

The Exploration and Utilization of Ancient Chinese Resources in the Context of International Chinese Language Education

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Abstract: Against the backdrop of globalization, international Chinese language education has gradually emerged as an important bridge for disseminating Chinese culture and deepening mutual understanding among nations. Among this trend, ancient Chinese language resources stand out like a bright pearl, with their unique value receiving attention. Utilizing both literature analysis and case studies, this research delves deeply into the significant role of ancient Chinese language resources in international Chinese language education, and explores effective methods for tapping into and utilizing these resources. The ancient Chinese language resources possess multiple values in international Chinese language education. To effectively tap into and utilize these resources, this study proposes a series of strategies. Firstly, it is necessary to strengthen resource integration, systematically integrating scattered ancient Chinese language resources to form a convenient resource library, facilitating easy access and use by educators and learners. Secondly, it is essential to promote innovative teaching methods, exploring teaching techniques suitable for international Chinese language education in light of the characteristics of ancient Chinese, thereby enhancing teaching effectiveness. Simultaneously, personalized textbooks should be developed based on learners' needs and characteristics, making ancient Chinese language resources more attuned to learners' practical requirements. Furthermore, it is crucial to enhance teacher training, improving teachers' understanding and teaching abilities of ancient Chinese language resources, providing a solid talent guarantee for international Chinese language education. Lastly, modern technological means, such

as artificial intelligence and virtual reality, should be fully utilized to assist in the teaching of ancient Chinese language resources, providing learners with a more vivid and visual learning experience.

Keywords: International Chinese Language Education; Ancient Chinese Resources; Exploration and Utilization; Cultural Dissemination

1. Introduction

Driven by the wave of globalization, international Chinese education has increasingly become an important medium for the dissemination of Chinese culture and language, and its importance has become increasingly prominent. As Lu Jianming (2024) stated, "Language is the carrier of culture, and education is the bridge for inheritance."^[1] Against this backdrop, the excavation and utilization of ancient Chinese resources are particularly crucial in international Chinese education. A review of the existing literature reveals that ancient Chinese is not only a splendid treasure of Chinese culture but also an important cornerstone for improving learners' Chinese proficiency and cultural literacy. A large number of studies have focused on optimizing teaching content, innovating teaching methods, and improving textbook compilation. Zhang Yuyu (2020) and his team discussed in detail the unique value of ancient Chinese in international Chinese education and pointed out its irreplaceable role in enhancing learners' understanding and identification with Chinese culture.^[2] Meanwhile, Yang Zhehua's (2020) research focused on how to more effectively utilize ancient Chinese resources to improve teaching effectiveness and meet the needs of different types of learners.^[3] Despite a series of remarkable achievements, many challenges and problems still remain. Therefore, this

article aims to delve into how to fully excavate and utilize ancient Chinese resources in the context of international Chinese education. By synthetically analyzing and drawing on the research findings of existing literature, this article aims to provide new ideas and methods for the field of international Chinese education, promoting its further development and prosperity.

2. The Value of Ancient Chinese Resources in International Chinese Education

As an essential component of Chinese culture, ancient Chinese resources possess immense value in international Chinese education. These resources, including ancient documents, poetry, and idioms, encompass rich historical and cultural information, serving as a crucial window to understanding Chinese culture and history. For Chinese language learners, exposure to and learning from ancient Chinese resources not only enhances their linguistic proficiency but also strengthens their cultural literacy and cross-cultural communication skills.

2.1 Embodiment of Cultural Value

Ancient Chinese resources play a significant role in improving the language proficiency of Chinese learners. As Mr. Wang Li once said, "Ancient Chinese is the foundation of modern Chinese."^[4] Ancient Chinese is the source and foundation of modern Chinese. By studying ancient Chinese, learners can better understand the vocabulary, grammar, and expressions of modern Chinese. Meanwhile, ancient Chinese resources contain abundant language materials and contexts, providing learners with vast language practice spaces. For example, idioms, as a unique way of expression in ancient Chinese, are concise, vivid, and learners can enrich their vocabulary and improve the accuracy and vividness of their language expressions by studying and applying idioms. In addition, literary works such as poetry and prose in ancient Chinese resources also provide learners with beautiful language examples, helping them cultivate their language sense and expression ability.

