# Summary of Seminar on the Construction of Historical Materials of Ethnic Literature

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ABSTRACT. This paper introduces and summarizes the seminar on the construction of Historical Materials of Ethnic Literature held in Ningxia University in March 2019. The meeting scale, there were 23 universities from China experts meeting, Scientific Research Units of the National Literature research in the construction of National Literature and the development trend, how to carry out the historical data collection and protection, and from the Literature Geography, Ecology, Psychology and Mythology, and other various aspects of National Literature research. The conference made clear the problems existing in the development of Historical Materials of Ethnic Literature and how to promote its development and future development direction. These achievements will add a brick to the discipline construction of historical materials of National Literature.

**KEYWORDS:** Ethnic literature, the historical data to learn, Xixia, Discipline construction

## 1. Introduction

From March 16 to 17, 2019, the seminar on the Subject Construction of Historical Materials of Ethnic Literature, sponsored by the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Tourism Industry of Ningxia University, was held in the lecture hall on the first floor of the Institute of Xixia studies of Ningxia University. Experts from 23 famous Scientific Research Institutions of National Universities and Colleges gathered together to participate in the provincial and ministerial joint construction of Ningxia University, the first-class discipline construction workshop of Ningxia University, and the Academic Forum on the historical data collection of Ethnic Literature.

Under the care of the leaders of Ningxia University, scholars at the meeting expressed their opinions and conducted ideological the collision, and jointly proposed Suggestions for the construction of Historical Materials of Ethnic Literature in Ningxia University, and viewed the discipline construction of Ethnology, Culture, and Tourism and the Cultivation of Scientific Talents from the perspective of the compilation of Ethnic Literature history. The symposium had submitted more than 30 papers, large scale, the participating experts from the Han, Mongolian, Yi, Hui, Tibetan, Manchu, Miao, Tujia, and many other ethnic groups,

the content of the report is related to the Mongolian, Tibetan, Hui, Kazak, Jingpo, and many other ethnic groups, ethnic literature historical data subject forward-looking strategic significance. The seminar focused on major social needs, planned new large-scale projects, provided new ideas and methods, and studied Ethnology, the development of local Ethnology in Ningxia and the cultural development of 56 ethnic groups in China from a larger background and perspective, and achieved fruitful results.

## 2. The Construction and Development Trend of National Literature

After decades of development, National Literature had been relatively mature. In the new era, facing new problems, how to make the National Literature in the rapid development of the 21st century to obtain greater achievements, so that the Ethnology and the construction of Socialism with Chinese characteristics, it is necessary to clarify the guiding ideology and development trend of the National Literature. The conference reviewed the development of National Literature in the 20th century and identified the development trend of National Literature based on the new period.

Professor Jianlu Du, Dean of the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Tourism Industry Development of Ningxia University, proposed to establish a broader Ethnology. Ethnology was from narrow sense to a wider range of Ethnology development of Ethnology, Ethnology was the history, in the history of China's ethnic minorities were associated, when it comes to national characteristic, can not do without the characteristic of its history, all nationalities in Chinese history, Chinese culture was created, inheritance and development, each nationality's cultural integration gradually, together constitute the Chinese culture today.

Jiguo Yang, a former curator of the Ningxia Literature and History Museum, proposed that ethnic minority literature should put down the burden and set out again with a new attitude to achieve new development<sup>[1]</sup>. At present, the most important thing is to correctly understand and adhere to the cultural self-confidence among the four self-confidence advocated by President Xi Jinping. The 19th national congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has put forward that cultural self-confidence is a more fundamental, deeper and more lasting force for the development of a country and a nation. Integration of diversity is the fundamental attribute of Chinese culture, and also the basic experience of developing national culture and National Literature in the past 40 years of reform and opening up. Therefore, it is necessary to follow the fundamental attribute of the unification of Chinese cultural diversity to achieve cultural consciousness in a real sense. The general features and development level of a country reflect its ideological status. It is a problem that must be faced to build a great country image composed of multi-ethnic cultures.

Starting from the definition, classification, evolution and development of ethnic minority literature, professor Qian li of Yunnan Nationalities University had made a detailed induction and interpretation of ethnic minority literature creation and

research in the 20th century.<sup>[2]</sup> Since the 1980s, there had been three definitions of ethnic minority literature: (1) all the literary works created by ethnic minority writers were ethnic minority literature, to identify ethnic minority literature as a writer. (2) The literature that expresses the life of the minority nationality in its language is the literature of the minority nationality, and the language of the minority nationality was taken as the evaluation standard of the minority nationality literature. (3) As long as it describes the life of ethnic minorities and shapes the image of ethnic characters, it was ethnic minority literature. Accordingly gave birth to minority writers association and minority writers group. Taking the life of the minority nationality as the entry point, the writers of the minority nationality had aroused the attention of the academic circle, and together with the Han nationality literature have constituted the history of Chinese National Literature for nearly one hundred years.

