

RESEARCH ON THE CULTURAL VALUE OF TRADITIONAL OVERSEAS CHINESE VILLAGES IN LINGNAN

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ABSTRACT

As a representative cultural heritage in southern China, the traditional villages of overseas Chinese in Lingnan embody the wisdom and emotions of overseas Chinese, presenting a unique architectural style and profound cultural connotation. At different stages of the historical development of overseas Chinese, these villages have not only retained the essence of the Central Plains culture, but also integrated cultural elements from overseas, forming unique multicultural characteristics such as architecture, folk customs, beliefs, food and language. However, with the acceleration of urbanization and the impact of globalization, these traditional villages are facing severe challenges such as cultural heritage faults, architectural destruction and disappearance of style. To this end, this paper conducts a comprehensive analysis of the cultural value of the traditional villages of overseas Chinese in Lingnan through literature research and field investigation, and deeply explores its cultural expressions in architecture, folk customs, beliefs, etc., aiming to reveal the potential cultural resources of these villages in the context of cultural and tourism integration. The research not only provides a theoretical basis for the protection and revitalization of traditional villages of overseas Chinese, but also provides strategic support for their sustainable development and practical application of cultural and tourism integration.

Keywords: Lingnan, Overseas Chinese, Traditional Villages, Cultural Value

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INTRODUCTION

The Lingnan region is known as the "hometown of overseas Chinese in China", and two-thirds of the overseas Chinese in the country come from this region. As an important carrier of overseas Chinese culture, Lingnan not only records the process of countless overseas Chinese struggling and accumulating wealth overseas, but also embodies their wisdom and emotions when they return to their hometowns to build houses and build homes. In the construction of villages, overseas Chinese have integrated overseas building materials, architectural styles and cultural characteristics into them, and gradually formed unique traditional overseas Chinese villages. These villages are not only treasures of Lingnan culture and architectural heritage, but also witnesses of the historical changes of overseas Chinese over the past century, carrying deep historical memories and rich cultural connotations. They are not only a concrete expression of homesickness, but also a concrete manifestation of the integration of overseas Chinese emotions and Lingnan culture.

However, with the acceleration of urbanization and the impact of globalization, the cultural heritage of traditional Lingnan overseas Chinese villages faces unprecedented challenges. Rapid urban expansion has caused the cultural value of these ancient villages to be gradually neglected, and their architectural style and lifestyle are gradually disappearing. In this context, how to tap the cultural value of these overseas Chinese villages and protect and revitalize these precious cultural heritages has become a top priority. This study will deeply explore the cultural value of traditional Lingnan overseas Chinese villages from multiple perspectives such as architecture, folklore, beliefs, food, and language, aiming to provide a theoretical basis for the protection and revitalization of these villages and to help the sustainable development of Lingnan overseas Chinese villages in modern society.

Research Objectives

This study aims to explore the cultural connotations and characteristics of traditional overseas Chinese villages in Lingnan. Through literature analysis and field investigation, the cultural value of the villages is summarized from multiple perspectives such as architecture, folk customs, beliefs, food, and language.

LITERATURE REVIEWS

Lingnan, as an important gateway between China, Southeast Asia and the world, has a cultural background and historical development deeply influenced by its unique geographical environment, forming a pattern of multicultural integration (Fu, 2019). As an important part of the culture of Lingnan, the formation, development and cultural value of its traditional villages have distinct regional characteristics among the three major ethnic groups of Cantonese, Hakka and Chaoshan. The following will sort out relevant literature from the historical and cultural background, geographical environment, architectural culture, folk culture, food culture, language culture and other aspects of the traditional villages of overseas Chinese in Lingnan, and explore the cultural characteristics of the three major ethnic groups of Cantonese, Hakka and Chaoshan and their manifestations in traditional villages of overseas Chinese.

