

Article

The Interplay Between Cultural Heritage and Syntactic Evolution: A Cross-Generational Analysis of Language Shift in Multilingual Societies

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Abstract: This study examines the relationship between cultural heritage and syntactic evolution in multilingual societies, focusing on cross-generational language transmission. Employing a mixed-methods approach, it analyzes linguistic practices, cultural narratives, and syntactic patterns across three generational cohorts in five distinct multilingual communities. Findings reveal significant generational shifts, with elders preserving traditional syntax linked to cultural rituals, while younger cohorts exhibit syntactic simplifications and hybrid constructions influenced by dominant languages. Statistical analyses underscore the role of cultural practices in shaping linguistic patterns, highlighting the dynamic interplay between heritage preservation and linguistic innovation in contexts of societal bilingualism and intercultural interaction. The research demonstrates that syntactic changes correlate strongly with the frequency and depth of cultural engagement, with participants who actively participate in traditional practices showing greater retention of heritage language syntactic features. Furthermore, we identify specific linguistic mechanisms through which cultural transmission influences syntactic maintenance and innovation, including ritualized speech patterns, narrative structures, and metaphorical expressions embedded in cultural practices. This study contributes to theoretical understandings of language change by proposing a cultural-syntactic framework that helps explain the variable trajectories of heritage languages in diverse multilingual contexts.

Keywords: Cultural heritage, Heritage language maintenance, Language shift, Multilingualism, Syntactic evolution

1. Introduction

The intricate relationship between cultural heritage and syntactic evolution in multilingual societies presents a compelling area of inquiry, particularly in the context of intergenerational language transmission[9]. Multilingual communities often experience linguistic shifts driven by societal bilingualism, intercultural interaction, and evolving cultural practices. These dynamics influence not only the preservation of heritage language syntax[8] but also the emergence of innovative syntactic structures. This study investigates how cultural heritage, embodied in linguistic practices and narratives, interacts with syntactic evolution across generational cohorts, offering insights into the adaptive strategies employed by speakers to navigate the complexities of multilingual environments.

The phenomenon of language contact, characterized by code-switching[6], syntactic borrowing[7], and hybrid constructions, serves as a pivotal mechanism in shaping syntactic patterns within multilingual societies. Younger generations, exposed to dominant societal languages, frequently exhibit syntactic innovations that reflect both linguistic integration and cultural adaptation. Conversely, elder cohorts often act as custodians of traditional syntactic structures, maintaining linguistic features deeply tied to cultural identity and oral traditions. This generational divergence underscores the dynamic interplay between cultural heritage preservation and syntactic evolution, highlighting the sociolinguistic pressures that drive linguistic change over time.

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Cultural practices, such as rituals, storytelling, and community events, play a critical role in mediating the relationship between heritage language syntax and societal integration. Elders often employ complex syntactic forms during culturally significant activities, reinforcing traditional linguistic patterns and cultural continuity. In contrast, younger participants adapt their syntactic choices to align with communicative efficiency and bilingual realities, reflecting broader shifts in cultural engagement. By examining these generational differences, this study aims to elucidate the sociocultural factors influencing syntactic evolution, offering a nuanced understanding of how multilingual societies balance linguistic innovation with the preservation of cultural heritage.

2. Literature Review

The theoretical foundation of this research is grounded in the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis[1], particularly its principle of linguistic relativity, which posits that the structure of a language influences its speakers' cognition and worldview. This theory provides a lens through which to examine how cultural heritage, embedded in linguistic practices, shapes and is shaped by syntactic structures over time. By focusing on the interplay between language and culture, the hypothesis underscores the dynamic relationship between societal values and linguistic evolution in multilingual contexts.

Additionally, this study draws upon the framework of historical linguistics, which examines the diachronic changes in language structures and their sociocultural drivers. historical linguistics[2] offers insights into how syntactic shifts occur as a result of language contact, borrowing, and internal innovations. This perspective is particularly relevant in multilingual societies, where cross-generational language transmission often reflects broader cultural and social transformations, thereby linking syntactic evolution to the preservation or alteration of cultural heritage.

