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# Collision and Exchange between Chinese and Western Cultures: A Study on the Integration Strategy of Minority Dance and Jazz Dance

Fan Yang<sup>1,a</sup>, Chun Wang<sup>1,b</sup>, Ruiying Zhang<sup>1,c</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Liaoning Institute of Science and Technology, Benxi, Liaoning, 117004, China <sup>a</sup>3025906541@qq.com, <sup>b</sup>442300960@qq.com, <sup>c</sup>2622182912@qq.com

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**Abstract:** In the Internet age, the collision and exchange between Chinese and Western cultures are unstoppable. How can we inherit and carry forward the Chinese national culture and enhance cultural self-confidence and national pride? The integration of national dance and jazz dance fully develops its artistic value and cultural value, and actively promotes the innovative development of national traditional sports. In this paper, through the literature research, case study, shadow analysis and other research methods, concluded in the music style of mutual reference, movement technology and reasonable integration of costume props and other aspects to achieve the integration of minority dance and jazz dance.

# 1. Introduction

Dance is an important form of cultural inheritance in China for two thousand years. It has experienced a long historical evolution and accumulated experience, and has become one of the indispensable contents in social culture. Up to now, folk dance is not only a traditional dance form, but an important art form that combines national emotion and national spirit. Its characteristics contain a nation's cultural connotation and value, and show a nation's aesthetic ability and characteristics. Folk dance highlights the ideology, culture, emotional value and aesthetic concept of different nationalities by using diversified body language, which is the epitome and summary of folk art in different periods and stages of development, and has extremely obvious characteristics of the times and regions<sup>[1]</sup>.

Since hip-hop culture entered China, it has never stopped exploring "Sinicization" and "localization". It can be said that hip-hop dance is also constantly developing in the expression of Chinese image, Chinese theme and Chinese story, exploring new ways. This way of accepting foreign cultures with an open mind, taking them for their own use, integrating them widely, transforming and recreating them is not only a calibration of Chinese street dance cultural identity, but also a highlight of cultural self-confidence<sup>[2]</sup>. Jazz dance is one of the favorite street dances of contemporary college students. Jazz dance can be seen in campus performances, competitions and large-scale activities. The reform of quality education requires that physical education in colleges and universities should take students as the main body, fully meet the individual needs of students, and select jazz dance as the teaching content, which can stimulate students' interest in learning,

improve their enthusiasm for learning and help complete the transformation of teaching subject<sup>[3]</sup>. The integration of minority dance and jazz dance fully develops its artistic value and cultural value, actively promotes the innovative development of national traditional sports, inherits and develops minority culture and Chinese excellent traditional culture, and is conducive to enhancing the cultural self-confidence and national pride of contemporary college students.

## 2. Subject of study

# 2.1. Minority dance

Minority dance is one of the epitome of ethnic minorities in China. They use dance to explain their love for the great rivers and mountains of the motherland and life. There are 56 ethnic groups in China, and each ethnic group has its own dance with national cultural characteristics. Dance is closely related to customs, local culture, life and production, and living environment. It is often created by the people collectively and passed down to the people, reflecting the spiritual civilization of a nation or a region. Minority dance has distinct regional characteristics, and regional names often represent different dance types, such as Dai (Yunnan), Tibetan (Tibet), Uygur (Xinjiang), Mongolian (Inner Mongolia) and so on.

Dai dance has a peaceful and soothing rhythm, with the dance posture of "three bends" and "one side is smooth". There are more than 30 kinds of colorful Dai dances, the most common of which are "peacock dance", "Jiaguang Dance", "Palace Dance" and "Elephant Foot Dance"; The coordination and application of knees, feet, waist, shoulders and head in Tibetan dance are the main characteristics of Tibetan dance, mainly including: Killer, kicking, Guozhuang, Guoxie, Reba and other types; Uyghur dance is expressed through various parts of the body and eye contact, and at the same time, it is decorated with movements such as neck, wrist and fingertips to show the enthusiasm and liveliness of Uyghur dance; The biggest dance characteristics of Korean dance are the beauty of breath, posture and curves, among which the long drum dance, fan dance and sword dance are also unique. The dance is famous for its "crane arm, willow hand and tiger step", which is natural and unrestrained and elegant. The enthusiasm of Mongolian dance is enough to show the heroic and simple character characteristics of local people, with "bowl dance", "chopsticks dance" and "Andai dance" as the most distinctive features.

