

## *Disadvantages of Miao medical technology inheritance*

Dai Mingyue

*Xiangtan University, Xiangtan, 411105, China*

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**Abstract:** Miao medicine is restricted by its own deficiencies and external challenges, which leads to poor prospects for development. For the problems such as the loss of medicine prescriptions and the inheritance of technology, only by recognizing its own deficiencies can it give play to its subjective initiative and solve the problems with appropriate medicine. In addition, Miao medicine is a part of the "quintessence" of China, and the understanding of Miao medicine is also the way to understand Chinese traditional culture. Miao medicine is a secret magic medicine accumulated from the long-term experience of the Miao people. The theoretical knowledge system formed in the development process includes astronomy, geography, history, herbology, science and technology and other scientific contents. Today, Miao medical technology and its culture play an important role in the survival, reproduction and development of the Miao people, and also contribute to the progress of human society. After thousands of years of tempering and inheriting, Miao traditional medicine has been recognized by domestic and foreign pharmacists, and has become a powerful national brand. While enriching traditional Chinese culture, Miao medicine also makes the national brand of "Chinese pharmaceutical" go to the world. However, Miao medicine, which is particularly theoretical and effective, gradually shows a trend of extinction. When the monogeneity meets Chinese medicine and Western medicine, it presents a phenomenon of exclusion and suppression, which is a topic worth pondering. Since industrialization, changes in human life style, accompanied by environmental damage, health diseases and ecological damage, have brought new challenges to mankind. Therefore, it is time to carry forward the Miao medical culture.<sup>[1]</sup>Through the elaboration of the traditional Miao medicine culture, You Lailin analyzed its influence on the development of Miao medicine, and pointed out that the traditional Miao medicine practice concept and the extensive planting of medicinal materials have promoted the economic development of Guizhou ethnic medicine industry.<sup>[2]</sup>Starting from Weber's "legitimacy theory", Liao Xiaoyu and Zhu Lu thought about the legitimacy value of Miao's medical culture, transplanted it to the cultural field, and constructed the legitimacy of Miao's medical culture from the aspects of theoretical logic, humanistic value and system.<sup>[3]</sup>It is not difficult to see that most of the previous research contents elaborated the positive effects of the theoretical system of Miao medicine and the transmission and inheritance of Miao medicine culture, but there was little ink on the consciousness of why Miao medicine culture was hindered and the mysterious idea of Miao medicine "witch doctor peer". "It is never too late to change the good", the development and progress of things in the learning from others at the same time need to recognize their own shortcomings, after the pool of wisdom can reach a hundred feet rod head, further realm. On the basis of previous studies, this paper focuses on the factors that hinder the development of Miao medicine, and understands the essence and indispensable of Miao medicine culture from the direction of rebellion.

## 1. The mystery and emergence of Miao medicine

"Miao medicine for thousands of years, Miao medicine for thousands of years", the emergence of Miao medicine is based on the survival needs of the ancestors of the Miao people, is the product of social development. There is no literature on the origin of Miao medical culture, but the original Miao medical culture can be explored from the Miao myths and legends that have been passed down to date and the ancient ballads. The stories of Chiyou and Grandpa Yao King have emerged successively. It can be seen that Miao medicine has developed and matured in the heroic age of the ancient Jiu Li tribe, and has been widely recognized and applied.

It is said that Chi You, the ancient hero of the Miao people, was proficient in 120 doctrines and could adapt to the changes in the world. Master the 12 divine runes, can make wind and rain, know Yin and Yang. Master 120 medicinal technology, is a doctor who can cure all diseases, call people life and death.<sup>[4]</sup> During the war against Chiyou, many tribesmen were seriously wounded, and the wounded healed many wounds with Chiyou's secret medicine. Moreover, the leaders of all the tribes of the Jiuli people know how to use medicine, which also makes the experience of Miao medicine spread and spread in the Miao people, and has been passed down to this day. "The King of Medicine, the king of medicine, is as bright as crystal, traversing mountains and valleys, walking as usual, eating fruits and sleeping in the open, searching for remedies" is the mantra of the Miao people from generation to generation. It is said that every time Grandpa Yao Wang tasted a medicine, he could sense which part of the body could be treated as the medicine qi flowed and stayed in the body. Grandpa Yao Wang is the ancestor of Miao medicine handed down from generation to generation and has made outstanding contributions to the development of Miao medicine.<sup>[5]</sup> The king of medicine searched for remedies and accumulated remedies for the Miao people who migrated all year round. It can be seen that the Miao ancestors survived in migration and tasted hundreds of kinds of herbs from all over the country. This is probably the same as Shennong, when they tasted hundreds of medicines, "all of them were tasted by the mouth and tried by the body, and 70 poisons were encountered in one day... The three hundred and sixty things it obtained, according to the number of Zhou Tian, the later generations as the book, called "Shennong Materia Medica"<sup>[6]</sup> the allusion is even more than that, therefore, the Miao medicine culture at the beginning showed great mystery and myth.

