

A Study on the blending of Han and Yi cultures based on the legend of creating characters

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ABSTRACT

Based on the view of the same origin and different flow of Chinese characters and Yi characters, this paper sorts out the legend of Chinese characters and Yi characters and probes into their cultural integration and contemporary value. Firstly, the article summarizes the mythologies and legends related to the origin and development of Chinese characters and Yi characters. Secondly, it discusses the similarities between Chinese characters and Yi characters in vocabulary, grammar, etc.

KEYWORDS

Creating characters; legends; Chinese characters; Yi characters; cultural blending

1 Research status

Under the background of building the sense of community of the Chinese nation and the communication and integration of various ethnic groups, more and more scholars began to pay attention to the research progress and achievements in this field. The purpose of this paper is to systematically sort out and evaluate the literature related to the legends of Chinese characters and Yi characters, in order to understand the research status and development trend in this field, and to provide a reference for the subsequent academic research and practical application. In his article "Chinese and Yi Characters: The Historical Testimony of the Same Root and Origin of Chinese Culture", ShaMa Dage (2023) argued that "Chinese characters and Yi characters are square characters, and they are the only two characters still in use among the six ancient characters in the world." The similarities in character features, font structure and character methods are the proof of the homology of Chinese and Yi characters¹. At the same time, it discusses that the Chinese and Yi characters belong to the same origin and the same origin and different flow from the aspects of the similar character creation myth, the same method of character creation and the common writing of Chinese civilization. Long Hong and Wang Lingjuan (2011), in the Creation and Design of Chinese Characters: Myths and Legends about the Creation of Characters by Cang Jie, said, "The myths and legends of the creation of characters by Cang Jie have international anthropological significance, and are showing extraordinary cultural value, that is, behind the mysterious legends, there is a thinking mode or set in the Chinese cultural tradition."² Zhu Jianjun (2007) argues in his Comparative Study on the Origin Myths of Chinese Characters, Yi Characters and Dongba

1 Chinese and Yi characters: A historical witness of the Same origin of Chinese culture [J]. Education for Chinese Nationalities, 2023(12):58-60.

2 Long Hong, Wang Lingjuan. The Creation Design of Chinese Characters: The Myth and Legend of "Cang Jie creating characters" [J]. Creativity and Design, 2011(6):46-52.

Characters: "Chinese characters, Yi characters and Dongba characters all have a long history and belong to the original characters. They have both commonalities and distinct national characteristics.³Chen Lin (2017) argued in a Comparative Analysis of the Meaning and Shape of Chinese Characters and Yi Characters that Chinese characters and Yi characters belong to the same origin, and many scholars in the academic circle agree with this view. When the ancestors of Yi people started writing, they should have been deeply influenced by other ethnic languages, especially Chinese characters. Chinese characters and Yi characters not only share similar legend, but also share the same method of making characters, and similar psychology of making characters. By comparing the two, we can more clearly understand the close relationship between Yi and Chinese characters. However, no matter how to explore, Chinese characters and Yi are rare treasures in Chinese culture, and their respective values are worth our in-depth exploration, inheritance and development. "And both have similar legends, and both have the same method of writing."⁴

The academic circles have different opinions, but the author believes that all things in the world are interrelated, and Chinese characters and Yi are also inseparable. Whether it is language or script, in ancient times or today, examples of mutual learning and application are very common. Judging from the legend of character creation, both of them are said to be created by God, and people create characters according to the tips of birds, which is self-evident.

2 An overview of the legend of Chinese and Yi characters

2.1 The legend of creating Chinese characters

2.1.1 Origin and evolution of Chinese characters

The origin of Chinese characters can be traced back to primitive pictures, which primitive people used to express themselves in life. With the passage of time, these pictures gradually evolved into "Ideographic script", they are neat and standardized, have a certain regularity, and have the characteristics of simple characters, which may be the germination of Chinese characters⁵.

The evolution of Chinese characters has gone through many stages. The earliest writing appeared in the late Yin and Shang dynasties about the 14th century BC, forming a preliminary type of writing, namely oracle bone script. Oracle bone inscriptions are both pictographic script and phonetic scripts. So far, there are still some pictographic script like pictures in Chinese characters, which are very vivid. The appearance of oracle bone inscriptions marked the evolution of Chinese characters from primitive drawings to ideographic symbols and then to the preliminary writing system.

