**Review Article**

# A Review Research on American Minorities Language Policy Based On Knowledge Base

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## Abstract

With the acceleration of globalization and the increasingly complex international situation, language is not only a written symbol, but also a social and cultural function to mark countries and nations. Great changes have taken place in people's view of language. Some linguists are no longer confined to the study of micro-linguistic phenomena such as pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar, but focus more on macro-linguistic phenomena closely related to national interests and national security. Especially with the development of modern informationization in recent years, language policy has also become an important topic of concern to linguists. This paper discusses the research of American minority language policy based on knowledge base from the research background, research purposes, research ideas, research methods, innovations, and theoretical and practical significance.
**Keywords:** American Minorities Language, development of modern informationization.

## RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Following is a detailed introduction of the research on American minority language policy from both foreign and domestic research trends.

**Foreign Research Background**

Language policy refers to the relevant laws, regulations, regulations and measures formulated by human social groups in the course of verbal communication according to their standpoints and viewpoints on a certain or certain language, including language selection, language coordination, language standardization, text reform and text creation. Language policy is the product of language contact and conflict, the need to solve language contradictions, and a social activity. Generally speaking, language planning and language policy research have always been weak links in linguistics, which is generally acknowledged by linguists. As a young branch of sociolinguistics, it has a short history and has only been introduced slightly in the past twenty years. The United States is a typical multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-population country in the world. It is known as the "country of nations" and is generally recognized as the "melting pot" of culture and the

"salad tray" of language. It has a large number of ethnic groups (125), abundant language resources and complex cultural elements, ranking first in the world. There are more than 380 languages in the United States. The United States is indeed a typical and interesting country and worth studying. However, the objective fact is that there are not many achievements in the study of language status and language policy in the United States. C.A. Ferguson, a professor of linguistics at Stanford University, once said: "Compared with books that reflect the overwhelming majority of other aspects of the United States, there are few books on the language situation in the United States. Americans who are well-informed and public-spirited know very little about their own country's language situation. The rest of the world knows little or not enough about it [1]. J.A. Fish-man, a famous sociolinguist, once used two words to describe the United States: gravedigger, referring to the fact that the United States dug graves for many languages in the country and buried them; and spendthrift, a waste of resources. The United States does not use immigrant languages such as Arabic, French, Chinese and Spanish. As national natural resources (in many countries of the world, languages are regarded as natural resources), in many cases,

immigrant and indigenous languages are greatly discriminated against and belittled.

It was only after 9/11 that the United States discovered the importance of long-neglected languages and the importance of people who are proficient in those languages. As far as language protection and communication are concerned, the social soil of the United States is very poor and the language ecology is extremely unbalanced. This is the attitude of ordinary Americans towards domestic language problems. As far as academia is concerned, the achievements of American scholars in studying the domestic language situation and language policy are also rare. In his article "American Language Policy: Past, Present and Future", Fishman used the word "rare" to describe the serious and insightful research achievements in American language policy. He also pointed out that most of the existing achievements are limited to some aspects of language policy research and lack of macro and overall research. Historically, there are two commendable books. One is American Language, which was edited and published by linguist Ferguson *et al.* in 1981. This is the first book on the state of American language. It makes people know the richness and diversity of American language. In his preface, D. Hymes, an anthropologist, points out that "America is a country rich in many things, but little known about its language." It is probably because of this situation that Ferguson and others wrote the book. Since the publication of this book, there have been more and more studies on the language situation in the United States, covering the functions of language, African-American English, the status of Aboriginal English, language identity, and dialect challenges. Heims believes that this book is the language guide of the people, the booster of scholars, and an important reference book for language decision-makers to make language decisions.

