

A Study on The Cultural Inheritance of The Yi Ethnic Original Ecological Dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”

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Abstract

This Paper aims to analyzes the dilemma of the cultural inheritance of the Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” in the context of modern society, and proposes corresponding inheritance improvement strategies. Two research methods were used n literature method and survey method. The study found that the problem of cultural inheritance is caused by the small scope of inheritance theme, insufficient funds, and the dilution of inheritance awareness, and measures should be taken to change these three problems. The research shows that the inheritance mechanism is improved and the theme of inheritance is expanded. increase fiscal revenue and optimize inheritance conditions; Increase publicity and education to enhance the awareness of inheritance. In conclusion, through the joint efforts of the government, society, educational institutions, and individuals, the precious cultural heritage of “Aimei Qituo” can be effectively protected and inherited. This not only contributes to the prosperity and development of the Yi ethnic culture, but also makes a positive contribution to the protection of global cultural diversity. Only through collaborative efforts from all parties can the “Aimei Qituo” culture regain its new vitality and vigor in the new era, and continue to add brilliance to the cultural treasury of the Yi people and all humanity.

Keywords: A Mei Qi Tuo Culture; Inheritance dilemma; Inheritance strategy

Introduction

The original ecological dance of the Yi ethnic group, “A Mei Qi Tuo”, is an important form of dance that carries the historical memory, cultural inheritance, and emotional expression of the Yi people. This dance originated from the life and labor scenes of the Yi people, showcasing their attitudes towards life and emotional expression through dance movements and rhythms. In Yi society, dance is an important social activity, as well as an important way to express emotions and showcase Yi culture. However, in the context of modern society, with the development of modernization and urbanization, the inheritance of traditional culture is facing challenges, and the cultural inheritance of the Yi ethnic original ecological dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” is facing some difficulties. Many young people are more exposed to and accept modern culture, resulting in a decrease in their interest and identification with traditional culture, which hinders the inheritance of traditional dance.

The “A Mei Qi Tuo” is rooted in the production and life of the Yi people, and is related to the livelihood of the Yi people. It is an important component of the traditional culture of the Yi people, reflecting the ancient historical and cultural information of the Yi people and the local culture of the Yi people. It is the crystallization of the wisdom of the Yi people. The cultural inheritance of the “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance is an important task. By strengthening the protection, inheritance, and promotion of “A Mei Qi Tuo” culture, we can further enhance its development opportunities and conditions, which is of great significance for protecting and promoting Yi culture and promoting the

development of cultural diversity. Through research on the current status and problems of inheritance, we can draw the following conclusions:

Firstly, the inheritance of the Yi ethnic dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” faces many challenges. This includes a reduction in the number of inheritors, a shortage of inheriting funds, and a weakening of traditional consciousness. These issues require the joint attention and efforts of the government, society, and individuals to take effective measures to solve them. Secondly, important strategies for improving the inheritance of the “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance of the Three Yi ethnic groups include improving the inheritance mechanism, expanding the inheritance subject, increasing financial investment, optimizing inheritance conditions, increasing publicity and education, and enhancing inheritance awareness. By holding dance exhibitions, producing promotional materials, and offering dance courses, we will gradually enhance the awareness and protection of the inheritance and protection of the Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”, promote its inheritance and development, and make positive contributions to the inheritance and development of Yi culture.

This study takes the Yi folk dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” in Qinglong County, Guizhou Province as the research object, and the regional scope is Sanbao Yi Township, Qinglong County, Guizhou Province, and the time range is from hundreds of years ago to the present.

The cultural inheritance research of the original ecological dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” of the Yi ethnic group requires multiple research methods to comprehensively and deeply understand its historical, cultural, and artistic characteristics. Firstly, using the literature review method, collect, organize, and analyze historical literature, folk legends, songs, and other materials related to “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance to understand its origin and development process. Secondly, the survey method can be used to observe and record the regional distribution, performance forms, dance movements, and postures of the Yi “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance, in order to gain a deeper understanding of its artistic characteristics and forms of expression. Through the comprehensive application of various research methods mentioned above, it is possible to gain a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the history, culture, and artistic characteristics of the Yi “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance, providing theoretical and practical support for its cultural inheritance.

The original ecological dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” of the Yi ethnic group is an important component of Yi culture, and its unique dance form and performance style have profound historical and cultural heritage and artistic value.

Research Objectives

This Paper aims to analyzes the dilemma of the cultural inheritance of the Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” in the context of modern society, and proposes corresponding inheritance improvement strategies.

Research Methodology

This study used species qualitative research method: literature research method, field investigation method and oral interview recording method

1. Literature research method: Literature research method is to collect, identify and organize literature, and form research results through the study of literature

method. Among them, the ecological analysis of the "A Mei Qi Tuo" dance is mainly concluded through the literature research method.

