

Literacy Preservation and Transmission of Tuojiang Haozi Chinese Folk Song in Sichuan Province, China

Lanting Wu*, Phiphat Sornyai, Watchara Homhuan

College of Music, Mahasarakham University, Thailand

Corresponding author: Lanting Wu, E-mail: lantingwu.msu@outlook.com

ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Received: July 25, 2024

Accepted: October 08, 2024

Published: October 31, 2024

Volume: 12 Issue: 4

Conflicts of interest: None

Funding: None

ABSTRACT

Tuojiang Haozi, a traditional Chinese folk song from the Tuojiang River Basin in Sichuan Province, China, holds significant cultural value as it originates from the labor chants of boatmen navigating the Tuojiang River. This study explores the literacy preservation and transmission of Tuojiang Haozi amidst rapid modernization and changing socio-economic landscapes. The research objective is to investigate literacy preservation and transmission of the Tuojiang Haozi Chinese folk song in Sichuan Province, China. The study involved qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews with three key informants: an ethnic music composer and researcher, a native resident and inheritor, and a follower of a renowned Tuojiang Haozi researcher. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and participant observations, followed by thematic analysis to identify key themes related to cultural and musical literacy, community engagement, and academic practices. The results highlight the challenges of preserving Tuojiang Haozi in the face of modernization and the declining relevance of traditional vocations while emphasizing the potential of educational integration and digital technology in sustaining this cultural heritage. The study suggests the need for innovative community engagement strategies and further research on the role of digital platforms in preserving intangible cultural heritage.

Key words: Tuojiang Haozi, Cultural Preservation, Musical Literacy, Sichuan Province, Intangible Cultural Heritage

INTRODUCTION

Tuojiang Haozi, a traditional Chinese folk song, is an integral part of the cultural heritage of Sichuan Province, specifically within the Tuojiang River Basin. Originating from the labor chants of boatmen who navigated the treacherous waters of the Tuojiang River, these songs have evolved over centuries, reflecting the region's socio-economic conditions and cultural fabric. The laborers created Tuojiang Haozi, also known as "boatmen's songs," to coordinate their efforts, lift their spirits, and communicate practically and intensely emotionally (Chabrowski, 2015; Yang, 2019). As these songs are rooted in the everyday lives of the boatmen, they carry with them a rich tapestry of history, oral traditions, and the unique linguistic and musical elements that characterize the local culture. Despite their historical significance, Tuojiang Haozi faces challenges in preservation and transmission, especially in the face of rapid modernization and changing socio-economic landscapes in Sichuan Province (Gioia, 2015; Howard & Ingram, 2020; Mridha & Begum, 2023; Wang & Woramitmaitee, 2024).

The problem is that the Tuojiang Haozi, like many other forms of intangible cultural heritage, is at risk of fading into obscurity. The traditional transmission methods,

primarily oral and experiential learning within the communities, are no longer as effective or prevalent as they once were. Modernization has led to a decline in the traditional vocations that sustained these songs, resulting in fewer opportunities for younger generations to learn and engage with this cultural form. Moreover, as the older generation of boatmen passes away, the knowledge and practices associated with Tuojiang Haozi must be recovered. The current preservation efforts need to be revised, lacking the necessary resources, infrastructure, and strategic approaches to safeguard this cultural treasure effectively (Born, 2023; Chang et al., 2024; Howard, 2016; Wu & Chuangprakhon, 2024).

The significance of this research lies in its potential to contribute to the broader discourse on the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, particularly within the context of Chinese folk music. Tuojiang Haozi is more than just a collection of songs; it is a living expression of the cultural identity, historical experiences, and social cohesion of the communities along the Tuojiang River (Massing, 2018; Zhang & Wu, 2023). This study highlights the challenges and opportunities within the cultural preservation framework by investigating the current state of literacy preservation and transmission practices. Furthermore, this research is significant because it offers insights into the role of education,

community engagement, and media in preserving and transmitting folk traditions. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for developing effective strategies that protect and revitalize Tuojiang Haozi in a way that resonates with contemporary audiences while staying true to its roots.

