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*Mandarin and Dialect Diglossia Caused by the Contact between Them*

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## ABSTRACT

In the process of the competition between Mandarin and dialect, they are not simply replaced and be replaced, but permeate and integrate with each other. This paper addresses Mandarin and dialect diglossia phenomenon caused by the contact between them, including dialect mingled by Mandarin; Mandarin mingled by dialect. Mandarin and dialect diglossia are the result of the combination of internal and external factors, and it manifested in the three aspects of phonetic, vocabulary and grammar. The phenomena of dialect mingled by Mandarin and Mandarin mingled by dialect are widespread, and they are developing towards the direction of strengthening and weakening respectively, indicating that the living space of Mandarin has gradually developing and expanding, while dialect is gradually degenerating.

## INTRODUCTION

The general language law of the people's Republic of China (2000) raised the "national promotion of Mandarin" to the level of laws and regulations. Meanwhile, with the development of science, technology, economy and education, the promotion and popularization of Mandarin has made great achievements. There are fierce competitions between Mandarin and dialects. There are two kinds of language phenomena in different regions: one is Mandarin with regional dialect color; the other is dialect with Mandarin traces. This kind of phenomenon belongs to "diglossia". It is the product of the fusion of Mandarin and dialect. This paper calls it "Mandarin and dialect diglossia", which is a kind of two varieties of language.

## DEFINITION AND THEORETICAL BASIS

## Definition

## 1)Dialect Mingled by Mandarin

Dialect mingled by Mandarin reflects the traces of Mandarin left in dialect after language contact. It occurs when the use of dialect is negatively transferred by the structural elements of Mandarin, and the overall feature is dialect. This dynamic process makes many original flavor elements in dialects disappear invisibly. In this process, dialects gradually become not authentic, facing the danger of being endangered or even dying out.

## 2)Mandarin Mingled by Dialect

Mandarin mingled by dialect reflects the dialect traces left in Mandarin after language contact. It occurs when the use of Mandarin is negatively transferred by the dialect structural elements, which is characterized by Mandarin as a whole.

Although Dialect mingled by Mandarin and Mandarin mingled by dialect belong to the transfer phenomenon between dialect and Mandarin, the relationship between them is very clear, which can be distinguished by the overall characteristics of the language used by the speaker, and the scale of the transferred elements is very small.

## Theoretical Basis

### 1) Language Contact Theory

The theory of language contact has a long history and complex factions. Its core idea is that the interaction and long-term effect of different languages or different dialects within the same language produce new results, which are mainly manifested in two forms: the borrowing of language components and the fusion of language. Stable and long-term contact may produce new fusion languages with traces of the original language, while the original language will die out (Thomason & Terrence, 1988; Thomason, 2001)<sup>[10][9]</sup>.

### 2) Language Transfer Theory

Dialect mingled by Mandarin and Mandarin mingled by dialect both belong to language contact and language transfer. After dialect and Mandarin contact, the structural elements of them will inevitably influence and collide with each other in the brain of speech users, that is, language transfer may occur.

## CAUSE OF MANDARIN AND DIALECT DIGLOSSIA

The phenomenon of Mandarin and dialect diglossia is the result of the comprehensive effect of internal and external factors.

### Internal Factors: Language Attitude

Language attitude is people's value judgment on a language or dialect (Chambers, 1999; Edwards, 2006)<sup>[1][4]</sup>, and the resulting language tendency and speech behavior. There is an important link between language attitude and language use (Patrick, 2017)<sup>[7]</sup>, which is a very important potential factor affecting language use and inheritance. It has a significant impact on the extinction and resurrection of language and the inheritance of culture (Coupland et al., 1999)<sup>[2]</sup>.

For example, Cantonese is the central language of Cantonese people. They have a social mentality of speaking Cantonese as their pride in their language life. Kalmar et al. (1987)<sup>[5]</sup> investigated Guangzhou students' attitudes towards Mandarin and Cantonese, and found that Mandarin had the most positive evaluation in terms of social progress, but from the perspective of personal emotion, Cantonese had a more positive evaluation. Kalmer et al. (1987)<sup>[5]</sup> once discussed the Hong Kong people's attitudes towards Cantonese and Mandarin, and found that in terms of affinity, Hong Kong people scored higher on Cantonese than Mandarin; in terms of personal development effectiveness, Hong Kong people scored higher on Mandarin. The positive attitude towards Cantonese makes it a strong dialect with centripetal force and compatibility. On the one hand, Cantonese people have a strong sense of pride in Cantonese dialect; on the other hand, a large number of words are absorbed by Mandarin, and the words of Mandarin are embraced. Therefore, language variation occurs when the two interact and migrate.

### External Factors: Language Policy, Economic Factors

Language policy determines the development trend of language from a macro perspective. The implementation of the policy of popularizing Mandarin leaves a deep trace in dialects. For example, in the early 1990s, the government of Guangdong Province introduced measures to promote the popularization of Mandarin. Guangzhou gradually changed from language diversification to Mandarin (Leung, 1993)<sup>[6]</sup>. The language use mode gradually changed to bilingual mode, and from Cantonese to Mandarin in education and the public (Tang, 2006)<sup>[8]</sup>. With the promotion of Mandarin, Cantonese is full of vitality, but it is impacted and its vitality is declining.

