

Language heritage and its revitalization among Mongolian community in Heilongjiang Province, China

Lianqun Bao

This paper presents the features, heritage and revitalization of Mongolian language among the Mongolian community in Heilongjiang Province, China.

Mongolian population in China is 5,810,000 according to 2006 census and about 150,000 in Heilongjiang Province, comprising only 0.4% of the total population of 40 million of the province.

Due to long term interaction with Chinese, language of the Mongols in Heilongjiang was strongly influenced by Chinese. There is a clear distinction between HMCL (Heilongjiang Mongolian Community Language) and other Mongolian dialects as well as standard Mongolian in China. The HMCL can be called a new "Mixed Language "As we know, Mongolian is the SOV(S+O+V) type of language, while Chinese is SVO language. HMCL is based on Mongolian grammar, borrowed a large number of Chinese words (or phrases)

Not only their language has changed, but also many people have lost their mother tongue and started speaking Chinese.

This presentation focuses on the features of language, school education, and language heritage of the Mongols in Heilongjiang Province, China.

Keywords: Mongolian community, Mongolian language, language heritage, language revitalization, school education