

Research on Putonghua Promotion and Dialect Culture Protection in Guanzhong Region

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Abstract: The Guanzhong region has a profound historical and cultural background, and the promotion of Putonghua has brought great convenience to the economic development and cultural exchange in the region. As a living fossil of local social life, Guanzhong dialect culture needs to seek a dynamic balance between its promotion and Putonghua. On the basis of discussing the relationship between Guanzhong dialect and Guanzhong dialect culture, and according to the survey of the language use of Guanzhong residents, this study finds that the promotion of local mandarin has certain restrictions on the inheritance of dialect culture. From the aspects of perfecting policies, coordinating the promotion of Putonghua and the protection of dialect culture, promoting cultural inheritance and strengthening linguistic scientific investigation, this paper puts forward targeted strategies for the protection of dialect culture in the region.

1. Introduction

Shaanxi Province is located in the central part of China. It is geographically isolated from the east and west, spanning the north and south. Its superior geographical location and abundant natural resources have made it an important position in the national economic construction layout from ancient times till now. In the course of history, the region has formed a multi-ethnic distribution pattern dominated by Han and Hui ethnic groups. Guanzhong region is located in the central part of Shaanxi province and is located in the economic axis of Shaanxi province. It was once the political, economic and cultural center of our country and the starting point of the "silk road". It is also the main transportation route between east and west of our country, with abundant historical and cultural accumulation and numerous cultural relics. Guanzhong dialect has its own characteristics and occupies a certain position in China's complicated and rich dialects.

Since 1956, the promotion of Putonghua in China has also given the development of dialects and minority languages opportunities. China's contemporary language planning includes "determining and vigorously promoting Putonghua and carrying out dialect surveys" in its specific content for publicity and practice. However, how to develop dialects bearing regional culture in the general trend of promoting Putonghua is a realistic problem that we cannot avoid. As a precious place in the northwest region, to investigate the actual situation of Putonghua promotion in this region, to explore its relationship with the cultural protection of Guanzhong dialect, and to provide some basis and reference for the national language planning, are the practical needs on which this study is based. Based on the discussion of Guanzhong culture and Guanzhong dialect, and based on the survey results of the use of Putonghua by local residents in Guanzhong region, this paper proposes targeted strategies for the promotion of local Putonghua and the protection of dialect culture.

2. Population Distribution and Language Environment in Guanzhong Region

Guanzhong region is located in central Shaanxi, including Weinan city, Xi'an city, Xianyang city, Tongchuan city and Baoji city except Fengxian county and Taibai county. It has 38 counties, cities and 16 county-level districts with a total area of 49,514 square kilometers. According to the 2019 statistical yearbook data of Shaanxi Provincial Bureau of Statistics, the total resident population of Shaanxi Province in 2018 was 38.644 million, and that of Guanzhong region was 24.272 million, including 5.327 million in Weinan City, 10.37 million in Xi'an City, 4.661 million

in Xianyang City, 803,700 in Tongchuan City and 3.771 million in Baoji City.

According to the characteristics of phonetics and vocabulary, Shaanxi dialects are roughly divided into northern Shaanxi, Guanzhong and southern Shaanxi dialects, which are generally consistent with the three administrative regions in the region. Xing Xiangdong defined “Guanzhong dialect” as including dialects belonging to Fenhe, Guanzhong and qinlong sections of Zhongyuan mandarin in Shaanxi province. “Guanzhong dialect” refers to the division in “Shaanxi provincial annals and dialects annals”. The promotion of Putonghua and the acceleration of urbanization, as well as the development of culture and tourism, have diversified the language environment in the region, resulting in multilingualism, bilingualism and even the fact that local residents can only speak Putonghua.

3. Guanzhong Dialect and Guanzhong Dialect Culture

3.1 The Relationship between Guanzhong Culture and Guanzhong Dialect

Li rulong explained the dialect and regional culture in his study on dialects and regional culture as follows: generally speaking, dialects have been formed in a certain region and regional culture has also been formed. Guanzhong dialect, as a language variety used by people in this region, is exterior and interior to Guanzhong culture.

Guanzhong dialect is a cultural style of Guanzhong. “In a humanistic and ecological environment, language cannot be a pure thing or a transcendent thing ... it is itself a special cultural phenomenon produced in a cultural environment.” From the perspective of Guanzhong culture, the structural form, usage and evolution of Guanzhong dialect are more or less influenced by Guanzhong cultural factors and are special products formed in its development.

