ORAL FOLK ART AND ITS PLACE IN THE MODERN WORLD

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the study of oral folk art as the most important part of the cultural heritage of the peoples of the world. The paper examines the main forms of oral creativity, such as fairy tales, myths, legends, proverbs, sayings, songs and riddles, as well as their role in preserving historical memory, education and transmission of moral values. Special attention is paid to the interaction of oral creativity with literature, as well as its function as a means of preserving national identity and spiritual traditions. The article analyzes the processes of preservation and systematization of folk art in the context of scientific research, starting with the works of the first folklore collectors. The influence of modern globalization and urbanization on the loss of traditions and the revival of interest in folklore in recent decades is also discussed. The article highlights the relevance of studying and preserving oral folk art in the context of modern culture.

Keywords: culture and traditions, folklore motifs, ethnography, literary studies, cultural studies, mythology, social aspects of folklore

Introduction

Oral folk art is an essential part of the cultural heritage of every nation. It reflects the worldview, customs, traditions, as well as the way of life of people in different historical eras. This article will consider the concept of oral folk art, its forms, meaning and influence on the development of culture. Oral creativity was passed down from generation to generation and preserved in the form of myths, legends, fairy tales, proverbs, sayings, songs and other genres, playing an important role in the life of society.

The Concept of Oral Folk Art

Oral folk art is a collection of works created anonymously by the people and transmitted orally from generation to generation. This work does not have a specific author and is often formed in the course of collective consciousness and interaction of community members. It expresses the unique features of the worldview, moral values and ideas about the world of that time. Folk culture developed in the context of an oral tradition, where knowledge and creativity were preserved in people's memory, and only later some of the works were recorded on paper. Oral folk art encompasses various genres: myths, legends, fairy tales, song and dance traditions, proverbs, sayings, riddles, and so on. The main forms of oral folk art are:

Fairy tales are the most famous and popular works of the oral tradition. Fairy tales can be magical, everyday, anthropomorphic, mysterious, and others. They often contain moral lessons, teach the difference between good and evil, and form ideas of justice in the minds of listeners.

Legends and myths are stories about events that often took place in the distant past. Legends may be based on real historical facts, but they are greatly exaggerated and filled with fantastic elements.



Myths explain natural phenomena and represent the collective unconscious.

Songs are an essential part of folk art. These can be labor songs, love songs, carols, songs accompanying rituals and holidays. Each song carries not only a musical, but also a semantic load, reflecting the psychology and spiritual world of the people.

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Proverbs and sayings are short sayings that summarize folk wisdom and give advice. These expressions were repeated many times and acquired stable forms, which made them easy to remember.

Riddles are cryptic statements that require solving. Riddles contribute to the development of intelligence and the ability to notice unusual connections in everyday things. Oral folk art performs many functions. It is the basis of the cultural identity of the people and allows them to preserve their historical memory. Myths and legends, fairy tales and songs convey the most important moral principles that influence the formation of public consciousness. Oral creativity plays the role of an educational tool. With the help of proverbs, sayings, fairy tales and songs, parents and older generations passed on traditions and customs to young people, teaching them the rules of behavior, virtue and morality. Folk art also has a philosophical component. Myths and legends serve not only to explain natural phenomena, but also to understand the deeper issues of existence, such as life, death, the fate of man, the power of nature and its connection with man. Oral folk art and literature. Many famous works of literature are based on folk sources. There is a relationship in literature and folklore, as many folk motifs and themes have passed into professional art. Classical works of Russian and world literature, such as Homer's Odyssey, epics, dramas, and novels, largely borrowed plots, images, and motifs from the oral works of peoples. The preservation and systematization of oral folk art is of great importance for science and culture. In the 19th and 20th centuries, they began to actively collect and record works of oral tradition, creating folklore collections. One of the first collectors of folk art was Alexander Afanasyev, who collected extensive folklore material in Russia. Vasily Ivanovich Dahl also did a lot of work on the preservation and research of folk culture, collecting proverbs and sayings. Modern ethnographers and folklorists continue to work in this field, recording folk works and analyzing them from the point of view of social and cultural significance.

Today, oral folk art faces certain problems related to the loss of traditions. Urbanization, technological progress and globalization have led to the fact that many folk traditions are disappearing or losing their popularity. However, in recent decades there has been a resurgence of interest in folklore. This is the merit of both scientific research and cultural initiatives, such as folklore festivals and reconstructions of folk festivals.

In addition, modern artists and musicians actively borrow elements of folk art, which contributes to its revival and popularization among the new generation. Many composers, writers, and directors find inspiration in folk tales, songs, and myths, which allows them to keep their sound alive in a modern context. Oral folk art plays an important role in university teaching, especially in the disciplines related to folklore, literature, cultural studies and history. It can be used to demonstrate the versatility of culture and folk traditions, as well as to gain a deeper understanding of the social and historical contexts in which various folk genres developed. Here are some aspects of how oral folk art can be integrated into the learning process:

1. Folklore as a part of cultural heritage. Oral folk art reflects the worldview, values and peculiarities of the life of the people, which is important for the study of culture and history.