On this basis, these pictorial characters and ideographic patterns in pottery patterns evolved into word characters. According to research, primitive Chinese characters appeared in the middle of the Neolithic Age, and it took about 2,600 years to develop into a preliminary writing system. Due to the popularity of bronze ware, the unification of political culture and the standardization of writing, the Xia Dynasty is considered to be the key period for the formal formation of the Chinese character system. The Xia Dynasty provided a solid foundation and driving force for the formal formation and subsequent development of Chinese characters, making Chinese characters gradually become an

3 Zhu Jianjun. A Comparative study on the origin myths of Chinese Characters, Yi Characters and Dongba Characters [J]. Yunnan Social Sciences, 2007(4):103-107.

4 Chen Lin. Comparative Analysis of Chinese Characters and Yi Characters [J]. Journal of Qujing Normal University, 2017, 36(4):58-61, 66.

5 Internet Documentation Resources (<http://www.docin.com>) -2012

important carrier of the history and wisdom of Chinese civilization. In short, the origin and evolution of Chinese characters is a complex and long process, from the original picture to the ideographic symbol and then to the preliminary writing system, but also accompanied by the influence and integration of different regions and cultures. The evolution of Chinese characters reflects the continuity and diversity of human civilization, and also laid the foundation for the modern Chinese characters we use today.

2.1.2 Legend of Cang Jie character creation

The story of Cang Jie's creation of Chinese characters is one of the ancient Chinese myths and legends. According to legend, Cang Jie was the historian of the Yellow Emperor. Inspired by observing the footprints of birds and animals, he created Chinese characters by classifying them, collecting, sorting and using them. According to *Huainan Zi* records, Cang Jie created the place called "Phoenix book table", he created the word when the rain millet, ghost night crying. Although it is generally believed that Cang Jie alone created Chinese characters is only a legend, but he may be the straightener of Chinese characters, and is respected by later generations as "the sage of character making".

According to legend, Cang Jie originally used the method of tying a rope to record things, but as time went on, he found that this method could not meet the growing demand, so he began to think of ways to create words. By observing the characteristics of various things, such as the sun, moon, stars, clouds, mountains, rivers, lakes, seas, and various birds and beasts, and applied objects, he drew pictures according to their characteristics and created many pictograms. These pictograms gradually evolved into the basic components of Chinese characters, laying the foundation for the later development of Chinese characters.

The story of Cang Jie's character creation is widely spread in Chinese history, which not only reflects the ancient people's understanding of the hard work and effort of creating characters, but also shows the Chinese nation's spirit of cultural inheritance and respect. The legend of Cang Jie's character creation originated in ancient China and was closely related to the history of the Yellow Emperor period. Cang Jie, as the historian of the Yellow Emperor, was responsible for managing various affairs of the tribe, including recording hunting, distribution, and population increases and decreases. However, there was no writing system at the time, which made recording extremely difficult.

2.1.3 The Cultural connotation in the legend of Chinese character creation

The cultural connotation of the legend of Chinese character creation is very rich, reflecting the ancient people's observation and understanding of nature and society, showing creativity and wisdom, inheriting culture and history, and containing philosophical thoughts. These legends are not only an important way for us to understand ancient culture and history, but also an important resource for us to inherit and carry forward the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation. It reflects the observation and understanding of nature and society, and reflects the observation and understanding of natural and social phenomena of ancient people. By observing the changes of everything in heaven and earth, he created words or symbols representing different things, thus establishing a unique writing system. This reflects the ancient Chinese spirit of reverence and exploration for nature and society.

Cang Jie, the hero in the legend of Chinese character creation, is described as a man of outstanding creativity and wisdom. He kept trying and finally succeeded in creating the excellent cultural achievement of Chinese characters. It illustrates the creativity and wisdom of ancient

Chinese people in the face of challenges and difficulties. As an important part of ancient Chinese culture, the legend of Chinese character creation carries rich cultural and historical information. These legends spread widely among the people through oral transmission and written records, becoming an important carrier of the Chinese nation's cultural identity and historical memory. The legend of Chinese character creation contains rich philosophical thoughts, such as Yin-yang and the five elements, the unity of heaven and man. These thoughts played an important guiding role in the formation and development of Chinese characters, making Chinese characters not only a writing tool, but also an art form to express philosophical thoughts and aesthetic ideas.

