

The Role and Value of Ethnic Hequ Errentai in the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage

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Abstract: *Ethnic Hequ Errentai is a type of traditional folk art in China, with rich historical and cultural heritage and ethnic emotions. With the acceleration of modernization, the protection and inheritance issues faced by the ethnic Hequ Errentai are becoming increasingly prominent. This paper explores the role and value of the ethnic Hequ Errentai in the protection of intangible cultural heritage through the review and analysis of relevant literature. Research has shown that the Errentai in the ethnic Hequ area plays an important role and value in the protection of intangible cultural heritage, including promoting ethnic culture, inheriting historical memories, and enhancing cultural confidence. Therefore, efforts should be made to increase the protection of the ethnic Hequ Errentai, promote its innovative development, and promote the prosperity and development of traditional Chinese culture.*

Keywords: *Ethnic Hequ Errentai, intangible cultural heritage, role, value*

1. Introduction

In today's rapidly changing society, the protection of cultural diversity and intangible cultural heritage is of great concern. Intangible cultural heritage is a rich and diverse form of intangible cultural expression created and inherited by humans, including oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, traditional handicrafts, etc. As one of the important representatives of traditional Chinese opera, the ethnic Hequ Errentai carries rich historical and cultural connotations and plays an important role in the protection of intangible cultural heritage.

The ethnic Hequ Errentai originated in the Hequ region of Shanxi Province, China. After several centuries of development, it has become a unique form of traditional Chinese opera performance art where two people sing in pairs [1]. Its unique performance style, touching musical melody, and profound cultural heritage have made it listed on the national intangible cultural heritage protection list. However, with the changes in modern society and the diversification of entertainment methods, the ethnic Hequ Errentai faces many challenges, such as inheritance difficulties, market competition, and cultural identity issues.

This paper aims to explore the role and value of the ethnic Hequ Errentai in the protection of intangible cultural heritage. Firstly, we will review the origin and development of Hequ Errentai to understand its unique artistic form and performance characteristics. Secondly, we will explore the background and significance of the protection of intangible cultural heritage, including international and domestic protection policies and legal frameworks. Then, we will delve into the role played by the ethnic Hequ Errentai in the protection of intangible cultural heritage, including the inheritance and cultivation of traditional skills, as well as the construction of cultural identity and social cohesion. Next, we will explore the value of the ethnic Hequ Errentai in the protection of intangible cultural heritage, such as its role in promoting the development of traditional performing arts, tourism and economy, and enhancing cultural exchange and international influence. Finally, we will discuss the current challenges and challenges, and propose some effective protection and development strategies to promote the innovative development of the ethnic Hequ Errentai.

By studying the role and value of the ethnic Hequ Errentai in the protection of intangible cultural heritage, we can better understand and comprehend the uniqueness of this important cultural heritage, and provide useful reference and guidance for its inheritance and development. At the same time, this also helps to promote the theory and practice of intangible cultural heritage protection, and promotes the inheritance and exchange of cultural diversity. I hope this paper can provide new perspectives and reflections for research in the field of intangible cultural heritage protection, and provide useful

references for relevant policy formulation and practice.

2. Overview of the Errentai in Ethnic Hequ

The ethnic Hequ Errentai originated in the Hequ area of Shanxi Province, China, and can be traced back several centuries ago [2]. As a unique form of traditional Chinese opera performance art, it has been widely inherited and developed in the Hequ region. It is said that the Hequ Errentai originated from folk entertainment activities and gradually evolved into a professional form of opera, which was widely spread in local rural and urban areas.

The Hequ Errentai is famous for its unique performance form and characteristics. It is a form of theatrical performance in which two people sing in pairs, usually performed by two actors, a male and a female. During the performance, actors vividly present the story plot by singing, reciting, doing, and playing, combined with actions, expressions, and dance. They enable the audience to deeply feel the tension of the plot and the expression of emotions through their exquisite skills and infectious performances.

The music melody of Hequ Errentai usually adopts traditional Shanxi folk music, and integrates some local instruments and rhythms [3]. This unique music style gives people a simple and moving feeling, immersing the audience in it and enjoying the pleasure and emotional resonance brought by music.

As an important component of Chinese opera culture, the ethnic river opera Errentai plays an important role in the protection of intangible cultural heritage. It not only represents the unique artistic forms of Shanxi region, but also showcases the rich connotations of traditional Chinese culture.