2.2 Assistance in Language Learning

Ancient Chinese resources play a significant role in enhancing Chinese learners' language proficiency. Ancient Chinese is the source and

foundation of modern Chinese, and studying it helps learners better understand modern Chinese vocabulary, grammar, and expressions. Meanwhile, ancient Chinese resources are rich in linguistic materials and contexts, providing learners with ample opportunities for language practice. For instance, idioms, a unique form of ancient Chinese expression, are concise yet meaningful, vivid, and assist learners in enriching their vocabulary and enhancing the accuracy and vividness of their language use. Furthermore, literary works like poetry and prose in ancient Chinese offer beautiful language models, fostering learners' language sense and expressive abilities.

2.3 Bridge for Cross-cultural Communication

In ancient Chinese resources, learners can gain a deep understanding of knowledge about ancient Chinese society, customs, values, ways of thinking, and other aspects, thereby better comprehending the behavioral patterns and thinking modes of the Chinese people. This understanding helps to reduce cultural conflicts and misunderstandings, increasing the success rate of cross-cultural communication. As Mr. Fei Xiaotong once said, "Cultural self-awareness is a difficult process. First, one must recognize one's own culture and understand the various cultures encountered, only then can one establish one's position in this already-forming multicultural world."^[5] The classic works and ideological concepts in ancient Chinese resources possess universal value, which can serve as common topics for people from different cultural backgrounds to communicate and promote exchanges and integrations among diverse cultures.

2.4 Catalyst for Learning Interest

Ancient Chinese resources actively stimulate learners' interest and motivation in learning. Elements like poetry and stories in ancient Chinese resources are interesting and thought-provoking, sparking learners' curiosity and desire to learn. By studying ancient Chinese resources, learners can appreciate the profoundness and unique charm of Chinese culture, thus enhancing their interest and motivation for learning Chinese. This interest and motivation are crucial factors driving learners' continuous learning and progress.

In conclusion, ancient Chinese resources possess multifaceted value in international Chinese education. They are not only important carriers for understanding Chinese culture but also effective avenues for enhancing Chinese learners' language proficiency. At the same time, they contribute to cultivating learners' cross-cultural communication skills and stimulating their interest and motivation in learning. Therefore, in international Chinese education, we should fully appreciate and utilize ancient Chinese resources, unleashing their unique educational value and cultural charm, to contribute to cultivating Chinese language talents with an international perspective and cross-cultural communication skills.

3. Strategies for Excavating and Utilizing Resources of Ancient Chinese

In international Chinese language education, to fully leverage the unique value of resources from ancient Chinese, we need to adopt a series of strategies to effectively excavate and utilize these resources. These strategies include resource integration to build a convenient "think tank", teaching method innovation to enhance learning experience, customized textbooks to meet learners' needs, teacher strengthening to improve teaching ability, and practical training to cultivate practical application ability. By implementing these strategies, we will be able to better promote the continuous development of international Chinese language education.

3.1 Resource Integration: Building an "Intellectual Bank" of Ancient Chinese

Due to the vast amount of ancient Chinese resources, which encompass classic literature, poetry, idioms, historical anecdotes, and many other aspects, it is necessary to systematically sort and classify them. As Yao Zhenwu stated, "Ancient Chinese is a treasure of Chinese culture, with its rich resources and profound connotations requiring us to systematically organize and study them with a scientific attitude." [6] This involves collating literature from different historical periods to select representative classic works; screening poetry and lyrics to choose pieces with aesthetic value and linguistic characteristics; summarizing idiomatic expressions and anecdotes to understand their cultural

implications and contextual uses. Through such sorting, a comprehensive ancient Chinese resource library can be formed, facilitating teaching. Such work not only better preserves and promotes Chinese culture but also provides a solid foundation for the development of modern Chinese.

