

## **Status of Cultural Consciousness for Nationalities of Shilin Autonomous in Yunnan Province of China**

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**Abstract:** *The ethnical culture is easy to be impacted by the foreign culture under the rapid development of information globalization in China. This paper took the people from Shilin Autonomous in Yunnan province as study subjective, and made a random survey of 252 people through the methods of questionnaire and interviews from 7 aspects as the following: cognitive consciousness of national culture, concerning consciousness of national culture, participating consciousness of national culture, behavior consciousness of national culture, protecting consciousness of national culture, inheriting consciousness of national culture, innovating consciousness of national culture and so on. Through the questionnaires and statistical analysis, the conclusion is the following: the national cultural consciousness of Yi people in Shilin Autonomous County is rather weak today in China, the most obvious aspects showed on the folk dancing, ethnic costumes, and festive culture. At last, this paper suggested that people should protect the national culture under the strong urbanization and economic development.*

**Keywords:** *Yunnan; ethnical culture; globalization; urbanization; market economy*

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### **I. Introduction**

#### **1.1 Locations of Shilin Autonomous country**

Shilin Autonomous Country (103 °N, 24 °E) located in the eastern of the Yunnan Province in China. It is a suburban county which belongs to the jurisdiction of Kunming. There are the Luxi County and Mile County of the Honghe Hani Autonomous County in its east and south, the north is Luliang County in Qujing City; the west and northwest is adjoining to Yiliang County. There are Nanning-Kunming railway, State Road 324, 326 transit, Kun Shi highways, Shi Ann highway, so the transportation is very convenient and accessible. It can be said that Shilin County is the important channels of immigration for the provinces of Guangxi, Guizhou, Guangdong enter into Yunnan province, as well as it is the important portal for the Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries into Kunming of China.

#### **1.2 Climate**

Shilin belong to the subtropical latitude plateau monsoon, and the average hours of annual sunshine is 2079.2 hours, annual average rainfall is 952.5 mm, the condition of light, heat, water are better than other place in China. So Shilin County has the characteristics of “season is like spring which the winter is no cold and the summer is cool”.

#### **1.3 Landforms**

There are highland hills, low mountains, depressions, basins, stone mound, stone forest, stone shoots wilderness, and caves, lakes, valleys in Shilin Autonomous County, of which the mountain is account for 69% of the total area, hills is 15.2%, 14.7% is the dam area, the valley is only account for 1.1%. So the total terrain is gentle undulating, and it step down from northeast to southwest gradually.

#### **1.4 Overview of national culture**

Shilin Yi Autonomous County is mainly dominated in the ethnic Yi who are account for about 97% of the total population. There are ethnics of Sani, black Yi, white Yi, Yi pro, A fine, Ah Yi son. Ethnic Yi has a long history and ancient culture in Chinese ethnic minorities, and the total population is no less than ethnics of Zhuang, Manchu, Hui, and Uygur which ranked the fifth of the ethnics in China. The amazing scenery and vast fertile land nurtured Yi people generation by generation, but also gave birth to the Yi people rich history and colorful ethnical cultures. <sup>[1]</sup>

Ethnic Yi has its own language, there are six kinds of tongues; and it also has its own calendar; music and dancing. The traditional arts and crafts like embroidery, silver, sculpture, painting are all rich in national characteristics. In the ethnic Yi Autonomous, the most solemn festival is the Torch, Torch Festival usually hold

in Lunar June 25<sup>th</sup>, in the night, people point the torch, dancing and singing around the blazing burning fire. In 2006, Shilin County declared "Ashima" which was selected the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage, and the serial number is 28.

### 1.5 Problems of ethnic cultural heritage

The ethnical culture is easy to be impacted by the foreign culture under the rapid development of information globalization, market economy and urbanization.<sup>[2] [3]</sup> The rise of industrialization and tourism in Shilin Autonomous has advantages and disadvantages, it not only bring the opportunities of innovation and the development of ethnical culture, but also affect the lives of ethnic Yi people, the culture is changing constantly.

## II. Evaluation of National cultural consciences

### 2.1 Purpose of the investigation and evaluation

The purpose of evaluation of national cultural consciences is that it will provide a scientific basis for the national cultural heritage and development through understanding the present levels of Yi ethnic cultural consciousness in the Shilin County.

