

Oral folk art as a means of formation ethnocultural interests

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Annotation: This article explores the role of oral folk art in shaping and preserving ethnocultural interests. It discusses the significance of oral folk art forms such as folk tales, myths, legends, and proverbs in transmitting cultural values, traditions, and beliefs from one generation to the next. The article emphasizes the importance of oral folk art as a means of creating and strengthening a sense of cultural identity among different communities. It also examines the potential of oral folk art to promote intercultural understanding and respect by fostering appreciation and knowledge of diverse cultural traditions. The article concludes by calling for greater recognition and support for oral folk art as a vital component of cultural heritage and identity.

Key words: oral folk art, ethnocultural interests, cultural identity, cultural heritage, folk tales, myths, legends, proverbs, intercultural understanding, cultural traditions.

Oral folk art has played a significant role in shaping and preserving the ethnocultural interests of communities around the world. From ancient times to the present day, folk tales, myths, legends, and proverbs have been used as powerful tools for transmitting cultural values, traditions, and beliefs from one generation to the next. These oral traditions have contributed to the formation of cultural identity, providing individuals with a sense of belonging and connectedness to their communities.

In recent years, there has been growing recognition of the importance of oral folk art as a means of preserving cultural heritage and promoting intercultural understanding. This recognition has been driven by a number of factors, including the increasing globalization of culture, the rise of multicultural societies, and the growing awareness of the importance of cultural diversity and pluralism.

At the heart of the role of oral folk art in shaping and preserving ethnocultural interests is its ability to transmit cultural knowledge and values through the generations. Folk tales, myths, legends, and proverbs are not just stories or sayings but are powerful expressions of the cultural identity of a community. These narratives and expressions provide insights into the beliefs, values, and customs of a community, revealing its worldview, history, and social norms.

For example, in many African cultures, folk tales are an integral part of the oral tradition. These stories often involve animals as characters and convey moral lessons to children. In the Akan culture of Ghana, the Anansi stories feature a spider as the main character and are used to teach children about wisdom, cunning, and perseverance. In the Yoruba culture of Nigeria, the Ifa divination system is used to convey spiritual and ethical teachings through stories and proverbs.

Similarly, in the Native American cultures of North America, myths and legends are an important part of the oral tradition. These stories often feature animals or supernatural beings and are used to teach about the natural world, the origins of the community, and the cultural values and practices of the tribe. For example, in the Navajo culture, the story of the

Hero Twins is used to teach about the importance of bravery, resourcefulness, and cooperation in overcoming adversity.

In addition to transmitting cultural knowledge and values, oral folk art also plays a key role in the formation of cultural identity. By engaging with the stories and expressions of their culture, individuals develop a sense of belonging and connectedness to their community. They learn about the history, traditions, and customs of their community, and come to understand their place in the larger cultural landscape.

Furthermore, oral folk art has the potential to promote intercultural understanding and respect. By exposing individuals to the cultural traditions of other communities, oral folk art can foster an appreciation for diversity and pluralism. Through the exploration of different cultural narratives and expressions, individuals can develop a deeper understanding of the values and beliefs of other communities, as well as the challenges they face.

Despite the many benefits of oral folk art, however, this rich and diverse cultural heritage is at risk of being lost. With the increasing pace of globalization, the spread of technology, and the erosion of traditional cultural practices, many communities are struggling to maintain their oral traditions. In many cases, the stories and expressions that have been passed down for generations are being forgotten or lost, and with them, the cultural identity and heritage of the community.

To address this challenge, there is a growing need for greater recognition and support for oral folk art as a vital component of cultural heritage and identity. This includes efforts to document and preserve oral traditions, as well as to promote the use of these traditions in education and cultural programming. It also involves fostering an appreciation for the importance of oral folk art among policymakers, educators, and the general public, and supporting the communities that are working to preserve and transmit their oral traditions.

Oral folk art is a powerful means of formation of ethnocultural interests, as it serves as a conduit for the transmission of cultural knowledge, values, and identity from one generation to the next. The stories, myths, legends, and proverbs that make up the oral tradition of a community provide insights into its history, worldview, and social norms, while also contributing to the formation of a sense of belonging and connectedness to the community.

Furthermore, oral folk art has the potential to promote intercultural understanding and respect by fostering an appreciation for the diversity and pluralism of different cultural traditions. However, the increasing pace of globalization, the spread of technology, and the erosion of traditional cultural practices pose a significant threat to the preservation of this rich and diverse cultural heritage.

To address this challenge, it is important to recognize and support the vital role of oral folk art in the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage and identity. This includes efforts to document and preserve oral traditions, as well as to promote their use in education and cultural programming. It also involves fostering an appreciation for the importance of oral folk art among policymakers, educators, and the general public and supporting the communities that are working to preserve and transmit their oral traditions.

In conclusion, oral folk art serves as a bridge between the past and the present, preserving cultural heritage, promoting intercultural understanding, and contributing to the formation of ethnocultural interests. It is a vital component of the cultural identity of communities around

the world, and it is essential that we work to preserve and transmit this rich and diverse cultural heritage for future generations.

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