The Errentai in the ethnic Hequ area has been included in the national intangible cultural heritage protection list, which reflects the government's recognition of its value and importance. By protecting and inheriting the Hequ Errentai, it can promote the development and dissemination of local culture, and promote the innovation and development of traditional Chinese opera art.

In addition, the Hequ Errentai also has important social and cultural significance. It carries the emotions and memories of the local people, and is a symbol of their identity and cultural cohesion. For the audience, the Hequ Errentai is not only a form of entertainment, but also a carrier of cultural experience and emotional resonance. By appreciating and learning the Hequ Errentai, people can better understand the essence of traditional Chinese culture, and enhance respect and understanding of history and tradition.

In summary, as a unique form of traditional Chinese opera performance art, the ethnic river opera Errentai has profound historical accumulation and cultural connotations. It plays an important role in the protection of intangible cultural heritage, representing both the unique culture of Shanxi region and an important component of traditional Chinese culture. By protecting and inheriting the Hequ Errentai, it can promote the development and dissemination of local culture, while enhancing cultural identity and social cohesion.

3. The role and significance of the Errentai in the protection of intangible cultural heritage in the ethnic Hequ area

3.1 Inheritance and cultivation of traditional skills

As an important intangible cultural heritage, the inheritance and development of the ethnic Hequ Errentai is very important. The inheritance and cultivation of traditional skills is a crucial issue in the protection of intangible cultural heritage. The ethnic Hequ Errentai also plays an important role in this regard.

3.1.1 Inheritance mode of master apprentice system

In the inheritance of the ethnic Hequ Errentai, the master apprentice system has been widely applied. This inheritance model allows apprentices to gradually master performance skills and artistic essence through patient guidance and education from masters. Under the master apprentice system, apprentices need to respect and obey their masters, study and practice diligently, in order to gain recognition and recognition from their masters.

The inheritance model of the master apprentice system can not only effectively ensure the inheritance of the ethnic Hequ Errentai, but also promote cultural and emotional communication between masters and apprentices. Through this approach, the traditional techniques of the ethnic Hequ Errentai have been effectively preserved and developed.

3.1.2 Teaching and training methods for traditional skills

In addition to the apprenticeship system, the teaching and training methods of traditional skills are also very important. In the inheritance of the ethnic Hequ Errentai, the teaching and training methods of traditional skills include basic training, professional courses, and practical exercises. In the basic training stage, students need to master certain singing techniques, movements, facial expressions, and basic dance skills. This stage requires students to practice and imitate repeatedly to achieve proficient mastery of basic skills. In professional courses, students need to learn about singing and music performance skills, movements and expressions during performances, as well as stage layout and lighting effects. These courses can not only enhance students' artistic cultivation, but also enhance their understanding and recognition of the ethnic Hequ Errentai. In practical exercises, students need to participate in various performances and performances to hone their performance skills and artistic cultivation. Through practical exercises, students can better grasp the performance skills and artistic essence of the ethnic Hequ Errentai.

In summary, the inheritance and cultivation of traditional skills are very important in the protection of intangible cultural heritage. For the ethnic Hequ Errentai, the inheritance mode of the master apprentice system and the teaching and training methods of traditional skills play an important role. Through these methods, it is possible to effectively protect and inherit the intangible cultural heritage of the ethnic Hequ Errentai, enabling it to receive new development and innovation.

3.2 Construction of cultural identity and social cohesion

3.2.1 The relationship between Ethnic Hequ Errentai and ethnic identity

As one of the important forms of Chinese folk art, the Errentai in ethnic Hequ has a profound cultural heritage and historical origins. In multi-ethnic regions of China, the performance form and traditional music melody of the ethnic river song duet reflect the unique cultural characteristics and customs of each ethnic group. In this context, the ethnic Hequ Errentai is closely related to ethnic identity. By performing and inheriting the ethnic Hequ Errentai, it can promote cultural exchange and understanding between different ethnic groups, enhance their sense of identity and cohesion. At the same time, the ethnic Hequ Errentai has also become one of the important representatives of various ethnic cultures. Its inheritance and development help to protect and promote the cultural heritage of various ethnic groups, and promote the integration and development of diverse Chinese cultures.

3.2.2 The role of ethnic Hequ Errentai in community cohesion

As a folk cultural and artistic form, the ethnic Hequ Errentai is often widely used in community activities and festival celebrations. In these occasions, the ethnic Hequ Errentai can effectively promote communication and interaction among community residents and enhance community cohesion through performance and display.