Guanzhong dialect is also the carrier of Guanzhong culture. Linguist Sapir believes that “there is something behind language, and language cannot exist without culture. The so-called culture is the sum of habits and beliefs inherited from society, which can determine our life organization.” Guanzhong dialect, as a symbol of people's thinking and communication in Guanzhong area, carries people's material life, moral concept, thinking mode, customs and habits in the process of forming local culture. Guanzhong dialect, as an important symbol of Guanzhong cultural and psychological identity, can show the purest and liveliest living conditions of local people and is the best guide for understanding Guanzhong culture. It plays a positive role in promoting the development of local culture and the emotional integration of people, and is worthy of attention and protection.

3.2 Guanzhong Dialect Culture

Based on the relationship between Guanzhong culture and Guanzhong dialect, the content of “Guanzhong dialect culture” includes not only Guanzhong dialect itself, but also cultural expressions such as folk proverbs, two-part allegorical sayings, euphemisms, etc. which take Guanzhong dialect as the carrier.

Guanzhong dialect culture relies on Guanzhong dialect and carries the local material and spiritual culture, such as “Nanshan is full of treasures, see if you can find them” and “Nanshan wears a hat and sleeps for a long time”. These folk sayings in Guanzhong embody the local basin style and geographical culture backed by Qinling Mountains. The specific geographical environment has a series of agricultural activities corresponding to it, and the related vocabulary, proverbs, proverbs, etc. are established in Guanzhong dialect, showing the local farming dialect culture. For example, “moo calf” is used to call a newborn baby, which shows that the cow plays an important role in the life of local farmers; the “middle yield radish, last yield mustard, and then grow broccoli after autumn” is used to show the law of local farming according to the crop growth cycle and solar term; “There are three loves for women in Guanzhong, cotton mixed with alfalfa”, “two pot noodles with dumplings in the first pot, spicy steamed bun dipped in garlic” and other common sayings reflect the people's dietary preferences and characteristics of the main food and other characteristics of the food culture in Guanzhong.

In the practice and accumulation of regional culture in Guanzhong, local people get the same

understanding of natural things and form similar values and thinking modes. For example, the allegorical sayings of Guanzhong Dialect “sparrow on the bell and Drum Tower has seen the world”, “watermelon with big bowl has thick skin and strict melon”, which reflects the concrete thinking characteristics of Guanzhong people's view of objects and images; The proverb “Chang 'an is a place of evil, only saying it cannot be neglected” reflects the taboos in the local traditional customs. The common saying “know nothing, earn a few hundred less” shows the local people's understanding of the relationship between wisdom and money.

In the historical process of its formation and development, dialects have been integrated with national politics, economy, culture and other factors, among which dialect vocabulary has been most significantly affected. In Guanzhong dialect, some words borrowed from ethnic minorities have been preserved in historical changes, such as the transliteration of adjectives “mata” and “gadamahi” from Uighur. Adjective suffixes of degree “mugu dong” and adjectives “hulahai” and “klimacha” are transliterated words of ancient Xiongnu language. These few foreign transliterated words, which are deeply rooted in Guanzhong dialect, are closely related to the ethnic integration in history and have injected fresh blood into the local dialect. The above examples show the embodiment of Guanzhong culture in Guanzhong dialect.

4. Mandarin Promotion and Language Attitude in Guanzhong Area

In July 2019, the research team conducted a questionnaire sample survey on the local residents of Xi 'an, Weinan, Xianyang, Baoji urban and rural areas in Guanzhong region. A total of 495 valid questionnaires were completed by asking one by one and outlining the answers. At the same time, family members, colleagues and friends of some of the respondents were also questioned. For some representative or special cases, interviews and recordings were made with the consent of the respondents, aiming at understanding the local residents' proficiency in Putonghua and their language attitudes.

