



Research on the Inheritance and Future Development of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Zhoushan Fishing Rope Knot

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Abstract. Fishing rope knots can be divided into three types: fishing rope knot for production, net fishing rope knot and comprehensive fishing rope knot. Fishing rope knots are widely used by fishermen in long-term fishing operations, net making and daily life. Fishing rope knot was listed in Zhoushan Municipal intangible cultural heritage project in 2006 and as the second batch of representative protection list of intangible cultural heritage in Zhejiang Province in 2007. Fishing rope knots are the manual skills of fishermen in production and life. Most of these fishing rope knots are simple, easy to knot, easy to untie, strong and practical, which has condensed the labor wisdom of Zhoushan fishermen. It has developed with the fishing operations, commercial processing and handling within thousands of years. It is the result of the continuous development and maturity of the practice of fishermen on the sea. Fishing rope knot techniques has the characteristics of diversification and complexity, but with the change of operation mode and the development of science and technology, many knots on board have gradually withdrawn from the historical stage. Fishing rope knot belongs to Zhoushan intangible cultural heritage, and its protection and inheritance play an important role in supporting the future development of Zhoushan intangible cultural heritage. Taking fishing rope knot as an example, this paper analyzes the development and future of fishing rope knot in Zhoushan, in order to better inherit the intangible cultural heritage spirit of fishing rope knot.

Keywords: Zhoushan intangible cultural heritage · Fishing rope knots · Future development · Inheritance

1 Introduction

Fishing rope knot is originated from the special environment and labor conditions of the island. It is a manual skill for residents' production and life, and condenses the experience and wisdom of ancestral fishermen [1]. At present, the traditional weaving technology of fishing rope knot is spread all over the island in the form of oral transmission, and continues to innovate in the process of spreading. The obvious differences between the various marine fishing operations and fishermen's lifestyles in various coastal island

areas also make the varieties of fishing knots in China more and more rich and perfect, up to hundred kinds of knots at most.

Fishing knots include fishing production knots, fishing net knots and comprehensive knots. Different from general knots, fishing knots are characterized by “flexible knots”. Because the fixing method of the ship’s knot should change rapidly with the natural conditions at sea, the knot of the fishing line needs to be both firm and flexible. It can be said that this is the simplest, firm and reliable loose knot. After years of collection and sorting, nearly 70 kinds of fishing knots have been preserved, including 27 kinds of fishing net knots and 46 kinds of fishing rope knots. The fishing knot is formed for the development of fishery economy and the convenience of fishermen’s production and management activities. For example, the Huagu knot for sea rescue, the Chaopeng knot that can lift the awning sail, the double Liaoban knot for the maintenance of the upper mast to make people sit firmly in the rope ring, the Zhisuo rope knot for preventing the rope from slipping when the fishing boat is near the port, the Hudie knot used as button for fishermen’s clothes and the bow on the fisherman’s head, and the Ping knot that fishermen often carry on their shoulders when they get off the ship, and the quilt knot for bedding, etc. Fishing knots are made in a variety of simple and complicated techniques, which are practical and artistic, with strong island characteristics. Nowadays, the few surviving old fishing boat wrecks can occasionally find the shadow of tangled fishing lines, which are bent into various shapes to maximize the natural flexibility of the fishing boat itself. There are orderly running ropes on the canvas of the ship, knots connected everywhere on the fishing net, and even the cup for fishermen to drink water can be fixed at the bottom of the mast by a thin rope through the cup handle. The knot is a loose buckle, which can be opened by shaking one end of the rope when drinking water. Such a rare old technique can be called a “unique craft”.

The knots used for fishing and hunting are inseparable from the daily marine production and lifestyle of modern fishermen. They are an important tool for ancient fishermen to work hard under the harsh natural and harsh environmental conditions of the ocean for a long time. They are also the inevitable product of the rich imagination and creative ideological activities of ancient fishermen. They have very important and extensive social practical and artistic aesthetic value. In the process of cultural inheritance of fishermen from generation to generation, fishing rope knot has gradually been endowed with the cultural connotation of beauty, and its rich and colorful art forms reflect a kind of primitive and simple beauty. Islanders often dress up their daily life with colored knot decoration, and decorate all kinds of clothes and decorations with colored knots, as well as decorate new houses, temples and so on. The fishing rope knot in different times records the life, history, customs and culture of island fishermen in various historical times in China.

