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Localized or Diversified Music Teaching: A Study of Folk Song Selections in Taiwan Primary School Music Textbooks

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Abstract

The selection of folk songs repertoire in primary school music textbooks in Taiwan shows obvious characteristic of localization. Due to the influence of politics, society and geographical factors, the limitations of folk song teaching in primary school music textbooks in Taiwan are quite prominent. In order to understand the characteristics and problems of music selection in primary school textbooks in Taiwan, explore the role and value of Chinese folk songs in primary school music textbooks, and promote the inheritance of Chinese folk songs and the cross-strait exchanges in music culture, this study combs and compares the primary school music textbooks of the Kangxuan edition, the Hanlin edition and the Renyin edition, trying to find out: (1) the proportion of folk songs in Taiwan and mainland textbooks, as well as the proportion of mainland folk songs and Taiwan local folk songs in different editions; (2) the trend of folk songs used in primary school textbooks of different grades; (3) the differences between Taiwan local folk songs and folk songs from other regions of Chinese mainland in teaching objectives and methods. Through reviewing literature, collecting data of the repertoire and analyzing different editions of folk song materials, the results show that there is a serious lack of diversified folk song repertoire in primary school music textbooks in Taiwan (eg.Chinese mainland folk songs take only 5% of the repertoires in Taiwan music textbooks while the diversified folk songs take 21% of the repertoire in the Renyin edition). In addition, the lack of introduction to the cultural background of traditional Chinese folk songs in textbook compilation makes it difficult to carry out music teaching in depth. With the deepening of music and cultural exchanges between the mainland and Taiwan, diversified Chinese folk songs, as the carrier of Chinese traditional culture, should be paid attention to in Taiwan's school music education.