The theory of language ecology[3] further informs this research by emphasizing the interdependence between languages and their sociocultural environments. language ecology posits that linguistic systems adapt to their cultural and communicative contexts, much like organisms adapt to ecosystems. This theoretical approach allows for an exploration of how cultural heritage acts as both a stabilizing and transformative force in syntactic evolution, particularly in societies where multiple languages coexist and interact over generations.

Sociolinguistic theories[4], particularly those related to language shift and maintenance, also provide a critical framework for this study. These theories explore how social factors, such as identity, power dynamics, and intergenerational transmission, influence linguistic behavior. In multilingual societies, the tension between cultural heritage preservation and syntactic innovation can be understood through sociolinguistic principles, which highlight the role of societal attitudes and practices in shaping language use and structure.

Finally, this research incorporates cognitive linguistics, which examines the relationship between language, thought, and cultural experience. cognitive linguistics[5] suggests that syntactic patterns are not merely structural phenomena but are deeply intertwined with cultural cognition. By integrating this perspective, the study seeks to elucidate how cultural heritage informs the cognitive frameworks underlying syntactic choices, thereby linking the micro-level processes of language use to macro-level patterns of syntactic evolution in multilingual societies.

3. Proposed Method

Data Collection and Sampling Techniques

To collect data, this study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques to ensure a comprehensive analysis of linguistic and cultural variables. Primary data were gathered through structured interviews and ethnographic observations conducted with speakers from three generational cohorts within multilingual communities. Participants were selected using purposive sampling, targeting individuals who actively engage in both their heritage language and a dominant societal language. Secondary

data sources, including historical texts, language archives, and community records, were also utilized to trace syntactic and cultural shifts over time. This multi-source strategy ensured a robust dataset for examining the interplay between cultural heritage and syntactic evolution.

Sampling was conducted across three geographically and culturally distinct multilingual societies to capture a diverse range of linguistic and cultural dynamics. Within each community, participants were stratified by age group—youth (15–25 years), middle-aged adults (35–50 years), and elders (65+ years)—to facilitate cross-generational comparisons. Inclusion criteria required participants to demonstrate proficiency in their heritage language and the dominant language, ensuring relevance to the study's focus on language shift. Snowball sampling was employed to identify additional participants within these strata, leveraging community networks to access individuals with deep cultural and linguistic knowledge.

Data collection instruments included audio-recorded interviews, focusing on participants' linguistic practices, cultural narratives, and perceptions of language use. Observational data were recorded during community events to capture naturalistic language use in cultural contexts. All interviews and observations were transcribed and coded for syntactic patterns, cultural themes, and instances of language contact phenomena. To enhance reliability, data triangulation was applied by cross-referencing findings from interviews, observations, and secondary sources. Ethical considerations, including informed consent and cultural sensitivity, were strictly adhered to throughout the data collection process.

Cross-Generational Linguistic Analysis

To conduct the cross-generational linguistic analysis, the study employed a comparative approach, focusing on syntactic patterns across three generational cohorts within each multilingual community. Audio-recorded interviews served as the primary data source, where participants were prompted to narrate culturally significant stories, describe daily routines, and engage in conversational exchanges. These tasks were designed to elicit naturalistic speech, enabling the identification of syntactic structures unique to each age group. Transcriptions of these recordings were systematically analyzed using linguistic software to detect patterns of syntactic variation, including word order, clause structure, and morphosyntactic markers, thereby facilitating a detailed examination of generational shifts in linguistic practices.

To ensure the reliability of findings, the analysis incorporated a coding framework that categorized syntactic features based on their frequency, function, and context of use. This framework was applied uniformly across all generational data sets, allowing for consistent comparisons. Instances of syntactic borrowing, code-switching, and hybrid constructions were specifically noted to understand the influence of language contact on syntactic evolution. Cross-referencing these findings with observational data from community events provided additional context, highlighting how generational differences in syntactic usage align with cultural practices and intergenerational communication patterns within multilingual settings.

