

Study on the Cultural Connotation of Street Names in Kunming City

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ABSTRACT

Street names are not only a form of language symbols, but also a cultural phenomenon, reflecting the social life, historical culture and urban characteristics of the local people. Taking the main street names in Kunming city as an example, this paper analyses the cultural connotation of street names in Kunming city from the perspective of culture. Through the study of the cultural content and historical origin of the streets involved in the municipal cultural relics in Kunming, this paper excavates the historical and cultural information behind them, traces back to the historical and cultural details, and explores their connotations and cultural values.

Keywords: Kunming, Street name, Cultural connotation, Value.

1. INTRODUCTION

Kunming enjoys the reputation of "Spring City". It has a long history and splendid culture. It is a gateway city open to Southeast Asia and South Asia. In 1982, Kunming was awarded the first batch of national historical and cultural cities. It is an important tourist and commercial city in China and one of the important central cities in the western region. It has a history of more than 2200 years. The Dianchi Lake area has a history of 3000 years of civilization.

Street names are not only an important label for a city, but also a cultural representative. Kunming has beautiful scenery and pleasant climate. With the rapid development of society, the city is changing with each passing day, and the number of migrants is increasing. Most people know little about the culture of Kunming, and even less about the dust-laden history of the past. The media once reported the reconstruction of the ancient lane. Buildings with cultural significance have been demolished, the modern atmosphere of the city has become stronger and stronger, and the long-standing historical atmosphere has ceased to exist. Nowadays, most people in Kunming simply know the names of the streets in Kunming, and no one knows the origin of these names in Kunming. Although some people have an understanding of the ancient lanes of Kunming, they are all stay in fragmented fragments, lacking depth, breadth and comprehensiveness. The purpose of this study is to recapture the history behind the street and preserve the precious spiritual and cultural wealth of the street.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Place name is not only a language symbol, but also a part of human culture from the day it came into being. The traditional study of place names in China started very early, and there are words explaining the reasons of geographical names in Shuowen Jiezi. As an important part of place names, street names have been paid more and more attention by scholars. Many scholars have devoted themselves to exploring the relationship between street names and culture. Liu Lifang analysed the stability and variability of street names in Taiyuan from the historical origin in the Historical and Cultural Investigation of Street Names in Taiyuan. Hou Youran discussed the rationale for the naming of Shaoxing place names and the cultural connotation of this rationale. But for the streets of Kunming to reflect the local culture, there are few studies tracing the historical origin. This paper through the origin of the name to further explores the culture of Kunming, Kunming to show the splendour and charm of the marrow, so that more Kunming people will concern about Kunming, understand Kunming in depth, to pursue the extraordinary historical and cultural heritage of Kunming.

3. EXPLORE THE MEANING OF STREET NAMES

If a street name loses its cultural background, it must be dead. If the culture lacks the manifestation of street names, it will lose the social and cultural symbols. The name of every street is the result of human civilization, a reflection of people's social life in a certain period, and is closely related to the politics and culture of the times. As it were, a street is a recorder and witness of cultural and social development. As an important city in the

western border, the street names of Kunming reflect the urban characteristics of the old Kunming to varying degrees, and reflect the unique social and spiritual culture of the people of Kunming.

4. ORIGIN OF STREET NAMES

Different history, different experience and different culture have made different street names. The street names of Kunming are inextricably linked with the human history of Kunming. They are the recorders and witnesses of history and reflect the unique historical and cultural significance.

4.1. Named after the building

Jinbi Road: It is named because it is adjacent to "Jinma Biji Square". The workshop was built in the Xuande period of the Ming Dynasty and has a history of nearly 400 years. Located at the intersection of Sanshi Street and Jinbi Road on the central axis of Kunming City, Jinma Biji Archway is 12 m high and 18 m wide. The archway is a wooden structure, tall and straight, standing across the street, with carved beams and painted pillars, magnificent and outstanding national characteristics. Dongfang faces Jinma Mountain and is named Jinma Square. Xifang is named Biji Square because of Biji Mountain. In the north, it is matched with the "Zhongai Square" in memory of Sai Dianchi, collectively known as "Pinzi Sanfang", which has become a scenic spot in downtown Kunming. In the south, it contrasts with the east and west temples and pagodas built in Nanzhao, showing the ancient civilization of Kunming. Because of the angle of the earth, the moon and the sun, there will be a spectacle of "splendour" every 60 years. When the above three stars move to a specific position, at sunset, the afterglow of the sun shines on Biji Square from the west, and its reflection will be projected on the street to the east. When the moon rises from the east and the moonlight shines on Jinma Square, its reflection will be projected on the west street, and the shadows of the two archways will coincide, forming a spectacle of "golden and green". Furthermore, the folklore of Jinma Biji Square shows the culture of old Kunming incisively and vividly. Using Jinbi Road to name the street is the inheritance and record of Kunming culture embodied in Jinma Biji Square.

