

The Impact of Hong Kong's Language Policies on Social Integration and Cultural Identity: A Study of Multilingualism in Education and Society

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Abstract

This paper examines the impact of Hong Kong's language education policies on social integration and cultural identity, particularly in the context of a multilingual society. As a postcolonial city, Hong Kong has adopted unique language policies that promote the use of Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, reflecting the city's diverse linguistic heritage. This study explores how these policies influence the integration of immigrant communities, especially in educational settings, where language plays a pivotal role in shaping students' cultural and social identity. By analyzing the dynamics of language education in schools, the paper will evaluate how Hong Kong's language policy affects the social cohesion of local and immigrant populations. Additionally, it will investigate how these policies shape the cultural identity of Hong Kong, balancing the preservation of its native linguistic traditions with the demands of globalization. Ultimately, this paper seeks to contribute to the understanding of language policy as a tool for social integration and its role in the construction of a collective cultural identity in Hong Kong.

Index Terms

Language Policy, Multilingualism, Social Integration, Cultural Identity, Education, Hong Kong, Immigration