

Literacy Preservation of Chinese Miao Feige Folk Songs

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ABSTRACT

Chinese Miao Feige folk songs, traditional musical expressions of the Miao people in Guizhou province, serve as vital cultural artifacts that preserve historical narratives, social values, and communal identity. The objective of this study is to investigate the current status of Chinese Miao Feige folk songs. The research in Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefectures involved qualitative methodologies, including field observations, interviews, and document analysis. Three key informants, recognized for their expertise and contributions to Feige, provided insights into the songs' cultural significance and transmission practices. The findings highlight the importance of Feige songs in reinforcing cultural continuity and community cohesion, consistent with literacy theories as multifaceted social practices. Challenges such as cultural dilution, generational gaps, and the influence of technology were identified, necessitating strategies like educational integration, community programs, media utilization, and policy support to ensure preservation. The study underscores the need for a balanced approach that leverages modern technology while maintaining the authenticity of traditional practices, offering a model for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in China and beyond.

Key words: Chinese Folk Songs, Cultural Preservation, Literacy Preservation, Ethnomusicology, Miao Ethnic

INTRODUCTION

China's vast historical canvas is marked by the rich contributions of its 56 ethnic groups, each enriching the national cultural tapestry with unique traditions and practices (Tang, 2015; Wang, 2024). Among these, the Miao people of Guizhou province exemplify ethnic and cultural richness, primarily through their traditional music, Feige (Du & Leung, 2022; Fan & Chuangprakhon, 2024). The history of Chinese music, evidenced by archaeological finds such as the 21-bone flute dating back 8,000 to 9,000 years, underscores the ancient origins and sophisticated development of musical culture in this region. This flute, discovered in Wuyang County, Henan province, symbolizes the deep-seated roots of musical expression in Chinese civilization (Jones, 2020; Zou et al., 2022).

In contemporary China, the government has emphasized "cultural confidence" as a development slogan to bolster national pride and preserve its diverse cultural heritage (Sun, 2022). This initiative is crucial in the face of globalization and the rapid modernization that threatens to dilute traditional practices. Chinese music, divided between the dominant Han culture and the richly varied musical traditions of the 55 other ethnic minorities, is a testament to the country's multifaceted cultural identity. Among these minorities, the Miao, with a significant population of over 11 million, primarily located in Guizhou, represents a cornerstone of

China's ethnic musical diversity (Du & Leung, 2022; Shun & Boonsrianun, 2023; Wong, 2015).

Despite their cultural significance, Chinese Miao Feige's songs face challenges typical of many minority traditions in modern times: dilution, forgetfulness, and the risk of extinction. As younger generations migrate to urban centers or assimilate into dominant cultural practices, there is a tangible threat to the transmission of Feige. The traditional methods of learning these songs, through oral transmission and communal participation, need to be revised, raising concerns about their future viability. Moreover, while Feige songs are a vital part of Miao identity and social cohesion, limited, comprehensive academic literature explores their intrinsic musical qualities, thematic richness, and role within Miao society (Feng, 2020; Horlor, 2021; Yu & Karin, 2022).

The objective of this study is to investigate the current status of Chinese Miao Feige folk songs. By examining how these songs are practiced, learned, and evolved in contemporary Miao communities, this research will contribute significantly to literacy preservation, ethnomusicology, and cultural anthropology. Additionally, understanding Feige enriches our appreciation of Miao cultural practices and enhances our broader understanding of how minority cultures can be preserved and promoted in a rapidly modernizing world. The research will also examine the impact of external influences,

such as technology and media, on the transmission and transformation of Feige songs. This analysis will provide insights into the adaptive strategies employed by the Miao to keep their traditions alive, offering lessons on cultural resilience and adaptation that could apply globally to other minority cultures facing similar challenges (Ghahramani et al., 2020; White et al., 2016).

