

# Dynamism of Yi Ethnic Dance at Sichuan, China

<sup>1</sup>Canxiao Hao, <sup>2</sup>Ourarom Chantamala, <sup>\*3</sup>Sirimongkol Natayakul

<sup>1</sup>*Student of Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) Program in Performing Arts, Faculty of Fine - Applied Arts and Cultural Science, Mahasarakham University*

<sup>2</sup>*Faculty of Fine - Applied Arts and Cultural Science, Mahasarakham University*

<sup>3</sup>*Faculty of Fine - Applied Arts and Cultural Science, Mahasarakham University, [sirimongkol.n@msu.ac.th](mailto:sirimongkol.n@msu.ac.th)*

## Abstract

This qualitative research aims to: 1) Study the dance structure of Suni dance; 2) Study and analyzed the dynamism of Yi ethnic dance at Liangshan Sichuan, China. Research Methods, That is the information study of documents, field works. In this study, the population including; 40 key informants of Yi dance, 5 general informants of Yi dance, 20 key informants of Yi culture, 35 general informants of Yi culture and Sampling area by Yi minority villages for 10 areas at Liangshan Sichuan, China. Research conclusion by descriptived analysis.

The research reveals that found that the structure of Suni dance was divided into 3 points: 1) Dance movements; 2) Music and Songs; 3) Costume for dance. In addition, The dynamism of Yi ethnic dance at Liangshan Sichuan, China was effectively to 7 factors: 1) Traditional Activities; 2) Tourism; 3) Economy; 4) Education; 5) Art society of Sichuan; 6) Religious; 7) Art management.

**Keywords:** Yi minority, Yi ethnic dance, Suni dance, Dynamism.

## 1. Introduction

The traditional dances of the Yi minority in Liangshan, Sichuan, China are mainly divided into: "Festival dance", "Wedding dance", "Funeral dance", "Sacrificial dance", "Game dance", "Self-entertainment dance", "Simulated labor dance", etc. It has accumulated rich ideological heritage. The historical background, cultural characteristics, religious beliefs, social concepts, and moral concepts of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan are all latent in their national dances. The Yi people are good at expressing their feelings, imparting knowledge, expelling Sneaky, comforting the dead.

Judging from the book "Overview of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture", there was also court dance in Liangshan. "From the court of the Nanzhao Dynasty more than a thousand years ago to the Yi chieftains in subsequent

dynasties, there are such dances. Such as sacrificial dance, fan dance, peacock dance. Dance, snake dance, welcome dance, etc. This type of dance has many movements of waist twisting, hip swinging, arms and shoulders, and the costumes are more gorgeous. The dancers wear peacock feathers and pearl headdresses. The style is very similar to the dances of Myanmar and Thailand. However, it has not been circulated in Liangshan at present, so from the perspective of the dance forms of the Yi minority that have been handed down to the present, the dance of the Yi minority has been lost in the long river of history.

By comparing the current traditional dance of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan with the records in related literature, the study found that the traditional dance "Suni" dance of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China has been lost. Dance culture has not been effectively

protected and developed by relevant departments.

China, the full name of the "People's Republic of China", was established on October 1, 1949 and is located in eastern Asia. There are 34 provincial administrative regions in China. At the same time, China is also an ancient civilization. It has a long history and splendid culture. China is a unified multi-ethnic country composed of 56 ethnic groups, of which the Han ethnic group is the main ethnic group in China, and the other 55 ethnic groups are Chinese ethnic minorities. In the long process of historical development, various ethnic groups have formed a rich and splendid culture. Dedicated his wisdom to the inheritance and promotion of Chinese civilization.

Sichuan, or Sichuan for short, is located in southwest China and is one of China's 23 provinces. Sichuan Province is a place where many ethnic groups live, and there are three ethnic minority autonomous prefectures. The Yi people mainly live in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan, and there are other ethnic groups such as Tibetans, Mongolians, Huis, and Lisu peoples who live in Liangshan Prefecture.

