

Education and Literacy in the Development and Transmission of Chinese Yao Nationality Folk Songs

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Received: October 07, 2023

Accepted: January 04, 2024

Published: January 31, 2024

Volume: 12 Issue: 1

Conflicts of interest: None

Funding: None

ABSTRACT

Chinese Yao Nationality Folk Songs are a distinctive cultural treasure thriving within the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, intimately intertwined with the lives and traditions of the Yao people. The objective of this study is to investigate the role of education and literacy in the development and transmission of Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The research site, Jinxiu Yao Autonomous County, serves as a culturally significant backdrop, chosen for its accessibility and cultural relevance to the research objectives. To gain comprehensive insights into this complex topic, three key informants with specialized knowledge and cultural insights were meticulously selected. An array of research tools, including observation forms, interview forms, and questionnaires, were employed to gather data and analyze various aspects of Yao Nationality folk songs. The results reveal the multifaceted phases of development these songs have undergone, from their sacred origins to their role in communal celebrations and emotional expression. The transmission of these songs is showcased through a blend of oral traditions and written records, with a contemporary integration of media and technology. This research suggests the need for a balanced approach to preserving cultural heritage while embracing modernity.

Key words: Yao Folk Songs, Education, Literacy, Cultural Preservation, Guangxi, China

INTRODUCTION

The rich tapestry of Chinese culture is woven with a diverse range of ethnic groups, each contributing to the vibrant mosaic of traditions, customs, and art forms that make up the nation's heritage (Hou & Seekhunlio, 2023; Shi & Nicolas, 2023; Zeng & Onlamul, 2023). Among these ethnic communities, the Yao Nationality in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region stands out for its unique cultural expressions, particularly in the realm of folk songs (Liu, 2003; Guo et al., 2014). Yao folk songs, with their melodious tunes and evocative lyrics, have been a significant part of the cultural identity of the Yao people for generations. However, as with many traditional art forms around the world, Yao folk songs face challenges in the modern era, including issues related to their development and transmission (Everett & Lau, 2004; Zhang, 2013; Zhang & Wu, 2023).

This research article delves into the multifaceted relationship between education, literacy, and the development and transmission of Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs. Against the backdrop of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, we aim to explore the pivotal role that education and literacy play in the preservation and evolution of this unique cultural heritage (Kuang & He, 2022; Tang & Sornyai, 2023; Yao & Chaotchamrat, 2023). The Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous

Region, located in southern China, is home to a diverse range of ethnic minorities, each with its rich cultural traditions. Among these groups, the Yao nationality has a distinctive musical heritage characterized by its unique melodies, poetic lyrics, and deep cultural significance (Xin, 2002; Xiong et al., 2010; Guo & Guo, 2016; Guo et al., 2017).

The research objective of this study is to investigate the role of education and literacy in the development and transmission of Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. While Yao folk songs have been passed down through generations primarily through oral tradition, the dynamics of cultural preservation are evolving in response to modernization and globalization. Education and literacy, as key agents of change in society, are poised to both safeguard and transform this traditional art form (Howard, 2016; Ho, 2018).

In the following sections of this research article, we will delve into the historical context of Yao folk songs, tracing their origins and significance in Yao culture. We will explore how these songs have been traditionally transmitted within Yao communities and how this process is evolving in the modern era. Moreover, we will investigate the impact of education and literacy programs on the development and dissemination of Yao Nationality folk songs, with a focus on their potential to bridge the gap between tradition and modernity (Litzinger, 2000; Guo, 2019; Tang, 2021).

The study employs a qualitative research method. Fieldwork, interviews, and surveys were conducted to gather data from Yao communities in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Additionally, a comprehensive review of existing literature on Yao folk songs and related educational initiatives will contribute to a deeper understanding of this complex interplay between culture, education, and literacy (Harrison, 2000; Ping & Chuangprakhon, 2023; Wu & Boonsrianun, 2023; Zhou & Chuangprakhon, 2023).

As we embark on this research journey, our goal is to shed light on how education and literacy can serve as powerful tools for the preservation, revitalization, and sustainable development of Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs. By illuminating the challenges and opportunities facing this cultural heritage, we hope to contribute to a broader discourse on the role of education in safeguarding the intangible treasures of our world's diverse cultural landscape.

