

An Investigation into the Differing Perceptions of Mandarin Language Programs in Macau

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ABSTRACT

Macau is a multi-lingual and multi-cultural city because of its special history and geographic environment. Before 1999, Chinese, Portuguese and English were the three main languages spoken in Macau. These three languages have been used in different periods of time in Macau ' s history. After 1999, Mandarin has been gradually considered as the official language by Macau ' s government. Macau ' s Mandarin language education has been carried out for ten years. There are about 1,000 people learning Mandarin language per year in Macau because people believe that learning Mandarin will unite Macau ' s people and Chinese people. Learning Mandarin has become more and more popular in Macau ' s society since 1999 when Macau became a special administrative region of the People ' s Republic of China (PRC). Therefore, Mandarin is now a required subject in many schools in Macau. This study aims to examine the potential problems and the practicability of the Mandarin language education practiced in Macau by using the questionnaire. The purpose of this study was to investigate qualified teachers ' different perceptions on: attitudes towards the MLEP, understandings of the MLEP, the willingness of becoming the ML teachers, views about the course arrangement and teaching materials for the current ML courses, evaluation for the government ' s MLEP, and students performance in ML classes. However, not every aspect of the language planning was covered. The questionnaire focused on teachers ' views toward the Mandarin language education in Macau. It is hoped that the findings of this thesis will contribute to the refinement of this policy. The results from ANOVA and descriptive statistics showed that most of the teachers had good attitudes toward the MLEP, sufficient understanding of the MLEP, high willingness of becoming ML teachers, positive attitudes toward course arrangement and teaching materials offered by Macau ' s government, good evaluation on the government ' s implementation of MLEP, and positive evaluation on students ' performance in ML classes. The results indicated that the MLEP has been implemented successfully so far in Macau. Therefore, Macau ' s government has good promotion about the MLEP at school.

Keywords : Mandarin ; Mandarin language education ; Language-in-education planning ; Language Attitudes ; Macau

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