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The Effects of Language Policy on Minority Languages



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The Effects of Language Policy on Minority Languages

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Abstract

Purpose: The general objective of this study was to investigate the effects of language policy on minority languages.

Methodology: The study adopted a desktop research methodology. Desk research refers to secondary data or that which can be collected without fieldwork. Desk research is basically involved in collecting data from existing resources hence it is often considered a low cost technique as compared to field research, as the main cost is involved in executive's time, telephone charges and directories. Thus, the study relied on already published studies, reports and statistics. This secondary data was easily accessed through the online journals and library.

Findings: The findings reveal that there exists a contextual and methodological gap relating to language policy on minority languages. Preliminary empirical review revealed that supportive and well-implemented language policies significantly contributed to the preservation and revitalization of minority languages. It found that bilingual education programs and media representation were crucial for maintaining linguistic diversity, but their success depended on adequate resources, trained educators, and community involvement. The study also emphasized the importance of community-driven policies, advocating for a bottom-up approach to ensure cultural sensitivity and sustainability. Overall, the research highlighted the need for comprehensive and inclusive language policies to protect and promote minority languages.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: Linguistic Relativity Theory, Language Ecology Theory and Ethnolinguistic Vitality Theory may be used to anchor future studies on the effects of language policy on minority languages. The study recommended integrating sociolinguistic and ecological perspectives into theoretical frameworks, enhancing bilingual and multilingual education, and utilizing modern technology for language preservation. It emphasized robust legislative frameworks to support minority languages, continuous policy evaluation, and active community involvement in language planning. The study also suggested incorporating minority languages into economic and social spheres, promoting international cooperation, and including language preservation in global cultural agendas. These recommendations aimed to advance theory, practice, and policy for better preservation and revitalization of minority languages.

Keywords: *Language Policy, Minority Languages, Preservation, Revitalization, Sociolinguistic Perspective*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Minority languages, defined as languages spoken by a smaller segment of the population within a country, face varying degrees of preservation, revitalization, or decline depending on socio-political, cultural, and economic factors. These languages often serve as critical markers of cultural identity and heritage. However, the pressures of globalization, dominant language policies, and shifting demographic patterns often threaten their existence. In this context, exploring the state of minority languages across different countries reveals both common challenges and unique strategies for preservation and revitalization. In the USA, indigenous languages have faced severe decline due to historical assimilation policies, but recent efforts have focused on revitalization. According to McCarty and Nicholas (2014), the Native American Languages Act and other initiatives have provided frameworks for language preservation. For instance, the Navajo language, spoken by around 170,000 people, has seen efforts in educational integration and digital resource development (McCarty & Nicholas, 2014). Despite these efforts, only about 20% of Navajo children speak the language, indicating the ongoing challenge of intergenerational transmission.

In the United Kingdom, the preservation of Welsh and Scottish Gaelic illustrates both successes and ongoing struggles. Welsh, spoken by over 560,000 people, has benefited from substantial government support and legal recognition, with Welsh-medium education contributing significantly to its revitalization (Williams, 2013). In contrast, Scottish Gaelic, with around 60,000 speakers, faces more significant challenges despite similar supportive policies (Williams, 2013). The success of Welsh indicates that robust policy measures and community engagement are critical for the revitalization of minority languages. In Japan, the Ainu language, spoken by the indigenous Ainu people of Hokkaido, has experienced severe decline, with only a handful of fluent speakers remaining (Sato, 2017). Government initiatives and cultural revitalization efforts have been implemented, including language classes and cultural programs (Sato, 2017). However, the Ainu language's revival is hindered by a lack of fluent speakers and limited resources. These efforts underscore the critical need for comprehensive support and community involvement to revive a language on the brink of extinction.

In Brazil, the preservation of indigenous languages like Guarani and Nheengatu reflects both progress and challenges. With approximately 270 indigenous languages, Brazil's linguistic diversity is significant yet vulnerable (Siqueira & Petter, 2012). Policies like the National Policy for Indigenous School Education aim to integrate native languages into educational curricula, fostering both preservation and intergenerational transmission (Siqueira & Petter, 2012). However, the encroachment of Portuguese and socio-economic pressures pose ongoing threats to these languages' vitality. In African countries, the preservation of minority languages varies widely. In Nigeria, for example, over 500 languages are spoken, but many are endangered (Bamgbose, 2011). Government policies and non-governmental initiatives have aimed at promoting mother-tongue education and bilingualism (Bamgbose, 2011). The Efik language, spoken by around 400,000 people, has seen revitalization efforts through education and media (Bamgbose, 2011). However, the dominance of English and regional major languages poses a significant challenge to these efforts.