Firstly, the performance of the ethnic Hequ Errentai has strong interactivity and appreciation. Viewers can experience cultural and emotional communication between different ethnic groups through appreciation and participation in performances. At the same time, performers can also take this opportunity to introduce the historical origins and cultural heritage of the ethnic Hequ Errentai to the audience, guiding them to understand and appreciate the cultural characteristics and traditions of different ethnic groups.

Secondly, as a form of cultural entertainment, the ethnic Hequ Errentai can effectively improve the physical and mental health of community residents. By participating in performances and watching cultural performances, community residents can release their stress and fatigue, regulate their emotions and mentality, and improve their quality of life and happiness.

Finally, the ethnic Hequ Errentai can also promote friendship and cooperation among community residents. In performances and performances, community residents can make new friends, deepen mutual understanding and trust between each other. Through this approach, the strength and wisdom of community residents can be effectively consolidated, promoting community construction and development.

In summary, the ethnic Hequ Errentai plays an important role in community cohesion. By performing and inheriting the ethnic Hequ Errentai, it can promote cultural exchange and interaction among community residents, improve their physical and mental health, enhance community cohesion and cultural identity.

4. The challenges it faces and its future development

As an important component of traditional Chinese culture, the Errentai in the ethnic Hequ area carries rich historical and cultural heritage as well as ethnic emotions. However, in today's accelerated modernization process, the protection and inheritance difficulties faced by the ethnic Hequ Errentai are becoming increasingly prominent, requiring us to formulate effective protection strategies and measures to promote its innovative development.

4.1 Dilemmas and challenges in protection and inheritance

At present, the ethnic Hequ Errentai also faces some difficulties in the process of inheritance and development. Firstly, due to various practical reasons, including urbanization and social transformation, traditional performance venues are gradually disappearing, the number of inheritors is decreasing, and the inheritance environment is severely damaged. The gradual disappearance of traditional performance venues, a decrease in the number of inheritors, and serious damage to the inheritance environment are the main reasons for the protection and inheritance difficulties faced by the ethnic Hequ Errentai. With the acceleration of urbanization and the advancement of social transformation, many traditional performance venues have been demolished or rebuilt, resulting in a shortage of performance resources. Meanwhile, due to the impact of modern culture and the drive of economic interests, many young people lack interest and recognition in the ethnic Hequ Errentai, resulting in a decrease in the number of inheritors and serious damage to the inheritance environment. These practical reasons pose great challenges to the inheritance and development of the ethnic Hequ Errentai. It requires the joint efforts of the government, society, and individuals to formulate a series of scientific, reasonable, and feasible protection strategies and measures, strengthen policy support and financial support, enhance protection awareness and education, improve the training and organizational management level of inheritors, and ensure the inheritance and development of the ethnic Hequ Errentai.

Secondly, under the impact of market economy and commercialization, some merchants and record companies have taken advantage of the popularity and charm of the National Hequ Errentai to launch low-quality performances and products, posing a profound threat and challenge to traditional art. On the one hand, some merchants and record companies have taken notice of the popularity and charm of the Ethnic Hequ Errentai, using it as a marketing tool to launch a large number of low-quality performances and products. This commercialization trend has led to distortion and excessive commercialization of traditional art, weakening the uniqueness and purity of the ethnic Hequ Errentai as an intangible cultural heritage. Low quality performances and products not only fail to truly embody the artistic essence of the ethnic river opera duet, but also bring disappointment and misleading to the audience. On the other hand, commercialization has also brought market competition pressure, making it difficult for some traditional actors and groups to survive and develop on the commercial stage. They are facing monopolies in the commercial performance market, control by record companies, and oppression of economic interests, which have led to restrictions and distortions in their performing arts. This commercialization pressure not only affects the creative and performance freedom of traditional actors, but also limits the innovation and development space of the ethnic Hequ Errentai.

Finally, the interest and understanding of the ethnic Hequ Errentai among teenagers are gradually decreasing, the inheritance environment is becoming increasingly harsh, and insufficient financial and policy support have also brought considerable difficulties and challenges to the protection and inheritance of traditional art. With the continuous development of society, traditional culture has gradually faded out of people's lives and perspectives. As one of China's important intangible cultural heritage, the Errentai in the ethnic Hequ area also faces many challenges in protection and inheritance. Among them, the interest and understanding of the ethnic Hequ Errentai among teenagers are gradually decreasing, becoming a more serious problem. In the past, the ethnic Hequ Errentai was an important way for people to entertain and exchange culture in rural areas. However, nowadays, the process of urbanization and social transformation has led to the gradual disappearance of traditional performance venues, making it difficult for young people to access this traditional art form. Therefore, their interest and understanding of it have gradually decreased. At the same time, the inheritance environment is