2. Fieldwork and oral interview recording: Fieldwork and oral interview are research methods in the field of anthropology. Part of this paper is completed on the basis of the fieldwork of "Mei Qi Tuo".

Research Results and Suggestions

1. Overview of the Cultural Inheritance of the Yi Dance "A Mei Qi Tuo"

1.1 The Origin and Development of "A Mei Qi Tuo" Dance

The "A Mei Qi Tuo" dance of the Yi ethnic group in Qinglong, Guizhou is a folk dance that means "girl's wedding dance" and is commonly known as "foot dance". There is currently no accurate record of its origin in literature. According to legend, hundreds of years ago, Wang Apu and Xie Gaga from a wealthy family in Yunnan had two daughters. When their eldest daughter got married, the creation of "foot dancing" was not completed, resulting in a lack of dance at the wedding and appearing desolate. In order to enrich the wedding, Wang Apo convened a group of people to discuss and create several dance segments based on the inspiration of daily activities such as transplanting rice seedlings, feeding dogs, and kicking cockscomb in agricultural activities. Eventually, the 12 movements were merged. On the eve of Wang Apu's second daughter's wedding, the dance had already been created. Family and friends gathered at Wang Apu's home to dance to express their wishes, and from then on, "foot dancing" became popular. With the passage of time and people's migration, "foot dancing" spread to Sanbao Yi Township in Qinglong County and has continued to this day, becoming a unique folk dance in the local area. It is called "A Mei Qi Tuo" in Yi language. The Qinglong County Annals record the migration history of the Yi ethnic group in Qinglong, Guizhou, which has lived for hundreds of years. The life of the Yi ethnic group is closely related to the "A Mei Qi Tuo", and after centuries of inheritance, this dance still retains its unique dance elements.



Figure 1 Yi "Ah Mei Qi Tuo" dance performance

Source: Xinhua Photo, 2020

1.2 The use of dance costumes and props

The dance costumes and props of "A Mei Qi Tuo" are very unique, reflecting the characteristics of Yi culture. One is clothing: Dancers wear traditional colored clothing of the Yi ethnic group, while women often wear Yi characteristic robes, jackets, and skirts, which are bright and full of ethnic characteristics. Men often wear traditional Yi

long shirts, pants, and headscarves. The second is headwear: dancers wear traditional Yi ethnic wreaths or wreaths, adorned with flowers and colorful ribbons, adding to the beauty of the dance. The third is accessories: dancers wear silver bracelets and bracelets on their arms, and colorful ribbons wrap around their ankles, creating a wonderful sound effect when dancing. Fourthly, masks: Some dancers will wear masks with Yi ethnic characteristics, with colorful patterns painted on them, representing different mythological stories and legends. Fifth, props: Yi ethnic characteristic props are often used in dance, such as holding colorful ropes and ribbons, to dance and add visual effects to the dance. Through the use of these unique costumes and props, “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance showcases the unique charm and ethnic characteristics of Yi culture.

1.3 The Performance Form and Structure of “A Mei Qi Tuo”

“A Mei Qi Tuo” is a strictly regulated form of performance that requires dance performances to be performed in the bride’s alley. Performers must form a formation of even numbers of people, with each group consisting of different numbers of people, such as eight, twelve, or sixteen. The main form of expression of this dance is based on the feet as the main carrier, emphasizing the kicking, swaying, stepping, crotch and other movements on the feet. The performers are presented in a straight or circular formation, singing while hitting the ground with their feet, or hitting each other with their soles, emitting a clear and pleasant “pa, pa, pa” sound. Through the rhythm of dance, performers can feel their own existence, experience the meaning of life, and achieve the unity of body and mind. At the same time, this form of performance can also make the performer physically and mentally happy, and generate emotional expressions that are not usually present. Therefore, people refer to “A Mei Qi Tuo” as “Eastern tap dance”.

1.4 The Function of “A Mei Qi Tuo” in Social Culture

1.4.1 Entertainment aesthetic function

The “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance has rich entertainment and aesthetic functions in social culture. It is not only a form of dance performance, but also an important component of Yi culture, playing a positive role in the cultural inheritance, social communication, and aesthetic experience of society. The lively and cheerful rhythm and movements of dance can bring joy and joy to the audience. The songs and music in dance, as well as the performances of dancers, can stimulate the audience’s emotions and make people feel happy and relaxed while watching. The “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance of the Yi ethnic group showcases the unique charm and ethnic characteristics of Yi culture with its unique dance movements, costumes, and props. Viewers can feel the beauty and aesthetic value of Yi culture, enhancing their understanding and respect for multiculturalism. In Yi society, the “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance is often used as a part of social activities to celebrate important occasions such as festivals, weddings, and funerals. By participating in dance performances and watching, people can enhance emotional communication and social connections between each other, and strengthen community cohesion.

