

A study on multilingual ability and poverty in Southwest China

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Language plays a pivotal role in poverty alleviation which was conducted by the end of 2020. This study explores the multilingual ability, language use, and language attitude of the participants, as well as the correlations between the participants' multilingual ability and the cause of poverty in relation to monthly household income. The samples came from three provinces of Southwest China, the mainstream Han group and 13 ethnic minority groups in 34 border poverty counties in Yunnan, Guangxi, and Tibet, and the data collected were treated with SPSS26.0 and content analysis. This investigation reached the conclusion that as for the relationship between the multilingual ability and the monthly household income, Mandarin ability and local dialect ability influence the income of the family quantitatively, while ethnic minority language ability and English language ability influence their household income qualitatively. The study highlights both theoretical and practical implications for rural area language strategy and planning.