

# The Spread of Chinese Culture

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## Abstract:

The impact of Globalization on culture has made the world more interconnected, allowing cultures to mix and influence each other, while this has led to greater cultural exchange and understanding, it has also raised concerns about cultural homogenization. As dominant cultures spread more easily through media and technology, smaller local cultures may struggle to maintain their unique identities. It is essential that we recognize the value of cultural diversity and take steps to preserve it. By supporting local traditions, languages and arts, we can ensure that globalization does not lead to a loss of cultural richness. In this way, we can benefit from the exchange of ideas while still honoring the unique aspects of each culture.

## Keywords:

Local Cultures, Local Traditions, Local Languages and Local Arts

## 1. Introduction

In today's vortex world where hegemony has little room, China, whose development has been catapulted to a soaring height, is zigzag ginger between embracing the western civilization and the traditional Chinese one. Instead of relying on forces of arms, vulgar materialism and commercialization, cultural colonialism, nor is there to be compulsion. Ancient Chinese culture echoes our current Chinese dreams which cherishes communal solidarity, social equality and family fidelity. It is a utopian vision of universal harmony, where everybody opts in to a system of global government, we call it harmonious society. [1]

## 2. Materials and Methods

We should protect our own cultural specialities and invaluable treasures to keep cultural diversity in the world. Among the numerous Chinese cultural symbols, the cultural heritage, natural heritage, cultural and natural dual heritage, as well as cultural landscapes and world intangible cultural heritage that have been included in the World Cultural Heritage List, are highly representative Chinese cultural symbols. In addition, symbols of Chinese historical figures such as Confucius, Laozi, symbolizes a rich tapestry of wisdom, which has profoundly influenced Eastern thoughts. Pioneers like Confucius emphasize moral integrity and social harmony, advocating for the golden rule "do unto others as others would be done" Taoist philosophy, led by Laozi, promoted living in accordance with the Tao, embracing

simplicity and natural order. Legalists like Han Feizi focused on strict laws for social control. The School of Names discuss logic and language while the Mohists championed universal love and non-aggression. The schools of thoughts have shaped China's cultural identity and moral compass for millennia and continue to resonate in east Asia today. Tang poetry is a cornerstone of Chinese literature, often called the golden age of poetry, showcasing the era's cultural richness. [2] Poets like Li Bai know for his romantic style, DuFu, famous for his reflection on social realities. Over 50000 poems by 2200 poets remain, brought profound emotion and imagery to their work. Tang poetry not only reflects the artistic peak of ancient China, but also remains a source inspiration, deeply influencing Chinese language, culture and identity today. Symbols in Chinese historical and cultural classics, such as the Book of Changes, Shangshu, Shiji, Hanshu, each proposing different theories on governance, ethics in the cosmos, Dream of the Red Chamber by Cao Xueqin is a poignant love story intertwined with family drama, revealing the intricacies of feudal society. *Journey to the West*, with its fantastical adventures, reflects the human quest for enlightenment, Water Margin by Shi Naian, portrays a band of outlaws in *Robin-Hood-esque* tale of heroism and rebellion, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* by Luo Guanzhong offers a historical epic of strategy and warfare; These novels stand as timeless works, illuminating the complexities of human condition. The Symbols of achievements in ancient Chinese science, technology and culture, such as compass, papermaking, gunpowder, printing are celebrated in Chinese culture for their historical significance and serve as symbols of Chinese advanced science and technology. Chinese cuisine is renowned worldwide with its great traditions, Sichuan, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shandong, Fujian, Zhejiang, Hunan and Anhui, each region's cuisine is unique, reflecting local cultures and flavors, these culinary traditions are not just food, they are taste of China's rich history and culture, such as *Kunqu Opera* is one of the oldest forms of Chinese traditional opera, often referred to as the ancestor of all operas. It combines singing, reciting, acting and martial arts, with drum and clapper controlling the rhythm and flut and three-stringed instrument as the main accompaniment. In 2001, Kunqu was listed by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the oral and intangible Heritage of Humanity. Peking Opera, China's national treasure, a national intangible cultural heritage, is the most influential opera genre in China, centered in Beijing and popular across the country. Peking Opera is an important expression of traditional Chinese culture, with its various elements hailed as symbolic symbols of Chinese traditional culture. [3] Yue Opera has won hearts of many with its elegant performances and beautiful melodies, which indicates traditional arts still have a significant place in modern society, inspiring a new generation to appreciate and carry forward the cultural heritage. These are rare treasures in the treasure trove of Chinese cultural symbol resources. In addition, traditional cultural events such as China Time-honored Brand, which have always been closely related to the daily life of Chinese people, such as clothing, food, housing, transportation and medicine which have been passed down for many years. [4]

