

# **The Writing of Henan Opera Guidebook for Teaching Students at Zhengzhou University in Henan Province of the People's Republic of China**

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## **Abstracts**

The purpose of this study are: 1) To study Henan opera from experts. 2) To writing Henan opera Guidebook. 3) To teach Henan opera for students Zhengzhou university. 4) To Evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching. This study adopts qualitative and quantitative research methods. In the qualitative research, it's interviewed experts and made specific tracks suitable for sophomores according to the interviews of experts, with the aim of improving students' interest in learning Henan Opera and their singing ability, and observing students' learning dynamics. In the quantitative research, through the evaluation of the Teaching Guide Book of Henan Henan Opera by the International Olympic Committee, 19 sophomores were selected from 38 students in Zhengzhou University to carry out experiments. Combined with the Teaching Guide Book of Henan Henan Henan Opera, the test scores were collected and compared through formative tests (twice) and summative tests to test the learning effect of students using the Teaching Guide Book of Henan Henan Henan Opera.

The results show that the teaching guide book of Henan Henan opera covers the basic knowledge, singing, performance skills and historical inheritance of Henan opera. Among them, the teaching guide for college students not only fully considers students' interests and learning characteristics in content, but also broadens the traditional teaching methods and introduces modern educational means such as multimedia teaching and team cooperation teaching, which makes the teaching guide more practical and operational. The results of three tests show that: Henan Henan opera teaching guide book has a good guiding role in improving the ability of Henan students to learn Henan opera, and it also proves that Henan students are more and more enthusiastic about learning Henan opera. This guide book of Henan Opera is successful and can provide some reference experience for other universities.

**Keywords:** Henan Opera Guidebook; Teaching Students; Zhengzhou University; China

## **Introduction**

With the development of The Times, the progress of the society, the Chinese excellent traditional culture still keep and coruscate gives thriving vitality, enduring opera is still in the mouth of the people to sing, now has gradually become the majority of the Chinese operas flourishing non-material cultural heritage, and these are our common wealth of the Chinese nation, we have a responsibility to the outstanding traditional culture inheritance (Liu, 2022).

State and relevant departments to the outstanding traditional culture protection and inheritance of the relevant requirements and instructions, general office of the central committee of the communist party of China, issued in 2017 by The General Office of the State

Council "about the opinions of the Chinese excellent traditional culture inheritance development project", the protection and inheritance of cultural heritage is an important task in the file, and emphasizes the implementation of the intangible cultural heritage development project, Further improve the protection system of intangible cultural heritage. In 2019, The General Office of the State Council issued Several Policies on Supporting the Inheritance and Development of Opera, which emphasized strengthening the protection and inheritance of opera, strengthening the general education of opera in schools, and vigorously promoting the activities of opera in schools. In 2019, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism issued the Plan for the Inheritance and Development of Opera. The policy clearly points out that campus activities can be organized regularly to popularize Quyi cultural knowledge, promote Quyi projects and cultivate Quyi audience groups.

Henan Opera is the largest type of local opera in China, ranking first among all local operas in the country. It is a national intangible cultural heritage. As the traditional music culture of Henan, it is deeply loved by the public with its unique charm. In order to actively respond to the call of the state, improve the aesthetic quality of the majority of young people, carry forward the socialist core values, carry forward and inherit the excellent traditional Chinese culture. Develop and henan province department of education issued a "about notice issued by the drama into the scheme of campus activities (Wei, 2020), schools around the file of henan opera into campus activities made clear instructions, which will drama included in the school curriculum, school compulsory education stage in accordance with the" compulsory education music course standard "(2011 edition), The course content about opera culture is fully opened. There are many reasons why Henan Opera has not won a large number of students on college campuses. For example, some students say they don't like opera because "the lyrics are difficult to understand", and some students don't like opera because they think it is too out of touch with modern life. There are some college students do not have the opportunity to appreciate and learn the opera, do not know how to learn the opera, of course, there is no love for the opera, the inheritance of the opera, of course, we should also see that some from the heart is willing to contact and learn the opera, but suffering from no opportunity to learn and lack of excellent teachers' guidance (Wen, 2020).

