



A Brief Analysis of the Influence of Foreign Culture on the Development of Thai Culture

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Abstract: Thailand is a member and founding member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Asia-Europe Meeting and the World Trade Organization. As one of the ancient countries in Southeast Asia with a history of more than 700 years, the development of its culture runs through the development of Thailand from ancient times to the present, and has a far-reaching impact on the development of Thai society that cannot be ignored. As for the development process of Thai culture, especially the formation and roots of culture, it is inevitable to involve the penetration and influence of foreign culture, and the so-called foreign culture can be divided into Eastern culture and Western culture. Western culture is generally synonymous with European and American culture; Oriental culture is more representative of traditional Chinese culture and ancient Indian culture. Geographically, Thailand is located in Southeast Asia, that is, in the middle of China and India. At the same time, from the perspective of cultural regional distribution, Thai culture is also located between the two eastern cultural regions of Chinese culture and Indian culture. To sum up, the influence of foreign cultures on the development of Thai culture cannot be underestimated or ignored. That's what we're talking about today: the influence of foreign cultures on the development of Thai culture.

Keywords: foreign culture, Thai culture, influence

1. The influence of Chinese culture on the development of Thai culture

Siam is the original name of Thailand, and the official change of Siam to Thailand was in May 1949. Thailand is one of the countries with the most blood relationship between Southeast Asia and China. In the 18th century, Zheng Xin, the Chinese national hero of Thailand, was originally from Chaoshan, Guangdong, China. He is revered as the first of the five Kings of Thailand. Therefore, December 28 every year is the day of Zheng Xin's accession as the "Zheng Emperor's Day" in Thailand. There are about 9 million overseas Chinese in Thailand, accounting for 14% of the country's population, and there are about 8 million overseas Chinese in Thailand whose ancestral home is Chaoshan. There are more than 20 million Thais of Chinese descent, about one-third of the country's total population. Therefore, it can be said that the development of Thai culture has been greatly influenced by Chinese culture.[1]

Chinese culture specifically refers to the continuous evolution and development of Chinese unique culture based on the Central Plains culture. Chinese culture includes folk customs, opera, chess, tea ceremony, traditional Chinese Musical Instruments, literati calligraphy and painting, etc. In the long historical development, China has formed a diversified and integrated Chinese cultural pattern. After more than a thousand years of historical evolution of Chinese culture, a China with a splendid culture stands tall in the East of the world with rich and colorful cultural elements.

Since ancient times, Chinese culture has a long history of spreading to the outside world, and the cultural exchanges between China and Thailand also have a very long history. Since the establishment of the Kingdom of Thailand's Sukhothai dynasty, the first independent dynasty in Thai history, a large number of Chinese people with their wives and families have migrated to Thailand to live. Since then, the form of Chinese migration to Thailand has not been interrupted. It is precisely because a large number of Chinese emigrated to live in Thailand, a large number of Chinese culture spread to Thailand, but also to Thailand's cultural development and social development caused a profound impact. In Thailand, for example, Chinese is a very popular language. Local Thai residents often use Chinese in their daily lives. The influence of Chinese language on Thailand, as well as Chinese traditional culture and world art, such as calligraphy, handicrafts, traditional Chinese medicine and Chinese traditional culture, Chinese drama, puppet and music have exerted a great influence on the cultural development of Thailand. There are many history books from China in many Thai libraries and Thai people's homes. Chinese cultural classics are translated into Thai in Thailand, such as the Romance of The Three Kingdoms and other famous works.[2]

In other respects, China itself has a long history as an agricultural power. It has a wealth of agricultural technology and experience. Most Chinese immigrants to Thailand are farmers, and many live in rural Thailand. They brought sophisticated

farming techniques to Thailand. Turn the barren land into a fertile farm. Many varieties of seeds were also brought to Thailand. At that time, rubber has been the main cash crop until now, and Thailand's rubber was also cultivated and planted by overseas Chinese who settled in Thailand at the beginning, and has since created Thailand's rubber planting cause. In addition to the spread of agriculture and language, the overseas Chinese who emigrated to Thailand also launched a shipbuilding business in Thailand for a long time. In the long process of maritime trade, the superb navigation skills and experience of the Chinese people were continuously spread to Thailand by domestic foreign trade merchants. At the same time, the Chinese compass was also spread to Thailand. At that time, almost all Thai ships were equipped with a Chinese compass. Many large shipbuilding workshops in Bangkok produced a considerable number of ships that were similar in appearance and structure to Chinese ships, and the style was obviously modeled after the style of Chinese ships at that time.