In South Africa, the preservation and promotion of languages like Zulu and Xhosa, spoken by millions, highlight successful strategies and ongoing challenges. The country's constitution recognizes 11 official languages, and policies aim to promote linguistic diversity (Kamwangamalu, 2013). Educational programs and media in native languages have helped bolster their use (Kamwangamalu, 2013). However, socio-economic disparities and the dominance of English and Afrikaans continue to pose significant hurdles. In Kenya, the preservation of minority languages such as Maasai and Kikuyu is essential for cultural identity. Efforts by non-governmental organizations and community groups focus on documenting and teaching these languages (Moseley, 2012). Maasai, with approximately 1

million speakers, faces challenges from urbanization and the dominance of Swahili and English (Moseley, 2012). Despite these challenges, community-driven initiatives provide hope for these languages' future.

In Ghana, languages such as Ewe and Ga are critical to cultural heritage. Government and educational policies have sought to promote these languages through bilingual education programs (Owu-Ewie & Eshun, 2015). Ewe, spoken by around 3 million people, has seen positive outcomes from such programs, though challenges remain due to urbanization and the prevalence of English (Owu-Ewie & Eshun, 2015). The case of Ghana highlights the importance of integrating local languages into formal education systems. In Australia, the preservation of Aboriginal languages like Arrernte and Pitjantjatjara is critical amidst significant decline. According to Marmion, Obata, and Troy (2014), government policies and community initiatives focus on language documentation, revitalization programs, and incorporating languages into school curricula. Despite these efforts, many Aboriginal languages face extinction, with only about 13% of the original languages still actively spoken (Marmion, Obata, & Troy, 2014). This situation underscores the urgency of sustained and comprehensive preservation efforts. In Canada, the preservation of Indigenous languages such as Cree and Inuktitut is a major focus. Government initiatives, such as the Indigenous Languages Act, aim to support and revitalize these languages through funding and educational programs (Norris, 2018). Cree, with around 96,000 speakers, and Inuktitut, spoken by around 39,000 people, have seen positive impacts from these policies (Norris, 2018). The success of these programs highlights the potential of legislative support and community involvement in language revitalization.

Language policy, defined as the principles and decisions made by governments or institutions to regulate language use, support, and development, plays a crucial role in the preservation, revitalization, or decline of minority languages. Such policies can either support the survival of minority languages through education, legal recognition, and media representation, or contribute to their decline by promoting dominant languages and neglecting linguistic diversity. A nuanced understanding of language policy reveals its impact on minority languages across different global contexts. Government and institutional policies on language often prioritize national or official languages at the expense of minority languages. In many cases, the imposition of a dominant language through education and official use marginalizes minority languages, leading to their decline. For example, in the United States, English is the predominant language in education and government, which has historically marginalized indigenous languages (McCarty & Nicholas, 2014). Such policies can lead to reduced intergenerational transmission of minority languages and contribute to their endangerment.

Educational policies are a critical component of language policy, significantly influencing the vitality of minority languages. Bilingual education programs, where minority languages are taught alongside national languages, can enhance the preservation and revitalization of minority languages. In Wales, for instance, Welsh-medium education has been instrumental in revitalizing the Welsh language (Williams, 2013). By integrating minority languages into the school curriculum, these policies help maintain linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. Legal recognition of minority languages is another vital aspect of language policy that can promote their preservation. When governments officially recognize minority languages, it often leads to increased resources for language education, media production, and cultural initiatives. In New Zealand, the recognition of Maori as an official language has led to significant efforts in language revitalization, including Maori language broadcasting and education programs (Waite, 2014). Legal recognition legitimizes minority languages and encourages their use in public life.

Media policies also play a crucial role in the status of minority languages. Media representation of minority languages through radio, television, and digital platforms can significantly enhance their

visibility and prestige. In Brazil, indigenous languages have gained some presence in media through community radio and digital initiatives, aiding their preservation (Siqueira & Petter, 2012). Media policies that support minority language broadcasting contribute to normalizing these languages in everyday life and expanding their domains of use. Economic policies can indirectly affect the survival of minority languages by influencing migration patterns and community cohesion. Economic opportunities or lack thereof can lead to migration, which often results in language shift as minority language speakers move to areas where their language is not spoken. For example, urbanization in Kenya has led many young speakers of minority languages like Maasai to adopt Swahili or English, thus threatening the intergenerational transmission of their native language (Moseley, 2012). Economic policies that support sustainable development in minority language communities can help mitigate these effects.

