

# Research on international Chinese education and cultural teaching in the new era

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**Abstract:** International Chinese education and cultural teaching play a vital role in the construction of China's cultural power. This paper firstly expounds the significance of international Chinese education and culture teaching, which mainly includes three aspects: enhancing learners' Chinese learning level, spreading Chinese cultural values, and enhancing Chinese cultural soft power. Then, it briefly analyzes the current situation of international Chinese education and culture teaching, like emphasizing communicative culture teaching and neglecting knowledge culture teaching; emphasizing explicit culture teaching and neglecting implicit culture teaching. Finally, it puts forward the strategy of international Chinese education and culture teaching, which is to balance explicit culture and implicit culture, and renew the teaching concept. The research shows that international Chinese education plays a positive role in the process of promoting the construction of China's cultural power.

**Key words:** international Chinese education; cultural teaching; Chinese culture

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## 1 Introduction

China has long been the world's second largest economy. However, compared with China's hard power, the development of soft power lags far behind. In order to enhance China's soft power and expand the influence of Chinese culture in the world, the Chinese government put forward the policy of "rejuvenating the country through culture" in 2011.

International Chinese language education plays a vital role in China's soft power development. In addition, international students who learn Chinese can more easily integrate into Chinese society and culture, which is conducive to building closer international cooperative relations.

## 2 The significance of international Chinese education and cultural teaching

By teaching Chinese language skills and gaining in-depth understanding of Chinese culture, international Chinese education and cultural teaching promote global learners' understanding of China's cultural values, history, art and social system.

### 2.1 Enhance learners' Chinese language proficiency

Language is an important expression of culture. Learning a language is inevitably accompanied by the understanding of the culture to which the language belongs, and through the learning of culture, people are more likely to master and use the language. Therefore, language teaching and culture teaching complement each other.

Language and culture are inseparable, which means that international Chinese education must organically combine language teaching and cultural teaching, and develop in the direction that places greater emphasis on cultural education [1].

Language is the external expression of culture, while culture is the inner core of language. The goal of cultural teaching is not only to make learners understand the meaning of vocabulary and language, but also to let learners deeply understand the ideological connotation and cultural value of Chinese culture.

## 2.2 Dissemination of Chinese cultural values

The fundamental goal of cultural teaching is to reflect the deep cultural values through cultural customs and other forms. In international Chinese education and cultural teaching, different teaching methods can be used to spread Chinese culture.

International Chinese language education is mainly aimed at overseas learners, including overseas Chinese and Chinese teenagers, who wish to learn Chinese as a second or foreign language. Table 1 shows the dissemination of Chinese culture in the world.

Table 1. The dissemination of Chinese culture in the world

Regions	Route of transmission	Influence
Asian region	Asian countries have close cultural exchanges with China, and the Chinese language is widely used.	Asian countries have a strong interest and recognition in Chinese culture.
	China carries out cultural exchange programs with neighboring countries.	Traditional Chinese festivals such as Spring Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival are popular in Asia.
	Confucius Institutes have been set up in various Asian countries to promote Chinese language education.	The teaching of Chinese in Asian countries has been expanding and improving.
European region	Confucius Institutes and classrooms have sprung up in various European countries.	The craze for learning Chinese continues to spread in Europe.
	Exhibitions and performances of Chinese culture and art have been held in Europe.	Traditional Chinese art and culture are widely welcomed in Europe.
	Universities and academic institutions have added Chinese language majors.	European countries have become interested in Chinese history, philosophy, literature and other fields.
Americas region	Confucius Institutes are expanding in the Americas.	Chinese learning has become a popular option for students in the Americas.
	Chinese movies and TV dramas are broadcast and translated in the Americas.	Chinese movies and TV plays are popular in the Americas.
	Cultural exchanges between China and the United States have increased.	The cultural interactions between China and the United States have facilitated mutual understanding between the two peoples.
Africa	Confucius Institutes have been gradually established in African countries.	African students are showing increasing interest in learning Chinese.
	African countries hold Chinese culture exhibitions and celebrate Chinese festivals.	Chinese culture is gradually integrated into local society and life in Africa.
	Media exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa have been strengthened.	Chinese culture has reached a wide audience in Africa through the media.

### 2.3 Enhance China's cultural soft power

International Chinese education and cultural teaching have played an important role in enhancing China's cultural soft power, mainly reflected in the following two aspects:

#### (1) Cultural communication and exchange

Through international Chinese language education and cultural teaching, Chinese language and culture can be spread to various parts of the world. Moreover, cultural teaching also provides a platform for transnational cultural exchanges, which helps to enhance the international community's understanding and respect for Chinese culture.