Economic development drives population flow, which leads to large-scale contact and collision of languages (Dauenhauer & Dauenhauer, 1998)<sup>[3]</sup>, thus affecting the inheritance of languages. Cantonese, Mandarin and other languages are integrated with each other, and the use of two or more words by residents is the new normal of local language life. Other factors, such as the influence of foreign wives, geographical environment, population living style and other factors also affect the language pattern.

## MANIFESTATION OF MANDARIN AND DIALECT DIGLOSSIA

The phenomenon of Mandarin and dialect diglossia is manifested in the use of different words in Mandarin or dialect, which is reflected in three aspects: phonetic, vocabulary and grammar.

## Dialect Mingled by Mandarin

Heterogeneous word of dialect mingled by Mandarin refers to the phonetic (in the initial, vowel, tone), vocabulary or grammar is heterogeneous and close to the Mandarin system. The manifestations are as follows:

### 1)Phonetic

The phonetic heterogeneity of dialect mingled by Mandarin shows that the dialect pronunciation is affected by Mandarin and becomes not authentic and pure. As shown in TABLE 1.

Table 1:Heterogeneous word of phonetic

Mandarin	Cantonese	Mandarin mingled by Cantonese
出生证 chūshēng zhèng out birth certificate birth certificate	cyū sáng zǐng	cū sáng zǐng
畜生证 chù shēng zhèng beast birth certificate beast certificate	cū sáng zǐng	/

“chūshēng zhèng” in Mandarin mingled by Cantonese is similar to “chù shēng zhèng” in Cantonese, so It is easy to cause misunderstanding in communication.

### 2)Vocabulary

In language competition, language elements will influence each other, and vocabulary is the most vulnerable. The main reason for the heterogeneity of vocabulary is that dialect vocabulary is not inherited when the communication with dialect is blocked. For example, the promotion of Mandarin has impacted on the inter-generational inheritance of Cantonese. People can not speak authentic Cantonese, and the phenomenon of Cantonese mingled by Mandarin appears. For example, when we turn off the light, we don't use the Cantonese vocabulary “xī dēng”, but directly use Mandarin vocabulary “guān dēng”. When chatting, we don't use the Cantonese vocabulary “qīng jì”. Hence, “nǐ tóng biān'gè qīngjì” is replaced by “nǐ tóng biān'gè liáotiān” to express the meaning of “whom are you chatting with?”

## Mandarin Mingled by Dialect

Heterogeneous word of Mandarin mingled by dialect refers to the heterogeneity of phonetic, vocabulary or grammar, which is close to the dialect system. For example, people in Cantonese areas often suffer from the negative transfer of Cantonese when using Mandarin, saying non-standard Mandarin. For example:

### 1)Phonetic.

As shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Heterogeneous Word of Phonetic

Mandarin	Mandarin mingled by Cantonese	Mandarin	Mandarin mingled by Cantonese
姿势 zī shì pose	鸡戏 jī xì chicken game	吃饭 chī fàn have a meal	欺饭 qī fàn cheat meal

其实 qí shí factually	其席 qí xí its seats	几百块 jǐ bǎi kuài a few hundred bucks.	几百汽 jǐ bǎi kài several hundred ?
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## 2)Vocabulary

When Hong Kong people speak Mandarin, there is a phenomenon of copying Cantonese. For example:

**Table 3:** Heterogeneous Word of Vocabulary

Mandarin	Mandarin mingled by Cantonese	Mandarin	Mandarin mingled by Cantonese
硬币 yìngbì hard currency coin	银仔 yín zǎi silver aberdeen coin	有空儿 yǒu kūr have empty free	得闲 déxián free
好厉害 hǎo lìhài good powerful good job	好犀利 hǎo xīlì good sharp good job	会一点儿 huì yìdiǎr can a little unskilled	识少少 shí shǎo shǎo know a little unskilled

## 3)Grammar

Copying dialect grammar leads to formal errors. For example:

**Table 3:** Heterogeneous Word of Grammar

Mandarin	Mandarin mingled by Cantonese
你 刚才 去 做 什么 了 ? Nǐ gāngcái qù zuò shénme le ? You just now go do what ? What did you just do just now?	你 刚才 到 做 什么 了 ? Nǐ gāngcái dào zuò shénme le ? You just now to do what ? What did you just do just now ?

## CONCLUSION

In the process of competition between Mandarin and dialect, they are not simply replaced or be replaced, but permeate and entangle with each other: there are Mandarin mingled by dialect due to dialect infiltrating Mandarin and dialect mingled by Mandarin because of Mandarin infiltrating dialect. With the development of economy, the improvement of education and the growth of the younger generation, they are developing towards the direction of weakening and strengthening respectively. The living space of Mandarin will continue to grow and expand, and the dialect will face the trend of degradation.

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