At present, with the development of traditional marine cultural industry, Zhoushan “fishing knot” has developed into a distinctive “Zhoushan Islands fisherman knot” culture, which is mainly composed of Guanyin pocket knot, golden thread knot, Mahua twist knot, single Pipa art knot, Xianren Tuowa knot, Couple Shuntou Mian knot, five-star Mopan knot and other beautiful and diverse knots. The five-star Mopan knot is like a girl’s braid tied from her head, full of vitality; Guanyin pocket contains auspicious meaning; Couple Shuntou Mian knot is a knot connected with two large straw ropes.

The fisherman's name also makes it more symbolic of the warm, harmonious and happy atmosphere of the family. These knots, or several combinations, can be matched with the shapes of ancient wooden boats, green eyebrows and dragon trousers in Zhoushan mountain, forming island characteristic handicrafts with both traditional historical and cultural charm and modern artistic interest.

With the development of the times, the production tools of fishing have also been further developed. The pentagonal knot originally hung on the hull for shock absorption has long been replaced by rubber tires. With the passage of thousands of years, the weaving methods of fishing knots have been sharply reduced from more than 300 to more than 150, and there are only more than 80 of the most classic weaving methods. However, the folk heritage, historical and artistic value of fishing knots deserve to be known by more people. And the future development of fishing knot is worth discussing, so as to enhance the lasting power of the inheritance of non- heritage living state of fishing knot.

Zhoushan is now a popular tourist destination in Zhejiang. According to statistics, as of 17:00 on October 7, 2021, the cumulative traffic flow in and out of Zhoushan Island has reached 450,000, which is the largest traffic flow during the National Day holiday over the years; Putuoshan airport has handled 17,900 passengers, and the city's major tourist islands and operating scenic spots have received 844,700 passengers. The increasing passenger flow also provides a good development opportunity for the combination of folk heritage of fishing knots and tourism, and constantly promote the inheritance and development of fishing knots, which is a tradition inherited by our ancestors and the foundation of our intangible culture. The form of "intangible cultural heritage+" conform to the development trend of the times and meet the requirements of the development of the times.

2 Representative Inheritors and Their Promotion of the Living Inheritance of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Human is the carrier of intangible culture, and inheritor is the core to ensure the living inheritance of intangible cultural heritage. In addition to the representative inheritors, the inheritance of fishing rope knot also needs to actively cultivate intangible cultural heritage supporters, lovers and even practitioners. The following will introduce two inheritors of Zhoushan fishing knot and their efforts to promote the inheritance and development of fishing knot.

2.1. Liu Yongyue, a villager from Zhiao village, Huanglong Township, Shengsi County, Zhoushan City, Zhejiang Province, has been living by the sea since he was born. Born in a fisherman's family, he said with a smile that as a "child of the sea", those years of "being with the sea and living on the sea" have made his indissoluble bond with the fishing knot. Unwilling to let the fishing knot fall, he was determined to carry forward the culture of traditional fishing knot after retirement. Liuyongyue said that "fishing culture is the essence summarized by fishermen for thousands of years, the 'position' of many fishing knots on fishing boats has been replaced by better things. Even fishermen don't use fishing knots, and no one remembers them. I don't want such good things to

disappear, so I am determined to sort out and summarize all the contents of fishing knots, so that I can teach them to the next generation” [2].

