

Compiling the Cantonese Children's Songbook

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Abstracts

The research propose was to compile the Cantonese children's songbook.

The research methodology was qualitative. Based on documents, interview and descriptive analysis for creating the Cantonese children's songbook. Experts check the quality of the Cantonese children's songbook. The data were collected from 2022 to 2023

The research finding was the Cantonese children's songs originated in the late Qing Dynasty. The short sentences helped children's memories. There are use Cantonese language. The children's songs transmitted through oral literature. In the present, Children who can speak Cantonese language was gradually decreasing. There are 5 types include; lullaby, game songs, exhortation songs, animals, festivals and 18 popular the Cantonese children's songs. Compiling the Cantonese children's songs help a good foundation for the inheritance and dissemination of Cantonese language and Cantonese culture through Cantonese children's songs.

Keywords: Compiling; the Cantonese children; Songbook

Introduction

The issue of children's development in the modern world is multiculturalism, Child's development is influenced by their culture. Chinese culture is the result of thousands of years of linguistic and cultural fusion and accumulation among numerous ethnic groups in China. The Cantonese children's songs are important to children. Song lyrics about lullaby, natural , animals and every day life, customs, and histories. There use Cantonese language in Guangdong Province, The people's Republic of China. The Cantonese children's songs are folk oral literature. It originated from the "Yayan" in the ancient central plains. There are nine tones and six tones which perfectly retain the characteristics of ancient Chinese.

Children's songs in Cantonese were initially popular in the streets and alleys of Guangzhou's Xiguan neighborhood. Before spreading to Guangdong and Hong Kong, There are folk oral literature which is helpful for children's memory. This is the first literary in Guangdong. Its melody and rhythm are simple. (Wan Shanshan, 2019 : 1). Children's songs have fun rhythms and short lyrics. By conveying the way of life, traditions and culture of the region of the Guangfu people. (Xu Yanzhen & He Zhihui, 2015 : 12). There are so many Cantonese speakers, The Cantonese children's song become promote good relationship within the country and abroad include Guangdong, Guangxi, Hong Kong, Macau, and Southeast Asia. There are the cultural heritage of the Chinese people and strong power connecting Chinese relations around the world.

Nowaday, The popularity of children's songs is declining. Because of difficult Cantonese language, linguistic diversity, influence and the impact of modern media. Children use Mandarin to communicate in kindergartens. However, Folk artists and composers developed the Cantonese children's songs.

Therefore, researchers have been aware of these problems: 1) local culture is constantly influenced and impacted by foreign culture 2) Nowadays, The role of children's songs has decreased. Thus, the researcher compiled the Cantonese children's songbook. This thesis would be able to provide some advice and help family and instructors in the early stages of music instruction and establishing a solid foundation for the transmission and growth of Cantonese children's songs, which can be used in different classrooms.

Research Objective

To compile the cantonese children's songbook

Research Methodology

This study was used qualitative research by literature review, Interview for compiling the Cantonese children's songbook and find three experts to verify as following:

1. Literature review

The Cantonese children's songbook was a topic of the researcher's study. In order to conduct this study, the researcher studied a of book, article, thesis and research report.

2. Interview

The researcher interviewed three music teachers. The following are the selection criteria;

2.1.1 Teachers must have more than 20 years of experience teaching Cantonese children's songs

2.1.2 Teachers must understand the history of Cantonese children's songs and live in Guangzhou more than 20 years.

2.1.3 Teachers have experience in performing the Cantonese children's songs.

3 Experts:

1. Associate Professor Chen Yuehe : Head of music teaching and research in Guangzhou.

2. Mrs.Hong Jianhua : 20 years of experience teaching the Cantonese children's songs and vocal.

3. Associate Professor Qin Wei : Outstanding the Cantonese children's song, 30 years of teaching experience of the Cantonese children's song.

Research Scope

Period of Childrends'songs: 1978 - 2002

Place: Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province, The People's Republic of China

Content: The Cantonese children's songs

Research Findings

The title is Compiling the Cantonese children's songbook, the researcher defined the purpose as to compile the Cantonese children's songbook. The analysis results were found as following :

1 To compile the cantonese children's songbook

1.1 Origin and development of Cantonese children's songs

Cantonese children's songs first originated in the late Qing Dynasty. The sentences are short and simple rhyme. This Cantonese children's song must have patriotic themes and the most typical simple language.