The Liangshan Yi people have large, medium and small trousers (clothing: the bottom of the pants) due to the wide variety of Yi ethnic groups in different languages and regions. The regional language of the big trousers, "sunset" native language. The regional language of the middle trousers, the local language of "Shengzha", the regional language of the small trousers, and the local language of "Sodi", so that the dances in each place have their own characteristics and different forms of expression. The Liangshan Yi ethnic dance has a rich ideological background, and the social, religious, and moral concepts of the Liangshan Yi ethnicity are all implicit in their songs and dances. Liangshan Yi people are good at venting emotions, imparting knowledge, expelling ghosts, and comforting the dead by singing and dancing, so that singing and dancing can achieve contentment, unite the people, calm anxiety, and inspire fighting spirit.

Religious activities have a strong influence on the social life and ideological consciousness of the Yi people. The skin drum in their religious activities directly affects the life and production of the Yi people. Pi Drum, also known as "Sunique", is a transliteration of Yi, meaning witch dance. The Yi language "Su" means human, "Ni" generally refers to the movements of performing arts, and "Qi" generally refers to singing and dancing. Therefore, "Suniche" means "sing and dance to drive out demons and evil people". (Bu Yongguang, 2005, p.138)

The performer of Pi Drum Dance is called Suni-and because Suni dances the witch dance, he holds the Drum Drum, so it is also called "Pi Drum". The sacrificial dance of mankind has a long history, and the Liangshan Yi people's "Sunique" is no exception. The props for leather drums-sheepskin drums. The drum rim is made of bamboo; wild sheepskin is used to stretch the drum surface; the drum handle is made of wood. Generally, a sheep's head and a cow's head are engraved on the head of the drum.

There are two to three small copper bells attached to the belt; the drum contains a wild plant pit; the drumsticks are made of bamboo, and some are wrapped in sheepskin around the head and tail of the drumsticks; cowhide tendons are used as the ears of the drumsticks. The Pi Ding of Liangshan can be traced back to before the flood in Xishu. According to the records of "Muse East" in Yi language, Pi Drum Dance first originated in Shimengmengha (meaning from the heavens). A man named Siwu invented Pi Drum. (Wang Zizhong, 2012, p. 4)

Following the national reform and opening up in 1956, China's social economy has developed rapidly, making Liangshan's traffic situation better and better, allowing Liangshan Yi ethnic dance to smoothly exit the Liangshan area, creating a more or less relationship with the art and culture of other regions.

At the same time, the Liangshan Yi ethnic dance was greatly impacted by foreign cultural thoughts, and the original ethnic dance of the Yi ethnic group has undergone earth-shaking changes. During this period, we can clearly see

the changes in the ethnic dance of the Yi ethnic group in Liangshan.

Judging from the history of the original dance development of the Yi people, the "Suni" dance of the Yi people has an important influence on the development of the Yi nationality dance. Through its superb dance skills, the "Suni" convinces the Yi people that they are the incarnations of gods, thus making the Yi people The people's minds are deeply shackled by religion. However, with the rapid development of Chinese society, culture and economy, the Liangshan Yi people's "Suni" skin drum has been passed down to this day, and there are very few people who can master the essence of its dance.

The current Yi "Suni" Pi Drum Dance performers are seriously aging. Because the Yi "Suni" Pi Drum Dance is an exquisite primitive dance of the Yi minority, it needs unique qualities and can be well controlled after many years of hard work. The "Suni" dance of the Yi people is facing the severe challenges of this era. If we don't protect it, the "Suni" dance is likely to be lost in the torrent of history, and the world will lose a kind of intangible culture. National culture. It is also a major loss for China's national culture and art.

This research mainly focuses on the ethnic dances of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan since the national reform in 1956. The investigation is carried out in Liangshan Prefecture, Sichuan Province, where the Yi people live in China. The historical background, cultural characteristics, religious beliefs, and geographical distribution of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan are investigated. Learn about the types and development of primitive dances of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan. Focus on the Liangshan Yi ethnic dance as the survey object. In-depth understanding of the influence of the religious culture of the Yi people in Sichuan Liangshan on the original dance of the Yi people, and sort out the historical changes of the original dance of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan.

