

Exploration on the Folk Culture of Yunnan Ethnic Minorities and Core Socialist Values

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Abstract: the core socialist values are the concentrated expression of advanced culture of various ethnic groups. The folk culture of Yunnan ethnic minorities is an indispensable part of it, which presents the characteristics of diversity in form. It has a typical exemplary role in studying the core socialist values of the folk culture of ethnic minorities by deeply excavating the core value connotation of the folk culture of ethnic minorities, enriching and improving the comprehensive connotation of core values in the folk culture of ethnic minorities, and strengthening the ideological guiding role of core values in the folk culture of ethnic minorities.

1. Introduction

Culture, as a social phenomenon, has existed with human beings since ancient times. “the core values of an ethnic group or a country must be consistent with the history and culture of this ethnic group or this country.”^[1] Yunnan is one of the cradles of mankind. The population of ethnic minorities accounts for more than one third of the total population of the province. It is the province with the largest number of ethnic groups in china. The distribution area of ethnic minorities makes up about three-quarters of the province's total area. Of the 55 ethnic minorities in the country, 25 are living in villages with more than 4000 people in Yunnan province. Among them, 15 ethnic minorities are unique to Yunnan. Superior natural conditions gave birth to the rich cultural resources of Yunnan. The different folk customs of Yunnan ethnic groups constitute the main body of the multi-ethnic culture. It has a typical exemplary role in studying the core socialist values of the folk culture of ethnic minorities to explore the correspondence relationship between the folk culture of ethnic minorities in Yunnan and the core socialist values. The report of the 19th national congress of the communist party of china states: “the core values of socialism are the concentrated expression of the contemporary chinese spirit, condensing the common value pursuit of all people.”^[2] “all the people” here, of course, contains its national character.

2. The Correspondence of the Traditional Content of the Folk Culture of Yunnan Ethnic Minorities and Core Socialist Values

China's excellent traditional culture is the source of the core socialist values, and the two are closely related. Folk customs, “refers to the life culture created, enjoyed and inherited by the people in a country or an ethnic group. Folk customs originate from the needs of human social groups, and they have continuously formed, spread and evolved in specific ethnic groups, times and regions to serve the daily lives of the people. Once folk customs are formed, they become basic forces that regulate people's behaviors, languages, and mental conditions. They are also important for people to acquire, inherit, and accumulate cultural and creative results.”^[3] Folk customs is an important part of national and folk culture, which is a phenomenon of “collective nature, sense of inheritance and patternization” in national and folk culture. Folk habits and spread are mainly carried out by means of behavior demonstration and oral transmission. The folk habits are people's living style inherited from generation to generation and collective language habits, behavior habits and psychological habits. Folk culture generally includes four parts: material folk custom, social folk custom, spiritual folk custom and language folk custom. Although the main part of folk customs is formed in the past,

it changes with the development and change of life in various fields of social life.

From the perspective of the material folk custom, the folk culture of ethnic minorities in Yunnan mainly includes clothing, architecture, diet and medicine of different ethnic groups. For example, the stilted buildings of Dai ethnic group, the Sifang Street of Bai ethnic group; From the perspective of the social folk custom, it mainly includes the social organization structure, social system and festival folk customs of different ethnic groups. For example, the marriage custom of Mosuo ethnic group; From the perspective of the spiritual folk custom, it mainly includes folk beliefs, ethical concepts and folk arts of different ethnic groups. For example, the totem worship of Yi ethnic group; From the perspective of the language folk custom, it mainly includes dialects of different ethnic groups, folk sayings, proverbs and folk literature. For example, the legend of Ashima.

