

ภาวะการคงอยู่และสูญหายของภาษาถิ่น : กรณีศึกษาภาษาจีนยูนนาน ในอำเภอแม่ฮ่อง งจังหวัดเชียงราย ประเทศไทย

The Examination of Language Vitality and Endangerment: Case Study of Yunnanese Dialects in Mae Salong District, Chiangrai Province, Thailand

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บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษาวิจัยครั้งนี้มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อศึกษาภาวะการคงอยู่และสูญหายของภาษาถิ่นจีนยูนนาน ในอำเภอแม่ฮ่องง จังหวัดเชียงราย เพื่อหาคำตอบสมมุติฐานของภาวะการคงอยู่และสูญหายของภาษาถิ่นจีนยูนนาน และเพื่อศึกษาถึงสถานการณ์การใช้ภาษาถิ่นจีนยูนนานในอำเภอแม่ฮ่องง ตามเอกสารงานวิจัยซึ่งได้ทำการศึกษาโดย UNESCO ซึ่งได้ศึกษาถึงปัจจัยหลัก 5 ประการ ได้แก่ การสืบทอดภาษาจากรุ่นสู่รุ่น แบบแผนของบริบทที่ใช้ภาษา การปฏิสัมพันธ์กันของบริบทและสื่อ ทักษะคิด นโยบายของรัฐต่อการใช้ภาษา และทัศนคติของคนในชุมชนต่อการใช้ภาษา

การศึกษานี้ใช้วิธีการเก็บข้อมูลจากการสำรวจ การใช้แบบสอบถาม การสัมภาษณ์และการบันทึกเสียง โดยมีการสุ่มตัวอย่าง และคัดเลือกผู้ให้ข้อมูล ผลการวิจัยพบว่าประชากรทั้ง สามรุ่นมีสภาวะการคงอยู่และสูญหายของภาษาจีนยูนนานคิดเป็นร้อยละ 60, 65 และ 65 ตามลำดับ ภาษาจีนยูนนานถูกใช้ในทั้งสามรุ่น สำหรับทัศนคติในการใช้ภาษาถิ่น คนวัยกลางคนและวัยรุ่นมีทัศนคติต่อการใช้ภาษาถิ่นจีนยูนนาน คิดเป็นร้อยละ 60 และ 50 ตามลำดับ ส่วนผู้สูงวัยมีทัศนคติการใช้ภาษาถิ่นจีนยูนนาน เพื่อติดต่อกับเพื่อนถึง คิดเป็นร้อยละ 55 ผู้สูงวัยที่ไม่ได้มีการศึกษาที่สูง จะมีการใช้ภาษาถิ่นมากกว่าวัยอื่นๆ จึงไม่มีความแตกต่างอย่างมีนัยสำคัญในการใช้ภาษาถิ่นระหว่างเพศชายและเพศหญิง ผู้สูงวัยมีทัศนคติที่ดีต่อการใช้ภาษาถิ่น มากกว่าวัยรุ่น ร้อยละ 90 ของประชากรมีการใช้ภาษาถิ่นยูนนานในชีวิตประจำวันและภายในครอบครัว

จากผลการศึกษาวิจัยจึงได้เสนอแนะว่าภาษาถิ่นจีนยูนนาน ควรได้รับการอนุรักษ์และสืบทอดกันของชาวจีนในประเทศไทย ให้มีการช่วยกันพัฒนาและสร้างสรรค์ให้ดำรงคงอยู่ต่อไป

คำสำคัญ: ภาษาถิ่นจีนยูนนาน ภาวะการคงอยู่และสูญหาย การอนุรักษ์ภาษา

Abstract

Many years ago, a Chinese military group or Kok Min Tang (国民党), had migrated out since 1800 because of the political difficulties in China. People moved and settled in Northern Thailand, and from that time, Yunnanese becomes one of the minority groups of the northern part of Thailand. The purposes of this research were to examine the language vitality and endangerment of Yunnanese dialect in Veteran Village in Mae Salong District, Chiang

Rai Province and to answer these questions: 1) vitality and endangerment of the Yunnanese dialect in Mae Salong; 2) situation of the Yunnanese dialect in Mae Salong. As a documentary research, the analysis had been based on the UNESCO's "Language Vitality and Endangerment" which consisted of five factors: 1) Inter-generational Language Transmission; 2) Trends in Existing Language Domains; 3) Response to New Domains and Media; 4) Governmental and Institutional Language Attitudes and Policies; and 5) Community Members' Attitudes toward their Own Language.

The Yunnanese dialect's vitality and endangerment was studied from the three generation in Mae Salong. The information and data were collected from observation, questionnaires, interviews and recording. Random sampling was conducted for representing the population and the key informants were purposively chosen. The results were as follows. Language vitality and endangerment of elder, middle age and young generation had 60%, 65% and 65% Yunnanese views respectively. Yunnanese dialect was spoken by all generations. For the attitude of Yunnanese people use Yunnanese dialect, young and middle age generations had 60% and 50% views. The Yunnanese dialect is very important in being accepted in a community. For the elder generation, the most important situation to use Yunnanese dialect is making friends (55%). The elder generation had lower education, but they showed a higher tendency to use the Yunnanese dialect than other generation groups. There was no significant difference in the use of Yunnanese dialect between males and females. Elder generations tended to have a stronger positive attitude than the young generation. Almost 90% of people regard as the Yunnanese dialect used as something in family and daily life the most important. The results from this study suggest that Yunnanese dialect should be preserved, protected and maintained in Thailand. People should provide in terms of creating a better environment to learn Yunnanese dialect and encourage learners to learn speak Yunnanese dialects.