It can be seen that the culture from China has a profound and important impact on all aspects of Thai culture, and to a large extent has a non-negligible role in promoting the development of Thai culture and even the development and progress of society.

2. The influence of Indian culture on the development of Thai writing

In the early centuries AD, with the frequent trade between India and Southeast Asia and the development of religious and cultural exchanges, the Indian script began to spread throughout Southeast Asia.[3]

From the second century AD to the third century AD, the most primitive ancient Indian script, the Brahmi script, was gradually formed in Southeast Asia. A stone tablet inscribed with an ancient Southeast Asian script was found in Bujing Village, Nha Trang City, Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam. After research, the ancient script on the stele is the Brahmi script spread from India, and the stele is the first Brahmi script found in Southeast Asia. Later, records of the Oer tablet were found in the mountains of An Giang Province in southern Vietnam, and the inscription on it is also believed to be the Brahmi script of India. In addition to the Brahmi tablets found in the above two areas, archaeologists have also found a total of two ancient writing relics of the same period as the Vietnamese Khanh Hoa province in Krabi County, Thailand, which is also engraved with Brahmi tablets.

From the fifth century, the Palava script in India gradually spread to various countries and regions in Southeast Asia, and in the eighth century, the first generation of glyph variants — post-Palava script.

Around the 10th century AD, the ancient Mong and ancient Khmer people invented and created the ancient Mong and ancient Khmer scripts on the basis of proficient mastery of the first two scripts. With the constant change of national territory and territory and the continuous migration of ethnic groups, the ancient Khmer and ancient Mong scripts were introduced into the territory of Thailand and were mastered and learned by the Thai people.

Through continuous harmonization, in 1238, a king of Thailand, the Great Rangan Hung, created the original Thai script based on the old Khmer script and the old Mon script, and since then, In order to adapt to the development of Thai society and Thai culture, the rules of both letters and orthography have been constantly adjusted, gradually forming the Thai script used by Thai people today.

3. The influence of Western culture on the development of Thai literature

Thailand established the Sukhothai Dynasty in 1257 AD, forming a unified country. In order to completely free Thailand from the control and influence of the Khmer kingdom, King Ramkhanh created the Thai script of the Sukhothai period on the basis of the ancient Khmer script in 1283, and Thai written literature was born. The ancient literature of Thailand is basically religious literature and court literature.[4]

Western countries completed the first industrial revolution and ideological liberation in the 19th century. So that in economic and cultural aspects are far more than other countries and regions. Thailand has long been a feudal and agricultural country since ancient times. Especially after entering modern times and completing the first industrial Revolution in the West, the development is relatively lagging behind. After the completion of the first Industrial Revolution, Western countries began to aggressively invade the east, occupy markets and plunder raw materials, and launch colonial wars, which also had a profound impact on Thai literature.

In the modern literary period, due to the invasion of Western colonists to Thailand, many Western literary works were translated into Thai versions, and because the Thai royal family was controlled by Western colonists, they had to promote the dissemination and flow of these literary works in Thai society. More and more Thais read these literary works translated into Thai, and many Thai writers and writers were influenced by these literary works. It also promoted the development of Thai literature and the progress of Thai culture to a certain extent. It also has a profound influence on the development and progress of Thai literature, and the new Thai literature came into being. Most of the authors of the new literature are from

the common people, and the representative figure is Sibulapha, the founder of modern Thai literature. Siburappa is the representative of Thai realism school, representative works are "Looking forward", "Manhood", "Life and War", "Painting Thoughts" and so on. Most of his works expose the darkness of society and yearn for a better life as the theme, with delicate brushwork and plain language, which are deeply loved by the people. Another prominent figure in Thai literature during this period was Prince Keli Bhamo, a prominent Thai politician, writer and poet, best known for his novel *The Four Dynasties*, which depicts the rise and fall of a feudal noble family and historically recreates the social and political life of Thailand from Rama V to Rama VIII.[5]

4. Conclusion

To sum up, the influence of foreign cultures on the development and evolution of Thai culture cannot be ignored. To a large extent, it has promoted the development of Thai culture and Thai society. It is necessary to understand and study the development of Thai culture in all stages and at all levels.

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