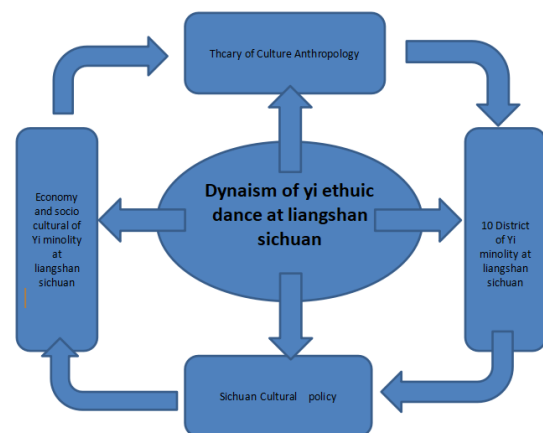
## 2. Objectives Of The Study

- 2.1 To study the dance structure of Suni dance.
- 2.2 To study and analyze the dynamism of Yi ethnic dance at Liangshan, Sichuan China.

## 3. Significance of this study

- 3.1 Help people discuss in depth the ethnic dances in different regions of China.
- 3.2 Sichuan Liangshan Yi ethnic dance has been inherited and protected in China.
- 3.3 Fully understand the dance culture, form and characteristics of different styles of Yi ethnic dance.
- 3.4 Enrich and perfect the theoretical research results of Chinese national art research, and provide artistic reference for China's modernization process

## 4. Conceptual of FrameWork



## 5. Definition of Terms

The traditional dance of the Yi minority in Liangshan, Sichuan, China is the most primitive traditional dance in the dance of the Yi minority in China. At the same time, due to the large-scale development of the cultural resources of the Yi minority in the Liangshan area of Sichuan, China, the local government is engaged in the construction of tourism economy in order to improve economic benefits. , the development of Yi minority

culture has been raised to a certain height. However, in the early stage of development, it was only blindly focusing on economic benefits, ignoring the protection of many traditional Yi minority cultures, so that some of them have historical and cultural value and research value. Art culture was severely damaged.

The traditional dance of the Yi ethnic group in Liangshan, Sichuan, China has undergone serious changes under the impact of foreign culture. The performers of the Yi "Suni" dance are aging. Due to the influence of foreign cultures on the younger generation, the old Yi minority who have this skill cannot find their own inheritors.

Therefore, this paper mainly studies the traditional dance of the Yi nationality in Liangshan, Sichuan, China.

### 5.1 Yi ethnic dance

The Liangshan Yi ethnic dance is a manifestation of the traditional culture of the Yi people in Liangshan. It includes the social living conditions, religious beliefs and moral concepts of the Yi people. It is an indispensable spiritual food in the life of the Yi people. It has enriched the national culture of the Yi people and played an important role in the history of the Yi people.

5.2 The "Suni" dance of the Yi minority is an indispensable religious activity dance in the life of the Yi people. In Liangshan, Sichuan, China, due to the influence of foreign cultural thoughts, the "Suni" dance of the Yi nationality has been lost.

However, we can still see the shadow of "Suni" dance in modern Yi minority men's dance. Through the efforts and changes of modern Chinese dancers, more people have learned about the "Suni" dance culture of Yi minority. It also makes more dance lovers have a strong interest in it, and it also allows more people to participate in the study of the Yi minority's "Suni" dance.

### 5.3 Suni Dance

"Suni Dance" is the main dance used by the Yi minority at Liangshan to perform sacrificial rituals. The sacrificial ritual activities have accompanied the entire history of the Yi people. In this way, it is not difficult to see the importance of "Suni Dance" in the lives of the Yi people. The performer of "Suni Dance" is called Suni-and because Suni dances the witch dance, he holds a leather drum, so it is also called "Pic Drum Dance". At the same time, "Suni" is also an important inheritor and disseminator of the traditional culture of the Yi minority.

### 5.4 Yi minority

The Yi minority is the sixth-ranked minority among the 56 ethnic groups in China, with a population of 9,830,327 in China. The Yi people belong to the alpine minority, and most of the places where they live are in the mountains.