The objective of this study is to investigate literacy preservation and transmission of the Tuojiang Haozi Chinese folk song in Sichuan Province, China. Through this investigation, the study seeks to answer the central research question: How do literacy preservation efforts and transmission practices contribute to the sustainability and continued cultural relevance of the Tuojiang Haozi Chinese folk song in Sichuan Province, China? This research will delve into the historical context of Tuojiang Haozi, examining how it has been preserved and transmitted across generations. It will explore the various methods to safeguard this folk song, including community-based initiatives, educational programs, and digital media (Howard, 2016; Tang & Sornyai, 2023). Additionally, the study will assess the effectiveness of these methods and identify areas where improvements can be made.

Research Question

- How do literacy preservation efforts and transmission practices contribute to the sustainability and continued cultural relevance of the Tuojiang Haozi Chinese folk song in Sichuan Province, China?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of literacy preservation and transmission of traditional folk music, particularly Tuojiang Haozi, has gained increasing importance in the context of cultural sustainability. Tuojiang Haozi, a significant cultural artifact of Sichuan Province, represents not only the historical and social fabric of the region but also the challenges faced by intangible cultural heritage in modern times. This literature review explores the theoretical frameworks that inform the preservation and transmission of Tuojiang Haozi, focusing on cultural sustainability, oral tradition, and community engagement.

Cultural Sustainability and Intangible Heritage

Cultural sustainability is central to preserving intangible cultural heritage, such as Tuojiang Haozi. Cultural sustainability refers to the ability of cultural practice to be maintained and transmitted across generations while adapting to changing social, economic, and technological contexts. The dwindling of traditional professions and the quick modernization of society, which have resulted in a diminished role for these songs in daily life, threaten Tuojiang Haozi's sustainability. Theories of cultural sustainability emphasize the need for adaptive strategies that can integrate traditional practices into contemporary contexts without losing their essence. This includes incorporating modern technologies, educational frameworks, and community initiatives that can help preserve and rejuvenate Tuojiang Haozi, ensuring its relevance for future generations (Howard, 2016; Jing et al., 2021; Stefano, 2021).

The Role of Oral Tradition in Cultural Transmission

Oral tradition plays a crucial role in the transmission of Tuojiang Haozi. As a form of cultural expression that relies on verbal communication, oral tradition involves the passing down songs, stories, and practices from one generation to the next through word of mouth. In the context of Tuojiang Haozi, oral tradition has historically been the primary method of transmission, with songs being taught and learned within the community, often through experiential learning during labor. However, the erosion of traditional vocations and the migration of younger generations to urban areas have disrupted this transmission process. Theories of oral tradition highlight the importance of maintaining the continuity of cultural narratives through practices that foster active participation and intergenerational dialogue. For Tuojiang Haozi, this means creating opportunities for younger generations to engage with the songs in meaningful ways, whether through educational programs, community performances, or digital media platforms that can bridge the gap between the past and the present (Chen, 2023; Fan & Chuangprakhon, 2024; Howard, 2016).

Community Engagement and Cultural Revitalization

Community engagement is a critical component in preserving and transmitting Tuojiang Haozi. The involvement of local communities in safeguarding their cultural heritage ensures that preservation efforts are grounded in the lived experiences and values of the people who embody these traditions. Theories of community engagement suggest that successful cultural preservation depends on the active participation of community members in both the documentation and transmission of their cultural practices. For Tuojiang Haozi, community engagement can take many forms, including organizing local festivals, the establishment of cultural heritage centers, and the inclusion of Tuojiang Haozi in school curricula. Moreover, community-led initiatives can empower residents to take ownership of their cultural heritage, fostering a sense of pride and continuity that is essential for the long-term sustainability of Tuojiang Haozi. By integrating community engagement with formal preservation efforts, it is possible to create a dynamic and resilient framework for transmitting this folk song tradition (Howard, 2016; Lu & Qian, 2023; Pu et al., 2023).