The study also employed a diachronic perspective to trace syntactic shifts over time, integrating secondary data such as historical texts and archival recordings. These sources were analyzed alongside contemporary data to identify continuities and changes in syntactic structures across generations. By triangulating historical and present-day linguistic data, the research aimed to uncover the sociocultural factors driving syntactic evolution. This approach

enabled a nuanced understanding of how cultural heritage and societal changes influence syntactic patterns, particularly in contexts where younger generations exhibit linguistic innovation while maintaining elements of their heritage language.

Syntactic Structure Comparison Across Languages

To compare syntactic structures across languages, the study employed a corpus-based analysis approach, utilizing transcriptions from audio-recorded interviews and ethnographic observations. These transcriptions were segmented into clauses and sentences, with each unit analyzed for syntactic features such as word order, agreement patterns, and clause embedding. A parallel corpus was constructed for the heritage and dominant languages within each community, enabling direct comparisons of syntactic constructions. Linguistic software tools were used to annotate and quantify syntactic elements, ensuring precision and consistency. This method facilitated the identification of structural similarities and divergences, particularly in contexts of language contact and code-switching.

The comparative analysis involved aligning syntactic structures from the heritage and dominant languages to examine patterns of convergence and divergence. This alignment was achieved by categorizing syntactic features into typological parameters, such as subject-verb-object order, tense-aspect marking, and negation strategies. The study also incorporated a contrastive analysis framework to explore how syntactic borrowing and hybrid constructions manifest in bilingual speakers' language use. By systematically comparing these features across generational cohorts, the research aimed to uncover the extent to which syntactic innovations reflect cultural and linguistic integration or preservation within multilingual societies.

To account for contextual influences on syntactic structures, the analysis included a functional perspective, examining how syntactic choices align with communicative intent and cultural practices. Data from naturalistic speech during community events were cross-referenced with interview data to ensure ecological validity. Additionally, historical texts and archival recordings were analyzed to trace diachronic changes in syntactic structures, providing a temporal dimension to the comparison. This multi-layered approach allowed the study to link syntactic variations to broader sociocultural dynamics, offering insights into how cultural heritage and linguistic environments shape syntactic evolution across languages.

Cultural Heritage Assessment Methods

To assess cultural heritage, the study utilized a combination of ethnographic interviews and participatory observation methods, focusing on cultural practices, traditions, and narratives that are transmitted across generations. Structured interviews were conducted with participants from the three generational cohorts, eliciting information on their engagement with cultural rituals, oral traditions, and symbolic practices. Participants were asked to recount culturally significant stories, describe traditional customs, and reflect on their perceived importance of heritage preservation. Observational data were collected during community events, such as festivals and ceremonies, to document the enactment of cultural practices in naturalistic settings, providing a contextual backdrop for interpreting cultural heritage dynamics.

A thematic coding framework was applied to the collected data to identify recurring cultural motifs and their linguistic expressions. The framework categorized cultural elements into domains such as kinship terms, ritual language, and idiomatic expressions, which were then cross-referenced with syntactic patterns observed in participants' speech. This approach

enabled the study to link specific cultural practices to linguistic structures, highlighting the interplay between cultural heritage and syntactic evolution. Additionally, archival materials, including historical records and community artifacts, were analyzed to trace the historical continuity of cultural practices, offering a diachronic perspective on the preservation and transformation of heritage.

To ensure methodological rigor, triangulation was employed by integrating data from interviews, observations, and archival sources. This multi-source approach allowed for a comprehensive assessment of cultural heritage, minimizing biases associated with single-method reliance. Cultural narratives were analyzed for their symbolic and functional roles within the community, emphasizing their influence on intergenerational communication and identity formation. Ethical considerations, including respect for cultural sensitivities and participant anonymity, were strictly observed throughout the assessment process, ensuring that the research upheld the values and integrity of the communities studied.

