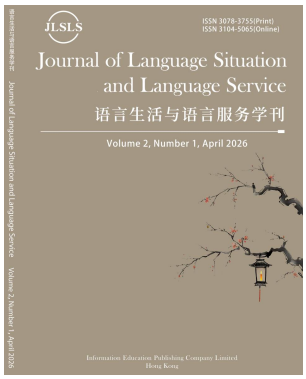

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The "language situation Green/ Blue/ Yellow and White Reports"(also called "language situation Report Series") are important academic achievements continuously advanced by relevant Chinese national institutions, academic experts and scholars. Guided by the mission of implementing the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Standard Spoken and Written Chinese Language, promoting the concept of "language service," and serving national development needs, these report series have, over more than two decades of development, gradually formed a publishing framework in which the "White, Green, Blue, and Yellow" series complement and support one another. Specifically, the Green Report, *Language Situation in China*, is grounded in the realities of Chinese language life, recording annual major events, hot topics, and empirical data; the Blue Report, *Study of Language Policies in China*, focuses on language policy and language planning research, sorting out disciplinary progress and theoretical contexts; the Yellow Report, *Language Situation in Foreign Countries*, looks broadly at global language life, providing referential insights for China's language governance and international communication practice. In parallel, the regional practice-oriented *Report on Language Situation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area*, *Report on Language Service Development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area*, and the thematic volume *Language Service Development in China* have continually expanded the observational scope and applied boundaries of language life research.

In December 2025, *Language Situation in China* (2025), *Study of Language Policies in China* (2025), *Language Situation in Foreign Countries* (2025), and *Report on Language Service Development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area* (2025) were

released in Guangzhou. This journal plans to publish report reviews of these four reports across two issues.

Issue No. 1 of 2026 features reviews of *Language Situation in China* (2025) and *Language Policies in China* (2025). The former highlights the Green Report's new milestone over two decades of development, elucidating its panoramic documentation of Chinese language life in 2024, its people-centered value stance, and its pursuit of a harmonious language life; the latter, adopting a meta-research perspective, discusses how the Blue Report, grounded in Chinese practice, systematically synthesizes annual achievements in language planning research and contributes to the construction of an indigenous knowledge system for Chinese language planning studies. Issue No. 2 will carry reviews of *Language Situation in Foreign Countries* (2025) and *Report on Language Service Development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area* (2025). The former focuses on global language life from 2023 to 2024, outlining the world language landscape across trends, policies, dynamics, and special topics, and revealing the multifaceted dimensions of language governance, language education, language technology, and social psychology; the latter examines the diverse forms of language service across different domains within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area — one of the world's four largest bay areas — in the context of regional integration and digital transformation.

This collection of report reviews is both a focused appraisal of the academic value and practical significance of these four newly published volumes, and a comprehensive overview of the contemporary research landscape of language life in China and the world. They extend from Chinese realities to global observations, connect policy research with regional services, and move from annual documentation toward theoretical refinement and practical application. We hope that through these review articles, readers may better appreciate the multidimensional value of the language situation report series in documenting realities, responding to the times, serving governance, and guiding research.

——Editor's Note

A New Milestone for the Green Book After Two Decades: The Multidimensional Value of Language Situation in China (2025)

Yin Zhiping, Yang Zhimiao

Abstract: As the twentieth volume in the series on China's language situation, the *Report on language situation in China (2025)* presents a wide range of surveys and empirical data on language use, offering a panoramic account of the development of language life in China in 2024. Adhering to a people-centered approach to language research, the report focuses on the fundamental mission of language-related initiatives in fostering moral education and cultivating individuals. It reveals positive and harmonious language relations and introduces several innovative academic concepts. The report not only provides important references for the formulation and implementation of national language policies, but also offers valuable insights for future research on language life.