Moreover, by highlighting the cultural and social functions of Feige songs within the Miao community, such as their role in rituals, festivals, and community bonding, the study underscores the importance of these songs in maintaining social cohesion and cultural continuity. This aspect is particularly crucial as it relates to the broader efforts under China's policy of cultural confidence, which seeks to preserve and revitalize the rich cultural heritage of the country's ethnic minorities.

In conclusion, this research will document and analyze a significant, under-explored aspect of Miao culture and advocate for policies and initiatives that support the sustainability of minority cultures. By understanding the current state of Feige songs and identifying effective strategies for their preservation, this study aims to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on literacy preservation, offering a model for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in China and beyond.

Research Question

- How does the current status of Chinese Miao Feige folk songs influence their literacy preservation within the Miao ethnic community?

LITERATURE REVIEW

This review is divided into four sections: Theories of Literacy and Cultural Preservation, Cultural Transmission and Oral Traditions, Ethnomusicology and Community Identity, and Modernization Technology and Cultural Preservation. Each section explores theoretical frameworks elucidating the role of Feige songs in preserving cultural literacy within the Miao ethnic community.

Theories of Literacy and Cultural Preservation

Literacy theories recognize literacy as a multifaceted social practice involving transmitting and preserving cultural knowledge. Integrating Feige songs into literacy preservation sustains cultural literacy and ensures the continued transmission of essential cultural knowledge. Preserving Chinese Miao Feige folk songs within this framework is crucial to maintaining and enhancing community literacy. These songs are not just musical expressions; they are vehicles for conveying cultural narratives, historical events, and social values, all of which contribute to a deeper understanding of the Miao community's heritage. Thus, integrating Feige songs into literacy preservation can help sustain cultural literacy and ensure the continued transmission of essential cultural knowledge (Benavot, 2015; Purcell-Gates, 2020; Tierney & Pearson, 2021).

Cultural Transmission and Oral Traditions

Oral traditions are critical conduits for conveying cultural knowledge across generations. Feige songs embed historical narratives, social norms, and community values, reinforcing cultural continuity and cohesion. These songs are educational tools and social glue, reinforcing cultural continuity and community cohesion. The study of Feige songs highlights their importance in maintaining cultural literacy within the Miao community, showcasing how oral traditions play a crucial role in preserving cultural heritage and educating younger generations. By viewing literacy through the prism of cultural practices, the significance of these songs in the broader educational landscape becomes evident (Mahuika, 2019; Nowell, 2023).

Ethnomusicology and Community Identity

Ethnomusicology examines music within its cultural context. For the Miao people, Feige songs are integral to cultural identity and social interaction, preserving the unique cultural heritage of the Miao community. For the Miao people, Feige songs are integral to cultural identity and social interaction, reinforcing communal bonds and facilitating the transmission of cultural knowledge and literacy. These songs encapsulate historical and social information in musical form, thus preserving the Miao community's unique cultural heritage. Ethnomusicological perspectives underscore the importance of Feige songs in understanding and maintaining the cultural identity of the Miao people, highlighting their role in community life and literacy preservation (Chen & Seekhunlio, 2024; Guangguo et al., 2024; Tang, 2021).

Modernization, Technology, and Cultural Preservation

Modernization and globalization challenge traditional cultural practices, such as Feige singing, due to the migration of younger generations to urban areas and their assimilation into dominant norms. Technology offers both challenges and opportunities for cultural preservation. Digital recordings, online platforms, and multimedia resources can make Feige songs accessible to a broader audience, including younger Miao community members. Integrating these tools into literacy preservation can enhance the preservation and transmission of Feige songs, aligning with culturally responsive teaching theories. This approach promotes cultural pride and continuity within the Miao community, fostering a more inclusive and holistic view of literacy (Inglehart, 2020; King et al., 2016; Windhager et al., 2018).

METHOD

This study employed a comprehensive qualitative research methodology involving field observations, interviews, and document analysis. Three key informants were selected based on their expertise and contributions to Feige.