Teaching folklore helps students understand how folk culture interacts with literature, art, religion, and traditions.

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- 2. Analysis of genres of oral creativity. Universities can study various genres of oral folk art, such as fairy tales, epics, songs, proverbs and sayings. Each genre has its own specifics and value in the context of ethnography and literary studies. For example, epics can be used to study mythological elements, and folk songs can be used to analyze customs and beliefs.
- 3. Methods of transmission of folklore texts. It is important not only to familiarize students with the texts, but also to focus on the methods of writing them, as well as on the changes that may occur during oral performance. The study of folklore texts through the prism of their changes in the oral tradition develops the skills of critical analysis and interpretation.
- 4. The use of oral folk art in practical education. This may include an analysis of folklore works, as well as practical exercises where students can study and even perform folk songs, games, and rituals, which contributes to a better understanding of the material and deeper involvement in the
- 5. Connection with modern cultural practices. Oral folk art can be associated with modern cultural trends, for example, in music, cinema or even in social networks, where folk motifs are reflected. This allows students to see the connection between tradition and modernity, as well as to understand how elements of folklore are transformed and perceived in the modern world.

Thus, studying oral folk art in universities helps students develop not only knowledge about cultural traditions, but also skills of analysis, creativity and critical thinking. Here are some examples of how oral folk art can be used in the educational process at the university:

1. Fairy Tales

Example: Russian folk tales (for example, "The Frog Princess", "Ivan Tsarevich and the Gray Wolf").

Application in teaching: The analysis of the structure of a fairy tale (based on V. Propp) allows students to understand the universal principles of the formation of myths and legends in different cultures. It is also possible to explore the social and moral aspects contained in these works.

An example in practical application: Students can make an analysis of fairy tales from the point of view of folklore symbols, genre features, as well as conduct a comparative analysis between fairy tales of different peoples.

2. Epics

Example: Epics about heroes (for example, "Ilya Muromets and the Robber Nightingale").

Application in education: Epics are an important element of epic folklore. Students can study them as historical and cultural monuments reflecting the ideals of courage, honor and patriotism, often associated with the Russian national identity.

An example in practical application: During the seminars, you can analyze the structure of bilinas, explore their connection with historical events (for example, campaigns against the Mongols or Vikings), and also consider characters as symbols of strength and justice.

3. Folk Songs

Example: Russian folk songs (for example, "Oh, it's not evening", "Kalinka").

Application in teaching: Folk songs can be used to study the musical and poetic forms of oral folk art, as well as to analyze symbolism, symbols of nature, love, family, etc.

An example in practical application: Students can work with song lyrics in practice, exploring



their melody, rhythm and folk motifs. It is also possible to analyze the text from the point of view of social history, revealing how folk songs reflect historical events, holidays and rituals.

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4. Proverbs and Sayings

Example: Russian proverbs and sayings (for example, "You can't easily pull a fish out of a pond", "Not all that glitters is gold").

Application in education: Proverbs and sayings are a vivid example of oral folk art, which expresses folk wisdom. Students can analyze their meaning, origin, and their role in shaping moral norms.

An example in practical application: Students can work with proverbs, grouping them by topic (for example, about work, about friendship, about life) and analyze how they reflect the worldview and customs of the people.

5. Chants and ditties

Example: Ditties (for example, "Oh, yes, at the gate, at the gate — there are three men, they love me, they run like horses").

Educational application: Ditties are an important part of folk poetry and are used to express humor, satire, and folk morality. It is also an excellent material for studying linguistic features and features of poetic forms in the oral tradition.

An example in practical application: Students can study ditties as a genre, paying attention to their structure, form and the topics they touch on (for example, family relations, everyday life, holidays).

6. Riddles

Example: Russian folk riddles (for example, "What kind of bird: does it fly — does not fly, but there is a fire burning behind its tail? (Starling)").

Application in teaching: Riddles are a form of oral folk art aimed at developing thinking and imaginative perception. Students can explore how riddles reflect people's worldview, as well as how they serve as a tool for developing logic and memory.

A practical example: Students can create their own riddles or analyze riddles using elements of cognitive linguistics or cultural anthropology.

Using these examples in the educational process, it is possible to demonstrate to students the richness and versatility of oral folk art, its importance for the preservation of cultural traditions and its influence on the development of various forms of art and literature.

Conclusion

Oral folk art is an invaluable heritage of mankind. It not only preserves the wealth of cultural traditions and images, but also provides a key to understanding the history and worldview of peoples. Today, despite the various challenges of our time, there is considerable interest in folk culture, which allows us to preserve and pass on its unique elements to future generations.

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