

The Development Opportunities and Challenges of French in East Africa

Yixin Li

School of Foreign Languages, Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan, Hubei, China

Keywords: French, Develop opportunities and challenges, East Africa

Abstract: French-speaking African countries account for more than half of Africa's area. West from Mauritania, east to Chad and Djibouti, south to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Madagascar. In these countries, only the time when Senegal was introduced into French dates back to the 17th century. The time for other countries to use French was when the first colonial troops arrived in the 19th century or the beginning of the 20th century, and it was spread by soldiers. In the Central African Republic and Chad there is the saying "French Army". This article analyzes the characteristics of African folk French from the perspective of grammar and vocabulary. This Africanized French has a strong promotion potential because it adapts to local Africa. Now its position in Africa can compete with the orthodox French. The Chinese French teaching institutions and the editors of the French-Chinese dictionary believe its existence should not be ignored and need to be introduced to French language learners in China. Finally, the article discusses definition and interpretation of African folk French expressions in the French-Chinese dictionary.

1. Introduction

Various spoken languages in Africa have one thing in common: they are "school French", that is, French that is learned in school. Many parents of students do not understand French at all, especially in rural areas. Students use French at school but local languages at home. Each of the many African languages has its own regional characteristics when expressed in oral French. For example, «Nous voulons des hôpitaux pour les hommes et des hôpitaux pour les femmes, des écoles normales pour les jeunes filles et écoles normales pour les jeunes gens. Enfin et enfin, nous demandons la création de tribunaux dans la brousse comme il y a des tribunaux dans les centres urbains.» is a very typical example. These French sentences have the characteristics of Bantu, and the grammatical rules of the language are reflected on each word in the sentence. In addition, the same words have different meanings in different regions.

In Africa, if we look into the French-using level, skilled people can speak fluent French and write beautiful French, but not many people in the entire community are proficient in French. Some can only listen and speak, neither write nor read. Also, there are illiterates. Some can only speak a few simple, grammatically incorrect French, or speak a language mixed with French and local languages. Strictly speaking, they cannot be listed as French speakers. In addition, French plays different roles in African countries. For example: in the Democratic Republic of Congo, French is mainly used for reading (most major newspapers and magazines are almost all in French), and of course also for listening (radio, television, advertising, movies, etc.), although it is an official language, it does not have a great communication effect for people of different mother tongues. Côte d'Ivoire is different, especially in Abidjan, where French is used almost everywhere in social life, so French is an important language of communication in Côte d'Ivoire. In other countries, such as Niger, Mali, Chad, etc., not quite so.

2. The Special Role of France in Africa

Researchers familiar with the history of French colonization in Africa may explain the "special relationship" between France and Africa from the perspective of historical inheritance, but in fact the real construction of this "special relationship" between modern France and Africa can only be traced back to 20 The boom of African independence in the 1960s ended with the end of the cold

war. In addition to the traditional inter-state relations, the French-African relations also include the internal relations of the nation-state, such as personal relations, institutional contacts, and even France provides African countries with “national public goods security”, such as national defense and currency association and control. This obviously cannot be explained by the traditional realism theory of international relations. ⑤ To strengthen the strong control and ties between the former colonies, not only are French policymakers keen to maintain them, maintaining ties is also a requirement for leaders of African countries. In order to obtain enough attentions in Paris to enhance their presence the legitimacy of the country and allow itself to be recognized by the international community. The historical background of the special relationship between modern France and Africa is closely related to the independence war in which cost France Indochina, Morocco, Tunisia, and later Algeria. Under the ruling crisis of the French “Fourth Republic” in an unprecedented chaos, the return of Charles de Gaulle in 1958 and the establishment of the “Fifth Republic” after the constitutional amendment which made France begin to re-examine its role in the world. President Charles de Gaulle wisely believes that maintaining and strengthening France’s influence in Africa is not only a choice to internally balance various forces, but also a must to ensure France’s unique influence in the world. ① Therefore, sub-Saharan Africa was used in the post-colonial period to maintain France's international influence and France's independence from the United States. “Aid for decolonization for better survival” became the diplomatic slogan of France during that period. Although French official decolonization measures may be subject to the “decolonization” movement promoted by the United States after World War II, French politicians, including people often ask themselves the question “Apart from Africa, what else does France have?”. It is clear that France's special treatment of Africa not only reflects the dream of a big country, but a normal diplomatic choice to increasing aid to Africa.