Liu believes that in the future, the development of fishing ropes should rely on industrialization. In a real sense, fishing knots should be integrated into life, not only with decorative beauty, but also with practical beauty. “We should make fishing knots into products and all kinds of practical things, which can be turned into key chains to wear on bags, backs and cushions for casseroles, so as to popularize fishing knots into life. Now I have begun to practice in our village.” Liu Yongyue said. He said that to keep the fishing knot is to keep our nostalgia. A small fishing rope shuttles through the flexible fingertips and weaves the wisdom and wealth of Zhoushan fishermen. The practical and aesthetic value of fishing knots have been flourishing for a long time, recording the history and culture of that island. “We are still doing a good job in the protection of intangible cultural heritage. We have opened a lot of training courses. Primary schools have carried out intangible cultural heritage courses into school activities, and I often go to lectures. I feel very pleased that I have taught students, and I am very happy.” Liu said [3].

2.2. The second person to inherit the fishing knot culture is Liu youjiu from Shengsi Huanglong. Liu youjiu, an 83-year-old Huanglong man, is well-known in Shengsi county. In 2008, with his good skill of fishing knots, he performed on the spot in the exhibition activity of “thousands of towns and thousands of villages and cultures” in Shengsi County, and was invited to Hangzhou and other places for on-site teaching. More than 100 kinds of fishing knots he weaved were also displayed in Zhoushan intangible cultural heritage exhibition hall, Zhoushan Museum and other places [4].

In Liu youjiu fishing knot exhibition room of Shengsi Huanglong cultural auditorium, the wall is hung with all kinds of fishing knots. On the big table in the center of the room, Liu youjiu’s dozen or so kinds of knots were neatly placed, and some were made into lanterns, fish and other handicrafts. As soon as he talked about the fishing rope knot, Liu youjiu gushed: “the shape of the plum blossom knot is like a plum blossom. It used to be hung on the extension of the ship to prevent collision. This kind of knot with a hole in the middle and can be closed by pulling the ropes on both sides, it is called the oil bottle knot. As long as you put the oil bottle knot on the head of the bottle and tighten it, you can lift the bottle.”

Nowadays, fishing knots are not only used in fishery production, but also used to make all kinds of coasters, pendants, paintings and other objects. Since 2007, every Tuesday afternoon, Liu youjiu will go to Huanglong primary school to teach children to practice fishing knots together. These students naturally began to be curious about the various fishing knots. Zhang Xinyin, who has studied fishing knots for three years, told China Business Daily: “fishing knots are very interesting, like money knots, shaped like previous coins, and can be used as coasters after beating. They are very exquisite.”

At the age of 15, Liu youjiu went fishing on the sea. In the fishery production at that time, fishing knots were used for mesh patching, broken rope docking, and mooring when the ship docked at the dock. At that time, Liu youjiu learned from the simplest cow pile knot and wearing strand knot, and later learned to weave complex lifting knot and rowing braid. Through watching the demonstration of old fishermen and his careful speculation, he soon learned dozens of knotting methods. Liu youjiu told reporters that

in the old days, the elders in the village did not allow children to make up fishing nets. Liu youjiu secretly cut a section of the fishing line from the fishing net and learned to tie a knot by himself. Over time, fishing rope became the biggest hobby of his life.

In 2007, the fishing rope knot weaving technique was listed in the second batch of intangible cultural heritage list of Zhejiang Province, and Liu youjiu was also rated as the first batch of intangible cultural heritage inheritors in Zhejiang Province. Liu youjiu's fishing knot skill class is very popular with the students. But the old man also lamented that some of the children were just fresh for a while. "Whenever my little grandson wants to hand in a work of craft or a prize for handicrafts, he often pesters me to teach him how to tie a knot. After the finished work he is no longer interested" [5]. Therefore, the inheritance and future development of fishing knots need more attention, so as to make this intangible cultural heritage glow with different charm, and make fishing knots live in every corner of life under the background of changing times.

3 Practices of Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection

It is of great significance of making full use of local customs, traditional cultural festivals and other activities to enable the majority of children, especially some teenagers, to participate in the social practice and activities of intangible cultural heritage protection. For example, the local government can carry out exhibitions and performances of various intangible cultural heritage projects to provide the audience with a unique cultural aesthetic emotion and feeling. Through the extensive understanding, support and encourage of all sectors of society, and more people will be involved in the activities, especially the majority of teenagers. They can become an important reserve force for the protection of fishing knots culture.

