



OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLINGUISTICS IN CHINA DURING THE 40 YEARS OF REFORM AND OPENING UP

Tan Xiaochun (School of Foreign Studies, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou 510640, China)

Resumo: Nos últimos 40 anos, desde que a reforma e a abertura política foram introduzidas, o desenvolvimento da ecolinguística na China tem evoluído da participação espontânea em pesquisas acadêmicas para a promoção de pesquisa acadêmica, pesquisa acadêmica e serviços sociais mediante instituições de educação superior e associações de pesquisa. O progresso através dos estágios revelou a grande transformação de um foco unicamente em pesquisa científica em instituições de Ensino em direção à implementação das três funções básicas de treinamento de talentos, pesquisa científica e serviços sociais em instituições de ensino superiores. Muitos objetivos foram atingidos na ecolinguística chinesa. As características e a experiência do desenvolvimento da ecolinguística na China são: adesão à posição diretriz do pensamento civilizacional do marxismo chinês, adesão ao grande objetivo de construir uma disciplina ecolinguística na China tendo em vista uma inovação da abordagem da análise do discurso ecológica no contexto chinês. O objetivo da análise do discurso ecológica harmoniosa para o desenvolvimento da ecolinguística e a iniciativa chinesa de intercâmbio internacional em ecolinguística.

Palavras-chave: Ecolinguística; Acontecimentos Históricos; Realizações Importantes; Características Chinesas.

Abstract : In the past 40 years, since the reform and opening-up policy was introduced, the development of ecolinguistics in China has progressed from the stage of spontaneous participation in academic research, to the promotion of academic research and research conferences, to the development of high-level talent training, scientific research and social services via higher

education institutions and research associations. Progress through the stages has brought about the major transformation from a singular focus on scientific research at higher education institutions to comprehensively carrying out the three basic functions of talent training, scientific research and social services at higher education institutions. A number of landmark achievements in Chinese ecolinguistics have been achieved. The characteristics and experience of the development of ecolinguistics in China are: adhering to the leading position of Chinese Marxist ecological civilization thought, adhering to the high starting point of the construction of ecolinguistics discipline in China and adhering to the innovation of the approach of ecological discourse analysis in the Chinese context. The purpose of ecological harmonious discourse analysis in the Chinese context is to provide a Chinese perspective for the development of ecolinguistics and a Chinese initiative for international exchange on ecolinguistics.

Keywords: Ecolinguistics; Historical Events; Landmark Achievements; Chinese Characteristics.

1 Introduction

The development of ecolinguistics, starting with a lecture on “The Ecology of Language” by Haugen (1970) at an academic conference in Austria (Burg Wartenstein, Austria), has been going on for 50 years. From Haugen’s metaphorical paradigm to Halliday’s non-metaphorical paradigm (1990), ecolinguistics progressed somewhat slowly. After the 1990s, ecolinguistics began to flourish via discussion and implementation of the two paradigms and registered remarkable achievements. The metaphorical paradigm of ecolinguistics broke through the research paradigms of formalism and functionalism (HU et al., 2017, p. 2) to create a new model of linguistic research based on the analysis of linguistic ecology, i.e., the study of language development has adopted an ecological perspective or ecological philosophy (HUANG; CHEN, 2016, p. 55), enriching the practical content of maintaining linguistic diversity, and providing a theoretical basis for language planning in various countries.

The non-metaphorical paradigm of ecolinguistics broke the boundaries of the traditional study of systemic functional linguistics, and the research on the function of language systems has extended from the study of “systemic grammar” and “functional grammar” (HU et al., 2017, p. 3) to the study of the function of language on ecology, and aims to provide theoretical support for language practice in response to the ongoing ecological crises by revealing the intrinsic link between language and ecology. It can be said that Haugen’s metaphorical paradigm and Halliday’s non-metaphorical paradigm constitute two basic research modes of ecolinguistics. It is these two basic

research models that make ecolinguistics a truly independent Applied Linguistics discipline, one which has begun a multidisciplinary participation in the combination of ecology and linguistics in academic movements.