Every culture and tradition has its uniqueness. In recent years, we often celebrate western festivals, such as Thanks Giving Day has a good expression for the ones love us. Valentine's day is the best day to say love, with its commercial value flowers and chocolates for sale. While our Chinese festivals celebrated with the change of seasons and a profound understandings of the value and cultures. We should be advanced with the times. Chinese traditional festival cultural symbols, such as Spring Festival, Qingming Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival, etc. Spring festival, social practices of the Chinese people in celebration of traditional new year, marks the

beginning of the Chinese New Year which is from the twenty-third of the twelfth month to the fifteenth of the first month. A variety of activities are carried out to bid farewell to the old year, welcome the spring, pray for good fortune and celebrate family reunion. On December 4, 2024, the Spring Festival has been put on the World Heritage List, so does Spring Festival Gala. It reflects China's rich history and culture. The element has been integrated in formal education, and passed on children in primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational schools. The element helps raise people's awareness of concepts of sustainable development, such as gender equality, food security, and harmony between humanity, nature and society. In the practise of this festival, interpersonal relationship and emotional ties are reinforced, people are connected and reconnected with their families, friends and hometowns, which promote social harmony. In the transmission from one generation to the next, the element has played a significant role in promoting family values and community solidarity, enhancing social cohesion and providing a sense of identity and continuity of the Chinese people. Spring Festival carries the common aspirations of the Chinese people, fosters their cultural creativity, and provides a driving force for a better life. [5] It is the most significant holiday in the Chinese calendar, marked by family reunions, feasting and the giving of red envelopes filled with money, symbolizing good luck and blessings. The festivals is steeped in traditions, such as cleaning the house to sweep away bad luck, setting off fireworks to ward off evil spirits, and the dragon and lion dances that bring vibrancy and fortune to communities. Paying New Year's visits, or Bainian is a core Chinese tradition during the Spring Festival, it involves exchanges greetings, giving gifts, and visiting relatives and friends to wish them well for the year ahead. This practice strengthens familial bonds and social connections as people offer blessings and share in the joy of the New Year. Bainian is a time-honored custom that encapsulates the spirit of good will and harmony in Chinese culture. The house Paste Spring Couplets, or "tie chunlian" in Chinese is a cherished tradition during the Chinese New Year, these poetic verses are inscribed on red paper, and posted on doors to bring good fortune and ward off evil spirits. They reflect hopes for the coming year, often expressing wishes for prosperity, health and happiness. Every year on the 15th day of the first lunar month, lantern light up reunions, joy fills the Lantern Festival. As the grand finale of Chinese New Year, the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the first lunar month, keeps alive a thousand-year-old Eastern romance with colorful lights, starting in the Han Dynasty, this festival carries hopes for the new beginning and fresh starts. Ancient people used bright lanterns to light up long nights, while today's glowing decorations brighten streets. In the dance of lantern shadows, we see China's lasting love for light and hope. Riddles on red paper test minds, soft sweet rice balls carry wishes for full moons full families and full happiness. Yangko and Waste Drum Dance are two traditional Chinese folk dances with rich cultural significance, is a vibrant dance often performed during festivals, especially the Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival, which reflect the exuberance and heroism of the people. While dancing lions and dragons add luck to drumbeats. From ancient Tang and Song scenes of blooming lanterns to modern light shows and online festivals. The Lantern Festival bridges past and present with warm lights, it's not just a family gathering by the fire, but a living symbol of Chinese culture: a lantern, a bowl of rice balls, and a reunion plant the seeds of harmony and wisdom across generations. These traditions rooted in daily life, shine as cultural treasures, lighting every heart's belief in "family and nation united as one". "Er Yue Er is a traditional Chinese festival, celebrated on the second day of the second lunar month, it marks an auspicious day when the dragon, a symbol of water and rain, it believed to awaken