METHOD

This study adopts a qualitative research methodology to investigate the literacy preservation and transmission of the Tuojiang Haozi Chinese folk song in Sichuan Province, China. The qualitative approach is chosen for its ability to capture the depth and complexity of cultural phenomena, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of how literacy preservation efforts and transmission practices contribute to the sustainability and continued cultural relevance of Tuojiang Haozi. The research is conducted through a series

of steps, including selecting the research site, identifying and selecting key informants, data collection through interviews and observations, and data analysis.

Research Site Selection

The research site selected for this study is Jintang County in Sichuan Province, historically recognized as Tuojiang Haozi's birthplace. This location is pivotal to the study as it provides direct access to the cultural and geographical context in which Tuojiang Haozi has been preserved and transmitted over generations. The choice of Jintang County allows the researcher to observe and engage with the living tradition of Tuojiang Haozi in its natural setting, offering insights into its historical roots and contemporary practices.

Key Informant Selection

Key informants play a crucial role in this study, providing rich, detailed insights into the literacy preservation and transmission of Tuojiang Haozi. The selection process involved identifying individuals with extensive knowledge and experience in Tuojiang Haozi, ensuring that they meet specific criteria related to their expertise and involvement in the cultural heritage of this folk song. Three key informants were selected, each contributing unique perspectives to the study, as shown in Table 1.

Data Collection

The data collection process was conducted using qualitative methods, primarily through in-depth interviews and participant observation. These methods were chosen to gather comprehensive and nuanced information about the literacy preservation and transmission of Tuojiang Haozi.

Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the three key informants. The interview questions were designed to explore their knowledge, experiences, and perspectives on the preservation and transmission of Tuojiang Haozi. The interviews covered topics such as the historical context of Tuojiang Haozi, the challenges faced in its preservation, and the methods used to ensure its transmission to future generations. Were conducted in the informants' native language to

facilitate a comfortable and natural dialogue. Each interview lasted 60 to 90 minutes and was audio-recorded with the informants' consent. The recordings were later transcribed for analysis.

Participant observation

Participant observation was conducted in various settings, including cultural performances, community events, and educational settings where Tuojiang Haozi was practiced or taught. This method allowed the researcher to observe the transmission practices in real-time, providing contextual data that complemented the interview findings. Notes were taken during these observations, focusing on the interaction between the performers, the audience, and the environment in which Tuojiang Haozi was transmitted.

Data Analysis

The study used thematic analysis to analyze data from interviews and observations to identify key themes related to literacy preservation and transmission practices in Tuojiang Haozi. The researchers familiarized themselves with the data by reading transcripts and observations and coding it using inductive and deductive approaches. Themes were developed, including community efforts, educational programs, and modernization's impact on Tuojiang Haozi. Themes were reviewed and refined to ensure accuracy, and the final themes were interpreted to provide insights into these practices' sustainability and cultural relevance.

RESULTS

The study seeks to understand how these traditional practices have been sustained and adapted. In this context, literacy extends beyond mere reading and writing; it encompasses cultural, musical, and historical literacy, essential for maintaining the authenticity and relevance of Tuojiang Haozi. This study delves into the intricate processes of preserving these literacy forms, exploring how they are passed down through generations and adapted to contemporary contexts. By focusing on literacy, the research highlights the role of education, community engagement, and cultural policies in ensuring that Tuojiang Haozi remains a vibrant living tradition, resonating with the older and younger generations in Sichuan Province.