Professor Chuanzhi Hu, director of the History Center of Anhui Normal University, put forward that to distinguish between achievements and contributions, we should emphasize the unity of diversity. The literary achievements of a certain nationality should be regarded as their contributions, and the unique contributions of National Literature should not be ignored, and they should be justly evaluated. Professor Chunping Jin of Shanxi University of Finance and Economics puts forward that relationism can be used to judge its different states in different contexts.

Professor Ming Fang, director of the Institute of Chinese Culture and President of the Society of Chinese Yuan Qu, stressed that the study of Ethnic Literature should pay attention to the Chinese nation's commonness and regional characteristics, and should not overemphasize the identity of the writer's minority nationality, which is conducive to the formation of the Chinese nation's commonness and regional characteristics. [3] It adopts dichotomy to culture, emphasizes core values, and focuses on the characteristics of its creation rather than the national characteristics.

Without a guiding ideology, the development of things is soulless. The conference must establish an image of a big country composed of multi-ethnic cultures, which is of the times. It is necessary for the National Literature to follow the fundamental attribute of Chinese cultural pluralism and unity, and to adhere to cultural self-confidence and other new requirements according to the development of the new period.

# 3. Historical Data Collection and Protection

In the study of Ethnohistory, we need to have a clear understanding of the heritage of historical literature and the reality of its existence. The primary difficulty in the research is the lack of materials, so it is particularly important to collect and collate the historical materials of National Literature. Conference experts attach great importance to the collection and protection of historical materials and discuss the collection and protection of historical materials of various ages and nationalities.

Professor Guangming Bi of Hainan Normal University points out that a hot topic

in modern and contemporary literary circles was the literature and historical data<sup>[4]</sup>. Attention should be paid to the salvage excavation of vulnerable historical materials. To maintain the original Ecology of folk art, it was necessary to carry out rescue excavations to protect the excellent culture that was previously excluded. Professor Ma Zhuo, Dean of the Academic Affairs Office of the Qinghai University for nationalities, believes that the study of the history of multi-ethnic literature should collect the historical materials of the contemporary history of ethnic literature, sort out and introduce the unknown important writers in the academic circle, and write a relatively complete history of Chinese multi-ethnic literature. Professor Luoken Duo of Northwest University for Nationalities points out that the research on the collection of poems and essays in the Ming Dynasty had been stagnated due to various reasons. There were only occasional studies on individual writers and works, not to mention systematic and comprehensive research on integrity, which should increase the collection of Ming Dynasty poetry and literature and thematic research. Professor Xiping Xu of Southwest University for nationalities pointed out that besides the written literature, the contemporary literature of Qiang people had been omitted, and the folk literature had suffered a greater omission. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the communication between Ningxia scholars and Sichuan scholars who study Qiang literature and to strengthen the communication between the native creators and researchers of Qiang people.

Professor Wenfan Shen of Jilin University spoke on the data, research perspective and research mentality of Japan, Korea and other east Asian countries. Japan, South Korea and other east Asian countries preserved the materials of the Xixia and Liao periods in the form of prose, verse and memorial. Japan and South Korea have a relatively high degree of sinicization and combined their homeland security, national sentiment and subjective thoughts of writers to evaluate Song and Xixia, Song and Liao, and Liao and Xixia from an external perspective, and created a large number of poems. The study of Tangut in Japan and South Korea can broaden the field of vision and enrich the study of Tangut.

To attach great importance to historical materials, especially to the collection and protection of some dying historical materials, is of great significance to the construction of historical materials of National Literature. Without materials, the soil for research is lost, let alone for further development. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the effort of collecting historical materials, and to collect and preserve historical materials that have not been paid much attention to. Besides, the application of National Literature materials preserved in east Asian countries, such as Japan and South Korea, was forward-looking and raised new topics for the construction of historical materials of National Literature.

### 4. The Study of Multifaceted National Literature

The experts at the meeting introduced the literature in Ningxia, summarized the characteristics of the literature of the Qiang, Tibetan, and other ethnic minorities, sorted out some problems of the Ethnic Literature in the Ming and Jin dynasties, and discussed the literature from the perspectives of Psychology, Ecology, Field

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Research, Women and Mythology, with a wide range of contents.

The study of National Literature in different times and regions

Professor Hongge Zuo, former Dean of the school of the Grammar of North University for Nationalities, made a comprehensive review of the stories of poetry collections in Ningxia. Helan Mountain literature is rich and colorful, Helan Mountain culture, Helan Mountain poetry in a lot of poems about the Ningxia pass, which is worth studying. However, there were few poems about the past, so it is necessary to strengthen the study on the literature of the past. Professor Fengshan Ding, Dean of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, College of Humanities, Ningxia University, introduced the development of Chinese language and literature in Ningxia University, put forward some suggestions on how to start the regional construction of Ethnic Literature and how to set up the basic pattern, and put forward the geographical space of literature.

