

Identification and Practical Situation of Endangered Languages in China

Xing Huang, Institute of Ethnology & Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social
Lianqun Bao, Oita University

With modernization and globalization, some ethnic languages and Chinese dialects are showing different levels of endangerment in the mainland of China. To save and maintain those languages in danger, Chinese government bureaus, such as the Ministry of Education and the State Ethnic Affairs Commission, have formulated a series of language policies and language planning. However, language maintenance involves a systematic process, including how to identify a language as endangered, which minority language should be defined as endangered, how to implement the language policies, how to make a language survey, and how to develop endangered languages multimedia database. It is urgent for Chinese scholars, based on the current language use situation, to conduct the relevant language survey and research work, to make out the standards of endangered languages, on the basis of the criteria offered by international organizations (such as UNESCO & SIL International) and finally to establish the practical document to rescue and stabilize endangered languages. This paper is aimed to briefly discuss the main causes of endangered languages in China and their effects, then to introduce the practical language situation of different types of endangered languages, including language education, family language use, and language transmission.

Key Words: endangered languages, standard of identification, national situation of China, language use

中国濒危语言的认定标准及其使用情况

黄行 包联群 中国社会科学院民族学与人类学研究所 日本·大分大学经济学研究科

提要：由于现代化和全球化水平的不断提高，中国境内一些少数民族语言和汉语方言已经出现不同程度的濒危趋向，为此教育部、国家民委等主管语言文字工作的中国政府部门制订了一系列抢救保护濒危语言的政策和规划。濒危语言抢救与保护是一个系统工程，涉及濒危语言认定标准、少数民族濒危语言语种选定、濒危语言保护的执行标准、濒危语言调查保护操作规范、濒危语言多媒体数据库开发等重要内容。当前需要在参考濒危语言认定的国际标准（如 UNESCO & SIL International 提出的标准）的前提下，根据中国的国情，开展中国濒危语言标准的调研、论证及制订工作。本文首先扼要地讨论中国濒危语言认定标准的主要指标及其影响权重，其次介绍中国不同类型濒危语言的使用情况，包括语言教育现状、家庭语言使用及语言传承等。

关键词：濒危语言 认定标准 中国国情 语言使用