

Applications of Yuzhang Paper-Cutting Art in Five Fields of Kindergarten Activities From the Perspective of Cultural Inheritance

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Abstract

In the current trend of the protection of intangible cultural heritage, from the perspective of cultural heritage, the paper integrates the Yuzhang Paper-cutting art and cultural resources into the five field activities of local kindergartens and develops kindergarten characteristic field activities, aiming to adopt living inheritance methods like introducing folk culture into the campus as the most effective means of intangible cultural heritage protection. Meanwhile, based on the applications of Yuzhang Paper-cutting in the five fields of kindergarten activities, the paper attempts to reflect the regional cultural characteristics and advocates and helps preschool teachers to recognize, explore and utilize Yuzhang Paper-cutting, an important factor of regional culture, to achieve its spread and inheritance in the preschool stage.

Key words: Perspective of cultural heritage; Yuzhang Paper-cutting art; Five fields of kindergarten

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In reply to the No. 3949 Suggestion of the Second Session of the 13th National People’s Congress on “Suggestions on Further Strengthening the Traditional Culture Education of Preschool Children and Primary and Secondary School Students”, the Ministry of Education pointed out that the state has always attached great importance to strengthening the traditional culture education of students, and guided and organized students to carry out such training activities on the inheritance of intangible cultural heritage as folk paper-cutting art in various forms and channels. In the meantime, with the deepening of the reform of kindergarten activities in the five fields, the state advocates that kindergartens and teachers in all provinces and cities fully realize, explore, and utilize local folk art culture based on the spirit of the Outline, thus forming the artistic characteristic activities of kindergartens. Hence, the paper aims to explore teachers’ active integration of paper-cutting art into the five fields of kindergarten activities to better promote the inheritance and development of paper-cutting art.

1. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE APPLICATIONS OF YUZHANG PAPER-CUTTING ART IN THE FIVE FIELDS OF KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITIES

As a “mother tongue culture”, folk art is conducive to the inheritance of local traditional culture. Yuzhang Paper-cutting was listed in the Fifth Batch of Nanchang Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016. As an excellent local art resource, it should be integrated into the activities in the five fields of kindergartens so that it can help maintain the diversity of paper-cutting art, strengthen cultural confidence, and enrich the inheritance theory of paper-cutting art in the five fields of kindergarten, thereby providing ideas for subsequent research.

On the one hand, in the current context of the protection of intangible cultural heritage, by integrating Yuzhang paper-cutting art and cultural resources into the activities in the five fields of local kindergartens and constructing the activities in the characteristic fields of kindergartens, children can be immersed in the unique cultural feelings of their hometown from childhood, which has practical guiding significance for the construction of the activities resources in the five fields of kindergartens and the inheritance of local folk culture. On the other hand, live inheritance serves as the most effective means to protect intangible cultural heritage, and introducing folk culture to the campus is the most effective way by first influencing preschool children. The applications of Yuzhang Paper-cutting in the five fields of kindergarten activities can reflect the characteristics of regional culture. At the same time, it is necessary to advocate and help preschool teachers to recognize, explore, and utilize Yuzhang paper-cutting, an important factor of regional culture, so that it can be spread and inherited in the preschool stage.

2. THE BASIC THEORY OF YUZHANG PAPER-CUTTING ART FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CULTURAL INHERITANCE

2.1 Chinese paper-cutting

Chinese paper-cutting has an extensive, profound, and connotative culture and a long history. The earliest paper-cutting can date back to the Northern and Southern Dynasties of China. The paper-cuts inherited from the older generation have relatively simple patterns, and weak stereoscopic sensation; they are old-fashioned and less appealing to young people but have cultural connotations. With the changes of the times, to protect the inheritance and development of this quintessence art of China, the paper-cutting art should also make innovations and keep pace with the times. With regard to the characteristics of Yuzhang Paper-cutting, compared with the traditional paper-cuts, Yuzhang Paper-cuts is the distillation of traditional paper-cuts by making innovations in presentation techniques.