Professor Wei Lang, Chairman of Ningxia Critics Association and Vice President of Ningxia Normal University, introduced the contemporary literature history of Ningxia with data. In the four decades from 1978 to 2018, the literary achievements in Ningxia were mainly in short stories. Forty years 1678-2018, Ningxia had four people won the award for best short, a total of five stories, the 21st century Ningxia three writers after Lu Xun Literature Prize, including two was the Hui nationality writer, Ningxia's 3 winning entries in a total of 35 accounted for 8.5% of Lu Xun Literature Prize, the creation of the national minority writer accounted for half of Ningxia Literature. <sup>[5]</sup> There were three advantages to the creation of novels in Ningxia: 1. The novels of Ningxia were characterized by local and local characteristics. 2. Since the 1980s, short stories in Ningxia had provided a sharp mind with a keen sense of life. 3. Profound humanity.

Professor Wei Xu of Ningxia Academy of Social Sciences Reviewed the Novels and Local Literature of Ningxia in the 1980s. In the 1980s, the writing of the conflict between civilization and ignorance in the local novels in Ningxia was more profound than that in the 21st century. The Hui writers began to write, mainly focusing on the writing of customs and emotional consciousness. There were two characteristics: first, there was the problem of universalization of reform-style novels, which was similar and stereotyped; Second, the praise of suffering and the pursuit of the spiritual world, reflect on the history of the eulogy of reality, the ultimate victory over suffering. The excessive insistence on the pursuit of the spiritual world had weakened the criticism of realism in the novels of Ningxia in the new century.

Professor Xiping Xu of Southwest University for nationalities introduced the compilation and revision of Qiang literature and reviewed the development process and achievements of Qiang literature research in the past 30 years. Contemporary Qiang literature just started in the late 1980s. After 2008, there was a large number of Tangut literature. The state attached great importance to Qiang literature and set up an experimental reserve for Qiang culture in Sichuan.

Professor Ma Zhuo, Dean of the Academic Affairs Office of the Qinghai

University for Nationalities, thinks of delineating the Ethnic Literature of the Qinghai-Tibet plateau from the perspective of literary Geography. The salar nationality's novel creation group is quite powerful and had its characteristics. The salar nationality poet Han Qiufu's poetry collection had a large span, which was mainly divided into two categories: consolidation and consolation. The inspiration of a large number of Qiufu's philosophical poems comes from the imagination of a larger physical space, and the highly visual language, mental state and era were resonant. Qiufu finally chose the restoration of national culture and began the creation of long poems in the later period, which was the deep reflection of the poet's sense of national responsibility and sense of responsibility.

Professor Luoken Duo of Northwest University for Nationalities Commented on the literature exchange and research status of poetry and literature in the Ming Dynasty. There were 200 Chinese poems and articles written by minority writers, among which 120 poems and articles were in handwriting and 3,154 works were scattered. The minority literature of the Ming Dynasty and the Han literature mostly focused on opera novels, and paid little attention to the spirit of Chinese culture, the core concept of Chinese civilization and the poetry and prose of multi-ethnic communication. The research team of literature in the Ming Dynasty was constantly expanding, especially in the southwest and the central and southern regions. It is of great importance to study ancient Chinese literature from the perspective of multi-ethnic literature integration. Only in this way can we truly reflect the richness and diversity of Chinese national culture, and provide convincing empirical materials for the establishment of national self-confidence and the consciousness of national cultural community scientifically.

Hao Wang at Jilin University professor pointed out that *Liu zhiyuan zhu gong tune* unearthed from the past research, often only based on the collation and didn't notice it is organizing the Jin Dynasty Liao Dynasty with supplement into the Xixia, grasp the characteristics can be put extrapolate the date of publication that could not be resolved before, decides its finals writing is in the first year of Zhenglong of Jin Dynasty to five years (1157-1160).

Multi-angle Analysis of National Literature

Jimei University College of Liberal Arts Base Marine Culture and Creative Industry Research Center Director Professor Liang Zheng, parsing minority literature from the perspective of Ecology of traditional narrative, the relation between Man and Nature from the analysis of the inheritance of Ethnic Festival, Culture, in case of field research to illustrate the relationship between Man and Nature, Religion<sup>[6]</sup>. Grasping the original historical materials of festivals, this paper puts forward the problem of cultural transformation and appeals to focus on the ecological areas of ethnic minorities. Through ecological research on ethnic customs, the intangible cultural heritage is recorded, preserved and passed on, to maintain the traditionality of festivals and make traditional festivals adapt to the process of modernization.

