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# Современная языковая политика в Китае: ключевые направления и исследовательские центры

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# An introduction to the Wuhan centre:

## Main tasks

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- The State Language Commission of China has established a number of research centres across the country with different tasks. The Wuhan centre, with the official name “The National Institute of Chinese Language Matters and Social Development”, is a research center jointly established and managed by the State Language Commission and Wuhan University since 2014.
- Main tasks of the centre are to “monitor language life, interpret social phenomena, provide decision-making advices and serve the goal of national development” .

# An introduction to the Wuhan centre

ling.whu.edu.cn



国家语委科研基地

中国语情与社会发展研究中心

National Institute of Chinese Language Matters and Social Development



观测语言生活 解读社会万象 提供决策咨询 服务国家发展

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# An introduction to the Wuhan centre:

## Academic platforms

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- We have hosted three academic platforms:
  - *Language Situation in China*, a **quarterly internal report** to the State Language Commission, with in-depth reports and analyses;
  - *Language Situation Monthly*, an **online newspaper** published on our website each month, gathering language-related news in the previous month;
  - *Database for Language Situation Resources in China*, a dynamic database updated regularly, where language-related news can be **searched in various criteria** (key words, time span, classification and etc.).

# An introduction to the Wuhan centre

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# An introduction to the Wuhan centre: Achievements

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- Since its establishment, our centre has made some major achievements. The former and founding director, Prof. Zhao Shiju and current director, Prof. He Lin's reports on **language strategies** received approval from high ranking officials.
  
- Zhao Shiju: *National Language Capacity in Global Competition*
  - Social Sciences in China, Volume 37, 2016, Issue 3
  - <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02529203.2016.1194633>



# Zhao Shiju: National Language Capacity in Global Competition

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- ▣ *National language capacity* refers to the sum total of a nation's ability to grasp **linguistic resources**, provide **language services**, deal with **linguistic issues**, develop **language and related tasks**.
- ▣ It is **hard power as well as soft power**, playing a very important role in social progress and cultural inheritance, in promoting economic development and technological innovations, and in protecting a country's national security and international development.

# An introduction to the Wuhan centre: Achievements





# Our work during the pandemic:

## The lockdown

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- During the pandemic in 2020, the city of Wuhan was locked down from 23rd January to 8th April for 76 days. We didn't stop our work:
  - Editing a special issue of *Language Situation in China* on fighting against Covid-19.
  - Participating in an emergency project jointly launched by research centres at Beijing Language and Culture University and other institutions.
- Precursors of **emergency language service**