What have Chinese scholars done in these academic movements? Where is the position of Chinese ecolinguistics? Chinese scholars have tried to answer these two questions. For example, Zhou Wenjuan (2018) in the article *A Review on the Introduction of Studies of Ecolinguistics abroad into the Chinese Academia* divided the development of ecolinguistics into three stages: the germination stage (1985-2003), the development stage (2004-2012), and the prosperity stage (2013-present). The introduction of Western ecolinguistics in China has been carefully sorted out. Li Qian (2018), in the article *Diachronic Development and Integrative Study on Chinese and Western Ecolinguistics* divided it into three somewhat overlapping stages: the embryonic stage (1980s-1990s), the theory introduction phase (2000-present), and the local innovation and application development phase (2010-present).

It should be noted that the development of ecolinguistics in China has not stopped at the introduction of Western ecolinguistics, nor has it fully accepted Western ecological philosophy, nor has it sought to integrate the Chinese and Western ecolinguistics research paradigms and directions on the basis of Western ecological philosophy. However, based on absorbing and drawing on the achievements of Western ecolinguistics research, Haugen's metaphorical paradigm and Halliday's non-metaphorical paradigm have been innovated upon. More importantly, Chinese ecolinguistic researchers have adhered to the Marxist ecological theory, especially the ecological thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era as a guide, thereby inheriting ancient Chinese ecological philosophy, and exploring Chinese characteristics of ecolinguistics in combination with China's reality for the construction of a beautiful China and ecologically-friendly civilization.

There is no doubt that the development of ecolinguistics in China can be explained scientifically and objectively only by understanding the historical events occurring in the Chinese ecolinguistics field. Therefore, since the reform and opening up, what historical events have taken place in the Chinese ecolinguistics field? What are the landmark achievements in the development of Chinese ecolinguistics? What are the characteristics and experience of the development of Chinese ecolinguistics? This article will provide an overview of these issues.

2 Historical Events in the Chinese Ecolinguistics Field

In the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the establishment of the China Association of Ecolinguistics (April 2017) and the first ecolinguistics doctoral student program in China (September 2017) have been two historical events in the development of ecolinguistics in China. The former was a sign of the shift in the development of ecolinguistics in China from the stage of individual spontaneous participation in academic research (1978 to April 2017) to the stage of promoting academic research by research institutes (April 2017 until now). The latter was a sign of the shift from the academic research phase promoted by research associations to the phase of training high-level talent, and performing scientific research and social service (September 2017 to present), which are promoted by institutions of higher learning and the research association.

On April 28, 2017, the establishment of the China Association of Ecolinguistics (CAE) was a “new milestone” in the development of ecolinguistics in China (WEI; HE, 2017, p. 40). It ended the long history of individual participation in academic research in the development of ecolinguistics in China and started the historical process of promoting academic research by the CAE. The CAE launched the historical process of joining The International Ecolinguistics Association as a research group, undertaking corresponding responsibilities and fulfilling respective obligations. The research group was organized to carry out an international symposium on ecolinguistics in China, to promote international cooperation in ecolinguistics research, to undertake the historical process of the social responsibility of Chinese linguists to build an ecologically-mindful civilization and a beautiful China, and to cooperate with other countries to build a community for the shared future of humanity.

In September 2017, China’s first doctoral candidates in ecolinguistics were enrolled at South China Agricultural University, marking another milestone in the development of ecolinguistics in China. The enrollment of doctoral students was a high-level educational activity based on the “Doctoral Program” approved by the departments concerned. In 2016, Professor Huang Guowen set up a team to establish the “Research Center for Ecolinguistics” at South China Agricultural University and establish a doctoral program in “Ecology of Language” under the first-level discipline “Ecology.” In September 2017, he officially launched the enrollment in the first doctoral program of ecolinguistics in China. This ended the long history of the development of China’s ecolinguistics discipline that did only scientific research and had no high-level talent

training. It began the historical process of construction of doctoral programs in ecolinguistics in China, and the all-around development of social services and international exchanges and cooperation in ecolinguistics in China through the training of high-level talent and scientific research. Since then, China's ecolinguistics has entered a new era that fully embraces the three social functions of colleges and universities: talent training, scientific research and social services.