The ethnic minority folk culture in Yunnan fits the core values of socialism in terms of content, which is reflected in three levels of core socialist values:

(1) The correspondence of the values at the citizen level

The correspondence at the citizen level is the basis of the correspondence of the folk culture of Yunnan ethnic minorities and core socialist values. The colorful ethnical customs and folk culture originate from the needs of human social groups, and are determined by the production methods of human material. They directly affect people's lifestyle, and determine people's living habits, life concepts, festivals and customs. Yunnan has been famous for its gathering, hunting, fishing, aquaculture, plantation, cotton fabrics, and stilt style architecture since ancient times. For example, the bronze culture and Cuan culture created by Bo people; The culture of Nanzhao and Dali created by the ancestors of Bai ethnic group and Yi ethnic group; The Dongba culture of Naxi ethnic group; The Huotang culture that centers on fire worship created by Yi language speaking ethnic groups; Pattra culture created by Dai ethnic group; The wooden drum culture created by Wa language speaking ethnic groups. Although they have different forms, they all share the same yearning for a better life. They are patriotic, dedicated, honest and friendly in the aspects of diet, clothing, totem worship, the belief of being wealthy through hard work, and family education.

Nuodeng town in Yunlong county of Dali, "the village of Bai ethnic group with more than thousands of years' history and culture", has maintained four unchanged miracles: First, the name of the town has never changed; Second, there is only Bai ethnic group living in the town; Third, Bai language has always been the only language in the town; Fourth, The industry that the villagers depend on for survival has always been mainly salt making. All of them is not only the inheritance of the thousands of years' history, but also a reflection of folk customs of the thousand-year-old village on values. The Bai people in Nuodeng town worship "Benzhu" with characteristics of both Confucianism and Taoism. They believe in "set family rules with Confucius morality" and "being kind and happy", and they love Dongjing music of Taoism. They also worship the patriotic heroes in the native history of their hometown. Above forms the values and the spiritual pillar that have been passed down from generation to generation, such as "careful, modest and generous; practical and hardworking; studious and diligent; appreciating credibility and pragmatism."^[4] In this town which is only 7.6 kilometers wide from east to west and 8.35 kilometers long from north to south, each family has Buddhist halls, temples everywhere, and the folk customs are simple. It was famous for 2 imperial scholars, 5 first degree scholars, 58 Gongye and more than certified students in history. For over a thousand years, the Bai people in Nuodeng town has maintained the etiquette customs and behavior norms of patriotism, love for the hometown, respect for the elderly and academics, and respect for teachers. After bettering the academics, they started setting up industries to benefit the people and benefit the country. The customs are simple and elegant. In the family education, they combined "reciting as the best" and "family learning" as the highest priority. They are polite and friendly to others. The family motto spreads, such as "Courage without discipline is not valuable. Being upright should be your pursuit."^[5] They also have a sense of justice and dare to fight. The Western Yunnan Work Committee of the Communist Party of China used Nuodeng as the center to establish the county's underground party organization to lead the local people in the underground revolution.

(2) The value of equality and justice at the social level

1) The first is the equality between ethnic groups.

The folk culture of ethnic minorities in Yunnan is diverse. For example, in terms of folk customs of material production, products are with their own characteristics, splendid and colorful, such as hand-woven products of Dai ethnic group, silver products and batik processed products of Miao ethnic group, and marble processed products of Bai ethnic group. In terms of folk customs of social organization, there are Dai's water-splashing festival, Jingpo's group-dance festival, Ha'ni's New Year festival, Yi's torch festival, etc. The forms are diverse, ornamental, aesthetic, and entertaining. In terms of folk customs of material life, the three-course teas of Bai ethnic group, the bamboo tube rice of Dai ethnic group, the long street feast of Ha'ni ethnic group, and get-together wine of Lisu ethnic group, the nature and ecology of these recipes complement each other. Although the customs of clothing have their own characteristics, they do not conflict with each other and coexist peacefully.

2) The second is the equality between individuals.

The ethnic minorities in Yunnan pursue the free and unrestrained state of individual life. In costume culture, different animal and plant worship represents the worship of nature. For example, Ha'ni people like black clothes. It represents their worship to black; Girls of Bai ethnic group like to wear phoenix hats which represents their worship of "phoenix"; Kucong men of Lahu ethnic group are good at wearing ox-like horns and worship "ox" as a totem. These totem worship of nature symbolizes the love and pursuit of life.