There are many branches of the Yi minority, and there are many different names and self-pronouns in China. The main ones are "Yi", "Black Yi", "Bai Yi", "Red Yi" and so on. "Su" and "Nie Su", Guizhou calls itself "Nuosu", "Na", "Nuo" and so on.

The religious beliefs of the Yi people are basically at the stage of primitive religion. The main beliefs are nature worship, totem worship, and ancestor worship. The Yi people believe that all things have animism.

The Yi minority is a nation that pays equal attention to both civil and military affairs and pays attention to civility and courtesy. Between the old and the young, who is older and who is younger, who is older and who is younger, not only in terms of age, but also according to the age of the father's genealogy butterfly or the mother's genealogy butterfly, and don't make mistakes. In special public occasions, the seats should be arranged according to the number of generations, and elders are not allowed to speak first when they are present. The Yi people have a saying that "the guest is three hundred years old", and when a guest comes, he must give way to the top.

The Yi people have the characteristics of living in large dispersion and small settlements, so the residences of the Yi people in different places are different. However, most of the houses have a fire pit, and the fire does not go out all year round. In addition to being used for heating, lighting, stewing or baking food, it is also a center for gathering friends and guests. Do not step on the pot stone or tripod of the fire pond, and it is strictly forbidden to spit into the fire pond. Barbecue unclean things, and it is forbidden to expose your body beside the fire.

## 6. Methodology

This chapter includes an introduction to the research methods and how to conduct the research of this dissertation in order to find the results that answer the questions identified by the research objectives. The topics of this chapter are as follows:

### 6.1 Scope of research

#### 6.1.1 Research content

A) Research on the traditional dance of Yi nationality in Liangshan, Sichuan, China, including: traditional culture, living environment, main body of administrative area, cultural attributes, religious belief, and current situation.

B) A survey of the performance forms of the Sunipi drum dance of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China, including: the origin of the dance, the origin of the performers, dance forms, props and costumes, and the current development.

C) The investigation of the changes of the traditional dance of the Yi ethnic group in Liangshan, Sichuan, China, includes: the background, function, type division of the ethnic dance of the Yi ethnic group, the development status of the ethnic dance of the Yi ethnic group, and the performance style, etc., to investigate the spread and variation of the ethnic dance of the Yi ethnic group.

6.1.2 Research period: 2020-2022

6.1.2 Research period: 2020.12-2021.12

6.1.3 Research area: Sichuan Liangshan Chinese

### 6.2. Research methods

#### 6.2.1 Research tools

A) Collected documentaries data.

Collect relevant documents and find original ecological dance videos.

B) Indept-interviews

Visit the local inheritors of intangible cultural heritage and discuss with relevant personnel

C) Observation

Enter the local area to find the original Suni dance and observe the changes of Suni dance up close.

D) Questionnaire

Make related questions and randomly select people to investigate.

#### 6.2.2 Data collecting

The pilot study data collection was conducted in three phases, as shown below.

First stage. The researcher conducted a pre-test on 100 interviewees using interview methods, and conducted questionnaire analysis using questioning surveys and interviews. Suni Dancers 10 copies, Yi Music Teacher 5 copies, Yi Dance Teacher 5 copies, Yi History Teacher 5 copies, Professional Yi Dance 10 copies, Yi Cultural Research Center 5 copies, Liangshan Dancers Association 5 copies, Liangshan State Song and Dance Troupe 5 copies, Old Yi Artist 5 copies, Elderly people of Yi nationality 5 copies, Youth of Yi nationality (15-28 years old) 30 copies, Liangshan Prefecture Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee 10 copies. The result is 80 valid questionnaires. It shows that the questionnaire has high reliability and validity.

Second stage. The researchers collected 30 related documents, 15 about Yi dance, 10 Yi

culture, and 5 Yi religion. The result is 24 valid documents.

Third stage. Researchers collected 40 related videos, including 20 original Yi ethnic dances and 20 Yi modern dance videos. The result is 32 valid videos.

#### 6.2.3 Organizing and analyzing data

A) Analyze the development of the traditional dance of Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China according to a valid questionnaire.