Twenty-three years later, Edward Finegan and others launched another book, American Language, in 2004 [11], with a subtitle: "Theme of the 21st Century". The latter is not a revision or substitution of the former, but a new observation and understanding of the current and contemporary language changes and language problems in the United States. It puts forward new linguistic themes that should be explored in the 21st century. Although these two books are widely circulated and influential, their main contents are focused on the domestic language situation in the United States and the study of American English, and

they do not cover much about the study of American language policy. In the third part of the second book, there are discussions on American language awareness, language discrimination, language planning, language policy and English-only movement, and language education. However, it can be seen that the content of language policy and language planning in this book is only a small part, and there is no large-scale discussion. Several scholars have discussed American language policies and social phenomena from different perspectives, such as H. F. Schiffman's Language Culture and Language Policy [2], S. Wright's Language Policy and Language Planning: From Nationalism to Globalization [5], and J. Crawford's (J. Craword). Bilingual Education: History, Politics, Theory and Practice [3] and D. J. Schild-kraut's The Only English [4] also partially discuss the language policy of the United States, which is not a comprehensive review of the language policy system. For example, Skafman's Language Culture and Language Policy briefly discusses the language policies of France, India and the United States from the perspective of language culture. Only in Chapters 8 and 9, it expounds the language policies of the United States and California. As a journalist, Crawford is interested in language politics. His book Bilingual Education gives a detailed review of the ups and downs of American bilingual education, but it is limited to the study of bilingual education policy. Skelclatt's Only English also only analyses the reasons for the preference for English as an official language policy or the formation of public opinion. She discusses whether she agrees with the public opinion that English is the official language from the four traditional perspectives of American identity: liberalism, republicanism, cultural centralism and multiculturalism. Finally, she only explains why the legislation of English as the official language is widely supported. Fishman has written an attractive paper entitled "American Language Policy: Past, Present and Future", which outlines three American language policies: one is the "Language Maintenance Policy" which has been implemented in the past; the other is the "Language Maintenance Policy" advocated by bilingual education which is now in the ascendant; and the third is looking forward to the future. "Language Richness Policy" with wider communication [1]. Although the article covers both vertically and horizontally, it does not elaborate on the origin and development of American language policy.

As far as domestic academia is concerned, linguistic planning and language policy research is a

young branch of sociolinguistics, so it has always been a weak link in linguistic research. Therefore, the research on national language policy in China started relatively late, and the research results are naturally few. As for the research on American language policy, the current findings can also be summarized by the word "scarce". At present, there are Cai Yongliang's Assimilation of Language Education: American Indian Language Policy Research [6] and American Language Education and Language Policy [7], two books, 28. The former is a cross-study on the theme of Indian assimilation, involving Indian language, American Indian language policy, Indian education and Indian assimilation. It can be said that it has opened up a new territory for the study of Indian language and culture in China. The latter is a sequel to the former and also a cross-section on the theme of language education. The cross-study covers language education, language policy and the history of the United States, including education, immigration and ethnic relations. The topic of language education and language policy in the United States has been discussed, especially the combination of the two as a special topic. As far as we know, neither at home nor abroad has it been discussed [7]. In addition, there are three chapters or papers on the study of American language policy in three books: one is National, Ethnic and Language-National Studies of Language Policy [8], compiled by the research group of the Institute of Ethnic Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, on the comparative study of minority language policy. Section 2 is devoted to "Official Language, Immigrant Language and Indigenous Language: A Study of American Language Policy". Section 2 is the Colloquium of Academic Seminars on Language Policy in All Countries [9], edited by Li Qin-an, in which there is a paper entitled "American Language Policy". Section 3 is edited by Zhou Yuzhong and Wang Hui. Language Planning and Language Policy: Theory and Country Studies [10], including two papers on American Language Policy Research. Searching and consulting the database of Heshuo and Bowen papers on China Journal Network shows that there are few papers in this field. By contrast, there are more papers on bilingual education research in the United States, which is probably related to the domestic bilingual education research fever in the previous period.

In short, there are still few monographs on the comprehensive and systematic study of American language policy. At the international level, economic globalization has brought unprecedented opportunities for language and culture to move towards the world. Language policy and language strategy have become an integral part of national development strategy. Since the turn of the century, countries all over the world, especially the big countries in Europe and the United States, have formulated their own language strategies, striving to enhance their cultural soft power. "Use language to safeguard national cultural security, resolve social contradictions at home, rally people's hearts, disseminate their ideas abroad and earn foreign exchange earnings" (see National Language). The Eleventh Five-Year Plan for the Scientific Research of Language and Writing Application of the CPC Committee, 2007.

