

## Research on ecological and cultural background of Bimo in Meigu County of Yi nationality in Liangshan

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### *Abstract*

*This paper studies the background of Bimo ecological culture in Meigu County, Liangshan Yi nationality, including geographical environment, cultural environment, historical origin and social form changes. Through the method of literature review and field investigation, this paper deeply discusses the influence of the geographical environment, human environment, historical origin and social form on Bimo ecological culture in Liangshan Yi Meigu County. The results show that Bimo ecological culture of Liangshan Yi Meigu County has diversity and uniqueness, which has a positive impact on the local social and economic development. Based on this, this paper puts forward some suggestions on the protection and inheritance of Bimo ecological culture in Meigu County of Yi nationality in Liangshan, in order to promote the sustainable development of local society and economy.*

*Key words: Liangshan Yi Meigu County, Bimo ecological culture, geographical environment, human environment, historical origin, social form change*

### **Introduction**

Meigu County, located in the southwest of Sichuan Province and the northeast of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, is located in the hinterland of Daliang Mountain and has a long history of culture. Bimo is a priest in traditional religious ceremonies of the Yi people. In the Yi language, "Bi" means chanting scriptures when holding religious activities, and "Mo" means elder or teacher. Literally speaking, Bi Mo is an elder who sings scriptures when holding religious activities. Bimo has been recorded since The Three Kingdoms period, and those with high moral values passed down from generation to generation in the family style are called "Bimo", while priests with no rank and no family inheritance are called "Suni". In addition to the difference in family background passed down from generation to generation, they are all

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clergymen who play an important role in the religious ceremonies of the Yi people, but their fame and magic are different. In the legend, the representative figures of high power are Biashira and Zeadulp. Ritual music can be understood as "the musical environment in the ceremony", usually all the music that appears in the ceremony and has a certain function is called "music". In addition to this, there is a musical environment that presides over alliance ceremonies and divine judgment ceremonies in disputes. From the point of view of the distribution of Yi nationality, it is mainly concentrated in the three provinces of Yun, GUI and Sichuan. The group "Meigu County District of Yi nationality" in this study specifically refers to the "Meigu County District" of Yi nationality belonging to the northern sub-dialect area of Sichuan Province. In addition, Meigu is known as the "hometown of Bimo culture". From the two aspects of Bimo chanting and ritual music behavior analysis, the purpose is to build the Yi Bimo ritual music system and sort out the Bimo chanting tune.

#### Geographical environment of Liangshan Yi Meigu County

The ancient Liangshan traffic is very underdeveloped, the terrain is high in the northwest, low in the southeast, and the west transverse mountains. When people walk around the world with their feet, the rushing river and steep mountains form the natural barrier of Liangshan. This special geographical location and environment determines that the contact and communication between Liangshan and the outside world will be difficult. On the one hand, it blocks cultural exchanges and replenishing of cultural blood, making it difficult to inherit and develop the culture of Meigu County of Yi nationality in Liangshan in an extremely isolated environment. So until today, the culture of Liangshan Yi Meigu County is so different from any other culture that its prototype or model cannot even be found in other areas. On the other hand, this special geographical environment and closely dependent family society provided a natural fortress and shell for preserving the ancient culture of Liangshan Yi Meigu County. In particular, due to the oppression and exclusion of successive rulers, the Yi people in China were compressed in the alpine mountains and gathered in areas inaccessible to others. The Yi people who worked and lived in the mountains for a long time were not intimidated by the harsh living environment, nor did they stop creating and developing. On the contrary, they formed a tenacious vitality in the desperate situation, honed their strong national character in the hardships, and created and preserved the splendid culture of Liangshan Yi people in Meigu County in the difficult and dangerous situation.