3.2 Teaching Method Innovation: Bringing Ancient Chinese to Life

Innovating teaching methods is an important means to excavate and utilize resources from ancient Chinese. Traditional teaching methods often focus on knowledge infusion while ignoring the cultivation of learners' interests and inspiration of thinking. Therefore, it is necessary to innovate teaching methods and combine ancient Chinese resources with modern teaching methods. For example, multimedia teaching can be used to reproduce the historical scenes and cultural backgrounds of ancient documents through multimedia elements such as images, audio, and video, enhancing learners' sensory experience. Interactive teaching can be adopted to encourage learners to participate in classroom discussions and role-playing, allowing them to experience the charm of ancient Chinese in practice. Research-based teaching can also be used to guide learners to conduct in-depth research on ancient Chinese resources, cultivating their independent thinking and problem-solving abilities.

3.3 Customized Textbooks: Precisely Meeting Learners' Needs

Compiling applicable textbooks is an important guarantee for excavating and utilizing resources from ancient Chinese [7]. Textbooks are an important carrier of teaching, directly affecting teaching effectiveness and learners' learning experience. Therefore, it is necessary to compile ancient Chinese textbooks suitable for international Chinese language education. When compiling textbooks, principles such as relevance, practicality, and interest should be followed, selecting appropriate ancient Chinese resources as teaching content based on learners' actual needs and interests. At the same time, attention should be paid to the layout and design of the textbooks, making them both conform to teaching laws and easy for learners to understand and accept. In

addition, the content of the textbooks should be continuously updated to maintain their timeliness and advancement, meeting constantly changing teaching needs.

3.4 Teacher Strengthening: Cultivating "Guides" for Ancient Chinese

Strengthening teacher training is also an important link in excavating and utilizing resources from ancient Chinese. Teachers are the leaders of teaching, and their professional quality and teaching ability directly affect teaching effectiveness and learners' learning outcomes. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen teacher training and improve teachers' cognition and teaching ability of ancient Chinese resources. This includes organizing teachers to participate in professional training courses to learn relevant knowledge and skills of ancient Chinese; encouraging teachers to carry out teaching research and explore effective teaching methods and strategies; providing teachers with communication platforms to share teaching experience and teaching resources. Through such training, a team of teachers with professional quality and teaching ability can be built, providing strong support for international Chinese language education.

3.5 Practical Training: Integrating Ancient Chinese into Life

Focusing on practical application is the fundamental purpose of excavating and utilizing resources from ancient Chinese. Learning ancient Chinese resources is not only to understand history and culture, but more importantly, to apply them to real life. Therefore, attention should be paid to the cultivation of practical application abilities in the teaching process. For example, learners can be encouraged to use ancient Chinese resources such as proverbs and allusions in daily life, enhancing their language expression ability and cultural confidence. Learners can be guided to compare and analyze ancient Chinese resources with modern Chinese, understanding the evolution and development of language laws. Learners can also be organized to carry out cultural activities related to ancient Chinese, such as poetry reading and idiom solitaire, allowing them to experience the charm of Chinese culture in practice [8].

Therefore, excavating and utilizing resources from ancient Chinese is of great significance in international Chinese language education. Through the systematic sorting of ancient Chinese resources, innovation in teaching methods, compilation of applicable textbooks, strengthening of teacher training, and focus on practical application, learners' language skills and cultural literacy can be effectively improved, promoting the continuous development and progress of international Chinese language education.

4. Challenges and Countermeasures

In the promotion and implementation of international Chinese language education, although tapping and utilizing ancient Chinese resources have great potential and value, they also face a series of challenges. These challenges stem not only from the complexity of the resources themselves, but also from various factors such as the educational environment and learner characteristics. To effectively address these challenges, we need to formulate and implement corresponding countermeasures to ensure that ancient Chinese resources can play their maximum role in international Chinese language education.

4.1 Complexity of Resources: The Dual Challenge of Screening and Integration

Ancient Chinese resources are vast and diverse, reflecting their richness but also posing challenges to the selection and utilization of resources. Facing a huge amount of literary materials, poetry, and so on, how to screen out content suitable for international Chinese language education has become a primary issue. At the same time, due to significant differences between ancient Chinese and modern Chinese in vocabulary, grammar, and other aspects, how to integrate these resources into the modern Chinese teaching system and ensure that learners can smoothly understand and master them is also a major challenge [9].