## **Literature Reviews**

### **Education and teaching of Henan Opera**

The lack of national characteristics and artistic individuality has become a barrier to the development of Chinese national vocal music, which is precisely the most outstanding advantage of Henan opera art. In the process of innovation and development, Chinese national vocal music can absorb and learn from the singing skills of Henan opera art, so that it can not only carry forward the national character of Chinese national vocal music, but also enrich the artistic expression forms of national vocal music, break through the current situation of "one voice for a thousand people" of national vocal music, and realize development and innovation. It is hoped that this study will provide more possibilities for the innovative development of Chinese national vocal music (Zheng, 2022)

Henan Opera is one of the five major types of opera in China, belonging to the category of Han opera. It is not only the unique essence of Henan local opera, but also the national intangible cultural heritage protection, occupying a place in the world cultural treasure house. The development of Henan Opera can be said to be ups and downs. At present, the main problem facing Henan Opera is how to further develop itself in the process of continuous promotion and

inheritance in the context of the rapid development of diversified cultures, so as to contribute to the prosperity and development of Chinese traditional culture. Henan Opera has much in common with the singing forms of national vocal music. In the course of development, learning from each other and integrating with each other will contribute to the diversified development of Henan Opera and national vocal music (Ding, 2022).

Henan opera has a long history, is disseminated widely and loved by the public. It is both necessary and realistic to integrate Henan opera culture into preschool education, which is an active practice of Xi Jinping's efforts to carry forward Chinese traditional culture, the core values of Chinese socialism and cultural confidence. To integrate traditional Henan opera culture into preschool education, this paper mainly studies strategies of optimize the teaching design from two aspects of young children and teachers, including selecting appropriate teaching materials, paying attention to the diversity of integration methods, actively broadening horizons of young children, and using narrating, demonstrating, playing games, etc. to integrate Henan opera culture into teaching activities in order to achieve the fundamental task of moral education. Liu Huihui (Chen 2021).

As the artistic treasure of the Chinese traditional excellent culture, opera has a high artistic value and educational value, from the cultural perspective of the analysis of opera art education function, expounds the significance of opera education into the campus culture, and Henan Opera as an example, through the pilot of Henan opera into the campus activities to get the educational significance of local opera in primary and secondary school curriculum For further analysis (Han, 2020).

As one of the traditional Chinese culture, drama, together with Greek tragicomedy and Indian Sanskrit drama, is known as the world's three major ancient drama cultures. There are more than 300 kinds of Chinese operas, and it is the main means to express the plot in the form of song and dance. This paper mainly takes Henan Opera as an example to bring Chinese traditional culture into the middle school music class (Luo, 2017).

## Research Objectives

1. To studying from Henan opera experts.
2. To writing Henan opera guidebook .
3. To teach Henan opera for students.
4. To evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching.

## Research Methodology

This research is a mixed research method between qualitative and quantitative research.

**Population:** there are 38 students in the second grade in Zhengzhou University.

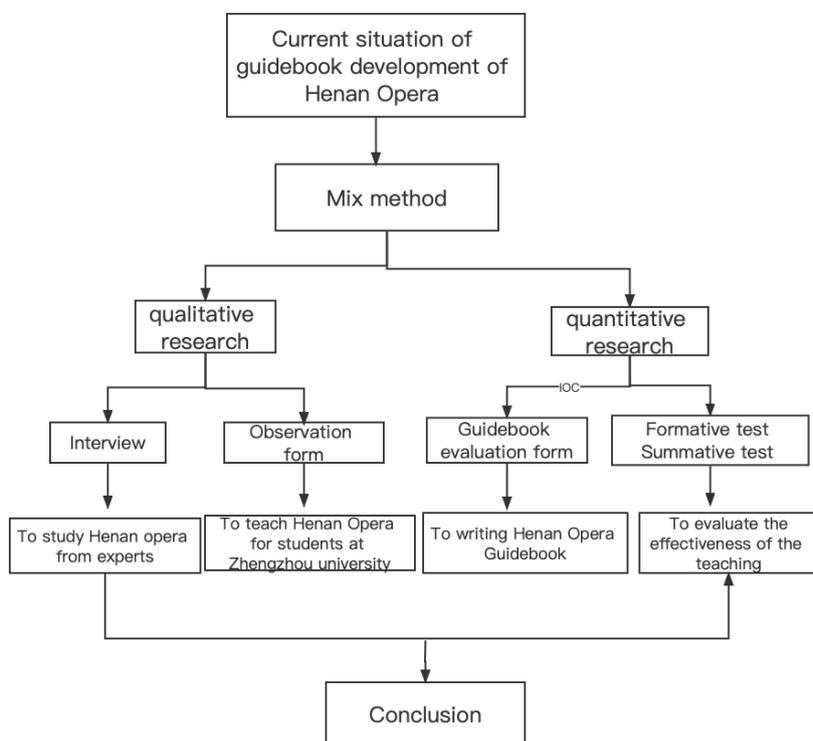
**Sample:** Systematic sampling (According to the number from 1 to 38, select the odd number as the sampling sample), A total of 19 students were selected for teaching experiment. In this way, the accuracy of sampling can be guaranteed.