and raise its head, signaling the start of spring and the arrival of more rainfall, which is crucial for agriculture, on this day, people follow various customs, offering sacrifices to God of the earth, eating dragon food, having a haircut to symbolize the dragon's head and so on. [6] The festival is a celebration of the arrival of spring and a prosperous year. The first month of the lunar calendar, known as "zhengyue" in Chinese, marks the beginning of Chinese New Year, it's a time of family reunions and festive celebrations, zhengyue is steeped in cultural significance, symbolizing renewal in the start of new cycle, it's a month filled with hope and joy, as people embrace the arrival of spring and the prospects of a prosperous year ahead. "Lichun" or the Beginning of Spring marks the first of the 24 solar terms in the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, it signifies the start of a new agricultural cycle and the arrival of warmer weather. On this day, people engage in various activities to welcome spring, such as eating spring pancakes, called bing tie, and performing traditional dances. Lichun is a celebration of rebirth and promise of a fruitful year ahead, deeply rooted in Chinese culture and agricultural traditions. [7]

With the progressing of globalization, China fever is quietly gaining popularity globally. The survival and development of a language depends on its stable users and the efforts of its speakers to communicate their culture through their native language. Each character, with its unique strokes and structures is more than just a letter, it's a story, a piece of history frozen in time. From the ancient oracle bone scripts, to the fluidity of traditional calligraphy, these characters encapsulate the depth and elegance of Chinese culture. They are a visual representation of wisdom. In Chinese characters, one finds not just words, but the very essence of cultural heritage. Walking on the street, we may encounter a foreigner talking with friends in fluent Chinese. [8] We are surprised to find that many universities in western countries offer courses to study Confucianism, which are even written in classical Chinese. Indeed, China is gaining greater popularity around the world, and the population speaking Chinese is on the rise. With the Chinese-speaking population becoming larger and larger, Chinese is endowed with greater vitality, which is essential to the survival and development of a language. What's more, the wide use of Chinese can introduce real Chinese culture to the world so that people from other countries can gain a better and further understanding of China. Since language and culture are closely related, it is impossible to learn a language without learning its culture. Subsequently, the prejudices and misunderstandings between countries will be eliminated through better communication and our unique and fascinating culture will be more focused on. Once our culture enjoys greater vitality and popularity, our language will be well preserved and developed. The wide use of Chinese around the world not only symbolizes the national power, but also is beneficial to the development of the language. [9]

In recent years, young people love the intangible cultural heritage, when the Yingge dance leaps to the beat of drums, fish lanterns glide under the moonlight, molten iron fireworks cascade like a shower of stars, paper cutting and sugar painting root in traditional folk culture, as tea drinking spread around the world, what we hear are echoes of history, what we see is the living thread of cultural heritage. Intangible cultural heritage is not just a memory from the past, it is a resonance of our time. Released during the Spring Festival in 2025, *Ne Zha 2* quickly became a cultural phenomenon. It has praised for its high-quality animation and storytelling, oriental aesthetics, many international viewers are surprised by its artistic and technical quality, who are excited to see the continuation of the story. The film had earned over 10 billion yuan, surpassing Hollywood blockbusters like *The Super Mario Bros*,

Black Panther. This achievement makes *Ne Zha 2* the first Asian film to enter the top 20 of the global box office rankings. It has also become the first Chinese film to attract more than 200 million viewers, which is a huge milestone in Chinese cinema history. The film's success goes beyond its record-breaking earnings, it shows the growing strength of Chinese cinema and its cultural influence worldwide. In addition, *Ne Zha 2* is helping to spread Chinese culture around the world, the film combines traditional Chinese mythology with universal themes like family and responsibility. Nezha becomes synonymous with cultural confidence from "my destiny is not my destiny" to forge your own path. It's a great example of how Chinese films can connect with viewers and show the world China's growing cultural power. *Ne Zha 2* is not just a box office hit, it shows the rise of China's film industry on the world stage, and it paves the way for more Chinese films to succeed globally. [10]

### 3. Conclusions

Chinese culture has a profound history and rich traditions. Traditional Chinese culture not only is deeply loved within China, but also attracts attention and appreciation from people around world. With the strengthening of China's international influence, more and more people are beginning to study and understand Chinese culture, which helps enhance communication and understanding among different countries and cultures, promoting the diversified development of world culture. The export of Chinese culture has made significant contributions to enriching and expanding the global cultural landscape.

### Conflicts of Interest

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