2.2 Yuzhang Paper-Cutting History

Yuzhang Paper-cutting originated from the Shen Family in Wanli District, Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. The paper-cutting techniques mainly include cutting, carving, chiseling, printing, and so forth. As for the materials, red paper, rice paper and wax paper are widely used. Yuzhang Paper-cuts are made based on paper-cutting paintings through the principles of natural texture graphics, sketching and printmaking. The works created have the characteristics of sketch printmaking. Each piece of

handmade “texture paper-cut” works has a strong visual effect and outstanding three-dimensional sense. Any patterns can be expressed in the form of Yuzhang Paper-cuts while focusing the artistic form of expression on the portrait.

2.3 Artistic Features of Yuzhang Paper-Cutting

Yuzhang Paper-cutting is mostly monochrome paper-cutting mainly in the form of cutting, supplemented by carving. Combing the thick and crazy style of the north and the beautiful and lively style of the south, it has both the traditional folk paper-cutting flavor and the modern art concept, forming its own unique artistic style. Yuzhang Paper-cutting works contain not only the accumulation of Nanchang’s more than 2,000 years of history and culture but also the refinement of a hundred years of red memory. Its distinctive personality, rich themes, strong regional characteristics, and unique artistic expression methods reveal a sense of the original ecology, a simple and mysterious color, and modern flavor. There is unspeakable formal beauty and infinite tension in the special picture’s artistic conception bred in the “heroic spirit” and “heroic feelings” of the hero city. For a long time, Nanchang people, with their love for a better life and their pursuit of the true meaning of art, have devoted themselves to studying and absorbing their strengths, and have created paper-cut works with diverse forms, rich imagination, and interesting ideas, which have become another reputation in Yuzhang culture. (Nanchang News Network, 2017)



“Yuzhang paper-cutting” paper cutting works of Shen Zhe, the sixth generation inheritor of intangible cultural heritage

3. ANALYSIS OF THE FEASIBILITY OF INTEGRATING YUZHANG PAPER-CUTTING ART INTO FIVE FIELDS OF KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITIES

Paper-cutting is traditional folk art, a world intangible cultural heritage, and even a valuable and distinctive educational resource with rich folk cultural connotation and inheritance value. Jin Zhilin, President of the China Folk Paper-cutting Research Association, said, "Education is the key to the inheritance and development of intangible cultural heritage." Children are exposed to various forms and styles of paper-cutting works, and in the process of common observation, analysis and comparison, they understand the dynamic, virtual and dense expression methods, experience the clumsiness and simplicity of paper-cutting, and thus feel the charm of paper-cutting (Tang, 2013). Kindergarten activities should integrate folk art and traditional culture. However, in the current context of advocating multiculturalism, people take a nihilistic attitude towards the discussion of the integration of traditional paper-cutting art into kindergarten activities in the five fields. Consequently, insufficient attention to traditional cultural heritage leads to the difficulty of being reasonably inherited. It is common to see the phenomenon of ignoring traditional folk art culture in the five fields of activities in kindergartens. Therefore, Yuzhang Paper-cutting should enter kindergartens from the folk and cultivate the kindergarten activities in the five fields in a new cultural way.

4. THE EFFECTIVE INHERITANCE PATH OF YUZHANG PAPER-CUTTING ART IN THE FIVE FIELDS OF KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITIES

Using such methods as literature review, field survey, observation and action research, this paper studies the line shape characteristics and pattern style characteristics of Yuzhang Paper-cutting art, and extracts typical "style patterns" and "cultural elements". On this basis, based on the basic theories of culturology, folklore and preschool education, the paper transforms the Yuzhang Paper-cutting into practice in the activity education in the five fields of kindergarten activities to create a set of paper-cutting art forms that can not only show the original ecology but also integrate with the activities in the five fields of modern kindergartens.