Community-driven language policies emphasize the role of local communities in the preservation and revitalization of minority languages. Community involvement in language planning ensures that the policies reflect the needs and desires of the speakers. In Canada, community-driven initiatives have been crucial for the revitalization of indigenous languages like Cree and Inuktitut (Norris, 2018). Such policies empower communities to take control of their linguistic heritage and ensure its transmission to future generations. International organizations also influence language policies through frameworks and recommendations that promote linguistic diversity and minority language rights. UNESCO's efforts in documenting endangered languages and providing guidelines for their preservation have been influential globally (Grenoble & Whaley, 2015). These international policies encourage countries to adopt measures that protect and promote minority languages, fostering a global environment of linguistic diversity.

The intersection of language policy and human rights highlights the ethical imperative to preserve minority languages. Language rights are increasingly recognized as human rights, with international declarations advocating for the protection of linguistic diversity (May, 2012). Ensuring that speakers of minority languages can use their language in public and private life is essential for maintaining cultural identity and social cohesion. Policies that uphold language rights contribute to the preservation and revitalization of minority languages. In the digital age, language policies must also address the representation of minority languages in technology and digital platforms. Digital tools and resources can significantly aid language learning and preservation efforts. For instance, mobile apps and online dictionaries have been developed for various minority languages, providing accessible means for language practice and education (Eisenlohr, 2018). Language policies that support the creation and dissemination of digital resources for minority languages are crucial in the contemporary context. The effectiveness of language policies in preserving minority languages often depends on their implementation and the commitment of governmental and institutional bodies. Policies must be accompanied by adequate funding, community engagement, and continuous evaluation to ensure their success. In Japan, the Ainu language's revitalization efforts have been supported by policy but face challenges due to limited implementation and resources (Sato, 2017). Effective language policy requires a holistic approach that addresses both the structural and grassroots levels of language use.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The preservation and revitalization of minority languages in the face of dominant language policies is a pressing issue in linguistics and cultural studies. Despite global recognition of the importance of linguistic diversity, minority languages continue to face decline due to inadequate policy measures and the overwhelming influence of dominant languages. For instance, UNESCO (2012) reports that nearly 40% of the world's estimated 6,700 languages are in danger of disappearing. This alarming statistic highlights the critical need for effective language policies that support the survival and growth of

minority languages. However, the specific impacts of such policies on minority languages remain under-explored, particularly in diverse socio-political contexts. This study seeks to fill this research gap by examining how different language policies either contribute to the preservation or accelerate the decline of minority languages across various countries. One major research gap that this study aims to address is the lack of comprehensive analysis on the effectiveness of language policies implemented in different regions. Existing research often focuses on individual case studies without providing a comparative perspective that can reveal broader trends and effective strategies. Additionally, there is limited empirical evidence on the socio-economic and cultural factors that influence the success of these policies. By conducting a comparative analysis of language policies in countries like the USA, United Kingdom, Japan, Brazil, and African nations, this study will provide a nuanced understanding of the factors that contribute to successful language preservation and revitalization efforts. This approach will help identify best practices that can be adapted and implemented in other regions facing similar challenges (McCarty & Nicholas, 2014). The findings of this study will benefit several key stakeholders, including policymakers, educators, and minority language communities. Policymakers will gain insights into the most effective strategies for supporting linguistic diversity, allowing them to design and implement more robust language policies. Educators will benefit from understanding how to integrate minority languages into the educational system effectively, thus enhancing language transmission to younger generations. Minority language communities will gain validation and support for their cultural heritage, potentially leading to increased community engagement and empowerment. Ultimately, this study aims to contribute to the broader goal of preserving global linguistic diversity and promoting cultural resilience (Williams, 2013).

