

## Theorizing Political Identity and Language: Taiwanese Language Discourse Case

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**Introduction.** Demonstrations of language discursive practises which result in formation of political identity are the focus of this study. Double meaning of the word “language” has been suggested, first, an object of the discursive practises (“Taiwanese language discourse”), second – our research object.

**The aim.** The aim of the respective study is to show the possibility to interpret Taiwanese language discourse as a mechanism of constructing the Taiwanese (political) identity counterposing to it the Chinese identity as “the Other”.

**Materials and methods.** The theoretical framework consists of analysis of works by the researchers in the social sciences, who perceive the identity as a socially constructed system (Charles Tilly, Louis Kreisberg), as “imagined communities” (Benedict Anderson), and those, who explore language as a political phenomenon (W. O’Barr, L. Phillips, M. W. Jørgensen). Qualitative research methods were also used blended with discourse analysis (H. Ahl).

**Results.** Identity and language could be interpreted in terms of policy in different ways. In the context of this research, it has been presumed that language is a dynamic form of discursive practices which constructs identities, and they, in turn, are politically conditioned.

For more than twenty years in Taiwan is developing movement against the “Chinese language (guo yu)” in order to proclaim Taiwanese as an official means of communication. The Taiwanese language discourse generates Taiwanese identity, the distinctive feature of which is sharply negative attitude to everything Chinese. The language discourse is imbeded into material and other contexts as ideas about history, culture, education, political institutions etc.

**Conclusions.** The discursive practices of the Taiwanese language result in the creation of the Chinese language advocates as “the Other”. But considering the title of the thesis, the more important conclusion is that the Taiwanese language discourse provides a researcher with such empirical data, which can be studied as a political phenomenon in terms of language, discourse analysis and identity.