The teaching of Henan Opera lasts for 16 weeks, with a 90-minute singing class once a week. From easy to difficult, four Henan operas are learned in 16 weeks.

Teaching students in written textbooks every time they sing Henan Opera, students need to record their own texts for practice. In this Henan Opera singing class, the teacher will also

share with the students the classic versions sung by the masters of Henan Opera with electronic products, and the students will observe how the masters of Henan Opera perform Henan Opera. After learning each section of Henan Opera, students will interview the teacher to discuss good ideas and what can be improved in the Guide. In order to see the effect of using the textbook, after three weeks of study, students will take formative tests in the In the fourth, eighth and twelfth weeks. students will take summative tests in the sixteenth week. There are also some discussions between students and teachers. The author will collect all the data to revise the guide. The revised guidelines will be sent to experts for comments.

### Conceptual Framework



**Figure 1** Conceptual Framework

## Research Findings

### 1. Studying from Henan opera experts..

The researcher consulted the literature related to the concepts, principles and theories of Henan Henan opera singing teaching, conducted in-depth interviews with six experts, and made a detailed analysis of the interview contents. According to the teaching cycle (September 2023-November 2023), four tracks suitable for students to sing were selected. Starting with the basic knowledge of Henan opera, the singing background, singing application, performance teaching, classroom evaluation and other contents of the selected sections of four Henan operas were analyzed.

According to the interview results of six experts, we have a clear answer on the production and content selection of Henan Henan opera guide book. Four well-known pieces of Henan Yu Opera are selected, with easy melody and difficult skills. The purpose is to make students enjoy singing Henan Yu Opera and devote themselves to inheriting and developing intangible culture.

### 2. Writing Henan opera guidebook

the culmination of our project to create the "Henan Opera Guidebook for Teaching Students at Zhengzhou University, Henan Province, People's Republic of China" is presented. Throughout this research, we embarked on a journey to explore the intricacies of Henan opera, aiming to develop a comprehensive guidebook that facilitates effective teaching and learning of this treasured regional art form. The primary objective was to empower music educators and students at Zhengzhou University with valuable resources and practical insights into Henan opera, thereby preserving and promoting its rich cultural heritage.

The guidebook include 3 chapters which were

#### **Chapter 1: Common sense of Henan Henan Opera**

Section 1 The Historical Origin of Henan Opera

Section 2 Cultural Characteristics of Henan Henan Opera

Section 3 Representative plays of Henan Opera

Section 4 Inheritance and Protection of Henan Opera

Section 5 Main schools of Henan opera

Section 6 Henan Opera Troupe

Section 7 The Social Influence of Henan Opera

#### **Chapter 2: Henan Henan opera singing teaching.**

Section 1: "Who says women are not as good as men" —— Mulan's excerpts from Henan Opera

Section 2: "Hua Mulan shyly gave a worship service" —— Mulan's excerpts from Henan Opera

Section 3: "Three cannons outside Yuanmen are like Lei Zhen" —— An excerpt from the Henan Opera Mu Guiying in Command

Section 4: "Chaoyanggou is a good place with a good reputation" —— An excerpt from Chaoyanggou, a Henan opera

#### **Chapter 3 : Dictionary of jargon and terms in Henan Opera**

Through rigorous research and an in-depth analysis of Henan opera's history, vocal techniques, performance traditions, and thematic characteristics, we have established a robust foundation for this guidebook. Our efforts have resulted in a detailed and accessible resource that caters to the diverse needs of educators and students engaging with Henan opera for the first time, as well as those seeking to deepen their understanding and expertise.