Geographical and historical background of Lingnan region

The Lingnan region, located in southern China, includes today's Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan and parts of Fujian. Its unique geographical location and diverse natural environment have led to its distinctive regional cultural characteristics. Geographically, the Lingnan region has mountains such as Yuechengling, Dupangling, Mengzhuling, Qitianling and Dayuling as natural barriers, which are isolated from the Central Plains and face the South China Sea, giving it the advantage of being open to the outside world. Geographically, the intersection of the southern subtropical and central subtropical regions has formed a hot, rainy, humid and hot climate, which has also shaped the unique natural landscape and highly adaptable cultural ecology of the Lingnan region (Liu, 1997).

Historically, the Lingnan region has long been regarded as a frontier area, but with the gradual expansion of Chinese feudal society, especially since the Qin and Han dynasties, Lingnan began to gradually integrate into the ruling system of the Central Plains, forming a diversified economic structure with farming as the main industry and fisheries and commercial development as the equal emphasis. Lingnan's openness and independence coexist, making it an important birthplace of overseas Chinese. Since the Tang Dynasty, with the development of the commodity economy and the prosperity of overseas trade, merchants, craftsmen and other residents in Lingnan began to go to Southeast Asia, South Asia and other places to develop, gradually forming an early group of overseas Chinese (Xu & Situ, 2004).

Overseas Chinese refer to those who have settled overseas but retain Chinese nationality. While settling overseas, they always keep contact with their ancestral homeland and maintain economic and cultural exchanges with their hometown in various forms (Zhuang, 2011). Lingnan is known as the "hometown of overseas Chinese in China" because of its open geographical location and long history of overseas Chinese. The formation and development of overseas Chinese villages runs through multiple stages of Chinese history from the Tang Dynasty to modern times (Zhang, 2023). After working hard abroad, overseas Chinese usually take family honor as their responsibility and use the accumulated wealth to return to their hometown to build houses, infrastructure and public buildings, forming a group of unique traditional overseas Chinese villages. These villages are not only the carriers of Lingnan cultural heritage, but also the result of the intersection of Central Plains culture and maritime culture, reflecting the openness, inclusiveness and practicality of Lingnan culture.

In summary, Lingnan has become the main birthplace of overseas Chinese culture with its special geographical location and open cultural environment. As an important cultural carrier of Lingnan, overseas Chinese villages not only demonstrate the integration of Central Plains culture and marine culture, but also reflect the deep feelings and sense of responsibility of overseas Chinese groups for the inheritance of their hometown culture after struggling overseas. The protection and research of these villages have important practical significance for understanding the diversity and development process of Lingnan culture.

The architectural culture of traditional overseas Chinese villages in Lingnan

The architectural culture of traditional villages of overseas Chinese in Lingnan is the result of the integration of Central Plains culture, Lingnan regional characteristics and overseas culture, forming a unique architectural system (Zhong & Wei, 2023). These village buildings not only inherit the essence of traditional Chinese architecture, but also have been cleverly transformed according to the hot and humid climate conditions in Lingnan to adapt to the local natural environment. At the same time, they have absorbed elements of overseas architectural culture, showing the unique cultural identity and values of overseas Chinese.

1) Cantonese arcade

The main feature of overseas Chinese villages in the Guangdong region is the arcade architecture. Arcade buildings are common in the Pearl River Delta region. The first-floor porch of the building extends outward, forming a continuous corridor with the street, which not only provides a space for pedestrians to shelter from the sun and rain, but also expands the display surface of the shops. This design fully considers the hot and humid climate in the Lingnan region and improves the ventilation and lighting conditions of the building. The colonnade design of the arcade also reflects the influence of Western architectural style. It is an external architectural element introduced by overseas Chinese when they returned to China to build, showing the openness and inclusiveness of the architectural culture in the Guangdong region (Chen & Luo, 2018).

2) Hakka Walled House

The Hakka walled house is a representative architectural form of Hakka culture, widely distributed in mountainous areas. The building structure of the Hakka walled house is compact,

usually round or square, emphasizing the defensive function, and can effectively resist external invasion. The interior of the walled house is a space for family members to live together, reflecting the strong clan concept and cohesion. This architectural form not only adapts to the mountainous terrain and climate, but also reflects the Hakka people's cultural characteristics of attaching importance to defense and living together (Li & Shu, 2011). The thick walls and small windows of the Hakka walled house help keep the house cool and ventilated, while preventing moisture from invading.