B) Using the relevant videos and documents collected, make a detailed arrangement of the structure of the "Suni Dance" of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China.

C) Investigate the development status of "Suni Dance" through a questionnaire survey of "Suni Dance" practitioners of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China.

#### 6.2.4 Presentation of information

The researcher distributed questionnaires to 35 Yi elderly and young people to investigate their understanding of Yi traditional dance. Observing and interviewing 15 Yi teachers to learn about the cultural history, dance and music characteristics of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan. Discuss with 5 Yi culture researchers how the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan developed and evolved. Interviews with "sunni dancers" to understand the structure of "sunni dance".

## 7. Discussion

Yi dance is one of many dances in China, and it is also an indispensable part of Chinese folk dance culture. But with the passage of time, researchers found that the "Suni Dance" in the traditional dance of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China has been broken.

As a native Yi dance worker, the researcher does not want to see the traditional culture of his own nation slowly disappearing in the long river of history. Therefore, with the help of the tutor, he has carried out in-depth research on

the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China.

At the same time, it is hoped that the research in this paper will enable more people to understand the traditional dance of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan. It is also hoped that through this article, the traditional "Suni Dance" of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan can be better protected. Let the art and culture of this nation not appear in a state of loss. Let him get more research and protection from art workers.

Through the research of this paper, the researcher has a deeper understanding of the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China.

Compared with the Yi minority dances in other regions, the traditional dances of the Yi minority in Sichuan, China have few types, simple shapes and single movements. But it is also in these few dance types, simple dance forms and single dance movements that we can see that the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China, has accumulated a rich ideological heritage of the Yi people.

From the perspective of artistic development history, the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China is a very "quaint art and culture". Therefore, through the study of the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, the researcher believes that the traditional dance of the Yi people in China has the richness of the Yi people in a simple form. The cultural connotation of Yi people also has many social functions in the life of the Yi people.

The researcher collected relevant documents and conducted a questionnaire survey on the people related to the traditional dance of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China, and found that the main reasons for the variation and loss of the traditional dance of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China are the following reasons.

7.1 The changes in the social production relations of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China, accelerated the variation of the traditional dance of the Yi people in Liangshan.

7.2 The "assimilation" and "evolution" between foreign cultures and local traditional cultures has accelerated the disappearance of the traditional dance culture of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China.

7.3 The local dance related personnel focus on using the materials that existed in the early stage, and pay more attention to the combination of the original materials and foreign techniques. The rescue and excavation work of the traditional dance culture of the Yi ethnic group in Liangshan, Sichuan, China is not enough, resulting in some Liangshan, Sichuan, China. The traditional dance culture of the Yi minority has disappeared in the long river of history.

7.4 Due to the impact of foreign ideas, there are only a handful of old artists engaged in the "Suni Dance" of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China, and fewer and fewer young artists are willing to continue to inherit the "Suni Dance" of the Yi people.

After completing the above research, the researcher read Teacher Park Yongguang's "Research on the Traditional Dance of the Yi minority in Liangshan, Sichuan", and found that Teacher Park Yongguang's structure of the traditional dance of the Yi minority in Liangshan, Sichuan, China is mainly distinguished by the costumes of the Yi minority in Liangshan, Sichuan, China, and this paper It is mainly distinguished by the Yi language of Liangshan, Sichuan, China. In the researcher's investigation, it was found that the traditional dance of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China is mainly different from their language. Because the clothing of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China, there are three types of trousers (large, medium and small) with the characteristics of the Yi people. So ignore the distinction between its national languages. As far as the researcher's investigation knows, due to the difference between the four languages of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, there is a considerable gap between their clothing and living customs. The final conclusion of the traditional dance of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China, is

mainly based on a detailed investigation of their ethnicity.

Before the researcher's study, he didn't know much about the structure of the "Suni Dance" of the Yi people in Sichuan, China. Now the researcher, through research, has a preliminary understanding of the structure of the "Suni Dance" of the Yi people in Sichuan, China. It is hoped that in future research, the structure of the "Suni Dance" of the Yi people in Sichuan, China can be sorted out in detail. This living fossil can be better sorted and classified, and I hope it can play a certain role in future researchers.