### 2.2 survey subjects

The survey subjects are the ethnic Yi people from seven major towns in Shilin County; they are Lufu Town, Shilin Town, Banqiao Town, Changhu Town, Gui Town, Xi Jiekou Town and Dahe Country. 225 people were surveyed randomly who were from those seven towns with different levels and different ages. At last, there were 206 valid questionnaires, so the effective rate of recovery is 91.56% (see Table 1). Meanwhile, some ethnic Yi people were interviewed during the investigation.

Table 1 Information of survey objects

Site	Numbers	age	Educational level	profession
Lufu Town	33	7~79	primary/junior /illiteracy	student/freelancer/farmer
Shilin Town	32	8~65	primary/junior/undergraduate	worker/ farmer / teacher
Banqiao Town	32	7~80	undergraduate/illiteracy	student / teacher / farmer
Changhu Town	32	9~85	primary/undergraduate	student / freelancer / teacher
Guishan Town	32	7~65	primary/junior/undergraduate	student / worker / farmer / teacher
Xi Jiekou Town	32	9~81	primary/junior/illiteracy	teacher
Dahe Town	32	8~55	primary/junior/undergraduate	student / freelancer / farmer / worker / farmer / teacher

### 2.3 Survey Methodology

The survey mainly used questionnaires and interviews; the investigation time was in November 2012 --- November 2013. And the survey in the seven towns sites were focused on the following: □ school survey: the subjects were students and teachers, investigators hand out the questionnaires to the people with the issuance of school, and made a survey interviews to some subjects; □ community survey: the subjects are random investigators, distributed questionnaires to them and face-to-fill, if subjects were uneducated, he would quiz and fill the questionnaires.

#### 2.3.1 Questionnaire Designing

There are 2 parts in the Questionnaire designing, the first part is the basic personal information, including the site where responders belong to, gender, age, educational level and occupational range. The second part is the survey of national cultural consciousness(Sc1), including cognitive consciousness of ethnical culture(Sc2), national culture concerned consciousness(Sc3), sense of participation of ethnical culture(Sp1), ethnical consciousness of cultural behavior(Sb), ethnic and cultural protection consciousness(Sp2), consciousness of ethnic cultural heritage(Sh) and ethnical culture of innovation(Si).

#### 2.3.2 Tools of the Statistical Analysis

There are two main tools of statistics, one is EXCEL2000 statistic, another statistic is VISUL FOXPR06.0, which the results are summarized by them.

### 2.4 Indicators of Evaluation System

#### 2.4.1 Establishment of Indicators

The establishment of evaluation index system is the result which consulted with the research experts who

are from the Key Laboratory of Educational Information for Nationalities, Ministry of Education, China (Yunnan Normal University). The level of national culture consciousnesses is characterized by a comprehensive evaluation, including seven first level indicators, namely cognitive consciousness of national culture(NCC1), concerning consciousness of national culture(NCC2), participating consciousness of national culture(NCP1), behavior consciousness of national culture(NCB), protecting consciousness of national culture(NCP2), inheriting consciousness of national culture(NCI1), innovating consciousness of national culture(NCI2). (See Table 2). And every first index has an associated with the secondary index, as well as the second index was characterized by the third index, and the third index is the specific topics which has concrete scores.

**2.4.2 Determination of weight coefficient**

The DELPHI method was adopted by this paper which determines the weights coefficient. There were 25 relevant experts who were from Yunnan Normal University and Yunnan University, they would give the scores, and the average statistical score were finally reached. And the first level weights, the secondary level weights were all got at last, (see Table 2), the third weights was dialed with according to the average score.

**Table 2 Indicators and weights of NCC in Shilin Yi autonomous (NC= National Culture)**

Comprehensive index	First level index and weights		Second level index and weights	
	indexes	weights	indexes	weights
Comprehensive national cultural consciousness	NCC1	0.1541	①common sense of understanding NC	0.5541
	NCC2	0.1334	②degree of mastering NC	0.4459
	NCP1	0.1982	①development of concerning NC	0.5238
	NCB	0.2691	②education of concerning NC	0.4762
			①activity of participating NC	0.5012
	NCP2	0.1132	②propaganda of participating NC	0.4998
			①habit of NC	0.4678
	NCI1	0.1312	②behavior of NC	0.5322
			①common sense of protecting NC	0.4190
	NCI2	0.1008	②policy of protecting NC	0.5810
			①education of inheriting NC	0.3749
			②ability of inheriting NC	0.6251
			①concept of innovating NC	0.6137
			②ability of innovating NC	0.3863

**2.4.3 Method of Calculating Evaluation**

The method of calculating evaluation is based on every specific topic in the third indicators, which give four different scores of 0, 5, 10, and 15.