Table 1. Selection criteria for informants

| Criteria | Key Informant 1 | Key Informant 2 | Key Informant 3 |
|---|---|--|--|
| Expertise in Chinese Ethnic Music | Composer and researcher in Chinese ethnic music | Native resident and representative inheritor | Follower of renowned Tuojiang Haozi researcher |
| Familiarity with Tuojiang Haozi | Extensive research and performance organization | A lifelong familiarity with Tuojiang Haozi | Active researcher and performer |
| Contribution to Preservation and Transmission | Organized performances and conducted research | Inherited and performed Tuojiang Haozi locally | Engaged in research and practical performance |

Cultural Literacy and Historical Context of Tuojiang Haozi

The historical and cultural literacy associated with Tuojiang Haozi focuses on how this knowledge has been preserved and transmitted through generations. Tuojiang Haozi, a traditional Chinese folk song rooted in the labor practices of the boatmen along the Tuojiang River, embodies the region's rich cultural heritage. The transmission of Tuojiang Haozi relies heavily on the preservation of cultural literacy, which encompasses the understanding and appreciation of its historical context, the socio-cultural environment in which it was created, and its significance as a form of collective memory.

The origins of Tuojiang Haozi can be traced back to the Qing Dynasty, where it served as a rhythmic guide and motivational force for boatmen navigating the challenging waters of the Tuojiang River. This historical context is critical to understanding the song's cultural literacy, as it highlights its function as both a practical tool and a cultural expression. The boatmen's chants were not merely songs but were deeply intertwined with the rhythms of labor and the socio-economic conditions of the time. As reflected in interviews with local historians and cultural experts, such as Professor Wanzhai Han, a deep understanding of these historical roots is crucial for anyone involved in preserving and transmitting Tuojiang Haozi today, as shown in Figure 1.

The preservation of cultural literacy related to Tuojiang Haozi has faced challenges, particularly as the traditional way of life along the Tuojiang River has faded with modernization. The shift from a labor-based society to a more industrialized one has necessitated new approaches to preserving this cultural heritage. Efforts to maintain and transmit the cultural literacy of Tuojiang Haozi have included both formal education and community-based initiatives. The community government has played an active role in organizing events and performances that aim to keep the historical and cultural significance of Tuojiang Haozi alive for future generations. For instance, local schools have incorporated Tuojiang Haozi into their music curricula, ensuring that students learn to perform the songs and understand their historical context and cultural importance, as shown in Figure 2.

However, the process of transmitting cultural literacy goes beyond mere education. It involves deeply engaging with the song's historical context and a commitment to preserving its original meaning and significance. As one of the key informants, Shunhua Li, the designated inheritor of Tuojiang Haozi, emphasized during interviews that understanding the cultural and historical context of Tuojiang Haozi is essential for preserving its authenticity. Li's insights underscore the importance of teaching younger generations not just the melodies and lyrics of the songs but also the stories, traditions, and values embedded within them.

Musical Literacy in the Transmission of Tuojiang Haozi

The musical literacy involved in the transmission of Tuojiang Haozi explores the methods and practices used to teach and pass on the musical aspects of this traditional folk song. In



Figure 1. Tuojiang shanties

Source: <https://ts1.cn.mm.bing.net/th>. Lanting wu, collected in December 2023



Figure 2. Changes in the inheritance of tuojiang shanties in stage performance

Source: Lanting wu, collected in December 2023

this context, musical literacy refers to the knowledge and skills required to understand, perform, and appreciate the unique melodies, rhythms, and performance techniques that define Tuojiang Haozi. This literacy is essential for ensuring that the musical traditions of Tuojiang Haozi are preserved and remain vibrant in contemporary society.

The transmission of musical literacy in Tuojiang Haozi has traditionally relied on oral methods, where experienced performers pass on their knowledge to younger generations through direct instruction and practice. This method of transmission emphasizes the importance of mastering the song's distinct musical elements, including its melodic structure, rhythmic patterns, and vocal techniques. As described by Professor Wanzhai Han, a renowned researcher of ethnic music and one of the key informants, the process of learning Tuojiang Haozi is deeply rooted in the community's cultural practices. Han highlighted that the melody and rhythm of Tuojiang Haozi are closely tied to the physical labor of the boatmen, with each musical phrase reflecting the rhythm of rowing or hauling, as shown in Figure 3.