4.1 The Basic Situation of the Survey Object

Among the investigated subjects, 46.86% are men and 53.14% are women, which is basically consistent with the proportion of men and women in Guanzhong region of Shaanxi province (50.87% are men and 49.13% are women). 35.96% have lived abroad for more than two years, while 64.04% have not. The age distribution is 41.01% for 14-29 years old, 29.49% for 30-44 years old, 16.77% for 45-59 years old, and 12.73% for over 60 years old. The educational level is 2.22% illiterate, 7.27% primary school, 20.40% junior high school, 25.45% senior high school and 44.66% junior college or above. The occupation distribution is 20.81% for students, 5.86% for teachers, 3.23% for professional and technical personnel other than teachers, 1.82% for civil servants, 12.12% for employees in enterprises and institutions, 11.31% for production personnel in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery and water conservancy, 6.1% for operators of industrial production and transportation equipment, 20.61% for commercial service personnel, 8.9% for non-working personnel and 9.04% for other occupation personnel. The age and occupation distribution of the selected samples are relatively uniform.

4.2 Language Ability

(1) First language acquisition

According to the question of “which language did you speak first when you were a child” in the questionnaire, the data show that 76.4% of the people chose “Guanzhong dialect”, indicating that the Guanzhong dialect was the first language that most residents in Guanzhong area came into contact with when they were children. From the side, it reflects that people prefer Guanzhong dialect in the choice of family language, which has a certain impact on children's first language acquisition. 21.6% of the people chose “Putonghua”, which shows that with the vigorous promotion and publicity of Putonghua by the state in recent years, some Guanzhong residents realized its importance and began to deliberately train their children to learn and use Putonghua from an early age. 2% chose “Other”. According to interviews, some local residents' parents or grandparents

migrated to Shaanxi from Henan, Shandong and other places, and their family language was still their hometown dialect. Therefore, although some interviewees were local residents, there were some differences in their choice and learning of the first language.

(2) Language communicative competence

This topic is a self-reported multiple-choice topic. According to the question “What words can you use to talk with people now”, the data show that 9.29% choose “Putonghua”, 13.54% choose “Guanzhong dialect” and 76.77% choose “Putonghua and Guanzhong dialect”. 0.4% chose “Putonghua and other dialects”. The above data reflect that the language communication of local residents is mainly bi-lingual and a few people use mono-lingual or multi-lingual.

(3) Putonghua proficiency

This survey is divided into 6 levels according to the level setting of the national mandarin survey, i.e. 1 “proficiency in using standard mandarin to communicate with people”; 2 “Able to communicate with people skillfully using relatively standard Putonghua”; 3 “Able to use skillfully but with strong accent”; 4 “can understand mandarin and speak, but some pronunciation is not sure”; 5 “can understand mandarin but cannot speak it”; 6 “Can't understand or speak”. The survey of Putonghua proficiency is divided into the self-evaluation of the survey objects and the objective evaluation of the investigators. The data show that the survey objects' evaluation of their Putonghua proficiency is slightly higher than the actual situation.

According to the Putonghua level from high to low, the scores are given in turn, with the highest score being 6 points, the second being 5 points, and so on, the lowest score being 1 point, and the Putonghua level is weighted and averaged. The data show that the average value of the investigators' evaluation on the Putonghua level of the investigated subjects is 4.62 points. Therefore, the Putonghua level in Guanzhong region is between “proficiency in using relatively standard Putonghua to communicate with people” and “proficiency in using but heavy accent”.

This time also involves the investigation of the Putonghua level of the family members of the investigated subjects. Excluding the absence of family members, according to the self-report of the respondents, grandpa can speak Mandarin 65.8%, grandma can speak Mandarin 56.1%, father can speak Mandarin 63.6%, mother can speak Mandarin 64.6%, spouse can speak Mandarin 90.7%, children can speak Mandarin 95.6%. The data show that the level of Putonghua varies greatly from generation to generation, and the level of the younger generation is increasing compared with that of the previous generation, which shows the effectiveness of promoting Putonghua in China over the years.

4.3 The Choice of Teaching Language

In the choice of teaching language, 79.6% of Guanzhong people very much hope that Putonghua will be used in school teaching, 14.9% prefer that Putonghua will be used in school teaching, and only 5.4% hold negative and vague attitudes towards the choice of Putonghua as the teaching language in school. Regarding the question of “whether schools should offer Putonghua training courses”, 88.9% said they wanted and very much wanted to offer Putonghua training courses, only 6.4% did not want to offer Putonghua training courses, and 4.6% were vague about this.