1.4.2 Cultural inheritance function

The “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance, as a traditional dance of the Yi ethnic group, maintains the integrity and purity of the dance through generations. By learning and performing dance, the Yi people can deepen their identification and understanding of their cultural traditions. The “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance of the Yi people is a cultural heritage passed down from generation to generation. Through oral traditions and practical exercises, dance techniques and repertoire can be passed down. This inheritance method ensures the integrity and purity of dance, enabling dance to represent the characteristics and traditions of Yi culture. By learning and performing the “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance, the Yi people can deepen their identification and understanding of their cultural traditions. The costumes, props, and movements

in dance reflect the values and aesthetic values of the Yi people. Through the inheritance of dance, the Yi people can better maintain their cultural identity.



Figure 2 Yi children “Ah Mei Qi Tuo” dance performance

Source: China Baidu Encyclopedia, 2019

1.4.3 Guiding educational function

By learning and performing the “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance, the younger generation of the Yi ethnic group can understand and learn about the traditional culture of the Yi ethnic group. The songs and music in dance, as well as the movements and performances of dancers, can convey the values and ideas of Yi culture. Through the inheritance of dance, the younger generation can better understand and inherit the cultural heritage of the Yi ethnic group. Specifically, first of all, by learning and practicing the “A-Mei Qituo” dance, the younger generation can cultivate good physical fitness and coordination skills. Dance requires dancers to have good physical control and flexibility. By repeatedly practicing dance movements, young people can exercise their bodies, improve their coordination and flexibility. Secondly, “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance can also cultivate young people’s sense of teamwork and communication skills. In dance performances, dancers need to closely cooperate, coordinate movements and rhythms, and demonstrate overall beauty and harmony. Through cooperation and communication with dance partners, young people can learn to listen, communicate, and support each other, cultivating a spirit of teamwork. In addition, “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance can also cultivate young people’s confidence and expression ability. In dance performances, dancers need to demonstrate their individuality and expressive power, conveying emotions and stories through dance movements and expressions. Through learning and performing dance, young people can gradually overcome shyness and tension, cultivate self-confidence and self-expression ability.

In short, as a traditional dance of the Yi ethnic group, the “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance can cultivate the physical fitness, teamwork awareness, communication skills, self-confidence, and expression abilities of the younger generation through learning and performing. These abilities are not only beneficial for dance performances, but also have a positive impact on the growth and development of young people

2. The Dilemma of the Cultural Inheritance of the Yi Dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” in the Context of Modern Society

2.1 The scope of inheritance subject is relatively small

In the context of modern society, the cultural inheritance of the Yi ethnic dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” faces various difficulties, and the small scope of the inheritance subject is a prominent issue. It is understood that most of the inheritors of “A Mei Qi Tuo” are elderly and unable to engage in inheritance. In addition, with the fast-paced life of modern society and the acceleration of urbanization, many Yi young people have left their hometown to work and

live in cities or other places. These people often do not have the opportunity to receive the influence of traditional culture, nor do they have the opportunity to learn and inherit the skills and knowledge of the Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”, resulting in a small scope of inheritance subjects and the risk of inheritance being disconnected.

2.2 Serious shortage of inheritance funds

After entering modern society, “A Mei Qi Tuo” has not received sufficient attention, and the inheritance of “A Mei Qi Tuo” is more of a folk and spontaneous nature, with very limited funding for inheritance. Due to a shortage of funds, the inheritance and development of “A Mei Qi Tuo” are facing difficulties. The serious shortage of inheritance funds is one of the main difficulties faced by the cultural inheritance of the Yi ethnic dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”. Due to the need for financial support for the inheritance of traditional culture, including expenses for dance teaching, performances, training, research, etc., in the context of modern society, the inheritance funds are often difficult to guarantee. On the one hand, the government and relevant institutions have limited funding for traditional culture, often focusing more on economic development and modernization construction, while neglecting the protection and inheritance of traditional culture. On the other hand, due to the difficulties in commercial performance and market demand of the Yi ethnic dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”, it is difficult to obtain sufficient economic income through commercial means to support its inheritance work.

2.3 Gradually fading awareness of inheritance

With the advancement of modernization and the acceleration of social change, many young people’s awareness of identification and inheritance of traditional culture is gradually weakening.