3 Landmark Achievements in Various Stages of the Development of Ecolinguistics in China

At every stage of the development of ecolinguistics in China, a number of landmark achievements have taken place. In the stage of personal participation in academic research, the following achievements were of symbolic significance. The book *Ecological Chinese Studies* by Li Guozheng (1991) considered the language system as an ecosystem and a level in the entire ecosystem, revealing the inherent connection and interaction between language and its environment. This marks the beginning of the ecological return of Chinese linguistic research. *Introduction to Language Ecology* by Feng Guangyi (2013) systematically sorted out and analyzed existing research findings of language ecology in China and abroad at that time and identified the research objects of the study as the ecology of language. This indicates that Chinese language ecology had entered a new stage of systematic introduction, reference and application of the Haugen paradigm.

Huang Guowen (2016a, p. 11) proposed the “think and act ecolinguistically” ecological linguistic research concept based on a comparison of the development of ecolinguistics between China and the West. This indicated that Chinese linguistic studies had begun to form their own ecological concepts. Subsequently, Huang Guowen (2016b) analyzed the ecological turn and ecological movement of the humanities and social sciences in China from three perspectives: the ecological orientation of education, the ecological orientation of language researchers, and the generalization of “ecology.” He pointed out that the interaction between human and biosphere, coordinated development between human and nature, and the relationship between human and environment are at the core of ecological research. He also stated that “Ecology” is used to indicate harmony between human and nature, harmony between people, and he treated ecology as a choice, a process, an adaptation, with the goal of being the overall harmony of humanity and nature. This

indicated that the development of Chinese ecolinguistics had begun to form its own core research objects, and had started the historical process of the integration of metaphorical and non-metaphorical approaches; Huang Guowen and Chen Yang (2016) revealed the internal connection between the ecological philosophy and ecological analysis of discourse, and proposed that ecolinguistics should bear the social responsibility of creating “Ecological Man” (*shengtai ren* 生态人), which indicated that the development of ecolinguistics in China had begun to form its own historical mission of carrying educational functions, and had opened up the fulfillment of cultivation for the construction of ecological civilization and a beautiful China. These landmark achievements of China’s ecolinguistics development via the spontaneous participation of individuals in academic research have created academic conditions for the establishment of the China Association of Ecolinguistics, and laid an academic foundation for the promotion of the China Association of Ecolinguistics to the stage of academic research.

The following results were of great significance in the research promotion stage of academic research. Huang Guowen and Zhao Ruihua (2017) systematically reviewed Western critical discourse analysis and positive discourse analysis, interpreted harmonious discourse analysis in the Chinese context, and advanced the theoretical assumptions that language creates meaning, language constructs reality, language construes experience, language reflects our thinking, language expression strengthens or even reshapes our understanding of the world, and language guides and influences our behavior. They put forward the idea that the goal of ecological discourse analysis is to explore the interrelationships and interactions between language and ecology and reveal the relationship between language and various ecological relationships (including the sustainable relationship between humans and non-human organisms, the relationship between the sustainable life of human beings and the natural environment). They defined the principle of ecological discourse analysis as unity between humans and nature, human peace, social harmony and ecological protection. They identified the approach of ecological discourse analysis as a multi-dimensional, multi-level analysis of discourse. This indicated that the development of Chinese ecolinguistics had begun to take shape in the Chinese context, based on historical materialism and the idea of a socialist ecological civilization with Chinese characteristics in the new era, which embodied the unity of value judgment and scientific judgment. He Wei and Zhang Ruijie (2017, p. 64) refined and extended “the transitivity, mood, modality, appraisal, theme and information systems within Systemic Functional Linguistics from the perspective of ecology.” Following

Stibbe (2015), they divided discourses into three types: eco-beneficial, eco-destructive and eco-ambivalent ones. This indicated the substantial progress made in the construction of ecological discourse analysis model within the framework of systemic functional linguistics (HALLIDAY, 1985). The development of China's ecolinguistics in the academic research stage promoted these landmark achievements, which not only further deepened the achievements obtained in the previous stage, but it also created conditions for more symbolic achievements in the latter stages.