Keywords: language situation report; panoramic documentation; harmonious language life; language-based education; linguistic foundations for national strength

Author Biographies: **Yin Zhiping**, Corresponding author, Ph.D, China Center for Language Planning and Policy Studies, Shanghai International Studies University; Shanghai Yin & Yin Commercial Consulting Co. Ltd. E-mail: yin-zhiping@hotmail.com. **Yang Zhimiao,** Ph.D, Lecturer at School of Foreign Studies, Guangzhou University

标题：廿载绿皮书的新跨越：《中国语言生活状况报告（2025）》的多维价值

摘要：作为第 20 部中国语言生活状况报告，《中国语言生活状况报告（2025）》呈现多项语言生活调查报告和实态数据，全景记录 2024 年度我国语言生活发展面貌。报告坚持以人为本的语言研究价值追求，聚焦语言文字事业服务立德树人根本任务，揭示积极和谐的语言关系，提出若干创新性学术概念，为国家语言文字政策的制定和实施提供了重要参考，也为语言生活研究以有益启发。

关键词：语言生活报告；全景记录；和谐语言生活；语言育人；强国语言基石

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作者简介：殷志平，通讯作者，博士，上海外国语大学中国外语战略研究中心客座研究员，上海殷殷商务咨询有限公司首席咨询师。电邮：yin-zhiping@hotmail.com。**杨之淼**，博士，广州大学外国语学院教师。

Language Situation in China (2025) (hereinafter referred to as the "*Green Report 2025*") is an annual report organized by the National Language Commission of China and edited by Professor Qu Shaobing of Guangzhou University and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou). As the twentieth volume in the series of reports on China's language situation, the *Green Report 2025* highlights a people-centered approach to language research and presents a panoramic depiction of the realities of language life in contemporary China. It provides important references for the formulation and implementation of national language policies (Fang Xiaobing 2026) and offers valuable insights for research on language and language life.

I. Overview of the Contents

In addition to the introduction, the volume consists of eight sections: Special Report, Work Summaries, Relevant Domains, Hot Topics, Words and Expressions, Hong Kong – Macao – Taiwan, International Experience and Appendices. Together, these sections provide a panoramic record of the state of language life in China. The preface was written by the renowned linguist and leading scholar of language life studies, Li Yuming, who offers forward-looking discussions on language life and research on language life in the age of artificial intelligence. He points out that artificial intelligence represents another major peak in the history of human language technology development and will reshape every aspect of language life. According to Li, the ability to engage in human–machine dialogue has already become a new form of language competence in the intelligent era. His preface not only indicates the future direction for the compilation of the *Report on language situation in China* series in the coming years, but also provides profound insights for future research on language and language life.

Special Report section encompasses two major themes. The first consists of three articles presenting the work plans of officials from the Ministry of Education concerning language and script initiatives. These articles emphasize the crucial role of language-related work in advancing the development of a strong educational system and outline policy arrangements regarding language standardization, the promotion of Putonghua, language research, and language services. They provide important guidance for the governance of language life and the construction of a harmonious linguistic environment. The second theme is a retrospective review of the twenty-year development of the Green Book project prepared by the editorial team of the Green Book, with Wang Lei serving as the principal author.

The Practical Developments section contains three articles reflecting various dimensions of language life at the national level, including language policy, language management, and language services[1]. The topics covered include language-related provisions in documents issued in 2024 by China's highest state authority and twenty-two ministries and commissions, the major progress achieved in language and script work during 2024, and a series of policy measures aimed at advancing the development of Digital Chinese.

Relevant Domains section is the most substantial part of the volume, consisting of seventeen articles that document the state of language life across a wide range of fields. Serving as the overarching article of this section is a study that discusses the development strategies and measures for language and script initiatives within the broader context of building a strong educational nation. From the perspective of language and culture, six articles examine language situation in educational settings and everyday social life, demonstrating the cultural functions of language and highlighting the prosperity and development of language and cultural undertakings. From the perspective of language relations, six articles mainly report on language life arising from the mobility and interaction of people both within and outside China. From the perspective of language economy, two articles explore the value of language use in economic activities such as naming practices and product descriptions. The language services dimension includes case studies on emergency language services during extreme weather events as well as reports on the progress of Braille-related services.