One of the critical aspects of musical literacy in Tuojiang Haozi is the ability to understand and perform the song's complex rhythmic patterns. The rhythm of Tuojiang Haozi is

characterized by its vital, driving beat, which is essential for maintaining the song’s traditional connection to labor. This rhythmic literacy is often developed through repetitive practice, where learners are encouraged to internalize the beat by physically engaging with the rhythm, such as through foot tapping or body movement. This embodied approach to musical literacy ensures that performers understand the rhythm intellectually and feel it instinctively, allowing for more authentic and powerful performances.

In addition to rhythm, the melodic structure of Tuojiang Haozi requires a specific type of musical literacy closely linked to the song’s historical and cultural context. The melodies of Tuojiang Haozi are typically pentatonic, with a focus on the use of modal scales that are common in Chinese folk music. The ability to navigate these scales and understand their emotional and cultural significance is a crucial component of musical literacy for performers of Tuojiang Haozi.



Figure 3. Adjust the rhythm of the boatman by guiding the horn
Source: Lanting wu, collected in December 2023

According to the interviews conducted with key informants, including Shiyong Diao, a music teacher and performer of Tuojiang Haozi, this melodic literacy is often developed through listening and imitation, where learners are encouraged to closely observe and replicate the performances of skilled singers as shown in Figure 4.

Furthermore, the transmission of musical literacy in Tuojiang Haozi also involves developing vocal techniques specific to this genre. These techniques include breath control, pitch modulation, and dynamic variation, all essential for conveying the song’s emotional depth and cultural meaning. The interview with Shunhua Li, an inheritor of Tuojiang Haozi, revealed that mastering these vocal techniques requires a deep understanding of the song’s cultural roots and an ability to connect with the emotions and experiences of the original performers. Li emphasized that this type of literacy goes beyond technical skill, requiring a deep cultural empathy and an understanding of the historical context in which the song was created.

Educational Practices and Literacy Development

Tuojiang Haozi, a traditional Chinese folk song, is a cultural heritage effectively transmitted to future generations through formal and informal educational practices. Integrating Tuojiang Haozi into the curriculum is crucial for fostering cultural and musical literacy in schools and universities. In Sichuan Province, various institutions have recognized the importance of incorporating Tuojiang Haozi into their music programs, allowing students to engage with the folk song in a structured manner.

An experienced music educator highlights literacy development in Tuojiang Haozi through theoretical and practical

Dahe Haozi Si Chuan Min Ge

♩ = 44

(Ling)

嘿 起着, 嘿 起着, 嘿 起着, 嘿 哟 里 倒。
Hei qi zhe, hei qi zhe, hei qi zhe, hei yo li dao.
Hey, get up Hey, get up Hey, get up Oh, come on

(He)

嘿 起着, 嘿 起着, 嘿 起着, 嗨!
Hei qi zhe, hei qi zhe, hei qi zhe, Hai!
Hey, get up Hey, get up Hey, get up hi

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嘿 起着, 嘿 起着, 嘿! 哟 嗨 嗨!
He qi zhe, he qi zhe, Hei! yo hai hai!
Hey, get up Hey, get up Hey, get up hi hi

嘿 起着, 嘿 起着, 嘿 起着。
He qi zhe, he qi zhe, hei qi zhe.
Hey, get up Hey, get up Hey, get up

Figure 4. The music score “Dahe Haozi” of the tuojiang haozi
Source: Lanting wu, transcription in December 2023

approaches. In the classroom, students learn about the song's historical context and musical structure, which helps them grasp the cultural nuances of the song. Performance practice reinforces this foundation, enhancing students' musical literacy and fostering a sense of cultural identity and pride.