Colleges, universities and the Association now work together to promote the development of high-level talent, scientific research and social services, which has brought about the following landmark achievements. Based on the existing research, Huang Guowen (2018) further elaborated the philosophical roots, research goals and principles, theoretical guidance, research methods and research objects of the ecological harmonious discourse analysis model. This indicated that Chinese ecolinguistics had basically completed the theoretical construction of the harmonious discourse analysis model of ecological discourse in the Chinese context. Huang Guowen and Wang Hongyang (2018) applied the American psychologist Gibson's theory of provision to ecolinguistics and revealed the internal relationship between the theory of provision, ecological issues, and ecological language. This indicated that China's ecolinguistics had begun to consolidate its theoretical foundation with ecological theories and ecological laws. He Wei and Wei Rong (2018) revealed the applicability of ecolinguistics in the areas of education, translation, literary criticism, environmental protection and international relations, based on a review of the development of ecolinguistics. This is in line with Huang Guowen's (2018) view of ecolinguistics as applied linguistics, marking a broader consensus among academics on the nature of ecolinguistics in China as an applied discipline. Wang Yin (2018, p. 22) integrated the core principles of "Reality—Cognition—Language" in cognitive linguistics with ecolinguistics to construct "Cognitive Ecolinguistics". This marked the expansion of ecolinguistics in China into the field of cognitive theory. *Anthology of Ecolinguistics* by Fan Junjun and Xiao Zihui (2018) consisted of 13 articles on ecolinguistics concerning the theory of language ecology, the definition of ecolinguistics, the relationship between linguistic diversity and biodiversity, the measurement methods and indexes of linguistic diversity and the ecological crises of language in China. It is a valuable reference for current research and teaching ecolinguistics, as it indicated that China's ecolinguistics had begun to focus on promoting discipline construction in terms of talent training and teaching.

Over the past 40 years of reform and opening up, these achievements have been made at various stages of the development of ecolinguistics in China. They are the result of the inclusiveness, innovativeness, perseverance and hard work of Chinese language workers. By examining these landmark achievements in the Chinese context, we can summarize the characteristics and experience of the development of Chinese ecolinguistics.

4 Characteristics and Experience of the Development of Ecolinguistics in China

In the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the characteristics and experience of the development of China's ecolinguistics are: adhering to the leading position of Chinese Marxist ecological civilization thought, adhering to the high starting point of the construction of ecolinguistics discipline in China and adhering to the innovation of the approach of ecological discourse analysis in the Chinese context..

4.1 Adhering to the Leading Position of Chinese Marxist Ecological Civilization Thought

Chinese Marxist ecological civilization thought is the product of the combination of Marxist ecological civilization thought and the concrete practice of Chinese ecological civilization construction. Among them, Xi Jinping's thought of socialist ecological civilization with Chinese characteristics in the new era is the latest achievement of China's Marxist ecological civilization thought and is the guiding ideology of China's ecological civilization construction. The report of the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed the construction of ecological civilization for the first time. Just as Lan Qing (2015) pointed out, at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party, a systematic theoretical system of ecological civilization construction was placed in China's strategic general layout. This systematic theoretical system of ecological civilization construction is the ideological system of socialist ecological civilization with Chinese characteristics in the new era. It is the discipline of Chinese humanities and social sciences related to the construction of ecological civilization under the guidance of this ideological system. In this sense, Chinese Marxist ecological civilization thought constitutes the core element of the Chinese context for the development of Chinese ecolinguistics. In the development of ecolinguistics in China, Chinese Marxist ecological civilization thought is the theoretical basis of