Comprehensive indicator scores, first level indicator, secondary level indicator were obtained by the following formula:

$$S = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^n A_i \cdot W_i$$

In the above equation, S the average score of every level indicator, n is the number of next level, A<sub>i</sub> is the value of every level index, W<sub>i</sub> is the value of every level weight, m is the valid number of the questionnaire. For example, S<sub>NCI1</sub> includes two secondary level indexes and six third level indicators, so the specific practices are as follows:

$$S_{NCI1} = \frac{1}{m} [(S1 + S2 + S3) \times 0.3749 + (S4 + S5 + S6) \times 0.6251] \times 0.1312$$

In this equation, S<sub>NCI1</sub> is the total scores of national cultural heritage consciousness in some one town of the Shilin County, m is the total number of valid samples, S is the score of the third level index, and (S1 + S2 + S3) × 0.3749 is the calculation process on the education of inheriting NC in the second indicators; (S4 + S5 + S6) × 0.6251 is the calculation process on the ability of inheriting NC in the second indicator.

The seven first level indicators were calculated through the above calculation; therefore, the total score of  $S_{NCC}$  can be got through the following formula:

$$S = \left( \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^n A_i \bullet W_i \right) \bullet W_i$$

即:  $S_{NCC} = S_{NCC1} \times 0.1541 + S_{NCC2} \times 0.1334 + S_{NCP1} \times 0.1982 + S_{NCB} \times 0.2691 + S_{NCP2} \times 0.1132 + S_{NCI1} \times 0.1312 + S_{NCI2} \times 0.1008$

Based on the above analysis, the total scores of every level index will be reached, specifically shown in Table 3.

**Table3 the total scores of the first and secondary level (T=theoretical A=actual)**

Comprehensive index	First level index			Secondary level index		
	Index	T' score	A' score	index	T' score	A' score
Comprehensive national cultural consciousness	NCC1	0.1541	0.0836	①common sense of understanding NC	0.5541	0.4231
				②degree of mastering NC	0.4459	0.2691
	NCC2	0.1334	0.1069	①development of concerning NC	0.5328	0.3719
				②education of concerning NC	0.4762	0.3927
	NCP1	0.1982	0.1098	①activity of participating NC	0.5012	0.4194
				②propaganda of participating NC	0.4998	0.4479
	NCB	0.2691	0.1285	①habit of NC	0.4678	0.3741
				②behavior of NC	0.5322	0.3701
	NCP2	0.1132	0.1117	①common sense of protecting NC	0.4190	0.4610
				②policy of protecting NC	0.5810	0.3379
	NCI1	0.1312	0.1148	①education of inheriting NC	0.3749	0.2690
				②ability of inheriting NC	0.6251	0.4183
NCI2	0.1008	0.0941	①concept of innovating NC	0.6137	0.5709	
			②ability of innovating NC	0.3863	0.2180	

### 2.5 Statistical analysis

It can be seen that the national culture consciousness of Yi people is not high in Shilin Autonomous County after statistical analysis, in the Table 3, all the actual value is lower than the theoretical weight values in the survey, especially the reorganization of the ethnic cultural knowledge and mastery is lower and lower among the younger generation, so this paper will analysis from 4 obvious aspects as the following: ①languages ②folk dancing ③costumes culture ④cultural festivals.

#### ① Languages

In the table 3, it can be seen that the score is relatively large between theoretical value and the actual value NCC2 and NCB, in which the theoretical scores is less 0.1406 than the actual weight value of NCB The most obvious was embodied in the language use. Most respondents are no longer speak the Yi language in the 7 major towns, of which over the age of 60 Yi people speak Yi language accounted for 59.6%, the group between 50-year-old 30-year-old age are mainly speak Chinese which account for 30.2%, and the young people of 25 years old speak Yi language in "Chinese", the frequency only account for 11.2%, so it can be said that it is a decreasing trend along with the age is less, the younger the people are, the Yi language they speak less in the everyday use. The phenomenon of "Chinese" is a precursor to shake the foundation of the Yi culture which explains that the Yi language and culture has been endangered.