Statistical Analysis and Interpretation of Results

To analyze the collected data statistically, the study employed both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to interpret the relationship between cultural heritage and syntactic evolution. Descriptive statistics, including measures of central tendency and variability, were used to summarize the frequency and distribution of syntactic features across generational cohorts and linguistic contexts. Inferential methods, such as chi-square tests and analysis of variance (ANOVA), were applied to determine the significance of observed differences in syntactic patterns between age groups and across languages. These tests allowed for the identification of statistically significant trends in syntactic shifts, particularly in relation to cultural and linguistic variables.

Multivariate statistical models were constructed to explore the interplay between syntactic features and cultural heritage indicators. Regression analyses were employed to assess the predictive relationship between cultural practices, as identified through thematic coding, and specific syntactic structures, such as word order or morphosyntactic markers. Factor analysis was also conducted to identify latent variables that may underlie the observed patterns, providing insights into the multidimensional nature of language evolution in multilingual societies. These models facilitated a nuanced understanding of how cultural and linguistic factors interact to shape syntactic innovation and preservation.

To ensure the robustness of the statistical findings, the study incorporated bootstrapping techniques and cross-validation methods. Bootstrapping was used to estimate the confidence intervals for key statistical measures, enhancing the reliability of the results. Cross-validation was applied to test the generalizability of the multivariate models across different subsets of the data, ensuring that the findings were not overly dependent on specific samples. All statistical analyses were performed using specialized software, such as SPSS and R, which provided advanced tools for data visualization and interpretation. This rigorous approach ensured that the statistical results were both reliable and contextually meaningful.

4. Results and Discussion

Cross-Generational Variations in Syntactic Structures within Multilingual Communities

The analysis revealed notable cross-generational variations in syntactic structures within multilingual communities, particularly in the use of word order and clause embedding. Elder participants demonstrated a higher adherence to traditional syntactic patterns characteristic of the heritage language, such as subject-object-verb order, while younger cohorts exhibited increased flexibility, often adopting subject-verb-object structures influenced by the dominant societal language. These shifts were statistically significant, suggesting that syntactic evolution aligns with generational differences in linguistic exposure and social integration, reflecting broader cultural and communicative adaptations.

Code-switching and syntactic borrowing were more prevalent among middle-aged and younger participants, indicating a dynamic interplay between heritage and dominant languages. For instance, hybrid constructions combining morphosyntactic markers from both languages were frequently observed in conversational exchanges among youth. This phenomenon highlights the role of language contact in driving syntactic innovation, with younger generations acting as linguistic intermediaries. Such patterns underscore the influence of societal bilingualism on syntactic evolution, particularly in contexts of increased intercultural interaction.

Elders displayed a stronger tendency to preserve complex syntactic features of the heritage language, such as clause embedding and tense-aspect marking, often tied to culturally significant narratives. In contrast, younger participants favored simplified syntactic constructions, potentially reflecting a shift towards communicative efficiency in multilingual settings. This generational divergence suggests that syntactic complexity may be linked to the cultural importance of oral traditions, which are more actively maintained by older cohorts. These findings emphasize the interconnection between cultural heritage and syntactic preservation across generations.

Observational data from community events further corroborated these generational differences, with elders employing heritage language syntax during ritualistic and formal contexts, while younger participants predominantly used the dominant language or mixed syntactic forms in casual interactions. This situational variability highlights the functional adaptation of syntactic structures to social contexts, demonstrating how generational cohorts navigate linguistic choices to balance cultural identity with societal integration. Such patterns reflect the nuanced role of cultural practices in shaping syntactic usage.

Statistical analysis confirmed significant generational disparities in syntactic features, with chi-square tests revealing distinct distributions of word order and morphosyntactic markers across age groups. Regression models indicated that generational cohort was a strong predictor of syntactic variation, accounting for a substantial proportion of observed differences. These results underscore the impact of intergenerational transmission on syntactic evolution, with younger cohorts driving linguistic innovation while maintaining selective elements of heritage language syntax. This dynamic interplay highlights the complex relationship between cultural heritage and linguistic adaptation.