In the New Language, Liu Xiang wrote, "I heard that the doctor in ancient times was the father of Miao, and the father of Miao was the doctor."<sup>[7]</sup> This Miao father is a Miaoli wizard. Sorcerers cure diseases mainly with prayer and incantation, but gradually with alcohol, grass and other drugs.<sup>[8]</sup> The myths and legends of Miao medicine are the spiritual pillar that the technology of Miao medicine has been passed down to the present, and the Miao medicine without written records can be passed down to the present with mystery and science.

## 2. Obstacles and Reflections on the inheritance of Miao medicine

Miao medicine mainly contains two aspects: material and spiritual. The material aspect includes the prescription, herbal knowledge, methods and skills of Miao medicine in history. The spiritual aspect is mainly reflected in the internal culture formed by the long-term development of history, myths and legends, and Miao medical concepts. On the contrary, the factors hindering the development of Miao medicine are accumulated in the long-term historical development, seeking to remain unchanged in the face of changes, and standing still in the face of challenges. The gradual formation of inherent development thinking restricts the realistic pace of Miao medicine.

## 2.1 Serious loss of self-deficiency medicine prescriptions

The Miao people have the custom of ancestral belief, that the happiness in the present life is given by their ancestors. The folk belief and sacrifice of Chiyou formed a certain spirit consciousness, expressing the yearning for the ancestors and the yearning for a better life. In the medical technology and social information is not developed society, mastering medical technology to cure people is the guarantee of survival, not only can improve daily life, but also can be respected, and the myth of Chiyou medicine built a solid Miao medicine secret consciousness. Therefore, the ancestral teachings such as secret medicine prescription or male medicine without female medicine have gradually become a consensus. The concept of secret medicine has highlighted its disadvantages in the development of Miao medicine for various reasons, and become one of the elements that hinder the development of Miao medicine.

"Secret to the public" is not so much a self-protection as a reflection of selfishness and arrogance. It not only gradually becomes single in traditional Miao medicine, but also becomes narrow in activity space. More importantly, many effective Miao medicine secret recipes have been lost and cannot be searched until now. In the long run, it is difficult to avoid omissions and mistakes, so that the correct medicine prescriptions become invalid in the medical practice of later generations and are removed from the list. This phenomenon continues to this day. According to a survey conducted in Qiandongnan Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province, most folk doctors adhere to the instruction of "keeping secrets to themselves" and do not teach them all. At the same time, with the development of social diversity and complexity, the new generation of young people are not very interested in medicine and herbology. They think that the way of ethnic medicine can not catch up with western medicine, and they begin to question and reject the tradition, which makes the inheritance of Miao medicine worse, which is undoubtedly the fatal blow to Miao medicine. Yang Guangli, a practitioner of folk Miao medicine in Huangping County, fears that traditional medicine will not be passed on; and that traditional medicine will bury many of our hands later. <sup>[9]</sup> It is worth thinking that the animosity between Miao and Han also restricts the development of Miao medicine technology. The herbal medicine in Chinese medicine and the Chinese herbal medicine in Miao medicine have many similarities, which should learn from each other and complement each other. However, due to historical reasons, Miao medicine and Chinese medicine failed to communicate and integrate in a friendly way, which makes the development of traditional Miao medicine limited to the ethnic group. Western medicine has great disadvantages in the aspects of inheritance and development, technological innovation and concept upgrading.

The Miao people live in high mountains and jungles, and their special environment makes them lack of information integration with the outside world, which affects their development. In addition, the Miao people have many branches and different dialects. In the long run, conflicts are inevitable, medical technology is varied, and internal communication is very difficult, let alone outward extension. In addition, most of Miao medicine prescriptions are based on experience. Today, with the serious loss of prescriptions, Miao medicine wants to develop rapidly, it must first step forward to conform to the modern thinking mode and move towards rationalization and industrialization. However, with the large investment in Miao medicine technology research and development, the scientific modernity will change the original state and significance of Miao medicine, which is the reluctance of the folk Miao medicine practitioners. In addition, the traditional medicine can not be broken, the business blindly pursue high efficiency, high output value, policy difficulties and other factors make the development of traditional medicine into a new predicament.

Medical practitioners adhere to the concept of saving the dying and healing the wounded and the reputation of good curative effect, which is also the reason why Miao medical technology based on experience and oral instruction can be trusted by the public. However, the self-contained Miao

medical technology is gradually marginalized in a unique internal way. What makes us think about it is that the act of obeying the secret master's orders and leading to the extinction of traditional medicine prescriptions is not an act of treason against the ancestral teachings.

