

Original Research Article

# On the Concept and Value of Yi People's Traditional Scripture Literature

Yihong Jiejue

Research Center for Yi Culture, Xichang University, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture 615000, Sichuan

**Abstract:** Yi people's traditional scripture literature was created by the Yi people in the long process of social and historical development and has important academic research value. Under the contemporary social and cultural background, the study of Yi people's traditional scriptures and literature can develop traditional Chinese culture and promote the development of multi-ethnic culture, which is of great significance for improving the soft power of Chinese culture.

**Keywords:** Yi People's Traditional Scripture Literature; Concept; Value

## 1. Introduction

The Yi people mainly live in Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan, among which the Daliangshan area in Sichuan is the most dense. The Yi nationality has a long history of development and a very rich culture. The social development history of the Yi people is very special. At the beginning of the founding of New China, the Yi people in many regions were still in a feudal serfdom society. The state organized large-scale ethnic investigations. Many ethnologists and historians went to the depths of Liangshan to conduct thorough investigations of the Yi people. On the basis of the investigation, the state formulated a corresponding ethnic policy. According to the policy, the Yi nationality, along with many other ethnic minorities, directly transitioned to a socialist society. The Yi nationality has its own unique culture, and also has its own unique religious belief, the Bimo belief. Most of the ethnic minorities in our country do not have their own scripts, but the Yi people have their own script system, and the scripts of the Yi people appeared very early.

## 2. The conceptual category of traditional scripture literature

What is traditional scripture literature, and how should it be explained? Many scholars in academia are studying this issue, among which Wang Minggui, a scholar of the Yi ethnic group, is the most systematic. As mentioned by Wang Minggui, the concept of traditional scripture literature is not present since ancient times, but a new concept formed later, but the new concept is not completely irrelevant to the previous, it is developed on the basis of the original classics. How to define traditional scripture literature? First of all, we must distinguish between literary classics and classics literature, which are completely different concepts. Literary classics are the classics in literary works. The literary status ranks first, followed by classics; on the contrary, classics literature is classics and is the part of classics with literary value. The Yi people's traditional scripture literature plays its own role no matter in traditional religion, social life, or in current religion and social life. What role and value does it have under the cultural background? After understanding the specific conceptual category of traditional scripture literature, this article discusses the value of scripture literature and further understands the traditional scripture literature of the Yi people.

### 2.1 Texts of Yi clan's religious studies

It can be seen from the formation process of traditional scripture literature that it is the text used by Bimo to record various ritual activities in religious life. Therefore, when discussing the value of traditional scripture literature, one has to first explore its own religious research Features. We know that traditional scripture literature is a part of traditional religious scriptures with literary value. The most essential attribute of traditional scripture literature is scriptures, and here we must first understand the religious system of the Yi people. The Yi people have their own special religious belief system-Bimo belief. Bimo belongs to both the intellectual class and the privileged class in the Yi society, and its power involves almost all the social categories of the Yi people. In traditional religious life, Bimo's main task is to pray for people and preside over sacrificial ceremonies, and to organize, standardize, and teach Yi characters in daily life. As a privileged class, Bimo is the intellectual class who creates, spreads and inherits culture. The Bimo culture is the core of the Yi culture. The Yi people have formed a rich and colorful culture with Bimo as the core. There is a close relationship between Bimo and traditional scripture literature, and the two are interdependent. Traditional

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scripture literature originated from Bimo and relied on the development of Bimo belief to be inherited and spread. Therefore, the main function of traditional scripture literature is religious function.

## 2.2 Materials for Yi studies

Yi Studies is a field that has only emerged in recent years. It is not a simple concept, but a research category, which mainly refers to the study of Yi culture by scholars at home and abroad. The study of Yi studies was first carried out by scholars of the Han nationality. The research scope involves language, writing, folk literature, religious beliefs, etc., most of which are descriptive and objective studies. However, the theme research of Yi scholars adopts a different research method, that is, from the Yi nationality itself. Therefore, words such as Yi nationality, Yi nationality identity, Yi nationality culture, etc. slowly appear in Yi studies. Many foreign scholars have done extensive research on the Yi ethnic group. For example, Steven Heri, who has conducted research on the Yi ethnic group in Sichuan, China, focuses on ethnic group and national identity. Steven Hurray believes that the study of Yi studies is not a study of one subject, but a study of the entire field of Yi studies. The research on the Yi nationality was first started by Chinese scholars, and many foreign scholars later participated, and the Chinese Yi studies slowly showed an international trend. In addition to the religious function of traditional scripture literature in the field of literature, its own literary value cannot be ignored. The literary value of traditional scripture literature is its own "poetic character." Most scriptures exist in the form of Yi people's poetry, and the Yi people are a nation that can sing and dance, and poetry is like language in daily life. Often chanted, there are poems in the sacred and religious fields, as well as in the secular world of weddings and funerals. Literary works of the Yi people come from the daily life of the Yi people, and a considerable part of the works are based on daily life. It can be seen that both the content and the form of "poetry" of Yi nationality's traditional scripture literature have important literary value. In addition to the literary value of the text itself, the development process of Yi literature is also worth exploring. The first is from the early days of the founding of New China to the first ten years of the Cultural Revolution. During this period of time, Yi literature developed rapidly, and a large number of Yi writers appeared and created many literary works; the second was the development of Yi literature during the period of the Cultural Revolution. At the same time as the development of Chinese society and culture, it experienced a gloomy period; the third was after the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee, a new wave of development appeared in Yi literature; after that, Yi literature became more and more mature with the development of Chinese society. In addition to the development of Yi nationality literature, the most important manifestation is the collection, sorting, summarization and publication of traditional classical literature.

## 3. Research significance of traditional scripture literature

### 3.1 The soul of national development

President Xi Jinping made such progress in the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (Culture is the soul of a country and a nation, and the prosperity of the country and the nation has an important relationship with the prosperity of culture. There is a high degree of cultural confidence and cultural prosperity. The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation can be achieved. We must adhere to the path of socialist cultural development with Chinese characteristics, stimulate the creative and creative vitality of the entire nation's culture, and build a socialist cultural power." The discussion and research on the value and significance of the traditional literature of the Yi people is about religion Both fields and academic research fields have important roles. The study of traditional scriptures and literature is the study of the traditional culture of the Yi people, which can promote the development and prosperity of the nation.

### 3.2 National cultural soft power

My country is a large country composed of 56 ethnic groups. The development and prosperity of the culture of each ethnic group will promote the great development and prosperity of the Chinese nation's culture. The traditional literature of the Yi nationality is an important measure for the national sense of the country and an important means to improve the soft power of my country's national culture. If culture flourishes, the country flourishes. Research on ethnic minority culture can enhance my country's cultural soft power and international competitiveness.

## 4. Conclusion

The Yi nationality is a nation with its own long history of development, with its own language and a rich and colorful culture. The Yi people identify themselves with the rich and colorful culture. The traditional scripture literature of the Yi nationality refers to the parts of religious scriptures with literary value. These traditional scripture literature is mastered by Bimo and used in religious life and daily life to serve the Yi people. And all the things Bimo recorded happened in religious life. Bimo is a religious leader in the Yi society, in charge of religious sacrifices and predicting the future. Most of the traditional scripture literature is related to religion. It can be seen that the traditional scripture literature of the Yi people has important religious value and is influenced by the traditional religious life. And used and inherited by current religious life. The main component of traditional scripture literature is poetry, and there are also a small amount of prose. It is the "poetic" content of poetry that reflects important literary research value. The development of Yi literature is a process of advancing through twists and turns, just like the development of China.

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