

# The Cultural Inheritance and Value Analysis of Minnan Nursery Rhymes from the Modern Perspective

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**Abstract:** Minnan nursery rhymes originate from Minnan culture. They are children's songs created and sung on the basis of Minnan dialect. As a unique form of folk ballads, they penetrate into the traditional folk culture of Minnan and are the crystallization of wisdom of the people of Minnan. Minnan nursery rhymes are an important part of Minnan culture, and their inheritance, development and evolution also reflect the contemporary changes and development of Minnan culture. By introducing the development status of nursery rhymes in southern Fujian, and then analyzing the current era under multi-culture, we should strengthen the analysis of nursery rhymes in southern Fujian, and based on this, actively explore effective and reasonable inheritance methods for them.

**Keywords:** Minnan Nursery Rhymes; Cultural Value; Traditional Culture

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## 1. Introduction

Minnan nursery rhymes are an ancient folk children's song, which originated in the Han Dynasty. It used to spread in southern Fujian, including Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan and other provinces. The contents of Minnan nursery rhymes mainly involve life, festivals, animals, nature and other aspects, with strong regional characteristics. With the development of society, the precipitation and development of traditional culture have also been greatly affected, and the nursery rhymes of southern Fujian have gradually disappeared. Therefore, researchers actively collect, sort out and study the nursery rhymes of southern Fujian, and devote themselves to preserving and inheriting the cultural heritage of the nursery rhymes of southern Fujian and the traditional knowledge of folk culture of southern Fujian, so that they can get more attention and spread<sup>[1]</sup> (Huang Shizhen, Guo Hong, 2021).

## 2. Content features of Minnan nursery rhymes

### 2.1 Overview of Minnan Nursery rhymes

Minnan nursery rhymes, also known as Minnan children's songs, are folk children's songs in the southern Fujian region of China. It shows the local customs, local customs and working life with the ancient melody, simple language and simple rhyme, reflecting the living state and thoughts and feelings of the people in southern Fujian, which is an important part of the culture in southern Fujian. The nursery rhymes of southern Fujian have a variety of tunes, short lyrics, simple expressions and simple rhymes. Some tunes also have popular musical elements. Most of the songs are slow, some are more cheerful, and some are more lyrical. There are a lot of stories about home, about the life of the people in southern Fujian, maybe some of the songs will tell an interesting story, or tell a love story. With its unique songs and concise lyrics, nursery rhymes in southern Fujian express the living state and thoughts and feelings of people in southern Fujian. It is not only an important part of southern Fujian culture, but also a folk art form spreading in southern Fujian, with profound cultural significance.

### 2.2 Characteristics of Minnan nursery rhymes

#### 2.2.1 Language features of Minnan nursery rhymes

The language characteristics of Minnan nursery rhymes are concise, concise and bright, which is helpful for children to better understand and remember. Their language is simple and meaningful, making them a favorite of children's songs. For example, in "Tianwuwu<sup>[2]</sup> (Song Zhenqing, 2015)", "Tianwuwu, it was going to rain, and Ah Gong lifted his hoe to dig taro, digging, digging..." "Fall heavy rain, Through the wind" "Fall heavy rain, through the wind, the sky is dark and the earth is angry at thunder. A desolate walk in the fertile rain tree of Huai Tong..." And so on, the language of Minnan nursery rhymes is simple and pure, with rich imagination and wide subject matter. At the same time, southern Fujian nursery rhymes have strong regional characteristics, full of southern Fujian accents and idioms, making them more regional characteristics.

## **2.2.2 Musical characteristics of Minnan nursery rhymes**

It is expressed in a traditional ballad style, with a unique melody, rhythm and harmonic structure. They are usually played with traditional Musical Instruments, such as the guzheng, pipa, flute and erhu. The themes of the songs are mostly traditional folk stories, fairy tales, love stories or natural landscapes, with strong local characteristics. The melody of the song is simple and relaxed, the rhythm is lively and powerful, and the harmonic structure is full of vitality, with obvious traditional characteristics. In terms of rhythm, the rhythm of Hokkien nursery rhymes is relatively slow, usually in 2/4 or 4/4 time, but also in 3/4 or 6/8 time, to increase the interest of the performance. In terms of harmony, the Minnan nursery rhymes are mainly composed of three chords with alternating parts, which is harmonious and beautiful. Melodically, Minnan nursery rhymes are mostly variations with simple melody and easy rhythm, often with a strong local flavor.

## **2.2.3 Emotional characteristics of Minnan nursery rhymes**

Minnan nursery rhymes are deeply loved by the people and have strong regional characteristics. Hokkien nursery rhymes are a link connecting overseas compatriots. They contain cultural connotations and are the embodiment of cross-cultural cultural exchanges. Its language has a strong accent, and the local customs described in the lyrics are also reminiscent of folk customs and play an important role in cultural exchange.