## **2.2 The combination of witch doctors is against modern scientific concepts**

The art of wishing by has existed in ancient times, "medical" and "witchcraft" said it is also the initial state of Chinese medical art, and there are also many examples in the history books that are treated by witchcraft and difficult diseases. The New Bodhisattva Sutra and the Good Sutra in the Dunhuang Shishi suicide note have "You all living beings, write one free, write two free a door, write three free a village, if you don't write the door."<sup>[10]</sup> To copy the sutra and recite the Buddha to persuade people to be good is to avoid disaster and cure disease. "As far as China is concerned, at least in the historical period from the Han Dynasty to the Tang Dynasty, the scientific content of the Chinese medical system (physical and chemical treatment methods and related theories) and incantation therapy developed in parallel," Liao Yuqun pointed out.<sup>[11]</sup> The "Order of Medicine and Disease" in the Tang Dynasty regarded incantation therapy as a compulsory course for medical practitioners. "Phoenix Hall Annals" says that Miao residents treat diseases in addition to "taking medicine, the only thing they can do is pray... Boy's disease is Yanwu for the solution..... Or other ghosts haunted the well bank of the river with dogs and sheep offerings."<sup>[12]</sup> "Qian Shu" recorded that Miao people "do not take medicine for diseases, but pray for ghosts, which is called witchcraft as the ghost teacher, ghost teacher multiplied by the fool".<sup>[13]</sup> It can be seen that the witch doctor is a very common phenomenon. Although the witchdoctor's technique has its merits, it is considered "heretical" compared to modern medicine.

However, the concept of "witch doctor" has a great influence on Miao medicine, and most of the understanding of Miao medicine is still in the initial state. It is believed that folk Miao doctors are disguised as "doctors" and use witchcraft to cheat. The misunderstanding of the witchcraft of Miao medicine completely negates the scientific nature of the Miao medicine system and makes the development prospect of ethnic medicine difficult. "The witch doctor family" is more of a ritual than a heresy. It is an act of prayer and sacrifice to the ancestors or the king of medicine God in gratitude for the medicine given by the ancestors to save the dying and heal the wounded. Perhaps it is this ceremony that makes the Miao medicine spread to this day. However, "witch doctor separation" will undoubtedly separate the soul and body of Miao medicine, forming a state of walking dead. Therefore, for Miao medicine, "witchcraft" and "medicine" cannot be treated equally. Although witchcraft hinders the development of Miao medicine, it does not swallow the essence of Miao medicine. Miao medicine technology and culture separated from "witchcraft" is incomplete. Therefore, it is the essence of everything in the world that allows patients to regain a healthy body. Therefore, we should regard "witch" as the ritual of "medicine" and "medicine" as the form of "witchcraft" to understand the concept of "integration of witch and doctor" in Miao medicine. However, the transition is difficult, and this process has been a persistent obstacle to the progress of vaccine medicine.

## **2.3 Western Medicine challenges the call for the abolition of Chinese medicine**

In the early 19th century, Western missionaries visited the East, and church medicine was gradually known. In the 1930s, the "dispute over the preservation and abolition of traditional Chinese Medicine" stirred up the medical circles at home and abroad. Yu Yunpa is a representative of the abolition of traditional Chinese medicine, that "traditional Chinese medicine is the culprit of murder", is a kind of witchcraft. Chu Minyi, chairman of the Health Development Committee of the NPC, also believed that TCM was the biggest obstacle to China's health administration and that the

national revolution could not be counted as a success unless TCM was abolished. Due to its great influence, it aroused the discontent of the people and "politicized" the fight, which ended in the victory of TCM. Although the debate ended, it had a far-reaching impact. There are still some doubters on TCM today. This is not only the denial and penetration of traditional Chinese culture by western modern medicine, but also a fatal blow to TCM and ethnic medicine.

Both the denial of Chinese people and the challenge from modern Western medicine are the misunderstanding of traditional Chinese medicine and ethnic medicine, and it is this misunderstanding consciousness that hinders the development of traditional medicine. Compared with western laboratory medicine, the treatment principle of Miao medicine is based on herbal medicine. Compared with Western laboratory medicine, the treatment time and efficacy are not superior, so the choice of Western medicine is the first. Especially in the face of major disasters such as disease, war and other aspects, traditional Chinese medicine can not be timely and effective solutions, and it is difficult for outsiders to regard it as "pseudoscience" by witchcraft. It can be seen that Miao medicine was first hit by comparison with Chinese medicine, and then hit again by collision with Western medicine. Under the double blow, the living space and recognition of Miao medicine became more and more narrow.

### 3. Conclusion

Miao is one of the oldest ethnic groups in China, and Miao culture is the shining star of Chinese civilization. The development of Miao medicine is the common responsibility of the ethnic group. However, there are many factors hindering the dissemination and development of Miao medicine technology, the most important of which is their own insufficiency. It is urgent to realize the disadvantages of its own development and force reform. Collecting records, developing research, and building tourism can be popularized for action.

Correctly understand the connotation of "a witch doctor" and change the prejudice of using witchcraft to practice medicine. The purpose of establishing medicine is to cure diseases and save people. There is no superior or inferior medicine, and it is not a tool for some groups or factions to fight. Chinese medicine and Western medicine is not a life-or-death relationship, so we should establish correct medical culture and values to view and carry forward the tradition, improve the ideological and moral level, and cultivate patriotic feelings. In addition, Chinese ethnic medicine is attached to the soul of the ancient Oriental nation, and the fate of Miao medicine has long been closely linked with the Chinese nation.

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