Research Question

- How do education and literacy impact the development and transmission of Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs within the cultural context of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Yao Nationality folk songs, a distinctive cultural treasure that has flourished within the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, are an example of the diversity and vibrancy of Chinese folk music. These songs, deeply intertwined with the lives and traditions of the Yao people, reflect their rich history, values, and aspirations. This literature review explores the multifaceted aspects of education and literacy as they pertain to the development and transmission of Chinese Yao nationality folk songs.

Cultural Significance of Chinese Yao Nationality Folk Songs

The Yao Nationality, a distinct ethnic group in China, boasts a rich cultural heritage that finds expression through their traditional folk songs. These songs are an integral part of Yao's identity and have played a significant role in various aspects of their lives. Yao folk songs are sung during rites of passage, celebrations, and daily activities, providing a medium for storytelling, cultural preservation, and emotional expression. These songs encompass a wide range of themes, including love, labor, spirituality, and community, offering a glimpse into the cultural nuances of the Yao people (Shepherd, 2007; Wu et al., 2023).

Education and Literacy in Yao Communities

The role of education and literacy within Yao communities is essential to understanding the dynamics of folk song development and transmission. Historically, education among the Yao people was primarily oral, with knowledge and

traditions passed down through generations via storytelling and folk songs. While literacy rates have improved over the years, many Yao communities still rely on oral traditions as a primary mode of education. This blending of oral and written knowledge systems is a unique characteristic of Yao culture and has a direct impact on the transmission of folk songs (Peterson, 1997; McLaren & Zhang, 2017).

The Intersection of Education, Literacy, and Folk Song Transmission

The relationship between education, literacy, and the transmission of Yao Nationality folk songs is a complex one. Education, whether formal or informal, plays a pivotal role in shaping individuals' abilities to understand, appreciate, and perpetuate their cultural heritage. Literacy, as an essential component of formal education, has the potential to enhance the documentation and preservation of folk songs. However, this intersection is not without challenges, as the traditional oral nature of Yao folk songs may conflict with formal literacy-based education (Tuohy, 1999; Schmidt & Colwell, 2017).

The Transmission of Yao Ethnic Folk Songs in School Education

The transmission of Yao ethnic folk songs in school education holds profound cultural significance within the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. These folk songs are not merely musical compositions but are emblematic of the Yao community's rich cultural heritage, connecting generations to their history, values, and identity. School education plays a pivotal role in preserving and transmitting this heritage to younger generations (Yu, & Karin, 2022; Shun & Boonsrianun, 2023; Wu & Boonsrianun, 2023; Yao & Chaotchamrat, 2023). Various studies have explored the integration of Yao ethnic folk songs into formal curricula, emphasizing their historical and cultural importance. Challenges such as resource limitations and preserving authenticity exist, but opportunities lie in leveraging technology and community involvement to enhance the educational experience (Xiaofen & Na, 2018). Striking a balance between formal education and the songs' oral traditions is a subject of ongoing research and discussion as educators and communities collaborate to ensure the enduring vitality of Yao ethnic folk songs.

Research Gap and Objective

While there is a growing body of literature on Yao Nationality folk songs and their cultural significance, there is a dearth of research that systematically investigates the influence of education and literacy on the development and transmission of these songs within the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. This study seeks to address this research gap by examining how education and literacy impact Yao Nationality folk songs, shedding light on the complexities of cultural preservation and adaptation in the face of evolving educational practices.

Research Theory

This literature review draws upon two interconnected disciplines, namely musicology and ethnomusicology, to provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the multifaceted relationship.

1. Musicology, rooted in Western classical traditions, provides insights into composition structure, form, and notation. It is crucial in analyzing Yao Nationality folk songs and influencing their transmission and interpretation. Musicology also helps understand how formal education systems impact these songs, their adaptation into written forms, and their compositional elements, enhancing their musical intricacies (Williams, 2020).
2. Ethnomusicology studies music across diverse cultural contexts, focusing on social, cultural, and anthropological dimensions. It examines music's creation, performance, and experience within specific communities, focusing on oral traditions, rituals, and social dynamics. This research examines Yao Nationality folk songs within their cultural and social contexts, examining their role in rituals, ceremonies, and daily life (Berger & Stone, 2019).

METHOD

Selection of Research Site

The selection of Jinxiu Yao Autonomous County aligns with the research objective of investigating the role of education and literacy in the development and transmission of Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs. It offers a culturally rich and practically accessible site for the study. The significance of the research site selection, as shown in Table 1.