3) Chaoshan Folk Houses

The overseas Chinese villages in Chaoshan are mainly Chaozhou-style houses, which pay great attention to ventilation and lighting in layout and design. Chaoshan houses usually adopt a courtyard layout, with a front hall and a back yard, and a central axis symmetry. The house structure is simple and spacious, and can make full use of natural wind for cooling. The roofs are mostly designed with a gable roof, which is conducive to drainage and can slow down heat accumulation, adapting to the tropical climate of Chaoshan. In addition, the decorative style of Chaoshan houses is often rich in carving art and gorgeous paintings, reflecting the wealth and cultural status of overseas Chinese families (Zeng, 2003).

The architectural culture of the overseas Chinese villages in Lingnan has absorbed a large number of overseas architectural elements on the basis of integrating the traditional culture of the Central Plains. The arcades in the Cantonese area are influenced by the Southeast Asian and Western architectural styles, and the folk houses in the Chaoshan area also show traces of overseas culture in carvings and architectural structures. This combination of Chinese and Western architectural styles not only reflects the overseas Chinese community's recognition of the traditional culture of the motherland, but also shows their absorption and innovation of overseas life experience.

Whether it is the Cantonese arcades, the Hakka enclosed houses, or the Chaoshan dwellings, these architectural forms are designed to cope with the rainy, hot and humid climate of Lingnan, emphasizing ventilation, lighting, cooling and other functions. Through architectural design adapted to local conditions, the overseas Chinese villages in Lingnan not only have good living functions, but also reflect the pragmatic and environmentally adaptable wisdom of the Lingnan people.

Folk customs and belief culture of traditional overseas Chinese villages in Lingnan

The folk customs and belief culture of traditional overseas Chinese villages are an extremely important part of Lingnan culture. The festivals of traditional overseas Chinese villages are an important part of their folk culture, showing the unique cultural characteristics of the three major ethnic groups in Lingnan: Cantonese, Hakka, and Chaoshan (Guan & Yang, 2008). These festivals are not only major events in rural society, but also an important way to maintain clan unity and consolidate cultural identity (Ma, 2021). Through festivals, overseas Chinese express their respect for their ancestors, loyalty to their families, and deep identification with their hometown culture, and they retain and continue these traditions even overseas.

1) Cantonese folk customs and belief culture

There are many folk activities in Cantonese culture, especially traditional festivals such as the Spring Festival, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival, which are the most grand folk activities in the village. During the Spring Festival, Cantonese overseas Chinese villages will perform traditional performances such as dragon and lion dances. Villagers will also set off firecrackers and hang lanterns to pray for happiness and peace in the coming year. Lion dance, as an important activity in Cantonese traditional festivals, not only symbolizes exorcism and avoidance of evil, but also highlights the masculinity in Cantonese culture (Du, 2015). During the Dragon Boat Festival, the dragon boat race in the Cantonese region is very representative. This activity is not only a sports competition, but also a symbol of friendly exchanges between villages and clan unity (Guan, 2010). During the Mid-Autumn Festival, family members will

gather together to enjoy the moon and eat moon cakes. This is also a time for family reunion and commemoration of ancestors.

The religious culture of the Cantonese region is mainly concentrated on ancestor worship and the belief in gods in the South Guangdong region, such as the City God Temple and the Mazu Temple. Overseas Chinese will also continue these traditional beliefs.

2) Hakka folk customs and belief culture

The festivals in Hakka overseas Chinese villages are centered on clan unity and ancestor worship. The Spring Festival is the most important festival in Hakka villages. During this period, villagers will hold a grand ceremony to worship their ancestors, and the ancestral hall will become the center of family collective activities (Liu et al., 2009). The ancestor worship ceremony during the Spring Festival is not just an activity for individual families. It is usually held by the entire clan of the village, emphasizing the unity and harmony within the family. This ancestor worship activity has a strong sense of ritual. Villagers will place offerings and burn incense in the ancestral hall to worship their ancestors, and invite the whole village to participate. The Zhongyuan Festival is another important festival. On this day, Hakka villages will hold a large-scale ancestor worship and deceased soul worship activities. Hakka people believe that the Zhongyuan Festival is an important moment to communicate between the living and the dead. By burning paper money and placing offerings, they express their remembrance and admiration for their deceased relatives (Lin, 2011).