the guiding ideology of ecolinguistics research in China, and it is in the leading position of the discipline. In this sense, the study of ecolinguistics in the Chinese context is the study of ecolinguistics under the guidance of Chinese Marxist ecological civilization, which is the main theme of the development of ecolinguistics in China. For example, Huang Guowen, one of the leading figures in China's ecolinguistics, published a book *What Is Ecolinguistics?* (HUANG; ZHAO, 2019) and a series of papers such as *Ecological Orientation of Foreign Language Teaching and Research* (2016b), *On the Origin, Aims, Principles and Methodology of Eco-discourse Analysis* (HUANG; ZHAO, 2017), *One Assumption and Three Principles for Ecological Analysis of Discourse and Behavior* (2017), *From Eco-critical Discourse Analysis to Harmonious Discourse Analysis* (2018), which all put ecolinguistics and ecological discourse in the Chinese context for investigation, and they were all related to the purpose of serving China's ecological civilization. They are concrete manifestations of adhering to the leading position of Chinese Marxist ecological civilization thought in Chinese ecolinguistics. As Huang Guowen (2016b) pointed out, the construction of ecological civilization has been explicitly written into the report of 18th National Congress of the Communist Party. The construction of ecological civilization at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee was first written into the Five-Year Plan (13th Five-Year Plan) and listed as one of the "five major constructions" in contemporary China. President Xi Jinping has also repeatedly affirmed that "ecological prosperity leads to that of civilization" (生态兴则文明兴) and that "clean waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" (绿水青山就是金山银山). This is a national-level understanding of ecological issues and it also marks the strategic and revolutionary improvement of national ecological awareness. In the Chinese context, "ecology" refers not only to the relationship between living organisms and their living environment, and the structural and functional relationships formed between them and their interactions, but it is used to mean "harmony": harmony between man and nature, harmony between people. In view of this, Tan (2018) in her article *Value Judgment and Scientific Judgment of Ecological Discourse* advocates understanding the basic assumption of "people-orientedness" and the three principles (i.e., the principle of conscience, the principle of proximity, and the principle of regulation) put forward by Huang Guowen (2017) from the practical and theoretical level of the contemporary Chinese context, and Tan (2018) summarizes the practical level of contemporary Chinese context as: the context consisting of solving the problem of imbalanced and insufficient development, solving the problem of ecological environment protection, conducting

great struggles, building great projects, advancing great causes, realizing great dreams via the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and building a beautiful China, etc. The theoretical level of the contemporary Chinese context is summarized as: the context formed by Marxism and socialist thought with Chinese characteristics in the new era; Feng Guangyi (2013) wrote a special chapter in *Introduction to Language Ecology* to discuss issues related to language ecology and the construction of ecological civilization. The model constructed by He Wei and Zhang Ruijie (2017) in *An Ecological Analytical Framework for Discourse* aims to allow language researchers to create more eco-beneficial discourse and reduce or resist the generation of eco-destructive discourse, and truly fulfill the social responsibility of language researchers, which is truly based on serving ecological civilization. It can be said that adhering to the leading position of Chinese Marxist ecological civilization thought is a major characteristic of the development of Chinese ecolinguistics. It can also be said that only by adhering to the leading position of the Chinese Marxist ecological civilization thought can the development of Chinese ecolinguistics have a bright future, and Chinese ecological linguists can make a difference and truly shoulder the responsibility of building ecological civilization and a beautiful China. This is a summary of the experience of China's ecolinguistics development in the 40 years of reform and opening up.

4.2 Adhering to the High Starting Point of the Construction of Ecolinguistics Discipline in China

The main manifestation of adhering to a high starting point of constructing the discipline of ecolinguistics in China was China's first recruitment of PhD students in ecolinguistics. As a discipline requiring the three basic functions of talent training, scientific research and social service in colleges and universities, the construction of ecolinguistics in China started with the enrollment of PhD students in ecolinguistics at South China Agricultural University. This was another major feature and experience of the development of ecolinguistics in China. Disciplines refer to both a relatively independent knowledge system and the basic units and organizational methods that carry the three basic functions of talent training, scientific research and social services in colleges and universities. The history of disciplinary development shows that a discipline that cannot fully conduct the three basic functions of a higher education institution will find it difficult to gain a foothold in a higher education institution; a discipline that does not have the need to train