The production and dissemination of Liangshan Bimo music is closely related to its corresponding national culture. As far as the whole natural ecosystem is concerned, nationalities living in different natural environments have formed different ways of thinking and ways of

knowing and expressing things. Since most of the ethnic minorities in southern China live in mountainous areas and have been farming in history, the geographical environment is relatively isolated, the agricultural production mode is relatively backward, the dependence on natural forces is obvious, and the religious myth is strong, and some animals and plants with divine power or extraordinary power naturally flow into the religious belief as the object of worship, man The relationship with nature is reflected in the view of nature and primitive beliefs it reflects. According to historical data, in ancient times, the two banks of the Jinsha River were rich in mammals such as tiger, black bear, giant snake and macaque, which were also closely related to the hunting life of the ancient primitive society of the Yi people. The emotion of respect and reverence for mammals was also reflected in history and became the main content of the epic music of Liangshan. At present, the preservation of national events, the emphasis on traditional life etiquette, the continuation of religious ceremonies and festival activities, and the re-understanding of ancient memories in Liangshan Yi Meigu County are the prerequisites for the survival of Bimo ritual music, which has promoted the development and preservation of the folk ballads in Liangshan Yi Meigu County in a good historical environment, and its value is also obtained in today's social transformation To pay attention.

#### Cultural environment of Liangshan Yi Meigu County

From the perspective of region and humanity in regional music, Liangshan Yi Meigu County is located between the corridors of Tibetan-Yi corridor. The region includes three major rivers: the Nu, Lancang and Jinsha; The middle of the river is also the world famous Tertiary transverse mountain range area. Due to the combination of mountains and rivers, steep peaks and low valleys will undoubtedly constitute the unique cultural characteristics of the people living in this area. "Tibetan-yi Corridor" is the main route of ancient Chinese human migration, where people have rich social and economic life and cultural exchanges, the special cultural phenomenon of the region has become an important center of long-term research for experts and scholars who study history, region, culture and custom, and has also become the main accumulation area of Chinese history and culture. In recent years, the music culture of this region has attracted the attention of researchers, but there is no specific research result on the "regional culture" and its relation to specific musical art types. According to the author's point of view, it is of great significance to study the music culture in the Tibetan-Yi corridor, especially the Liangshan Bimo music as the main cultural heritage area in the Yi area of China. Based on the theoretical perspective of cultural intangible heritage research and the theoretical model of traditional musical geography, this paper focuses on exploring the cultural characteristics

of the Bimo ceremony music of Liangshan Yi Meigu County, and seeks for the special "human-sound - land" correlation. Through the specific analysis of the characteristics of the traditional Bimo ceremony of Liangshan Yi Meigu County Autonomous Prefecture, the paper analyzes the rhythm, melody, and features of the Bimo ceremony. This paper expounds the harmonious relationship between the traditional ritual music and the modern song carrier from several aspects such as lyrics and mode, and explores two main characteristics of the regional cultural characteristics of Liangshan Yi Meigu County: individuality and blending, that is, while retaining the original Bimo ritual culture, it also reflects the current situation of musical cultural exchanges between different ethnic groups. In this way, it will provide important basic work for studying the status quo of Bimo ceremony music in Liangshan Yi Meigu County.

#### Trace the history of Liangshan Yi Meigu County

The history of Liangshan Prefecture can be traced back to the Qin and Han dynasties more than two thousand years ago, and the development and reform of Liangshan region can reflect the belonging relationship between various dynasties and state power in ancient China. Although there are different areas under the jurisdiction of Liangshan in Chinese history, they are generally as far as Datuxi in the north, Jinsha River in the south, Zhaotong County in Yunnan Province in the east, and Yanyuan County in Liangshan Prefecture in the west. In the early days of the founding of New China, the Yi people in the vast mountainous area under the jurisdiction of Liangshan were still in the period of slavery. At that time, the degree of social productivity was low, the internal relationship between the declining slave system and the feudal society was strictly hierarchical, and the family branches were bristling with weapons frequently, and the whole society was always in a state of isolation, ignorance and decline. In 1950, the Liangshan area was also liberated, and in 1952 China's first Yi autonomous regime was established. Later, with the further development of the work of ethnic minorities and the gradual implementation of the policy of the central government on ethnic minorities, as well as the full liberation of the Yi people in Liangshan, democratic reforms were carried out in Meigu County of Liangshan, slaves were released, agricultural production was also developed, and the people moved towards unity. This was an unprecedented event in the history of the development of the Yi people in Liangshan Prefecture. With the formation of socialist China, it also marked the complete destruction of the last intact slave system in China, and Liangshan Prefecture also completed the great leap from the enslaved Chinese society to the modern democratic Chinese community. In January 1979, the government incorporated the Xichang area, where

the Yi people lived in relatively concentrated areas, into the jurisdiction of the Yi people in Liangshan Prefecture.

