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**Трансгенерационная коммуникация:  
установки, стратегии, ожидания\***

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*Аннотация.* В условиях наращивания темпов глобализации в фокусе внимания исследователей оказывается трансгенерационная коммуникация: все большее число ученых обращает внимание на значимость языковой политики применительно к различным категориям семей, тем самым постулируя необходимость глубокой проработки лингвистического аспекта данного вопроса. Наряду с этим обнаруживается незначительное число исследований, посвященных мультилингвизму в рамках конкретной семьи. Задача настоящего обзора заключается в анализе аттитюдов и стратегий коммуникации в семейном контексте и лингвистическом окружении.

*Ключевые слова:* языковая семейная политика; межпоколенческая коммуникация в семье; паттерны семейной коммуникации; история семьи; насилие в семье; лингвистический репертуар.

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**Hu N., Li J., Jia Q.,  
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**Transgenerational communication:  
attitudes, strategies, expectations\***

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*Abstract.* Against the background of global integration transgenerational communication is becoming central to linguistic research. Many researchers have attached great importance to family language policy. Yet, issues of linguistic ideologies and their importance are needed to be further explored. Furthermore, few studies focus on multilingualism within families which has profound influence on shaping language policy frameworks. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to analyze communicative attitudes and strategies in specific family and linguistic backgrounds.

*Keywords:* family language policy (FLP); family intergenerational communication; family communication patterns; family background; family language violence; linguistic repertoire.

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## **Introduction**

The paper covers various studies that focus on transgenerational communication. In recent years, the emphasis of research into «family language policy» (FLP) has been increasingly placed on mobile, transnational speakers. Families composed of members of different national and linguistic backgrounds, raising their children in a country different than their own, are growing in numbers [Li, 2012]. As a consequence, attention to research on these types of families is also increasing, with

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an emphasis on situations involving urban, transnational contacts. These studies generally focus on the speakers' linguistic repertoires and how these are shaped dialogically, that is, in interaction with members and agents inside the family domain [Spolsky, 2012].

## **Literature overview**

The language of the parents has a great influence on the children, ranging from behavioral habits to the perception of the world. Many psychologists have done relevant experiments on the insinuation of language on people. For example, J.A. Bargh [Ye, 2018] used the related words «old» to insinuate people. His findings suggest that experiment participants walked more slowly and their backs became more curved. Moreover, he used «success, perseverance» and other positively connotated words to insinuate people, and found that the memory and intelligence of the subjects had been significantly improved. Everyone's words have a direct or indirect impact on others, especially when parents and children live alongside each other day and night [ibid.].

T. Curran, J.A. Samp, A. Janovec in her research pointed out that transgenerational patterns of communication orientations will affect the mental health of the next generation. Family communication patterns theory of A.F. Koerner and M.A. Fitzpatrick [Koerner, Fitzpatrick, 2002a; 2002b; 2002c] claims that two cognitive orientations form family communication climates: conversation orientation and conformity orientation. The theory asserts that children develop family schemas based on the degree of emphasis on dialogue and herd orientation in their family communication climate. The children learn that their parents are the main decision makers in the family. The role of children in the family is to obey and follow the beliefs and expectations set by their parents. On the other hand, the schema developed in the low herding-oriented family promotes the independence of personality and family relations. In her research, T. Curran, J.A. Samp, A. Janovec used mother's depression as a predictor of children's reporting of family communication orientation, and used children's depression symptoms as a result of their perception of family communication orientation prove that family transgenerational patterns and family communication climate are related to the child's mental health [Curran, Samp, Janovec, 2017].

J. Macalister and S.H. Mirvahedi found that some parents happen to reject bilingualism as they are concerned that second language acquisition might result in a child's mother-tongue attrition [Macalister, Mirvahedi, 2017]. As a consequence, they quit bilingual communication with the child by speaking only one language, which brings both psychological and emotional disbalance to the child's language practice in the family as well as deprives the child of the opportunity to develop bilingual skills. It seems that parents are the most influential communication parties in children's language practices. Besides, siblings and other members of an extended family like grandparents can gradually prepare children for outside community practice in different domains as well [Baker, 2017].

J. Soler and A. Zabrodskaja emphasized the disconnection between declared language ideology and strategy [Soler, Zabrodskaja, 2017]. In their study, they argued that the multidimensionality of speakers' experiences presents different sides, some of which are made invisible in day-by-day realities of childrearing in multilingual homes, an invisibilization that may have to do with issues that transcend purely linguistic matters and are linked with broader ideologies of gender and childrearing more generally. Until now, a number of studies [Busch, 2015; Curdt-Christiansen, 2009; Hult, 2015] have already discussed issues of linguistic ideologies and their importance in the home environment. Nevertheless, few studies have been conducted in the context of family multilingualism that highlights the centrality of the notion of the linguistic repertoire and its importance in shaping particular language policy frameworks that can foster or hinder the coexistence of different languages at home [Lid King, 2017].

