

Interpretation of the Sport Culture of Original State of Man Nation: A Case Study of Liaodian Villages of Compact Communities of ManChu

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Abstract

The sport culture of original state of Man nation began from the past. Now it is still alive. The cultures of Chenchu ball, Saiweihu, Xuedi Walk and shoulie are related with special landform, ancestry and abundant culture traits. They represent the customs and labor means of Man nation. The sport cultures are changing, because of the development inside and contact with outside. However, there is a regular pattern in the changes which is culture congruence.

Key words: Original state; Sport culture; Change; Man nation

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INTRODUCTION

Culture is the reflection of the society. During the social structure change, the sport culture at different stages of historical development exhibits various body elements and physical characteristics. The villages where Man nationalities live in compact communities of Liaodian in Ahcheng was the places where the Nuchen originated. The original sport culture stay vividly in its inheritance and

communication influenced by life from past until now. It is expected to understand and explain the real original sport culture here with sincere desire.

Village is always regarded as one complete small society during investigation and analysis which is one of the important tasks in sociology and ethnology research. One typical compact community of Man nation was selected in this research and the developing process of its sport culture was analyzed from the theoretical level which aimed to bring a general interpretation and more theoretical significance. This research could contribute to the prevention of the diversity of society and the construction of ethnic culture.

1. CHANGE OF THE CONTENT AND FORM OF THE ORIGINAL MAN SPORT CULTURE

Man nation is an import nation in China which plays a significant role in the history of cultural development. The ManChu live in compact community of Liaodian in Ahcheng which is established at the approval of China Civil Administration Department is 34 km apart from Harbin and composed of 15 villages. It has a population of 46,000 of six minority nationalities such as Man, Han, Korean and Hui, among which the population of Man nation accounts for 48%. The rise of Nuchen was in the region of Ahcheng in Jin Dynasty and the Haigouhe river basin located in Liaodian is the initial inhabited settlement when the Nuchen first left the mountains. Man nation was developed from the ancient Nuchen people in 17th century through the continual national amalgamation. Liaodian is one of the few regions of Man nation in Heilongjiang Province which maintains the traditional sport culture. All the original ecology is retained by nature which is a certain status constructed through the interaction between lives and environment. The original sport culture of Man

nation, having certain relation with the local landform, specific ancestry and rich cultural traits, is an integral part of the folk culture. Liaodian holds sport meeting called “Molezhen” every two years and has been held for six sessions. The meeting is conducted on a grand scale involving more than a hundred thousand people for a dozen sport events each time. The content and form of these original sport events have changed in accordance with the needs of the development of times.

1.1 “Chenchu Ball”

The original occurrence mechanism and activity characteristics: It is evolved from an ancient custom of gathering pearl. At first, the ManChu compared the ball to the pearl when they celebrated the harvest, and regarded shooting fish basket as having gathered the pearl. Afterwards, two bats were introduced for defense due to the protection for pearl by the shells of clam. Finally this sport event with both offense and defense was created.

The content and form of current change: At present, the race court is 28-meter long and 15-meter wide. There are water area, restricted area, blocked area and scoring area in sequence on both sides of the mid-line. There are 2 teams competing in the race with 6 players of each one, one player holds the basket, two hold the shells (bats), three attack the ball in the water area and dribble for scoring. It takes 30 minutes per game which is divided into halves and the team with more points will win.

1.2 “Saiweihu”

The original occurrence mechanism and activity characteristics: “Saiweihu” means boat race which is a traditional custom in Man nation and it had been gradually transformed into “Ludi Saiweihu” sponsored on the land.

The content and form of current change: There are 5 players of each team. 4 players run forwards and one backwards holding bamboo pole in a square of 60 or 100-meter length. The team arrives the finish line first will win.

1.3 “Xuedi” Walk

The original occurrence mechanism and activity characteristics: The Man women wore chopines in Qing Dynasty like walking in the snow. In the race, young women should walk at certain speed and maintain balance in chopines .

The content and form of current change: This game has been transformed into heel-and-toe walking race. The heel of the shoes is 15cm long and the game including 100m, 200m, 400m running race and 4-by-100 relay.

1.4 “Shoulie”

The original occurrence mechanism and activity characteristics: It originated from hunting and represented the willing of more preys.

The content and form of current change: There are two teams with same number of players in the race. Each

player carrying a basket on the back should throw “Yeshou” (beast-shaped balls) into baskets of each other. When the “Tiger” is put into, gets 2 points, 1 point the “Bear”.