3.1. In order to further deeply experience Zhoushan fishing knot and folk art, fully experience the unique cultural charm of Zhoushan marine civilization, inherit, protect and develop the intangible cultural heritage civilization of Zhoushan, on the morning of Saturday, May 23, 2020, more than 20 outstanding team members of the 4th Youth Red Scarf sports college in Daishan County, Zhejiang province came to Dongsha ancient town for the close contact with the "fishing knot" project.

This activity also invited Mr. Wang Guoding, the inheritor of intangible cultural heritage of China fishing rope weaving Association, to explain, demonstrate and guide the team members one by one. At the beginning of the activity, He talked about the historical origin, development and modern application of fishing knot. Then, he gradually introduced the weaving methods of these knots, and teach them on the spot hand in hand. It seems that a simple knot is another more complex manual skill. With Master Wang's skilled operation practice and guidance and the team members' repeated training, most of the team members have mastered two knot techniques skillfully.

Such publicity and inheritance activities can stimulate people's enthusiasm for the inheritance of Zhoushan intangible cultural heritage to a certain extent. And it processed to enter the campus and build a communication bridge between fishing knot and students.

3.2. Retain the "root and soul" of Rural Revitalization: with the changes of the times, the number of fishing knot is shrinking. In the face of this situation, a town in the east of Daishan County took the opportunity of the construction of intangible

cultural heritage themed town, to promote the deep integration of “intangible cultural heritage + tourism” by holding intangible cultural tourism festivals, reshaping intangible cultural folk commercial blocks, building characteristic intangible cultural tourism and cultural commodity bases, so as to revitalize the traditional culture of the ancient town and revitalize the fishing knot again [6]. Through the integration of intangible cultural heritage elements into public space and the flexible use of regional culture, it not only promotes intangible cultural heritage to come close to the people, but also enriches the connotation of rural culture. Through the art performance, dissemination and promotion of intangible cultural heritage inheritors, the intangible cultural heritage can be displayed in front of the public and integrated into life. Only when they have a sense of happiness and gain from the intangible cultural heritage inheritance, can the intangible cultural heritage be better integrated into the Rural Revitalization.

3.3. In order to regain the Millennium fishing rope culture, on the morning of September 21, 2017, the opening ceremony of 2017 China Zhoushan international fishing rope Festival hosted by Zhoushan Dinghai District Tourism Bureau and Zhoushan Dinghai Tourism Development Group Co., Ltd. Was held in Dinghai seaside park. This event is a supporting activity of Dinghai Branch venue of 2017 international island tourism conference, showing the unique folk customs and cultural charm of Zhoushan, promoting the rapid development of regional tourism.

With the theme of “the origin of the millennium love knot and the sea”, the activity on that day was divided into three parts: the launching ceremony, the fishing knot plastic art exhibition, and the interactive experience of weaving fishing knots. Among them, the launching ceremony includes folk performances such as “Fishing Song treading on the waves”, “fishing rope expressing affection” and “four flood season Fishing Song”; The plastic art exhibition shows the three characteristic shapes of fishing knots, i.e. recollection of the fishing sea, magic fishing prescription and building a place for love; In the interactive experience, teacher Li Zhiqin, the inheritor of intangible cultural heritage, was invited to the scene to teach the guests to weave the “Dinghai knot” specially created for fishing knots [7].

It is said that the “story Dinghai” fishing knot series tourism products will be systematically developed in the later stage of the activity. The fishing knot was presented to the public in the form of art exhibition, manual DIY and folk custom show, which built a bridge between the fishing knot and people’s daily life, slowly walked out of Zhoushan and went to the world step by step.

4 Research on the Future Development of Fishing Knot

Material culture is a tangible culture, and the dynamic art of intangible culture is a main form of displaying the value of China’s intangible historical and cultural heritage. The mode of “intangible cultural heritage+” will add fuels to the inheritance and development of fishery knot.