As for the writing, there are few people who can write Yi language through the survey, only a few elderly or older Yi people can be able to recognize and copy from the native text. With the expansion of foreign exchange and the popularity of Chinese Han culture, the Yi people especially the younger people do not like to study these incomprehensible texts which have passed down from ancestors. The survey showed that the rate of people who thought that learning these words have no practical accounted for 85.32% of the total, and people thought it does not matter accounted for 11.23%, only 3.45% of people believe it is useful.

#### ② Folk dancing

Yi people are good at singing and dancing in Shilin Yi Autonomous, the Yi folk song and dancing are the essence of Yi culture, which convey the daily living conditions of the Yi people vividly. In the table 3, like the above said, the actual value is also lower than the theoretical weight in the NCI1 and NCP1, especially presented on the question of folk songs and dancing culture. As for the master of songs and dancing, the survey statistics showed that it has a higher proportion of 62.19% among the elderly people over the age of 55, which singing and dancing have become a "patent" for the older age groups; the youth group who saw the dancing and

singing as the "antique" now. According to the statistics, young Yi people can singing and dancing among the age 20 to 55 years old only account for 18.27%; the reason why it happened like this is that these young men went out to work or study, and they have a close contact with the foreign world, so the way of life and the environment have changed, so that the ability of singing and dancing gradually disappears. Along with the old folk artists have passed away, the heritage of making musical instruments is also threatened.

#### ③ Costumes culture

In the table 3, It can be seen that Yi people has some improvement in the national culture of innovation while it has somewhat distorted because of the differences between the theoretical value and the actual value weights in the NCB and NCI2. especially it embodied in the traditional costumes of the Yi people, Yi traditional clothing has been kept the history for thousands of years, but people enter the complete openness of the living environment from the late 1980s and early 1990s, each ethnical people has an exchange gradually. The clothing exchanged along with the external contact occurs, which resulted in the absorption of outside culture, Yi people began to change clothes quickly, most of the Yi people have generally accepted Han Chinese clothing styles, especially men's clothing, suits and the modern equipment mainly occupied men's daily life which accounted for 87.2% among the young men, Yi people in the age of 25 thought it needs to wear traditional costumes only accounted for 10.2% , 11.9% people thought it does not matter, most people thought that festival clothing should wear in the festival which account 77.9 % . The survey found that the declining of the ethnic costumes and cultural has two main reasons, one is the aesthetic ideas of the people has changed, and the clothing which machine produced have come into modern life, on the other hand, it needs a lot of manpower, material resources to make traditional folk costumes which is not keep up with the times.

#### ④ Cultural festivals

It can be concluded that the traditional festival of Yi people is also undergoing a gradual alienation from the third indexes of NCB and NCC2 in Shilin County. For example, there are a few specific topics in third level indicators asked: "Do you think the traditional cultural festivals should cut off some taboos or procedure?" the answers were that it should be accounted for 69.8% and the people thought it should not be accounted for 21.7% , and "it does not matter" was account for 8.5%, there are many taboos and procedures in the traditional festival activities, along with the foreign exchange, Yi people began to change ideas, and a lot of taboos and cumbersome procedures have been streamlined, followed by the loss of festive cultural connotation and the alienation of honest folk.

### III. Conclusion

Because of the development of history, geography and the condition of natural history, Yi traditional culture presented different characteristics in the process of development which the different is an objective existence. It reflected in different cultural of Yi customs, religion, ethics and aesthetics.

In recent years, Yi people especially the government began to attach importance to the ethnic cultural development along with the rapid development of the national culture tourism, but it is not optimistic for ethnic cultural consciousness of Yi people, which showed a gradual decay. Particularly the NCC2 and NCI1 are weak, NCP1 and NCP2 is relatively good, NCC1 and NCB need to be improved. In the development of national cultural tourism is a two-side sword, it not only develop the national culture industries, at the same time, it also affect the culture of Yi people, so it has an important significant to raise the consciousness of the Yi people.

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