3. Features of African Folk French

Grammatically, some African folk French does not strictly abide by the orthodox French grammar, mainly use words instead of grammars. Features as: First: ignore verb categorization, use the indirect transitive verb as a direct transitive verb, cancel the preposition between the verb and the object, or use the direct transitive verb as an indirect transitive verb, Add prepositions between verbs and objects, or use intransitive verbs as transitive verbs, for example: téléphoner qn call someone (orthodox French: téléphoner à qn), résister qch resist something (orthodox French For: résister à qch), informer à qn tells someone (orthodox French: informer qn), partir Abidjan goes to Abidjan (orthodox French: partir pour Abidjan), rentrer le cinéma returns from the cinema (orthodox French: rentrer du cinéma). Second: cancel prepositions ② in fixed phrases, such as: Je viens retard I am late (orthodox French: Je viens en retard), C'est l'orchestre de la police qu'il s'agit. This is about the police band. (Orthodox French: C'est de l'orchestre de la police qu'il s'agit). Third: Change the preposition ① that the verb was originally matched with: such as distinguishing le pétrole et l'essence to distinguish between oil and gasoline (orthodox French is distinguer le pétrole de l'essence), bénéficier à qch enjoying something (orthodox French is bénéficier de qch) Se référer sur qch involves something (orthodox French: se référer à qch). Fourth: Due to ignoring the lexical distinction of verbs, some verbs without objects also become verbs with objects. Object pronouns are not distinguished between direct object pronouns and inter-object pronouns. Behind the verb. Such as: Il va te rigoler. Or Il va rigoler toi. He laughed at you. (Rigoler was originally an intransitive verb and cannot be followed by an object) Il va le rire. Or: Il va rire lui. He laughed at him. (Rire should originally use de to guide the object: rire de qn mocks someone)

4. The Solution to the Phenomenon

From the perspective of the popularity of French, there are still various deficiencies and urgent improvements in the process of French popularization. It is also necessary to take a reasonable solution based on the reality of French popularization. Stimulate the interest and curiosity of France

users. Judging from the current situation of French users in China, most people pay more attention to words and sentences when learning French, but generally do not pay attention to listening and speaking ability, so listening and speaking ability are weakened. Therefore, to enhance this link, we use new methods in the process of learning French. It is best to use the audiovisual method, which is to use modern media tools to introduce pictures, visuals, videos. One can feel the tone, voice and language communication environment and background. Students can feel the scene through the sights and the sounds on the scene can stimulate student enthusiasts, thus intuitively mastering the French oral expression mode and enriching the classroom content. The current popular textbook is “REFLETS”.

To fully understand the cultural factors of French; in fact, to love French means to fully understand the French culture. Therefore, when learning French, you should naturally intersect French-related cultures to enable students to understand various French social cultures, customs, human history, natural landscapes, etc., blend fun and learning into one, and stimulate as much as possible. Students' interest in learning and a comprehensive understanding of French culture. For example, when mastering the words of wine (vin), you should explain the knowledge of the grape culture and the god of wine in the French mythology. Of course, teachers should also recommend websites related to French oftently, such as www.myfrfr.com, www.mimifr.com, etc., Such websites not only have French grammar, songs, culture and movie appreciation, but also French culture, learning methods and customs, etc. Through this website, students can continue to be entertained, they can also exercise their listening skills, and understand the usage of idioms. (3) Compare the similarities and differences between English and French; in fact, almost all the students who choose French are English learners, and they all have a certain English foundation, it is necessary to fully understand that French and English have similarities in various aspects such as vocabulary, pronunciation and grammatical structure. Therefore, in French teaching, the two should be compared. Take phonetics, compared with English, French pronunciation has regular rules. After mastering various pronunciation rules, you can smoothly read general newspaper articles, even if some words are unknown. For example, the phonetic exercises in “Janefa” clarify many comparisons between English and French. In terms of vocabulary, French and English not only have a large number of synonymous words that can learn from each other, but also have similar word formation rules, such as compound words and derived words, such as photo, art, prince, air, etc., which have the same French and English vocabulary; It is relatively invisible to reduce the difficulty of students' memorizing words and achieve the goal of multiplying the result with half the effort.

5. Conclusion

France's language policy is constantly adjusting to new strategic directions as the cultural adaptation of French-speaking African countries continues. First, the French-African economy and trade opened the door to the African continent. During the colonization period, the expansion of French was carried out by force. In order to effectively manage the colony, French is regarded as a tool to rule. Through the use of French, administrative management is gradually controlled by the French, and cultural assimilation is also deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. Secondly, with the trend of independence, the popularity of French requires higher quality French teaching. Language teaching not only guarantees the status of French in Africa, but also builds a bridge of communication so that the world can understand Africa. This is a win-win for France and Africa. Finally, with the development of globalization, France plans to adopt an integrated language policy and strengthen international cooperation to provide vitality and opportunities for the development of French-speaking African countries.

Acknowledgment

Independent innovation project No. 201417008 in 2020 (humanities and social sciences) of French Research Center, Wuhan University of Technology.

References

- [1] Yao Jiabin. The historical evolution and analysis of the current situation in French. Quick Reading (Early), vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 51-52, 2015.
- [2] Danielle, BAULT, Shu Jingzhe. Functional French and its development and prospects. Foreign Language Teaching Theory and Practice, no. 4, pp.1-4, 1994.
- [3] Han Lu. Analysis of the development status of new French majors in colleges and universities-- Taking Binzhou University as an example. Journal of Higher Education, no.10. pp. 21-22, 2017.
- [4] Zhao Xueyuan. An Analysis of the Development of French Teaching in Colleges and Universities in Gansu. Curriculum Education Research: Teaching by New Teachers, no. 28, pp. 11-12, 2014.
- [5] Xu Wenyao. The influence of literati writers on the development of early French. Literary Life Literary Theory, no. 9, pp. 32-33, 2014.