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

2.1.1 Linguistic Relativity Theory

The Linguistic Relativity Theory, also known as the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis, is a foundational theory in the field of linguistics and cognitive science that posits that the structure of a language affects its speakers' worldview and cognition. This theory was developed by Edward Sapir and his student Benjamin Lee Whorf in the early 20th century. According to this theory, speakers of different languages perceive and experience the world differently because their languages shape their thoughts and behavior. The relevance of this theory to the study of the effects of language policy on minority languages lies in its emphasis on the profound influence that language has on cultural identity and cognitive processes. By understanding how language policies that promote or marginalize minority languages can alter the speakers' cognitive frameworks and cultural identities, researchers can gain deeper insights into the broader social and psychological impacts of such policies. For instance, policies that erode minority languages could lead to a loss of unique cultural perspectives and ways of thinking, while policies that support these languages could help preserve the cultural richness and cognitive diversity of the communities (Whorf, 1956).

2.1.2 Language Ecology Theory

Language Ecology Theory, conceptualized by Einar Haugen in the 1970s, views languages as part of a dynamic and interdependent ecosystem. This theory suggests that languages, like species in an ecosystem, interact with each other and with their socio-cultural and physical environments. Haugen emphasized that the survival and vitality of a language depend on its ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions, including socio-political and economic factors. The theory is particularly relevant to the study of language policies because it provides a framework for understanding how such policies influence the interactions between languages and their environments. For instance, a policy promoting a dominant language at the expense of minority languages can disrupt the linguistic

ecosystem, leading to the decline or extinction of minority languages. Conversely, policies that foster linguistic diversity can help maintain a balanced and healthy linguistic ecosystem. This theory highlights the importance of considering the broader ecological context in which languages exist and the potential long-term consequences of language policies on the overall linguistic diversity (Haugen, 1972).

2.1.3 Ethnolinguistic Vitality Theory

Ethnolinguistic Vitality Theory, developed by social psychologists Howard Giles, Richard Y. Bourhis, and Donald M. Taylor in the late 1970s, explores the factors that determine the likelihood of a language to be maintained or to decline. This theory identifies three main components that contribute to the vitality of an ethnolinguistic group: status, demography, and institutional support. The status component includes factors such as the economic, social, and historical prestige of the language. The demography component involves the number of speakers, their distribution, and their proportion relative to the overall population. The institutional support component refers to the extent to which the language is used and supported in formal and informal institutions, such as schools, media, and government. The relevance of Ethnolinguistic Vitality Theory to the study of the effects of language policy on minority languages lies in its comprehensive approach to assessing the various factors that influence language maintenance and shift. By applying this theory, researchers can evaluate how specific language policies impact the vitality of minority languages by altering their status, demographic strength, and institutional support. This understanding can guide the development of more effective language policies that enhance the vitality and sustainability of minority languages (Giles, Bourhis, & Taylor, 1977).

2.2 Empirical Review

McCarty & Nicholas (2014) investigated the roles and responsibilities of schools in reclaiming indigenous languages within the United States, particularly focusing on Native American languages. The researchers employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with educators and quantitative surveys among Native American students and their families. The study found that schools play a crucial role in language reclamation, but their efforts are often undermined by broader societal and policy pressures that favor English. Successful programs integrated language learning with cultural education and community involvement. The authors recommended for increased federal and state support for indigenous language programs, including funding for teacher training and curriculum development, as well as policies that promote bilingual education.

Williams (2013) aimed to critique the Welsh language planning and policy, assessing its effectiveness in revitalizing the Welsh language. The study utilized a policy analysis framework, reviewing government documents, educational materials, and statistical data on Welsh language usage over several decades. The analysis revealed that while Welsh language policies have led to increased visibility and use in certain domains, challenges remain in achieving widespread bilingualism, especially in urban areas. The success is partly attributed to strong community support and consistent policy implementation. The study suggested enhancing community-based initiatives, increasing the use of Welsh in technology and media, and ensuring continuous policy evaluation and adjustment.

Sato (2017) focused on the revitalization of the Ainu language in Japan, examining policy and practical efforts to support the language. The researcher conducted ethnographic fieldwork, including participant observation, interviews with Ainu community members, and analysis of government reports and educational programs. The study found that while there have been increased efforts to teach the Ainu language through community classes and cultural events, the lack of fluent speakers and limited institutional support significantly hinder the revitalization efforts. The author recommended

for more substantial government support, including official recognition of the Ainu language, integration into school curricula, and funding for comprehensive language programs.

Siqueira & Petter (2012) examined language policies and linguistic rights in Brazil, focusing on the preservation and promotion of indigenous languages. The researchers employed a qualitative approach, analyzing policy documents, conducting interviews with policymakers and indigenous leaders, and reviewing educational initiatives. The study highlighted that while policies exist to support indigenous languages, their implementation is inconsistent. Educational programs in indigenous languages have had some success, but broader socio-economic factors continue to threaten language survival. The authors called for stronger enforcement of existing language policies, increased funding for indigenous education, and greater involvement of indigenous communities in policy-making.