## 8. Suggestion

Regarding the traditional dances of the Yi people in Sichuan, China, the researcher just wanted to talk about a few issues related to protection, and at the same time give some personal suggestions to the following researchers.

We all know that the traditional dance of the Yi minority has made great progress in economic, life and other aspects today, and there is a great possibility of being lost. Then, why is the traditional dance of the Yi minority lost? What is the significance of preserving the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China? How to take protective measures?

With the democratic reform of China in 1956, a large number of foreign ideas invaded. It has had a huge impact on the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China, and it is very likely that the younger generation of the Yi people will lose interest in the dance of their own nationality. Then, the traditional dance of the Yi people that has been passed down to this day may be lost. Because dance is an art and culture with people as the carrier. Once the old generation of Yi traditional dancers dies, the Yi traditional dance culture they retain will disappear.

Through the sorting and research of researchers, the following points can be roughly taken to protect the traditional dance of Yi people in Sichuan, China. (The following

protection measures are only the personal opinion of the researcher, the level is limited, and the wonderful theory is inevitable, please correct it)

Firstly, let it be passed on naturally. As we all know, the best way to preserve a nation's traditional culture is to pass it on naturally. Because of the needs of various aspects of the nation, it needs to be passed down from generation to generation. If there is too much human intervention, it will make the traditional culture of the nation mutate. Certain relaxations can be taken in policies, such as their ethnic religious beliefs, festivals, etc., so that the traditional dances of the Yi people in Sichuan, China can be naturally passed down.

Secondly, artificial protection, in the aspect of artificial protection, we should draw on the useful experience of preserving traditional culture from all over the world. For example, the state establishes institutions related to the preservation of traditional culture, etc., and each region can set up related departments and activities according to the folk customs of each region. To make some of the lost art culture survive in the artificial environment.

Thirdly, protect according to the law. It is well known that if the laws of a country are not perfect, various problems will arise, and this is still the case for the protection of art and culture. The Academy believes that traditional dance culture is just like unearthed cultural relics. Dance culture will die out step by step in the long river of history. Therefore, the protection of traditional dance culture is the same as the protection of unearthed cultural relics, and relevant laws and regulations are formulated. Let it have legal protection and call it a safe umbrella.

For the study of Sichuan traditional dance in China, the researcher suggested that the research should focus on the historical and cultural aspects of the Yi minority. Today, the traditional dance of the Yi minority in Sichuan in China has a precise relationship with the historical and cultural background of the Yi minority. It is a national art culture that has evolved in the development of history. In the

selection of literature, you can refer to the county annals of various regions in Liangshan, Sichuan, China. In its local county annals, a large number of materials related to the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China can be found. Field study, optional, Leibo County, Meigu County, Butuo County, Puge County, Sichuan, China. These four regions have strong traditional Yi culture and are also the most representative regions.

## 9. Conclusion

The "Suni Dance" of the Yi minority in Sichuan, China, is one of the most distinctive Yi traditional dances that have been passed down to the present. important influence. Therefore, the in-depth study of "Suni Dance" is of great significance to the traditional dance of the Yi minority in Sichuan, China, and at the same time, it can also allow the "Suni Dance" to be well preserved.

Through the above, we have learned that the "Suni Dance" has a long history, and its structure also has certain differences. "Suni Dance" is a religious dance of the Yi minority, and its structure mainly revolves around the religious beliefs of the Yi minority. Its function is also mainly to serve the religious beliefs of the Yi minority.

Since the development of "Suni Dance", there have been various dance performances such as men's dance, women's dance and group dance.

Researcher will explained the structure of suni dance bu yi minority at sichaun china by following:

### 9.1 Dance movements

Through investigation, the researcher found that the movements of the Yi Suni dance are basically the same. When dancing, they all sit cross-legged on the ground first. A drum in one hand and a drumstick in the other. Then slowly rotate up and move your feet back and forth around a central point. When the climax is reached, the actors will keep beating the sheepskin drum, and with the speed of the rhythm, they will rotate and beat clockwise or



left and right in place. The only difference is that men's suni dances are more powerful, and women's suni dances are weaker than men's suni dances.