### **3. Teaching Henan opera for students.**

There are 38 sophomores in the Department of Vocal Music of Zhengzhou University. According to the numbers from 1 to 38, 19 sophomores are selected as sampling samples for teaching experiments.

This guide book will select six classic Henan opera vocals, from easy to difficult, to help students introduce the plot and the characteristics of singers' vocals; Singing skills of Henan Opera (intonation, rhythm, pronunciation, breath use, cavity structure, timbre); Stage performance (physical performance, emotional performance); The four aspects of teaching evaluation make Henan opera no longer bitter and difficult to understand for students, but delicate and popular.

Researchers use formative tests twice and summative tests to observe the effect of textbook use. This is an evaluation test. After each test, the researchers distributed observation forms to master the students' learning situation. Formative test and summative test will set students' singing ability.

### **4. Evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching**

The research procedure includes three steps:

Teaching evaluation. Through the pre-test, 10% of the students got Grade B or above, through the formative test, 84% got Grade B or above, and through the summative test, 100% got Grade B or above. The results show that this book has a good guiding role in improving the ability of Henan students to learn Henan opera, and it also proves that Henan students are more and more enthusiastic about learning Henan opera. This guide book of Henan Opera is successful and can provide some reference experience for other universities.

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## **Discussion**

When reading the teaching literature of Henan opera singing, the contents of discussion include singing skills, historical and cultural background of Henan opera, factors affecting Henan opera singing, teaching methods and practice, etc., in order to help researchers better understand the art and teaching of Henan opera singing. The researchers found that most of the research contents of the literature are related to the characteristics of Henan Opera itself, and the phenomenon of how to teach Henan Opera on campus is rare.

Learning Henan Henan Opera from experts requires a dedicated and devoted attitude. First of all, look for experts with rich experience and knowledge in Henan Henan Opera. Regular and systematic training under the guidance of experts can lay a solid foundation for learning.

Then we should understand the cultural and historical background of Henan Henan Opera. Deeply study the traditions, customs and local significance related to this art form, and form a comprehensive appreciation (Li, 2021). Learn the script and understand the story, theme and role-building conveyed in the performance. Finally, take time to practice vocal music and repertoire every day (Ji, 2011), and make adjustments and improvements according to the guidance of experts. Constantly improve performance skills.

## **Recommendation**

According to the research results and experience in compiling the guidebook, we put forward the following suggestions to ensure that the guidebook achieves the best effect in teaching practice:

### **Policy formulation suggestions**

Teacher training: provide training and lectures for music educators, so that they have a clear understanding of the use and teaching methods of guide books and use them properly in teaching practice.

### **Practical application suggestions**

Student participation: Encourage students to participate in Henan Opera performances, competitions and workshops, and improve their practical experience and sense of identity with Henan Opera.

Discipline integration: promote the integration of Henan Opera teaching with history, literature and cultural studies, and expand students' understanding of the cultural background behind Henan Opera.

Community publicity: By organizing public performances and activities, we can spread the value of Henan Opera to the community and improve the public's awareness and interest in Henan Opera.

### **2. Recommendation for future research**

Continuous improvement: regularly evaluate the teaching effect of the guidebook, listen to the feedback from teachers and students, and constantly improve and perfect the contents and teaching methods of the guidebook.

Generally speaking, by compiling this guide book, we have provided a valuable teaching resource for music educators and students in Zhengzhou University, and also made positive contributions to the inheritance and development of Henan Opera. I hope this guide book can help students understand the unique charm of Henan Opera and better inherit and carry forward this precious local cultural heritage.

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