Countermeasures: Establish a screening mechanism for ancient Chinese resources, selecting representative and educationally valuable resources based on factors such as educational goals and learner levels. At the same time, strengthen resource integration efforts, through the development of auxiliary textbooks, multimedia teaching resources, and

other methods, to organically combine ancient Chinese resources with modern Chinese teaching, reducing learning difficulty and improving teaching effectiveness.

4.2 Differences in Educational Environments: Cross-cultural Adaptation and Innovation in Teaching Models

International Chinese language education is global, with significant differences in educational environments, cultural backgrounds, and learner needs among different countries and regions. This requires us to fully consider cross-cultural factors when tapping and utilizing ancient Chinese resources to ensure that teaching content and methods can adapt to different educational environments. However, due to a lack of deep understanding of overseas educational environments and rigidity in teaching models, we often struggle to tailor our approach to local conditions and individual learner needs in practical operations.

Countermeasures: Strengthen research on overseas educational environments, understanding learner needs, cultural backgrounds, and other characteristics of different countries and regions, to provide targeted guidance for the tapping and utilization of ancient Chinese resources. At the same time, innovate teaching models and methods, emphasizing practical and interactive teaching, to stimulate learners' interest and motivation, and enhance cross-cultural adaptability.

4.3 Learner Characteristics: Interest Stimulation and the Motivation Mechanism for Continuous Learning

Learners are the mainstay of learning activities, and their interests, motivations, and learning habits directly impact learning outcomes. In international Chinese language education, due to variations in learners' cognitive levels and interests in ancient Chinese, how to stimulate their learning interests and maintain sustained learning motivation poses a significant challenge. Especially when faced with difficulties and slow progress, it is crucial to help learners overcome feelings of failure and maintain enthusiasm for learning.

Countermeasures: Adopt personalized teaching strategies and methods tailored to the different characteristics and needs of learners.

For example, introduce ancient Chinese knowledge through vivid and interesting stories and examples to reduce learning difficulty; utilize gamified learning, competitions, and other methods to stimulate learners' interest and participation; establish a learning incentive mechanism, such as scholarships and certificates, to encourage learners to continue learning and make progress.

4.4 Teacher Quality: Enhancing Professional Expertise and Cross-cultural Communication Skills

Teachers are an important driving force for international Chinese language education, and their professional expertise and cross-cultural communication skills directly impact the quality and effectiveness of teaching. Wang Xiaoyan (2023) once stated, "The quality and ability of teachers are the key to the success of international Chinese language education."^[10] However, currently, among the teachers engaged in international Chinese language education, there are relatively few teachers who possess profound ancient Chinese proficiency and cross-cultural communication skills. This has, to some extent, restricted the effective exploitation and utilization of ancient Chinese resources.

Countermeasures: Strengthen training and development for the teaching workforce, enhancing teachers' professional expertise and cross-cultural communication skills. Organize regular training courses, seminars, and other activities to help teachers deeply understand ancient Chinese knowledge and teaching methods; encourage teachers to participate in overseas teaching practice and cultural exchange activities to broaden their international perspective; establish teacher evaluation and incentive mechanisms to stimulate teachers' enthusiasm and innovation in teaching.

Faced with the challenges of tapping and utilizing ancient Chinese resources in international Chinese language education, we need to formulate corresponding countermeasures from aspects such as resource screening and integration, educational environment adaptation, grasp of learner characteristics, and teacher workforce construction. By implementing these countermeasures, we will be better able to

address the challenges and promote the sustained and healthy development of international Chinese language education.

5. Conclusions

Against the backdrop of international Chinese language education, tapping into and utilizing resources from ancient Chinese holds significant importance for enhancing learners' cultural literacy and promoting the dissemination of Chinese culture. By implementing strategies such as innovative textbook compilation, diversified teaching methods, enhanced teacher training, and rich cultural activities, we can effectively tap into and utilize these resources. Simultaneously, through targeted integration of resources, adaptation to different educational environments, attention to individual learner differences, and strengthening of the teaching workforce, we can effectively address these challenges and promote the deepened application of ancient Chinese resources in international Chinese language education. This not only enhances learners' language skills and cultural literacy but also contributes to the global dissemination of Chinese culture and the long-term development of international Chinese language education. In the future, we should continue to conduct in-depth research and practice, constantly improving and expanding the application of ancient Chinese resources in international Chinese language education.

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