Research Scope

The scope of the study encompasses both the practical aspects of Feige performances and the cultural significance

embedded within these songs. The research investigates the locations, participation, and occasions of Feige performances, transmission methods within families and communities, and the effectiveness of preservation strategies.

Research Process

The research was conducted in Guizhou Province, focusing on the Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, as shown in Figure 1. It has the largest concentration of Miao people in China and is renowned for its rich musical heritage. The following table outlines the detailed criteria and steps involved in the research process, as shown in Table 1.

Data Collection

The data collection process involved a combination of field investigations, direct observations, and interviews. Table 2 summarizes the data collection methods and tools used.

Data Management and Analysis

The collected data were systematically stored on appropriate media to ensure security and accessibility. Data processing involves transforming and analyzing the data to ensure quality and accuracy. Continuous verification was conducted to identify and correct any inaccuracies or inconsistencies, ensuring the integrity of the data throughout the research process. Qualitative method analysis, including in-depth interviews and participant observation, was employed to analyze how Feige songs are practiced and preserved.

RESULTS

The research results are structured to comprehensively analyze the current status of Chinese Miao Feige folk songs, their characteristics, and their implications for literacy preservation within the Miao ethnic community. The following main sections outline the findings:

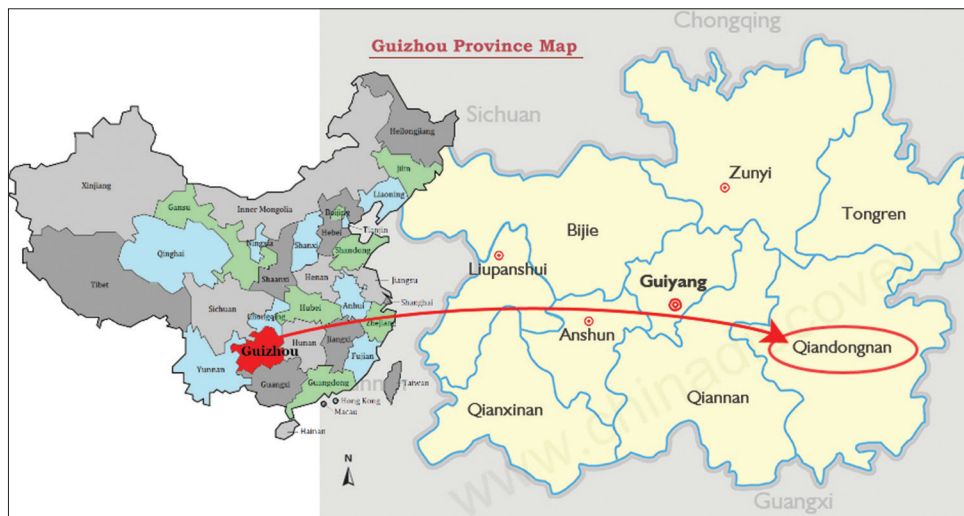


Figure 1. Map of the research site
Source: Chinafolio (n.d.), China Discovery (n.d.)

Table 1. Criteria and steps involved in the research process

Research Component	Details
Research Sites	Guizhou Province, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture are known for their high concentration of Miao people and rich cultural heritage
Key Informants Selection Criteria	Three key informants were selected based on their direct involvement with Chinese Miao Feige folk songs, extensive knowledge, professional expertise, and recognition as provincial-level or higher representatives of Chinese Miao Feige. They must also have significant contributions to performing and preserving these songs

Table 2. Data collection methods

Data Collection Methods	Tools and Techniques
Observation	Mobile phones, SLR cameras, video cameras, and tape recorders were used to record performances and collect observational data on Feige's practices and settings
Interviews	Structured interview forms were designed to facilitate in-depth interviews with key informants and community members, focusing on personal narratives, opinions on Feige transmission, evolution, and significance
Document Analysis	Archival research and a review of existing literature on Chinese Miao Feige folk songs supplemented field data, providing a comprehensive understanding of the cultural context and historical development of Feige songs

Classification and Types of Chinese Miao Feige Folk Songs

This section provides a detailed examination of the different categories of Chinese Miao Feige songs, highlighting their social functions and cultural significance. The analysis focuses on how these songs preserve cultural traditions and their potential integration into literacy preservation within the Miao ethnic community.