4.4 Attitude Towards Putonghua

The questionnaire survey on the perception of Putonghua is based on the sample's evaluation of the four dimensions of Putonghua: hearing, psychological perception, practicality and whether or not to show cultural accomplishment. The survey results show that 79.6% of the people think Putonghua is pleasant to listen to, 81.6% think Putonghua is cordial, 91.3% think Putonghua is useful, and 74.3% think Putonghua can show cultural accomplishment. On the issue of “the necessity of promoting Putonghua”, 91.7% of the people think it is necessary to promote Putonghua, 5.5% of the people have vague attitudes towards it, and only 2.8% think it is not necessary to promote Putonghua. Data show that Guanzhong people generally support the promotion of Putonghua.

On the issue of “the influence of the promotion of Putonghua on the use of local dialects”, 10.7% of the people think that it has a great influence, 14.1% think that it has a great influence, 28.9%

think that it has little influence and 43.6% think that it has no influence. In addition, 2.6% of the people do not know how the promotion of Putonghua affects the use of dialects. In daily life, 63.8% of the people think that speaking Putonghua well has a great relationship with their work and life, 24.4% think that the relationship is general, and 11.7% think that there is no relationship. Data show that most Guanzhong people believe that using Putonghua is very important in their lives, especially for urban residents. In the interview, 72-year-old ms Li came to Xi' an from Guanzhong village five years ago to help her children take care of their children. in order to better teach her grandson to speak mandarin, she must first improve her mandarin level. therefore, she showed great interest and enthusiasm in learning and using mandarin.

Regarding the cognition of the relationship between dialect and local culture, 68.4% think Guanzhong dialect can express local culture, 16.0% think it has little relationship, and 15.6% have never considered the relationship between dialect and culture. In response to this question, ms Guo, a company employee who lives in Xi' an, said in an interview that dialect is a continuation of local culture. without a proper dialect, it is difficult to fully embody local culture.

To sum up, the promotion of Putonghua in Guanzhong region has achieved good results, but a small number of young people cannot speak Guanzhong dialect. The Guanzhong region has a profound historical and cultural background, and the local government and people have made many efforts in cultural inheritance and protection. However, in the general environment of Putonghua promotion, the survival situation of Guanzhong dialect deserves our attention. Carrying the local traditional culture and folk customs, as a bridge between local residents' language and emotion, its cultural and social values have been impacted to some extent. Some Guanzhong residents living in the city have abandoned Guanzhong dialect in their language education for future generations, which has influenced the inheritance of local dialect and culture to a certain extent.

Due to the promotion of Putonghua in Guanzhong region, the talent introduction strategy of the local government and the development of tourism and other aspects, a large number of frequent population movements have been formed. Meanwhile, the unification of languages has greatly restricted the inheritance of Guanzhong dialect. Guanzhong dialect is not only a kind of cultural style, but also an important carrier of Guanzhong regional culture. It reflects the local cultural characteristics. If Guanzhong dialect is endangered, it will lead to a variety of artistic and cultural forms, such as folk songs and dramas, which will be difficult to inherit. Guanzhong dialect is an important part of the cultural ecological chain in the region. We need to strengthen the protection of Guanzhong dialect culture under the background of promoting Putonghua.

5. Strategies of Putonghua Promotion and Dialect Culture Protection in Guanzhong Region

5.1 Starting with Language Planning, Improve Policies

In the planning of language status in our country, Putonghua has been established as the national common language, its social function has been clarified, and a series of policies and laws to promote Putonghua have been promulgated. This work is still in progress. In order to strengthen the promotion and popularization of national common languages and scripts in poor areas, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued the Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation (2018-2020) in 2018 to promote the implementation of poverty alleviation. The 2019 “Report on the State of Chinese Language and Life” summarizes the relevant language contents in the official documents of the CPC Central Committee, the State Council and relevant ministries and commissions, involving the use of Putonghua and minority languages. Regarding the correct handling of the relationship between dialects and Putonghua, China's contemporary language planning includes “conducting a dialect survey” in its specific content. On February 6, 1956, the State Council in its “Directive on Promotion of Putonghua” required: In order to help the teaching of Putonghua, various fields cooperated to complete the preliminary investigation of dialects in each county in 1956 and 1957. This work focuses on phonetics. The aim is to adapt to the requirements of promoting Putonghua and understand the differences between dialects and Putonghua phonetics, so as to summarize the corresponding rules and compile a guide manual for people in dialect areas to

learn Putonghua. The content aimed at protecting dialect culture has not yet been systematically and clearly elaborated in China's language planning status. Protecting dialects is an important way to protect dialect culture. Therefore, in the process of promoting the construction of legal system and standardization system for languages and characters, the country needs to further refine and standardize the promotion of national common languages and characters, and further explore policies around dialects. Comments and suggestions should be widely solicited and relevant policies and laws should be revised and improved. On the premise of not affecting the promotion of Putonghua, the legal system and relevant measures for the protection of local dialects will be implemented, and the protection of dialects and dialect culture will be coordinated.