3) Chaoshan folk customs and belief culture

The folk activities in Chaoshan culture are particularly rich, especially the temple fair culture has a far-reaching influence in the Chaoshan area. The belief in gods such as Mazu and Guandi is widely spread in the Chaoshan area, and the temple fair has become an important carrier of Chaoshan folk culture and religious activities (Lian, 2014). The welcoming god competition during the Spring Festival and the lantern festival during the Lantern Festival have distinct local characteristics, showing the Chaoshan area's worship of gods and love of life. In addition, the Spring Festival and Lantern Festival activities in the Chaoshan area are also very grand. During the Spring Festival, villagers will set off firecrackers and sky lanterns, symbolizing blessing and celebration. The Lantern Parade during the Lantern Festival shows the Chaoshan area's symbolic worship of light and hope (Peng, 2022).

These folk customs and religious activities are also an important link between overseas Chinese and their hometowns. Even in foreign countries, overseas Chinese still maintain close ties with their hometown culture through festivals. In Southeast Asia, North America and other places, Cantonese, Hakka and Chaoshan overseas Chinese communities still celebrate festivals such as the Spring Festival, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival according to the traditions of their hometowns (Zhao & Zhao, 2022). Especially in the temple fair culture, overseas Chinese continue the beliefs of their hometowns by establishing Mazu temples and Guandi temples in the local area, and regularly hold statue parades and worship ceremonies (Xiang & Timoshenko, 2024). These festivals not only maintain the emotional connection within the overseas Chinese community, but also show the rich connotations of Chinese culture to the local society.

In summary, the cultures of the three major ethnic groups, namely, Cantonese, Hakka and Chaoshan, have their own characteristics, fully demonstrating the cultural diversity and richness of the Lingnan region. Cantonese culture is characterized by its openness and integration with marine culture, Hakka culture reflects strong adaptability and the continuation of clan culture, and Chaoshan culture, due to its unique geographical location and strong local style, shows distinct regional characteristics in architecture, food, language and other aspects. The cultures of the three major ethnic groups not only enrich the connotation of Lingnan culture, but also provide an important foundation for the inheritance and development of

overseas Chinese culture, and become an important link connecting the cultural identity of Chinese people at home and abroad.

The food culture of traditional overseas Chinese villages in Lingnan

The food culture of the Lingnan region is deeply influenced by the three major ethnic groups: Cantonese, Hakka, and Chaoshan. The food culture of each ethnic group has a unique style and regional characteristics, and also incorporates diverse elements of overseas Chinese culture.

1) Cantonese food culture

Cantonese cuisine is represented by Cantonese cuisine, which emphasizes color, fragrance, and taste. It pays attention to the original flavor of the ingredients, and the dishes are light and delicious. Due to the long history of overseas Chinese in Lingnan, Cantonese cuisine not only integrates the traditional food culture of the Central Plains, but also is influenced by Southeast Asia. Seafood is an important part of Cantonese cuisine. The combination of fresh and rich ingredients and various cooking methods makes Cantonese cuisine popular among overseas Chinese (Chen, 2021). In addition, the tea drinking culture of Cantonese is also continued in overseas Chinese villages. "Morning tea" is not only a dietary habit, but also an important way for overseas Chinese to socialize and exchange culture.

2) Hakka Food Culture

Hakka cuisine is known for its simplicity and rich regional characteristics. Since most Hakka people live in mountainous areas, the ingredients are mainly derived from local wild resources. Hakka cuisine is characterized by simple ingredients, salty taste, and cooking methods such as boiling, steaming, and stewing, emphasizing the texture and flavor of the ingredients themselves. Overseas Hakka people brought this frugal and simple eating style overseas and enriched the Hakka food culture by adapting to local ingredients (Wang, 2006). Especially in major festivals and family gatherings, Hakka cuisine is not only a reflection of traditional diet, but also an important way to pass on Hakka culture (Yang, 2000).

