

Research on the cultural integrity of the Dong Nationality in Sanjiang and its development prospects -- a case study of the eight villages in Chengyang

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Abstract: China's ethnic minority areas often have unique cultural and natural landscapes, and the rapid economic development in recent decades has inevitably changed the cultural features of these areas. Although Sanjiang Dong inhabited area in Guangxi is located at the edge of Dong inhabited area, it is well-known nationwide. As a typical Dong cultural village in Sanjiang County, the original ecological culture in the mountain area is well preserved. Therefore, the study of cultural integrity from the perspective of language, architecture and vocal music art has a positive reference for the discussion of the protection and development prospects of minority culture.

Key words: cultural inheritance; Minority culture; Dong culture; Chengyang bazhai

Introduction; At the end of August, 2002 and during the "March 3" holiday in Guangxi in April, 2001, the team went to Chengyang bazhai to conduct field research and conducted interviews with Dong men and women of different identities, including local performers, inheritors, shop owners and ordinary residents. During this process, the team obtained a large number of audio, video and text materials. This paper will sort out and narrate the above part of the data, in order to present the current Chengyang bazhai cultural integrity and development prospect analysis by using first-hand data.

1. Cultural integrity

The Dong nationality is concentrated and scattered in northern Guangxi, Southeastern Guizhou and southern Hunan. Its culture is a kind of original mountain culture. Although in the process of cultural exchange and rapid economic development, the culture of ethnic minorities has been paid attention to and at the same time has been sinicized to varying degrees, the culture and customs of the Dong nationality still occupy a dominant position.

The eight villages in Chengyang are surrounded by mountains, about 22 kilometers away from Sanjiang County. The original mountain culture may be better protected. With the gradual improvement of the construction of the scenic spot, the commercialization structure of Chengyang bazhai village has gradually become clear, which has a certain impact on the minority culture, such as language, architecture, music and art.

(1) Dong Language

"Dong language" is a minority language without characters. The tone system of modern Dong language is based on the four tones and eight tones of the original Dong Tai language. The pronunciation of different regions will evolve according to the regional mainstream dialect. For example, in the Chengyang area of Sanjiang, there is a merger of tone categories of Shusheng tone. In addition, the local residents of Chengyang bazhai village in Sanjiang mostly use pinyin or Chinese character homophony to record Dong language. Chinese characters with similar pronunciation to the Dong language can be used as phonetic characters in the Dong language. The local landlady who sells specialty tea uses "zhanxue" to phoneticize the Dong language "drinking tea", and makes a display board at the door of the store.

Villagers' spontaneous attention to "Dong language" can also be regarded as an important part of protecting cultural integrity. Pingyan primary school, the largest primary school in Chengyang bazhai, will teach Dong language in daily teaching activities. While strengthening the promotion of Putonghua, teachers can occasionally use Dong language in teaching, so as to establish the important position of Dong language in the young generation of Dong nationality. Pingyan primary school will also hold an annual competition of "telling the national stories of their hometown in Dong dialect", encouraging students to pay attention to national stories and languages, and advocating telling Dong stories well in Dong dialect, so as to better preserve their traditional culture. During the competition, the school will also use the zhailuo broadcast system to broadcast the stories told by the excellent young players.

(2) Dong architecture

The architecture that embodies Dong culture is another embodiment of its unique culture. The symbolic public buildings of Dong villages will lead to the distribution of villages showing a centripetal layout. With the gradual completion of the construction of Chengyang bazhai scenic spot, the significance of ancient architecture has changed accordingly, and this difference can also be seen as an important embodiment of the changes in the process of cultural inheritance.

Based on the huge wooden structure, the drum tower built layer by layer is the main activity place for the Dong people, and also the wonderful embodiment of the cultural achievements of the Dong architecture. Under the conical wooden buildings up to 30 meters high, the ground is often paved with stone bricks. The base layer of the drum tower is mostly enclosed by low walls and railings, which also shows that the Dong Drum Tower is open to residents to a certain extent. The hall of the drum tower can serve as a place for residents to discuss affairs and hold activities such as "elections" and "donations"; It can also be used as a place for the local reception of passengers and the storage of relevant public goods.

The famous “Chengyang wind and rain bridge” is also a typical symbol of Dong architectural culture. The construction of the wind and rain bridge starts from the architectural function, structure and climate adaptation conditions, and the wooden structure also forms a harmonious reflection relationship with nature. But another kind of architecture, Zhaimen, has lost its usual role and function in the current cultural activities. Although the former defensive fortification role of the village gate has disappeared, the village area delimited by the village gate still has the function of delimitation. In most cases, activities such as welcoming guests and seeing off visitors are held near the village gate to better show the warm hospitality of the Dong people.

The local administrative department of Chengyang bazhai has a strict approval process for new buildings. Villagers need to declare before building the house, submit site selection instructions, and cut and use the trees of the local forest farm as the main beam of the house in the designated season. In the construction process, we should not only keep the new building in harmony with the architectural style, but also use modern technology to strengthen the house. Under the management of such systems, the landscape within the scenic spot has not changed significantly.

(3) Dong music art

Music art is an important part of spiritual life. In addition to participating in labor, the Dong people will use the vocal music art of their national culture to express their inner thoughts.