Informal educational practices within the community also play a significant role in sustaining Tuojiang Haozi literacy. Community programs organized by local cultural centers provide opportunities for individuals of all ages to learn and engage with Tuojiang Haozi outside formal academic settings. An elder from the community emphasizes the importance of oral transmission and hands-on learning in these community settings. Community workshops and performances allow participants to learn Tuojiang Haozi in an immersive environment, transmitting stylistic nuances and expressive qualities that are often difficult to convey through formal instruction alone.

Collaborative efforts between educational institutions and community organizations have proven highly effective in promoting Tuojiang Haozi literacy. These initiatives involve joint initiatives such as cultural festivals, workshops, and research projects, bridging the gap between formal and informal education. By collaborating with local cultural centers, universities can host Tuojiang Haozi performances, ensuring the preservation of this cultural heritage across different contexts and generations.

Challenges and Innovations in Literacy Preservation

The preservation of Tuojiang Haozi's literacy in Sichuan Province faces significant challenges due to rapid modernization and cultural shifts. Traditional ways of life have evolved, diminishing the relevance and understanding of Tuojiang Haozi among younger generations. Globalized media and contemporary music genres have exacerbated this decline. Younger generations' exposure to Tuojiang Haozi is often limited to formal educational settings, making it challenging to foster deep literacy. Traditional oral transmission methods are no longer sufficient for modern challenges, as older community members' knowledge is aging, and fewer young people show interest in mastering the tradition. This has led to a critical gap in the transmission chain, threatening the sustainability of Tuojiang Haozi literacy. The lack of engagement from the younger generation and the pressures of modern life have reduced opportunities for informal learning. Innovative strategies have been implemented to address these challenges, such as integrating Tuojiang Haozi into modern educational frameworks and bridging the gap between traditional oral transmission and contemporary practices.

For instance, the inclusion of Tuojiang Haozi in the curriculum of local schools has not only helped to reintroduce the folk song to younger audiences but has also provided a platform for the systematic development of literacy related to this cultural heritage. Figure 5 shows one such initiative where a university collaborated with a local community to perform Tuojiang Haozi at the 5th China International Intangible Cultural Heritage Festival. This event showcased the folk song to a broader audience and demonstrated how



Figure 5. The 5th china international intangible cultural heritage festival

Source: Lanting wu, transcription in April 2024

formal educational settings can play a vital role in preserving and transmitting Tuojiang Haozi. By bringing the folk song into academic and public spaces, these initiatives have helped to rejuvenate interest in Tuojiang Haozi and ensure its relevance in a modern context.

Additionally, digital technology has emerged as a crucial innovation in preserving Tuojiang Haozi literacy. Digital platforms and media have provided new avenues for disseminating and teaching Tuojiang Haozi, making it more accessible to a global audience. Online tutorials, recordings, and performances have enabled learners from different regions to engage with Tuojiang Haozi, breaking down geographical barriers that previously limited the folk song's reach. These digital resources also allow for the preservation of the folk song in a format that can be easily archived and retrieved, ensuring that future generations have access to authentic renditions of Tuojiang Haozi.

Another significant innovation is the adaptation of Tuojiang Haozi performances to contemporary tastes, which has been critical in maintaining the folk song's appeal among younger audiences. This involves reinterpreting traditional songs with modern musical arrangements or incorporating elements of popular music while retaining the core elements of Tuojiang Haozi. Such adaptations have revitalized the folk song and introduced it to new audiences who may have yet to be interested in traditional forms of music. However, this modernization strategy must be carefully balanced to preserve the innovation process's essence of Tuojiang Haozi.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

One of the key findings from the study is the central role of cultural literacy in maintaining the relevance and authenticity of Tuojiang Haozi. Consistent with the theories of cultural sustainability, the preservation of Tuojiang Haozi relies heavily on adaptive strategies that integrate traditional practices with contemporary contexts (Howard, 2016; Jing et al., 2021). The research findings demonstrate that while formal educational practices, such as incorporating Tuojiang Haozi into school curricula, have effectively fostered cultural and musical literacy, there remains a critical need for these educational practices to be supplemented by community engagement. This finding aligns with the theoretical principles that emphasize the importance of a holistic approach

to cultural preservation, where education and community initiatives work in tandem to sustain cultural traditions (Pu et al., 2023).