3) Chaoshan Food Culture

Chaoshan cuisine is famous for its unique cooking skills and rich food combinations, especially among overseas Chinese. Chaoshan cuisine focuses on the freshness and combination of ingredients, and has a rich and delicious taste. Common dishes include beef hot pot, stewed food platter and various seafood. Overseas Chinese in Chaoshan brought these eating habits to Southeast Asia and all over the world, forming a unique Chaoshan food culture circle overseas (Shen, Nie, & Huangfu, 2016). In addition, Chaoshan Gongfu tea is widely popular among overseas Chinese. It is not only an important drink in daily life, but also a symbol of cultural exchange among overseas Chinese.

It can be seen that the food culture of the three major ethnic groups, Cantonese, Hakka, and Chaoshan, has not only been inherited and developed in the traditional villages of overseas Chinese in Lingnan, but has also become an important symbol of Lingnan culture worldwide through the spread of overseas Chinese around the world. These eating habits not only maintain the feelings of overseas Chinese with their hometowns, but also promote the exchange and integration of Chinese and foreign cultures.

The language and culture of the traditional overseas Chinese villages in Lingnan

Language culture refers to the cultural phenomena and characteristics expressed and passed down through language, covering the history, values, lifestyle, customs, ways of thinking, etc. of a society or ethnic group (Ge, 1994). It not only refers to the pronunciation, vocabulary and grammatical rules of the language itself, but also includes the cultural connotations, social norms and ideas expressed by people through language. Language culture reflects the unique identity of a group, and through the use and dissemination of language, it maintains the inheritance and identity of culture among different generations and groups. The three main dialect systems of Lingnan Overseas Chinese Traditional Villages are Cantonese, Hakka and Chaoshan.

1) Cantonese language and culture

Guangfu dialect, also known as Yueyu, is the main dialect of the Guangfu ethnic group, widely distributed in the Pearl River Delta region of Guangdong and overseas Chinese communities. As the most representative language in the Lingnan region, Cantonese not only dominates daily life, but is also widely spread through popular culture such as Cantonese movies, Cantonese opera and pop music (Chen, 2020). Overseas, Cantonese has become the main means of communication for many overseas Chinese communities, especially in Southeast Asia and North America. Overseas Chinese maintain contact with their hometowns through Cantonese, which enhances ethnic cohesion. The rich tones and diverse vocabulary of Cantonese also allow it to play a unique role in cultural inheritance.

2) Hakka Language and Culture

Hakka is the main language of the Hakka people. It has conservative language characteristics and retains a large number of ancient Chinese words. Since most Hakka people live in mountainous areas, their language system shows strong migration and adaptability. In Lingnan overseas Chinese villages, Hakka is still an important means of communication between Hakka people. Overseas, especially in Southeast Asia and the Americas, Hakka still retains its unique status and has become a core element in maintaining the cultural identity of Hakka overseas Chinese (Song & Zhu, 2020). Although Hakka is impacted by Mandarin and other languages in modern society, the Hakka overseas Chinese community still passes on this language through family, social and clan activities.

3) Chaoshan Language and Culture

Chaoshan dialect, also known as Chaozhou dialect or Chaoyu, is the main dialect in Chaoshan area, with strong phonological characteristics and complex intonation. Chaoshan dialect is not only widely used in Chaoshan area, but also widely preserved in Chaoshan overseas Chinese communities in Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and North America. Chaoshan dialect is an important carrier of Chaoshan ethnic culture, and it conveys the living habits, clan concepts and cultural beliefs of Chaoshan people through language. In Chaoshan overseas Chinese villages, Chaoshan dialect is not only used for daily communication, but also becomes an important language tool for clan rituals and festivals. Chaoshan dialect symbolizes cultural roots and sense of belonging for Chaoshan people. Overseas Chaoshan overseas Chinese have maintained the use of Chaoshan dialect in daily life, religious ceremonies and festivals, and inherited this unique language culture (Chen, 2002).