4.2. Named after commerce

Zhuantang Road: The reason for the name of this road is that there is "Zhuantang" nearby. As for the origin of the name of Zhuan Tang, there are two versions: one is that because there are many rivers around it, it turns around, just like the seal characters written in ancient times, so it is called "Zhuan Tang"; Second, because this is a wharf on the Dagan River in the Yuan Dynasty, and later an important wharf on the

grain transport river in the Qing Dynasty. It is a place where merchants gather and materials gather. The so-called seal script actually has the meaning of "earning", so it is called "seal script (earning) pond". In the past, the best way for people to visit Daganlou was to take a small wooden boat from Zhuantang, walk along the clear Dagan River, and gradually enter Huapu. As early as the early Qing Dynasty, Wu Sangui, King of Pingxi, was guarding Yunnan. Because the military forces needed a large amount of grain for supply, he took charge of dredging the river course from Zhuantang to Tongcaohai near Huapu outside Xiaoximen- "Grain Transport Road". During the reign of Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty, Wang Jiwen, the governor of Yunnan Province, built a two-story building near Huapu and named it "Daganlou", which was renamed "Dagan River". After the dredging of the river in the early Qing Dynasty, Zhuantang Wharf has become a very prosperous grain trading wharf, docking nearly 1000 grain ships from Jinning, Kunyang and other places every day. According to historical records, there were more than 700 wooden boats in the late Qing Dynasty, of which fishing boats were mostly scattered in the riverside countryside, while cruise ships were concentrated in Zhuantang.

4.3. Named by culture and forming a series of related names.

121st Street: After the end of the War of Resistance against Japan, the people of the whole country hoped to realize peace and democracy, but the Kuomintang government insisted on its own way, insisting on one-party dictatorship and pursuing a civil war policy with the support of the United States. On December 1, 1945, a large number of Kuomintang secret agents and soldiers separately besieged the Southwest United University and Yunnan University, beat students and teachers, and threw grenades at places where students were concentrated. Four people, including Pan Yan and Li Lulian, students of the Southwest Associated University Teachers College, Zhang Huachang, a student of the Kunhua Engineering School, and Yu Zai, a young teacher of the Nanjing Middle School, were killed in the bombing, with 29 people seriously injured and more than 30 people slightly injured. It was named to commemorate the patriotic enthusiasm of Kunming students in the "121" movement in 1945.

Across an alley in the middle of 121st Street is Tianjundian Lane.

Tianjun Hall Alley: It is said that there was once a Tianjun Hall with strong incense in Tianjun Hall Alley. The Tianjun in Tianjun Hall is the legendary God of fire guarding the south. He is the guardian deity in Taoism. It is said that he has three eyes and has great magical powers. He can also be transformed into a white snake. In ancient times, there were frequent floods here, so the

villagers raised money to build a temple and invited the God of Fire to subdue the demon dragon and eliminate the flood. Later, it was named Tianjundian Lane. The location of Tianjundian Lane is excellent, but a lane of 100 meters connects the cultural lane of fashionable petty bourgeoisie on one side and the 121st Street with convenient transportation on the other. In the 1940s, it was the only way for teachers and students of Southwest Associated University to return to school. Fu Sinian, Hua Luogeng, Wen Yiduo, Liang Sicheng, Lin Huiyin, Liu Wendian, Wang Zengqi and other generations of cultural masters have passed through here, leaving traces. Because of the proximity to the school and the influence of culture, Tianjundian Lane still retains a quiet cultural temperament, quiet and happy.

Next to Tianjundian Lane is Wenhua Lane.