Keywords: Yunnanese Dialects, Language Vitality and Endangerment, Language Preservation

Introduction

Mae Salong is located in the most northern part of Thailand. Mae Salong has a heavy history. Many years ago, because of policy and the war, a Chinese military group or Kok Min Tang (国民党), which Thai people called 'division 93', had migrated there since 1800 because of the political difficulties in China. People moved and settled in Northern Thailand, and from that time, Yunnanese becomes one of the minority groups of the northern part of Thailand. There were currently 76 Yunnan Villages in Northern Thailand, with Mae Salong being the biggest. There was a village named Veteran Village (荣民之家) in the Doi Mae Salong. In this village most people were progeny of division 93. Division 93 was a part of the 8th army in the Yunnan area. Because of the war, soldiers could not return to China so they had to stay in Mae Salong and this became their new life. The Veteran Village contributes to the establishment of the Federation for early relief, designed for accommodating the disabled, so that their family can provide care for military officers, but this is no longer saved in short contributions as it is unsustainable. The Yunnanese dialect was the common language in the Veteran Village. People there keep their Chinese traditions, culture and language. Moreover, the Thai policy had been set to monitor joint volunteer protection, nationality transferring and agricultural training. The cooperation of Thailand and China brought peace and security to the North of Thailand.

Objectives

This thesis has the following two objectives:

1. To examine the Yunnanese dialects vitality or endangerment in Mae Salong.
2. To investigate the state of Yunnanese dialects situation in Mae Salong

Scope of the study

This study focuses on the examination of Language Vitality and Endangerment: Case study of Yunnanese Dialect in Mae Salong District, Chiangrai Province, Thailand. The samplings included studies in Yunnanese dialect in three generations—elder, middle age and young Yunnanese Chinese to examine the Yunnanese dialect vitality, endangerment or maintenance in Mae Salong. The elder generation's age range was 45 up, middle generation's age range was 31-45, and young generation's age range was 15-30. The total population was 180, and used Stratified Sampling choose 60 people as a sampling group.

Methodology

This research consisted of a piece of mix-method research. It includes qualitative and quantitative methods.

Qualitative research is especially effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, behaviors and social contexts of particular populations. It should examine three parts:

First, the researcher needs to do participant observations, to observe the situation of language used in Veteran Village, live with villagers, to know the language they use in the different situations. Many situations, using just chat, can get a lot of useful information.

Second is the in-depth interview. If a researcher wants to know how the Yunnanese dialect's situation is vital or endangered in Mae Salong, the in-depth interview is the important of the qualitative part. Interviews should ask Yunnanese people live in Mae Salong when, where, which language they use, and what they think about the Yunnanese dialect situation in the future, will it be vital or endangered.

And the third one is focus groups. In this part some Yunnanese include young generation, middle generation and elder generation people need to be found to have a discussion meeting. The topic of discussion in the meeting is what they think of the Yunnanese dialect used in Mae Salong. People can talk about anything they want concerning the main topic. In the discussion meeting researchers will take the recording and note the main ideas of the discussion meeting.

Quantitative methods include surveys and questionnaires. It requires a thorough understanding of the important questions to ask, the best way to ask people and the range of possible responses. Questionnaires should get the answer of what Yunnanese living in Veteran Village think about Yunnan dialect development in Mae Salong. Questionnaire included three languages--English, Chinese and Thai. From the questionnaire to examine people chose which language use in what situation.

The questions were modified as necessary. In the questionnaire, the questions were divided into three parts: linguistic background, language use, and language attitude. To minimize self-defense, or giving socially desirable

answers, informants were told in advance that their answers were not right or wrong and that they could express their feelings openly.

The sampling population of this study including three generation in Veteran Village, Mae Salong district, Chiangrai, Thailand. The researcher will use stratified random sampling, first will distinguish between the three generations—elder, middle and young generation. The elder generation's age range is 45 up, middle generation's age range is 31-45, and young generation's age range is 15-30. The total population is 180, and using Stratified Sampling choose 60 people as a sampling group.

Generation	Age	Sampling Population
Young	15-30	20
Middle	31-45	20
Elder	45 up	20

Research Tools : First, the researcher needs to do participant observations, to observe the situation of language used in Veteran Village, and the population of Yunnanese dialect users in the village. Many situations, using just chat, can get a lot of useful information.