Hot Topics section offers in-depth examinations of widely influential "cases" in contemporary language life and consists of five articles. This section documents such phenomena as the widespread circulation of memorable remarks and humorous expressions made by Chinese athletes during the Paris Olympics; the sensation caused by the Shanghai Dialect Version of the Film Blossoms; the global popularity of the video game Black Myth: Wukong and the viral spread of its transliterated name "Wukong" on the internet; the online popularity of the phrase "city bu city," coined by foreign bloggers traveling in China; and the widespread emergence of terms related to "new quality productive forces," among other notable linguistic phenomena.

Words and Expressions section presents reports on language life from the perspective of language development and consists of five articles. For nineteen consecutive years, the National Language Resources Monitoring and Research Center, The Commercial Press, and Xinhua Net, among other institutions, have jointly organized the annual "Chinese Language Review" campaign. Through the selection of annual Chinese characters and words, as well as the release of the "Top Ten Buzzwords," "Top Ten Internet Expressions," and "Top Ten New Expressions," the campaign documents social transformations, public concerns, and collective social sentiments. The first four articles in this section provide a summary and analysis of the 2024 review activities.

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[1] For the concepts of the dimensions, layers, and hierarchical levels of language life discussed in this article, please refer to Yin Zhiping (2026).

Hong Kong–Macao–Taiwan section contains three articles that report on the actual use of the national common language and script in the language life of the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions. These studies enable readers to observe the vibrant linguistic landscape of Hong Kong and Macao within the framework of "One Country, Two Systems." By contrast, the state of language life in Taiwan gives rise to considerable concern.

International Experience section provides information on changing global demand for international Chinese language learning over the past decade, as well as introductions to books, journals, and international conferences related to foreign language policy and planning. Reflecting the international perspective of both the contributors and editors, this section offers valuable references for domestic scholars engaged in the investigation and study of language life. The Appendices section includes a chronology of major language-related events in 2024, a general list of characters used in the media, lists of high-frequency media expressions and idioms, and a compilation of newly emerging media expressions. From the perspectives of language events and language use, these materials document contemporary language life while also providing practical resources for future research on language and language life.

II. Features and Achievements

The *Green Report 2025* has successfully fulfilled its mission of documenting the linguistic ecology, serving national strategies, and promoting academic innovation. Distinguished by its clear characteristics and remarkable accomplishments, the volume represents a significant contribution to the study of language life in contemporary China.

(I) A Panoramic Record of Contemporary Chinese language situation

The *Green Report 2025* provides a comprehensive portrayal of contemporary Chinese language situation from both horizontal and vertical perspectives. From the horizontal perspective, the report covers the inner layer of language life associated with language use itself, the middle layer involving routine language activities, and the outer layer concerning special language activities. Examples of inner-layer language life include language use in the Maritime Field, the "Foreign Jingpiao" Group in Jingdezhen, and "Boorder Gateway Schools" in the Sino-Viietnamese Border Area of Guangxi. Examples of middle-layer language life include international Chinese language education, revisions of Chinese language textbooks, and study-tour programs related to language and culture. Outer-layer language life includes discussions by officials of the Ministry of Education on the promotion of Putonghua and the enhancement of national language capacity. From the vertical perspective, the *Green Repor 2025* reports on language situation across multiple levels, including the international, national, regional, sectoral organizational, and individual levels. International language life is reflected in analyses of global trends and patterns in online searches related to Chinese language learning. National language life includes language-related provisions in normative legal documents and official government texts, as well as reports on national language and script initiatives.

