

Study on Protection and Inheritance of Pancun Lantern Show in Kaiping

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Abstract. Pancun lantern show is an important celebration activity held among the people in Kaiping region, which has high cultural value and historical value. Its inheritance and development play an important role in promoting the inheritance of traditional Chinese culture. This paper starts from the origin and development of Pancun lantern show in Kaiping, conducts a specific analysis on its cultural value, puts forward corresponding measures for its inheritance and protection and expects to provide certain theoretical support for specific inheritance work of Pancun lantern show and impel Pancun lantern show to achieve better development in the modern society.

Introduction

Influenced by multi-ethnic culture, manners and customs of the Chinese nation have pleophyletic unification. Each nationality and different regions organize corresponding new year activities during the Spring Festival, which manifest cultural features of different regions. Pancun in Kaiping, Guangdong has a characteristic folk custom during the Spring Festival – lantern show. On the thirteenth day of the first month of the lunar year, Pancun starts to prepare for lantern show and every household is decorated with lanterns and streamers, which show a dense atmosphere of the Spring Festival. The masses in the village uphold featured festive lanterns made and parade in the whole village from morning to dusk with dragon and lion dance under the guidance of canopy. This produces specific influence on the inheritance and development of local traditional culture.

Origin and development of Pancun lantern show in Kaiping

Pancun lantern show first originated from Ming dynasty. Mentioning the development history of Pancun lantern show, local humanity history must be analyzed. An ancestral hall of three family names exists in Shuikou Village, Kaiping City, Guangdong Province. The couplet at its gate is “same source and three family names”. It specifically points out that the three family names in the hall have ancestors of the same source. They branched into three family names in the development process. Residents of the three family names are distributed in Yangjiang, Yangchun, Huaiji and Kaiping etc. Therefore, corresponding organizations such as source trace hall generally exist in these regions, which show the yearning for maintaining the three family names. Pancun region can be divided into six management districts. Villagers in the region are surnamed “Kuang” in the three family names. According to the legend of Pancun lantern show, an ancestor of Kuang acted as an official in Xinhui Gugangzhou region. After he was relieved of his office, he established a village in Pancun and settled there. However, due to sparse population and frequency occurrence of disasters, he sought advice from Chen Baisha in order to guarantee the inheritance of his clan. Under the guidance of Chen Baisha, each household was decorated with lanterns, set off firecrackers and beat drums and gongs on the thirteenth day of the first month of lunar year which was considered as unlucky day to awaken lion – one of the five beasts so as to frighten other four beasts making trouble and eliminate disasters and then boom population in Pancun. Since then, Pancun restored peace. On this basis, each household has developed a habit of lighting a lamp and setting off firecrackers on the thirteenth day of the first month of lunar year. The habit has been inherited up to now/. Its scale has gradually expanded and its form has changed. Pancun lantern show has developed into one of the most characteristic local traditional cultural activities. With the development of science and technology and the deepening of economic globalization, cultural transmission approach and breadth have expanded. Records and tapes recording the grand occasion of the lantern show have spread at home and abroad and produced

profound influence. As one of the treasures of traditional culture of the Chinese nation, it represents the communication of culture with Chinese characteristics in the world and has certain realistic significance.

Historical and cultural value of Pancun lantern show

In the development process, Pancun lantern show combines traditional handicraft of lantern making and folk customs of lantern show activities and has connotations in entertainment, culture, art, sports and national customs and specific historical and cultural value.

Historical value.

Pancun lantern show first started in mid Ming dynasty. Lantern show activities are held on the thirteenth day of the first month of lunar year and an especially large activity is held every sixty years. Due to the maintenance of provincialism and clan disciplines, it can be inherited and developed for a long time. Up to the current society, it has a history of over 600 years. In the process of historical inheritance, each lantern show activity spread up to now has its special meaning and reflects the historical course of Pancun in the process of struggle with nature and survival and development. It can manifest the development status of Pancun in different historical periods and provide corresponding data support for the study on the history of Pancun.

Cultural value.