### 2.2. Jazz Dance

Jazz dance is a multi-performance dance form integrating ballet, modern dance, African dance, musical dance, social dance and East Indian Minority dance [4]. At present, jazz dance has incorporated HIPHOP, a dance and music element of street culture, and gradually formed a dance category with complex style and unique artistry and standardization. Distinguished from the performance characteristics of dance technology, jazz dance, which is popular in the world and has formed a normative dance system, includes two categories, namely, traditional jazz dance which matured in 1960s and has been developing since then, and contemporary jazz dance which has flourished since 1980s and 1990s. Due to the different background and development trend, the dance technology content formed by them has its own characteristics but comes down in one continuous line.

There are many kinds of jazz dance, and the mainstream can be divided into classical jazz, jazz ballet, trendy jazz, Funky Jazz, Hip-hop Jazz, Africa Jazz, Latin Jazz, Street Jazz and Power Jazz. For example, Power Jazz mainly focuses on strength, body control and explosive force, which is a dance with strong expressive force, capable movements and distinct pauses; Classical jazz combines classical dance, jazz dance and national styles. Most of them use body to express

emotions, and express the pause and ups and downs of music on the basis of action extension. Street Jazz Street Jazz dance combines the rhythm of Fucky, Power Jazz and Hip-hop, focusing not on the aesthetic feeling of body, but on the deductive music and the expression of lyrics. With the increasing popularity of Hip-hop, Jazz style began to change, and then Street Jazz came into being.

### 3. Fusion strategy

The collision and exchange between Chinese and Western cultures will surely spark different sparks, and the integration of Minority dance and jazz dance will also show different elegant demeanour. With the development of the times, jazz dance is more and more popular among the public, and the integration of Minority dance elements with jazz dance will form a new popular trend. However, different kinds of dance often have different musical styles, movement techniques, costumes and other ways of showing, so we will study the rationalization and integration of the two kinds of dance from these three points.

## 3.1. Music Style

Folk music is generally created by the masses and widely spread among the people. For example, Chinese folk opera, folk songs, minority music and so on. Different nationalities have different ways of music creation, different emotions expressed, and their styles and characteristics are also quite different. Most of them have the characteristics of local and improvisation. The music used in jazz dance has nothing to do with jazz. Most of them are pop music or electronic music, not jazz in the true sense. The corresponding jazz style also changes with the choice of music style. For example, the music style of antique jazz is slow and soft, while the music style of Power Jazz has passionate rhythm and explosive melody.

At present, the music style of many dance works in many professional street dance competitions is no longer single, and the application of national music elements has become a trend element. For example, in the program "Masked Dance King", the works of "Tuning Preserved Eggs" adopt the traditional Peking Opera bunt Wusheng track "Sandaokou", and at the same time add the rhythm of electronic music and the shock point of Popping, which combines various musical elements and brings extremely shocking dance works. With the embellishment of national elements, the overall music type becomes refreshing, and the turning point will give people a strong auditory impact and add extra points to the whole dance.

