

The Aesthetic Characteristics and National Cultural Connotation of Dance Movements of the Yi Nationality in Sichuan

Yuan Jiang

Sichuan University of Science & Engineering, Zigong, 643000, Sichuan, China

ABSTRACT. *Sichuan Yi dance is a part of our country's Yi dance. It has both the common features of Yi dance and the characteristics of Sichuan Yi. Based on this, this paper takes Sichuan Yi dance as the research object, on the basis of summarizing Sichuan Yi dance, analyzes the aesthetic characteristics of Sichuan Yi dance from four aspects: natural and simple movements, profound and natural meanings, high and warm emotions, harmonious and beautiful styles, and then explains the national cultural connotation of Sichuan Yi dance, including national art and culture, national culture Historical culture, national religious culture, national folk culture, etc.*

KEYWORDS: *Sichuan yi nationality, Dance movement, Aesthetic characteristics, Cultural connotation*

1. Introduction

Yi is one of the fifty-five ethnic minorities in China, ranking sixth in the number of ethnic minorities, widely distributed in Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou and other southwest provinces. Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture in Sichuan province is one of the main settlements of the Yi nationality. In the long-term development, the Yi nationality culture with both regional characteristics and ethnic characteristics has been formed, and the Yi nationality dance is an important part of the Yi nationality culture in Sichuan province. The number of dances of Sichuan Yi nationality is abundant, and the dance movements have not only unique aesthetic characteristics, but also profound ethnic cultural connotations. Therefore, the in-depth interpretation of Sichuan Yi nationality dance movements has become an important content to grasp the aesthetic psychology and national culture of Sichuan Yi nationality.

3. Summary of Sichuan Yi Dance

The Yi people in Sichuan mainly live in Daliang Mountain area, which is between Sichuan Basin and the central plateau of Yunnan Province. The surface of Daliang Mountain fluctuates greatly, the terrain is extremely rugged, and the landform is complex and diverse. The unique terrain environment not only influences the production and life style of the Yi nationality in Sichuan, but also makes the dance of the Yi nationality in Sichuan different from the dance of the Yi nationality in yunnan, such as the dance of chuxiong Yi nationality. The characteristics of Sichuan Yi dance are as follows: first, diversity. The types of Sichuan Yi dance are very rich. There are many types of Sichuan Yi dance, both in the form of performance and in the subject matter of the dance; Second, development. Sichuan Yi nationality dance keeps pace with the development of The Times and keeps innovating, which is reflected not only in the development of individual dance species, but also in the changes of the whole dance; Third, regional. The ethnic Yi dances share the same characteristics, but the Yi dances in different regions also have distinct regional characteristics.

4. The Aesthetic Characteristics of Dance Movements of the Yi Nationality in Sichuan

(1) Natural and simple action

The Sichuan Yi nationality dance has the natural plain characteristic, presents the unique original ecology beauty. From the point of view of the dance movements, the dance movements of the Yi nationality in Sichuan are mostly from life, which is a direct reflection of daily life. Up to now, there are still many movements of trample, trudge and climb in the dance movements of the Yi nationality in Sichuan, and the characteristics of the national dance are mainly foot movements. This has a lot to do with the geographical environment where the Yi people live in Sichuan. The topography of the mountainous area shapes the original ecology of the dance

movements of the Yi nationality in Sichuan. From the point of view of the dancers, the movements of the Yi nationality in Sichuan are the natural communication of the inner emotions of the dancers.

(2) Profound natural meaning

The dance movements of the Yi nationality in Sichuan are mostly of profound implication, and they present the intention of the dance movements by means of symbolism, which greatly endows the dance movements with cultural connotation. Taking the hemp dance as an example, backloading and kinking are very important movements in the dance, which not only symbolize the hardships and frustrations in life, but also express the attitude of Yi people to overcome the hardships in life. Different from the dances of the han nationality, although the dances of the Yi nationality in Sichuan have profound connotations, they are performed in a very natural way and are characterized by the unity of depth and nature. This feature enables the connotations in the dances to be captured by the audience in the first time, which also reflects the simple character characteristics of the Yi nationality in Sichuan from the side.

(3) High and enthusiastic

The Yi people in Sichuan are an optimistic and progressive people. Although the living environment of Yi ancestors was very harsh, it did not affect their attitude towards life. As reflected in the dance, the dance movements were characterized by high spirits and enthusiasm. Even in the funeral dance, the Yi people in Sichuan have a tradition of holding funeral ceremonies for happiness. The ballroom dance among the young people is the most representative of the emotional characteristics of the dance of the Yi nationality in Sichuan. For example, in the waist dance, the young men and women high-five and dance at the same time. The large-scale group dance pushed the mood of Sichuan Yi nationality dance to the climax and became the representative of Sichuan Yi nationality dance. There are many group dances of the Yi nationality in Sichuan, including male group dance, female group dance, and group dance in which both men and women take part. In the group dance, the Yi people shake their bodies by swinging their feet, straightening their feet and fitting their feet, creating a warm and cheerful atmosphere.

(4) Harmonious and beautiful style

The overall style of dance movements of the Yi nationality in Sichuan has a strong sense of harmony and beauty, which embodies the social thought of great harmony in the world, which coincides with the community with a Shared future for mankind advocated at present. The harmonious beauty in Sichuan Yi dance is mainly reflected in the following two aspects: the first is the harmonious beauty between people. Yi people in Sichuan have experienced many hardships in their survival, reproduction and development, so they attach great importance to interpersonal harmony and show their yearning for a better society in the form of dance. The second is the beauty of harmony between man and nature. Influenced by primitive religious concepts, the Yi people in Sichuan respect nature very much. For example, the movements in the Samaritan dance show the adherence to the laws of nature.