Selection of Key Informants

The three key informants are individuals who possess specialized knowledge, cultural insights, and personal experiences that are essential for gaining a comprehensive understanding of the research topic. This section outlines the methodology employed to identify and choose key informants, along with the background and expertise of their selection, as shown in Table 2.

Research Tools and Data Analysis

To gather comprehensive data, a combination of research tools was employed. These tools included observation forms, interview forms, and questionnaires, each designed to capture different aspects of the research, as shown in Table 3.

RESULTS

Development Phases of Chinese Yao Nationality Folk Songs

Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs have a rich cultural evolution within the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, with distinct phases reflecting their historical trajectory and connection to the Yao community's social, spiritual, and artistic

Table 1. Criteria and significance for research site selection

Criteria for Selection	Significance
Cultural Significance	Ensures that Yao Nationality folk songs are deeply embedded in the community's cultural traditions
Educational Relevance	Provides access to educational institutions and programs relevant to the research objectives
Comparative Analysis	Allows for the examination of variations in education and literacy practices across different Yao communities
Practical Data Collection	Facilitates in-person data collection, interviews, and participant observation
Collaboration	Offers opportunities for collaboration with local stakeholders and experts

Table 2. Key informants selected for the research

Key Informant	Background and Expertise
1 st informant	- Born in Jinxiu Yao Autonomous County - Skilled performer of various Yao folk songs - Winner of multiple singing competitions - Inheritor and educator of Yao folk songs
2 nd informant	- Native of Jinxiu Yao Autonomous County - Proficient in Pan Yao folk songs - Award-winning performer - Composer and arranger of Yao folk songs - Knowledgeable about their history
3 rd informant	- Expert in the research of national and folk culture - Significant contributions to intangible cultural heritage - Experience in cultural event planning - Author of academic papers and monographs

tapestry. Each phase reflects the enduring vitality and adaptability of this rich musical tradition. This section explores these phases, each with unique themes, functions, and cultural significance, to understand how Yao Nationality folk songs have grown and transformed over time, leaving an indelible mark on Guangxi's cultural landscape.

Communal celebration: "Entertaining the public sphere"

1. Cultural Festivities: As Yao Nationality folk songs continued to evolve, they transcended their sacred origins and took on a new role as a source of communal celebration. These songs became an integral part of cultural festivities within the Yao community, contributing significantly to the vibrant tapestry of their traditions.
2. Transition to Entertainment: This phase marked a transition where folk songs, once primarily reserved for religious rituals, began to entertain the public sphere. They evolved to cater to a broader audience, moving beyond spiritual contexts to encompass various forms of entertainment.

Table 3. Research tools and steps for data analysis

Research Tool	Description	Steps to Create	Data Analysis
Observation Form	On-site data collection through observations	- Identify events and performances - Develop a structured form - Pilot test and finalize form	- Compile observational data - Organize data by themes and events - Analyze for patterns and cultural insights
Interview Form	In-depth interviews with key informants	- Develop tailored interview questions - Pilot test questions - Customize for each informant	- Transcribe interviews - Conduct thematic analysis - Compare responses of key informants
Questionnaire	Quantitative data collection from participants	- Develop a structured questionnaire - Pilot test questions - Finalize questionnaire	- Collect participant responses - Analyze using statistical methods - Compare with qualitative insights from other tools

3. **Fostering Unity:** One of the remarkable outcomes of this transition was the role of Yao Nationality folk songs in fostering unity among the community. During cultural celebrations and public events, these songs served as a unifying force, strengthening the cultural identity of the Yao people. They became a medium through which the community celebrated their shared heritage and values.
4. **Preservation of Identity:** Entertaining the public sphere allowed Yao Nationality folk songs to remain a potent tool for preserving cultural identity. They provided a means for passing down traditions, stories, and historical narratives from one generation to the next. This preservation of identity was crucial in the face of external influences and modernization.