#### (2) Cultivate cultural communicators and build an international image

Through cultural teaching, China has established an open, friendly and charming image in the world, and the world can have a more comprehensive and positive impression of China, which promotes the international community's understanding of Chinese culture.

## **3 Current situation of international Chinese education and cultural teaching**

Since the 1980s, remarkable progress has been made in international Chinese language education and cultural teaching. At the same time, there are many deficiencies in international Chinese education and cultural teaching, which lead to some corresponding problems [2].

### 3.1 Emphasizing the teaching of communicative culture over the knowledge culture teaching

For a long period of time, knowledge culture has not been valued, and have had an impact to this day, resulting in the current knowledge culture teaching failed to develop into a complete system. It is mainly manifested in the following aspects:

#### (1) Teaching tends to be practical and communicative

International Chinese education and cultural teaching focus more on cultivating students' practical communication ability. In addition, the teaching emphasizes the communication and interaction of students and encourages them to participate in actual dialogues and exchange activities. Although this teaching method helps students to improve their communicative skills, it actually ignores the background and deep meaning of traditional culture.

#### (2) Cultural teaching is simplified and the system is not perfect

In order to enable students to master practical communication skills more quickly, cultural teaching simplifies the historical background and complexity of Chinese culture to a certain extent. Moreover, international Chinese education and cultural teaching lack a unified teaching system and standards, which leads to the deficiency of traditional culture teaching.

Due to the excessive emphasis on language and the neglect of culture in international Chinese education, the cultural teaching mode has become scattered, superficial and too entertaining, so it can't really promote the soft power of Chinese culture.

### 3.2 Emphasis on explicit culture teaching over implicit culture teaching

The emphasis on language and the light on culture in international Chinese education will lead to the disharmony between language teaching and cultural teaching. Moreover, the research papers on international Chinese education and culture teaching mainly include Chinese ancient poetry, Sichuan Opera, Peking Opera, martial arts, etc. And there is relatively little or no research on implicit culture teaching [3]. Implicit culture teaching is also rarely involved in cultural activities. Although these activities are able to give students an initial understanding of the explicit aspects of Chinese culture, they lack an in-depth introduction to the core cultural values of China.

With the development of the times, the relationship between explicit culture and implicit culture is getting closer and

closer. Explicit culture and implicit culture blend with each other and influence each other. The explicit culture becomes the window to reveal the implicit culture, while the implicit culture endows the explicit culture with more far-reaching significance and value.

## **4 Strategies for cultural teaching in international Chinese education**

### **4.1 Balancing explicit culture and implicit culture**

The strategy of balancing explicit culture and implicit culture is to ensure that the external expression and deep connotation of traditional culture are taken into account in international Chinese education and cultural teaching.

Teachers can organize a variety of cultural experience activities to guide students to personally feel the explicit characteristics of traditional Chinese culture. In addition, cultural exhibitions are held so that students can appreciate traditional Chinese arts and handicrafts and learn about the diversity and unique charm of Chinese culture. At the same time, teachers need to pay attention to implicit culture teaching and impart deep cultural connotations such as core Chinese values, philosophical thoughts and traditional philosophy. By making use of cross-cultural comparison, students can understand the differences and commonalities between Chinese culture and other cultures, so as to deepen their knowledge of Chinese culture.

Teachers can also combine explicit culture and implicit culture teaching to carry out comprehensive teaching design. Through this comprehensive teaching design, students can not only understand the external characteristics of Chinese culture in the experience, but also have a deep understanding of the core values contained in it.

### **4.2 Updating the teaching concept**

In the strategy of improving the teaching of international Chinese education and culture, updating the teaching concept is mainly to pay equal attention to communicative culture and knowledge culture, so as to achieve a more comprehensive and in-depth imparting of Chinese culture.

Updating the teaching concept should not only emphasize the teaching of communicative culture. In international Chinese education, students often need to learn both Chinese grammar and vocabulary, and also the way of thinking, social etiquette and traditional festivals of the Chinese people. At the same time, attention should be paid to the organic combination of communicative culture and knowledge culture. Through such teaching methods, students can not only master the skills of Chinese communication, but also gain an in-depth understanding of the core values of Chinese culture and traditional philosophy. In updating the teaching philosophy, it is also necessary for teachers to have the ability to teach across cultures. At the same time, teachers should also pay attention to students' learning needs and interests, design teaching content and activities that meet the actual situation of students, so as to improve the attractiveness and effectiveness of teaching [4].

## **5 Conclusion**

In today's era of globalization, international Chinese education and cultural teaching are playing an increasingly important role. In China's vision of building a strong cultural country, the inheritance and development of culture are the top priority. With the promotion of international Chinese education, we have reason to believe that Chinese culture will gradually enter the world and make greater contributions to the development of cultural diversity in the world.

### **Conflicts of interest**

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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