

# **Education of Chinese Traditional Operas in Colleges from the Perspective of Cultural Identity—A Case Study of Lv Opera**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Traditional operas account for an important part of Chinese intangible cultural heritages and are embodiments of a nation's soft power. Lv opera, a national intangible cultural heritage, drives from Dongying in Shandong province, China. The opera is simple, unadulterated, fluent and easy to learn, and is thus popular among the local people. As time moves forward, Lv opera has unwittingly become an indispensable part of the local culture of Shandong. Yet, as most of the audience are old people in rural areas, and college students largely know little about this form of art. They pay little attention it Lv opera and show no cultural identity for it, which results from lack of opera training in colleges. Now, the market for Lv opera is shrinking and old Lv opera masters can find no one to inherit this art. College students are the major force of social development, so they are both capable and liable to learn Lv opera and promote its development. Therefore, it is important for colleges to promote education of traditional operas and cultivate the students' cultural identity of this form of art. By encouraging colleges to promote education of traditional operas, this paper aims to cultivate the college students' cultural identity and thus achieve the goal of "education of Lv opera".

**Keywords:** *cultural identity, education of opera, Lv drama culture*

## **1.Current traditional opera education in colleges and cultural identity for Lv opera among college students**

### ***1.1. Development status of opera education in colleges***

In these years, China has made efforts to protect and inherit operas, and have made some achievements in this regard, but there are still many problems in opera education in colleges [1] . For instance, the current education system has played a limited role in inheritance of operas. Most colleges focus on research achievements and provide few courses on operas for students, and some even pay no attention to education of operas. These problems have to be solved. How to find a proper way for education of operas in light of the college students' physical and psychological features is an issue that needs to be addressed by colleges.

### ***1.2. Current situation of college students' recognition for and attitude to Lv opera***

Research shows that current college students show little understanding of or interest in Lv opera. First of all, they pay little attention to traditional operas and show no interest in learning operas [2] ; secondly, they have little access to Lv operas, so it is hard for them to appreciate this art; last, they do not recognize the value of Lv opera – some even consider traditional operas old-fashioned and not suitable for the contemporary world. [3]

## **2. Significance of cultural identity for opera education in colleges**

In a sense, to analyze the opera education in colleges from the angle of cultural identity follows the guidance of the 13th Five-year Plan and has practical significance to increase the college students' cultural identity for Lv opera. [4] In the Cultural Reform Planning of the "13th Five-Year

Plan” Period issued by the Culture Administration of Shandong province, the government encourages innovation of excellent traditional culture in Shandong and initiatives to protect, develop, popularize and inherit excellent traditional cultures so as to realize overall societal development [5] . For Lv opera, a national intangible cultural heritage, we should extend the audience among college students to promote inheritance and development of this art. College students are the major force of social production and are more creative to develop products that can reflect the culture of Shandong and the features of the times.

The major force to inherit traditional Chinese culture are college students aged between 18 and 25. They are well-educated and are suitable for cultural education. To develop cultural identity for Lv opera among college students will play a promoting role in cultural and art education in colleges. [6]

To cultivate cultural identity among college students can help promotion and development of Lv opera, improve the college students’ recognition for Lv opera, increase their interest in this form of art, extend the audience of Lv opera and enhance the force of cultural inheritance and development.

Meanwhile, improvement of cultural identity can improve the publicity rate of Lv opera and extend the channel for spread of Lv opera [7] ; it can also increase the local cultural confidence and the people’s sense of belonging, making the opera more popular among the locals. It will foster a sense of pride among college students for Lv opera, and thus draw more talents to inherit and develop this art form. In this way, we can provide a foundation for cultural development and inheritance of traditional opera culture in the new age of socialism.

### **3. APPLICATION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY IN OPERA EDUCATION AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

It is necessary to investigate the college students’ cultural identity for Lv opera, make use of college resources to further opera education [8] and improve the college students’ cultural identity for Lv opera.

