

On the Connotation and Denotation of Hip-hop Culture

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Abstract: Break Dance is one of the elements of Hip-hop culture, which is a new leisure way popular among teenagers and youth group. The research holds that the connotation of Hip-hop culture is concept expression and spiritual pursuit of freedom, interest, enjoyment and construction based on the limit of the use of body ability, the improvisation of body movements and the diversity of body expression. Its extension is the positive energy group life style formed in the process of origin and development and the cultural phenomena such as dance, music and clothing with Hip-hop style characteristics, leading the trend of the times.

Keywords: Break Dance; Hip-hop culture; Connotation; Denotation

1. Introduction

The sum of values, language, thinking mode, art and other material achievements and social relations formed by human beings in the process of leisure activities is called "leisure culture"^[1]. Connotation is the essential attribute of the object reflected by the concept; denotation is the kind of things that the concept refers to^[2].

Hip hop culture was born in the Bronx of New York City in the 1960s-1970s. As one of the elements of hip hop culture, Break Dance quickly swept the world and became a new type of entertainment for young people. With the rapid development of Hip-hop dance in China, it has been supported and vigorously publicized by the state and the administrative departments at all levels, and it has been the upsurge of youth's participation. The development of Hip-hop dance has only a history of about 50 years, but its forms and attributes have undergone great changes, while the academic research of Hip-hop dance is relatively backward, and it is still in the initial stage of scientific research and exploration. Through the research of this paper, the connotation and denotation of the leisure culture of Hip-hop dance are analyzed in multiple dimensions.

2. The Connotation of Hip-hop Culture

2.1 Group Characteristics

Break Dance is based on different street culture or music style, resulting in a number of different kinds of dance collectively^[3]. It is not only a form of dance, but also the best way for young people to pursue their free personality and show their independent spirit. Driven by business and media, Break Dance attracts young people and teenagers all over the world in the form of pop culture^[5]. Because the threshold is low, there is no restriction of body condition, and there is no normative requirement of movement, Break Dance amateurs can use their leisure time in Hip-hop dance activities to create dance movement to express themselves, which embodies the freedom of Hip-hop culture; The passion of young people and teenagers is vividly expressed in the battle. The players do some gestures or expressions with provocation, contempt, self-confidence and funny when they have no physical contact with their opponents, which often push the competition atmosphere to the climax, reflecting the interest of Hip-hop culture; Break Dance is conducive to the all-round development of young people and teenagers. It embodies the constructive of Hip-hop culture by strengthening the body, optimistic and upward spirit, tenacious will, unique personality and infinite creativity.

2.2 Movement characteristics

Breaking has obvious competitive characteristics. Breaking is the earliest dance in Hip-hop culture, and the only one selected for the Olympic and Youth Olympic Games. It is characterized by agile and clean steps, creative and floor movements and difficult skill movements, with strong originality and great body development, reflecting the limit of body ability application; Hip hop, Locking and Popping have obvious leisure characteristics. Dancers perform dance through random music, and create dance fragments in real time according to the atmosphere and rhythm. The integration of dance and music is very high, reflecting the improvisation of body movements; Dancers can express different dance styles and emotions through different music types, fully reflecting the diversity of body expression. The audience quickly pushed the atmosphere of the scene to the climax through the dancer's cool action expression and strong music sensation. The full charm of Break Dance makes its participation more extensive and provides a new leisure project for people.

The reason why Break Dance can attract teenagers is that it has the novelty which is inconsistent with the tradition and the vulgar. It often appears in the society with a novel appearance and caters to the psychological characteristics of teenagers seeking new and different things^[5]. Show the original movement and dance style with unique personality through dance performance. From the

dimensions of Hip-hop groups and movement characteristics, the connotation of Hip-hop culture is concept expression and spiritual pursuit of freedom, interest, enjoyment and construction based on the limit of body ability, improvisation of body movements and diversity of body expression. The leisure cultural connotation of Break Dance is the fundamental reason for the wide participation of young people and teenagers.

3. The Denotation of Hip-hop culture

3.1 Origin and development

From the perspective of the origin of Break Dance, it is a culture seeking ethnic identity and self catharsis. Hip hop culture rose in the South Bronx of New York City in the 1960s, which was a black community. At that time, it was the poorest and backward corner of New York City. In addition to the lack of information circulation, the young generation began to find their own ways of communication and identification. Any kind of popular cultural phenomenon is closely related to the economic and social background of its time, especially in the period of social transformation. The incessant racial discrimination led to a sharp rise in the crime rate of black groups and gang violence. In the Bronx of New York City, the gang struggle is more fierce. Some black people can't bear to express their dissatisfaction with racial discrimination in this cruel and negative way. In order to seek black ethnic identity and temporarily escape the cruel real world, young people organize music parties in apartments and parks, and various gangs have established dance groups to replace violence in the form of battle, which gradually turns the gang struggle into community organization, thus giving birth to Hip-hop culture. As one of the branches, Break Dance attracts the black youth group with a new dance style and a very ornamental dance posture. With the spread of Hip-hop culture, the violence in the Bronx slums has been gradually reduced. The streets and lanes that used to be smoky have been refreshed by colorful graffiti, which makes the whole area have color and vitality.

Hip hop culture is a kind of art form for seeking ethnic identity and self catharsis under the chaotic social background. It is a positive energy group leisure and life style formed in the process of origin and development.

3.2 Group lifestyle

Lifestyle belongs to cultural phenomenon, which is to answer people's "how to live" concept. It refers to people's activities that use all kinds of material and spiritual cultural resources of social environment according to certain cultural patterns to meet their own life needs. Young people and teenagers are the main body of life activities of Hip-hop groups. Their life styles have different social form attributes in different social forms. In the United States, from the 1970s, the way of life, which was just a competition in the streets of the black slums, gradually turned into a cultural force and penetrated into various fields. Young people and youth groups usually participate in Hip-hop activities in leisure time. The core activity of Hip-hop culture is cypher. In the activity, dancers do not dance for themselves or for the audience, but with other dancers to enjoy fun art communicative activities. In cypher activities no win or lose, the dancers can express their understanding of music and life in the form of dance and show their personality; In the party, we should strengthen the interpersonal communication ability in the form of Break Dance, and interpret the pursuit and desire for freedom; Enjoy the courage and never give up spirit inspired by competition and provocation in the battle; These are the reasons why street groups love Hip-hop culture. Hip hop culture has entered a new era of development due to its entry into the Olympic Games. More and more people are engaged in Break Dance, and more and more teenagers are participating in the hip hop movement. The number of people who understand and recognize the hip hop culture is increasing year by year, and the leisure activities of hip hop are gradually transformed into professional activities.

Hip hop leisure culture is a kind of cultural power. It is the cultural phenomenon and manifestation that hip hop group participates in in life activities by using leisure time. The psychological needs of freedom, respect and identity from Hip-hop culture play an important role in regulating the activities of the main body of life.

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