

Cultural Identity and Community Construction: A Study on the Dual Functions and Identity Reconstruction of Contemporary Southern Fujian Folk Dance

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Abstract: This article focuses on the contemporary southern Fujian folk dance, and deeply explores its dual functions in cultural identity and community building and the path of identity reconstruction. Through literature research, this article combs the cultural origin of southern Fujian folk dance, analyzes its artistic characteristics, and uses field investigation and other methods to understand its practical role in contemporary society. It is found that southern Fujian folk dance carries historical memories, conveys core values and expresses people's feelings in cultural identity, which strengthens people's identity with Minnan culture. In the construction of the community, it promotes the exchange of social members, creates a harmonious community atmosphere, spreads regional culture, and promotes the development of the community. However, under the contemporary background, it faces challenges and needs to reconstruct its identity. Therefore, this article proposes to formulate development strategies from the aspects of educational inheritance, social promotion and innovation integration, aiming at reviving southern Fujian folk dance in contemporary society, better inheriting Minnan culture and enhancing the influence of regional culture.

1. Introduction

With the acceleration of globalization and modernization, the inheritance and development of regional culture has become the focus of academic attention. Southern Fujian folk dance, as a vivid representation of Minnan culture, bears the unique historical memory and popular feelings in this area, and its value and function in contemporary society need to be further explored [1]. Cultural identity is an individual's sense of belonging and identity to the cultural group to which he belongs, while community construction is related to social cohesion and harmonious development [2]. Southern Fujian folk dance is of great significance in these two aspects [3]. From the perspective of cultural identity, it is an important carrier of Minnan cultural heritage, conveying the essence of regional culture with a unique artistic form, arousing people's deep emotional resonance with local culture and strengthening cultural identity [4]. As far as community construction is concerned, southern Fujian folk dance can cross the boundaries of class, age and occupation and become an important force to promote group communication and social unity.

Previous studies mostly focused on the artistic noumenon of southern Fujian folk dance, and the in-depth discussion on its cultural identity and community construction was relatively scarce [5]. The purpose of this study is to fill this gap, systematically analyze the dual functions played by southern Fujian folk dance in contemporary society, and explore the effective path of its identity reconstruction. This article explores the cultural connotation of southern Fujian folk dance, reveals its important value in contemporary society, provides new ideas and methods for the protection and inheritance of regional culture, and helps to enhance the cultural soft power in southern Fujian.

2. Cultural origin and characteristic analysis of southern Fujian folk dance

Southern Fujian folk dance has a long history, which originated from the production and life practice of local people. In the early days, people in southern Fujian folk dance gradually formed some simple body movements in farming, fishing and hunting activities, and these movements evolved with rituals such as sacrifices and celebrations, and finally formed a unique folk dance [6].

In the long history, southern Fujian folk dance has frequently communicated with the outside world due to its special geographical position, and its dance has also absorbed the elements of different regional cultures, which has been continuously enriched and improved.

From the artistic features, southern Fujian folk dance has a variety of action forms. Dancers' postures are flexible and changeable, their steps are light and rhythmic, and many movements imitate all things in nature, vividly showing the people's careful observation of life in southern Fujian. In terms of clothing, it is colorful and has strong regional characteristics. Through unique patterns and tailoring, it highlights the unique charm of Minnan culture [7]. Its music rhythm is lively and lively, and it often uses local musical instruments, such as pipa and Dong Xiao in Nanyin, which complement the dance movements and create a unique artistic atmosphere. These characteristics together constitute the unique artistic charm of southern Fujian folk dance and become an important symbol of Minnan culture.

3. The functional interpretation of Southern Fujian folk dance from the perspective of cultural identity

Cultural identity is an important link to maintain people's feelings and values in a nation or region, and southern Fujian folk dance plays an irreplaceable role in strengthening cultural identity. Southern Fujian folk dance bears the long historical and cultural memory of southern Fujian folk dance. From the ancient sacrificial dance to the dance form reflecting the labor scene, every movement and melody contains the wisdom and life experience of our ancestors [8]. This inheritance enables future generations to touch the historical context through dance and remember their own cultural roots, thus strengthening their sense of identity with Minnan culture.

