

Abstract

The multilinguistic set-up is the carrier of multiculturalism in Macau. This thesis is a study of the linguistic evolution under the age-old influence of foreign languages and its interactions with culture and society, and an analysis of the special characteristics in language use in Macau at both the micro- and macro-levels.

After-effects from the colonial era in language use, especially as reflected in the foreignization of the Chinese language and substandard deviations, are found in both official documents and everyday speech, which directly affects the establishment of the Chinese language as an official language of Macau and the normal communications in social and political life. This paper aims to point out the direction for wholesome language planning and development in Macau by adopting linguistic theories to analyze and compare samples of Creole, patois, colloquialism and of the language used in official documents.

Every effort has been made to attain these objectives: 1. a good knowledge of the history of the multilingual formation of Macau and its present scenario; 2. a deep understanding of the role of Macau as a "window" and "bridge" in linguistic exchanges between China and other countries; 3. a grasp of the nature and rules governing the use of Creole, patois, slang and of the language used in Chinese written documents; and 4. a developmental vision regarding the norms and styles for the language of official documents.