

Research on the Value of the Integration of Huangmei Operatic Culture into Kindergarten Education*

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Abstract—The Huangmei opera, which is deeply loved by the people of all places, is melodious and euphemistic. Its rhythm is beautiful and moving. For people, it is easy to be understood and popularized. Meanwhile, it contains rich values of early childhood education. This paper has proved the possibility and reality that Huangmei opera can be integrated into kindergarten education with its main demonstration in three aspects, namely: the inheritance of Chinese operatic culture should start from early childhood; the local operatic cultural resources should be fully explored for the development of early childhood education; and the unique culture of Huangmei opera can become an excellent resource for promoting the development of children. Finally, the paper elaborates on the integration of Huangmei Opera into kindergarten education, which can promote the children's physical and mental development, intellectual development, sprout the emotions of the children who love their hometown and motherland, and cultivate their values and ability to feel the beauty and express the beauty.

Keywords—Huangmei Opera; kindergarten education; Huangmei Operatic Culture

I. INTRODUCTION

As a national intangible cultural heritage, Huangmei Opera contains the unique thinking and spiritual values of the Chinese nation. "Traditional culture starts from the children". The Huangmei Operatic Culture is effectively integrated into the kindergarten education, especially in the kindergartens in Huanggang city of Hubei province where it was born, and Anqing city of Anhui province and other areas where it has been developed. Those places actively and creatively develop the Huangmei Operatic culture, and promote the excellent local opera resources into the kindergartens, where the seeds of Chinese excellent traditional culture are buried in the children's hearts. When it comes to "the operatic culture enters the campus", the misunderstandings in two aspects should be avoided. First,

*Funds: Youth Research Project of Philosophy and Social Science Research Project of Hubei Provincial Education Department in 2019 "Application Research of Hubei Intangible Cultural Heritage in Kindergarten Education" (Project No.: 19Q193); 2018 Hubei University Humanities and Social Sciences Research Base Key Project of Art Research Center of Huangmei Opera "Research on the Development of Huangmei Operatic Culture for Kindergarten-based Course — Taking Kindergarten in Eastern Region of Hubei Province as an Example" (Project No: 201807503).

Chinese operas are outdated and their educational values are completely negated. Second, it is not necessary to train opera fans or opera performers on the campus. The dialectical and developmental perspective of the value of the contemporary education in the kindergarten and on campus should be taken.

II. A BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF HUANGMEI OPERATIC CULTURE

The National Intangible Cultural Heritage List "Huangmei Opera" contains: "Huangmei Opera originated from Huangmei County, Hubei Province, and developed and grown in Anqing city, Anhui Province. It is a kind of drama that was created by the working people in the adjacent areas of the three provinces of Jiangxi, Hubei and Anhui. It evolves from mountain folk minor which makes the opera melodious, euphemistic, beautiful and moving. It has something like a fragrant earthy taste that makes people easy to understand, easy to popularize, and so it is deeply loved by the people of all places." So far, it has developed into one of the five major Chinese dramas. Its influence gets more and more far-reaching with its good reputation at home and abroad. A group of artist ancestors such as Xing Xiuniang, Yu Haixian and Yan Fengying have made outstanding contributions to the formation, development and dissemination of Huangmei Opera. As time passes, Huangmei Opera has produced a large number of TV series and movies of Huangmei Opera in addition to the stage performances. Huangmei Opera has produced a large number of works, among which the classic plays include Tianxian Pei, The Cowherd and the Weaver Girl, The Female Prince Consort, Meng Lijun, The Couples Watching the Lanterns, Reaping the Pig Grass, A Dream of Red Mansions, Tryst at the Blue Bridge, Road Encounter and so on. Since the beginning of the new century, Hubei and Anhui have respectively held the Art Festival of Huangmei Opera, which has spawned a number of outstanding works of Huangmei Opera, such as Huizhou Women, Girls Want to Cross the River, Li Siguang, Su Dongpo, Li Shizhen, the Mother of Dabie Mountain, Bi Sheng — the Creator of the Live Word Printing, Peach Blossoms and so on. At the same time, influenced by the popular music, a large number of Huangmei songs were also produced, that is, the songs written in, basically adapted with, or based on the tone of Huangmei opera, are composed, such as Hometown tone is

Huangmei tune, Gorgeous Huanggang, Su Dongpo Praised with Huangmei Tune and so on.