In festive lantern activities of Pancun, festive lanterns used have complicated craftsmanship and features of careful investigation. They are important folk crafts in Lingnan area. To manifest the grand situation of lantern show activities better, makers of festive lantern generally keep improving in the making process and expect appreciators and younger generations of Pancun to realize the deep emotion of Pancun people for traditional culture^[2]. Meanwhile, lantern show activities improve the cohesive force of local villagers at home and abroad to a certain extent on the basis of inheriting traditional culture. Villagers overseas return home from abroad to attend lantern show activities. The rapid and stable development of hometown economy can be promoted with the force of foreign culture. In addition, with the progress and development of the era, lantern show constantly integrates new contents in the inheritance process. Its contents become richer, which can further reflect traditional culture of the Chinese nation.

Aesthetic value.

Through the inheritance over hundreds of years, festive lanterns in Pancun lantern show have formed a unique development style. With unique modeling and rational color combination and matching, they are not only a feast to eyes, but also can bring a strong sense of dynamics with dragon and lion dance, raise the spirit of people and have certain aesthetic value. Especially in recent years, the local government has attached more importance to the protection and inheritance of lantern show culture. Therefore, under the support and guidance of government sector, cultural connotations of Pancun lantern show have been further studied and explored. Its scale becomes larger. A unique brand of folk custom art culture has been created nationwide. Many people at home and abroad are attracted. Some wonderful scenes have been photographed and such pictures are spread on the newspaper and network. All this greatly improves the scope and breadth of transmission of Pancun lantern show culture and produces corresponding positive influence on better inheritance and development of Pancun culture in the modern society.

Specific strategies for protecting and inheriting Pancun lantern show culture

According to the inheritance and development of Pancun lantern show culture, Pancun lantern show culture has been inherited well under the influence of ancestral idea and regulations of the clan and its activity's pace has been preserved relatively completely. This has certain positive influence on the inheritance and development of Pancun lantern show culture. However, in the long process of historical evolution, the inheritance of Pancun lantern show culture has gradually formed a closed loop and each part of work has certain interdependency. Therefore, once any link has a problem in the inheritance process, it will produce adverse influence on the protection and inheritance of lantern

show. Therefore, it is very necessary to explore measures for the protection and inheritance of lantern show in multiple aspects and provide corresponding guarantee for the inheritance and development of Pancun lantern show in the modern society.

Adapt to variation trend of new era and further enhance ancestral idea of Kuang clansmen in modern society.

First, organically combine Pancun lantern show culture and publicity and education of ancestral culture and community education of Pancun. The most important point for the inheritance and development of Pancun lantern show culture in the modern society is union and mutual assistance of villagers. It is also a key point for persistent inheritance and development of Kuang clan in the long historical time. Therefore, it is required to catch this key point in the protection and inheritance of Pancun lantern show culture in the modern society and implement pertinent community cultural education appropriate in Pancun, e.g. positively organize villagers to attend relevant fun games, attach more importance to traditional festival activities and make appropriate innovation based on modern elements. In the process of organizing various activities, the village committee should attach importance to the education and guidance for young villagers, guarantee that they can deeply recognize the morality of union and mutual assistance and inherit such morality in future construction and management process of Pancun and further improve the sense of identity of young and middle-aged villagers to the clan. Meanwhile, the activity space of clan can be utilized appropriately to set up lantern show culture publicity museum under the support of government sector so that more people can understand the cultural charm of Pancun lantern show.

Second, integrate lantern show culture and school educational system. Education is an important carrier of constant inheritance and development of culture. Culture can be transmitted most widely only with the power of education. Therefore, to realize the inheritance of Pancun lantern show culture, it is required to use school education as an important carrier and provide corresponding guarantee for the development of lantern show culture through integrated development of culture and education. On the one hand, we can integrate lantern show culture in the textbook of primary school in Pancun appropriately and briefly introduce the history of lantern show and changes with time variation to improve students' identification for lantern show culture and feelings for Pancun; meanwhile organize students in social practice based on specific lantern show activities so as to allow students to feel cultural connotations of lantern show in person and improve their enthusiasm and consciousness for the inheritance of lantern show culture. On the other hand, it is required to coordinate under the action of local government, guarantee that students can receive professional lantern show cultural education in the process of attending lantern show and then effectively improve their consciousness for protecting and inheriting lantern show culture.

