

Review of Ecolinguistics Research from the Year 2010 to the Year 2021

—Based on the Survey of CNKI Core Journals

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Abstract: through literature survey, this paper sorts out the research context of ecolinguistics in China in recent ten years, and clarifies the concepts of macro ecolinguistics and micro ecolinguistics, institutional ecolinguistics and system ecolinguistics, analysis of ecological discourse and ecological analysis of discourse. According to the research content and theme, the domestic ecological linguistics research is classified as follows: ① theoretical exploration (Research) ② language development and protection ③ research paradigm ④ discourse analysis (ecological discourse analysis) ⑤ language teaching and learning ability ⑥ translation research ⑦ localization research. Through the survey, it is found that most of the researches on ecolinguistics in China remain at the level of theoretical exploration, while the applied research and empirical research are weak; Language teaching and localization research began to show an upward trend.

Key words: Ecolinguistics; Language ecology; Research classification

1. Introduction

In today's society, the ecosystem has been damaged, and all kinds of species have accelerated extinction. The issue of ecological protection arises at the historic moment. The development of ecolinguistics conforms to the needs of the times. According to the survey, as an emerging discipline, the development of ecolinguistics is not mature enough and has not formed a perfect theoretical basis. The study of ecolinguistics in China began in the 1980s. Generally speaking, the study of ecolinguistics in China started late, and the research perspective and research methods are relatively simple. It should be pointed out that although there are shortcomings, it is undeniable that Chinese ecolinguistic researchers have made a lot of efforts and made some achievements. Based on the core journals that can represent the research level of domestic ecolinguistics, this paper reviews the domestic ecolinguistics research from 2010 to 2021, in order to clarify the research context of domestic ecolinguistics in the past decade and provide reference direction for future research.

2. Overview of ecolinguistics

2.1 Concept proposal

Haugen first proposed the concept of language ecology. In his collection *the ecology of language*, he defined language ecology as "studying the interaction between any specific language and the environment" (Haugen, 1970). In the 1980s, German scholars put forward the concepts of "Linguistic Ecology" and "ecological linguistics". Since then, scholars at home and abroad have put forward the concepts of ecolinguistics, linguistic ecology, ecological linguistics, and linguistic ecology.

2.2 Research mode

① The Haugen model is the metaphor model. The research under this mode is based on ecology and metaphorical method, which analogizes the relationship between language and social environment to the relationship between biology and natural environment. ② Halliday model, namely, non metaphorical model. The research under this model is to study the relationship between language and language users from the perspective of systemic functional linguistics. Emphasize the impact of language use on the environment.

3. Clarification of several groups of concepts

3.1 Macro ecolinguistics and micro ecolinguistics

As far as the literal meaning is concerned, macro ecolinguistics is a higher and larger level of research, which is a multidisciplinary research. Comparatively speaking, micro ecolinguistics is a branch of linguistics, which is a smaller level of research, emphasizing the study of language from an ecological perspective.

3.2 Institutional and systematic ecolinguistics

Institutional ecolinguistics refers to the relationship between language and its users, which is bidirectional and interactive. Systematic ecolinguistics refers to how people's ideas or ideas affect people's impact on the environment, that is, the impact of language on human behavior. This relationship is one-way rather than two-way.

3.3 Analysis of ecological discourse and ecological analysis of discourse

The analysis of ecological discourse refers to the analysis of ecological topics (such as ecological civilization construction, climate change, etc.); The ecological analysis of discourse refers to the analysis of discourse from an ecological perspective. In the process of analysis, the analyst's ecological view plays a vital role.

4. Classification of domestic ecolinguistics research (based on the survey of CNKI foreign language core journals)

According to the research contents and themes from 2010 to 2021, this paper classifies the domestic ecological linguistics research as follows: ① theoretical exploration (Research) ② language development and protection ③ research paradigm ④ discourse analysis (Ecological Discourse Analysis) ⑤ language teaching and learning ability ⑥ translation research ⑦ localization research.

4.1 Theoretical exploration (research)

In the past decade, domestic linguists have done a lot of theoretical exploration. Among them, Zhang Yanling, Zhou Lijuan and others put forward the concepts of "language ecology" and "language environment". Cui Guihua discussed the role of language in improving the ecological environment. It is believed that language ecology and language environment are important factors affecting the survival and development of language. Wang Fufang believes that ecolinguistics and cognitive linguistics are related because they are both influenced by the idea of social construction, so they can learn from each other. This provides a theoretical reference for the study of ecolinguistics. Zhou Liuxi proposed to protect the diversity of languages, put forward the concept of language rights, and studied the reasons for the imbalance of language ecology. It can be seen here that domestic scholars pay high attention to language survival and language diversity. Zhang Lin and others discussed the ecocriticism of language system from the perspective of ecolinguistics. Miao Xingwei and others believe that current ecolinguistic research should not only focus on the interaction between language and natural environment, but also on the impact of language on social and cognitive environment. This expands the "ecological factors" in ecological linguistics. Huang Guowen and others believe that ecolinguistics belongs to applied linguistics in a broad sense and is a problem oriented interdisciplinary. It can be seen that solving ecological or linguistic problems is the focus of ecolinguistic researchers. The interdisciplinary nature of this discipline also determines the complexity and versatility of the research.