Second is the in-depth interview. In-depth interviews are optimal for collecting data on an individual's personal histories, perspectives and experiences, particularly when sensitive topics are being explored. If a researcher wants to know how the Yunnanese dialect's situation is vital or endangered in Mae Salong, the in-depth interview is the important of the qualitative part. Interviews should ask Yunnanese people live in Mae Salong when, where, which language they use, and what they think about the Yunnanese dialect situation in the future, will it be vital or endangered.

And the third one is focus groups. Focus groups are effective in eliciting data on the cultural norms of group and in generating broad overviews of issues of concern to the cultural groups or subgroups represented. In this part some Yunnanese include young generation, middle generation and elder generation people need to be found to have a discussion meeting. The topic of discussion in the meeting is what they think of the Yunnanese dialect used in Mae Salong. People can talk about anything they want concerning the main topic. In the discussion meeting researchers will take the recording and note the main ideas of the discussion meeting.

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Data Collection

There are four methods use in this research: observation, questionnaire, interview and recording.

1. Observation

In order to do more informal research, the researcher came to participate with the Yunnanese people in their social events and also came to see them at the village, and to talk with them about language, culture and social life. The researcher used Yunnanese or Mandarin with them to help them relax and feel comfortable to express their ideas. In

addition to talking to people during social events and in the village, the researcher played the role of an outsider to observe the language use of people in real situations. While having conversations with people. People's behavior may be hidden in face to face conversation with the outsider. An awareness of people's behavior helps to show the real pattern of dialect use of the Yunnanese in Mae Salong.

2. Questionnaires

Questionnaire had three language types-- English, Chinese and Thai and it included four parts -- back ground information, language vitality assessment, language attitudes and language situation. The totally sampling population was 180, the young generation was from 15 to 30, the middle age generation was from 31-45, and the elder generation was 46 up. After got the data from the 180 people, researcher would use purposive random sampling to chose 60 people for representing the key information.

3. Interview and Recording

In this research project, the researchers interviewed the Yunnanese living in Mae Salong District who fitted the design age. It included school teachers, students, workers, young, middle age and elder aged people.

Interview had seven questions, it included language situation, the opinion of local people think of the different language and the fact to affect language change. Those interview questions could show the language vitality and endangerment in Mae Salong, Chiangrai.

When the interview has begun, researcher recorded the communication between research and Yunnanese. The information was then taken into account in the research finding.

Data Analysis

From the qualitative method and quantitative method the data obtained. After the data was collected it was organized and analyzed. For the data analysis followed the UNESCO's 5 factors to know the Yunnan dialect situation in Mae Salong followed: 1) Inter-generational Language Transmission; 2) Trends in Existing Language Domains; 3) Response to New Domains and Media; 4) Governmental and Institutional Language Attitudes and Policies, including Official and Use; 5) Community Members' Attitudes toward their Own Language. The data analysis can show the Yunnanese dialect develop situation in a boarding country, is it vitality, maintenance or endangerment.

The data of the study was collected from the people who lived in Veteran Village, Mae Salong district, Chiangrai Province, Thailand. It based on the objective study of the Vitality and endangerment of Yunnanese dialects. The data was analyzed by recording, interviewing, and questionnaires with three generations of Yunnanese who lived in Mae Salong. Data included back ground information of sampling, Yunnanese chose which language use in the daily life, use with government officials and so on. From the data can show the Yunnanese dialect was vital or endanger in Mae Salong.

Conclusion

The result of the study reveal the following:

Language vitality and endangerment: Yunnanese dialect still keeps most vitality in Veteran Village and Mae Salong city for the three generations, because the five vitality factors proposed by UNESCO have been fulfilled. From the

five factors most of the choices of Yunnanese people express that Yunnanese dialect is safe and keeps vitality. Yunnanese dialect also keeps language vitality in Mae Salong. For elder, middle age and young generation with 60%, 65% and 65% views that the Yunnanese dialect is spoken by all generations and used in most domains.

Language attitude: Yunnanese dialect is important for three-generation use with family and social relationships. However, in the situation of government people will use Thai most. Young and middle age generation had 60% and 50% views that Yunnanese dialect is very important for being accepted in community.

Language situation: In daily life, Yunnanese people tended to use Yunnanese dialect to communicate. However, it had a special situation for the young generation. Some young people like to use Thai to communicate with friends. The first language that they chose to use Thai. In addition, Yunnanese dialect would be used in the family or to talk with Yunnanese people. Moreover, for the elder generation, most people required children and grandchildren to only use Yunnanese dialect at home. They think Yunnanese dialect was their mother tongue, so they cannot forget this language.

Over more than the last 60 years, Yunnanese dialect still has kept its vitality in Mae Salong. It is used in many domains, for example the Business, education domain and tourism domain. It plays an important role in Mae Salong, Chiangrai, Thailand.

Recommendations

The results of this study are beneficial in two ways:

Firstly, parents should create a positive language environment for children. For example, using Yunnanese dialect to communicate with children, tell the history of Yunnanese people moving to Thailand and family older should highlight teaching Chinese culture to their children.

Secondly, Yunnanese dialect should be trained generation to generation. Such as Yunnanese dialect training curriculum or a preservation dialect club

Third, need to build a Yunnanese dialect website and take some funny Yunnanese dialect videos put on the website.

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