Analysis of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Category of Traditional Oral Literature

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Abstract: With the rapid development of our society, our standard of living is constantly improving, and we have greater requirements with our quality of life, and we have further knowledge of Chinese cultural development in our moral thinking. For our country, it is also more and more to pay attention to the culture of a famous nation. China has a long history of 5,000 years and has accumulated a brilliant Chinese culture. If a nation does not have its own culture as a spiritual support, perhaps this nation is doomed to failure. In this, China’s intangible cultural heritage is also inseparable.

Keywords: Oral literature; Intangible cultural heritage; Application analysis; Significance; Value

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China’s intangible cultural heritage takes many different forms, such as traditional oral literature and its carrier language, traditional arts, traditional skills, and so on. One of the biggest reasons why they are called intangible cultural heritage is that they are constantly innovated with the environment and time, and they are recognized by the general public and have a sense of history. Whatever the form of intangible cultural heritage, it is an important part of our country’s bright culture of more than 5,000 years, and is representative of it, giving people a deeper understanding of Chinese culture, adding more colors to the country’s culture, and bringing positive effects to the country’s development. There are many kinds of intangible cultural heritage, but in this article, we will focus on the intangible cultural heritage of traditional oral literature. We hope that this article will help more people to know more about this kind of intangible cultural heritage.

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1. The Content of Oral Literature

From the words “oral literature”, it is easy to know that what it expresses is the work of oral narration. Literature is also in a variety of forms. For example: novels, essays, poetry, etc., of course, the “oral literature” described here is also one of the forms of literary expression. The only thing is that “oral literature” is a literary work directly transmitted by word of mouth, and the content or ideas that people or things want to express are expressed directly without the participation of a third person. Among the oral literature of folklore, the most numerous are limerick poems, folk songs and folk tales. In addition, the content of oral literature also includes poems and stories. Therefore, the content of oral literature is also diverse, and it is also known that oral literature is a very interesting and content-rich literature.

It is also not enough to limit the oral literature to a literal understanding of it. As we all know, in the ancient times, pen and ink were extremely rare. It was a luxury item that did not even exist yet. So if people wanted to express their feelings or the content of their thoughts how should they do it? They could only communicate orally. So we can know that oral literature is actually the earliest style of literature. Written literature came after oral literature and slowly changed through time. Oral literature has become less and less important, and its position in the family of literature has gradually declined, even slightly humble. But even so, we should all know that the earliest form of our literature is oral literature. Even if it has become less significant now, its role in the ancient times for people is not to be ignored.

2. The Meaning of Oral Literature and Its Role Analysis

In our time life, written literature is of course our main tendency of literature, it can let us review and appreciate the content of literature we are interested in infinitely; it can let us quietly enjoy the beauty of the words, let us feel the scenery brought by the words, let us feel ourselves full of energy even when we are exhausted. Perhaps it is also because written literature gives us a richness that we do not want to mention oral literature more and more. In the end, oral literature is forgotten by millions of people, and what is even more regrettable is that there may be a large proportion of people who did not even know about the existence of oral literature from the very beginning until now.

Oral traditional culture has a more far-reaching impact on us than we can think of. Oral traditional culture provides a dazzling array of examples for scholars. It can clearly explain to scholars how to use various techniques and how to use
them in order to achieve the best results. It can only be seen that oral culture is of great significance to us. In fact, in our real life, we always inevitably use our mouth to transmit some of our words. When we want to express it, we are most accustomed to expressing it by mouth. Instead of first thinking about taking paper and pen to record it, and then showing it to others, isn’t it making a mountain out of a molehill? If you complicate something that is already very simple, the efficiency of doing things will be directly reduced. And the content expressed in paper and pen may not be consistent with what the mouth originally intended to express, and it will also cause a lot of misunderstandings. I think it is more important that we use verbal expressions to make listeners feel the emotions we want to express, so that listeners can feel the same, we can change our volume and tone when we verbalize to transmit our emotions to our listeners, so that they can actually penetrate into the emotions and feel the great charm of the content we convey. This allows for maximum acceptance of the expression. However, if it is expressed in writing, people may not have the patience to read it, and it may not achieve the result we want. In this regard, I think that to a large extent, oral expressions are more acceptable to people. Of course, there is no doubt that our oral literature is also the same, oral literature is also oral expression, but the oral literature is expressed in the form of poetry, prose and other types of content, while we generally speak of oral expression is what we want to say in our daily lives. For literature, I think its ultimate purpose lies in the number of people who appreciate it, but we know very well that in this increasingly impatient society, fewer people will have the patience to read a book seriously, and a large proportion of people use the method of “listening to books” to meet their own requirements for reading books. Therefore, we can see oral literature everywhere in our life. An in-depth understanding of oral literature can improve our cultural level.

3. The Value of Traditional Oral Literature Category

Those recognized by the state as intangible cultural heritage are certainly extremely valuable. First of all, we should know that the social value of literature lies in its transmission. From ancient times to the present, literature has become more and more popular in Chinese culture. The fact that literature has been handed down by people to this day and has such a long history is the most direct manifestation of its charm and value. There is no doubt that oral literature is also the same. Oral literature, as one of the many forms of expression in literature, has also come to the present through a long history slowly and step by step. Therefore, oral literature is classified as intangible cultural heritage precisely because it has a long history and has been inherited in the folklore, and we should not underestimate their vitality.
Secondly, the social value of folk literature is that it can truly reflect the political tendencies and social trends of people’s names. Literature is an important part of people’s lives, an essential textbook and entertainment tool for public life. If society lacks people’s oral creations, it will be difficult for national researchers to know the real history of the working people, and then the history of the past will be less credible in the eyes of future generations, and will not allow them to truly understand Chinese history. More importantly, if the state does not really know the real life of the people, how is the country’s economy going to improve and in which direction is the country going to develop?

Finally, the artistic value of literature lies in its pluralism and popularization. This is especially true of oral literature. Take popularization, in such a vast world, everyone is able to speak and to express themselves orally. In when one’s knowledge base or accumulated experience is sufficient, however, we know that in fact, in earlier times, there were many people who did not have the financial means to go to school, and they received limited education, which eventually led to being able to write and recognize few words, but not being able to write does not mean not being able to speak. This is where oral literature shows its extremely important artistic value. It expresses what people want to express through oral transmission. As shown above, oral literature is also ubiquitous in our life, and we should pay more attention to oral literature. Traditional oral literature is classified as intangible cultural heritage, which is also inseparable from its own value.

Most of us probably don’t know much about intangible culture, except that sometimes we read about something being listed as intangible cultural heritage. When we see such news, we may click in to see what is so powerful out of curiosity. But we never really get to know intangible cultural heritage. Just like the oral literature mentioned in this article, before this, many people must have doubts that oral literature can be considered as intangible cultural heritage, isn’t it a common form of literature? But when we know more about it, we realize that the value of oral culture is so diverse and significant to literature.

4. Conclusion

In a modern society that attaches more and more importance to cultural inheritance and development, we should start from ourselves, improve our own cultural reserves, learn more about our motherland’s culture and expand our knowledge. It is not only indelibly beneficial for ourselves, but also significant for our country. Oral literature has always existed in our daily life, but many people still find it unfamiliar, so we need to collect more relevant information to further understand
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them. Since traditional oral literature is listed as intangible cultural heritage, it shows its importance. We hope that this article will help us to understand more about the intangible cultural heritage of oral literature.

Works Cited