high-level professional talent will also find it difficult to establish a foothold in a higher education institution. The ecological transformation of human civilization, the transformation of human industrial civilization to ecological civilization and China's strategic positioning and layout of building ecological civilization all indicate that the demand for high-level talent in ecolinguistics is growing in economic and social development. The demand for the cultivation of high-level talent in China's ecolinguistics is an increasing trend. China's ecolinguistics discipline development has good opportunities but faces great challenges. High-level talent in ecolinguistics are mainly placed in relevant disciplines, research institutions and government departments of higher education institutions. In higher education institutions, they are mainly engaged in teaching and scientific research. In research institutions, they are mainly engaged in scientific research. In relevant government departments, they mainly provide consulting services for government decision-making. Therefore, high-level talent in ecolinguistics can only do such work if they have strong scientific research capabilities. This means that the opportunity brought by the growing demand for the cultivation of high-level talent in China's ecolinguistics is that the construction of China's ecolinguistics does not have to be tied to the tradition of enrolling students in junior colleges, undergraduate institutes and masters programs, and it is possible to break this tradition and start enrollment directly with a PhD. Seizing this opportunity is a huge challenge in itself, because to cross the stage of junior college, undergraduate and masters training, and directly enter the doctoral stage means facing difficulties in overcoming all aspects of doctoral degree authorization, faculty, and curriculum settings. We need to have courage to overcome these difficulties. The team formed by Professor Huang Guowen of South China Agricultural University has persisted in the high starting point of the construction of ecolinguistics discipline in China, facing these huge challenges and seizing this good opportunity to launch the recruitment of the first doctoral students of ecolinguistics in China in September 2017. This is a great miracle for the admission of PhD students in ecolinguistics in China.

4.3 Adhering to the Innovation of the Approach of Ecological Discourse Analysis in Chinese Context

The main manifestation of adhering to the innovation of the approach of ecological discourse analysis in the Chinese context is to propose and continuously improve the approach of ecological

harmonious discourse analysis in the Chinese context. The analysis approach of ecological “harmonious discourse” in the Chinese context was first proposed by Huang Guowen (2016b, p.10), which is based on Western eco-critical discourse analysis, eco-positive discourse analysis, ecological beneficial, destructive and ambivalent discourse analysis (hereinafter referred to as the “three-type” ecological discourse analysis). It is the application of Chinese socialist ecological civilization thought in ecolinguistics in the new era. This is a major feature and experience of the development of ecolinguistics in China.

Eco-critical discourse analysis originated in the 1970s, which was an influential era of ecological discourse analysis in Western ecolinguistics theories. Insisting on this approach was of great practical significance for exposing and removing the ideological roots of anthropocentrism and economic growthism caused by the ecological crises, lifting all the obstacles that hinder the development of ecological civilization, promoting the ecological turn of human civilization, and building ecological civilization. However, eco-critical discourse analysis is also marginalized by the elimination of the mainstream of Western public opinion. According to this understanding, Western eco-discourse analysts have proposed an eco-positive discourse analytical approach, advocating eco-positive discourse, emphasizing the constructive function of positive discourse on ecology, and criticizing the destructive function of negative discourse on ecology. In this sense, ecological positive discourse has taken a step towards ecological construction. The problem is that positive and negative are just attitude issues, and they do not refer to ideological or ecological philosophical issues. Just like those corporate bosses and politicians who use “green discourse” to talk about environmental protection and environmental protection products mostly use “greenwashing” as a language strategy while their ideology is still non-ecological. In order to overcome the shortcomings of eco-positive discourse analysis, Stibbe (2015) proposed a “three-type” ecological discourse analysis approach, advocating beneficial discourse, revealing and criticizing destructive discourse and dialectically treating ambivalent discourse. After all, the beneficial or destructive or ambivalent judgment of discourse has involved ideology and ecological philosophy. This means that the constructive function of beneficial discourse on ecology has taken a larger step towards ecological civilization than the constructive function of positive discourse on ecology. However, the use of discourse as a beneficial or destructive or ambivalent judgment is a consequence judgment, which means that “three-type” ecological discourse analysis is not suitable for predictive and constructive judgment. Besides, the beneficial or destructive or ambivalent