Sacred Origins: “Songs of divine reverence”

1. **Spiritual Beginnings:** The roots of Yao nationality folk songs trace back to a sacred genesis where music served as a profound conduit for spiritual connection. These songs were not merely a form of entertainment but were intricately woven into the fabric of religious practices and rituals within the Yao community.
2. **Veneration of Deities:** At the heart of these sacred origins lies the veneration of deities. Yao Nationality folk songs were a means by which the community expressed deep reverence and devotion to their gods. Through lyrical verses and melodic tunes, they sought to establish a sacred bond with the divine forces believed to govern their lives and protect their communities.
3. **Cultural Significance:** During this phase, Yao nationality folk songs held immense cultural significance. They were integral to religious ceremonies, marking important life events, agricultural activities, and seasonal transitions. These songs became a vehicle for preserving and transmitting the spiritual heritage of the Yao people, embodying their values, beliefs, and sense of identity.
4. **Evolution Over Time:** While rooted in spirituality, Yao Nationality folk songs evolved, reflecting changes in religious beliefs, social structures, and artistic expression. Yet, even as they adapted to new contexts, their sacred essence continued to resonate, serving as a testament to the enduring spiritual connection at the heart of this musical tradition.

In this section, we delve into the sacred origins of Yao Nationality folk songs, exploring their pivotal role in connecting the Yao community with the divine and preserving their rich spiritual heritage, as shown in Figure 1. Through a nuanced understanding of this phase, we gain insights into the profound cultural and religious significance of these songs within the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Expressions of emotion: “Artistic emotional narratives”

1. **Diverse Emotional Palette:** The Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region’s folk songs of the Yao Nationality have developed over time with a rich and diverse emotional palette. These songs transcended their initial roles in religious rituals and communal celebrations to become powerful vehicles for conveying a wide range of human emotions. Yao Nationality folk songs emerged as poignant and evocative narratives of personal and collective sentiment.
2. **Joy and Celebration:** One facet of this emotional spectrum is the expression of joy and celebration. Yao Nationality folk songs became a means to celebrate life’s triumphs, whether they were bountiful harvests, weddings, or other festive occasions. Through jubilant melodies and lyrics, these songs captured the exuberance and happiness of the community during moments of merriment.
3. **Melancholy and Reflection:** Conversely, these songs also delved into the realm of melancholy and introspection. They provided an outlet for individuals to express sadness, longing, and contemplation. This aspect of emotional expression allowed Yao Nationality folk songs to connect with the deeper, more introspective facets of human experience.
4. **Life’s Experiences:** The evolution of Yao nationality folk songs mirrored the evolving life experiences of the Yao people. Through the lyrical narratives, individuals shared their life journeys, the challenges they faced, and the wisdom they gained. These songs became a repository of cultural memory, encapsulating the collective experiences of the community.
5. **Intergenerational Transmission:** The diverse emotional narratives embedded in Yao Nationality folk songs played a pivotal role in their intergenerational transmission. Younger generations learned not only the melodies

but also the emotional depth and cultural significance of these songs from their elders. This transmission ensured that the emotional essence of the Yao people’s heritage was passed down through the ages.

6. Cultural Resonance: The ability of Yao Nationality folk songs to convey profound emotions contributed to their enduring cultural resonance. These songs continued to hold significance in contemporary Yao society, serving as a bridge between the past and present and as a reflection of the emotional landscapes of the community.

Transmission of Yao Nationality Folk Songs

The transmission of Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs unfolds through a multifaceted tapestry of methods and mediums, offering insights into the dynamic interplay of culture and education within the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. This section delves into the various channels and strategies that have facilitated the passing down of these rich musical traditions, highlighting their role in preserving cultural heritage and fostering literacy within the Yao community.

Legacy preservation: “Oral tradition and written records”

1. Oral Heritage: The preservation and transmission of Yao Nationality folk songs are deeply rooted in the tradition of oral storytelling and song. These songs are passed down orally from one generation to the next, creating an intimate and direct connection between the elders and the youth. Through this oral tradition, the nuances of melody, lyrics, and emotional depth are conveyed, ensuring the songs retain their authenticity and cultural richness.
2. Written Records: In addition to the oral tradition, written records and texts play a pivotal role in preserving the authenticity and cultural significance of Yao Nationality folk songs. These written records, often in the form of manuscripts, not only document the lyrics and melodies but also provide valuable insights into the historical context, meaning, and symbolism behind the songs. They serve as a bridge between generations, offering a tangible resource for learning and understanding these musical traditions.
3. Interplay of Oral and Written: The interplay between oral tradition and written records is a testament to the holistic approach taken in preserving the legacy of Yao Nationality folk songs. While oral transmission ensures the songs’ continuity and emotional resonance, written records provide a structured and comprehensive repository of knowledge. Together, these methods ensure that the cultural heritage embedded in these songs is safeguarded for future generations.
4. Education and Literacy: This preservation strategy not only serves as a means of transmitting cultural knowledge but also fosters literacy within the Yao community. Learning to read, write, and interpret written records of folk songs enhances the educational experience, empowering individuals with the ability to engage with their cultural heritage more profoundly. It underscores

the symbiotic relationship between education, literacy, and the preservation of cultural traditions.