4.1. “Intangible cultural heritage + tourism”: the integrated development of tourism and intangible cultural heritage can not only activate the stock of a huge number of cultural resources, enrich tourism supply, but also inherit and develop excellent island culture. Therefore, the efforts to promote the development of the regional “intangible

cultural heritage + tourism” is the key to realize the comprehensive optimization and upgrading of regional brand image construction, and it is also the key to the sustainable development of intangible cultural heritage in the future.

For example, with the help of modern science and technology, exhibiting the tourist souvenirs compound with cultural history of fishing knots, showing the colorful colors and vibrant charm of fishing knots. For another example, combining the tourism learning with intangible cultural heritage, is not only a process of personally perceiving the charm of intangible cultural heritage, but also an unforgettable tourism experience.

4.2. “Intangible cultural heritage + cultural creation”: on the one hand, with the improvement of people’s cultural self-confidence, the social recognition and influence of intangible cultural heritage are gradually improving. On the other hand, intangible cultural heritage began to integrate into public life, and people increasingly accepted and liked consumer goods with cultural connotation [8]. Take Taipei Palace Museum for example, the total operating revenue in 2017 has exceeded HK \$1.5 billion. Driven by the increasing diversification of the consumption level requirements of the people’s cultural life and cultural tourism, China’s “intangible cultural heritage + cultural creation” has broad market prospects.

With the help of intangible cultural heritage resources, “intangible cultural heritage + cultural creation” adopts innovative product design, develops cultural and creative products of the Forbidden City with cultural, intellectual and practical value, and adopts the method of physical store + e-commerce to focus on building the brand influence of Zhoushan fishing knot handicrafts, and gradually form a landmark brand of non-legacy cultural creation in Zhoushan.

4.3. “Intangible cultural heritage + Festival”: building an intangible cultural heritage ecological network, from “one street (intangible cultural heritage Street)” to “one market (intangible cultural heritage exhibition)”.

For example, Dongsha, Zhoushan, Zhejiang attracts tourists to the market through the festival themed activities such as fishermen’s Xieyang Festival and alley Festival, which are explored in the early stage and continuously planned and built. It cooperates and matches with the activities such as fishing rope weaving, fish bone carving and so on, such as the display and presentation of folk activities, experience interactive communication and sales interaction on the intangible cultural heritage street line, forming a good interactive main and auxiliary cooperation.

4.4. “Intangible cultural heritage + Internet”: through modern network technology, the traditional intangible cultural heritage has entered the modern social life, gets more closer to the young people and more adapted to the development and needs of the times, which truly realize the value of intangible cultural heritage. For example, Wechat push, Taobao store and live video teaching courses are all new ways for the dissemination and promotion of living culture under the internet background, making intangible cultural heritage more and more into the vision of the general public.

4.5. Except the above method, there existing more ways to protect and promote the development of the fishing knot. Such as the “intangible cultural heritage + poverty alleviation project”, “intangible cultural heritage + intangible cultural heritage + characteristic town”, “intangible cultural heritage + scenic spots”, “intangible cultural heritage + Exhibition”, “intangible cultural heritage + Museum”, “intangible cultural heritage +

characteristic block” and other ways that can be used as a future development direction of Zhoushan fishing rope knot.

5 Conclusion

Combined with the current situation of the intangible heritage inheritance of Zhoushan fishing knot, this paper discusses the future development direction of Zhoushan fishing knot. It is a very good point for Zhoushan fishing knot to move from practicality to decoration, and this decoration is not only a general decoration, but a cultural and creative product endowed with marine characteristic culture. And to develop a new model of “intangible cultural heritage+”, which promotes the protection of intangible cultural heritage from multiple angles and ways, injects new vitality into intangible cultural heritage. It also complies with the changes of the times and aesthetic changes in different times, creates characteristic fishing knots that meet the needs of the times, and imperceptibly brings the economic development of Zhoushan. Carrying out all kinds of intangible cultural heritage inheritance and popularization activities is not only to let Zhoushan people learn from the wisdom created by their predecessors, but also a continuation of the spirit.

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