5.2 Coordinate the Relationship between the Promotion of Putonghua and the Protection of Dialect Culture

In the field of language use, the current language in our country belongs to the state of “language alternation”, while dialects have a tendency of “shrinking the field of use”. The survey found that the standard of Putonghua of the residents in Guanzhong region is between “being able to communicate with people skillfully using standard Putonghua” and “being able to use it skillfully but with a heavy accent”, and more than 70% of the people think that the promotion of Putonghua has little influence on the use of dialects. The rural areas in Guanzhong have a relatively well-equipped environment for dialect exchange, which limits the local residents' Putonghua ability to a certain extent. According to the interviews with local students, teachers in most schools in rural areas have a medium standard of Putonghua, older teachers have heavy dialect accents, and they often speak dialects when teaching, and students usually use dialects on campus. Teachers in urban schools have a high standard of Putonghua. Young teachers do not speak dialects when teaching. Older teachers occasionally use dialects in class. Students use Putonghua and dialects alternately in most cases on campus.

Therefore, in the field of language use, the school, as the forefront of the promotion of Putonghua, should strengthen the standard degree of Putonghua teaching by local teachers, attach importance to “Putonghua Publicity Week”, do a good job in publicity work, try to create a strong Putonghua language environment in the campus, and at the same time do not interfere with the education and use of dialects in the family. Mandarin is regarded as the main communication method in social work study, while respecting the development status of Guanzhong dialect in the local language and cultural atmosphere, and finding a balance between school education and family education. In a specific language field, the use of appropriate languages enables children to experience diverse cultural connotations in diverse language environments, which is also conducive to the harmonious development of languages.

5.3 Promote the Inheritance of Guanzhong Dialect Culture

The content of China's contemporary language planning should be combined with the cultural and psychological needs of people of all ethnic groups. The profound dialect feelings make Guanzhong residents have a strong sense of identity and pride in the local dialect culture. While promoting the popularization of Putonghua, from the perspective of cultural heritage in Guanzhong, this paper summarizes the ways and means of cultural protection and inheritance in Guanzhong through government guidance, academic cooperation, and folk spontaneity. According to the local dialect culture characteristics, set up government protection agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations, such as the Guanzhong dialect culture museum, collect local dramas, folk songs and other forms through audio and video, and protect valuable dialect cultural relics and ancient books. Organize “Guanzhong dialect culture into classroom” activities, so that children can feel the charm of dialect culture and inherit dialect culture; The public number of Guanzhong dialect culture should be established, and the cultural characteristics of Guanzhong dialect should be presented through stories, documentaries, and cultural propaganda films. At the same time, the promotion of Guanzhong dialect culture will be integrated into the economic development, and the local culture will be more vividly displayed to tourists around the world using the platform of the booming tourism and cultural propaganda departments in Guanzhong region.

5.4 Strengthen Scientific Investigation and Study of Language

With the development of social economy, the language living conditions of the residents in Guanzhong region have changed, and language contact and variation are inevitable. To pay attention to the interaction and development between Putonghua and Guanzhong dialect, it is necessary to objectively record the development process of the local language and the language phenomena in different periods, explore the law of language development from a scientific perspective, promote Putonghua and protect dialect culture on this premise, and provide material support for language planning and future generations' language research. Therefore, it is urgent to increase the basic and applied research of Guanzhong dialect, such as establishing Guanzhong dialect corpus, standardizing dialect characters, developing dialect translation software, etc. Strengthen the research on the cultural connotation of Guanzhong dialect, excavate and scientifically explain Guanzhong dialect culture from the aspects of humanities, history, geography, etc., and compile appropriate teaching materials for the local “dialect culture into the classroom”. In addition, we should strengthen relevant research on language and society, such as language use, language ability, language attitude and social language psychology, to provide appropriate language services for different language groups in the region.

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