III. THE BASIS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF HUANGMEI OPERATIC CULTURE INTO KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

A. *The Inheritance of Chinese Operatic Culture Should Start from Early Childhood*

"Strengthening the protection of intangible cultural heritage is not only the need of national development, but also an inevitable requirement for the dialogue of international civilization and the sustainable development of human society." The Ministry of Education pointed out that "the construction of Chinese cultural curriculum and teaching material system should be focused on the textbooks for children, primary schools and secondary schools." Therefore, the inheritance of Chinese outstanding traditions should start from the early childhood education. Meanwhile, Huangmei opera culture contains rich Wuchu culture, farming culture, poetry culture, martial arts culture, etc., and its unique vocal beauty, beautiful dance, and stage beauty are in line with the aesthetic tendency of young children, and it is easy to understand for them. Therefore, the inheritance of Chinese excellent operatic culture should be inherited by children and can be inherited by children as soon as they can.

B. *Local Cultural Resources Should Be Fully Explored for the Development of Early Childhood Education*

Several Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Deepening Reform and Standardization of Preschool Education pointed out that "To make full use of local natural and cultural resources in kindergartens" should be supported and guided. The Guidelines for the Guidance of Kindergarten Education mentioned that "to make full use of social resources" should guide young children to actually feel the richness and excellence of the motherland's culture, to feel the changes and development of their hometowns, and to inspire children's love of their hometown and the motherland. The Children's (3-6 years old) Learning and Development Guide emphasizes the need to "create conditions for young children to access a variety of art forms and works", "to take children to watch or participate in traditional folk art and local folk cultural activities", "to lead children to comprehend Chinese opera is a comprehensive art with performance as the core, which brings many mature Chinese performing arts together such as singing, dancing, music, comics, martial arts, acrobatics, etc." Huangmei operatic culture should become a vibrant and colorful curriculum resource in early childhood education, especially in the early childhood education of Huanggang and Anqing, the birthplace and development place of Huangmei Opera accordingly. It is necessary to actively explore the local Huangmei Opera cultural resources, guide children to feel the charm of hometown operatic culture, and inspire their love of hometown and motherland.

C. *The Unique Culture of Huangmei Opera Can Be an Excellent Resource for Promoting the Development of Young Children*

First, Huangmei Opera is easy for young children to learn since it was developed from the folk songs. A considerable part of the plot originated from the natural pastoral and trivial life, which made the Huangmei Opera have a fragrant earthy taste and taste of life. For the aria, especially the coloratura, the tone is clear, the expression plain, and the melody line colloquial. The Huangmei opera is simple and beautiful with its structure of the lyrics multi-lined and the structure is mostly "seven-character sentence" and "ten-character sentence", which makes the children easy to understand and learn; the role-set is relatively less than other operas, the Huangmei opera itself was evolved from Two-role Play and Three-role Play, that means, two or three characters can become a play, hence, it is easy to promote children to imitate or innovate. Second, the Huangmei Operatic Culture can promote the comprehensive development of young children. Huangmei Operatic Culture integrates Wuchu culture from its birthplace Huangmei and development place Anqing, Zen Culture, Poetry Culture, Drama Culture, Folk Culture and Tongcheng School Culture, into the unique local culture. The operatic plays, for example, Li Siguang, Su Dongpo, Li Shizhen, Bi Sheng are the celebrity stories in the eastern part of Hubei Province praised by the people. The play the Mother of Dabie Mountain reflects the Red Culture. A large number of traditional plays have not only widely absorbed the enlightenment books such as The Three-Character Classic, An Anthology of Popular Ancient Chinese poems, the book of Chinese Family Names and Twenty — four Stories of Filial Piety, but also used folk sports such as Lion Dance, Dragon Dance, Stilt Walking and Dry Boat Rowing in custom festivals. It is helpful to promote the children's comprehensive development in moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic aspects through guiding their appreciation, experience, imitation, performances, etc.

IV. HUANGMEI OPERATIC CULTURE EDUCATION CAN PROMOTE THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

"Drama enters the campus" is not to cultivate its fans or its performers, but to give children a sense of appreciation, gesture experience, performance interaction, color connotation, costume culture, history knowledge, morality transmission and morality popularization through this artistic carrier that has the most national cultural characteristics. The integration of Huangmei Opera into kindergartens can promote the children's comprehensive development in moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic aspects, specifically as follows:

A. *It Can Promote the Children's Physical and Mental Development*

"Huangmei Opera has absorbed a lot of nutrition from dragon dance, dragon boat, kite flying, swinging, hydrangea, grabbing, and kicking the scorpion in the nascent stage of the national sports" These folk sports cultures have been infiltrated throughout the development process of Huangmei

Opera. It can be said to be the soil and cradle of Huangmei Opera. By enjoying the Huangmei Opera, children can gradually understand and like the folk sports culture. At the same time, through the use of simple props, these folk sports activities can be carried out in colorful and various ways. These sports activities can promote the development of children's basic movements such as walking, running, jumping and throwing, promote the development of children's balance and coordination skills, and promote the children's unity, cooperation, and rational labor work as well; besides, the children can feel happy, united and collaborative in sports. A sense of accomplishment and pride that happiness and participation brings can be aroused during the sports. In the meantime, a large number of positive, humorous and funny scene performances in Huangmei Opera will also bring positive and happy emotional experiences to young children.