F. Grupp et al. conducted numerous studies and collected data on two samples of Cameroonian immigrants (asylum seekers and undocumented) living in two different European countries (Germany and France) [Relational spirituality ..., 2021]. But their sample consisted only of male participants, so the results of this study are rather biased. Therefore, one can hypothesize the influence of gender on the concept of family and its role in the explanatory model of trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder. This may be particularly important because Cameroonian society is highly patriarchal and women may have very different views on family structure and intergenerational obligations

[Ngambouk Vitalis Pemunta, 2017]. Therefore, future studies may wish to consider specifically surveying female samples.

As for family background as a sociological concept, «family» refers to a form of social organization based on marriage and kinship, «background» refers to all historical conditions or current circumstances, which play an important role in the occurrence, development, existence and change of the situation [Fang, Feng, 2018]. Family background means all the resources that a family has. Therefore, it is necessary for us to compartmentalize the family background to make the study more rigorous. Sociologists generally believe that a family background contains three parts: economic capital, social capital and cultural capital [ibid.].

As far as this study is concerned, it is reasonable to adopt the above family background division. According to previous studies, children's language development is affected by family income [Arriaga, 1998], by parents' age [Liang, 2018], by parents' occupation [Yan, 2017], by the regional environment, by the educational level of parents, family cultural environment and by other family background factors [Nur Ida Fitria, 2020].

In recent years, much of the focus of research on «family transitional communication» has been on gentle language communication. But in fact, there are also many verbal violence phenomena in family communication, and it is easier to ignore. The research by Y.P. Zenf and Y. Cheng focuses on the study of language violence in a family. Their focus is to study the linguistic violence used by parents against their children and collect a corpus of language violence instances in a family, conduct pragmatic analysis, sort out the manifestations of domestic language violence, reduce or avoid the occurrence of language violence, and promote communication between parents and children [Zeng, Cheng, 2020]. However, the research lacks specificity and individual differences, and there is no clear distinction between the differences in men and women and the differences in age groups [ibid.]. According to the questionnaire on children's physical and mental development of domestic language violence in Jiangsu Province, children who have not experienced domestic language violence have relatively better academic performance, are more lively and cheerful, and like to make friends with others. On the contrary, those who often suffer from domestic verbal violence have relatively worse academic performance. What is more, they are likely to become impatient people whose attention is less focused as well.

When it comes to digital media in the present-day society, L. Feng pointed out in his survey that the new direction of intergenerational research focuses on the research direction of the digital generation gap [Feng, 2018]. A questionnaire was made to survey the most common grandparents, fathers and children in a family. This research innovatively draws on the measurement ideas of the digital divide in economics and constructs a «digital literacy index» to more intuitively describe the degree to which the elderly have integrated into the digital society [Correa, Pavez, Contreras, 2017]. Yet, the particularity and difference of an individual is ignored in the research.

The study by M.Y. Wang, Y. Yan, and X.Y. Yu also focuses on the impact of the rapid development of the digital media on family intergenerational communication. The empirical evidence indicates that the prevalence of intergenerational communication conflicts varies in communication media, communication frequency, communication content and communication effects [Wang, Yan, Yu, 2020]. Based on the profound influence on the traditional family communication context, communication psychology and language habits, the case analysis and data analysis are used to conduct digital analysis of the status quo of intergenerational communication in the family of college students. Understanding the current situation with interpersonal communication through the digital media on behalf of the family and the family of intergenerational communication platforms requires a feasibility study.

Y.U. Li and X. Hou's study explores the intergenerational relationship of family language policies based on Spolsky's family language management theory [Li, Hou, 2021]. This study takes undergraduates in English education as an example, and collects information about parents' family language policies, children's reactions and plans for their children's future family language policies. Comparing this information, the researchers have revealed that there are both inheritance and differences in family language policies between parents and children [Yang, Cheng, Xiao, 2019, p. 1595]. In terms of language awareness, family language policies between generations are positively correlated, but language practice is not obvious in ordinary families' intergenerational inheritance relationship.

## Conclusion

Based on this concise overview, it can be concluded that in most families parents play the leading role when it comes to transgenerational communication. A proper communicative mode appears to have positive impacts on children's physical and mental development, while language violence in a family can have negative influence on children's personality and even academic performance. However, more cases regarding female roles in the family need to be further introduced since women play a crucial role in transgenerational communication. Moreover, the limitation is presumably the lack of attention to linguistic repertoire because it should be attached great importance to when it comes to shaping particular language policy frameworks.

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