

# ABSTRACT

This dissertation aims to study the changes in the status of Chinese language in Macao before and after Reunification, and to reflect the positive and negative effects the rapid social changes of Macao before and after Reunification. The dissertation attempts to describe the changes in status of Chinese language in Macao before and after Reunification from different aspects, and deduces the reasons why Chinese language was not valued before Reunification, and has become a dominant language after Reunification. The dissertation also analyses the trends of development of Chinese language in the future, pointing out the importance of promoting and paying attention to the status of Chinese language in Macao.

The dissertation is divided into four chapters, chapter one being the history of Macao. From the entry of the Portuguese into Macao to the establishment of the Senate to exercise self-administration, from the peaceful existence with the Chinese population to the expansion and occupation of Macao, the general direction of history modelled the complicated relations between Portugal and Macao over the past 400 years. Chapter two observes the changes in the status of Chinese language in Macao from its foundation to Reunification in the fields of law and administration, instruction and social life. Chapter three echoes the previous to explore the status after Reunification, with the context of the status before Reunification. Chapter four analyses the problems existed for the Chinese language in Macao and the possible measures of improvement. The Conclusion chapter mainly concludes the dissertation, and from when Chinese language has become an official language in 1992, the opinions on the development of Chinese language before and after Reunification and the changes of the society in Macao are expressed and suggestions proposed.