One of the seven major languages of China, Cantonese is also known as vernacular, widely spoken in Guangdong and Hong Kong. Children's songs sung in the Cantonese language are known as Cantonese children's songs. It is a record of the Lingnan and comes from the "Yayan" of the old central plains. Cantonese children's songs are a type of folk literature that is commonly heard among Lingnan children in the streets and alleys of the Xiguan area. Many Cantonese culture and customs are included in the lyrics. (Xie Linying, 2017: 6-20).

Cantonese children's songs have been mainly chants for a very long time. Although they have a form of songs similar to other songs, There are short songs with a few melody. Black-and-white movies started to appear in Hong Kong in the 1950s. There used Cantonese children's songs "Warm Girl" and "Airplane Lan" in dramatic. Cantonese children's song "A bamboo". Guangdong has a collection of Cantonese music from 1955 to 1960. Many Cantonese children's songs were transformed into songs during this time, including "Raining Rain," "Moonlight," "Sparrow Boy," "Chicken Doll," and many others. The most well-liked song among these is "Moonlight," as this song—originally a chain solitaire game—was transformed by Ms. Pan Lin into a children's lullaby by Qiao Fei which the public embraced and promoted. Come, a traditional Cantonese children's song. (Liu Lei, 2008: 06) Due to problems like obsolete information, other songs have no gained popularity. Mr. Wei Ran from Hong Kong organized a collection of Cantonese children's songs in Hong Kong from 1976 to 1980. He collected more than 300 Cantonese children's songs. some songs were penned, produced, and recorded into Cantonese children's song recordings, tapes, etc., including 80 Guangdong Cantonese children's songs. It was first introduced in Guangzhou before spreading over all of South China..

In the 21th Century, Huang Yicheng, Guangzhou musician composed the songbook including "Sing Good Guangzhou", "Fat Boy's Head" as well as "Chicken Doll," "Raining Big," and "Moonlight" . These songs are currently local youths' favorite songs. In 2010, There are the creation of many new Cantonese children's songs by Guangzhou singer-songwriter by Chen Yichang, including "Chen Pi Ballad", "Double Champion," and "Wooden Mian". Chen Huiquan, a musician from Guangdong, composed "Plane Lane" .

1.2 Current situation of Cantonese children's songs

Foreigners immigrated to Guangzhou. Foreign cultures influence and change local cultures. Also, the development of the economy. Children like to listen to Chinese modern music from the internet and social media.

1.3 Type of Cantonese children's songs.

1.3.1 Lullaby

The blessing and love of the elders for the young is demonstrated in the lyrics.

1.3.2 Game songs

Most of these songs are description of an activity for children which is played by singing along with the lyrics.

1.3.3 Exhortation songs

These lyrics not only encourage children to attention to exhortation, which is an important lesson in behavioral development, but they are also rich in Cantonese language qualities.

1.3.4 Animals

These songs encourage children to study hard and not be scared of challenges in some cases, while in other songs, the colorful and beautiful imagery of animals are described.

1.3.5 Festivals

The scenes and traditions of the Chinese people during the Spring Festival and other celebrations are described in the lyrics.

1.4 The meaning of the Cantonese children's songs

1.4.1 Moon light

Moonlight Light is in 4 times. A loving mother singing a song in front of her baby's cradle to soothe him to sleep on a beautiful night.

1.4.2 Who is the best manners

Who is the best manners is a song in 4 times, which is a children's song about civility. In order to remind everyone to respect the elderly, adore the young, and assist one another, the lyrics describe about animal.

1.4.3 Little Snail to Travel

Little Snail to Travel is a 3 times, The song is a happy, upbeat, and enjoyable tone. The song is as fun as a snail carrying around the house.

1.4.4 Banana Boat

Banana Boat is a 2 times. The song is full of imagination to the curved moon compared to a banana boat, children are sitting on the boat, happy singing, dancing and playing games reproducing.

1.4.5 Chicken Doll

Chicken Doll is a 2 times medium-speed song, This song encourages children to study hard.

1.4.6 Dang Dang turn

Dang Dang turn" is a 2 times. it's about life story.

1.4.7 Elephant Can Dance

Elephant Can Dance is a song in 2 time. The songs are beautiful and childlike.

1.4.8 Ma Ying Catch Chicken

Ma Ying Catch Chicken is a 2 times, the lyrics describe a common in Lingnan area of a multi-participant puzzle entertainment game.

1.4.9 My ability is big

My ability is big is a 4 times, ,the lyrics describe desire to grow up and motivation.