Regional language life encompasses, for example, the use of Putonghua in Hong Kong's linguistic environment and the state of language life in Taiwan. Language life at the level of grassroots organizations is illustrated through studies of language practices in the "Border Gateway Schools" in the Sino-Vietnamese Border Area of Guangxi and in the China-Kazakhstan Horgos International Border Cooperation Center. At the individual level, the report documents cases such as the language use of vegetable vendors from Shandong working in Zhenjiang and the language experiences of short-term foreign travelers in China. By drawing upon a vast amount of data to present a panoramic account of China's language situation, the *Green Repor 2025* demonstrates the editors' strong capacity for comprehensive coordination and systematic thinking. It provides readers with a condensed yet vivid picture of contemporary Chinese language life.

(II) Highlighting a People-Centered Value Orientation in Language Research

language situation refers to the language use and language activities of human beings as social subjects. As a field of study, language situation studies advocates a people-centered academic value orientation (Yin Zhiping, 2026), and the *Green Repor 2025* vividly embodies this pursuit. First, in its discussion of language planning and policy, the report regards fostering virtue and cultivating people as the fundamental mission of language and script initiatives. The first three articles in the Special report section, together with the opening article of Relevant Domains section section, all emphasize the moral and educational functions of language and script work. The expression "fostering virtue and cultivating people" appears twelve times throughout the volume. The report also introduces the new concept of "language-based education" and advances propositions such as "language and script, especially the national common language and script, are inherently connected with fostering virtue and cultivating people" and "the Chinese language plays a foundational role in moral education." In this way, moral cultivation is positioned as the core mission of language and script undertakings. Second, the documentation of language use becomes simultaneously a process of human-centered observation and care. For example, by examining how social emotions give rise to internet expressions, the report demonstrates concern for people's lived experiences: the expression "fireworks atmosphere" (*yanhuoqi*) captures ordinary people's most simple and grounded sense of happiness; "work smell" (*banweier*) portrays the mixed joys and hardships of workplace life; and "sense of relaxation" (*songchigan*) reflects a positive mentality characterized by emotional resilience and freedom from excessive internal pressure. Similarly, through an investigation of orally transmitted family precepts in rural Hunan, the report reveals how vivid and concrete forms of expression in family instruction can exert subtle yet deeply internalized educational influence, much like salt dissolving into water. Third, while documenting language activities, the report also offers practical recommendations for language services. The article "New Progress in Braille Services" proposes enhancing the precision of Braille services, improving their digital and intelligent dimensions, and fostering a more inclusive social environment. Meanwhile, "Case Study on Emergency Language Services for Extreme Weather" recommends establishing region-specific emergency language service systems, strengthening the communicative effectiveness of emergency language services,

and further developing their functions in emotional support and public discourse monitoring. These proposals effectively implement the academic proposition of "comprehensively advancing language services" advanced by Li Yuming in 2025.

(III) Serving the Development of a Strong Educational Nation

The *Green Repor 2025* proposes that "language and script, especially the national common language and script, constitute the most fundamental form of ideology." On this basis, the report analyzes and discusses the tasks of language and script initiatives in supporting the development of a strong educational nation. A total of four articles in Special Report and Relevant Domains sections examine how language and script work can contribute to educational development from different perspectives, including promotion and popularization, capacity building, research and public services, and systematic planning. These discussions highlight the mission and responsibility of language and script initiatives in responding to and serving national strategies.

(IV) Revealing Positive Language Relations

In Western academia, studies on language relations within immigrant communities often focus on the interaction among racism, nationalism, colonialism, and language, paying particular attention to issues such as power inequality, discrimination, exclusion, and identity anxiety. As a result, such research frequently carries a negative orientation. By contrast, the multilingual relations documented in the *Green Repor 2025* display a more positive and constructive character. For example, when short-term foreign travelers in China encounter local residents in tourist attractions or on ordinary streets, many Chinese people proactively communicate with them in English. Such interactions present harmonious and positive language relations and help shape an image of local residents as hospitable and willing to assist foreigners, reflecting the sense of courtesy and responsibility associated with China's tradition as "a nation of propriety." Similarly, among the "Foreign Jingpiao" Group in Jingdezhen, English is the language most commonly used in their professional activities, and many are unable to communicate fluently in Chinese. Nevertheless, this rarely affects their ability to live and work comfortably in the local community. This phenomenon reflects the inclusiveness, equality, and friendliness demonstrated by their Chinese colleagues and local residents alike.