becoming increasingly harsh, and the number of inheritors is decreasing, which is also the main factor that troubles the protection and inheritance of the ethnic Hequ Errentai. Many traditional actors and groups face economic pressure, market competition, and inheritance difficulties, making it difficult for them to provide necessary inheritance environment and resource support for their successors. However, insufficient funding and policy support have also brought considerable difficulties and challenges to the protection and inheritance of traditional art. The government should strengthen its attention to the protection of intangible cultural heritage, increase investment, establish a sound protection mechanism, and also introduce a series of policies to encourage traditional actors and groups to actively participate in inheritance and innovation, so as to better inherit and develop the ethnic Hequ Errentai in the new era.

4.2 Develop effective protection strategies and measures

In order to effectively protect and inherit the important cultural heritage of the ethnic Hequ Errentai, a series of scientific, reasonable, and feasible protection strategies and measures need to be formulated.

We need to strengthen policy support and financial security. The government should increase financial and policy support for the ethnic Hequ Errentai, encourage social forces, enterprises, and individuals to actively participate in the protection and development of traditional art, and improve the inheritance environment and guarantee conditions.

We need to strengthen our awareness of protection and education. We should improve the awareness and understanding of the ethnic Hequ Errentai among young people through various means, cultivate their love and interest in traditional art, enhance their awareness of protection and responsibility, and promote the innovative development of traditional art. Schools can incorporate ethnic Hequ Errentai into their curriculum teaching. In music, culture, or art courses, teachers need to introduce relevant textbooks and teaching content, so that students can understand the origin, development process, performance forms, and other aspects of ethnic duets. Schools need to organize students to visit traditional performances, hold lectures and speech competitions, stimulate their interest in traditional art, and cultivate their ability to appreciate and inherit traditional art, at the same time, by utilizing modern technological means, promote the knowledge and performance of the ethnic Hequ Errentai. By producing promotional videos, microfilms, documentaries, and other forms, we aim to showcase the charm of the ethnic Hequ Errentai to more people, especially young people. We should establish dedicated official websites and social media accounts on internet platforms, regularly publish relevant information, videos, and audio content to attract the attention and participation of young people. By strengthening protection awareness and education, and improving the awareness and understanding of the ethnic Hequ Errentai among young people, we can cultivate more young people with a sense of responsibility and love for traditional art. These young people will become promoters and inheritors of traditional art, injecting new vitality and momentum into the innovative development of the ethnic Hequ Errentai. At the same time, it can also promote social attention and support for traditional art, creating a more favorable environment and conditions for its protection and inheritance.

We need to strengthen the training and organizational management of inheritors. Firstly, establish a training plan to provide systematic training courses for inheritors through professional training institutions or traditional art groups. These courses can include skill training, imparting historical and cultural knowledge, performing practice, and other content to help them improve their performing arts level and professional competence. Secondly, establish an incentive mechanism for inheritors, and give certain rewards and honors to outstanding inheritors to stimulate their enthusiasm and innovation ability. Scholarships, performance opportunities, art exchange and other programs can be established to provide more development space and resource support. At the same time, strengthen the management and regulation of inheritance organizations, establish relevant rules and regulations, and regulatory mechanisms. We need to clarify the responsibilities and rights of inheritance organizations, strengthen supervision and evaluation of inheritance activities, and promptly identify and solve existing problems. We also need to strictly review the performance content to prevent vulgarization and maintain the purity and authenticity of traditional art, in addition, strengthen cooperation with relevant departments and institutions to jointly promote the cultivation and management of inheritors. We can establish cooperative relationships with cultural departments, educational institutions, art groups, etc., integrate resources, jointly carry out training projects and research work, form a linkage effect, and improve the quality and effectiveness of inheritance work. In short, by strengthening the training and organizational management of inheritors, we can promote them to achieve better results and contributions in inheritance, performance, and innovation. At the same time, it can also strengthen the management and regulation of inheritance organizations, ensure the healthy and orderly inheritance of traditional art,

avoid the occurrence of chaos and vulgarization, and provide a solid foundation and support for the protection and inheritance of traditional art.

5. Conclusion

In short, the protection and inheritance of the intangible cultural heritage of the Errentai ethnic group in Hequ is an important and urgent task. Through the joint efforts of the government, society, and individuals, we believe that the ethnic Hequ Errentai will be effectively protected and inherited, and make positive contributions to the prosperity and development of traditional Chinese culture.

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