But in recent years, many young people who were born and raised in the village are also eager to develop in other places. In recent years, the tide of going out to work has caused the age gap of the Dong big song singers in zhailuo and the surrounding areas, and the number of local young people learning traditional music and art is decreasing, leaving residents in their 50s to stick to this art. “Yueyege hall” in the west of Pingzhai village in the scenic area is a live stage for performing fixed Dong music and dance programs. Due to the large number of young people going out, the performers of “yueyege hall” and “Dong Dage” are mainly older women who have lived in the village for a long time. The person in charge of “yueyege hall” also told the research team frankly that nowadays, it is difficult to present a large-scale performance of Dong Dage with separate male and female voices even if people are called up in the village immediately. However, the proprietress of the local tea shop told the author, “even though there are no large-scale big song activities in the stockade now, the content, spirit and connotation of the big song are still sung in their daily leisure activities.” This is also in accordance with the folk song theory of “food for health, song for heart” formed by the Dong national anthem, which is still widely recognized in the Dong society at present.

Musical instrument performance is also an important part of the Dong vocal music culture. Almost every fixed performance in the scenic spot uses musical instruments. However, the performance musical instruments required by the Chengyang bazhai village in Sanjiang County need to be commissioned by the relevant personnel of Guizhou Dong ethnic group. Nowadays, the trend of young people working abroad is increasing, and the older generation of artisans have no energy to make a large number of musical instruments by hand. In this case, few people can skillfully make performance musical instruments. The local ethnic traditional musical instruments in Sanjiang are facing the risk of losing some of them. The impact of the global economy, the imperfect industrial structure and the absence of school education also constitute important factors for this risk. Especially in the most marginal flat village in the scenic area, the problems are particularly prominent.

The results of the above survey on the current situation of the Dong language, architecture and music art show that people have spontaneously taken measures to protect the integrity of the Dong culture, but at the same time, because the soil of the mountain culture and the times have changed, the minority language needs to be paid attention to, the architectural function has changed. The expression of vocal music is purposeful.

2. Discussion on Development Prospect

The government, enterprises and society have taken actions to protect the cultural integrity of Chengyang bazhai scenic spot. At present, the development of local Dong culture not only stays at the historical level of inheritance, but also has the opportunity to go out with the help of partners. The following contents are the measures taken by the above three subjects and the prospect analysis of their future development.

(1) Government support

The government mainly started from the integrity of culture, included the development planning of the whole region, and vigorously provided financial and administrative planning support without damaging its cultural context.

None of the ethnic minorities can escape poverty. After the completion of poverty alleviation in 2020, the development of Sanjiang Dong Autonomous Region in Guangxi has been significantly improved, and a number of industries have been strongly supported by the government. Local residents have also opened up new ideas to use existing resources to actively develop the economy and move towards a better life. This concept has been implemented in the development and economic development of the Dong cultural area.

There is a cultural museum in Chengyang bazhai scenic area, which is located in the east of the street office of the scenic area, and is properly integrated with the local architectural style. This five story wooden building is sure to play a decisive role in the development of the scenic spot in the future. For example, it will display the imperfect Dong culture and art exhibits, or strengthen the role of the cultural museum in the “education base”. In addition to the cultural features displayed by the architectural entities, the Sanjiang Chengyang bazhai scenic spot has also become one of the carriers of the construction of the local “ecological museum”. As an open tourist destination for foreign tourists, it also retains the original living atmosphere and environment.

(2) Enterprise construction

Chengyang bazhai scenic spot in Sanjiang Dong Autonomous County is a national AAAA scenic spot. Although Chengyang bazhai scenic spot had some problems in the initial stage of construction, such as focusing on the scale of tourists and only increasing economic benefits, the management team had a more mature operation strategy after years of experience accumulation.

(3) Social cooperation and social participation

The rapid development of Chengyang bazhai scenic spot is inseparable from extensive social cooperation and social participation. These include academic research teams in Colleges and universities and discussions on some new cooperation modes. A large number of home stays and cultural museums have been opened in the scenic area.

According to the interview data of the team, almost every year during the holidays and “March 3”, a considerable number of college students participate in the activities of Dong culture publicity, Dong culture research and Dong culture inheritance for different purposes. For example, students majoring in language can conduct research on the translation project of publicity, while students majoring in art and vocal music can present the results of the survey on the musical theory of musical instruments. For example, Guangxi Academy of Arts has built a national music exhibition hall in its school. The school and other local colleges and universities have also regarded the protection and inheritance of local national music and art culture as a major responsibility and obligation. Through close cooperation with colleges and universities, the influence of culture has been continuously expanded, and the popularity has also been continuously improved.

Epilogue

Sanjiang Dong Autonomous County has made some achievements in preserving cultural integrity with the help of local residents, enterprises and the government. Although there are still some problems such as the outflow of young people and insufficient attention, the Dong language, Dong style architecture and Dong vocal music art are still being inherited. To study the cultural connotation and better protect it, and enhance its popularity to get more extensive support and attention, it is inseparable from multi-faceted cooperation. The government, enterprises, universities and community organizations in society will still play a more active role in the future development.

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