

Original Research Article

Open Access

Value Analysis of Chinese Language and Literature Research in Cultural Inheritance

Xiao-Qing Yang*

Handan Preschool Teachers College, Handan, Hebei 056300, China

*Correspondence to: Xiao-Qing Yang, Handan Preschool Teachers College, Handan, Hebei 056300, China

Abstract: Under the waves of globalization and modernization, cultural inheritance faces numerous challenges. Chinese language and literature serve as the core carrier and essence of Chinese culture; thus, research in this field is of great significance to cultural inheritance. This paper delves into the theoretical connection between the two. Historically, it plays a key role in the dissemination of classical texts, the evolution of language and script, and the development of traditional literary criticism. From a practical perspective, it fosters cultural identity, drives innovation, and promotes international exchange. Furthermore, strategies such as strengthening disciplinary construction, advancing interdisciplinary research, and utilizing modern technology to innovate inheritance are proposed to provide references for the inheritance and development of Chinese culture.

Keywords: Chinese Language and Literature Research; Cultural Inheritance; Value Analysis

Introduction

As an important component of Chinese culture, Chinese language and literature carry rich cultural connotations and historical memories. In the process of cultural inheritance, research in this field plays a pivotal role. It not only deeply excavates and interprets the essence of Chinese culture but also promotes cultural dissemination and innovation through diverse methods. This paper aims to explore the multiple values of Chinese language and literature research in cultural inheritance, seeking to provide beneficial references and enlightenment for cultural inheritance in the new era.

1. Theoretical Correlation between Chinese Language and Literature and Cultural Inheritance

1.1 Cultural Attributes of Chinese Language and Literature

Since its inception, Chinese language and literature have been closely linked to Chinese culture, possessing profound cultural attributes. At the linguistic level, Chinese characters, as one of the oldest scripts in the world, embody the unique thinking patterns and aesthetic concepts of the Chinese nation through pictographic and ideographic methods. For instance, pictograms like "日" (sun) and "月" (moon) depict



© The Author(s) 2026. **Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, for any purpose, even commercially, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made.

natural objects through intuitive graphics, reflecting the observation of the objective world. The character "武" (military/martial), composed of "止" (stop) and "戈" (dagger-axe), embodies the peaceful philosophy of "stopping conflict to define martial prowess." Such unique structures are not merely symbols for recording language but also carry the cultural genes and value orientations of the nation. Literary works are vivid manifestations of this culture—from the ancient social scenes in *The Classic of Poetry* to the scholarly emotions in Tang and Song poetry, and the social changes reflected in Ming and Qing novels. Every work acts as a mirror reflecting the social landscape and spiritual pursuits of a specific period. *Dream of the Red Chamber*, for example, serves as a vital window for understanding ancient Chinese society through its depiction of the rise and decline of the four great families.

1.2 Connotation and Methods of Cultural Inheritance

Cultural inheritance is the continuation and transmission of culture over time, involving material, spiritual, and institutional dimensions. Material inheritance covers the preservation of traditional architecture and handicrafts; spiritual inheritance concerns values, ethics, and beliefs; institutional inheritance is reflected in the succession of social systems and etiquette. Its methods are diverse: "oral instruction" remains a primitive yet vital method, preserving vast cultural information and national memories through folk tales and songs^[1]. Written records utilize books and documents to systematically preserve wisdom across time and space. Artistic creations, such as painting and dance, promote cultural spirits in vivid forms. Chinese language and literature occupy a critical position in these methods, serving as the most direct and effective media by recording classical content and inheriting cultural spirits through literary forms.

1.3 Interaction between Chinese Language and Literature Research and Cultural Inheritance

The two interact closely. On one hand, research drives inheritance by providing in-depth interpretations of classical texts and linguistic laws, deepening public understanding. For example, scholarly annotations

of *The Analects* help people grasp Confucianism, enabling its contemporary development. Researching cultural elements like traditional festivals in ancient works brings fading cultures back into the public eye. On the other hand, the demand for cultural inheritance reacts back upon the research. As society emphasizes inheritance, higher demands are placed on innovation and depth, prompting researchers to explore new fields like folk literature and local culture using modern information technology.

2. Historical Value of Chinese Language and Literature Research in Cultural Inheritance

2.1 Cultural Preservation and Dissemination of Classical Texts

Research has played a vital role in preserving classics ranging from *The Classic of Poetry* and *Songs of Chu* to the works of various philosophers and the novels of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Due to the passage of time and errors in transcription, these classics require systematic collation to survive. Research protects these texts through collation, annotation, and translation. Collation corrects errors to ensure accuracy; annotation helps readers understand difficult terms and cultural connotations; and translation spreads these works both domestically and globally. Through research, the cultural elements of these classics transcend time and space, continuously influencing cultural development in different historical periods.

2.2 Continuation of Cultural Memory in Linguistic Evolution

The evolution of the Chinese language and script is a vivid history of cultural development, carrying information about social change. From Oracle Bone script and Bronze inscriptions to Small Seal script and Regular script, every change reflects social needs and aesthetic trends. By sorting through these laws of evolution, research enables descendants to glimpse the social fabric of ancient times. For example, Oracle Bone script provides precious data on Shang Dynasty rituals and agriculture. Analysis of character structure and vocabulary changes reveals shifts in human thinking and social life, acting as a bond that connects ancient culture with modern society^[2].