The legacy preservation of Yao Nationality folk songs through oral tradition and written records is embodied, as shown in Table 4. The harmonious coexistence of ancient and modern methods enriches the cultural tapestry of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Embracing the modern age: “Media and technology integration”

1. Modern Outreach: In contemporary times, Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs have embraced modern media



Figure 1. The sacrificial ceremony of the panwang festival of the yao people

Source: Hongyu chen, fieldwork in may 2023

Table 4. The original chinese characters were transformed by the yao people

汉字 Chinese kanji	瑶族“改造”汉字 Transforming Chinese Characters	汉字 Chinese kanji	瑶族“改造”汉字 Transforming Chinese Characters
代	代	仙	仙
成	成	娘	外
凡	凡	洪	美
桃	桃	前	前
叫	叫	钱	多
杯	盃	行	行
泥	坭	出	出
爷	爷	仙	仙
声	声	留	番
条	條	洪	美

Source: Guangxi Nanning Mass Art Museum (Hongyu Chen, fieldwork in May 2023)

- and technology platforms, marking a significant shift in their transmission methods. These songs are no longer confined to traditional oral or local contexts; instead, they have expanded their reach through the integration of media and technology.
2. **Radio and Television:** Yao Nationality folk songs find their way into the homes of many through radio and television broadcasts. These mediums serve as powerful tools for reaching a broader and often geographically dispersed audience. Radio stations and television channels dedicated to ethnic and folk music programming play an essential role in preserving and promoting these songs.
 3. **Internet and Digital Platforms:** The Internet has emerged as a transformative force in the dissemination of Yao Nationality folk songs. Through websites, social media platforms, and digital streaming services, these songs are readily accessible to a global audience. Online communities and forums provide spaces for enthusiasts to share, discuss, and engage with this musical heritage.
 4. **Cultural Exchange:** Integration with modern media and technology platforms facilitates cultural exchange and interaction. Yao nationality folk songs are no longer limited by geographical boundaries but serve as a bridge for cross-cultural communication. They introduce the rich cultural tapestry of the Yao community to a global audience, fostering appreciation and understanding.
 5. **Preserving Authenticity:** While modern media and technology have expanded the reach of these songs, efforts are made to preserve their authenticity. Recording technologies allow for high-quality audio and video recordings, ensuring that the essence and nuances of these songs are faithfully captured and conveyed. This balance between tradition and modernity underscores the adaptability and resilience of Yao Nationality folk songs.
 6. **Education and Literacy:** The integration of media and technology aligns with the broader theme of education and literacy. It empowers individuals, especially the younger generation, with tools to engage with their cultural heritage in a digital age. Digital literacy and media literacy have become integral components of cultural preservation and transmission.
3. **Contemporary Issues:** In response to contemporary issues and challenges, Yao Nationality folk songs have expanded their thematic scope. They now address topics such as environmental conservation, social changes, and the preservation of cultural heritage. This evolution ensures that these songs remain relevant and engage with the current realities faced by the Yao community.
 4. **Socio-Political Commentary:** Some Yao Nationality folk songs have taken on the role of socio-political commentary. They provide a platform for individuals to voice their opinions, advocate for social justice, and reflect on the changing political dynamics in the region. These songs serve as a medium for the Yao community to engage with broader societal issues.
 5. **Cultural Identity:** Amidst these adaptations, the preservation of cultural identity remains a central concern. Yao nationality folk songs continue to reinforce the unique cultural identity of the Yao people, even as they address contemporary concerns. This dual function reflects the dynamic nature of culture and the importance of cultural resilience.
 6. **Intergenerational Dialogue:** The evolution of folk song content fosters intergenerational dialogue within the Yao community. Younger generations find points of connection and relevance in these adapted narratives, facilitating the transmission of cultural values and heritage from elders to youth.
 7. **Reflection of Diversity:** The adaptability of Yao Nationality folk songs reflects the diversity and