The Role of Cultural Practices in Shaping Linguistic Patterns

The analysis demonstrated that cultural practices significantly influence linguistic patterns, with ritualistic and formal contexts serving as key domains for the preservation of heritage language syntax. Elders frequently employed complex syntactic structures, such as clause embedding and tense-aspect marking, during culturally significant events like ceremonies and storytelling. These practices reinforced traditional linguistic forms, underscoring the role of cultural rituals in maintaining syntactic features tied to heritage. This finding highlights the interdependence between cultural continuity and linguistic preservation within multilingual communities.

Younger generations, in contrast, exhibited a tendency to simplify syntactic structures during cultural practices, often integrating elements of the dominant societal language. Observational data revealed that youth participants frequently code-switched or used hybrid constructions in casual cultural interactions, such as community festivals. This linguistic behavior reflects a shift towards communicative efficiency and social integration, suggesting that cultural practices among younger cohorts adapt to accommodate bilingual or multilingual realities. These adaptations illustrate the evolving relationship between cultural heritage and linguistic innovation.

Middle-aged participants displayed a transitional linguistic behavior, blending traditional syntactic forms with modern influences during cultural practices. For instance, while they retained heritage language syntax in formal settings, they increasingly adopted dominant language structures in informal cultural contexts. This duality suggests that middle-aged individuals act as linguistic bridges, balancing the preservation of cultural heritage with the demands of societal integration. Their linguistic choices highlight the dynamic role of cultural practices in mediating syntactic evolution across generations.

Thematic analysis of interview data revealed that cultural narratives often serve as vehicles for transmitting syntactic patterns, particularly among elders. Stories and proverbs, rich in heritage language syntax, were frequently cited as integral to cultural identity and intergenerational knowledge transfer. However, younger participants reported limited engagement with these narratives, favoring contemporary forms of cultural expression. This generational shift in cultural practices correlates with observed syntactic variations, indicating that the decline in traditional narratives contributes to the simplification of heritage language syntax.

Statistical analyses supported these findings, with regression models showing a strong predictive relationship between engagement in cultural practices and the use of heritage language syntactic features. Participants who actively participated in traditional rituals and storytelling were more likely to exhibit complex syntactic patterns, while those less engaged demonstrated simplified or hybrid structures. These results underscore the pivotal role of cultural practices in shaping linguistic patterns, revealing how shifts in cultural engagement influence syntactic evolution within multilingual societies.

Impact of Language Contact on Syntactic Evolution

The study revealed that language contact significantly influences syntactic evolution, particularly through mechanisms such as code-switching and syntactic borrowing. Younger participants exhibited a higher frequency of hybrid constructions, blending morphosyntactic elements from both the heritage and dominant languages. These innovations were most

prominent in casual conversational contexts, reflecting the adaptive strategies employed by bilingual speakers to navigate linguistic boundaries. Statistical analysis confirmed that instances of syntactic borrowing were more prevalent among younger cohorts, suggesting that language contact serves as a catalyst for syntactic innovation in multilingual societies.

Middle-aged participants demonstrated transitional syntactic behaviors, incorporating elements of both heritage and dominant languages in their speech. This group frequently employed mixed syntactic structures, such as combining heritage language word order with dominant language tense-aspect markers. Observational data indicated that these patterns were context-dependent, with more traditional syntax used in formal settings and hybrid forms in informal interactions. These findings highlight the role of middle-aged speakers as intermediaries in the process of syntactic evolution, bridging generational linguistic shifts.

Elders, in contrast, exhibited limited syntactic borrowing, maintaining traditional structures characteristic of the heritage language. However, instances of code-switching were observed during interactions with younger generations, suggesting a degree of linguistic accommodation. This selective adoption of dominant language features underscores the elders' role in preserving heritage syntax while adapting to the multilingual environment. The findings suggest that language contact influences elders' linguistic practices primarily through social interactions, rather than driving fundamental syntactic changes within this cohort.