# Our work during the pandemic:

## A special issue on fighting against Covid-19

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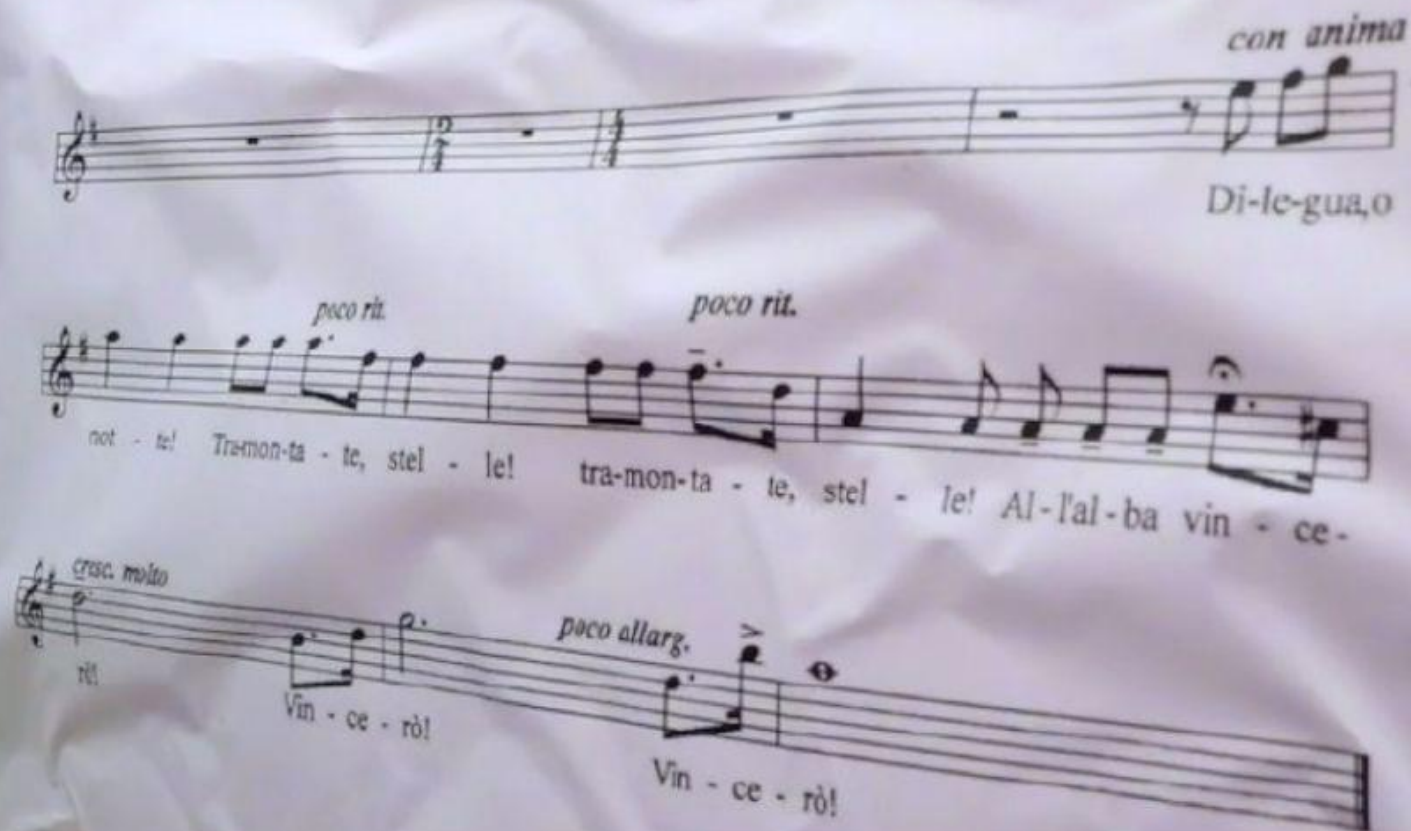
- ❑ *Reflections on language-related issues in the prevention and control of Covid-19 (Naming Issues, government's discourse and etc.)*
- ❑ *Contributions of the Linguistic Community in Fighting against Covid*
- ❑ *Foreign Language Services in Fighting against Covid*
- ❑ *Sign Language Services in Fighting against Covid*
- ❑ *On the Language Conveying Positive Energy in Times of Crisis*
- ❑ *On Government's Discourses Reducing Negative Emotions in Epidemic Area*
- ❑ *A Scan of Slogans in the Prevention and Control of Covid-19*
- ❑ *A Scan of Verses with Oversea Donations*
- ❑ *Newly Created Words and Newly Interpreted Idioms During the Pandemic*

# Our work during the pandemic: A Scan of Verses with Oversea Donations

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Dilegua, o notte! All' alba vincerò! Vincerò! Vincerò!  
消失吧,黑夜!黎明时我们将获胜!



The image shows a musical score for the song 'Dilegua, o notte!' from the opera Turandot. The score is written on a white sheet of paper with a red border. The lyrics are in Italian and Chinese. The music is in 2/4 time and features a melody with various dynamics and tempo markings.

*con anima*  
Di-le-gua, o

*poco rit.* *poco rit.*  
not - te! Tra-mon-ta - te, stel - le! tra-mon-ta - te, stel - le! Al-l'al-ba vin - ce -

*cresc. molto* *poco allarg.*  
rò! Vin - ce - rò! Vin - ce - rò!

