

Research on Traditional Narrative and Modern Expression of Historical Culture

Lesheng Zheng¹ Fenghua Kang²

¹ Xinglong Town Second Junior High School in Zaoyang City, Xiangyang, Hubei 441218, China

² Wuhan Business and Trade Vocational College, Wuhan, Hubei 430205, China

ABSTRACT

This article provides an overview of the concepts, characteristics, and issues of traditional narrative. By analyzing and comparing traditional narrative and modern forms of expression, it reveals the relationship between traditional narrative and modern forms of expression, and points out the evolution and influence of modern forms of expression on traditional narrative. On this basis, the article combines modern technology and art forms to summarize various practical ways of traditional narrative in modern expression. These practical methods inject new vitality and vitality into traditional narratives, and also provide a more comprehensive and in-depth perspective for understanding and understanding historical culture.

Keywords: *History and culture, Traditional narrative, Modern expression.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Historical culture is the soul of a country or region, rooted in the history and traditions of a nation, carrying rich cultural connotations and spiritual values. Traditional narrative is an important form of historical and cultural inheritance. The traditional narrative of historical culture is not only beneficial for the enrichment and inheritance of historical culture, but also facilitates the exchange and mutual learning of different cultures. With the rapid development of society and changes in people's lifestyles, the way modern people express history and culture has also undergone changes. How to continue the historical context and promote cultural innovation has become a focus of attention. This article aims to explore the combination of traditional narrative and modern expression, in order to better inherit and develop historical and cultural heritage.

2. OVERVIEW OF TRADITIONAL NARRATIVE

Traditional narrative, as a way of inheriting historical and cultural heritage, carries rich historical and cultural connotations. Traditional narrative can be conveyed through oral narration,

written literature, or other artistic forms, and is a long-standing and widely accepted form of narrative.

Traditional narrative usually revolves around the plot, often accompanied by symbolism and symbolism, carrying the values, beliefs, and traditions of specific cultures, ethnic groups, or social groups. It plays an important role in maintaining cultural identity, constructing and strengthening the sense of identity of social groups, and promoting social cohesion and stability. For example, values in historical culture, such as courage, justice, loyalty, etc., are passed down through traditional narrative forms, providing codes of conduct and moral norms for society. Some narrative works are expressed in forms such as literature, music, and dance, enriching cultural creativity and becoming important windows for future generations to understand history and culture.

Traditional narrative has its own inherited spiritual identity, unique ways of expression, lifestyle habits, and cultural heritage, and is also linked to the historical and cultural context of this place. It is a record of local nostalgia and nostalgia. For example, Jingzhi He's poem of the famous poet "Drinking old wine with a cup of rice wine, intoxicating the local accent and listening to the willow tune" has become a way of life by "stepping

on two feet of mud, eating dried sweet potatoes, and listening to the willow tune play" on rural roads. Traditional narrative content is rich, with a wide range of themes, depicting people's customs and habits, folk stories and legends, advocating for upward goodness, beautiful emotions, etc. Due to the close relationship between the origin and development of historical culture and folk culture, and the absorption of rural life's local customs, proverbs, and other life materials in the development process, it is close to people's daily aesthetic concepts, value identification, revealing the local people's way of life Personality traits and customs.

3. THE CURRENT PROBLEMS FACED BY TRADITIONAL NARRATIVE

With the rapid development of technology and the diversification of media forms, the era of integrated media has arrived. It means the integration of traditional media and new media, and also puts forward new requirements for the inheritance and dissemination of historical and cultural heritage. The inheritance of historical and cultural heritage needs to find a balance and breakthrough between tradition and modernity.

3.1 The Singularity of Narrative Methods

Traditional narrative often relies mainly on oral narration and written records, tending to use local languages, customs, and cultural elements. Participants often have a certain understanding and empathy for historical and cultural events. However, due to limitations in its dissemination methods, traditional narrative is often limited to specific groups and cannot be widely disseminated. In addition, some narrators use slogan style character descriptions and empty and bold language when telling stories of historical figures, which makes the audience unable to feel the true emotions of historical figures and cannot generate emotional resonance. The typical image of historical culture is the artistic creation and processing of historical culture. Essentially, it is the sublimation and spiritual condensation of people and human society as objects. Once it leaves the pursuit of scientific thinking, profound humanistic care, and reasonable moral judgment, the historical and cultural image loses its vitality and existence value.[1]

3.2 Lack of Innovation

Traditional narrative often overemphasizes the original appearance of historical events in their inheritance, lacking attempts at modern interpretation and innovation of historical events. In the context of rapid social transformation, fast-paced forms of expression are more easily admired and loved, which makes traditional narrative difficult to resonate with contemporary people, especially young people. Traditional narrative methods, due to a lack of innovation, have failed to produce breakthrough content and form, fail to form a strong infectious effect on the audience, and are also prone to creating blurred images in the audience's minds. Therefore, traditional narrative needs to be presented to the audience in a more vivid and diverse way. It is understood that in the context of the continuous emergence of popular elements today, some people's dissemination of local history and culture may feel a bit outdated, which has also prompted many young people who pursue novelty to stay away from it. In addition, due to its strong dialect flavor, people in other regions may not understand it, which also makes the local history and culture reside in the place for a long time and unable to go out of it.