Table 5. Summary of the research results

Research Result	Summary
Development Phases of Chinese Yao Nationality Folk Songs	Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs have evolved through distinct phases, each carrying unique themes and cultural significance. These phases include "Sacred Origins," where the songs had spiritual roots and were integral to religious practices; "Communal Celebration," during which they transitioned to entertain the public and foster unity; and "Expressions of Emotion," where they became vehicles for diverse human emotions, life experiences, and cultural resonance. These phases exemplify the adaptability and enduring vitality of this musical tradition
Transmission of Yao Nationality Folk Songs	The transmission of Yao Nationality folk songs involves a multifaceted approach. "Legacy Preservation" relies on oral tradition and written records, ensuring the authenticity and cultural significance of songs. "Embracing the Modern Age" introduces media and technology integration, broadening their reach and facilitating cultural exchange. "Dynamic Narrative Evolution" reveals their adaptability to changing cultural, social, and political landscapes, reflecting the region's diversity while preserving cultural identity and fostering intergenerational dialogue

Dynamic narrative evolution: "Adaptation of folk song content"

1. **Changing Narratives:** Yao Nationality folk songs have demonstrated a remarkable capacity to adapt and evolve their content to mirror the changing cultural, social, and political landscapes within the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.
2. **Traditional Themes:** At the heart of Yao Nationality folk songs lie traditional themes that have persisted through generations. These themes include celebrations of nature, agricultural practices, communal harmony, and spiritual connections. Traditional Yao values and beliefs continue to find expression in these songs, providing a sense of continuity with the past.

complexity of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. They serve as a microcosm of the region's multifaceted cultural tapestry, encompassing both tradition and innovation, continuity, and change.

In summary, the research findings shed light on the intricate development and transmission of Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs within the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. These songs have journeyed through distinct phases of evolution, each with its own unique significance, themes, and cultural context. Additionally, the methods of transmitting these musical traditions have transformed to adapt to the modern age while preserving their cultural essence. In Table 5, we present a concise summary of these research results, providing insights into the rich tapestry of Yao Nationality folk songs and their dynamic interplay with culture, education, and literacy.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The research findings align with several theoretical principles outlined in the literature review. Firstly, the phases of development identified in Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs, namely "Sacred Origins," "Communal Celebration," and "Expressions of Emotion," resonate with the literature's emphasis on the multifaceted nature of folk music's cultural evolution (Liu, 2003; Tang, 2021). These phases mirror the progression from religious and spiritual roots to broader societal functions and emotional expression, consistent with ethnomusicological theories.

Additionally, this study found that Yao Nationality folk songs can adapt to new cultural situations through legacy preservation, the use of media and technology, and the development of stories that change over time (Kuang & He, 2022; Zhang & Wu, 2023). It shows that these songs are alive and well in modern times. The integration of media and technology platforms aligns with contemporary discussions on the impact of digital media on folk music preservation (Ho, 2018; Tang & Sornyai, 2023). Furthermore, the emphasis on oral tradition and written records highlights the significance of preserving authenticity through both oral and written knowledge systems, as discussed in the literature (Peterson, 1997; Tuohy, 1999).

While the research findings largely align with theoretical principles, there are notable inconsistencies and research gaps worth addressing. One inconsistency is the limited exploration of the role of formal literacy-based education in the transmission of Yao Nationality folk songs. The literature review highlighted the coexistence of oral and written knowledge systems within Yao culture (McLaren & Zhang, 2017), but the research primarily focused on oral transmission. Future research could delve deeper into the impact of formal education and literacy on the documentation and preservation of these songs.

Additionally, the research findings highlight the evolving content of Yao Nationality folk songs to address contemporary issues and socio-political commentary. While this adaptation reflects the dynamic nature of culture, further investigation into the potential consequences of such

adaptations on the songs' cultural authenticity and traditional value systems would provide a more comprehensive understanding (Tang, 2021).

In conclusion, this study explores the relationship between education, literacy, and the development and transmission of Chinese Yao Nationality folk songs in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The songs, which have distinct phases and modes of transmission, reflect the adaptability and vitality of this musical tradition. The modes of transmission include legacy preservation, media and technology integration, and dynamic narrative evolution. However, the research also highlights research gaps and inconsistencies, such as the limited exploration of formal education's role and the potential consequences of contemporary adaptations. The study emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary approaches from musicology, ethnomusicology, and education studies to understand the complex dynamics of folk music in diverse cultural contexts.

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