From Turandot

From Lucius  
Annaeus  
Seneca,  
philosopher in  
Ancient Rome







Berg und Tal kommen nicht zusammen,  
wohl aber die Menschen.

山和山不相遇，人和人要相



L'union fait la force  
Eendracht maakt macht

(团结就是力量)



中国民间对外援助协会

CHINA PEOPLE'S AID ASSOCIATION





قوی باش ایران! قوی باش چین!  
伊朗加油! 中国加油!



بنی آدم اعضای یکدیگرند، که در آفرینش ز یک گوهرند  
亚当子孙皆兄弟，兄弟犹如手足亲

چین در جمهوری اسلامی ایران و شرکت های چینی  
中华人民共和国驻伊朗伊斯兰共和国大使馆



印度加油  
Stay strong, India!

THROUGH THICK AND THIN THROUGH DEFEAT AND WIN  
जाड आणपिातळ माध्यमातून पराभव आणविजिय माध्यमातून

尼莲正东流 西树几千秋



# Our work during the pandemic:

## Participating in “Language Service Corps against Covid”

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- ❑ The project was initiated by Professor Li Yuming (key figure in the field of language policy and language planning in China), after he saw the news that Shandong medical team stationed in Wuhan wrote a “manual” on Wuhan dialect themselves because they could not understand some of the words in Wuhan dialect.
- ❑ Prof. Li reached Prof. Zhao, and jointly planned and organized the “Language Service Corps against Covid” with the support of the State Language Council.

# Our work during the pandemic:

## Participating in “Language Service Corps against Covid”

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- ❑ Five working teams were successively set up:
  - Design and Coordination Team: conversation designing and volunteer recruitment.
  - Corpus Collection Team: voice recording and WeChat version development.
  - Technological Team: developing the mini video version and online version, and maintaining the 24/7 online dialect service system.
  - Product Review Team: content examining.
  - Publicity and Reporting Team: publicising and reporting.

# Our work during the pandemic:

## Participating in “Language Service Corps against Covid”

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- ❑ Based on different scenarios in the diagnosis and treatment of Covid-19, 156 words and 75 sentences were selected and recorded in **nine dialects in Hubei Province**. Products in different forms and on different media were also developed:
  - 24/7 online dialect service system
  - A web page version
  - WeChat version
  - A printed pocket book version
  - Short video version
- ❑ Let me exemplify with the later released **foreign language version in 41 languages**.

# Beijing Language and Culture University

<http://yuyanzyiuan.net:9505/>, Russian examples

《疫情防控外语通》在线查询系统

A Guide to the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 Epidemic in Foreign Languages (Web version)

语种 ( Language ) : 俄语 ( Russian )

主题 ( Subject ) : 个人防护 ( Protection Measures )

俄语 ( Russian )	汉语 ( Chinese )	操作 ( Operation )
Меры индивидуальной защиты в период эпидемии, вызванной новым типом коронавируса.	0000新冠肺炎疫情期间的个人防护措施。	播放 ( Voice )
Регулярно и тщательно мойте руки проточной водой с твердым или жидким мылом.	0001经常用流水认真洗手，洗手时要使用肥皂或洗手液。	播放 ( Voice )
Не трогайте немытыми руками рот, нос и глаза.	0002没有洗手时，不要用手触碰嘴、鼻子、眼睛。	播放 ( Voice )

# Towards Emergency language service: Some clarification

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- ❑ The latest official coverage rate in 2020 for Putonghua is **80.72%**. The city of Wuhan and the province of Hubei is not somewhere remote, so why translators for dialects are needed?
  - Many senior patients in their seventies, eighties or even nineties are not good enough in speaking standard Chinese. They can understand, but **speak not very well or with strong local accent**.
  - Patients with minor symptoms were isolated in field hospitals built from large stadiums or school dormitories. In these circumstances, people **got anxious easily, and they preferred to speak dialects**.