Culture Lane: naming the street with the living conditions of the people on the street also reflects the functional characteristics of the street to a certain extent. Culture Lane is a remote and desolate area at the foot of the northwest city before liberation in 1949, where nettles grow in clusters, so it is named Cangma Lane. It starts from Tianjundian Lane in the north and ends at Wenlin Street in the south. It has a close relationship with the teachers and students of Yunnan University, Kunming Normal University (now Yunnan Normal University) and Kunming Institute of Technology (now Kunming University of Science and Technology). After liberation, it was the main passageway for teachers and students of three institutions of higher learning to go to the city center. Shen Congwen, Bing Xin and Li Gongpu, a generation of literary giants often sat in a small teahouse in the cultural lane, talking and laughing. Cultural Lane also changed its name from Cangma Lane to Cultural Lane because of them. Because foreign teachers and foreign students in three universities often drink and eat in bars and restaurants in the cultural lane, or lodge in the surrounding residential buildings, the cultural lane was once called the Foreigner Street in Kunming. It has become the gathering point of cultural collision among different countries, where young and energetic college students and international friends with exotic customs make youth, fashion, international, literature and art and other elements interweave and diffuse.

One end of Wenhua Lane is connected to Tianjundian Lane, and the other end is Wenlin Street.

Wenlin Street: In the Ming and Qing Dynasties, Gongyuan (Yunnan University) was here, and most of the examinees passed through here, so it was named "literati are like forests". Wenlin Street is also the street with the most inheritance spirit, whether it is Pure Brightness or today, where literary and artistic youth are still weaving.

Down Wenlin Street is "Mr. Slope":

Mr. Poe: Wu Guangfan Kunming Geographical Names Exposition Dictionary. It is said that at the end of the Qing Dynasty, the place was close to Gongyuan (now Yunnan University), which belonged to sloping land and had many post houses. Every time the provincial examination was held, many scholars (commonly known as gentlemen) from all over the country lived here, or the gentleman who changed the examination papers in the provincial examination lived here. During the Anti-Japanese War, because of the Southwest United University, many writers, poets and famous professors gathered in Kunming. Li Gongpu, Wen Yiduo, Zhu Ziqing, Chen Yinke, Qian Zhongshu and Shen Congwen may have talked about the war situation and the fate of the country through this alley, and some even lived here.

Xicangpo: The name of Xicangpo has a long history. At first, there was a grain warehouse built in the lane in the eighth year of Daoguang of Qing Dynasty (1828), so it was called Xicang Po by the people in the late Qing Dynasty. On July 11, 1946, Wen Yiduo was assassinated by Kuomintang secret agents on the road east of the dormitory gate on his way back to the staff dormitory in Xicangpo after finishing the familiar "Last Speech". Today, Xicangpo has become the recorder of Mr. Wen Yiduo's murder. Only one wall of his former residence was left, a pavilion was built, and a monument to Wen Yiduo's martyrdom was erected.

5. EXPLORE THE ROLE OF STREET NAMES

First, Street names help promote Kunming's traditional culture. To a certain extent, it plays a positive role in promoting the traditional culture of Kunming. Traditional culture has the characteristics of being handed down from generation to generation, national characteristics, a long history, extensive and profound, affecting people's ideas, thinking, behaviors and lifestyle. Speed up the construction of modern civilization.

Second, Street names help promote Kunming. A large part of Kunming's economic development depends on tourism. Only by vigorously building and publicizing Kunming can we attract more people. Only by tapping Kunming's cultural heritage and making more people understand and love her can we achieve better publicity.

Third, the street names play a certain reference role in the naming of new roads. The naming of roads should take into account not only history, but also the present and the future, and stand the test of history. In terms of the naming methods of many roads, roads can be named from the aspects of humanistic landscape, spirit of the times and commemorative significance, which requires an understanding of cultural traditions and historical details.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In a word, street names are the inheritors of culture, which not only reflect the social life of the local people, but also reflect the cultural characteristics of Kunming. It is a recorder of society, history and culture, as well as a reflector of the uniqueness of the city. This paper only studies the cultural value of a small number of representative street names. A large number of street names need to be further discussed and excavated in order to explore the unique history of the city.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In this paper, the research was sponsored by the popular science project of philosophy and Social Sciences Planning in Yunnan Province (Project No. SKPJ202023)

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