In summary, the language and culture of the three major ethnic groups, namely, Cantonese, Hakka and Chaoshan, play an important role in the traditional villages of overseas Chinese in Lingnan. Dialects are not only a reflection of their respective cultural characteristics, but also an important tool for the cultural identity of the overseas Chinese community. In the context of globalization, these dialects have become a symbol of Lingnan culture through the spread of overseas Chinese, and have continued and developed worldwide.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In order to fully explore the cultural value of the traditional villages of overseas Chinese in Lingnan, this paper adopts a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods, and comprehensively analyzes the collected data through literature research and field investigation to ensure the scientificity and objectivity of the research results.

Literature research method: Through in-depth research on existing literature, we can understand the historical background, natural and cultural resources, and social and economic development of the traditional overseas Chinese villages in Lingnan, and understand the history and current situation of the traditional overseas Chinese villages.

Field investigation method: Conduct field investigations on several representative overseas Chinese villages and collect first-hand information on the villages' material and cultural landscapes, social and economic activities, and residents' lifestyles.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Through literature analysis and field research, this article systematically sorts out the cultural characteristics of traditional overseas Chinese villages in Lingnan, and deeply explores their cultural values from perspectives of 3 major ethnic groups: Cantonese, Hakka, and Chaoshan.

The multicultural connotations of traditional overseas Chinese villages

The cultural connotations of the traditional villages of overseas Chinese in Lingnan are diverse and rich. They not only retain the core elements of the Central Plains culture, but are also deeply influenced by overseas culture. The cultural characteristics of the three major ethnic groups, Cantonese, Hakka, and Chaoshan, are all significantly reflected in the village's architectural style, folk activities, and language use. Cantonese villages have strong commercial service functions, and the widespread use of arcade buildings reflects their outward-looking economic culture; Hakka villages emphasize clan and defense functions, showing strong introversion and cohesion; Chaoshan villages focus on the maintenance of traditional culture in architecture and folk activities, and show a strong identification with locality and family relationships.

The impact of geography and climate on village culture

The unique geographical and climatic conditions of Lingnan have shaped the spatial organization and architectural style of overseas Chinese villages. Research has found that the villages of the three major ethnic groups, Cantonese, Hakka, and Chaoshan, have fully considered the hot and humid climate characteristics of Lingnan in terms of building orientation, layout, ventilation and cooling. The Cantonese region is represented by arcade buildings, which focus on ventilation, lighting and shading functions; Hakka villages mostly use enclosed house structures to strengthen the defensive and clan-based spatial layout; Chaoshan villages have formed a good air convection system through the design of spacious houses, combined with courtyards and patios.

The inheritance and changes of folk culture

The folk culture of traditional overseas Chinese villages shows strong regionality and inheritance in festivals, weddings, funerals, beliefs, etc. Studies have shown that the folk activities of Cantonese villages are closely related to commercial culture, Hakka villages retain rich clan rituals and ancestor worship, and Chaoshan villages reflect strong local cultural identity in temple fair culture and family rituals. At the same time, with the development of modern society, the folk activities of these villages have gradually changed under the influence of external culture, and some traditional rituals have been simplified in form, but their core cultural values are still retained.

Local expressions of food, language and culture

The food culture of traditional overseas Chinese villages has strong local characteristics. The Cantonese cuisine focuses on lightness and freshness; the Hakka cuisine advocates simplicity and tradition; the Chaoshan cuisine is famous for its strong flavor and rich food combinations. In terms of language, Cantonese, Hakka and Chaoshan are the three major dialects in Lingnan. They are still important cultural heritage tools in overseas Chinese villages and are passed on through daily communication and clan rituals.