(V) Theoretical Innovation

Based on a precise understanding of the mission of language and script initiatives and profound insights into language situation, the *Green Repor 2025* introduces new concepts such as "the linguistic foundation of a strong nation" and "language-based education." "The linguistic foundation of a strong nation" refers to the foundational and overarching role that language and script initiatives should play in strengthening the sense of community of the Chinese nation, supporting the implementation of the fundamental educational task of fostering virtue and cultivating people, safeguarding and improving people's well-being, and promoting high-quality economic and social development. "Language-based education" refers to the educational process through which the unique value of the national common language and script, as well as China's

outstanding linguistic and cultural traditions, is fully utilized to provide students with moral guidance, cultivate cultural confidence, and foster comprehensive personal development through such means as promotion and popularization, standardized language use, cultural transmission, and literacy enhancement. The introduction of the concepts of "the linguistic foundation of a strong nation" and "language-based education" establishes the fundamental mission and functional orientation of language and script initiatives. These concepts also provide important guidance and intellectual direction for future research on language life.

Yin Zhiping (2026) proposes that the interaction between social psychology and language can give rise to a psychological dimension of social life within language life studies. Building upon this perspective, theGreen Repor *2025* argues that internet expressions not only reflect social trendy topics but also serve the function of recording "social emotions." Social psychology refers to a relatively stable and structural psychological dimension, whereas social emotions are shared emotional experiences generated among large groups of people through cognitive evaluations of the relationships among individual needs, social environments, events, and the behaviors of others. Such emotions are characterized by temporality, fluidity, and collectivity. The recognition that internet expressions possess the function of recording social emotions indicates that language life research is concerned not only with stable social psychology, but also with shifting social mentalities and emotional changes. This perspective expands the dimensions through which language and society interact and further endows language life studies with functions of social monitoring and early warning. In doing so, it provides more sensitive indicators for language governance.

III. Limitations

Despite its many achievements, the *Green Repor 2025* still exhibits certain shortcomings. First, a small number of articles do not sufficiently reflect the social phenomena and social issues underlying particular language phenomena and language-related problems. Zhou Qingsheng (2025) points out that a genuine language-life phenomenon must simultaneously reflect both linguistic phenomena and social life; merely presenting social phenomena without language phenomena, or vice versa, cannot truly constitute a language-life phenomenon. For example, one article in Relevant Domains section describing the discourse characteristics of domestic stand-up comedy provides a detailed account of five major features of stand-up comedy discourse, yet offers insufficient discussion of the causes, formation processes, and social functions underlying these features. Second, some of the recommendations proposed in a few articles lack sufficient specificity and practical feasibility. One article documents the language life of vegetable vendors from Shandong working in Zhenjiang. The study finds that these vendors exhibit a clear sense of unfamiliarity with the Zhenjiang dialect, assign it relatively low practical value, and possess limited motivation to learn it. Nevertheless, the article recommends that local communities vigorously promote cross-dialect cultural exchange activities in order to enhance the vendors' acceptance and recognition of the local dialect and encourage them to learn and use it. Such recommendations appear to lack practical feasibility. These

shortcomings, however, do not diminish the overall value of the volume. It is hoped that future annual reports will continue to engage deeply with the field of language life studies and further enhance both the academic depth and practical value of language life reporting.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

ORCID：

Yin Zhiping ID https://orcid.org/0009-0001-9380-1661

Yang Zhimiao ID https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2303-9293

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