Youfang songs (love songs)

Youfang Songs, or Love Songs, are crucial in expressing romantic sentiments among the Miao people. These songs are typically performed during festivals and social gatherings, facilitating young men and women interactions. The songs often feature high-pitched, clear vocals with elaborate ornamentations, reflecting the emotional intensity of romantic courtship. Through these performances, young Miao individuals convey their feelings and build social bonds, contributing to the community's cultural cohesion.

Drinking songs

Drinking Songs are integral to Miao social gatherings and celebrations. These songs are performed during feasts and communal drinking sessions, enhancing the festive atmosphere. They often feature repetitive, rhythmic patterns that encourage participation and communal singing. Drinking Songs not only celebrate the act of drinking but also reinforce social ties and collective identity among the Miao people. They are a testament to the Miao's hospitality and the importance of communal activities in their culture.

Ritual songs

Ritual Songs are performed during religious and ceremonial practices, playing a vital role in the spiritual life of the Miao community. These songs are deeply rooted in Miao traditions and often invoke blessings, ward off evil spirits, or honor ancestors. The melodies and rhythms of Ritual Songs are designed to complement the ceremonial activities, creating an atmosphere of reverence and solemnity. Students can better understand Miao's religious practices and cultural heritage by integrating these songs into literacy preservation.

Ceremonial songs

Ceremonial Songs are used in formal ceremonies such as weddings, funerals, and other significant life events. These songs are characterized by their structured and thematic content, often narrating the stories and rituals associated with the ceremonies. They mark important milestones and transitions in the lives of individuals and the community. Ceremonial Songs provide a valuable resource for teaching about the social customs and traditions of the Miao people, fostering cultural literacy and appreciation among students.

Narrative songs

Narrative Songs are storytelling tools that preserve the history and folklore of the Miao people. These songs often feature complex, extended narratives that recount historical events, myths, and legends. The melodic and rhythmic structures of Narrative Songs are designed to captivate the audience and ensure the retention of the stories. By incorporating Narrative Songs into literacy preservation, educators can engage students with the rich oral history of the Miao, promoting a deeper understanding of their cultural identity and heritage.

In summary, the classification and types of Chinese Miao Feige songs underscore their multifaceted roles in Miao culture. Each song category serves a specific social function, from facilitating romantic interactions to preserving historical narratives. Understanding these roles is crucial for integrating Chinese Miao Feige songs into literacy preservation, as they provide rich cultural content that can enhance students' learning experiences and appreciation of Miao heritage, as shown in Table 3.

Dissemination Methods of Chinese Miao Feige Folk Songs

This section explores the various methods used to transmit Chinese Miao Feige songs across generations, both traditionally and in contemporary contexts. These methods are crucial for understanding how the current status of Chinese Miao Feige folk songs influences their literacy preservation within the Miao ethnic community.

Family-based transmission

Family-based transmission is a fundamental method through which Chinese Miao Feige songs are passed down from

Table 3. Classification

Type of Song	Description	Social Function
Youfang Songs	Love songs expressing romantic sentiments; performed during festivals and social gatherings	Facilitates social interactions and builds romantic bonds
Drinking Songs	Celebratory songs performed during communal drinking sessions	It enhances the festive atmosphere and reinforces social ties
Ritual Songs	Songs used in religious and ceremonial practices	Invokes blessings, wards off evil spirits, honors ancestors
Ceremonial Songs	Structured songs performed during formal ceremonies	Marks important life events and transitions
Narrative Songs	Storytelling songs preserving history and folklore	Captivates audience ensures retention of stories

generation to generation. Elders in the family play a crucial role in this process, serving as the primary custodians of cultural knowledge. They teach the younger members through daily interactions, storytelling, and communal activities. This method ensures that the cultural and musical traditions are preserved within the familial context, fostering a deep sense of identity and continuity.