Finally, combine overseas Chinese affairs work and lantern show activities. Pancun overseas Chinese affairs department should cooperate with Kuang people in Pancun in the management process, positively publicize cultural connotations and spiritual inheritance value of lantern show to Kuang people overseas and organize these people to visit Pancun with lantern show activities as the main line so as to allow overseas Chinese to realize the ancestral idea of union and mutual assistance of Kuang people in the process of attending activities and provide corresponding guarantee for the implementation of Pancun lantern show activities while strengthening overseas Chinese affairs.

Strengthen guidance of government sector and promote sustainable and healthy development of religious activities.

Attention should be paid to the following while further strengthening the leadership of government sector and promoting the optimization of religious activities practically: first, approve the fact of existence of religious organization. In the current stage, the state has not made provisions for the management of religious organization. Therefore, it is required to standardize relevant organizational activities in the framework of law in the process of managing religious organizations and impel religious organizations to involve in the management work of administrative affairs of village and clan, make corresponding contributions to the construction of traditional Chinese folk culture and promote the development of lantern show culture. Second, positively guide religious organizations to play a correct guiding role in the management of administrative affairs of clan. Based

on clan management thought of China, traditional ancestral organizations undertake corresponding planning and protection functions in the management process of administrative affairs of village and clan. However, with the development of society, the realization of these functions gradually comes apart from the era and can no longer adapt to the current society. Therefore, government sector should transform job functions appropriately based on the demand of era development and create conditions for the improvement of clan affair management level^[4]. Therefore, government sector can guide and organize civil organizations to carry out public activities in the clan appropriately, impel corresponding improvement of the prestige of religious organizations in the village, strengthen the transmission of traditional culture with the power of clan and create conditions for the inheritance and development of lantern show culture. Third, further enhance the standard of selecting key staffs of religious organizations. Relevant government sectors should publicize Pancun culture greatly on the basis of promoting economic and social construction of Pancun, further strengthen the selection activity of key staffs of religious organizations under good social atmosphere, select key staffs with high comprehensive quality by improving selection standard and provide corresponding guarantee for the protection and inheritance of Pancun lantern show culture in modern society on the basis of promoting effective implementation of religious activities.

Maintain certain space for religious activities in the process of urban construction.

With the acceleration of urban construction process, original village residence and religious activity site of Pancun have been constantly eroded. Benign implementation of religious cultural activities is influenced adversely. However, in terms of the development trend of urbanization, such change from countryside to city is inevitable. Therefore, only by maintaining enough space for religious activities in the process of urban construction can we guarantee good inheritance of traditional folk culture of Pancun. First, it is required to specify protection list and regions of traditional cultural heritages. Local government should include buildings with certain historical value in the scope of cultural protection and provide corresponding guarantee for cultural protection at government level in the development process. For Pancun lantern show, a corresponding heritage inheritance platform can be built so as to provide solid guarantee for the maintenance of its integrity. Second, it is required to maintain and increase religious cultural heritages appropriately^[5]. In the process of transforming traditional village residence, it is required to maintain corresponding religious heritages besides buildings with certain historical value and provide space and financial support for the implementation of Pancun lantern show cultural activities. Finally, improve the environment of village residence. To create better conditions for the inheritance of lantern show culture, it is required to attach more importance to the construction of infrastructure in Pancun, improve the living environment of Pancun people positively, attract young people and those moving out to live in the village and create conditions for the inheritance of lantern show culture in the process of urban construction.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the protection and inheritance work of Pancun lantern show face certain difficulties under the impact of economic globalization and urban construction in the current society, which produce corresponding adverse influence on modern development of Pancun lantern show culture. Therefore, to realize better inheritance and development of Pancun culture, government sector should attach more importance to inheritance work, positively create a good inheritance environment and then actually promote the development of Pancun lantern show culture and provide corresponding reference to the inheritance work of intangible cultural heritages.

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