Up to now, the ethnic origin of the ancestors of the Yi people is generally recognized as indigenous and Qiang Di, and some scholars have divided it into two categories: Southwest indigenous and Yunnan indigenous. The indigenous theory of the southwest region holds that the Yi people of China have lived in the southwest region of the motherland since ancient times, and the Yi people of China formed today after various periods of human activities. In addition to referring to the Chinese literature resources, the arguments of these views are more from the ancient Yi literature resources, as well as the myths and legends circulating in the Yi people. The most important feature of Yi culture is that it has always retained the ownership system of slaves. In particular, Meigu County, which is located in the hinterland of Daliang Mountain, is an area under the feudal serfdom system. Jiannan Dongchuan, the reordering of the ministry, led to a large number of Yi people into Liangshan and merged with the Yi people there. Meigu County of Yi nationality in Liangshan Prefecture also maintained the slave system until the establishment of New China, when the people of Liangshan Prefecture and Meigu County deep in the mountains got rid of the slave system, integrated with the development of new China, participated in the vigorous socialist revolutionary movement, formed the emerging socialist land ownership, and became a member of the Republic under the sun. It has also gradually changed the poor and backward production situation, especially since the reform and opening up, the state has supported and expanded the degree of cultural development, and the Yi people's economy has continued to achieve rapid growth, and the Yi people enjoy the reform achievements as well as the outside world, and their living conditions have been improved day by day.

Meigu County of Yi nationality in Liangshan is a key area for the dissemination and development of Bimo ceremony music culture of Yi nationality in China. As one of China's ancient ethnic groups with a long history, the life activities of the ancestors of the Yi people can be traced back to BC. After more than two thousand years of continuous inheritance and reproduction, the Yi people have retained many fruits of ancient Chinese human civilization and time-honored cultural customs. The profound historical civilization is reflected in weddings, funerals and various folk customs and rituals. A large number of traditional activities in the Bimo ceremony formed the main carrier of Yi song dissemination activities, and produced a variety of ballad schools such as narrative poetry, love songs, children's songs, labor songs, hypnotic songs, customs poems. In addition, the Yi people in Meigu County of Liangshan now live in the mountainous terrain, which makes the Yi Bimo ceremony music and mountain stream landform

have a strong correlation, and form the common characteristics of the Yi regional music in Meigu County. At the same time, the vast distribution area of Yi Bimo ritual music is also bound to have the characteristics of linguistic diversity, which roughly includes six dialect areas, three sub-dialect areas, and 25 native dialect areas. This feature also promoted the diversity of the Yi musical language.

In the context of China's historical modernization and economic and social globalization, various cultural types have undergone significant changes through constant contact and interaction between different cultures and regions. Music is the natural crystallization of human beings in the period of hunting and agriculture, which "feel the sorrow and music, and arise from the events". It is the expression of the local conditions of a specific period, the explanation of people's living mode, and the explanation of a specific history. Nowadays, the constant changes in the music environment of Bimo ceremony also directly affect the development and dissemination of songs. Bimo ritual music contains rich regional colors, and there are living forms. However, due to the influence of cultural changes, Bimo ritual music is also quietly changing. On the one hand, cultural exchange has a profound impact on Liangshan Bimo ceremony music singing area, singing mode and song source; However, the historical changes make Liangshan Bmo ritual music culture precipitated quite rich, and gradually spread with the flow of society, but at the same time, many Bmo ritual music have no singing environment. This change also reflects the change of the expression mode, theme connotation, theme idea, creator, recipient and social significance of BIMO ritual music itself, which leads to the continuation and inheritance of Liangshan Bimo music culture.