1.4.10 On tall Tall Buildings

On tall Tall Buildings is a 4 times. The song has a bright and upbeat vibe, the lyrics describe learning step by step up, an encouraging positive educational song.

1.4.11 Number Song

Number Song is a 4 times. The song's rhythm and melody are enjoyable and fun. It describe about learning number.

1.4.12 Jump the Plane

Jump the Plane is a 4 times. it describes about plane.

1.4.13 He Jia Cock He Jia CAI

He Jia Cock He Jia CAI is a 2 times. The 400 chickens in the park don't know who keeps them, so dogs, monkeys, bears, and squirrels are allowed to guess story. This is a children's favorite song.

1.4.14 Falling into the Sky

Falling into the Sky is a popular folk song in the Hakka area of Guangdong Province. It describes the hardships of the people on a rainy day.

1.4.15 Shrimp's Jaw

Shrimp's Jaw is a song is a 4 times. The mood is comfortable and happy. There use five-words.

1.4.16 First-grade primary school students

The lyrics describe a new student's excitement about learning from a new school.

1.4.17 Flower Street

Flower Street is a 2 times. Guangzhou will hold a traditional flower market, Cantonese called "flower street".

1.4.18 Ode to Geese

It describes learning ancient poetry. The verse is elegant and melodious to show the original poem quiet and leisurely.

【 鸡公仔 】

1 = E $\frac{2}{4}$
中速

演唱：张德兰

词：卢国沾
曲：黎小田
天恩 记谱

(2̣. 5̣ | 3̣ 6̣1 | 5̣ 6̣1 | 5̣ -) || 5̣3̣ 3̣5̣ | 2̣ - | 1̣6̣ 5̣3̣ | 2̣ - | 6̣ 6̣ 1̣ | 2̣3̣ 1̣ |
鸡 公 仔 尾 弯 弯 弯 站 在 那 屋 背
赶 秋 耕 背 弯 弯 弯 但 愿 我 收 割

2̣ 3̣ 5̣ | 2̣ - | 5̣ 5̣ 6̣ | 1̣ - | 2̣ 5̣ 2̣ 3̣ 5̣ | 3̣ 2̣ - | 3̣ 2̣ 3̣ 2̣ | 1̣ 6̣ 1̣ | 5̣ 6̣1 | 5̣ 5̣ - |
晓 春 耕 禾 田 十 亩 今 次 丰 收 鸡 公 仔 你 话 有 几 多 担 呀

几 千 担 禾 田 十 亩 家 有 几 口 幸 幸 正 话 至 来 学 行

2̣ 2̣ 5̣ | 2̣ 3̣ 6̣ 1̣ | 5̣ 6̣1 | 5̣ - | (2̣ 2̣ 5̣ | 3̣ 6̣1 | 5̣ 5̣ 6̣ | 5̣ -) | 5̣3̣ 3̣5̣ | 2̣ - |
放 满 谷 仓 令 我 笑 眯 眼 赶 春 耕

5̣ 6̣ | 5̣ 5̣ 6̣ | 2̣ 5̣ - | 鸡 公 仔

1̣6̣ 5̣3̣ | 2̣ - | 6̣ 6̣ 1̣ | 2̣3̣ 1̣ | 1̣6̣ 5̣3̣ | 2̣ - | 5̣ 5̣ 6̣ | 2̣ 1̣ - | 2̣ 5̣ 2̣ 3̣ 5̣ | 2̣ - |
背 弯 弯 烈 日 好 快 到 西 山 禾 田 十 亩 得 我 一 双 手

尾 弯 弯 站 在 那 屋 背 最 得 闲 婆 婆 哎 去 涌 里 洗 衫

3̣ 3̣ 2̣ | 2̣ 1̣ 6̣ 1̣ | 5̣ 6̣1 | 5̣ - | 2̣ 2̣ 5̣ | 2̣ 3̣ 6̣ | 5̣ 2̣ 5̣ | 6̣ 5̣ | 5̣ - | 5̣ 0̣ | 3̣ 6̣1 |
即 使 我 做 马 和 作 牛 割 到 几 时 至 有 千 担

秋 收 过 后 我 人 未 闲

5̣ 6̣1 | 5̣ -) || 2̣ 2̣ 5̣ | 2̣ 3̣ 6̣ | 5̣ 6̣1 | 5̣ - | 5̣ - | 5̣ - ||
带 我 家 水 牛 去 山 涧