## 9.2 Dance pattern

The researcher's investigation found that the Suni dance of the Yi minority was only seen in the past during funerals, illnesses, ancestor worship and other activities of the Yi nationality. Today's Suni dance is more used for commercial performances. The current local government attaches great importance to tourism. In order to allow tourists to better understand their local culture, Suni dance, as the representative culture of the local ethnic group, is often organized and organized. commercial performances.

## 9.3 Song/music

The songs of Suni dance are very distinctive, and they are mainly sung by the actors themselves. Suni dancers also sing scriptures from the religious culture of the Yi minority. And there is only one kind of music in the suni dance, that is, the music that is beaten by the sheepskin drum in the hands of the suni dancer. The rhythm of the music is fast and slow. The percussive music is like "Swish, swish, swish, swish, doo! Swish, swish, swish, swish, doo!"

## 9.4 Dancers

Suni dancers, also known as "Suni", have no specific age limit for Suni dancers. But now, most of the suni dancers we can see are older and young, and we rarely see them.

## 9.5 Clothing

The costumes of Suni dance are traditional costumes of the Yi minority. The materials are generally linen and cotton, and the styles are generally the same as those of the local people.

Research on the traditional dance culture of the Yi minority at Sichuan, China

With the stride of the times, Liangshan, Sichuan, China has achieved long-term development in all aspects, and at the same time, the "Suni Dance", a traditional Yi dance, has appeared and disappeared. Due to the

impact of today's foreign culture, the younger generation of Yi people has lost interest in the traditional culture of their nation. Among them, there is the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China, "Suni Dance". The older generation of "Suni dance" Yi artists are aging as a whole. Deterioration in all aspects of the body. If we do not protect and study the "Suni dance" of the Yi people now, maybe in the near future, with the passing away of the old generation of "Suni dance" artists, the "Suni dance", a folk dance fossil, will also be Then disappear.

The above is the current situation of the "Suni dance" of the Yi people in Sichuan, China.

A Study on Traditional Dance Culture of Yi minority in Sichuan, China

Every cultural form of every nation has its historical traditions, which are perfunctory after the baptism of time. At the same time, each culture must occur and develop in a certain ecological environment. In this article, we fully understand and study the traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China through Chinese Yi characters, food, lacquerware, festival activities, religious beliefs, etc. Based on the above, the researcher will conduct a detailed analysis of the dance culture of the Yi people in Sichuan, China.

The Yi language is an important cornerstone for the development of its traditional dance culture. The Yi language plays a key role in the development of traditional Yi dance culture. Most of the Yi traditional dance culture that can be understood today is from the records of the Yi language. With these written records, we can have a deeper understanding of the development and changes of Yi dance culture.

The traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China is closely related to its national festival culture. The traditional dance of the Yi minority can be seen in all festivals of the Yi minority. Therefore, it can be understood that without the appearance of the traditional festivals of the Yi nationality, the traditional dance of the Yi minority will not develop to this day.

At the same time, without the emergence of traditional dances of the Yi minority, the festival activities of the Yi minority will not be as influential as they are today.

According to the researcher of this paper, the embryonic form of Yi traditional dance is completely influenced by its ethnic and religious culture. It is also because of the influence of the religious culture of the Yi minority that the traditional dance culture of the Yi minority has developed to what it is today. Of course, through the traditional dance of the Yi people today, we can also see its expression of its national religious culture. It can be understood that without the religious culture of the Yi people in China, there is no traditional dance of the Yi people in China.

Therefore, the traditional dance culture of the Yi people in Sichuan, China, is the most representative culture of the Yi people, and it is also an indispensable cultural expression in the culture of the Yi people. Whether it is the past history of the Yi people, or the current situation. Researchers can see the shadow of Yi traditional dance. The researcher believes that the traditional dance culture of the Yi minority will continue to develop and continue in a better way.