2.2 Legends of Yi characters

2.2.1 Origin and evolution of Yi characters

Yi language is used by the Yi people in Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan and other places, and is also known as "Cuan Wen" and "Universal book". Regarding the origin and evolution of the Yi script, there are many viewpoints in academic circles. One idea is that the Yi script originated from the Late Neolithic to early Bronze Ages, around 1000 to 2000 BC. At that time, the original Yi tribe adopted a primitive form of symbols to record language information. These symbols are plain and simple, but not complete and standardized. Over time, these symbols gradually developed into more complex, standardized writing. Another view is that the Yi language originated from the Yao and Shun dynasties to the Shang and Zhou dynasties, and continued to be passed down to the Han and Ming dynasties. According to this view, the Yi script was widely used during the Shang and Zhou dynasties and gradually developed into a unique style of writing. In the Han Dynasty, the Yi script was further developed and perfected, forming a relatively complete writing system. As for the evolution of the Yi script, it has gone through many stages in history. In the early stage, Yi script mainly adopted pictographic, pointing, understanding and other methods to form a unique writing form. With the passage of time, the Yi script gradually absorbed the elements of Chinese characters and formed a writing form similar to Chinese characters. After the Ming Dynasty, Yi began to standardize and gradually developed into a relatively complete writing system.

2.2.2 Legend of Yi character creation

There are many different versions of the legend about the creation of Yi characters.

Guizhou Yi area Jilu old man creation. In ancient times, there was a wise old man in Jilu, who started from the image of livestock and beasts, recorded the year on the tree, and the moon on the stone, which became the symbols of the twelve Earth branches, forming a unique Yi language completely different from Chinese characters. Yunnan Yi district Lu Tu Zhi Na Er creation theory. In ancient times, Lu Tu Zhi Na Er that there was no culture of the suffering, one day, he went into the mountains, bent the bow shot down the white eagle flying in the sky, with the eagle feather as a pen, with the wings as paper, dipped in the blood of the eagle to draw the suffering of the history, so unknowingly created the text.

Our first ancestor created the Yi language. When he sat in meditation in the forest, he saw birds like crows marking different shapes of symbols on the SLATE with their mouths, and then issuing various sounds, which our iron ancestors happily recorded. After that, the bird came to teach him every day. Later, the family saw his strange action, suspicious, followed him to the forest to spy, strange birds see this scene, immediately disappeared, strange birds never return, our iron ancestors have studied the book from now on, so the formation of today's Yi language is not complete situation.

ASU Laze is a famous Bimo in Liangshan Yi Area of Sichuan Province, and it is said that the Yi

language was created by ASU Laze. ASU Laze wanted to create words, so that people's thoughts and wisdom could be passed on to distant places and future generations, and God told him that he could go to Longtou Mountain to look for divine birds. ASU Laze sought it, and the bird, spitting its saliva like silk, flew to and fro on the sand, and taught it to write, and ASU Laze wrote it on her clothes. A few days later, his sister came and called him from a distance and startled the bird away. Therefore, the Yi script is incomplete.

The emergence and development of Yi characters, deeply rooted in the actual needs of society, is gradually formed in People's Daily communication, based on the actual needs and subjective and objective conditions. It is a crystallization of wisdom jointly created by the ancestors of the Yi people in their hard work and production, not an individual original, but a collective wisdom of the social working masses. In addition, there is a close connection between the origin of Yi characters and primitive religious witchcraft. In many folk legends, the birth of Yi characters is closely related to Bimo, which shows that Bimo played an important role in the creation, standardization and promotion of Yi characters. Through the legends about the origin of Yi characters spread among the Yi people, we can not only find the objective facts reflected in them, but also deeply understand that Yi characters are the precious products of the long-term practice and understanding of Yi ancestors in the course of Yi's social history. No matter what kind of legends, they all reflect the hardships and deep feelings of the Yi people for the creation and inheritance of characters. These legends are not only an important part of the Yi culture, but also a precious heritage of the diversified and integrated culture of the Chinese nation.

2.2.3 The Cultural connotation in the legend of Yi character creation

The legend of the creation of Yi characters reflects the Yi people's deep knowledge and understanding of nature, society and human beings themselves. In the legend, the Yi people draw inspiration from observing the universe and create their unique characters. This process not only showcases the wisdom and creativity of the Yi people, but also reflects their close connection with the natural world and unique understanding of the world. Secondly, the legend of the creation of Yi characters contains rich historical and cultural information of Yi people.