Southern Fujian folk dance also conveys the core values of Minnan culture through its unique artistic expression. In Minnan culture, the qualities of unity, cooperation and perseverance are highly respected, and these values are vividly reflected in folk dance [9]. Taking the form of dancing in unison as an example (Figure 1), dancers must cooperate with each other and coordinate their movements to present a perfect dance effect, which undoubtedly interprets and promotes the spirit of unity and cooperation. By participating in or watching such dances, people are influenced by these values in a subtle way, further deepening their recognition of the value system of Minnan culture.



Figure 1 Southern Fujian folk dance

Southern Fujian folk dance is also an important outlet for people's emotional expression in southern Fujian. During festivals or major celebrations, people express their joy through cheerful dances; On some special occasions, such as the dance when the wanderer returns home, it is full of homesickness and reunion. The expression of this kind of emotion can form a strong resonance among the people, make them feel the emotional connection between them, and then strengthen the sense of belonging as a member of Minnan culture community and enhance the sense of identity with Minnan culture.

4. The role of southern Fujian folk dance in community construction

In the grand process of community construction, southern Fujian folk dance plays a key role with its unique charm. It is like a bridge, connecting different groups in southern Fujian folk dance, and injecting continuous vitality into the construction of the community. Southern Fujian folk dance can effectively promote communication and interaction among members of society. In all kinds of folk activities and festivals, men, women and children have participated in the dance. Both professional dancers and ordinary people dance together in the same space. This kind of joint dance activity breaks the boundaries of age, gender and occupation, allowing everyone to interact with each other in the rhythm of dance and enhance mutual understanding.

Southern Fujian folk dance helps to create a positive and harmonious community atmosphere. When the community organizes folk dance activities, residents prepare, rehearse and perform together. During this process, everyone worked together and divided tasks to present a wonderful dance performance. This cooperation has enhanced residents' sense of belonging to the community, and also cultivated the community spirit of mutual assistance and love. Table 1 shows the specific functions of southern Fujian folk dance at different levels of community building:

Table 1: The Role of Southern Fujian Folk Dance in Community Construction

Level of Community Construction	Manifestations of Southern Fujian Folk Dance	Specific Functions
Social Member Interaction	Communal dancing in folk activities and festival celebrations	Breaks down group boundaries, enhances understanding and emotional exchange among members
Community Atmosphere Creation	Dance activities organized by the community	Strengthens residents' sense of belonging, cultivates a spirit of mutual assistance and love within the community
Regional Cultural Dissemination	Dance displays in cultural exchange events	Enhances the influence of Minnan culture, attracts external attention and recognition

Southern Fujian folk dance also plays an important role in regional cultural communication. When southern Fujian folk dance went out of the local area and displayed on a broader stage, it became an important carrier to spread Minnan culture. Through wonderful dance performances, the outside world can intuitively feel the unique charm of Minnan culture, thus attracting more people to understand southern Fujian folk dance and promoting the exchange and integration of regional cultures. This can further enhance the position and influence of southern Fujian folk dance in the cultural community.

5. The identity reconstruction and development strategy of contemporary Southern Fujian folk dance

With the accelerated pace of life in modern society and the impact of foreign culture, the original living soil of southern Fujian folk dance has changed. The younger generation has insufficient cognition and participation in it, and the traditional inheritance model has encountered difficulties. The development of globalization and digitalization has also brought new opportunities for southern Fujian folk dance, providing a broader platform for its dissemination and innovation.

Table 2: Development Strategies and Expected Effects of Southern Fujian Folk Dance