5. The Ethnic Cultural Connotation of Dance Movements of Sichuan Yi Nationality

(1) National Art and culture

Yi nationality dance belongs to the category of Yi nationality art, Yi nationality dance and other forms of Yi nationality art constitute the Yi nationality's national art culture together, at the same time, the national art culture has also deeply influenced the Yi nationality dance, and has a strong reflection in the Yi nationality dance movements. On the surface, Yi dance is an important part of the artistic culture of Yi ethnic group. Some representative dances have become the signboards of Yi ethnic group's artistic culture, which not only have great influence in the Yi ethnic group, but also spread to other ethnic groups. For example, "red felt" originated from the traditional dance of Sichuan Yi people, showing the optimistic and upward spirit of the Yi people with the melody of exultation and jumping. Dance is full of joy and enthusiasm, which is the common characteristic of Yi nationality's art and culture. From a deep level, national aesthetic psychology is the core of national art culture. The aesthetic psychology of Yi nationality has the characteristics of naturalness, simplicity and purity, which has a profound and lasting influence on the dance of Yi nationality in Sichuan. Compared with the ethnic dance of the han nationality, the dance movements of the Yi nationality are more ecological in nature. Many of the movements are directly introduced from the life without more carving and modification, showing the original national style. However, the development of Sichuan Yi nationality dance has further strengthened the aesthetic psychology of the Yi nationality.

(2) National history and culture

As an ancient nationality with a long history, Yi nationality has created a prosperous national history and culture in its long-term development, and dance is an important carrier of national history and culture. From the origin, development and evolution of dance, we can see the changes of national history. In other words, the national history and culture enlivened the vitality of Yi dance, which became a living fossil to interpret the national history and culture. The dance movements of the Yi nationality in Sichuan are rich, and some of them reflect the production and life style, social organization and even major historical events at that time. The sources of dance movements are diverse. Movements in daily labor are one of the main sources of dance movements. There are many dances originated from labor in Sichuan Yi nationality's dances, such as palace jumping and lina dancing, which still retain traces of hunting in ancient times, while buckson dancing is related to agricultural work. The Yi nationality originally lived in the high mountains, and buckseeds were the main food of the ancestors of the Yi nationality. As early as in The Three Kingdoms period, the ancestors of Yi nationality created the predecessor of buckzi dance from their work. For example, in the past, there were many armoury fights among the Yi people, both within the ethnic group and with other ethnic groups, which were reflected in the dance movements. It was the battle dance dominated by fighting movements. For example, in the luoyayue group dance, both men and women were covered with felt, and the dance movements were fierce and heroic, which reflected the incentive of armoury fights from the side.

(3) Ethnic religious culture

From the perspective of origin, the dance of the Yi nationality in Sichuan was deeply influenced by witchcraft, which is an important part of the national religious culture. The religion of the Yi people in Sichuan is based on the primitive religion, which has the color of animism. The witchcraft is the medium of communication between the Yi people and the gods. There are a lot of body movements in witchcraft ritual, among which, many movements are inherited by Sichuan Yi nationality dance and even become the main body movements of Sichuan Yi nationality dance, the most typical one is suni dance. Suni dance USES dance movements to present the dance posture and shape the dance image. According to the different dance performance, there are mainly three kinds of images in suni dance: wizard, spirit and ghost. The dancers show the conflicts between people and nature, between people and gods, and between gods and ghosts with their tense body movements, creating a dance scene with a strong religious atmosphere. Thus it can be seen that the dance of the Yi nationality in Sichuan represented by the suni dance is closely related to the ethnic religious belief.

(4) National Folk Culture

As an important part of Sichuan Yi ethnic culture, dance is also closely related to folk activities and is one of the main carriers of folk culture. From the perspective of the origin of dance movements, various types of folk activities are the important source of Sichuan Yi dance movements, especially the wedding ceremony is the most common. Sichuan Yi dance and folk activities complement each other. From the dance performance occasions, folk activities are the main occasions of Sichuan Yi dance performance, among which the most important is the funeral dance. As a type of dance, funeral dance widely exists in various ethnic groups. It is a part of funeral rites, and it is often used to render funeral atmosphere and express grief for the dead.

6. Conclusion

Up to now, the value of national dance in the study of national culture has been widely recognized, and the national dance movement is the main carrier of national culture. The dance movements of the Yi nationality in Sichuan are derived from daily life and work, and have the characteristics of primitive ecology and simplicity. They not only carry the artistic culture of the Yi nationality in Sichuan, but also embody the unique historical culture, religious culture and folk culture of the Yi nationality in Sichuan. Therefore, we must attach great importance to the aesthetic characteristics and folk culture connotation of Sichuan Yi dance, and do a good job of interpretation and analysis.

References

- [1] Zhang Li (2017). On the Origin and Development of Yi Dance in Liangshan [J]. Art Review, no.11, pp.71-72.
- [2] Yang Jun (2016). An Analysis of the Aesthetic Characteristics of Yi Dance Body Language [J]. Drama House, no.7, pp.139-140.
- [3] Ren Changfei (2016). An Exploration of Yi Dance in Daliang Mountain, Sichuan Province [J]. Grand Stage, no.2, pp.33-35.