**Domestic Research Background**

At the domestic level, China is also a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, multi-cultural and multi-religious country. The pace is accelerating unprecedentedly, and striving for international discourse right is becoming the national consciousness. Under such circumstances, China must study the macro-language strategy in time, design and implement the action plan of language strategy, and put forward scientific plans to deal with major language problems. (The 11th Five-Year Plan of Language and Character Applied Research of the State Language Commission, 2007).

In the context of economic globalization, political multipolarity, cultural pluralism and English internationalization, in order to formulate our macro-language strategy and put forward scientific plans to effectively deal with major linguistic problems, we must first study the linguistic politics of the major countries in the world, especially those of the United States, which are multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-cultural. Strategies and language strategies, summed up their successful experience and lessons of failure, with the stone of other mountains, we can know each other, better formulate our harmonious language policy and macro language preparedness, strengthen national unity, safeguard national security, and further enhance the country's cultural soft power and international competitiveness. As for the vacancies in the study of American language policy at home and abroad, Zhou Yuzhong compiled and published the book "American Language Policy Research" in 2011 [12], filling the gaps in the study of American language policy at home. This book is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is an introduction. It briefly introduces the background, purpose, significance, main contents, and

important points of view, degree of innovation, outstanding characteristics and academic value, as well as the application value and social benefits of this project. Chapter two discusses the language policy of the United States before the founding of the People's Republic. Chapter Three discusses the language policy of the United States during the founding of the People's Republic of China from five aspects: the social situation after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the establishment of the dominant position of English language, the formation of "American Creative Language", the assimilation of other non-English languages, and the purpose and significance of language policy. Chapter Four examines the language policy of the United States in the 20th century. Chapter Five further discusses the immigrant language in the United States, the type of bilingual teaching, the effectiveness of bilingual education, the challenges faced by bilingual education, and the nature and characteristics of bilingual education. Chapter Six analyses the tendency of language legislation in the United States since the turn of the century from four aspects. Chapter VII puts forward the Countermeasures of language and culture security in China on the basis of reviewing the national language strategy of the United States. The book comprehensively uses linguistics, sociolinguistics, culturology, history, ethnology and other theoretical methods to conduct a multi-level, multi-angle, all-round survey of American language policy, and systematically discusses the history, current situation and causes of American language policy. This book became the first systematic monograph on American language policy in China.

In summary, with the outbreak of September 11, the United States realized the importance of language issues, which also aroused the attention of other countries to American language policy. As a result, foreign research achievements on American language policy emerged, but the number was small. In these few studies of American language policy, the United States was basically the same as the United States. Based on the description and analysis of the language situation in the United States, this paper studies the characteristics and trends of its language policy on the premise of understanding the language situation in the United States. Some discuss American language policy in different aspects from the perspectives of language proficiency improvement, bilingual education policy, and the history and causes of language development. Others describe and analyze language situation and language characteristics or from

the perspective of training talents. However, from the perspective of information technology, there is little research on quantitative analysis of national language policy. There is no systematic and quantitative study of American minority language policy from the perspective of informatization. [13] Only Chen Lixiang in China systematically combed, summarized and quantitatively analyzed the national minority language policy with the knowledge base constructed by information technology in her research "Research on Chinese minority language policy based on domain knowledge base", and constructed the knowledge network based on the knowledge base of minority language policy knowledge base. The network has successfully realized the mining of information on the overall content characteristics, regional distribution and characteristics, domain characteristics, domain diffusion, domain focus discovery, hot spots and policy development trends of minority language policy. But this is a quantitative study of minority language policy in China. Therefore, this study is innovative in quantitative analysis of minority language policy in the United States based on the construction of domain knowledge base.

## RESEARCH PURPOSE

The knowledge base constructed by information technology has systematically summarized and quantitatively analyzed the language policy of minority nationalities in the United States. Based on the knowledge network constructed by the knowledge base of minority language policy, the overall content characteristics, regional distribution and characteristics, domain characteristics, domain diffusion and domain-related aspects of minority language policy have been realized. Note discovery; the mining of information such as hot spots, policy development trends, etc., which provides reference for the research and formulation of minority language policy in China.