# **3. The cultural significance and inheritance value of Minnan nursery rhymes**

## **3.1 Cultural significance of Minnan nursery rhymes**

Together with Nanyin, song and other Fujian music, the nursery rhymes of southern Fujian are either elegant or crude, profound or simple, forming a strong atmosphere of spiritual connection between southern Fujian people and their hometown, relatives and ancestors, thus forming a collective subconscious. The nursery rhymes of southern Fujian are full of strong local tones and hometown sentiment, which have become a part of the life of southern Fujian people. For those who have been overseas for a long time, the nursery rhymes of southern Fujian people or overseas Chinese are unforgettable. No matter how many places people in southern Fujian have been to, once they hear those familiar songs passed down from generation to generation, full of experience and wisdom of predecessors, bearing childhood memories and dreams, they will always remind people of their hometown. The nursery rhymes of southern Fujian, which are closely related to the daily communication of people in southern Fujian, are not only an inheritance of regional culture in southern Fujian, but also a symbol of national emotion and the inheritance of national cultural identity<sup>[3]</sup> (Wang Miao,2017)

## **3.2 Heritage value of Minnan nursery rhymes**

Southern Fujian Dialect is an ancient language, its development can be traced back to the changes of ancient Chinese, it has become the most important language in southern China. The Hokkien language has completely preserved the Middle Han sounds from the Tang Dynasty to the Five Dynasties, as well as a large number of words especially in the Tang and Song dynasties, so it is praised as the living fossil of Chinese ancient writing by Chinese and foreign scholars. The differentiation of Hokkien develops rapidly. Due to different geographical locations, the Hokkien spoken in different places will have different sounds. In today's booming cultural globalization, Under the influence of foreign cultures, the Hokkien language has gradually weakened. The nursery rhymes in Hokkien, which have accompanied several generations growing up, are gradually fading out of people's lives due to the change of time. Not only today's children, but also my generation, have quietly disappeared from their memories of the Hokkien nursery rhymes, and some people can't even speak Hokkien well. Therefore, we should try our best to protect Chinese traditional culture, inherit Chinese culture, and protect the precious cultural heritage left by our old ancestors.

### **3.2.3 Value of cultural identity**

The cultural connotation of nursery rhymes in southern Fujian is not only a simple children's song, but also a microcosm of the life of the people in southern Fujian in this piece of land. It records the living conditions of the people in southern Fujian for generations and reflects the life, thoughts, customs and other aspects of the people in southern Fujian. When writing was not very popular, the nursery rhymes of southern Fujian were passed down by word of mouth.

# **4. Protection and development of Minnan nursery rhymes**

## **4.1 Protection of Minnan nursery rhymes**

Minnan nursery rhymes are produced in the dialect of Minnan. In order to avoid the occurrence of mispronunciation and wrong characters, it is necessary to have a dictionary to regulate the use of characters. This required the local government to take the lead and

gather some experts and scholars with attainments and prestige in the study of southern Fujian dialect to compile a dictionary of Southern Fujian Dialect after rigorous and scientific discussion and demonstration. The establishment of institutions such as the Minnan Dialect Research Association integrates resources from all parties, and further promotes the Minnan dialect and Gejin (traditional nursery rhymes) in an organized way, especially the promotion and support of the publication of monographs of Minnan nursery rhymes, so as to promote the protection, inheritance and development process of Minnan nursery rhymes.

## 4.2 Development of nursery rhymes in southern Fujian

The key to the teaching of Hokkien children's songs is interest: "The concept of Hokkien children's songs should be formed in children's thinking, and children's interest and attention should be cultivated through the form of interest and hobby grouping or nursery rhyme fun activities"<sup>[4]</sup>(Lai Yaling,2019). In terms of family education, parents should also use more Hokkien to communicate with their children at home and teach them more Mandarin to lay a good foundation for children to master the Hokkien nursery rhymes. Video media products are developed and digital transmission is carried out on the platform with existing technologies, so as to better preserve and spread Minnan nursery rhymes. Therefore, for the preservation and communication of Minnan nursery rhymes in introversion and communication in extroversion, It all makes sense.

## 5. Conclusion

Minnan nursery rhymes have experienced thousands of years of development history, and have been passed down from generation to generation. This bloodline of Minnan culture has condensed the essence of Minnan culture. At the same time, Minnan nursery rhymes are an important part of cultural identity in Minnan, and play an important role in promoting cultural diversity and education in modern society. In a word, Minnan nursery rhymes are an important part of Minnan culture and an inseparable part of Chinese traditional culture. It is the responsibility of each of us to promote the inheritance of Minnan nursery rhymes.

## References

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