# Towards Emergency language service: Foreign language services

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- ❑ “**Foreign language guides against Covid**”, a series of online translation and language learning system developed by the Beijing Language and Culture University.
- ❑ An online **query system, short videos and sticky notes** in **41** languages, contents including **entry precautions, personal protective measures and daily precautions, diagnosis and treatment terms**, compiled according to the coronavirus prevention and control plan, diagnosis and treatment plan and public protection guidelines issued by the National Health Commission of China.

# Towards Emergency language service: Foreign language services

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- ❑ Albanian, Arabic, Amharic, Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cambodian, Czech, English, French, Filipino, Finnish, German, Greek, Hausa, Hungarian, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kazakh, Korean, Kyrgyz , Lao, Malay, Mongolian, Persian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, Turkish, Urdu, Uzbek, Ukrainian, Uzbek, Vietnamese
- ❑ Bilingual version with Chinese
- ❑ <http://yuyanzyiuan.blcu.edu.cn/info/1162/2005.htm>

# Towards Emergency language service: Researches on emergency language services abroad

- The "*Report on Language Situation in Foreign Countries (2021)*" compiled by Shanghai International Studies University led by Prof. Zhao Ronghui introduces the practices on emergency language service in South Korea, Japan, Germany, **Russia**, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Chile.



# Towards Emergency language service:

## ZHAO Liu:Emergency Language Services in Russia

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- Russia has formed a vertical management system from the central government to the local level under the direct leadership of the President, with the Federal Security Council as the decision-making hub and the **Ministry of Emergency Situations as the organisational core.**
- Emergency language services include emergency publicity and education, emergency information distribution and consultation, language services for emergency rescue and language training for emergency personnel, covering multiple languages, fields and stages, and are systematic, diversified and routine in nature.

# Towards Emergency language service:

## WANG and QU: Researches on "Simplified Japanese"

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- Japanese linguists have accumulated much experience since the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, when they initiated the research and development of "**Simplified Japanese**" for disaster relief and emergency response. The background:
- **Most of the information distributed through radio and television is aimed at Japanese nationals**, and foreigners who do not have a high level of Japanese language skills cannot understand and obtain the correct information they need;
- **Not all foreigners in Japan can speak English**, and using English to communicate with foreigners in disaster relief and emergency response can sometimes lead to unnecessary misunderstandings.

- The level of "Simplified Japanese" is **between N5 and N4**, and requires mastery of about 300 basic Kanji, 1,500-2,000 basic words and basic grammar. 12 **rules**:

- 
- Use simple words rather than difficult ones;
  - Use short sentences with no more than 24 syllables;
  - Retain common terms about disasters;
  - Avoid foreign words written in katakana;
  - Avoid the use of onomatopoeia;
  - Use verb clauses rather than gerunds;
  - Avoid the use of vague and ambiguous expressions;
  - Avoid the use of double negatives;
  - Try to unify the patterns expressed at the end of sentences;
  - Use more phrases in expressing key information;
  - Use no more than 3 to 4 Kanji for each sentence, and mark the pronunciation;
  - Do not use Roman letters.



# Towards Emergency language service: Researches on "Simplified Chinese"

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- A scheme for Simplified Chinese was developed by Beijing Language and Culture University and Peking University at very early stages of the pandemic. It was launched on 27 February 2020 and officially released on 12 March on the official website of the Ministry of Education of China.
- It is intended for foreigners in China with HSK level 4 or above with a knowledge of around 1,200 words, and includes a draft of **standards** for the development of Simplified Chinese, as well as **examples** of simplified texts based on those standards.