(3) The value of harmony at the country level

Most of the ethnic minorities in Yunnan are located in mountainous areas, and some even live in remote and closed mountains for a long time. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the life of ethnic minorities has been greatly changed under the care of the party and the state. People have left the primitive life of farming or hunting to live in new houses and go to school. There is an old saying in China: "When you go to the well to draw water, remember who dug the well." In the past, the ethnic groups paid attention to the harmony of villages and families, but now they are promoting the harmony of the country. As the meaning of the name of Lahu ethnic group, which is one of the oldest ethnic groups in China, we hold hands and work together to receive the blessing of the god and live with happiness and good luck.

3. The Various Forms of the Folk Culture of Yunnan Ethnic Minorities and Core Socialist Values

In Yunnan, different regions and different ethnic groups have formed different folk customs. The cultural landscape such as "There are different ethnic groups living in the same mountain. There are different folk customs within ten miles.", "One ethnic group can live separately in different mountains. Even within the same group existing different folk customs." is a realistic reflection of the great difference of folk culture.

3.1 Changes in Folk Culture of Different Ethnic Groups

Yunnan is mountainous. The life of ethnic minorities is closely connected with the mountains. In their lives, they even worship the mountains. Different mountains (such as Wumeng mountain, Gaoligong mountain, Wuliang mountain, Nu mountain, Ailao mountain) have different folk customs of different ethnic groups: Lahu ethnic group lives in the cold highland areas. They mainly gather fruits and hunt animals. Thus, they have the custom of offering sacrifices to the hunting god and the mountain god. Dai people live in river valley areas, where is suitable to grow rice, so there are the planting festival and the festival of eating new rice. The folk cultures of different ethnic groups reflect the diversity of beliefs, so that the carriers of spiritual cohesion are different, which leads to the changes of the core values.

3.2 Changes in Folk Culture of the Same Ethnic Group

The same ethnic group has different customs because of the different mountains they live in. Taking Yi ethnic group for example. Yi people who live in Wumeng mountain, Ailao mountain,

Wuliang mountain, Little Liang mountain and some areas on the edge of highland areas in Yunnan have different customs. Yi people's clothes alone are so different and amazing. Speaking of marriage, the louder Yi people cry at the marriage party, the happier the couple's after-marriage life will be. Among them, mothers and daughters of Yi ethnic group living in Liang mountain are particularly typical. The daughter conveys the weeping content of arranged marriage to the mother, while the mother teaches the daughter to be obedient through experience and comforts and blesses the daughter, so as to integrate the harmony and unity of the family.

3.3 Changes in Folk Culture in Special Geographical Locations

Yunnan is the frontier of China. It is in a special geographical position with 16 ethnic groups living across borders. Its border is more than 4,000 kilometers long, and it borders countries such as Vietnam, Laos, and Burma in Southeast Asia. It is the only way for the inland to go to Southeast Asia and India in ancient times. Folk culture is formed under certain historical conditions and has outstanding historical characteristics. The tradition of border trade among various ethnic groups has promoted the formation of related customs. For example, the famous Southern Silk Road, the Ancient Tea-Horse Road, the caravan culture, and the commercial customs of the early morning market. Taking the early morning market as an example, the folk customs of border trade have their own characteristics due to the dispersed residence, the inconvenience of traffic and communication, and the integration of local, native and foreign cultures.

4. The Correspondence of the Folk Culture of Yunnan Ethnic Minorities and Core Socialist Values in the New Era

4.1 Re-Endowing the Core Values of the Folk Culture of Yunnan Ethnic Minorities with New Connotations

It is important to correctly understand the symbiotic relationship between ethnic minorities' folk culture and core socialist values. The folk culture of Yunnan ethnic minorities, which represents advanced culture, is an integral part of core socialist values. The core values of the folk culture of Yunnan ethnic minorities should be endowed with new connotations. Based on the content of the values with 24 words, it should be advocated from different levels, oriented to solve practical problems, and classified according to the type of folk culture. It should condense the core of the values of the local people, find new points of convergence, strengthen the function of core socialist values, and creates local ethnic brand culture, creating the core value brand symbol of folk culture.