Change of social form in Meigu County of Yi nationality in Liangshan

The changes in social life, the development of economy and technology, the innovation of social civilization and the migration of new culture, the changes in values and behavior methods have all caused the changes in the overall social culture, the changes in the style of Bimo ritual music, the changes in the theme of Bimo ritual music, and the changes in the function of Bimo ritual music are closely related to the changes in the overall social and human environment. In Liangshan Yi Meigu County Bimo ritual music culture, the most distinctive is the sacrificial and funeral activities, Bimo ritual music into all aspects of the national life. In the sacred sacrifice, in the sad funeral, in the solemn marriage, in the quiet mountains have the shadow of Bimo ritual music. The Bimo ceremony music in the Yi district of Meigu County is everywhere, all the time. Bimo ritual music is a combination of music and chanting, including all the elements of music; Bimo ritual music is also literature, because it contains all the attributes of literature; Bimo ritual music is a folk custom, because it reflects the spiritual belief and living conditions of this nation. Bimo ritual music is

ethnology, because it contains the inner world and character of the nation. Bimo ritual music is more anthropological, recording the life course of this nation.

In the whole process of cultural evolution, Bimo ritual music has also undergone rapid changes, no matter its mode of transmission, the number of existence, the connotation of ritual music, or the main body of the singing are quietly changing. Recently, Liangshan Bimo Music is facing the new challenges of modern media, facing the changes and inevitable transformation of original music genes brought about by innovation and change. In recent years, people's governments at all levels in Liangshan Prefecture have made great efforts to create traditional cultural and artistic characteristics, and strive to develop tourism development products in the high mountain area, and various cultural departments have also made efforts to discover, rescue and preserve Liangshan Bmo ceremony music culture, creating a good platform for the study of Bmo ceremony music.

The Yi ancestors in Meigu County created advanced music civilization in the course of their historical development, many of which were preserved in the Yi literature in written form. Here, there are quite rich art history content related to ritual music, including Bimo ritual music art. Bimo is also a key role in the governance of the Yi people in Chinese history. He is proficient in the Yi language, good at reading scriptures and history, and music has various functions such as divination, communication and education in addition to major religious rituals such as offering sacrifices to heaven. Most of their cultural forms cannot be separated from the intervention of art, which has become the main medium for the protection and dissemination of music culture. In addition, the Bimo ceremony music in Meigu County is restricted by geographical environment and various factors, and still maintains its original form, reflecting the remains of the Yi nationality's long culture. Like many ethnic minorities living in mountainous areas, the Bimo ritual music of Liangshan Yi Meigu County has the characteristics of wide range and melody fluctuation. You can understand the mountain landform that gave birth to Liangshan Bimo music.

Liangshan Bimo ritual music in the regional classification, generally includes three areas, the first is commonly known as the "big trouser foot" area of Yinuo, the second area is commonly known as the "small trouser foot" of the Suidu area, the third area is commonly known as the "middle trouser foot" of the Shengcha area. Because of the differences in the regions and customs, these three regions have produced the different expression ways of the music culture of the Bemor ceremony. Today, with the gradual closure of Liangshan's social and historical environment, Liangshan Bimo art has been integrated into art types other than the original folk music, re-constituting a

complex and unique art form, re-constituting the original ecological art system of Bimo ritual music, and gradually forming the rich resources of Chinese national culture and art, re-constituting the main body of Chinese Bimo ritual music. Ask for ingredients. It has a long historical background and a long history of evolution, and is integrated with the unique custom life, cultural ecology, and folk literature of the Yi people, which deeply reflects the aesthetic requirements and cultural mentality of the Yi people. The types of ritual music in Bimo in Meigu County are divided according to the style, which roughly includes two kinds: high and soft. The melodies of the Bimo ritual music of the Gentle school are mostly euphemistic and soft, while some gentle school songs show the sufferings felt by the ancestors of the Yi people in the era of slavery, express the miserable conditions of the laboriously working people, and express the sense of sadness and bitterness of the soul. The Bimo ceremony music of Gaokang school expresses bold and rough emotion, and expresses the emotion of life and brave mood of the Yi ancestors through the high and lofty melody.