## RESEARCH IDEAS

Based on the knowledge network constructed by the knowledge base in the field of minority language policy in the United States, the required knowledge labels and contents are extracted from the knowledge base through the association of knowledge, the application function of the computing program and the knowledge base itself, and reorganized by using professional statistical and visualization tools SPSS and Citespace. CE and other software realize data association mining and visualization display, find important association information hidden between

documents, and display it in a graphical and intuitive form, objectively, intuitively and accurately depict the overall face of the minority language policy in the United States. From the perspectives of hierarchy, region, field and time, this paper makes a multi-dimensional comparison and analysis of the evolution of policy concerns, comprehensively grasps the characteristics and contents of the minority language policy in the United States, and provides the possibility for further discovering the weaknesses and new concerns of the current minority language policy in the United States. The multidimensional characteristics and development process of minority language policy in the United States are deeply analyzed, and some policy suggestions are formed by integrating the results of multidimensional analysis.

## RESEARCH METHODS
### Analytical method
This study collects a large number of domestic and foreign writings and documents related to American language policy and relevant language policy laws and regulations, and carries out classification, collation and comprehensive analysis. On the basis of fully understanding the current research situation and needs, it fully draws on the excellent achievements in the literature, and explores the research space of this paper. Practical research basis, strive to break through research.

### Quantitative and qualitative methods
This study combines two methods, on the basis of quantitative and qualitative methods, and closely combines data. When it comes to the "degree" of policy issues, it tries to achieve the accuracy of the results.

### The related method of scientometrics
Word frequency analysis: using computer technology to analyze the relevant information of corpus, to determine hotspots and their changing trends. Knowledge Map: Using Citespace to conduct quantitative and visual analysis of documents in order to explore the structural relationship between knowledge and its evolution law.

### Relevant methods of computational linguistics
The overall perspective of this study is to use computer-related methods to study linguistic issues. The construction of language policy repository for minority nationalities along the route along the route (including web crawler, text extraction, and metadata extraction and so on), automatic annotation, database

system design theory and technology are all applied to computer science and technology. Knowledge Map: Using Citespace to conduct quantitative and visual analysis of documents in order to explore the structural relationship between knowledge and its evolution law.

## INNOVATIONS
This research is the first time to construct a complete and fine-categorized knowledge base of American minority language policy, establish a digital knowledge service platform, and realize the intelligent needs of similar associations and semantic recommendation.

### Innovation in research methods
This study introduces the methods of scientometrics and knowledge mapping into the study of minority language policy, which makes up for the shortcomings of subjectivism and empiricism easily caused by traditional qualitative methods; excavates deep-seated rules and characteristics in a large amount of knowledge association and information, and uses visualization method directly. Describe accurately the characteristics and trends of American minority language policy in terms of outlook, image and accuracy.

### Innovation from the perspective of research
This study is based on the knowledge network constructed by the regional knowledge base. By using the computer program and the application function of the knowledge base itself, through the classification, mining and analysis of the relevant information, it explores the knowledge of the composition of the minority language policy in the United States. And the relationship between them, draw conclusions from objective data analysis.

### Innovation in Research Content
This study is the first time to conduct a large-scale detailed analysis and statistical analysis of objective data on minority language policy in the United States. Its conclusions are based on the statistics and mining of data, and the conclusions are more objective and authentic.

## THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE
Systematic combing and quantitative analysis of American minority language policy can not only provide theoretical and methodological reference for researchers to study language policy, but also provide

reference for the formulation of minority language policy in China, safeguarding national stability and national unity. It is of great theoretical and practical significance to construct an analytical study of minority language policy in the United States based on domain knowledge base.

- This study builds a knowledge network in the field of minority language policy in the United States, establishes a digital knowledge service platform, realizes the intelligent needs of similar associations and semantic recommendation, meets the actual needs of researchers, policy makers and relevant professionals, and the construction process of the knowledge base is also a knowledge base in the professional field. The construction provides theoretical and practical experience for reference.
- Based on the relationship between the knowledge constructed by the minority language policy in the United States, this study conducts in-depth knowledge mining and quantitative analysis of the documents related to the minority language policy in the United States, and presents them through visual graphics. The research process can provide a new scientific perspective for researchers and policy-making departments. The conclusions can provide valuable theoretical and methodological references for the formulation and in-depth study of language policy.
- The results of this study can give us a clear and intuitive understanding of the situation of minority language policy in the United States, provide reference for the formulation of minority language policy in China, and better promote the construction of national language policy think tanks, and promote the scientific development of national language cause.

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