B. Promotion of Children's Intelligence

Huangmei Opera can develop the intelligence of young children, specifically as follows:

First, it can enhance children's language expression and communication skills. The structure of the lyrics in the coloratura opera is mostly "seven-character sentence" and "ten-character sentence". Most of the seven-character sentences are "2+2+3 structure", while the "ten-character sentence" are mostly "3+3+4 structure"; there are also a large number of contents of enlightenment readings, such as The Three-character Classic, The Book of Family Names, An Anthology of Popular Ancient Chinese poems, etc., can stimulate children's interest in ancient poetry, and thus strengthen the understanding and expression of language. Second, it can stimulate children's interest in nature, good things in life, and exercise their good concentration and observation. For example, if a child appreciates Reaping the Pig Grass, there are questions and answers as below:

- What kind of flower faces the east?
- The sunflower faces the east.
- What kind of flower heads down?
- The eggplant flower heads down.
- What kind of flower blossoms notch-by-notch?
- The sesame flower blossoms notch-by-notch.
- What kind of flower looks like trumpet?
- The pomegranate flower does.

After that, the children's pleasure to observe the flowers and plants around them can be inspired, and the interest to create a lyric can be ignited following the melody of "Reaping the Pig Grass".

C. Germination of the Emotions of Young Children Who Love Their Hometown and Motherland, and Getting Their Moral Behavior Well Cultivated

A large number of plays of Huangmei Opera originate from the needs of local cultural development, such as the

play Li Siguang, Su Dongpo, Li Shizhen and other plays of the local celebrities in the Huanggang region, and the Huangmei opera the Mother of Dabie Mountain, which reflects the Red Culture, especially in recent years, some Huangmei opera songs, such as Gorgeous Huanggang and Su Dongpo Praised with Huangmei Tune, can stimulate children's love for their hometown of Huanggang with her customs, food, mountains and rivers. Moreover, in the more than 280 traditional plays of Huangmei Opera, the content from The Three-Character Classic, Character Copybook, An Anthology of Popular Ancient Chinese poems, The Wisdom of Ancient Aphorisms, The Collected Works of Wise men, Prodigy Poetry, The book of Chinese Family Names and Twenty — four Stories of Filial Piety is most widely applied. Those plays are easy to be understood and can enlighten young children's wisdom and cultivate children's good moral qualities. At the same time, some stories in Huangmei opera about respecting the old, loving the young, loving each other, helping each other, through the scenes of singing and dancing, the abstract values of traditional culture are integrated into the action of characters, the process of the plot and the singing words of popularization. Among the words, the values have passed to the heart of the children.

D. Cultivation of the Children's Initial Emotions and Ability to Feel and Express Beauty

First, the Huangmei Opera, like other operas, brings together a number of artistic elements such as singing, dancing, music, martial arts, and acrobatics to give children rich aesthetic sense through its performances. For example, the melodic beauty of the coloratura, the consecutive rhythm of lyrics, the focused eyebrows of the makeup, the delicate and elegant beauty of the costumes, and the beauty of tender dance. Second, the expressive performance of "virtuality" in the opera breaks through the limitations of the stage on time and space and it can stimulate the aesthetic imagination of young children. For example, in the opera, a paddle is used as a boat; a whip is used to replace a horse; and a few body turnovers have gone away for a hundred thousand miles. In the limited time and space, the audience is presented with unlimited imagination. It is just like children's game — taking a wooden stick as a horse to ride for fun. Third, its plot is close to life, pursuing meticulous "To-be-true" performance. So it can stimulate children's artistic expression of beauty of life. For example, in The Couples Watching the Lanterns, "The tall man watches the lanterns, and he squeezes his head. The short man watches the lanterns, he squeezes into the crowd. The fat man watches the lanterns, he is in sweat. The thin man watches the lanterns, he is into a rib!" It is very vivid and humorous.

V. CONCLUSION

All in all, Huangmei Operatic Culture can be integrated into early childhood education, promoting their all-around development of moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetics aspects. In the process of integrating Huangmei operatic culture into the early childhood education, its own characteristics must be combined with the education. According to the development laws of young children, the

learning characteristics of children's direct perception, practical operation and personal experience should be paid attention to and focused on, and it is crucial to obtain not only a pleasant spiritual feelings but also useful practical experience through children's appreciation, imitation and even innovation on Huangmei opera.

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