judgment of discourse, although it involves ideology and ecological philosophy, it still does not involve the value judgment of “beneficial to whom”. Therefore, the eco-criticism discourse analysis approach, eco-positive discourse analysis approach, and “three-type” ecological discourse analysis approach proposed by Western ecolinguists all need to be deepened in different ways. Based on in-depth research into the three analytical paths of Western eco-criticism discourse analysis, eco-positive discourse analysis and “three-type” ecological discourse analysis, Huang Guowen proposed a new approach of ecological harmonious discourse analysis in the Chinese context. He (2016b) put forward in the article *Ecological Orientation of Foreign Language Teaching and Research* that the ecological analysis of our discourse should focus on exploring the construction and promotion of harmonious discourse, and he advocates using *tianren heyi* (天人合一) and other ancient Chinese ecological philosophy and “holism” methodology to construct “Chinese-style” harmonious discourse analysis theory and to apply it to Chinese language practice and theory. Later, Huang Guowen and Chen Yang (2016), Huang Guowen (2017), Huang Guowen and Zhao Ruihua (2017), Zhao Ruihua and Huang Guowen (2017) successively published papers, and systematically discussed the theoretical issues of ecological harmonious discourse analysis. Thus, the analytical path of ecological harmonious discourse analysis in the Chinese context has gradually formed and embodies the holism, integrity, and sustainability of ecology, reflects the laws of ecology and adheres to the unity of value judgment and scientific judgment of ecological discourse, with truth and universality. It can be said that ecological harmonious discourse analysis in the Chinese context is a new development in the study of ecolinguistics in China, and it is a Chinese reflection for international ecological linguistics.

5 Conclusion

The above overview shows that in the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the development of ecolinguistics in China has been marked by the establishment of China Association of Ecolinguistics and the launching of the first Chinese “Doctoral Program” of ecolinguistics. Ecolinguistics in China has experienced the stage of individual spontaneous participation in academic research; the academic research committee has promoted the academic research stage and higher education institutions and research institutes have worked together to promote the development of high-level talent, scientific research and social service. Ecolinguistics in China has

successfully realized major transformation from a singular focus on scientific research at higher education institutions to comprehensively carrying out the three basic functions of talent training, scientific research and social services at higher education institutions. Each stage of the development of China's ecolinguistics has produced a number of landmark achievements, which have contributed to advancing the construction of this discipline, serving the construction of ecological civilization and a beautiful China. A review of the development of Chinese ecolinguistics in the past 40 years shows that it centers on Chinese Marxist ecological civilization thought, the high starting point of the construction of ecolinguistics discipline in China and the innovation of the approach of ecological discourse analysis in the Chinese context, which are not only the three characteristics of the development of ecolinguistics in China, but also the reflections of the development of ecolinguistics in China. The approach of ecological harmonious discourse analysis in the Chinese context is put forward and developed on the basis of absorbing the positive achievements of Western eco-critical discourse analysis, eco-positive discourse analysis and "three-type" ecological discourse analysis, which is a Chinese initiative for international exchange of ecolinguistics. We look forward to promoting the development of ecolinguistics from a new perspective through the international response of this initiative. Of course, the development of ecolinguistics in China still has shortcomings, such as insufficient promotion of discipline status, uneven research teams and lack of discipline construction platforms. However, we linguists should firmly believe that in the new era of accelerating the construction of ecological civilization and a beautiful China, under the guidance of Xi Jinping's new era of socialist ecological civilization with Chinese characteristics, the development of ecolinguistics in China will usher in a more brilliant tomorrow.

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Aceito em 16/05/2020.

ECOLINGUÍSTICA: REVISTA BRASILEIRA DE
ECOLOGIA E LINGUAGEM (ECO-REBEL), V. 6, N. 2, 2020.