However, the study also highlights challenges inconsistent with more optimistic cultural sustainability perspectives. Despite efforts to integrate Tuojiang Haozi into formal education, the rapid modernization of society and the decline of traditional vocations have significantly reduced opportunities for younger generations to engage with this folk song meaningfully. This observation is consistent with Chabrowski's (2015) assertion that the erosion of traditional vocations disrupts the oral transmission processes vital for the continuity of cultural practices. The research shows that while modern educational frameworks are valuable, they can only partially replace the depth and richness of oral tradition, which has historically been the bedrock of Tuojiang Haozi's transmission (Chen, 2023).

Moreover, the findings reveal that community engagement remains a critical but underutilized component in preserving Tuojiang Haozi. While there have been some successful community-led initiatives, the study indicates that the overall participation of local communities in preservation efforts could be improved. This is consistent with the theoretical understanding that community involvement is essential to sustaining intangible cultural heritage (Lu & Qian, 2023). The lack of robust community participation suggests a need for more innovative and inclusive approaches that empower communities to take ownership of their cultural heritage.

The research also explores the role of digital technology as an innovative tool for preserving Tuojiang Haozi. The findings suggest that digital platforms have the potential to bridge the gap between traditional oral transmission methods and modern educational practices. This observation aligns with the theoretical principles of digital heritage preservation, which advocate using technology to enhance access to and engagement with cultural heritage (Jing et al., 2021). However, the study also cautions against over-reliance on digital media, as it may only partially capture traditional cultural practices' experiential and communal aspects.

This research aligns with existing theoretical frameworks that underscore the importance of cultural literacy, oral tradition, and community engagement in preserving intangible cultural heritage. Yet, it also critically evaluates these frameworks by highlighting their limitations in the context of rapid modernization. The study agrees with previous research that emphasizes the irreplaceable value of traditional methods in transmitting Tuojiang Haozi but argues for a more integrative approach that includes modern digital tools. This hybrid strategy is essential for addressing the decline in traditional vocations and engaging younger generations more effectively. While digital technology offers new opportunities for preservation, the author cautions that it should complement rather than replace the communal and experiential aspects inherent in Tuojiang Haozi's oral tradition.

In conclusion, this research has comprehensively analyzed the literacy preservation and transmission of Tuojiang Haozi in Sichuan Province, China. The findings confirm the

significance of cultural literacy, oral tradition, and community engagement in sustaining this traditional Chinese folk song. While integrating Tuojiang Haozi into formal education has successfully promoted musical and cultural literacy, the study highlights the persistent challenges posed by modernization and the decline of traditional vocations. The research emphasizes the need for a balanced approach that combines educational practices with community engagement and digital innovations to ensure the long-term sustainability of Tuojiang Haozi.

The study also contributes to the broader discourse on intangible cultural heritage preservation by demonstrating that while modern tools and strategies are essential, they must be carefully integrated with traditional methods to maintain folk traditions' authenticity and cultural relevance. The findings suggest that future preservation efforts should focus on fostering deeper community involvement and exploring innovative ways to engage younger generations in the transmission of Tuojiang Haozi.

The study suggests several areas for further research, including longitudinal studies on transmission practices, comparative analysis with other folk traditions, exploring digital technology's role in preserving intangible cultural heritage, exploring community engagement models, and examining the impact of modernization on cultural literacy. These areas aim to provide insights into the sustainability of preservation approaches, compare digital tools with traditional methods, and develop strategies that resonate with contemporary audiences while preserving traditional practices.

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