# Analysis of Local Intangible Cultural Heritage from the Art of Lingnan Dance

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Abstract: Lingnan is a vast area where many nationalities converge and merge in our country. It has profound cultural connotations. On the one hand, Lingnan culture is influenced by many local national cultures, and absorbs and merges the contents of many cultures, which leads to the diversification and integration of Lingnan dance. On the other hand, Lingnan dance combines many folk customs and reflects the living habits of Lingnan people and the protection of local intangible cultural heritage. It is the crystallization of wisdom and thought of Lingnan people. Starting from the art of Lingnan dance, this paper analyses the historical background, characteristics and artistic connotation of Lingnan dance, and explores the inheritance and innovation of Lingnan dance and the protection of local intangible cultural heritage.

Lingnan has a unique historical and cultural background. With the influence of national development, ethnic integration and geographical changes, it has formed a unique charm of Lingnan culture. The Lingnan dance, which is thought of in Lingnan culture, is an important part of Lingnan culture. It is also the intangible cultural heritage of Lingnan, which is of great significance to the development of Lingnan and the inheritance of national characteristics. With the rapid economic development in Lingnan area, more and more people come to Lingnan and several people come out of Lingnan to let more people know and accept Lingnan dance and feel the charm of Lingnan dance. At the same time, Lingnan dance, as the local intangible cultural heritage, needs to be taken measures to protect and inherit. Therefore, this paper analyses the protection of the art of Lingnan dance and provides reference for the protection, inheritance and innovation of Lingnan dance.

### 1. Historical Background and Characteristics of Lingnan Dance

# 1.1 Historical background of Lingnan dance

Due to the special location of Lingnan, the gathering of many ethnic groups has created the unique culture of Lingnan. Lingnan dance is the symbolic content of Lingnan culture and an important part of Lingnan culture. It has strong national characteristics and can fully reflect the lives of people in Lingnan. The lion dance in Lingnan dance is a well-known dance, which has been welcomed by the general public from ancient times to the present and has gradually moved to the international stage. It is the witness of the development of Chinese history and culture. During the period of "Cultural Revolution", Lingnan dance was classified as a feudal superstitious activity,

which was severely hit and affected the inheritance of Lingnan culture. In that special period, the classic representative works and excellent performances in Lingnan dance were resisted and destroyed, which greatly affected the inheritance and development of Lingnan dance. In the past, Lingnan dance was inherited through mentoring and apprenticeship. The way of inheritance was restricted and it was difficult to promote like the general public. However, with the development of the economy and the continuous popularization of network technology, the young people nowadays can contact with various cultural activities. But they lack understanding and interest in Lingnan dance, and the inheritance and development of Lingnan dance is limited.

# 1.2 The types and cultural features of Lingnan dance

There are many types of Lingnan dances. Lingnan dances are the cultural content of many ethnic groups, so there are many types of Lingnan dance with cultural characteristics of other ethnic groups, such as the Douniang dance of Li nationality, the pole dance of Zhuang nationality, the Qiangu dance of Chaoshan, Dragon dance of Miao nationality, Lion dance of Han nationality. The content of the dance has significant characteristics of rationality, pluralism and nationality. It contains the life emotions of the people in the Lingnan, and conveys the ideals and culture of life of the people in Lingnan. In the inheritance of Lingnan dance, it is necessary to understand the meaning, emotions, cultural characteristics and cultural types of Lingnan dance in details to better protect and inherit Lingnan dance.

# 2. The Art Form and Artistic Connotation of Lingnan Dance

# 2.1 The art form of Lingnan dance

Lingnan Dance has its own unique artistic style, forming different artistic forms with various contents and expressions. Many of them are eulogies of romantic love, festivities at harvest time, and the love of working people for production and life, such as country dance and shepherd dance. These dance forms express people's thoughts and feelings at different levels in Lingnan and their expectations for different wonderful life. Therefore, in the protection and inheritance of Lingnan dance, we should have a deep understanding of the artistic form of Lingnan dance, and understand the thoughts and feelings it conveys, and carry on the inheritance on the basis of it to promote the continuous development, growth and perfection of Lingnan dance.