《 鸡公仔尾弯弯 》



Figure 1 : Chicken doll song



行花街
用广东方言演唱

刘志文 词
蔡生 曲

1 = C $\frac{2}{4}$
喜悦地

3 $\dot{1}$ | $\overset{3}{5}$ - | 3 $\dot{1}$ | $\overset{7}{\dot{1}}$ - | 3 $\dot{1}$ | $\dot{1}$ $\underline{6}$ $\underline{0}$ $\underline{5}$ |
年 卅 晚 行 花 街, 迎 春 花 放
妈 妈 笑 爸 爸 喜, 人 欢 花 靚

$\underline{3}$ $\underline{5}$ $\underline{6}$ $\underline{\dot{1}}$ | $\overset{3}{5}$ - | $\underline{3}$ $\underline{2}$ $\underline{1}$ $\underline{2}$ | 3 0 | $\underline{5}$ $\underline{6}$ $\underline{5}$ $\underline{3}$ | 2 0 |
满 街 排。 *呢 朵 红 花 鲜, *个 朵 黄 花 大。
乐 开 怀。 呢 枝 兰 花 香, 个 枝 桃 花 艳。

$\underline{2}$ $\underline{3}$ $\underline{5}$ | 6 5 | $\underline{3}$ $\underline{4}$ $\underline{3}$ $\underline{2}$ | 1 $\dot{1}$ $\underline{7}$ |
黄 花 大 呀 红 花 鲜, 千 朵
桃 花 艳 呀 兰 花 香, 千 朵

6 $\dot{2}$ | $\underline{7}$ $\underline{2}$ 6 | 5 - | 5 0 ||
万 朵 *睇 唔 晒。
万 朵 *拣 唔 晒。

* 粤语“呢”是“这”的意思。
* 粤语“个”是“那”的意思。
* 粤语“睇唔晒” (tái m sāi) 是“看不够”的意思。
* 粤语“拣唔晒” (gán m sāi) 是“挑不完”的意思。

Figure 2 : Flower street song

Conclusion

The Cantonese children's song is folk literature. Lyrics describe about folk culture. The sentences is short. Musician and composer composed a new Cantonese children's song. The influence of social media and foreign culture contributed to the decline in the role of the Cantonese children's songs.

There are 5 types of the Cantonese children's songs include lullaby, game song exhortation songs, animals and festivals. A total of 18 songs are collected, including Moon light, Who is the best manner, Little Snail to Travel, Banana Boat, Chicken Doll, Dang Dang turn, Elephant Can Dance, Ma Ying Catch Chicken, My ability is big, On tall Tall Buildings, Number Song, Jump the Plane, He Jia Cock He Jia CAI, Falling into the Sky, Shrimp's Jaw, First-grade primary school students, Flower Stree and Ode to Geese.

Discussion

Children's songs are very important for children. Families and teachers need to find processes and techniques that encourage and enhance children's learning. Children have developed all 4 aspects, which are physical, emotional, mental, social and intellectual. Therefore, Children's songs are a medium to help learning of children. Children will be enjoy themselves while learning the Cantonese children's song and and communication through music. which corresponds to Prapansak Pumin's article (2016: 13) "The benefits of music to children" mention to the study in benefits of music on the development of human potentials, it has been found that music enables to develop children' brain by affecting the function of their brain chemicals. The study also found the brain waves of people who listen to music and do some music activities is at the Alpha Brainwave level, which can be claimed as the optimal condition for learning.

The Cantonese children's songs is gradually declining from society. Because of the impact of the modern media and foreign culture. Children listen and sing Chinese songs from TV and the Internet. There are declining as a result of these reasons. Because no one inherits it which corresponds to Pavinee Teeravut's thesis (2016: 95) "The lullaby in Pho Hak Subdistrict, Bang Pae District, Ratchaburi Province, Thailand." mention to the factors affecting change of lullaby, it has been found economic growth and Technological advances include television, radio, CD player, computer, tablet, karaoke player, internet network and telephone. There is no conservation or inheritance. In the future, the lullaby will be disappear from Pho Hak Sub-district. Therefore, compiling of the Cantonese children's songbook is the way to conserve songs

At present, the Cantonese children's songs have been developed with new compositions to be modern. Therefore, compiling the Cantonese children's songbook can help preserve Cantonese language culture and Culture of the Cantonese. In addition, Creating games and activities help children to be interested and enjoy learning.

Recommendations

1. as a guide for the preservation of language. Those interested can study and apply the research methods to other areas.
2. Should be creating games and activities from the Cantonese children's songs for teaching. It encourages children to be interested and enjoy learning.

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