The Definition and Development of Ancient Chinese Culture

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Keywords: Ancient Chinese Literature, Culture, System.

Abstract. "Chinese culture" is a unique historical culture and academic research of a country, which has a wide meaning. The local culture and the culture of the 56 ethnic groups are all included in the scope of "Ancient Chinese Literature". Inheriting Chinese culture, we should uphold the concept of "great Chinese culture", grasp the essence of Chinese culture, and promote the traditional culture of the Chinese nation. The concept of "great Chinese culture" has a far-reaching significance, covering the traditional Chinese cultural concepts, representing the cultural and artistic characteristics of a nation.

Introduction

"Ancient Chinese Literature" generally refers to a country's inherent knowledge. In Chinese it refers to traditional Chinese culture and academic realm which considers Confucianism as the main body, including medicine, drama, painting, astrology, numerology etc. From the academic points, Ancient Chinese Literature can be divided into philosophy, history, religion, literature, customs study, textual criticism, ethics, versions, etc. In terms of ideology, Ancient Chinese Literature can be divided into pre-Qin Confucianism and the Confucianism, Taoist, Buddhism. Literature, art, sports, food, folk can be categories of Chinese traditional culture. From the traditional narrow sense, Chinese traditional culture mainly refers to the traditional ideology and culture on ideological level. It is also the most concentrated expression on the essence of Chinese culture. But with the development of the times, "Chinese culture" also has a deeper and broader cultural connotation. It includes not only its own native academic culture in the region, but also the foreign culture absorbed into the national culture system; not only the ancient traditional culture in time, but also the modern culture. If we have the correct view on the global and national character of Ancient Chinese Literature, there will be helpful to understand modern form of Ancient Chinese Literature, and to explore the contemporary value of Ancient Chinese Literature. [1]

The Development of the Concept of "Ancient Chinese Literature"

Etymologically, the word "Ancient Chinese Literature" refers to the schools. At the end of the Qing Dynasty, Ancient Chinese Literature Schools become the highest level of national school [2]. The concept of "Ancient Chinese Literature" originated from the period of cultural transformation when Western learning spreads to the East. It is maybe the so-called "Sinology"[3].

In ancient China, there was no "traditional Chinese culture". The concept was introduced from Japan in the late Qing Dynasty. At that time, Japan was during the Meiji Restoration, and pursued policy of "out of Asia into Europe's Westernization". It was caused by some conservative opposition because they think Yamato is a civilized nation, it has its own "Ancient Literature Search", so it needn't westernize. Subsequently, Huang Zunxian and Liang Qichao in Japan brought in this concept as a noun. It means Chinese knowledge in local China specifically. After the introduction of this term, it became a key word to discuss the culture in the twentieth Century, and full of strong ideological color. The modern concept of Chinese culture originated from the beginning of twentieth century[4]. However, the connotation and extension of "Ancient Chinese Literature" is always controversial, has not yet formed a clear definition.

Because of this, "Ancient Chinese Literature "in the day could contain everything that occurred
in the local China, it refers to China knowledge called "Ancient Chinese Literature Search". If dated from the Warring States, knowledge in more than 2500 years-history belongs to the category of "Ancient Chinese Literature".

In the history of China, "Han Yiwenzhi" is the first book to gather all the books and concoct a catalogue. All of the books are divided into six categories, the six parts constitute the predecessor of "Ancient Chinese Literature". They are six arts, scholars, poems, war books, divinatory, medical practice.

The "Six arts" is the "Six Classics", "Yi", "Shu", "Poetry", "Li", "Music", "Chun qiu". The "Yi" is the first study of the six arts, the knowledge of the six arts is called "Classics". There are ten schools: Confucianism, Taoism, yin and Yang, Legalism, masters, Mohist, strategists, author, farmer and novelist.

The poetry belongs to literature, war books belong to science of war craft, divinatory contains astronomy, calendar, divination. Medical practice mainly refers to the medical skill.

Wei Jin period, all the books are divided into four parts. In the Sui Dynasty and the Tang Dynasty, the four parts was identified as the Canon, History, Philosophy and Literature. As a foreign religion, Buddhism has evolved to Chinese Buddhism through absorption and transformation after the introduction, and become the organic part of Ancient Chinese Literature. So "Sui Shu Jing Ji Zhi" put the Buddhist books in the literature collection, the "new book of Tang-Yiwenzhi" put it in the philosophy.

In the Sui and Tang Dynasties, a subset of "Canon, History, Philosophy and Literature" become type classification.

To the Qing Dynasty, "Si Ku Quan Shu" was arranged according to this classification. "Four" is "Canon, History, Philosophy and Literature", also included some western books of Aleni, Nan Huairen, Limado.

From the "Yi Wen Zhi" in Han Dynasty to the "Si Ku Quan Shu" in Qing Dynasty, "Ancient Chinese Literature" had a wide range. With the evolution of the times, it has become an open system. So "Ancient Chinese Literature" is not equivalent to "classics" and "Confucianism", it can not be closed to exclusive schools.

The Connotation of "Ancient Chinese Literature"

In summary, the so-called "Ancient Chinese Literature" is a unique history and culture research of a country. Its meaning is very extensive, involving the ancient thought, philosophy, science, technology, history, geography, politics, economy and painting, music, medicine, astrology, architecture, etc.

Pre Qin is on behalf of "Ancient Chinese Literature", its theory has had a profound influence on the Chinese traditional culture, and formed Confucianism, Taoism, Legalism and Mohism, military thought, etc. These thoughts discuss how to do governance from different aspects, and they have far-reaching influence since ancient times. They form a Chinese traditional culture and represent the characteristics of culture and art of a nation. Today is the continuation of history, contemporary knowledge on "Ancient Chinese Literature" has practical value and significance[5].

Summary

In March 2009, Mr. Ji Xianlin in Beijing 301 Hospital put forward the concept of "great Chinese culture"—Chinese culture should have more widely scope, not in a narrow sense. The local culture and the culture of the 56 ethnic groups are all included in the scope of "Ancient Chinese Literature". Regional culture and national culture have different forms of expression, but they constitute the cultural community of Chinese culture. Ji Xianlin's "great Ancient Chinese Literature" theory is conducive to the Chinese ethnic integration and cultural integration, is conducive to the accumulation of 5000 years culture, is conducive to the cohesion of the Chinese nation culture, is conducive to the unity of the Chinese nation. Inheriting Chinese culture, we should uphold the concept of "great Chinese culture", grasp the essence of Chinese culture, and promote the traditional culture of the Chinese nation.
Acknowledgement
This research was financially supported by the Liaoning Social Science Planning Foundation “Standardization of Phonology Term” (L15EYY001).

References