简明汉语	超纲词	原始文本
<p><b>防控手册</b></p> <p>全国各地卫生健康委员会，负责防控工作的单位：</p> <p>我们组织专家制作了手册，关于：</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.不同的人如何减少感染。</li> <li>2.如何正确使用口罩。</li> </ol> <p>现在发给你们，可以帮助人们保护自己。</p> <p style="text-align: right;">疫情防控组 国家卫生健康委疾控局 2020年1月30日</p>	<p>手册 shǒu cè : 小本的书。</p> <p>单位 dān wèi : 人们工作的地方。</p> <p>专家 zhuān jiā : 专业的人。</p>	<p><b>防控手册</b></p> <p>关于印发新型冠状病毒感染不同风险人群防护指南和预防新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎口罩使用指南的通知</p> <p>各省、自治区、直辖市及新疆生产建设兵团卫生健康委，国务院应对新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎疫情联防联控机制成员单位：</p> <p>为指导做好新型冠状病毒感染不同风险人群防护工作，降低因防护用品配备使用不当等引发的疾病感染风险，我们组织专家编制了《新型冠状病毒感染不同风险人群防护指南》和《预防新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎口罩使用指南》，现印发你们，供指导加强个人防护使用。</p> <p style="text-align: right;">疫情防控组 国家卫生健康委疾控局（代章） 2020年1月30日</p>

# Towards Emergency language service: Researches on the theoretical framework

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- ❑ LI Yuming et al.: On State Emergency Language Competence
- ❑ Different tasks in the three **stages**
  - **Before**: establishing plans for language emergency service and reserving personnel, data and technology.
  - **During**: eliminating language barriers in emergency response and post-disaster reconstruction.
  - **After**: reflecting and summarising the lessons in order to improve the plans and preparations.

# Towards Emergency language service: Researches on the theoretical framework

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- Different objectives of three domains
  - The goal of **communicating**: to make transmission, understanding and feedback of information barrier-free.
  - The goal of **comforting**: to use language to comfort the emotions of people affected in emergency events.
  - The goal of **monitoring**: to monitor social opinions and provide positive guidance.

# Towards Emergency language service: Researches on the theoretical framework

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- Five **Dimensions** of Language Emergency Response Competence
  - **Governance**: coordinating and planning all kinds of language resources, forecasting language needs in public emergencies, and promoting the formulation of relevant laws and regulations and emergency plans.
  - **Mobilisation**: coordinating and deploying relevant researches and preparations before and after the event, and mobilising personnel, material and financial resources from all sectors during the event.
  - **Intellectual**: scientifically designing plans and preparing for implementation.
  - **Data**: building Chinese corpus, multilingual parallel corpus and linguistic knowledge base for emergencies.
  - **Technology**: preparing technical means, equipments, infrastructure and evaluation standards for language information processing.

# Towards Emergency language service: Researches on the theoretical framework

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- **Varieties** used in emergency language services
  - **Putonghua**, includes not only the standard variety but also local varieties
  - **Chinese dialects**
  - **minority languages**
  - **major foreign languages**, include the six official working languages of the United Nations and important regional languages such as Portuguese, Italian, German, Kiswahili, Hindi-Urdu, Malay-Indonesian, Japanese and Korean.
  - **languages of neighbouring countries**
  - **sign language/Braille.**



# Towards Emergency language service: Recent development

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- In addition to theoretical research, Chinese scholars are incorporating emergency language services into emergency rescue and drills in disaster-prone areas.
- In October 2023, the National Emergency Language Service Corps organised a drill on emergency language service for a mega-earthquake in Ganzi Prefecture, Sichuan Province, which included exercises on **rapid response and command, assistance in rescue and evacuation, assistance in medical care in field hospitals, and multilingual publicity and psychological comfort**, with special emphasis on how to comprehensively use **Putonghua, minority languages, and Chinese dialects** to carry out emergency communication in different scenarios.



成立省州联合抗震救灾指挥部

## Emergency command centre in Sichuan Province

## National Emergency Language Service Corps at Beijing Language and Culture University



我宣布国家应急语言服务团启动一级响应

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□ Спасибо большое

за внимание!