The development and change of traditional dance in of Yi minority at Sichuan, China

After China's democratic reform in 1956, all aspects of Liangshan, Sichuan, China have undergone earth-shaking changes. The ideology of the Yi people has also undergone great changes. However, the traditional Yi ethnic culture still continues. It is in such an environment that Chinese Sichuan traditional dance develops and changes.

The development of traditional dance of Yi people in Sichuan, China From 2021 to 2022, the researcher learned that most of the traditional dances of the Yi people in Sichuan, China before 1956, are still circulating today. During the visit, the researcher saw dances in funeral activities, dances in religious activities, traditional self-entertainment dances and ancient dances. However, I also learned that some traditional dances of the Yi people, such

as religious dances and game dances, have begun to disappear. All in all, the dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China, has been passed down to the present and there are also gradual news.

From the perspective of Yi culture, the spread and loss of traditional Yi dances in Sichuan, China, are closely related to their national ideology and culture.

Of course, traditional Yi dances complement each other with their national festivals. Therefore, the traditional festival activities of the Yi minority are still going on, so the dances in them will be spread to a certain extent. The traditional dance of the Yi people in Sichuan, China is based on the traditional festival activities of the Yi people.

The above is the natural inheritance of Sichuan traditional dance in China. In addition, due to the creation and teaching needs of art and culture, some home dance workers have also learned and retained some traditional dance forms.

The Changes of Traditional Dance of Yi minority at Sichuan, China With the social and cultural changes of the Yi people in Liangshan, Sichuan, China, their traditional dances have also undergone tremendous changes. The first is the change in the state of natural transmission, and the second is the variation in the state of change.

Changes under natural transmission: After the democratic reform of China in 1956, the most obvious changes were reflected in the content of dance. There have been many praises of the Communist Party and the local government, expressing the people's liking for turning over to be the master. The content has also changed from deep and heavy to relaxed and cheerful.

Variation in the context of human modification: can be divided into three aspects

Firstly, due to the needs of the Yi people's life, professional dancers process the traditional Yi dances and organize them into new Yi self-entertainment dances. The most typical ones are the new "Da Ti Dance", "Yue Qin Dance" and so on.

Secondly, due to the needs of modern dance education, professional dancers process traditional Yi dances and organize them into teaching materials for training professional dancers. For example, Yi minority dance teaching materials "Yi folk dance basic training teaching materials" and so on.

Thirdly, due to the needs of economic tourism and culture, professional dancers use traditional dances as materials to process and create new dance works of the Yi minority. For example: "Happy long-winded" "Aran Niu" and so on.

## Reference

- [1] Sichuan Province Xide County Chronicle Compilation Committee. (1992). Xide County Annals. Sichuan: University of Electronic Science and Technology Press.
- [2] Che Ying. (1986). The Classification and Distribution of Liangshan Yi Folk Dances. Editorial Department of Integrated Chinese Ethnic Folk Dances: Research on Ethnic Folk Dances.
- [3] Sichuan Province Butuo County Chronicle Compilation Committee. (1993). Butuo County Annals. Beijing: China Building Materials Industry Press.
- [4] Compilation Committee of Ganluo County Annals of Sichuan Province. (1993). Ganluo County Annals. Chengdu: Sichuan People's Publishing House.
- [5] Xichang City Chronicle Compilation Committee, Sichuan Province. (1996). Xichang City Annals. Chengdu: Sichuan People's Publishing House.
- [6] Compilation Committee of Zhaojue County Annals of Sichuan Province. (1999). Zhaojue County Annals. Chengdu: Sichuan Dictionary Publishing House.
- [7] Grosse, translated by Cai Muhui. (1984). The Origin of Art. Beijing: Commercial Press.
- [8] Lei Rui and Shen Jaxiaozhen and Lighting, Liu Yi. (2017). Collection and Research of Liangshan Yi Dance Materials. Beijing: China Economic Press.
- [9] Profile Compilation Group of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture. (1985). Profile of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture. Chengdu: Sichuan Ethnic Publishing House.
- [10] Compilation Committee of Leibo County Annals of Sichuan Province. (1997). Leibo County Annals. Chengdu: Sichuan Ethnic Publishing House.