Xiaojing Wang, Secretary-general of Ningxia Critics Association, suggested that the connection between Ethnology and Psychology should be emphasized. The focus of the study of Ethnic Literature lies in the folk and the field. In the process of the study of folk literature, there must be the psychological gene of the national culture in it, and the national Psychology was constantly growing and developing. Xiao-dong Wu National Literature researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences from the fields of engineering, the field of ethics, the number of time relationship, the choice of content, understanding from five aspects, such as the editor of the folk literature collection and sorting, base construction, the understanding of the text, and many other problems, puts forward a new point of view, to focus on the purpose of the gathering and ethics of the field.

Professor Xiaoxia Bai of Lanzhou City University made a comprehensive analysis of the contemporary Hui female writers from the perspective of the text description content from the perspective of the group, and carried out a discussion from the private and public areas, mainly introducing two points: 1. The choice between maternal love and sexual love. 2. Women's choice of bitter and happy writing.

Xiang Zhou, Deputy Director of the editorial department of research on Ethnic Literature, Chinese Academy of social sciences, elaborated on the statements and exercises of the Panhu myth in ancient books and oral writings<sup>[7]</sup>. The text of *Soushen Ji* was used as the base to study the typification of the Panhu Mythology. 19 relatively complete texts were selected to analyze the narrative plot of the Panhu myth, and the Panhu living was summarized into three types: making war, taking rice seeds and curing diseases. The analysis of the social function of the Panhu myth can be used to explain the origin of the family name, clothing, folk beliefs, rituals, festivals and local legends.

## 5. Conclusion

The historical data of National Literature had been sorted out and studied. National Literature historical data to sort out the span was involved, from the macro to the specific case study, on the National Literature historical data research carried on the thorough system, scholars attitude seriously, speak freely, had a responsibility to play, to promote the development of National Literature historical discipline construction, the collision of the thought, it's a high-end forum, inspire some new ideas and thinking. Through the discussion, we deepened the exchange and communication, promoted the communication of various Ethnic Literature and various fields, and carried on some new reflections.

First, there was consensus on many important issues. The Literature of the Chinese nation includes broad sense and narrow sense, narrow sense only refers to the national minority literature, refers to the broad National Literature, including the Han Chinese of all Ethnic Literature, National Literature had its particularity also have in common, and Ethnic Literature is based on historical data, has strong specificity, therefore should use some methods of traditional literature, also should attach great importance to the particularity of National Literature historical data. With the development of National Literature, it will inevitably include the historical

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materials of overseas sinology and foreign literature research. The historical materials of National Literature started in ancient times, but they also contain modern and contemporary contents. The understanding of National Literature and the interaction of relations should pay attention to both the commonness and the difference. Both the historical materials of traditional literature, oral literature and National Literature have their commonness, but the historical materials of each carrier have their characteristics. On the question of whether to enter the history, the experts reached a consensus: the first collection of data, oral, documents these materials will become very precious in the future, so it is necessary to pay great attention to the collection of these historical materials. The thesis is extensive and in-depth, exploring the characteristics of National Literature from the perspectives of literary Geography, Psychology, Ecology and Mythology.

Secondly, it attaches great importance to Ningxia as a model of national culture, which has the cultural representativeness of the Yellow River basin. Through the anatomy of Ningxia's National Literature, it is of reference significance to the collation and study of relevant historical materials of National Literature and regional Ethnic Literature. The relationship between the ancient Han nationality and the multi-ethnic literature is an epitome of the Chinese culture. Through the collation of the literature documents and historical materials in Ningxia, scholars can further study and think about other regions, ethnic relations and the collation of ethnic historical materials. There are academic norms and open thinking on the understanding of ethnic minorities, multi-ethnic openness and cross-border ethnic groups.

Also, the conference kept pace with the times, and the scholars presented new questions and new thoughts under the new situation. For example, the category and scope could be redefined according to the development of the times, taking into account the overseas Chinese creation and the creation of Chinese ethnic minorities created by pure foreigners. These were the latest problems in the historical data of Ethnic Literature, and experts had raised doubtful questions and paid attention to them

Through this conference, we will build a bridge of Historical Materials of Ethnic Literature and break the boundaries of disciplines and regions. The research content is not limited to a specific period, starting from Ningxia and its surrounding areas, covering ancient, contemporary and modern periods, from ancient literature to modern and contemporary literature. Beyond the limitations of foreign literature, we can provide some inspirations and reflections to each other, lay a solid foundation for the discipline construction of historical materials of National Literature, and achieve real results. By combining the in-depth collation, anatomy, and excavation of the historical materials of Ningxia Literature with Ethnology and Humanities, the paper promotes the development of the Humanities and provides a reference for the research and collation of Historical Materials of Ethnic Literature of other regions and ethnic cultures, to achieve a win-win situation.

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