p 29)

Language Planning is also a social and cultural process, often through status planning, ontology planning, and acquisition planning to make people change the use of language. Language planning may be influenced by the following or several kinds of guidance. (1) Language is regarded as a problem (therefore, language diversity must be eliminated) (2) language as a right to solve the right of language in the environment of language competition Problems (3) language is the resource (promoting language democracy and pluralism). In a word, language policy and language planning all have social, political and cultural attributes. It is these attributes that make the two inseparable.

Fishman (1974) defined as a deliberate effort to change the position, structure and acquisition of language. Language planning is a major category of social planning, including housing, employment, migration, tax policy. It has a definite goal and the implementation plan. Language policy refers to the official institutions and departments carry out an implicit or explicit language program (such as the Ministry of education, the school, and the leadership of the unit). Language policy can be a guideline or regulations of language use and language acquisition which a state or institution which aimed at the structure of language. The implementation can be explicit (such as the entry of language policy to the Constitution) and May be hidden without saying.

However, language policy has its advantages in the formulation and implementation of government agencies, but most scholars believed that language policies can be held by public institutions (such as government agencies, schools, courts), or by private machines. The structure (such as companies, enterprises, non-governmental organizations) is made by itself (Tollefson, 2011, p357). The language policies and planning formulated by the people will have an immeasurable influence on the social structure and development and the life of people.

The implementation effect of language policy and language planning is largely controlled by language education. The goal cannot be achieved by the programming without acquisition. Acquisition planning is responsible for position planning and implementation of ontology planning. Once a policymaker determines the role and specific language form

of a language in the field of public life, language acquisition is organized and implemented by educators. Namely, acquisition planning is accomplished through language education and planning (Cooper, 1989).

The policy of language education refers to the policy related to the acquisition of language in formal education, which generally includes The regulations and documents of the governments at all levels, the regular work of the subordinates, and so on. Early language education policies and planning are related to modernization and development theories and have three key common points: (1) Scholars optimistically believe that language education policies and plans benefit minority language groups; (2) Policy and planning experts should play an important role in formulating and implementing efficient and reasonable plans and policies; (3) Academic research and practice should focus on nation-states. It is generally believed that the government educational institutions play a major role in language policy and planning activities. It makes early research adopt a top-down perspective. However, there are several shortcomings in the early practices: (1) they ignore the complexity of social and political systems, the causal relationship between policy and implementation effectiveness is extremely complex, and social groups often have different goals that are not stated clearly; (2) Concern over national policies And planning, ignoring the attitudes and language habits of language education objects; (3) Too much trust in the value of language education policies and planning for integrating minority language groups (Tollefson, 2008). The above problems arise because language policies and planning have regional, time, political, and social limitations. The guiding ideology of policy and planning is changing, and when it is feasible and effective, it has lost its value here and now.

It is generally believed that the study of modern language policy and planning began in the field of sociolinguistics in the 1960s and began in the 1970s. The development of disciplines was related to the problems faced by many newly independent countries in Asia and Africa at that time facing the selection and promotion of Mandarin. Language selection, standardization and promotion, national unity and development and other issues have attracted a large number of scholars to study and discuss, so that the disciplines develop in a problem-driven direction. However, whether language can be artificially challenged at the beginning of the discipline development is being questioned. The current academic community believes that language can be planned, but does not mean that language should be planned. Structuralism is opposed to language planning not only because the theoretical basis of structuralism is very different from regulatorism, but also because language planning goes beyond linguistics. It is an interdisciplinary subject that focuses on policy formulation and implementation, with a clear sociopolitical dimension (Jernudd & Nekvapil, 2012). Some of the theories from the non-linguistic field have the tendency to integrate society, while others advocate the diversity of language and culture. The different epistemology of language shows different tendencies in the language policy and planning research community: language purity, descriptivism, liberalism and so on. For this reason, there has been no mainstream theory of language policy and planning so far.

II. LPLP STUDY ABROAD

In the early stage, foreign researchers focused on the definition of language planning, principles, classification, tasks and other basic theory. The last 10 years of the 20th Century, the western countries are facing a series of problems of language, more and more people got to know the importance of language problems and began to examine and study the language planning. Many scholars such as Cooper, Kaplan, Baldauf, Fierman, Phillipson and Fishman deeply discussed the problems of the language policy and planning, such as the disappearance of languages, language revival, language variation and language contact, language transfer and language communication and expansion and so on, from the angles of society, economy and politics. After more than 60 years development, the research of language policy and language planning has possessed a relatively mature discipline system, roughly forming the four schools and the school of rational choice is the mainstream, consisting of North American linguists. Since 20th century, the research of foreign language policy and language planning has not only developed in depth, but also breadth which reached a hitherto unknown degree. Many academic papers published in various research journals, and a number of important monographs or edited have also appeared. The representatives are Bernald Spolsky's three books published by University of Cambridge press. The language policy focuses on the hot issues in the forefront of many language policy researches: attitudes towards language specification and bad languages, bilingualism and multilingualism, protection of language disappearance and endangered languages, language choices and language education policies as human rights and civil rights.