Meigu County is located in the deep of Daliang Mountain, and the Yi mountain area has been closed for a long time, and the coefficients of various groups can rarely communicate objectively and frequently. Therefore, although they are the same Yi people, they also form different cultural characteristics in life customs, national language, music style and other aspects. For example, because the agricultural production conditions are extremely difficult and the life is relatively monotonous, the Yi people in Meigu County have been scattered deep in the mountains, creating a musical culture environment free from external interference, and thus producing a unique musical way, which not only plays the main functions of disseminating information and teaching production experience, but also plays the main function of expressing emotions and personal feelings.

Protection and inheritance of Bimo ecological culture in Meigu County of Yi nationality in Liangshan

Liangshan Yi Meigu County Bimo ecological culture protection and inheritance is an important task, the following are some suggestions:

A. Raise awareness of protecting and inheriting BIMO culture: First of all, we need to raise awareness of BIMO ecological culture and understand its importance and value. More people can know and pay attention to BIMO culture by carrying out publicity activities, holding cultural festivals, opening Weibo and wechat public accounts.

B. Establishment of a BIMO Cultural Research Center: Local governments can assist in the establishment of a BIMO Cultural Research center, and use modern information technology, such as sound recording, video, photography, etc., to integrate the sutras and Buddhist instruments retained by the Yi areas in different places,



communicate across time and space, and improve the excavation, sorting and rescue work of BIMO culture.

C. Actively carry out the popularization and education of Bimo culture: regularly hold Bimo cultural Festival and other activities to popularize Bimo culture and improve the awareness and identity of the Yi people.

D. Improve the BIMO cultural inheritance and training system: design a reasonable mechanism for the protection and training of inheritors, combine the employment system and policy, improve the training system of inheritors, mobilize and give play to the enthusiasm of inheritors, and give them relevant honors and fixed treatment, so that they can better shoulder the responsibility of protecting and inheriting BIMO culture.

E. Vigorously develop BIMO cultural tourism economy: make use of the unique charm of Bimo culture to develop tourism economy, so that more people can understand and experience BIMO culture, and at the same time can promote the development of local economy.

## **Conclusion**

To sum up, Liangshan Meigu County Bimo ritual music exists in this unique natural environment. Closely related to people's lives, Bimo ritual music plays an important role as a medium between nature, people and society in the whole ecosystem. Bimo ritual music embodies the beauty of natural ecology, and the ecological beauty of Bimo music has its own survival reasons. First of all, Liangshan Meigu County Bimo ceremony music was born in a special environment. Because of the closed living environment of Yi people in Meigu County, the change of social form in Central Plains and the influence of Han culture on Yi people are small or slow. The geographical environment has also created conditions for the Yi people to produce unique national consciousness and ecological environment of spiritual activities. The Yi people in Meigu County enrich their culture, publicize their history and maintain their own cultural traditions and customs through Bimo ritual music. Although these conditions have limited the survival of Yi people in Meigu County, they have given certain meaning and direction to survival. Therefore, the Bimo ceremony music of Meigu County has its own original spirit and simple and natural national character. People can experience the daily life scenes of the ancestors of the Yi people from Bimo's ritual music, and find the natural and simple atmosphere. It also naturally formed the unique style of Yi nationality and gave birth to the unique aesthetic art of Bimo ritual music. This aesthetic art preserves the rare natural and naive temperament of the Yi people. Secondly, the various functions of Bimo ceremony music in Meigu County show the relationship between man and nature. The ritual music of Bimo of Yi nationality in Meigu County

is produced on the effect of some primitive customs and behaviors. In the period when productivity is not mature, they naturally have a yearning and admiration for this. These feelings are naturally transferred to Bimo's ritual music. The Bimo ecological culture of Meigu County of Yi nationality in Liangshan has its diversity and uniqueness, which has a positive impact on the local social and economic development. Based on this, this paper puts forward some suggestions on the protection and inheritance of Bimo ecological culture in Liangshan Yi Meigu County, that is, the protection and inheritance of Bimo ecological culture in Liangshan Yi Meigu County need the joint efforts of the government, the society and the people, so that more people can understand and pay attention to Bimo culture through various ways and means, and promote its inheritance and development. To promote sustainable social and economic development.

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