4.2 Application research

Language development and protection: when it comes to this research field, it is not unnecessary to talk about regional language research. Among them, Zhang Xiaoyu has done relevant research on issues related to the ecological balance system of Mongolian language and culture. In addition, other scholars also began to pay active attention to the impact of human activities on language development.

Research paradigm: it is more similar to top-level design, and the research in this field needs a certain theoretical basis and practice. Among them, Zhao Ruihua and others constructed the research framework of harmonious discourse analysis.

Discourse analysis (Ecological Discourse Analysis, harmonious discourse analysis): researchers analyze discourse from an ecological perspective to promote harmonious discourse. Among them, Zhang Qingrong takes network language (discourse) as the corpus and proposes to standardize and use network language. Dong Dianwen uses the beneficial discourse research method to conduct Ecological Discourse Analysis of specific discourse.

Language teaching and learning ability: combined with ecolinguistics, some domestic scholars have also applied it to language teaching. Hong Changchun explored the ecological teaching mode of College English. Some other scholars apply it to the improvement of learning ability. For example, Tang Hongjuan discussed the development of foreign language ability and children's foreign language ability from the perspective of ecological linguistics.

Translation studies: a few scholars have also applied ecolinguistics to translation studies. For example, Meng Yu and others evaluated the translation of scientific and technological borrowings from the perspective of ecolinguistics using physical terms as the corpus.

Localization research: in recent years, localization research is a hot field, and many scholars focus on this kind of research. Among them, Zhao Ruihua and others analyzed the Chinese ecological harmony from the perspective of Chinese vocabulary and grammar. Fan Junjun and others put forward the concept of Chinese localization of ecolinguistic research.

Empirical research: in the field of linguistic research, empirical research is less than theoretical research, and the research of ecological linguistics is even less. Among them, Xiao Haozhang put forward the concept and constituent elements of ecolinguistic continuum, based on which he constructed a multi-dimensional collaborative continuum model of lexical grammar discourse context, and verified it by taking the explicit implicit marker continuum of discourse markers as an example.

5. Reflections on domestic ecolinguistic research

According to the analysis of the number of documents surveyed, there are few research results on ecolinguistics in Chinese core journals, indicating that this is still a field that needs to be actively explored. Domestic theoretical research (Theoretical Exploration) is

relatively rich, but applied research and empirical research are relatively few. In terms of quantity, the number of theoretical research is more than that of applied research. It can be seen that the research of ecolinguistics in China is mostly in the aspect of theoretical exploration, while the applied research and empirical research are slightly weak; Discourse analysis and translation studies are relatively inadequate; Some research fields have not been involved yet, such as language policy and planning; Language teaching and localization research began to show an upward trend.

According to the literature classification and analysis of the survey, most scholars recognize that ecolinguistics is an interdisciplinary subject. In the research process, researchers have not completely distinguished Haugen mode and Halliday mode, and tried to combine the two modes. In addition, by combing the research results of domestic ecolinguistics, the author found that in the past decade, domestic ecolinguistics research showed a diversified development trend. Many Chinese scholars have also combined traditional linguistics, such as systemic functional linguistics, cognitive linguistics, sociolinguistics and ecological linguistics, which reflects the interdisciplinary development trend of ecological linguistics.

Combined with the research content of ecolinguistics in China in the past decade, the author believes that the research topics of ecolinguistics will be more abundant in the future, which can cover all issues related to language and ecology. In addition, due to the interdisciplinary and interdisciplinary characteristics of ecolinguistics, the research methods will be more diversified. In addition, from the above analysis, it can be seen that many Chinese scholars began to focus on localization research, which is inseparable from China's vigorous advocacy of ecological civilization construction and attention to environmental issues.

6. Conclusion

This paper reviews the research of ecolinguistics in China in recent ten years, and distinguishes macro ecolinguistics from micro ecolinguistics, institutional ecolinguistics from system ecolinguistics, analysis of ecological discourse and ecological analysis of discourse. The classification of the research is further refined, which provides a reference direction for future research. However, due to the limitations of research methods, it is undeniable that the research has a certain subjectivity. But it is certain that the ecological environment is closely related to human life, and human activities have become an important factor affecting and changing the ecological environment. The study of ecolinguistics has a positive or negative impact on the ecological environment, so its importance is self-evident. Compared with other traditional language disciplines, ecolinguistics is a young discipline. It does not have a mature theoretical framework and research methods. Therefore, more researchers are needed to participate in it and undertake the social responsibilities of linguistic researchers in the future.

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