These legends are often closely connected with the historical events, figures and social life of the Yi people, and inherit and promote the cultural traditions of the Yi people through the form of writing. At the same time, the legend of the creation of Yi characters is also an important carrier of Yi's history and culture, which provides valuable materials for the study of Chinese history and culture.

3 The Chinese and Yi characters in the legend of the homology and integration of development

3.1 Similarities in the shape, structure and method of word use

First of all, from the character characteristics, both Chinese characters and Yi characters belong to the block characters, and their font structure and character methods have many similarities. This similarity is largely indicative of a homologous relationship between the two. The "six books" of Chinese characters, that is, pictograms, pointing, understanding, shape and sound, transliteration, false borrowing, is the creation model of ideographic script, and Yi characters have many similarities with Chinese characters. For example, the proportion of hieroglyphics in Yi language is large, and at the same time, finger-pointing and understanding characters are also common. Secondly, there are similarities between Chinese characters and Yi in writing system and language structure. Although

Chinese characters and Yi characters differ in the details of their writing, their writing systems both use the form of square characters, which to some extent reflects the common writing traditions of the two languages. At the same time, both Chinese and Yi belong to the Sino-Tibetan language family, and they have many similarities in language structure and grammar rules, which further proves the cultural homology between Chinese characters and Yi.

Both the Yi script and Chinese characters have undergone the evolution from pictographic to ideographic. This similar evolution process may indicate the mutual influence and integration development of the two types of writing. Yi and Chinese characters have many similarities in structure, for example, the Chinese character "wood" and the Yi meaning "shirt" in shape has a great similarity. This similarity reflects the blending of Han and Yi culture in writing structure. In the Yi and Chinese characters, there are some symbols or characters with similar meanings, such as "water", "hand", "moon" and so on. This sharing of symbolic meaning indicates the blending of Han and Yi culture in a deep sense. Whether it is Chinese characters or Yi, writing is used to record language, transmit information and pass on cultural heritage. This common understanding of the function of writing may also be an important embodiment of the harmonious development of Han and Yi culture.

3.2 Different characters write the common Chinese history

Writing is a tool of communication and recording, which makes the transmission of information more accurate and efficient, and promotes the development and progress of society. It is also an important part of cultural, historical, social and economic development, and plays an irreplaceable role in maintaining national characteristics and promoting national development.

Chinese characters and Yi characters are the oldest characters in China. They are an important part of the long history and culture of the Chinese nation. They both carry rich historical information and cultural values. Chinese characters are created and used by the Han nationality, while Yi characters are created and used by the Yi people, a minority nationality in China.

The two have different perspectives and characteristics in writing Chinese history, and both record the changes and development of the Chinese nation. Chinese characters are the most important carrier of Chinese civilization, recording the history of China for thousands of years. From oracle bone script, gold script, seal script, official script to regular script, the evolution process is the reflection of the historical development of ancient Chinese society, which provides the basis for the study of ancient Chinese historical documents. In addition to the Han people, Chinese characters have also been adopted and borrowed by other ethnic minorities, such as the Zhuang people and the Bai people, reflecting the inclusiveness and diversity of Chinese culture.

Chinese characters are widely used in literature, calligraphy, poetry and other fields of art, and are an important part of Chinese art. Yi characters record the history, culture, myths and legends of the Yi people, directly reflect the life, thoughts and aesthetics of the Yi people, and are an important means to inherit culture and educate future generations.

The Chinese characters and the Yi script each record the history and culture of different ethnic groups, which complement each other and together constitute the rich diversity of Chinese civilization. In the long-term communication and integration, there was mutual influence and reference between Chinese characters and Yi characters. For example, some Chinese words were introduced into Yi, and some Yi customs were recorded in Chinese literature. Both Chinese characters and Yi characters are the common cultural wealth of the Chinese nation. They have written the history of the Chinese nation together, enhanced the cohesion and cultural identity of the Chinese nation, and played an irreplaceable role in maintaining and developing the diversity and richness of Chinese culture.