"Language management" is a language planning research monograph, which provides a new perspective for language planning, and plays a leading role in the discussion and solution of the future social language problems. "Handbook of Cambridge language policy " is the first practical handbook devoted to the exploration of language policy, covering all aspects of language planning research, as well as a comprehensive case study.

In addition, another prominent feature of foreign language planning research is that they more focused on the research of practice. Many scholars use the theory of language planning to analyze the language planning and policy of one or several countries or a political and economic union. In brief, Haugen has proposed the concept of language planning since 1959. Language planning and Policy research of western linguistics has become one of the popular and fast development discipline, not only published many monographs, set up relevant academic journal, published a lot of articles, and the study in this field of also has attracted great attention in University. Language planning and policy

research in foreign countries has formed a mature talent training mechanism, cultivating many talents who are interested in this field. The theoretical and practical studies of language planning have been carried out abroad

Language planning research in theory and practice is becoming more and more mature. In a few decades, many scholars have made relatively adequate theoretical research to the basic elements of language planning activities. Some scholars have given theoretical Analysis and description on a certain language planning practices in some countries. Theoretical and practical research of language planning interacts and makes language planning more perfect.

III. LPLP STUDY IN CHINA

In China, language planning is still one of research topics in Applied Linguistics and Social Linguistics, so there is no study of language planning works, only some of the relevant research papers until the end of 20th Century. Domestic researchers began studying the language planning with editing and publishing essays. In 2001, the book-- *Foreign Language Policy and Planning Process* was published by Chinese press, which was edited by Zhou Qingsheng and collected some of the major national language planning and policy research papers from all continents. This work has played a pioneering role for people to understand the foreign language planning and policy research. Later, Zhou Yuzhong & Wang Hui edited the collected papers: *Language Planning and Language Policy: Theory and Country Study*. This collection give a detailed introduction and analysis of language planning in some major countries in the world, which also properly evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of language policy, so that readers can understand the history and prospect of Chinese language planning and policy research. *Language Planning Research* is Chen Zhanqai's personal paper collection. This collection is also the first one focused on the study of language planning, to which the author devoted much effort and time, playing a very important role in leading the domestic language planning research.

After the 20th Century, the academic circles, especially linguistics, have grasped the new mission and new opportunities given by the historical development and the domestic language planning and language policy research has shown a "blowout" trend. Since 2006, both the quality and quantity of the publication and the expansion of interdisciplinary studies have heralded the advent of the spring of language planning and language policy research. In 2006, the Chinese Press published the book *Language Planning in Theory and Practice: Proceedings of the Fourth National Symposium on Sociolinguistics*, which has the positive symbolism because of the theme of language planning in theory and practice, highlighting the field of language planning that has been attracted great attention. Over the next few years, domestic scholars have published several monographs on the real meaning of language planning, of which the representatives are *Chinese Language Planning* of Li Yuming and *Chinese Language Planning Research* Yao Yaping. The main research contents of the former include language life, language standards, academic planning and planning theory etc. The latter discusses the basic nature of language planning, the object of study, the subject of conduct, the main content, the key problems and the objectives of language planning, etc., which has established a new angle for language planning.

Li Yuming's English Edition *Language Planning in China* was published by German Walter de Gruyter. The publication of the book is an important milestone in the study of language planning in China, marking the internationalization of Chinese language planning research, reflecting the international attention to Chinese language planning. The famous linguist Bernard Spolsky wrote preface for it. In the preamble, it is pointed out that this collection has gone beyond the theme of Chinese language planning and can lay the foundation for the study of the whole language management field. The publication of this book can provide valuable possibilities for Chinese and Western scholars to engage in valuable cooperation in language policy and management. In the same year, another important event was the publication of *An Introduction to Language Planning* by Mr. Chen Zhang Tai. Mr. Chen is the leader and pioneer in the field of language planning who has been working on language planning research in China for many years. The monograph absorbed the latest research results at home and abroad and used applied linguistics, especially the theory of sociolinguistics, combining with the actual situation of language planning in our country, and introduced systematically the basic theories and methods of language planning, clarifying the basic situation and major theoretical problems of planning language. Therefore, people could have a better understanding of language planning so as to promote the teaching and research of language planning and language planning theory. Zhao Ronghui spoke highly of this book and considered it Constructing a language planning theory system with Chinese characteristics, highlighting the characteristics of Chinese school in language planning research, and it is the most perfect and outstanding work which summarizing the practice and research of Chinese language planning.