Development Strategy	Specific Measures	Target Audience	Expected Short-term Effects	Expected Long-term Effects	Potential Challenges	Response Methods
Educational Inheritance	Fun dance activities in kindergartens	Young children	Stimulates children's interest in dance, introduces elements of Minnan culture	Cultivates a foundation for future inheritance, forms a long-term mechanism for cultural enlightenment	Children's attention spans are easily distracted	Design engaging and interactive teaching content
	Incorporating into special courses in primary and secondary schools	Primary and secondary school students	Students master basic dance moves, understand cultural background	Enhances students' identification with local culture, cultivates a reserve force for inheritance	Academic pressure affects participation	Arrange course schedules reasonably, align with quality education requirements
	Establishing research majors in universities	University students and researchers	Promotes academic research, produces theoretical achievements	Cultivates professionals, deeply explores the cultural connotations and innovative potential of dance	Shortage of professional faculty	Combine recruitment and training, strengthen inter-university exchanges and cooperation
Social Promotion	Posting highlights on short-video platforms	All internet users	Attracts significant attention, increases topic popularity	Expands the influence of dance, enhances public awareness	Overwhelmed by vast amounts of information	Promote using popular hashtags and collaborate with internet celebrities
	Live streaming dance rehearsals and cultural explanations	Online viewers	Enhances viewers' understanding of the culture behind the dance	Cultivates a loyal online audience, forms a stable dissemination model	Live streaming effects are affected by network issues	Test networks in advance, prepare multiple live streaming contingency plans
	Regularly hosting dance activities in communities	Community residents	Promotes neighborly interaction, creates a community cultural atmosphere	Increases residents' participation and sense of belonging in dance	Difficulty in organizing and coordinating activities	Establish a community volunteer team, allocate tasks reasonably
Innovative Integration	Crossover collaboration with musicals	Musical enthusiasts and dance audiences	Creates novel stage forms, attracts new audience groups	Expand the forms of dance expression and enhance the competitiveness in the art market	Difficulty in blending styles	Invite professionals for guidance, conduct multiple rehearsals and refinements
	Creating immersive performances with multimedia art	Audiences seeking novel experiences	Provides a unique viewing experience, sparks attention and discussion	Enhances the modernity and appeal of dance, explores new development directions	High technical costs	Seek support from government cultural funds and corporate sponsorships

The identity reconstruction of southern Fujian folk dance needs to be combined with contemporary social needs and cultural context. On the one hand, we should dig deep into its cultural connotation, integrate the unique history, folk customs, beliefs and other elements of southern Fujian, and strengthen its identity as a regional cultural symbol. On the other hand, it is necessary to innovate the dance form on the basis of maintaining the original characteristics to make it more suitable for contemporary aesthetics. In order to better realize the development of southern Fujian folk dance, this article formulates the following strategies. In the aspect of educational inheritance, we should strengthen the promotion in the school education system, and gradually offer relevant courses from kindergarten to primary and secondary schools to cultivate students' interest and cognition of southern Fujian folk dance. In social promotion, with the help of modern media platform, the charm of southern Fujian folk dance is widely spread. At the same time, we encourage the community to carry out all kinds of dance activities to improve people's participation. In terms of innovation and integration, cross-border cooperation with modern art forms such as musicals and multimedia arts will expand the performance space of dance. Table 2 shows the development strategy of southern Fujian folk dance and its expected results.

Through identity reconstruction and the implementation of these development strategies, southern Fujian folk dance is expected to regain its vitality in contemporary society, better inherit and carry forward Minnan culture, and make positive contributions to the prosperity and development of regional culture.

6. Conclusions

Southern Fujian folk dance, as an important part of Minnan culture, is of great value in contemporary society. From the perspective of cultural identity, it is like an invisible bond, which closely connects the people of southern Fujian with a long history and culture. Its rich and varied dance forms, whether solemn and solemn sacrificial dance or cheerful and lively festival dance, all contain the wisdom and emotion of ancestors and become vivid carriers of historical memory. Through its unique artistic expression, it conveys the core values such as unity, cooperation and perseverance, arouses strong emotional resonance among the people, and greatly strengthens the people's sense of identity and belonging to Minnan culture.

In the aspect of community construction, southern Fujian folk dance plays an active role as a promoter. Dancing in various folk activities and festivals breaks the barriers between different groups and enhances the understanding and communication among members. Dance activities organized by the community create a harmonious atmosphere of mutual help and love, and enhance residents' sense of belonging and cohesion to the community. When southern Fujian folk dance went out of the native land and was exhibited on a broader stage, it effectively spread the regional culture, enhanced the cultural influence of southern Fujian folk dance, attracted the attention and recognition of the outside world to Minnan culture, and promoted the construction of a cultural community.

Undeniably, the rapid development of contemporary society has brought many challenges to southern Fujian folk dance. Problems such as the lack of interest of the younger generation and the limitation of traditional inheritance mode need to be solved urgently. Therefore, it is urgent to reconstruct its identity and formulate scientific and reasonable development strategies. By increasing the promotion in the education system, making use of modern media to spread widely and integrating with modern art forms, southern Fujian folk dance is expected to achieve a magnificent turn in contemporary society and make this ancient art form glow with vitality in the new era.

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