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Sing Tao Daily

We encourage those schools that have the prerequisites of success in place to try teaching Chinese language in Putonghua.

Thomas Lee and Stephen Matthews

EDUCATION

SCHOOLS MAY BE KILLED BY USING PUTONGHUA TO TEACH CHINESE

Linguists warn that using Putonghua to teach Chinese language is shifting the balance against Cantonese, which could die within generations.

Sandy Perry

Education officials have been urged by linguists to use Putonghua to teach Chinese language in Hong Kong, which is causing severe anxiety that Cantonese is becoming marginalized and dying within generations.

David B. Liu, a linguist at the University of Hong Kong, said his study conducted in eight Hong Kong schools in 2010 found that children in those schools had a lower level of Putonghua than children in similar schools. He said the results were consistent with previous studies.

While the government is shifting the balance to Putonghua, the use of Putonghua could be damaging and result in the loss of Cantonese, which is an important part of the city's culture and identity.

Catherine Chan, a linguist at the University of Hong Kong, said the government should not be so strong in pushing Putonghua as it would result in the loss of Cantonese. She said the government should be more adaptive to the needs of the local population.

The government has been trying to shift the balance to Putonghua in order to promote the use of Putonghua as the official language in the city.

Some schools are still using Cantonese in their classes, and this is causing concern among the local community. The government has been facing pressure from the local community to shift the balance back to Cantonese.

The government has been pushing for the use of Putonghua in schools, but this has not been well received by the local community.

The government's move to shift the balance to Putonghua has caused a lot of concern among local residents, who are worried that it could result in the loss of Cantonese, which is an important part of the city's culture and identity.

Sandy Perry

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