双语政策与作为商业资产的华语：摘要

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新加坡于1966年在所有学校将第二语言列为必修，并在1979年《吴庆瑞报告书》之后，自1987年起将英语定为统一学校体系的第一语言，华语、马来语或淡米尔语则作为分配给各族群的母语来教授。讲华语运动由李光耀于1979年9月7日发起，并辅以让方言退出电视和电台的措施，在一代人之内以华语取代了十几种华人方言，但年长华人社群的文化和家庭生活为此付出了真实的代价。这一成功随后被第二次转变所超越：到2020年，英语已成为新加坡华人最常用的家庭语言，比例为47.6%，华语为40.2%，尽管大多数讲英语的家庭仍以华语为第二语言。在中国对外开放、两国于1990年建立外交关系之后，华语成为一项商业资产，服务于政府间合作项目、服务中国客户的私人银行和家族办公室，以及中文文件的核查。其价值受到几方面的限制：语言水平参差不齐，来自香港和内地毕业生的竞争，以及英语仍是新加坡法律语言这一事实。正因如此，马来语、淡米尔语和英语在国家均衡的多语制中继续各自发挥着应有的作用。

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