Firstly, the fast-paced and competitive pressures of modern life have led people to pay more attention to economic interests and personal development, while their interest and attention to traditional culture are relatively low. In this situation, many young people have a low level of interest and understanding in the Yi ethnic dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”, and lack awareness and motivation for its inheritance.

Secondly, the modern education system and media environment have also had a certain impact on the dilution of inheritance awareness. The status of traditional culture in school education is relatively low, and many students have limited understanding of traditional cultures such as the Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”. At the same time, the commercialization and popularity of media have led to a relatively low status of traditional culture in public entertainment, and the awareness of inheritance has gradually weakened.

3. Improving the Cultural Inheritance Strategy of Yi Ethnic Dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”

3.1 Improve the inheritance mechanism and expand the main body of inheritance

Establish a sound inheritance mechanism, including formulating relevant laws, regulations, and policies, clarifying inheritance responsibilities and rights, providing financial support and resource protection. At the same time, establish inheritance archives and databases to record and preserve relevant information about traditional culture, providing reference and support for inheritance. In addition to traditional inheritors and families, more institutions and organizations should also be encouraged to participate in inheritance work. For example, specialized inheritance colleges or cultural centers can be established to attract young people and professionals to participate in inheritance activities. At the same time, we can also collaborate with schools, communities, and enterprises to carry out traditional cultural education and training, and cultivate more Yi people’s “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance inheritance talents. Traditional oral transmission methods may not meet the needs of modern society, and modern technological means such as

videos and online platforms can be used to record and disseminate traditional skills and knowledge. In addition, traditional cultural exhibitions, performances, and exchange activities can also be carried out to attract more young people to participate and enhance their interest and identification with traditional culture. Through publicity and education, strengthen the promotion and promotion of the spirit of inheritance, encourage people to recognize the importance and significance of the inheritance of the Yi ethnic dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”, and stimulate their love and participation in traditional culture.

3.2 Increase financial investment and optimize inheritance conditions

In order to solve the problem of insufficient inheritance funds, measures such as increasing government support, appealing for social donations, developing cultural industries, and establishing inheritance funds can effectively solve the problem of insufficient inheritance funds, provide more economic support and guarantees for the inheritance of traditional culture such as Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”, promote the development and prosperity of the cultural industry, and inject new vitality and momentum into social and economic development. Specifically, it includes the following aspects: firstly, increase government support. The government can increase funding for traditional culture and establish special funds to support the inheritance of the Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”, including expenses for dance teaching, performance, training, research, and other aspects. Secondly, we call on society to donate and encourage all sectors of society and enthusiasts to support the inheritance of the Yi ethnic dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” through donations, sponsorships, and other forms. Thirdly, by developing the cultural industry, we will combine the Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” with tourism, entertainment, cultural and creative industries to create more economic value and provide economic support for its inheritance. Finally, establishing a inheritance fund is an effective way to ensure the inheritance of the Yi ethnic dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”. Through specialized institutional management and use of the fund, it can be used to support expenses in dance teaching, performance, training, research, and other aspects, providing economic support and guarantee for inheritance work.

3.3 Increase publicity and education to enhance inheritance awareness

In response to the issue of gradually fading awareness of inheritance, the following measures can be taken: firstly, pay attention to cultural education, strengthen education on traditional cultures such as the Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” in school education, improve students’ awareness and understanding of traditional culture, and cultivate inheritance awareness. The second is to promote traditional culture. Relevant departments can carry out various forms of activities to expand the promotion of “A Mei Qi Tuo”, stimulate the enthusiasm of the masses to participate in “A Mei Qi Tuo”, and enhance the awareness of inheritance and protection of traditional ethnic folk culture; By organizing various cultural activities, exhibitions, and performances, we aim to promote traditional culture such as the Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo” to the public and increase people’s interest and understanding of it; Strengthen cooperation with the media, guide the media to pay attention to traditional culture such as the Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”, enhance its position in public entertainment, and increase awareness of inheritance. The third is to establish an exchange platform, organize dance exchange activities, seminars, etc., invite experts, scholars, inheritors, and enthusiasts to jointly explore the inheritance of Yi dance “A Mei Qi Tuo”, and promote the exchange and sharing of experience and knowledge.

Conclusions

The “A Mei Qi Tuo” is rooted in the production and life of the Yi people, and is related to the livelihood of the Yi people. It is an important component of the traditional culture of the Yi people, reflecting the ancient historical and cultural information of the Yi people and the local culture of the Yi people. It is the crystallization of the wisdom

of the Yi people. The cultural inheritance of the “A Mei Qi Tuo” dance is an important task. By strengthening the protection, inheritance, and promotion of A Mei Qi Tuo culture, we can further enhance its development opportunities and conditions, which is of great significance for protecting and promoting Yi culture and promoting the development of cultural diversity.

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