4.1 Applications of Paper-Cutting Art in Health Activities

The Outline puts that children should establish a correct concept of health and try to take care of themselves and provide for themselves. The research group plans to let

children make paper-cutting labels by themselves such as "love cleaning" and "pay attention to hygiene". Small footprints cut with colored paper on the stairs can remind children to walk lightly on the stairs and queue up. In this case, in the paper-cutting activities, children exercise the development of small muscle groups in their hands and develop the ability of hand-eye coordination and intellectual development, because paper-cutting activities involving folding, drawing, and cutting, is a process of joint action of multiple organs, which can well cultivate children's ability of action coordination; Moreover, through the storage of paper-cutting supplies and the arrangement of paper-cutting fragments, children can develop the habit of paying attention to cleanliness and hygiene, thus generating interest in paper-cutting culture in their subtle and personal feelings.

4.2 Applications of Paper-Cutting Art in Language Activities

Children are encouraged to read paper-cutting picture books such as "Marriage of the Mouse's Daughter" and "12 Zodiac Signs", chant paper-cutting ballads, and watch paper-cutting animations like "Monkey Fishing for the Moon". Therefore, paper-cutting picture books, ballads, animations, and other art forms are used to improve children's aesthetic taste and reading ability. At the same time, lively teaching activities are implemented by creating a characteristic environment with a strong atmosphere; paper-cutting artists are regularly invited to perform in the kindergarten and communicate with children, so as to enhance children's understanding of paper-cutting art and improve children's language ability, so as to better guide children to achieve comprehensive physical and mental development while passing on folk paper-cutting culture.

4.3 Applications of Paper-Cutting Art in Social Activities

The safety signs, indicators and warning signs of the facilities in the kindergarten are expressed by paper-cutting so that children can feel the charm of Yuzhang Paper-cutting art in the kindergarten; Besides, children are guided to create paper-cuts similar to the theme wall of "Beautiful Jiangxi" and pick up scissors and cut the graphics of mountains, rivers, sun, flowers, leaves and birds by themselves. By processing and designing these figures through imagination, we can guide young children to actually feel the richness and excellence of the motherland culture, as well as the changes and development of their hometown, inspiring them to love their home and motherland.

4.4 Applications of Paper-Cutting Art in Science Activities

Paper-cutting art can help create an atmosphere of loving animals and plants and being close to nature for children. Since children are very interested in animals and plants,

teachers can lead children to plant or observe various plants in the park, and then create paper-cuts with plants as the theme. Various animal and plant paper-cuts are pasted into the classroom. Colorful flowers and birds of different shapes have deeply attracted children's attention, achieving the goal of Education and promoting children's development. Every semester, children are guided to go out to the zoo to observe and learn about animals, have a preliminary awareness of caring for animals, and then finish their animal paper-cutting works after going back. Through these studies, children can understand animals and plants scientifically and intuitively, cherish nature, and enhance their love for paper-cutting.

4.5 Applications of Paper-Cutting Art in Art Activities

Using the artwork area, teachers organize children to learn paper-cutting according to the age characteristics of children's large, medium and small classes and the principle of making paper-cutting from easy to difficult, regularly hold paper-cutting art exhibitions for children, guide children to communicate with each other and improve together; Using the performance area, teachers create an interesting fairy tale paper-cutting stage play, lead children to cut props according to the needs of the stage play, and complete the work by painting, pasting and other methods. Children cut their favorite fairy tale characters and design scenes, then present them through performance, and find and express beauty in the process of paper-cutting and performance.

The applications of paper-cutting art in the five fields of kindergartens help cultivate children's national spirit, enhance children's identification with national culture, and improve children's hands-on operation ability and creativity. Therefore, the paper-cutting art will be transformed into the resources of activities in the five fields of kindergarten through "live inheritance", forming visible words, pictures, or physical materials. By integrating the paper-cutting art into the activities in the five fields, the application path of combining health, language, society, science, and art can open a window for children to understand the paper-cutting art, further tap the value of paper-cutting art, and allow paper-cutting art to get promoted and developed in the live inheritance.

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