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## **Making the Tang Poetry Unforgettable: A study of Tang Poetry Song Teaching in Elementary Schools**

*Zijin Yao*

*Beijing Language and Culture University, China*

*Zhuolin Ma*

*Beijing Language and Culture University, China*

*Ruirui Qiao*

*Beijing Language and Culture University, China*

*Lingtong Zhao*

*Beijing Language and Culture University, China*

### **Abstract**

Chinese ancient Tang poetry is an important part of Chinese culture and Chinese teaching. As educators pay increasing attention to the inheritance of traditional culture and ancient poetry, the poems of Tang Dynasty have been widely applied in music curriculum among primary schools in Beijing in recent years. However, the efficiency of its application still needs to be studied in depth. The purpose of this study is to verify the effectiveness of teaching newly composed songs with Tang Poetry as lyrics on students' memorization of tunes and lyrics according to the Ebbinghaus Forgetting Curve model. This study investigated 125 students (K1-K6) in four primary schools in Beijing. Followed by the conclusive analysis of previous studies and discussions on the feasible directions of future research, this study proposed three research questions: 1) Are there any statistically significant differences in use of song for memorizing Tang poetry? 2) To what extent does the use of song influence the rate of forgetting and lasting effect of a learned Tang poetry? 3) To what extent does the use of song influence on the accuracy (and fluency) of Tang poetry memorization? The researchers collected data of performance of retention by means of the "recitation method" and made a quantitative record of the results of the recitation during the following intervals: 19 minutes, 65 minutes, 8 hours, 1 day, 2 days, 6 days, 30 days. The memory rate of each recollection and length of time which was necessary for the original learning and relearning were recorded and analyzed. Results found that the application of Tang poetry songs have positive functions in memory rate, accuracy, fluency and lasting effect. Results suggest that applying Tang poetry songs in elementary Chinese and music teaching not only help students learn the basic singing skills, but also deepen students' memory and understanding of ancient poetry. In addition, it is an effective way to inherent Chinese traditional culture.