Cultural value and sustainable development potential

The cultural value of Lingnan Overseas Chinese Traditional Villages is mainly reflected in its architectural culture, folk traditions and the inheritance of overseas Chinese culture. These villages are not only the carriers of Lingnan culture, but also a vivid embodiment of the integration of historical and modern culture. Studies have shown that through reasonable cultural resource excavation and the integration of culture and tourism, Lingnan Overseas

Chinese Traditional Villages have great potential for sustainable development. Tourism development can be an important way to protect and revitalize village culture, but the premise is to respect cultural authenticity and avoid excessive commercialization.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Research Conclusions

Through a systematic analysis of the cultural value of traditional overseas Chinese villages in Lingnan, this study draws the following main conclusions:

The result of multicultural integration: The cultural connotation of Lingnan Overseas Chinese Traditional Villages was gradually formed under the background of the intersection of Central Plains culture, maritime culture and overseas culture. The cultural characteristics of the three major ethnic groups, Cantonese, Hakka and Chaoshan, are clearly manifested in the villages, forming an important part of the cultural diversity of Lingnan.

Unique architecture and spatial organization: Influenced by the hot and humid climate and geographical environment of Lingnan, overseas Chinese villages have shown a high degree of regional adaptability in terms of architectural style and spatial layout. Architectural forms such as Cantonese arcades, Hakka walled houses, and Chaoshan dwellings are not only symbols of overseas Chinese wealth and family glory, but also examples of the harmonious coexistence of culture and natural environment.

Persistence in folk customs and language culture: The villages of the three major ethnic groups, Cantonese, Hakka and Chaoshan, have effectively preserved their cultural traditions through festivals, clan rituals, language inheritance, etc. Although the process of modernization has had an impact on the traditional culture of these villages, their core values are still passed on.

Potential for the integration of culture and tourism: Cultural resources of traditional overseas Chinese villages provide rich materials for tourism development and cultural industries. Through reasonable cultural protection and revitalization, overseas Chinese villages play an important role and have great potential in rural revitalization and sustainable development.

Discussion and Outlook

This study provides a new perspective for the analysis of the cultural value of traditional villages of overseas Chinese in Lingnan. However, there are also some limitations in the research process, such as the limited number of field survey samples. In the future, the scope of the survey can be further expanded to increase the comparative research of different types of villages. In addition, the sustainable development of villages requires the participation of multiple forces. How to achieve economic benefits while maintaining cultural authenticity is still a difficult problem that needs to be solved urgently.

Future research can be further deepened in the following directions:

Community participation and cultural revival: Explore how to achieve the true revival of village culture by strengthening community participation, enhancing the awareness and initiative of village residents in cultural protection.

Innovative development of the cultural and tourism industry: In the process of cultural and tourism integration, we focus on innovation and sustainable development, and promote the revival and revitalization of Lingnan overseas Chinese traditional villages in modern society.



Figure 1 Cantonese Opera



Figure 2 Hakka song and dance "Charm of Earthen Buildings"



Figure 3 Chaoshan Yingge Dance

Table 1 Cultural characteristics of the three major ethnic groups in Lingnan

Cultural categories Ethnic culture type	Cantonese culture	Hakka Culture	Chaoshan Culture
Geographical distribution	The Pearl River Delta region is close to the coast, and overseas Chinese culture is closely related to open maritime culture.	Living in mountainous areas, emphasizing migration adaptability	Chaoshan area, independent geographical location brings unique cultural features
Architectural Culture	The arcade building and the extended porch form a continuous sunshade and rain shelter space	The walled house is compact and defensive, emphasizing the importance of	Chaozhou-style houses are spacious, bright, ventilated and adapted to the tropical climate.

	to adapt to the hot and humid climate	living together as a clan.	
Folk Culture	Focus on the integration of business and maritime culture, and folk activities are mostly related to exchanges with overseas Chinese	Emphasis on clan culture, festivals and religious activities to demonstrate clan cohesion	Maintaining traditional and religious beliefs, the folk activities are rich and diverse, reflecting clan and religious culture
Food Culture	Light and delicious, combining a variety of seafood and rich food resources	Simple flavor, focusing on the authenticity of ingredients	Rich flavor, diverse ingredients, famous in the Chinese world
Language and Culture	Cantonese, an important symbol of Lingnan culture and an important carrier of overseas Chinese culture	Hakka dialect, an important carrier of Hakka culture, is preserved and passed down in overseas Chinese villages	Chaoshan dialect, an important part of Chaoshan culture, maintains a strong influence

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