Moreover, the traditional sport events also include archery, horse fighting and “Ladigong”. The content and form of these games have witnessed cultural development as well. The original occurrence mechanism and activity characteristics came into being because of the ancient custom and labor life and the content and form of current change are obviously with entertaining and competitive elements. There are two types of reason for culture change: one is that the internal precipitating factors of ethnic culture including the change, elimination, renewal and continual differentiation and unification. The traditional sport is a way to reproduce the custom and productive work of Man nation. Nomadic culture as important living style deeply influenced the sport culture. The development of local fishery, hunting, cultivation and picking gradually formed the sport culture of Man nation with strong national color. Second is the impact and collision from outside. The original cultural structure was changed on some level via the absorption of and interweaving with exotic cultural factors, and to be finally coordinative in a new level. The Man nation and their ancestor Nuchen had extensive connections and cultural communication with the neighboring minorities like Mongol, Daur, Ewenki, Oroqen. During the process of national culture blend, the sport culture was mixed together. At the same time, the content and form of Man sport events were improved and extended, drawing from other neighboring minorities’ especially Han. From the above, the change of Man sport culture is a consequence of internal precipitating factors and exotic cultural absorption.

Even if the original sport culture of Man developed in content and form due to internal and external reasons as analyzed above, the key cultural traits are still maintained. The cultural trait is the basic factor of culture. Each cultural trait could be an independent unit and has its own specific history and form. Cultural traits are a group of cultural trait linked by their functions which is always related to specific activities and is the combination of material culture and intangible culture. During the social and cultural development, lots of cultural traits of original Man sport have been conserved and passed down. Material cultural traits of Man nation includes national dress and sports equipments such as chopines, fish baskets, clamshells, intangible ones are the customs and behaviors such as fishing, hunting, cultivation and picking.

2. FUNCTION CHANGE OF ORIGINAL MAN SPORT CULTURE

The migration and safari process in the history provided the foundation of Man sport culture which was civil activity with competitive color. The sport

games were the simulation and inheritance of civil daily life, military affairs even the “cultural residues” of ancient totemism. The aim of these games was healing people and exorcising demons, asking for ample harvest and enjoying entertainment. In feudal society, these activities were often the “religious rites” that revealed respect to mystery and expect of happy life.

The custom changes of Man sport culture is a process of “secularization” accompanied with modernization which could be recognized as desanctification. It is a long process of social change that is closely linked with the view of values, code of conduct and the assessment of the social function of Man sport games. These original games with rich sport cultural content have become a way of leisure and fitness in the inhabitants’ daily life which witnessed the process of modernization. Modernization is the social change during the economy development of a traditional pre-industrial society. There are two types of modern function of the original sport: one is determined by the essence of sport that is the function of meeting people’s entertainment need and promoting their common development. The other is the social function that generated basing on the essential function. It is the exploration and utilization of sports as social requirement. Specifically, The essential functions of its “secularization” and “modernization” are entertainment, fitness, and social contact and aesthetic values. The social functions are ethnic propaganda, education, reformation and solidarity.

3. “CULTURAL OVERLAP” OF THE ORIGINAL MAN SPORT CULTURE

The form, content and function changes of the original Man sport culture is caused by both internal and external factors. One general principle behind these changes is “cultural overlap”. When the culture of a region generated new culture phenomenon undergoing long time development and variation, most parts of the old culture phenomenon did not extinct but still be overlapped and integrated into new one after a process of selection, transformation and reinterpretation. For example, the cultures of “Chenchu ball”, “Saiwei hu”, “Xuedi” Walk” and “shou lie” have both the cultural traits of original sport and the form and function of modern sport, even show the western cultural deposits of competitiveness. The coexist between old and new sport culture is not a process that the new one replace the old one in long term power struggle but the mutual understanding, tolerance, concession and harmonization between them from the very beginning. In other words, the original sport culture traits never extinct but still live vividly. In one way cultural traits always exist in the original sport culture. From another perspective, different culture was repeatedly overlapped and integrated into the structure of the new sport culture

after filtration, transformation and reinterpretation. For instance, the modern form and function of traditional Man sport had become an import part of the spirit of original Man sport culture. The multi-integration of culture is both the consequence and process of sport culture change. The sport culture change could be viewed as the synthesis of the “old” as traditional, “new” as modern together with exotic “different” whenever possible. The current Man sport culture finally emerged from the overlap, blend and juxtaposition of the “traditional”, “modern” and “exotic”.

CONCLUSION

Case study is an import method even experience of social science research. The sport culture of the Liaodian Man compact community in Ahcheng was studied by the research methods of history, sociology, comparison. The research conclusion of this small case could provide similar investigation with comparable information to analyze sport culture change from a theoretical level and bring interpretation. The original state of Man sport culture is related with the special landform, ancestry and abundant culture traits. It reveals the social life content of Man custom and productive work. The change of Man sport culture is a consequence of internal precipitating factors and exotic cultural absorption. Even if the original Man sport culture changed in content and form, the key cultural traits are still maintained. The essential and social function of the sport culture in this case witnessed the process of “secularization” and “modernization”. The essential functions are entertainment, fitness, social contact and aesthetic values and the social ones are ethnic propaganda, education, reformation and solidarity. There is one general principle behind the changes of content, form and function of Man sport culture that is the “culture overlap”. When the culture generated new culture phenomenon undergoing long time development and variation, most parts of the old culture phenomenon did not extinct but still be overlapped and integrated into new cultural structure after a process of selection, transformation and reinterpretation.

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