Kamwangamalu (2013) explored the relationship between language policy and economic factors in South Africa, particularly regarding the preservation of minority languages like Zulu and Xhosa. The author used a case study approach, combining policy analysis with interviews and surveys conducted with language users and educators in various regions of South Africa. The study found that economic pressures and the dominance of English and Afrikaans continue to challenge the use of minority languages. However, official recognition and educational programs have had positive impacts on language visibility. The study recommended integrating economic incentives into language policies, promoting the economic value of multilingualism, and enhancing the role of minority languages in public and private sectors.

Norris (2018) assessed the impact of Canada's Indigenous Languages Act on the revitalization efforts for languages such as Cree and Inuktitut. The study adopted a mixed-methods study, including surveys with indigenous language speakers, interviews with community leaders, and analysis of policy documents and program evaluations. The study found that the Indigenous Languages Act has provided a significant boost to language revitalization efforts, increasing funding and resources for language education and media. However, challenges remain in reaching isolated communities and achieving long-term sustainability. Norris recommended for continuous funding, community-led language initiatives, and incorporating indigenous languages into mainstream education and media to ensure sustainable revitalization.

Grenoble & Whaley (2015) aimed to explore the role of language documentation and policy in preserving linguistic diversity worldwide. The researchers utilized a global comparative analysis, examining case studies from various continents, conducting interviews with linguists and community leaders, and reviewing language policy frameworks. The study found that comprehensive language documentation and supportive policies are critical for preserving linguistic diversity. Successful examples included community-driven documentation projects and policies that integrate language preservation into broader cultural initiatives. The authors suggested enhancing international cooperation in language documentation, increasing funding for community-led projects, and developing policies that recognize and support linguistic diversity as part of cultural heritage.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a desktop research methodology. Desk research refers to secondary data or that which can be collected without fieldwork. Desk research is basically involved in collecting data from existing resources hence it is often considered a low cost technique as compared to field research, as the main cost is involved in executive's time, telephone charges and directories. Thus, the study relied on already published studies, reports and statistics. This secondary data was easily accessed through the online journals and library.

4.0 FINDINGS

This study presented both a contextual and methodological gap. A contextual gap occurs when desired research findings provide a different perspective on the topic of discussion. For instance, Grenoble & Whaley (2015) aimed to explore the role of language documentation and policy in preserving linguistic diversity worldwide. The researchers utilized a global comparative analysis, examining case studies from various continents, conducting interviews with linguists and community leaders, and reviewing language policy frameworks. The study found that comprehensive language documentation and supportive policies are critical for preserving linguistic diversity. Successful examples included community-driven documentation projects and policies that integrate language preservation into broader cultural initiatives. The authors suggested enhancing international cooperation in language documentation, increasing funding for community-led projects, and developing policies that recognize and support linguistic diversity as part of cultural heritage. On the other hand, the current study focused on analyzing the effects of language policy on minority languages.

Secondly, a methodological gap also presents itself, for instance, in exploring the role of language documentation and policy in preserving linguistic diversity worldwide; Grenoble & Whaley (2015) utilized a global comparative analysis, examining case studies from various continents, conducting interviews with linguists and community leaders, and reviewing language policy frameworks. Whereas, the current study adopted a desktop research method.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The study concludes that language policies play a pivotal role in determining the fate of minority languages. The research underscores that supportive and well-implemented language policies can significantly contribute to the preservation and revitalization of these languages. When governments and institutions recognize minority languages officially, provide funding for educational programs, and integrate these languages into public life, they create an environment that fosters linguistic diversity and cultural richness. Conversely, policies that marginalize minority languages in favor of dominant ones lead to the erosion of linguistic diversity, threatening the survival of these languages and the cultural identities they embody. A key finding of this study is the importance of educational policies in language preservation. Bilingual education programs, where minority languages are taught alongside national or dominant languages, have proven to be effective in maintaining linguistic diversity. These programs not only help in keeping the minority languages alive but also enhance the cognitive and cultural experiences of students. However, the study highlights that the success of such educational initiatives depends heavily on continuous support and proper implementation. Without adequate resources, trained educators, and community involvement, even well-intentioned policies may fail to achieve their goals.