#### 3.2. Technical Actions

The Minority dances of "different winds for thousands of miles and different customs for hundreds of miles" have different forms. For example, the Northeast Yangko, which was bred and developed from the stilts in southern Liaoning, takes the waist as the axis, keeps the body leaning forward, the feet are strong, the feet are stable and solid, and the rhythm of the knees and the body forms the refreshing dance form of the Northeast Yangko, that is, the "strength" of the Northeast people; Tibetan dance includes four common Minority dances: Guoxie, Duixie, Killer and Guozhuang. All the four dance features have the characteristics of left crotch, bow back and bending. Jazz dance not only pays attention to explosive movements and bright limbs, but also pays attention to lines and curves. It not only has rhythm and frame, but also combines pose with other basic skills of dance, which is a relatively "open" dance. In the expression, the isolation of various parts of the body will appear, that is, the head, shoulders, chest, crotch and other parts, and the extensibility of the body and the lines of movements will also be emphasized.

The basic skills of jazz dance and Minority dance are interlinked. For example, the Yangko

dance in Northeast China uses crotch twisting, which is compatible with the crotch twisting of jazz dance; The "moving neck" of Xinjiang dance is similar to the use of neck in jazz. The work "Silk Road Visitors"in the program "This is Street Dance" combines Xinjiang dance with Locking. In the technical movements, there are not only Tajik dance, but also Uygur dance, lock dance and modern dance. In addition, the technical movements on the floor and the use of Xinjiang dance neck, etc., the plot is full of twists and turns, which is very infectious. And this innovative combination more appropriately realized the grand scene of the "Silk Road", and this new dance fusion form made the two dances more energetic, attractive and appealing.

# 3.3. Dress up

Dance costume is the costume that the actors wear when performing dance, which plays an important role in shaping the role and expressing the content. National costume refers to the unique characteristic costume in the culture of each nation, which is rich in cultural connotation, including raw materials, textile processing, printing and dyeing technology, embroidery technology, patterns, color expression, jewelry technology, cultural value and other factors. The dress-up of national dance costume is often a direct symbol of the nation. For example, the dance "Qinghai-Tibet Plateau" portrays the image of Tibetan people, so dancers mainly choose Tibetan costumes, which fully reflects the characteristics of Tibetan compatriots. Through the combination of national costumes and national movements in the dance "Songkran Festival", we can better feel the lively scene of Dai Songkran Festival in the dance, which is of great help to deepen the audience's understanding of dance<sup>[5]</sup>. In jazz dance, with the development of foreign popular culture, the popularization of ballet and Broadway, especially the emergence of street dance culture, jazz dance has been completely different from the usual canes, vests, leather shoes and leather pants. Today's jazz dress tends to be "popular", some are tight and loose, some are wide and narrow, and most of them will pursue their own comfortable way of wearing.

Nowadays, it is popular to use ballet costume elements to create clothes that people usually wear. We can also use national elements to create comfortable clothes, and add national elements on the basis of comfortable clothes, so as to achieve the integration of costumes. For example, the traditional embroidery technology is combined with the sweater, and the national symbol is sewn on the sweater; Compared with jazz dance and Dai dance costumes, they all have the characteristics of tight upper body, but if you use Dai dance costumes to dance jazz, you will be limited by movements, so we can combine tight costumes with loose costumes. In the "This is Street Dance" program, the "Fire Pattern" works(Figure 1) set off the atmosphere to the highest point through the design of the fire stage, and showed the grand occasion of the Torch Festival in Yi culture incisively and vividly. The integration of the two dance cultures will lead a wave of trends, So as to make everyone have a strong interest in national culture, integrate Yi culture into street dance, show national characteristics with dance, convey strong national feelings with dance, let people see more beautiful and vital new images, and stimulate people's love for dance and beautiful things in life.



Figure 1: Picture of "Fire Pattern" Works.

#### 4. Conclusions

The collision between Chinese and Western cultures in the Internet age is reflected in many aspects, and cultural integration is the mainstream direction of progress in the present era. The fusion of Minority dance and jazz dance in music style, movement technology and costume props has strong practical value and practical significance. The integration of Minority dance and jazz dance is an innovative measure to take advantage of the trend and take advantage of the situation, and it is one of the ways to carry forward and spread Chinese culture and realize cultural self-confidence.

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