# 2.2 The artistic connotation of Lingnan dance

# 2.2.1 Water elements of Lingnan dance

Lingnan has a special geographical location. It is the convergence place of many rivers in subtropical zone. It is rich in water resources, and also creates beautiful waterscape and provides a superior geographical location for the diversification of Lingnan culture. And water resources have an important link with economic development. Relatively speaking, rich water resources promote the local economic development, and have an impact on the protection of intangible cultural heritage, and on the development and content inheritance of Lingnan dance. Lingnan dance reflects people's living conditions and the pursuit of a better life in Lingnan. There are many elements of rain, which enrich the content of Lingnan dance. For example, the juvenile dance "Rainy Rain" mainly expresses the scenes of rainy days that children play with water in the rain, reflecting the naivety and romance of children, expressing rich water elements. It also reflects the fun scenes of Lingnan children's life. Therefore, water element is an important cultural factors of Lingnan dance,

which combines the folk customs, cultural characteristics and artistic connotations of Lingnan dance, and at the same time expresses Lingnan people's life customs and psychological expression by means of water element.

## 2.2.2 Plant elements of Lingnan dance

The most characteristic of plant elements is green, which conforms to contemporary vital signs and spiritual meanings, and reflects contemporary ideological signs and values to a certain extent. Lingnan dance has strong characteristics of life and times, including many green plant elements, and it expresses the love of nature and the pursuit of green vigor, which can trace to the thinking of life in the remote era. For example, in the Lingnan dance, the children's dance "Leaf Rhyme" is expressed by analogy. It compares people to banana leaves, which contains the characteristics of green of the banana leaf. By expressesing the people's love for the vibrant scenery in Lingnan, it shows the children's unique feelings for green plants in Lingnan. In reality, green represents vitality and hope, and is an indispensable element in life. At the same time, green plants are closely related to people's tenacious vitality and hard-working spirit. Therefore, the expression of green plant elements in Lingnan dance reflects the praise of Lingnan people for their tenacious vitality and hard work.

### 2.2.3 Overseas Chinese elements of Lingnan dance

The Lingnan area has gathered many overseas Chinese people, and it is one of the areas where overseas Chinese gather more. As the overseas Chinese people and their culture are accepted by the local people, Lingnan culture also mainly integrates the elements of overseas Chinese, enriching the theme and content of Lingnan dance. In Lingnan Dance, there are many overseas Chinese people's lives, ideals and aspirations, and overseas Chinese have rich themes such as leaving their home and returning to their home. Among them, there are strong feelings of homesickness and reluctance to part, which broaden the creative space of Lingnan dance. For example, the creation of Lingnan dance "Impression of Wingchun", based on the traditional Chinese martial arts culture "Wingchun", startes with the originator of "Wingchun", and expresses that overseas Chinese people bring the traditional culture "Wingchun" to overseas inheritance and development, and expresses their affirmation of the contribution of overseas Chinese people, which is conducive to the correct evaluation of the contribution of overseas Chinese compatriots abroad.

## 3. The Inheritance and Development of Lingnan Dance

In the protection of local intangible cultural heritage, propaganda is the key link of the inheritance and development of Lingnan dance. With the continuous development of network technology and media industry, propaganda methods also need to be carried out in many ways. In order to make more people fully aware of Lingnan dance, TV, network platform and paper media can be used to carry out targeted and multi-faceted propaganda, which will fully demonstrate the charm of Lingnan dance. In addition, it can even have the aid of crowds gathering places such as community and university to start learning classes or publicity lectures, so that more people can participate in the protection of Lingnan dance, the intangible cultural heritage. At present, Foshan has integrated the contents of "dragon dance" and "lion dance" in Lingnan dance, filmed teaching films and promotional films, and promoted them to the public. It is important to strengthen the training of Lingnan dance inheritors, and provide them with support conditions, so that they can be integrated into the children's dance education. The inheritance and development of Lingnan dance also need to be innovated and developed in accordance with the life and living needs of contemporary people, and be innovated in combination with teaching methods and teaching

content.

#### 4. Conclusion

Lingnan culture is an important part of our traditional culture, and it is the intangible cultural heritage of our country. Lingnan dance is a magnificent Lingnan culture with the characteristics of strong nationality and life. It records and expresses the life and culture of Lingnan people of all nationalities, conveys the love of life and positive thoughts and feelings of Lingnan people, and enriches the life and culture of Lingnan people. Therefore, it is of great significance to inherit and develop Lingnan dance. It needs to strengthen the propaganda of Lingnan Dance, the cultivation of inheritors and the renewal of the content of innovative development. At the same time, the inheritance and development Lingnan dance can also be used as a reference method for the protection of local intangible cultural heritage.

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