2.3 Traditional Literary Criticism and the Formation of Inheritance Philosophies

Ancient Chinese literary theories, such as "poetry expresses intent" (shi yan zhi), "literature as a vehicle for the Way" (wen yi zai dao), and the theory of "artistic conception" (yi jing shuo), have profoundly shaped the perception of literary value and unique inheritance philosophies. Research interprets and develops these theories, promoting inheritance in creation and criticism. "Literature as a vehicle for the Way" emphasizes that works should carry moral and ethical ideas, integrating literature with social culture. In contemporary creation, many writers still uphold this philosophy by conveying social energy and cultural values through their works.

3. Practical Value of Chinese Language and Literature Research in Cultural Inheritance

3.1 Cultivation of Cultural Identity and National Spirit

In modern society, research is significant for enhancing cultural identity and belonging. By excavating national spirit and patriotism from classics, research helps people understand the history of the Chinese nation. The righteous spirit in Wen Tianxiang's poems and the social responsibility in Fan Zhongyan's works become sources for cultivating national spirit. Under the impact of globalization, research stimulates patriotic sentiments and resists the dissolution of local culture by foreign influences. Strengthening Chinese literature courses and holding classical reading activities in schools foster this spirit among the youth.

3.2 Cultural Innovation and Modern Transformation of Traditional Culture

Research provides rich materials and inspiration for cultural innovation. Re-interpreting traditional stories and myths allows them to regain vitality in modern society. In modern literature, writers like Mo Yan integrate folk stories and historical legends to create works with contemporary characteristics that receive international acclaim. In the cultural and creative industries, classics like *Dream of the Red Chamber* are adapted into films and dramas, using modern artistic means to give them new forms of expression^[3]. Creative products like poetry-themed bookmarks and

literary figurines further combine traditional culture with modern life.

3.3 International Cultural Exchange and Dissemination of Chinese Culture

Chinese language and literature research acts as a bridge to the world. Through translation and overseas Sinology, works like *The Analects* and *Tao Te Ching* have become windows for the world to understand Chinese philosophy. As China's international influence rises, more foreign scholars engage in this research, promoting mutual learning between cultures. International academic conferences and exchange activities allow Chinese scholars to share research results and promote the global spread of Chinese culture.

4. Strategies and Paths for Research to Promote Cultural Inheritance

4.1 Strengthening Disciplinary Construction and Talent Cultivation

Strengthening the discipline in universities is fundamental. Institutions should optimize curriculum settings by increasing the proportion of courses related to traditional inheritance, such as Ancient Philology and Classic Interpretation. Teaching methods should be diversified—using case studies and practical teaching to increase student engagement. Encouraging teachers to engage in inheritance-related research and providing academic exchange opportunities will enhance professional standards. Establishing school-enterprise cooperation mechanisms can also provide students with practical platforms to understand and inherit culture.

4.2 Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Integrated Development

Merging Chinese language and literature with history, philosophy, and sociology allows for a multi-perspective excavation of cultural connotations. For example, using historical methods to analyze the background of a work leads to a more accurate understanding of its meaning. Interdisciplinary research has unique advantages in solving complex inheritance issues, such as the relationship between literary works and social change. Integrating resources from different disciplines through joint research teams will drive innovative development in cultural inheritance^[4].

4.3 Utilizing Modern Technology to Innovate Inheritance Methods

Opportunities provided by digital technology and AI should be embraced. Developing digital databases of classical texts facilitates both scholarly research and public access. Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) can be used to restore ancient literary scenes, providing immersive experiences. Short-video platforms and social media are effective for spreading knowledge to a broad audience. Creative videos interpreting classics can attract younger generations. Furthermore, AI applications in translation and text analysis improve the efficiency and accuracy of international cultural dissemination.

Conclusion

In summary, Chinese language and literature research play an irreplaceable role in cultural inheritance. By strengthening disciplinary construction, promoting interdisciplinary research, and utilizing modern technology, we can more effectively excavate and inherit the precious resources of Chinese culture. In the future, as society develops and cultural exchanges

continue, research in this field will play an even more vital role in contributing unique cultural strength to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

References

- [1] An Li. Analysis of the Value and Significance of Chinese Language and Literature Research in Cultural Inheritance [J]. *Baihua*, 2024, (03): 95-96.
- [2] Lu Bo. Significance and Strategies of Chinese Language and Literature Research in Traditional Cultural Inheritance [J]. *Famous Writers and Masterpieces*, 2023, (34): 94-96.
- [3] Wang Guangli. Research on the Value of Chinese Language and Literature Research in Cultural Inheritance [J]. *Fashion Tomorrow*, 2023, (09): 170-172.
- [4] Han Yu. Manifestation of the Value of Chinese Language and Literature Research in Cultural Inheritance [J]. *Cultural Journal*, 2022, (11): 159-162.