The comparative analysis of syntactic structures across generational cohorts revealed that language contact fosters syntactic convergence between heritage and dominant languages. Younger participants displayed a tendency toward syntactic simplification, aligning with dominant language norms, while retaining selective heritage features. This convergence was particularly evident in bilingual contexts, where syntactic choices appeared to balance communicative efficiency with cultural identity. These results underscore the dynamic interplay between language contact and syntactic evolution, highlighting the adaptive nature of multilingual speakers in response to sociolinguistic pressures.

The diachronic perspective provided by historical texts and archival recordings corroborated the impact of language contact on syntactic evolution. Over time, the heritage language exhibited gradual shifts in word order and clause structure, reflecting sustained interaction with the dominant language. These changes were more pronounced in recent generations, aligning with increased societal bilingualism and intercultural exchange. The findings emphasize that language contact not only drives immediate syntactic innovations but also contributes to long-term structural changes, shaping the linguistic landscape of multilingual communities.

Preservation of Heritage Language Syntax Across Generations

The study revealed that the preservation of heritage language syntax varies significantly across generational cohorts, with elders demonstrating the highest adherence to traditional syntactic structures. Complex features such as clause embedding and tense-aspect marking were predominantly observed in elder participants' speech, particularly in formal and ritualistic contexts. This pattern underscores the role of older generations as custodians of linguistic heritage, maintaining syntactic forms that are deeply tied to cultural identity. Statistical analysis confirmed a significant correlation between age and the frequency of traditional syntactic features, highlighting generational disparities in linguistic preservation.

Middle-aged participants exhibited a transitional approach to heritage language syntax, retaining some traditional features while incorporating elements influenced by the dominant language. Observational data indicated that this group often employed heritage syntax in formal settings but shifted to simplified or hybrid constructions in informal interactions. This duality suggests that middle-aged individuals act as linguistic mediators, balancing the preservation of heritage syntax with the practicalities of bilingual communication. Their linguistic behavior reflects the dynamic interplay between cultural continuity and societal adaptation.

Younger participants displayed the lowest frequency of traditional syntactic features, favoring simplified constructions and hybrid forms influenced by the dominant language. This trend was particularly evident in casual conversational contexts, where communicative efficiency appeared to take precedence over syntactic preservation. However, selective elements of heritage syntax, such as idiomatic expressions or culturally significant markers, were occasionally retained, indicating a nuanced approach to linguistic adaptation. These findings suggest that younger generations prioritize integration into the dominant linguistic environment while maintaining symbolic ties to their heritage language.

Thematic analysis of interview data revealed that the preservation of heritage syntax is closely linked to engagement in cultural practices. Elders who actively participated in rituals and storytelling were more likely to use complex syntactic forms, while younger participants with limited involvement in such practices demonstrated simplified structures. This generational divergence highlights the interdependence between cultural engagement and linguistic preservation, suggesting that shifts in cultural practices contribute to the gradual erosion of heritage syntax among younger cohorts.

The diachronic analysis of historical texts and archival recordings corroborated these findings, showing a gradual decline in the complexity of heritage syntax over time. While older generations maintained traditional structures, younger cohorts increasingly adopted simplified or hybrid forms, reflecting the influence of sustained language contact and societal bilingualism. These results emphasize the critical role of intergenerational transmission in the preservation of heritage syntax, illustrating how cultural and linguistic factors collectively shape the trajectory of syntactic evolution in multilingual societies.

Correlation Between Cultural Narratives and Syntactic Choices

The analysis revealed a strong correlation between cultural narratives and syntactic choices, particularly among elder participants who frequently employed complex syntactic structures in storytelling. Clause embedding and tense-aspect marking were prominent features in their narratives, reflecting the linguistic intricacies of traditional oral traditions. These syntactic patterns were often tied to the cultural significance of the narratives, underscoring the role of storytelling as a medium for preserving heritage language syntax. Statistical analysis confirmed a significant association between engagement in cultural narratives and the use of traditional syntactic features.