Teacher-training transmission

The teacher-training transmission method involves formal and informal teacher-student relationships that facilitate the transfer of musical knowledge. In this model, experienced singers and musicians take on the role of teachers, guiding their students through structured lessons and practical experiences. This method helps to ensure a high level of proficiency and understanding among the learners, preserving the technical and artistic integrity of Chinese Miao Feige songs.

Schooling transmission

Incorporating Chinese Miao Feige songs into the formal education system represents a significant step toward integrating these cultural elements into broader literacy and educational frameworks. Schools can play a vital role by including Chinese Miao Feige in their music and cultural education curricula. This approach not only aids in preserving the songs but also promotes cultural literacy among students, fostering an appreciation for the rich heritage of the Miao ethnic community.

Modern media transmission

Modern media has become a powerful tool for promoting and preserving Chinese Miao Feige's songs. Platforms such as radio, television, and the internet provide new avenues for reaching broader audiences. These media channels enable the documentation, broadcasting, and sharing of Chinese Miao Feige's performances, making them accessible to people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience them. Modern media ensures that Chinese Miao Feige songs remain relevant and thrive in the digital age.

Folklore activities

Folklore activities provide a community-based approach to disseminating Chinese Miao Feige songs. These activities include festivals, public performances, and communal gatherings where community members share and celebrate their musical heritage. Such events are essential for cultural preservation and serve as educational opportunities for the younger generation. Through active participation, individuals learn the songs, their meanings, and the cultural contexts in which they are performed, as shown in Figure 2.

In summary, the dissemination methods of Chinese Miao Feige songs are diverse and multifaceted, each playing a critical role in their literacy preservation. Understanding these methods provides insights into the current status of Chinese Miao Feige. It highlights how these cultural traditions can be



Figure 2. Miao sister festival of Youfang Duige

Source: Chaoqiao Bao, from fieldwork in March 2024

maintained and promoted within the Miao ethnic community, as shown in Table 4.

Characteristics of Chinese Miao Feige Folk Songs

This section provides an in-depth analysis of the musical components of Chinese Miao Feige songs, as shown in Figure 3. They are focusing on melody, rhythm, harmony, and singing techniques. Specific attention is given to the unique traits of selected songs, offering insights into how these characteristics influence their literacy preservation within the Miao ethnic community.

Melody

The melody of Chinese Miao Feige songs is a defining characteristic, often using pentatonic scales typical in many traditional Chinese music forms. The melodies are typically long and fluid and incorporate wide intervals, reflecting the historical practice of singing across mountains to communicate. One of the notable techniques used in Chinese Miao Feige is the glissando, which involves sliding between notes to enhance the emotional expression of the song.

Rhythm

The rhythmic patterns in Chinese Miao Feige songs are flexible and often mirror natural speech patterns and physical movements. The rhythms tend to be free-flowing, allowing for expressive performances that reflect the natural and communal lifestyle of the Miao people. The flexibility in rhythm also aids in maintaining the oral tradition, as it allows singers to adapt the tempo and phrasing according to the context of the performance.