3.3 The Scarcity of Inheriting Talents

The inheritance of traditional narrative mainly relies on the oral and personal teachings of the inheritors, but with the acceleration of social changes and modernization, many inheritors are old and lack suitable successors. This may lead to the risk of traditional narratives being lost. The inheritance of historical and cultural heritage also requires communication talents who supplement professional knowledge and skills. Currently, there is a relative lack of relevant talents in traditional narrative. This leads to poor effectiveness of traditional narrative in the dissemination of historical and cultural information, making it difficult to meet the public's demand for historical and cultural information. Some traditional narratives of historical and cultural traditions are mainly cultivated through government departments or social organizations, which can only be a measure of rights and interests for some regions, and their long-term effectiveness is not outstanding.

3.4 Lack of Cross-cultural Communication

With the advancement of technology and the rise of new media, traditional narrative methods are

undergoing unprecedented changes. Modern expressions such as modern media, digital art, virtual reality, and digital games interpret history and culture in novel ways. The diversity of modern forms of expression provides a new stage for traditional narrative, while also having a profound impact on it.

4. MULTIMEDIA AND INTERACTIVITY

With the advancement of technology and the rise of new media, traditional narrative methods are undergoing unprecedented changes. Modern expressions such as modern media, digital art, virtual reality, and digital games interpret history and culture in novel ways. The diversity of modern forms of expression provides a new stage for traditional narrative, while also having a profound impact on it.

4.1 Multimedia and Interactivity

Traditional narrative forms of text and narration often provide detailed historical details and emotional descriptions, allowing readers or listeners to imagine historical scenes on their own, thereby gaining a deeper understanding of historical events and characters. The rise of multimedia technology has brought more dimensions and interactivity to traditional storytelling. Modern expression often combines images, sound, animation, and video, multimedia technology, and the intersection of various art forms to restore historical scenes and character images, interpret the social, customs, and cultural landscape of the time, break the traditional linear narrative model, and make the story more realistic and immersive. The audience is no longer just a passive receiver, but can actively participate and influence the progress of the story. For example, in electronic games, players can influence the direction of the story by choosing different paths and characters, and this interactivity brings a new experience to traditional storytelling.

4.2 Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality

The development of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technology has brought new forms of expression to traditional storytelling. Through these technologies, creators can immerse the audience in a completely virtual environment, creating a sense of immersion and making the story more vivid and authentic. Meanwhile, augmented

reality can also bring unexpected creative presentations to traditional storytelling by integrating virtual elements into the real world. For example, during museum visits, through augmented reality technology, viewers can see virtual images of historical figures or replicas of objects that do not exist in reality, thus obtaining a richer visiting experience. The modern expression of historical culture is not only to preserve and inherit culture, but also to make history more vivid and interesting, and to connect with contemporary society, as well as to stimulate people's interest and understanding of historical culture.

4.3 Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence

The advancement of algorithms and artificial intelligence (AI) has brought new possibilities to traditional storytelling. AI can be used to create, recommend, and personalize traditional narrative content. For example, AI can automatically generate new stories or artworks by learning from a large amount of text or images. In addition, AI can also be used to analyze audience behavior and feedback, so that creators can better adjust and improve their works. This adaptive and personalized creative approach has pushed traditional storytelling to new heights.

4.4 Distributed Narrative

Driven by the Internet, distributed storytelling is gradually emerging. This narrative style disperses story elements across multiple platforms, media, or locations, allowing the audience to freely choose the way and degree of participation according to their preferences and time. For example, a novel can be divided into multiple chapters and distributed on different online platforms, allowing readers to read each chapter according to their own time. This narrative style gives the audience more initiative and choice, while also providing creators with more diverse ways of expression and broader innovation space.

4.5 Audience Participation and Feedback

Compared with traditional narrative, modern expression methods use elements such as images, sound, and interaction to vividly and intuitively present historical and cultural elements, which can easily move the audience's emotions, activate their participation, and enable them to have a deeper understanding of historical and cultural elements. At the same time, modern forms of expression

focus on the needs and experiences of the audience, which has greatly changed the narrative style and audience, injecting new vitality into traditional storytelling. The audience can also perceive and understand historical and cultural aspects in a more diverse way.