For example, Diqing Shangri-La brand should integrate the tenacity, courage, and loyalty in Tibetan culture, and use performance of singing and dancing and Reba art to advertise itself; Condensing the spirit of democracy, patriotism and solidarity in the Tengyue culture of Tengchong; Giving full play to Jianshui's profound heritage in blending the Confucian culture of the Central Plains with the border ethnic culture; Developing the connection and significance of the natural scenery in Bamei village of Guangnan county to Chinese ideal "paradise"; Deepening the traditional doctrine of Lijiang Naxi ancient civilization; Sorting out and spreading the industrious and kind-hearted quality in Ashima culture of Yi ethnic group in Shilin; Exploring the richness and diversity of Dai culture in Xishuangbanna.

Folk cultural activities are symbolic behaviors. Every symbol of folk culture which belongs to the ethnic group and the folk customs contains specific, historical and cultural connotations. In the process of creating a brand culture, it is necessary to integrate core values into the culture, form symbols that can represent the daily life and ideological areas of the ethnic group, enhance the image propaganda of the core values, and build Yunnan into a modern strong province with ethnic group unity and social civilization.

4.2 Enriching and Perfecting the Comprehensive Connotation of the Core Values in the Folk Culture of Ethnic Minorities

Due to historical reasons, the folk culture of ethnic minorities values the rise and fall of families

and the development of their own life forms. It needs to strengthen the content required by the times in the content of values, such as “rich country strengthens the people”, democratic civilization, the freedom under the rule of law, etc. It also needs to add the international view brought by the unique geographical conditions of Yunnan. “It should not only be based on the ethnic groups, but also face the world. It should be good at seeking wisdom and nutrition from different civilizations, so as to enhance the vitality of the Chinese civilization.”^[6]”

4.2.1 The Country Level

For the unity and prosperity of the motherland, the ethnic minorities in Yunnan have carried forward Chinese great traditions in the face of foreign invasion and the struggle against ethnic oppression, and jointly created the ethnic spirit of promoting China's revolutionary construction and reform. Ethnic minorities forge a common emotional basis, with a high level of national cohesion.

4.2.2 The Society Level

The folk culture of ethnic minorities in Yunnan reflects people's real life, as well as people's thinking and simple feelings on social issues. The traditional social ethics followed by most ethnic minorities are peace, justice and freedom, which are important indicators of social harmony, the simple social ideals of ethnic minorities, and the reflection of a better society and a happy life. People of all ethnic groups associate social justice with their daily life. They love free and stable life and the pursue spiritual happiness more than the material. Fairness, justice, peace, and freedom in the excellent traditional culture of Yunnan ethnic minorities must be the basis of practice for uniting people of all ethnic groups.

4.3 Enhancing the Leading Role of Core Values in the Folk Culture of Ethnic Minorities

Folk culture originates from life, and its content is consistent with the core socialist values. The task now is to turn the core socialist values into civilized guidance for the daily life of ethnic minorities, build a common spiritual home for ethnic minorities, and foster a positive, healthy and positive folk culture. It is necessary to cultivate the core values of socialism with ethnic minorities' own ways of living, highlight the the content of ethnic and folk culture, enable ethnic minorities to achieve self-education in work and life practices, and enable the ethnic minorities to appreciate the normative utility of core socialist values.

Due to the special geographical location and the promotion of tourism economy in recent years, the folk culture of ethnic minorities in Yunnan presents a certain externality, breaking the traditional closed environment. Its open, encompassing and hospitable ethos have a strong appeal to tourists from outside the province and abroad. The folk culture of ethnic minorities only “cultivates and promotes the core values of ‘socialism’ can it truly condense the ‘common value pursuit’ belonging to all the ‘people’^[7]”.

5. Conclusion

The different folk customs of Yunnan ethnic groups constitute the main body of the multi-ethnic culture. It has a typical exemplary role in studying the core socialist values of the folk culture of ethnic minorities. Thus, it becomes an important theme to explore the correspondence relationship between the folk culture of ethnic minorities in Yunnan and the core socialist values. The folk culture of ethnic minorities matches the core socialist values at the level of the country, the people and the individuals. Moreover, core socialist values give new connotations to the folk culture of ethnic minorities.

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