3.3 Contemporary value of cultural integration and development

The mutual contact, exchange and integration between different cultures, this process of integration has a profound impact on cultural identity. Under the background of globalization, the communication and interaction between various cultures are becoming more and more frequent, and cultural blending has become an important way to promote cultural identity. "There are many similarities between the ancient Chinese characters and the ancient Yi characters in the creation and use of characters, and the ancient Yi plays a positive role in the interpretation of some difficult to interpret the" symbol "found in archaeology, which is a strong proof that the Chinese and Yi characters have the same root and the same origin. Although the Chinese and Yi characters have experienced different development paths, the use of the characters has been uninterrupted for thousands of years, which jointly writes the development track of Chinese civilization and highlights the pluralistic and integrated pattern of the Chinese nation. Written cultures complement each other, and play an irreplaceable role in promoting Chinese people's understanding of the blending of Han and Yi cultures from the legend of writing, studying the community consciousness of 8 ethnic groups, and consolidating the unity and unity of the Chinese nation⁶."

First of all, cultural integration helps to broaden cultural horizons. When different cultures blend with each other, people have the opportunity to be exposed to diverse cultural elements and values. This kind of contact can break down cultural barriers and give people a more comprehensive understanding of other cultures, thereby broadening their own cultural horizons. This broadened cultural horizon helps to enhance people's cultural inclusiveness and understanding, and promotes the formation of cultural identity.

Secondly, cultural integration helps to promote cultural innovation. The blending of different cultures often stimulates new cultural elements and creativity. This kind of innovation can not only enrich the connotation of culture, but also promote the inheritance and development of culture. Through cultural innovation, people can understand and identify with their own culture more deeply, and at the same time, they can better spread and promote their own culture.

In addition, cultural integration helps to enhance cultural self-confidence. In the context of globalization, the communication and interaction between various cultures make the diversity of cultures more prominent. When a culture is able to communicate and integrate with other cultures on an equal footing, this culture is often able to show its own characteristics and values more confidently. Through cultural integration, people can better understand and identify with their own culture, thus enhancing cultural self-confidence.

We should adhere to the principle that all ethnic groups respect, appreciate, learn from and learn from each other, and, guided by core socialist values, actively disseminate and practice the fine culture of the Chinese nation, promote the inheritance, protection, innovation and integration of the cultures of all ethnic groups, promote the opening of ethnic cultures and the blossoming of a hundred flowers, stimulate the cultural identity of all ethnic groups, and enhance cultural confidence, cultural awareness and cultural responsibility. We will promote the common prosperity and development of the cultures of all ethnic groups, promote mutual understanding and recognition among different cultures, and build a strong sense of community among the Chinese nation.

4 Conclusion

China is a multi-ethnic country. Due to migration, war, trade and other reasons in history, various

6 The Chinese and Yi characters: The historical witness of the same origin of Chinese culture [J].2023(12):58-60.

ethnic groups have been in frequent contact and exchange, which provides geographical conditions for cultural integration. In Chinese history, political and economic factors have always been important driving forces to promote cultural integration. The trade, land competition and political marriage among different ethnic groups all promoted the exchange and integration of the two cultures.

Chinese and Yi belong to the Sino-Tibetan language family, and there are many similarities in the use of quantifiers, auxiliary words, grammar and tone. The language exchange between Han and Yi not only promotes the understanding of the two cultures, but also promotes cultural integration and innovation. With the deepening of cultural exchanges, religious beliefs and folk beliefs of the two sides have also influenced and merged with each other to a certain extent, and religious ceremonies and festival customs combining Han and Yi elements have emerged in some Yi areas, indicating that in the long-term communication and integration process, social customs and festival celebrations have also influenced and learned from each other to a certain extent.

In the long history, Chinese characters and Yi characters have each experienced their own unique development tracks and formed their own distinct cultural characteristics and artistic styles. Yi language, with its unique writing style and rich cultural connotation, has become an important carrier of Yi culture, carrying the spirit and wisdom of the Yi people. Each character of the Yi script contains profound historical and cultural significance, reflecting the lifestyle, religious beliefs and social structure of the Yi people. Chinese characters, with their extensive and profound cultural deposits and unique artistic charm, have become an important symbol of Chinese culture. Every stroke and structure of Chinese characters contains rich historical information and philosophical thoughts, reflecting the way of thinking and aesthetic taste of the Chinese nation. Although Chinese characters and Yi characters are different in form and content, they both carry rich historical and cultural information, and their independent and interrelated development process shows that Chinese characters and Yi culture have homology. This homology is reflected in the fact that they are the crystallization of the wisdom of the Chinese nation and are an important part of the Chinese civilization. The development process of Chinese characters and Yi characters not only shows the uniqueness of their respective cultures, but also reflects the diversity and unity of Chinese civilization. This pattern of development, which is both homologous and diversified, is a vivid example of the pluralistic unity of the Chinese civilization.

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