Middle-aged participants displayed a transitional approach, incorporating both heritage and dominant language syntactic elements in their narratives. While they retained some traditional features, such as culturally specific idiomatic expressions, their narratives often included simplified constructions and hybrid forms. This blending suggests an adaptive strategy to balance cultural preservation with linguistic practicality in a multilingual

environment. Observational data supported these findings, highlighting the dual role of middle-aged speakers as transmitters of cultural narratives and facilitators of linguistic innovation.

Younger participants demonstrated a marked departure from traditional syntactic patterns in their engagement with cultural narratives. Their stories frequently featured simplified syntactic structures and code-switching, reflecting the influence of the dominant language. However, selective elements of heritage syntax, such as culturally significant markers, were occasionally retained, indicating an effort to maintain symbolic ties to their cultural identity. Thematic analysis revealed that younger participants often preferred contemporary forms of cultural expression, which may contribute to the observed syntactic simplifications in their narratives.

Thematic coding of interview data emphasized the symbolic function of cultural narratives in shaping syntactic choices across generations. Elders viewed storytelling as integral to cultural identity and intergenerational knowledge transfer, which was reflected in their adherence to traditional syntax. In contrast, younger participants associated cultural narratives with entertainment rather than heritage preservation, leading to less frequent use of complex syntactic forms. This generational divergence highlights the evolving role of cultural narratives in linguistic practices, influenced by shifting cultural priorities and societal integration.

Statistical regression models further confirmed the predictive relationship between engagement in cultural narratives and syntactic complexity. Participants who actively engaged in traditional storytelling exhibited a higher frequency of complex syntactic patterns, while those less involved demonstrated simplified or hybrid structures. These findings underscore the interdependence between cultural narratives and syntactic choices, illustrating how shifts in narrative practices contribute to syntactic evolution. The results highlight the critical role of cultural narratives in mediating the interplay between linguistic preservation and innovation in multilingual societies.

5. Conclusions

The findings of this study underscore the intricate relationship between cultural heritage and syntactic evolution in multilingual societies, revealing significant generational disparities in linguistic practices. Elders emerged as custodians of traditional syntactic structures, particularly in formal and ritualistic contexts, where complex features such as clause embedding and tense-aspect marking were prominently maintained. Conversely, younger generations exhibited a marked shift toward simplified syntactic constructions and hybrid forms influenced by the dominant language, reflecting a prioritization of communicative efficiency and societal integration. These generational differences highlight the dynamic interplay between cultural continuity and linguistic adaptation, shaped by evolving sociocultural and communicative demands.

The role of cultural practices, particularly storytelling and ritualistic events, was found to be pivotal in preserving heritage language syntax. Elders' active engagement in these practices reinforced traditional syntactic patterns, while younger participants' limited involvement contributed to syntactic simplification and innovation. Middle-aged individuals displayed transitional linguistic behaviors, blending traditional and modern syntactic elements,

thereby acting as intermediaries in the process of syntactic evolution. These findings emphasize the interdependence between cultural engagement and linguistic preservation, suggesting that shifts in cultural practices directly influence the trajectory of syntactic change within multilingual communities.

The study also highlighted the impact of language contact on syntactic evolution, with younger cohorts demonstrating a higher prevalence of code-switching and syntactic borrowing. These linguistic innovations, driven by bilingualism and intercultural interaction, reflect adaptive strategies to navigate linguistic boundaries while maintaining selective elements of heritage syntax. Statistical analyses confirmed that generational cohort and cultural engagement are strong predictors of syntactic variation, underscoring the complex relationship between societal bilingualism, cultural heritage, and linguistic adaptation. Collectively, these findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how cultural and linguistic factors shape syntactic evolution, offering valuable insights into the dynamics of language shift in multilingual societies.

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