

032
Zhang

**A Sociolinguistic Study of Mainland Chinese Students in
Macao: Language Choice, Language Attitudes, and Identity**



A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts
at the University of Macau

September 2010

Abstract of thesis entitled

**A Sociolinguistic Study of Mainland Chinese Students in Macao:
Language Choice, Language Attitudes, and Identity**

Submitted by

Zhang Kun (M-A7-5512-2)

for the degree of Master of Arts in English Studies
at the University of Macau
in September 2010

This project focuses on a group of Mainland Chinese sojourner students studying at a university in Macao, and examines how those students construct their identities through language choice in the process of sociolinguistic adjustment. In order to accomplish this, the project takes the ethnographic approach to investigating: (1) the language choices of Mainland Chinese students in Macao; (2) their attitudes towards the multilingualism of Macao and their attitudes towards their mother tongues, Putonghua, English, Cantonese or other languages; and (3) how they construct their identities that are distinct either from their counterparts in Mainland China or from Macao residents. Within the frameworks of Multi-agent Model, Spaces and Scales of Multilingualism, and the Community of Practice, the findings of this paper show that Mainland Chinese students' language choice is influenced by agents at different levels, such as language policies, mass media, and peers; in their

eyes, Putonghua and English are very important, whereas home dialects' integrative function is stressed; Cantonese is important for those who are living in Guangdong province, but for Mainland students who are staying in this Cantonese speaking region for a short time, Cantonese is only an additional language; Mainland Chinese students' linguistic practices, such as code-mixing and use of Western names indicate that they are different from either Macao local students or their peers in Mainland China. The project contributes to our understanding of how Mainland students interact with this multilingual society and how they adjust themselves to the new sociolinguistic environment.

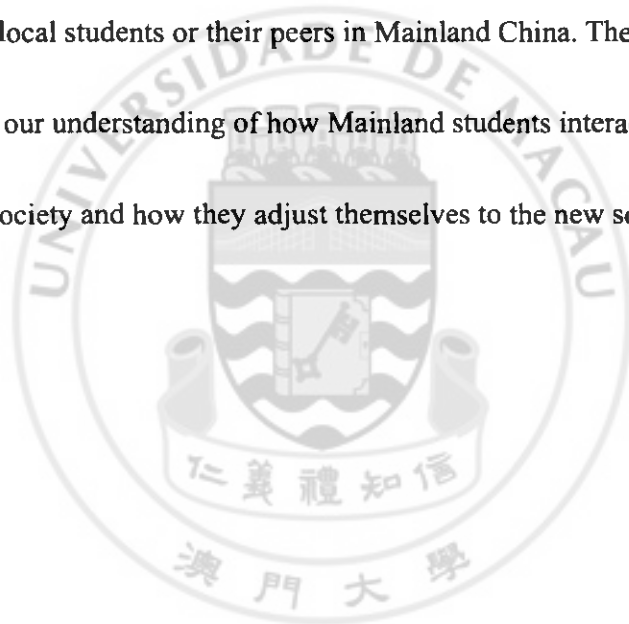


Table of Contents

Declaration	v
Acknowledgements	iv
List of Figures	viii
List of Tables	ix
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Orientation.....	1
1.2 Confusing Concepts Clarified	5
1.3 Language Situation in Macao.....	8
1.3.1 Historical Background.....	9
1.3.2 Multilingual Macao	10
1.4 Mainland Chinese Students in Macao.....	23
1.4.1 Sociolinguistic Background of Mainland Chinese Students	24
1.4.2 Mainland Chinese Students' Sociolinguistic Life in Macao	31
1.5 Research Questions	32
1.6 Organization of the Thesis.....	33
2 Literature Review	35
2.1 Introduction	35
2.2 Language Choice, Language Attitudes, and Identity	35
2.3 Sojourner Students	39
2.4 Conceptual Frameworks.....	41
3 Research Design.....	49
3.1 Introduction	49
3.2 Methodology	49
3.3 Selection of Informants	51
3.4 Site of Research.....	52
3.5 Roles of Researcher.....	54
3.6 Research Reflections	55
3.7 Ethical Considerations.....	56
3.8 Executing the Present Project.....	57
4 Results and Analysis of Data.....	63
4.1 Introduction	63
4.2 Mainland Chinese Students' Stories.....	63
4.2.1 David's Story.....	63
4.2.2 Leo's Story	65
4.2.3 Tina's Story	66
4.2.4 Mary's Story.....	68

4.3 Mainland Chinese Students' Language Choice.....	69
4.3.1 Putonghua.....	69
4.3.2 Dialects.....	71
4.3.3 Cantonese.....	74
4.3.4 English.....	77
4.3.5 Portuguese.....	82
4.4 Mainland Chinese Students' Attitudes towards Different Varieties.....	83
4.5 Discussion.....	92
4.5.1 Language Choice and Multi-agent Model.....	92
4.5.2 Scaling of Multilingualism in Macao.....	97
4.5.3 Mainland Chinese Students' Identity Construction.....	108
5 Conclusion.....	122
5.1 Introduction.....	122
5.2 Summary of Findings.....	122
5.3 Implications of Study.....	125
5.4 Limitations and Directions for Future Research.....	126
References.....	129
Appendix I.....	147
Appendix II.....	149