Harmony

Harmony in Chinese Miao Feige's music combines different sounds to create a rich, layered effect. Traditional Chinese Miao Feige relies less on Western harmonic structures and more on drones or parallel intervals, producing a unique harmonic texture. This texture enhances the atmospheric and

Table 4. Dissemination methods

Method	Description	Impact
Family-Based Transmission	Songs passed down within families emphasizing the role of elders	Ensures cultural continuity and a deep sense of identity
Folklore Activities	Community-based activities like festivals and public performances	Promotes cultural preservation and provides educational opportunities
Teacher-Training Transmission	Formal and informal teacher-student relationships	Maintains technical and artistic integrity, ensures proficiency
Schooling Transmission	Incorporation of songs into formal education systems	Enhances cultural literacy and appreciation in students
Modern Media Transmission	Use of radio, television, and internet for promoting and preserving songs	Broadens accessibility and relevance in the digital age

Figure 3. The music score of the Chinese Miao Feige folk song “Zui Miaoxiang”

Source: Chaoqiao Bao, transcription from fieldwork in March 2024

emotional qualities of the music, providing a fuller, more immersive sound.

Singing techniques

Singing techniques are vital for expressing the artistic language of Chinese Miao Feige’s music. These techniques include high-pitched, clear voices, glissando, call-and-response patterns, and various vocal ornamentations that enhance the expressiveness of the performance. Different forms of singing convey a range of emotional content, from joyous celebration to poignant reflection.

In summary, the musical characteristics of Chinese Miao Feige songs, including melody, rhythm, harmony, and singing techniques, provide a rich tapestry of cultural expression. The use of pentatonic scales, flexible rhythmic patterns, unique harmonic textures, and diverse singing techniques all

contribute to the distinctive sound of Chinese Miao Feige. Understanding these characteristics is crucial for appreciating these songs’ cultural and educational value and their role in preserving Miao’s cultural heritage. This detailed analysis aids in highlighting how the current status of Chinese Miao Feige songs influences their literacy preservation within the Miao ethnic community.

Challenges and Strategies for Literacy Preservation

This section addresses the challenges faced in preserving Chinese Miao Feige folk songs and integrating them into literacy preservation within the Miao ethnic community. It also explores strategies for overcoming these challenges:

Cultural dilution

One of the primary challenges in preserving Chinese Miao Feige folk songs is the cultural dilution resulting from modernization and urban migration. As younger generations move to urban areas for better opportunities, they are often exposed to dominant cultural practices, gradually eroding traditional customs and music. This migration disrupts the traditional modes of transmission, such as oral and communal participation, making it difficult for these songs to survive in their original form.

Generational gap

Another significant challenge is the generational gap in the interest and practice of Chinese Miao Feige. Younger generations show a decreased interest in learning and performing these traditional songs. This apathy can be attributed to various factors, including the influence of mainstream media, the allure of contemporary music genres, and the lack of engaging methods to teach traditional music in a modern context.

Technological influence

While technology offers tools that can aid in preserving traditional music, it also poses a challenge. The widespread availability of digital entertainment and social media platforms often shifts young people’s focus away from traditional cultural practices. Additionally, there is a risk that the digital representation of these songs might need to fully

capture the essence of live, communal performances, leading to a loss of authenticity.

Educational integration

Incorporating Chinese Miao Feige into school curricula is a powerful strategy for enhancing cultural literacy and engagement among students. Schools can provide structured opportunities for students to learn and appreciate Chinese Miao Feige by embedding these songs into music and cultural education programs. This integration not only preserves the music but also instills a sense of cultural pride and identity among young Miao students.

Community programs

Developing community-based initiatives and workshops can foster intergenerational learning and participation. These programs can include local festivals, singing competitions, and collaborative projects where elders teach the younger generation. Such initiatives help maintain the communal aspect of Chinese Miao Feige, ensuring that the songs are passed down through direct, personal interactions.

Media utilization

Leveraging modern media platforms to promote Chinese Miao Feige can help reach a broader audience. Documentaries, online tutorials, and social media campaigns can showcase these songs' beauty and cultural significance. Using platforms popular among the youth, such as YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram, the reach of Chinese Miao Feige can be expanded beyond the immediate community.

Policy support

Advocating for governmental and institutional support is crucial for funding and protecting cultural preservation projects. Policies that provide financial resources, create cultural preservation programs, and recognize the importance of intangible cultural heritage can significantly impact the sustainability of Chinese Miao Feige. Government initiatives can also help integrate traditional music into national educational standards, ensuring its continued relevance and accessibility.