With the popularization of social media and online platforms, the voice of the audience is increasingly valued. Viewers can participate in the creative process through comments, likes, sharing, and other means, and provide feedback and suggestions on the work. This interaction not only enhances the audience's sense of participation and stickiness, but also provides valuable feedback for creators. Creators can adjust their creative direction and strategies based on audience feedback, making their works more in line with market demand and audience taste.

5. PRACTICE AND INNOVATION OF TRADITIONAL NARRATIVE IN MODERN EXPRESSION

In modern society, how to use modern technological means to recreate traditional narratives and make them more in line with contemporary society and people's aesthetic needs has become a beneficial exploration direction. This requires the combination of traditional narrative and modern expression, fully leveraging the advantages of both in order to better continue historical culture.

5.1 Integration of Multiculturalism

Globalization has brought about exchanges and integration between different historical cultures. Chinese historical stories can incorporate Western film special effects and sound effects, or Western stories can combine Eastern aesthetic elements and values to form a cross-cultural expression. Through dialogue and communication, different subject cultures can blend with each other and adhere to their own cultural uniqueness, or generate new cultures after blending with "other" cultures; At the same time, intercultural communication has dynamism, and the fusion of cultures will produce new characteristics as time changes. [2] The integration of multiculturalism also presents traditional narratives with more diverse perspectives and voices. Integrating rich philosophical methods, values, wisdom in handling affairs, and other cultural elements contained in historical culture to create new narrative forms can

better meet the requirements of the times, meet the spiritual needs of people in today's society, and bring more possibilities for the inheritance of historical culture. This fusion is no longer the presentation of a single culture and values, but rather the collision and integration of ideas and concepts from different cultural backgrounds, promoting understanding and respect between different cultures, and making historical and cultural expressions more rich and three-dimensional in modern expression.

With the development of multimedia technology, cross media narrative has gradually become a way of traditional narrative innovation. By combining traditional narrative with different media forms, the presentation will be more expressive and immersive. For example, adapting literary works into film and television works, or adapting musicals into animated films, are both concrete practices of cross media narrative. Such integration can deepen people's understanding of historical culture, while also preserving and inheriting traditional cultural characteristics. In addition, by combining different forms of expression such as literature, film and television, music, and art, create multi-level and multi angle historical and cultural expressions. For example, historical scenes can be presented through film and television works, and the inner world of historical figures can be deeply explored through literary works, as well as the emotions and atmosphere of the historical era can be conveyed to the audience through music and art.

5.2 Application of Modern Media

By utilizing modern technological means and digitizing the preservation and dissemination of traditional narrative methods, the scope of their dissemination can be expanded, allowing more people to understand and appreciate historical culture. Attention should be paid to the mutual promotion between narrative style and content. A successful communication strategy should fully leverage the complementary advantages between modern communication technology and traditional cultural elements, forming an organic whole. In the process of dissemination, attention should be paid not only to the innovation of narrative technology, but also to the richness and depth of content, in order to achieve the best dissemination effect. [3] For example, some places vigorously explore cross-border cooperation with social forces, promote the construction of integrated media platforms, expand

communication channels, and allow audiences to log in to the interconnected "cloud platform" to exhibit the "cloud exhibitions" of various museums. [4] Some places adopt modern exhibition methods such as interactive and immersive, combining historical culture with modern technology to enhance audience participation and experience. For example, some museums use virtual reality technology to recreate historical scenes, allowing audiences to experience the charm of historical culture firsthand.

Narrative forms that used to rely mainly on text, such as novels and traditional poetry, may now appear in more diverse ways, such as e-books, a combination of narrative non-fiction and fiction, and micro novels based on social media platforms. In addition, traditional narrative has been redefined and enriched through cross genre and experimental writing. Traditional narratives often have their own specific structures and methods, but in modern expression, historical stories can be presented by changing the narrative structure, using non-linear narratives or multiple perspectives. This innovation provides new perspectives, challenges the audience's inherent expectations of the story, or explores multiple possibilities and interpretations of narrative.