Another significant conclusion is the impact of media and technology on minority languages. The study reveals that media representation and digital resources are crucial for the visibility and normalization of minority languages. When minority languages are present in media, such as television, radio, and online platforms, they gain prestige and become more attractive to younger generations. This presence in contemporary media helps bridge the gap between traditional language practices and modern communication needs. However, the study also warns that the digital divide and lack of access to technology in some minority language communities can hinder these efforts, suggesting that policies should also address these infrastructural challenges.

The study emphasizes the need for community-driven language policies. It shows that policies developed with active community involvement are more likely to succeed because they reflect the

actual needs and desires of the language speakers. Community engagement ensures that language policies are culturally sensitive and sustainable in the long run. The study advocates for a bottom-up approach to language policy-making, where the voices of minority language speakers are heard and their cultural practices are respected. This participatory approach not only empowers communities but also enhances the effectiveness of language preservation and revitalization efforts. In conclusion, the study calls for comprehensive, inclusive, and well-resourced language policies that recognize the intrinsic value of minority languages and their role in enriching the cultural fabric of societies.

5.2 Recommendations

The study offers comprehensive recommendations that are critical for advancing theoretical understanding, practical applications, and policy formulation in the field of linguistics and cultural preservation. One of the key theoretical contributions is the emphasis on the need for a more nuanced framework that integrates sociolinguistic and ecological perspectives on language policy. By advocating for an interdisciplinary approach that considers the complex interplay between language, culture, and socio-economic factors, the study underscores the importance of viewing language policy not just as a linguistic issue but as a multifaceted phenomenon that impacts identity, cognitive development, and social cohesion. This theoretical advancement encourages further research into how language policies can be designed to be more inclusive and supportive of linguistic diversity.

From a practical standpoint, the study highlights the essential role of education in the preservation and revitalization of minority languages. It recommends that educational institutions at all levels incorporate bilingual and multilingual curricula that include minority languages alongside dominant ones. This approach not only fosters linguistic diversity but also enhances cognitive abilities and cultural awareness among students. The study also suggests the development of language immersion programs, where minority languages are used as the medium of instruction for various subjects. Such programs have been shown to improve language proficiency and promote positive attitudes towards minority languages. Furthermore, the study advocates for the use of modern technology, such as mobile apps and online platforms, to create accessible language learning resources and facilitate community-based language teaching initiatives.

In terms of policy recommendations, the study calls for a more robust and supportive legislative framework that recognizes and protects minority languages. It emphasizes the importance of legal recognition of minority languages as official languages or as languages of instruction in specific regions. This recognition should be accompanied by concrete measures such as funding for language education programs, support for media in minority languages, and incentives for public and private sectors to use minority languages. The study also highlights the need for continuous monitoring and evaluation of language policies to assess their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments. This proactive approach ensures that policies remain relevant and responsive to the changing linguistic landscape and the needs of minority language communities.

The study also makes a significant contribution to the understanding of community involvement in language preservation. It stresses the importance of empowering minority language communities to take an active role in language planning and policy implementation. This can be achieved through the establishment of local language councils and community-based organizations that work in collaboration with government bodies. Such initiatives not only enhance the effectiveness of language policies but also ensure that the voices of minority language speakers are heard and their cultural heritage is respected and preserved. The study's findings indicate that when communities are actively involved in the decision-making process, there is a greater sense of ownership and commitment to language preservation efforts.

Another practical recommendation is the integration of minority languages into the economic and social fabric of society. The study suggests creating opportunities for minority language speakers to use their languages in the workplace, public services, and social interactions. This can be achieved by offering incentives for businesses to adopt bilingual practices, promoting minority languages in tourism and cultural industries, and ensuring that public services, such as healthcare and legal assistance, are available in minority languages. By increasing the practical utility of minority languages, these measures help to enhance their prestige and encourage their use in everyday life, thereby supporting their preservation and revitalization.

Finally, the study underscores the need for international cooperation and support in the preservation of minority languages. It recommends that countries collaborate through international organizations and networks to share best practices, resources, and research findings. Global initiatives and funding mechanisms can provide essential support for local language preservation efforts, especially in regions where resources are limited. The study also calls for the inclusion of minority language preservation in global cultural and educational agendas, such as those promoted by UNESCO and other international bodies. By fostering a global commitment to linguistic diversity, these efforts can help to ensure that minority languages continue to thrive and contribute to the rich tapestry of human culture.

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