In summary, preserving Chinese Miao Feige folk songs faces significant challenges, including cultural dilution, generational gaps, and the complex influence of technology. However, these challenges can be addressed through strategic educational integration, community programs, media utilization, and robust policy support. By adopting these strategies, the Miao community can preserve their rich musical heritage, fostering a deeper cultural understanding and appreciation among future generations.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The results align with theoretical literacy principles encompassing cultural, social, and historical contexts.

(Benavot, 2015; Purcell-Gates, 2020; Tierney & Pearson, 2021). Integrating Feige songs into literacy preservation underscores their significance in conveying cultural narratives and social values. This finding is consistent with the theory that literacy involves transmitting and preserving cultural knowledge (Benavot, 2015). The study also supports the principles of cultural transmission and oral traditions, highlighting the role of Feige songs as repositories of cultural information (Mahuika, 2019; Nowell, 2023). The traditional learning methods through oral transmission and communal participation are crucial for maintaining cultural continuity and community cohesion, consistent with the theoretical framework of oral traditions as critical conduits for cultural transmission.

Ethnomusicological perspectives are validated by the findings, which illustrate how Feige songs encapsulate historical and social information in musical form, preserving the unique cultural heritage of the Miao community (Chen & Seekhunlio, 2024; Guangguo et al., 2024; Tang, 2021). The role of Feige songs in reinforcing communal bonds and facilitating cultural literacy aligns with the ethnomusicological view of music as reflective and constitutive of social structures and identities. While the findings support the theoretical principles, specific challenges underscore the complexities of preserving Feige songs. The issue of cultural dilution due to modernization and urban migration presents a significant threat to the traditional modes of transmission, highlighting a gap between theoretical ideals and practical realities (Inglehart, 2020; Windhager et al., 2018). The generational gap in the interest and practice of Feige songs further complicates preservation efforts, indicating a need for more engaging and adaptive teaching methods to bridge this divide.

The influence of technology presents both opportunities and challenges. While digital platforms can aid in preserving and disseminating Feige songs, they also risk diminishing the authenticity of live, communal performances (King et al., 2016). This duality reflects the need for a balanced approach that leverages technology while preserving the essence of traditional practices. The study's results suggest several strategies for addressing these challenges and enhancing the preservation of Feige songs. Educational integration, community programs, and media utilization effectively promote cultural literacy and engagement among younger generations. These strategies align with culturally responsive teaching and community-based learning (Purcell-Gates, 2020; Mahuika, 2019).

Policy support is crucial for sustaining these efforts. Governmental and institutional recognition and funding can significantly impact the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, ensuring that traditional music remains relevant and accessible (Sun, 2022). The findings underscore the importance of advocating for policies that support cultural preservation projects and integrate traditional music into national educational standards. This study has comprehensively analyzed the current status of Chinese Miao Feige folk songs and their implications for literacy preservation within the Miao ethnic community. The findings highlight the multifaceted roles of Feige songs in preserving cultural

traditions, reinforcing community cohesion, and enhancing cultural literacy.

The research supports the theoretical principles of literacy encompassing cultural transmission and preserving social practices. Integrating Feige songs into literacy preservation underscores their significance as vehicles for conveying cultural knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of the Miao community's heritage. However, the study also identifies significant challenges, including cultural dilution, generational gaps, and the complex influence of technology. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that combines educational integration, community programs, media utilization, and robust policy support.

In conclusion, this research advocates for policies and initiatives that support the sustainability of minority cultures. By understanding the current state of Feige songs and identifying effective strategies for their preservation, this study contributes to the ongoing dialogue on literacy preservation. It offers a model for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in China and beyond, ensuring that the rich musical traditions of the Miao people continue to thrive in a rapidly modernizing world.

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