#### ***3.1. the special stage of college students***

Studies show that contemporary college students have high learning abilities and show maturity in self-awareness, but they are subjective and have large mood swings, in need of mood control [9] . They show high passion for new things and are eager to learn more.

Thus, we can take corresponding measures to conduct opera education.

By surveys, this study analyzes the college students’ emotional identity [10] and preference for Lv opera to provide a basis for integration of cultural identity with cultural education. By developing new ways of opera education, we can introduce Lv opera to campus life, inspire their interest, offer solutions for extending opera audience and training performers, orient the operas to college students’ preferences. In this way, we can increase the college students’ cultural identity for Lv opera, turn college students from passive receivers of art to active subjects of art, making education of Lv opera practically meaningful. [11]

#### ***3.2. Proposal of education of Lv opera***

Intangible cultural heritages are drawing increasing research attention. In “Development and Dilemma of Lv opera art”, the author Pan Yu points out that Lv opera is an important carrier of culture of Shandong and is of great cultural and historic values. In “Development and Inheritance of Lv opera performance art” [12] , the author Lan Xiaojun argues that this opera reflect the productivity, cultural value and aesthetic value of Shandong people, and it is a “spiritual home” we should protect.

Sources reveal that at the start of 2019, Sichuan Normal University was the first to propose the idea of “opera education” [13] and the university was then appointed as a pilot area for reform of cultural and art education. The Dean of Art School said that to include inheritance of intangible cultural heritages to cultural and art education is in consistence with “the root of education, and to introduce inheritance of intangible cultural heritages into Chinese-style cultural education in colleges can promote sustainable development of excellent traditional culture and boost the initiatives to build China into a culture-strong and talent-strong country” [14] . By analyzing Lv opera, a national intangible cultural heritage, this paper hopes to promote cultural and art education in colleges, inspire the college students’ cultural identity, advance education of Lv opera and realize sustainable development of Lv opera culture.

### **3.3. Ways to implement Lv opera education in colleges**

*3.3.1 in opera education, colleges should emphasis long-term, targeted and continuous education, enrich educational content [15] , develop new educational ways so that colleges can get more insights into Marxist theories and achieve cultural identity.*

More importantly, colleges should make full use of teaching resources, provide relevant electives and enhance publicity via books [16] . Colleges should increase books on operas in libraries for college students to learn more about this form of art, inspire their interest and cultivate their cultural identity. Colleges in Dongying City can also organize marketing campaigns in cooperation with Lv opera troupes, introduce troupes to colleges so that the students can appreciate this art, or play classic Lv operas for the students [17] via public facilities at colleges.

*3.3.2 New media [14] that win preference from college students can be made use of.*

Mass media is a major way of cultural promotion, so it is feasible to build an online platform for promotion of Lv operas. For instance, we can open WeChat subscription accounts, Tiktok accounts, organize Lv opera review contests [18] , Lv lectures to tailor the promotion way of Lv opera to college students so that the promotion effect can be maximized and the college students' cultural identity for Lv opera can be enhanced.

*3.3.3 College students are active thinkers and good at capturing the essence of things before accepting them emotionally and spiritually.*

It is feasible to analyze the college students' thinking and analysis habits [19] , and relate Lv operas to popular folk tales to increase their understanding of operas and thus enhance their interest and passion for operas.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

To conclude, we can emphasize the college students' recognition for operas from the angles of knowledge, emotion, attitude and practice, and should respect their features in cognition, emotion, attitude and practice. Only in this way can we enhance their identity for Lv operas and in turn facilitate cultural and art education in colleges. The

focus of this paper is "Lv opera education" [20] . As the Chinese-style socialist society enters a new age, colleges, as the main venue to train talents, should keep up with the pace of the times and advance social development. For "Lv opera education" in this new age, colleges should promote development of traditional Chinese operas, take into account of college students' life and innovate the classes and teaching methods.

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