In terms of language ontology planning, there are many papers and specialized works are rare. *The Study of Word and Word Writing: New Prospects for Chinese Language Planning* (Peng Zerun) is a representative of ontology planning research, describing Chinese word consciousness and the development of information resources, the history of Chinese writing, words and related problems of misunderstanding etc. This book is forward-looking, pragmatic and operational. In the interdisciplinary study of language planning, domestic scholars have also made useful attempts. *The Introduction of Language Ecology* (Feng Guangyi) is the first book about language ecology focusing on studying language ecology system, ecology of language from the perspective of language contact, language ecology and language policy, language ecology and language attitude, language ecology and language harmony etc. The author has made a preliminary attempt to construct a language ecology discipline system with Chinese characteristics.

Besides the above research monographs and edited, there are also many research papers. Wu Meili introduced foreign research results of language planning in theory and practice, including the concept, classification, stage, acts, motivation and purpose of the study. Wang Hui summarizes the type, target and concept in the field of 50-year language planning, discussing the framework of language planning theory proposed by Haugen, Cooper, Kaplan and Baldauf. Dai Manchun explores the definition, formation and development of the subject, the effectiveness, rational choice model and other aspects of language policy and language planning according to the latest research and discussion of western scholars, and points out that language policy and planning have the limitations of the region, age, political and social aspects. Any language policy must conform to the times. Huang Xiaolei pointed out that due to the profound social linguistic background and strong interdisciplinary tendency, international language planning research has three main research orientation in the method in the latter half of the 20th Century. Feng Jia and Wang Kefei gave a detailed study and overview of the latest development of the foreign language program in the first 10 years of twenty-first Century.

In the expansion of the research content, Zhao Shouhui, Zhang Dongbo explore the new international language planning and communication field and related phenomena, providing a new perspective for future research and practice of language planning from the perspective of globalization on language planning. Li Yuming has further broadened the field and vision of language planning research, and pointed out that China should pay attention to and implement the domain of language planning. Shen Qi and Xia Tian studied the language planning in the field of international academic communication, and proposed a language planning analysis framework based on different object levels and multi problem domains. Li Yuming thinks that we should adhere to the "language equality", rational planning of "language function", pay more attention to the cultural function of language, and through a comprehensive and scientific study on the mechanism of language planning, language conflict, timely pays attention to public opinion of language and minimizes language conflicts, avoiding language conflict, and constantly promotes the harmonious language life.

IV. CONCLUSION

Language policy and planning research is an evolving discipline. Like all areas of dynamic change systems, it must adapt to change, not only to discover new phenomena and new problems, but to reassess past practices and existing theories based on new knowledge. Language policy theorists and practitioners not only need to explain the current observed facts, but also provide necessary guidance for those who want to resolve conflicts, improve communication efficiency, and respect language variants. Because of this, they often need to avoid too simple models and solutions. Scholars generally do not directly put forward clear recommendations, but rather reveal the complexities of understanding the challenges of understanding language policies, describing socio-linguistic ecology, recognizing many opposing views, and proposing language planning and management methods (Spolsky, 2012, p 15).

The social process has three major characteristics: globalization, migration, and regional management. The theoretical model of language policy and planning undoubtedly must comply with the needs of the times. Although new research issues are constantly emerging, the old issues will still be noticed. These are the essential features of language policy and planning disciplines.

Of course, there are still some problems in the domestic language planning research, and It seems that there still exists a long way for Chinese LPLP research to go to link up with the international standards.

Zhao Ronghui pointed out that three aspects of the book, such as the lack of interdisciplinary perspectives, the lack of theoretical construction, and the inadequate research methods, are the areas in which the book is in short supply." And in fact, this is also some serious problems of language planning that the domestic researchers are facing. Chen Zhan tai considers that:"..... The scientific research is not adequate and strong enough, and the language planning theory is relatively weak, and some language planning activities and practices are not scientific enough."

In recent years, the study of language planning focuses on practical research. Many scholars use the theory of language planning to analyze language planning and language policies of one or several countries or a political and economic union from an academic perspective. Krzyanowski and Wodak (2011) discuss the relationship between politics and multilingual policy, deeply exploring EU multilingualism during Lisbon strategic period. They believe that the economic factors of language policy and multilingual policy mainly depend on the EU strategy deployment on the overall economic development. Georgiou (2011) discussed the standardization of geographical names in Cyprus. Nolan (2010) conducted a detailed study of the French language policy and multilingual status, and explored many language events from 1992 to 2004

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