5.3 Development of Creative Industries

Only by deeply understanding the essence and characteristics of historical culture can we find a suitable position in the modern creative industry. Integrating historical culture with creative industries requires a deep understanding of historical culture, including its background, characteristics, value, and influence, in order to identify its modern significance and value, as well as its connection with modern society. The modern examination of history and culture, as well as the metaphor of modern social relationships, are all present in it. Historical dramas should not simply narrate history, but should also form a kind of isomorphism and co construction with the current social spirit, and have a certain reference and reflection effect on today's society [4]. This involves the association between historical events or characters and modern social issues, or the inspiration of historical culture to modern people, making modern narrative more contemporary, closer to contemporary audiences, and stimulating their interest in history. On this basis, develop historical and cultural products with modern elements, such as cultural creative products,

historical and cultural film and television works, etc. For example, some regions promote local economic development and cultural inheritance by developing cultural and creative products with local characteristics. By constructing a historical and cultural theme park, we combine historical and cultural elements with modern tourism to provide visitors with an immersive historical and cultural experience.

5.4 Communication on Social Media

Social media is not only a communication tool, but also provides a new stage for traditional storytelling. Storytellers can present the story in various forms such as text, images, videos, and audio, bringing new vitality to traditional storytelling in modern expression. For example, some museums have published content on social media platforms to promote historical and cultural knowledge, attracting a large number of fans. Another advantage of social media is that it provides real-time interaction and engagement. Traditional narratives can often only be presented unilaterally to the audience by creators, while on social media, audiences can participate in the creative process through comments, likes, and shares. This interaction not only enhances the audience's sense of participation, but also provides valuable feedback for creators, allowing them to adjust their creative direction according to the needs of the audience. Creators can customize content to meet the needs and tastes of different audiences. For example, narrative methods targeting young people may be more lively and interesting; Targeting middle-aged and elderly people may be more stable and introverted. In addition, viewers can also choose which creators or content to follow according to their preferences, achieving a personalized reading experience.

5.5 Holding of Public Lectures and Activities

Holding public lectures, cultural festivals, and other activities that combine history and culture with modern life can effectively enhance the public's understanding and interest in history and culture. For example, some universities and academic institutions promote the popularization and inheritance of historical and cultural knowledge by holding historical and cultural lectures and cultural festivals. Modern expressions also emphasize community participation and sharing. Integrating community elements and voices into

traditional narratives can make the work more closely related to the local audience's life and cultural background. For example, some communities combine traditional storytelling with community activities by inviting community residents to participate in the performance and creative process of traditional stories, or by holding lectures and exhibitions on traditional culture, promoting communication and understanding within the community.

In addition, in rural areas, due to specific historical and cultural influences, a unique cultural atmosphere has been formed. When this unique culture gradually opens up, the behavior habits and ways of thinking that villagers follow and abide by change, it presents a certain degree of discomfort. We must examine the differences in environment and conditions between contemporary society and traditional society, and how these differences affect our evaluation of traditional culture. Furthermore, from a developmental perspective, the absorption of traditional culture should not only focus on its value in tradition and the present, but also anticipate its significance for the future. [6] To reshape rural history and culture, it is necessary to inherit excellent local culture and absorb advanced foreign culture, forming a fusion and development of local and foreign cultures.

6. CONCLUSION

There is a close correlation and influence between traditional narrative and modern expression. Traditional narrative, as a carrier of historical culture, plays an irreplaceable role in modern expression. Modern expression, on the other hand, injects new vitality and energy into traditional narrative through its diverse expression methods and innovative technological means. This correlation and influence are not only reflected in the integration and innovation of forms, but also in the inheritance and development of content. With the development of technology and social changes, traditional narrative will face more problems and challenges, while modern expression will continue to innovate and develop more forms and means. Therefore, future research should pay more attention to the deep integration and development of traditional narrative and modern expression, and explore expression methods and inheritance paths that are more in line with the needs of the times.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Project: Hubei Province Education Science Plan 2023 Key Project: Research on Expanding the Growth and Talent Channel of Vocational College Students in the Era of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Project No. 2023GA103).

REFERENCES

- [1] Junbo Yang. Research on the Modern Expression and Dissemination Mechanism of Historical Culture, *Business Era*, 2013 (9).
- [2] Li Lv. Cross cultural Dialogue and Communication in Movies from the Perspective of Cultural Interoperability, 2023 (12).
- [3] Zhu Wenliang and Chengji Ding. Challenges, Strategies, and Values of Telling the Story of China Well in the Context of International Communication, *Journal of Mudanjiang University*, 2023 (12).
- [4] Jingxi Liu. Analysis of the Digital Communication Model of Cultural Relics in State owned Museums, *News Research Guide*, 2023 (12).
- [5] Chi Zhang. Modern Expression of Historical Texts and Reflection on Ethnic Cultural Values, *China Television*, 2014 (3).
- [6] Naili Ji, Suyan Ru. The Transformation and Development of Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture from a Whole Process Perspective, *Theory and Reform*, 2023 (12).