雙語政策與華語作為商業資產：摘要

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新加坡於1966年規定所有學校必須修讀第二語言，並在1979年《吳慶瑞報告》發表後，自1987年起把英語定為統一學校制度的第一語言，同時按各族群指定的母語教授華語、馬來語或淡米爾語。講華語運動由李光耀（Lee Kuan Yew）於1979年9月7日推出，並以把方言撤出電視和電台作為配合，在一代人之內以華語取代了十多種華人方言，但也令年長華人社群的文化和家庭生活付出了真實的代價。這一成功其後被第二次轉變所取代：到2020年，英語已成為新加坡華人在家中最常用的語言，比例為47.6%，華語則為40.2%，不過大部分說英語的家庭仍以華語作為第二語言。在中國開放以及兩國於1990年建交之後，華語成為一項商業資產，服務於政府對政府項目、為中國客戶服務的私人銀行和家族辦公室，以及中文文件的核實。華語的價值受到三方面限制：語言水平參差、來自香港及內地畢業生的競爭，以及英語仍是新加坡法律的語言。正因如此，在國家平衡的多語制中，馬來語、淡米爾語和英語仍各自發揮其應有的分量。

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