

MASTER'S THESIS

What is needed by Hong Kong students?: a study of the learner needs, the market needs and the Putonghua curriculum

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**WHAT IS NEEDED BY HONG KONG STUDENTS?
A STUDY OF THE LEARNER NEEDS, THE MARKET
NEEDS AND THE PUTONGHUA CURRICULUM**

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Abstract

Putonghua is gaining importance with each passing day and learning the language is a current trend over the territory of Hong Kong. Contrary to this linguistic change, some Hong Kong students' learning motivation is on the decline. In view of this language learning problem, the present dissertation examines what students really need to learn in Putonghua courses and what they are expected to learn from the course by the prospective employers. The study is qualitative in nature. The data about the students' needs come from a questionnaire investigation conducted among forty Form 1 students and forty Form 3 students. The data about the Putonghua proficiency requirements to Hong Kong students are collected through twenty telephone interviews with some business companies in the territory. All data are statistically summarized for quantitative analysis. The study focuses on three aspects: learning motives, learners' subjective needs for learning Putonghua and their attitudes towards Putonghua.

Results show that the subjects study Putonghua for some objective as well as subjective reasons and they are not fond of doing Putonghua Pinyin transcription exercises. The subjective needs affect their learning motives significantly. It is also found that the Pinyin transcription skill is hardly needed and used in the real workplace of Hong Kong. Therefore, it is revealed that the current Putonghua curriculum does not match the market needs and because of this it suppresses the learners' subjective needs, thus blocking or decreasing the subjects' learning desires and interest. Based on the findings and analyses, the author proposes some

substantial changes in the design and implementation of the Putonghua curriculum and classroom instruction.

摘要

普通話的重要性與日俱增。學習普通話是當前香港境內的一股潮流。與這個語言變化反其道而行的，部份香港學生的學習動機卻在下降。鑒於這個有關語言學習的問題，本論文研究了學生在普通課程中真正想學的東西和未來雇主期望他們從課程中學到些甚麼東西。本研究是定質性的。有關學生需求的資料來自約一份在 40 個中一學生和 40 個中三學生中進行的問卷調查。有關對香港學生普通話水平要求的資料取自於同本地一些商業公司的 20 個電話訪問。所有資料都經過統計方法總結以供定量性質的分析。本研究著重於三個方面：學習動機、學生對學習普通話的主觀需求以及他們對普通話的態度。結果顯示，受試人學習普通話既有客觀的需要，也有主觀上的要求。他們對於普通話拼音轉寫的練習很不喜歡。他們的主觀需求對學習動機的影響很大。另外還發現，拼音轉寫技術在工作環境中幾乎是完全不需要和不使用的。由此揭示現在的普通話課程大綱與市場需求不符。由於這種錯配，學生的主觀需求受到壓制，從而阻止或降低了受試人的學習願望和興趣。在所得發現和分析的基礎上，作者就普通話課程大綱和教學的設計和執行提出了一些實質性的改變。

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