



Research of Collection Arrangement of Gelao 's Genealogy

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Abstract: The Gelao nationality is one of the oldest minorities in southern China recognized by the academic circles. However, up to now, the genealogical research of Gelao nationality is still very weak. The reason is that the genealogical data of the Gelao nationality is extremely scarce at present, which seriously affects the development of relevant research. Therefore, it is urgent to collect and sort out the genealogy of the Gelao nationality in a comprehensive and systematic manner. The genealogy research of Gelao nationality will use the following methods: the combination of document acquisition method and field survey method; digital collection method; document cataloging method and summary method; content analysis and value analysis; intra-ethnic and inter-ethnic comparative analysis. The Gelao genealogy research has several academic values: it provides solid data support for related research in philology, ethnology, history, and other disciplines; it helps to expand the research scope and field of genealogy; it helps to promote the in-depth development of Gelao studies. The practical significance of the study of Gelao genealogy: it helps to promote family construction in Gelao areas; it helps to enhance the cultural confidence of Gelao people and maintain the harmony and stability of Gelao areas.

Keyword: Gelao; Genealogy; Collecting; Organizing and Researching; Method; Significance

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1 Research of Gelao Clan Genealogy: A Blank Field to be Filled Urgently

The Gelao nationality has a population about 550,000, mainly distributed in Zunyi and Tongren areas in the north of Guizhou Province, Wenshan area in the southeast of Yunnan Province and Longlin counties in the northwest of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, but most of them live in Daozhen, Wuchuan and Fenggang counties in Zunyi area. The Gelao nationality is one of the oldest minorities in southern China recognized by the academic circles. According to the Chronicle of Daozhen Miao and Gelao Nationality Autonomous County, "Most clans of longer lineage descent in the county have genealogy. Some are called One Family Genealogy, One Family Tree, One Surname Genealogy, and some are called Genealogy of One County, Genealogy of One Family in One County, which are different in name and identical in fact. The content contained in it has the same source, character generation, clan rules, ancestral halls, ancestral tombs, biography, official list, art and literature, and family branch names, etc^[1]." Therefore, the genealogical culture of the Gelao nationality is very abundant.

Genealogy, also known as family tree, is a literature resource that records the lineage, characters, and deeds of the kinship group. It can be called the "encyclopedia" of the family, with high data value. Since the beginning of the 19th century, foreign academic circles have been paying continuous attention to Chinese genealogy and have made a large number of collections and arrangements. For example, the American Genealogical Society of Utah collected about 17,000 Chinese national genealogies,

including more than 300 surnames, covering more than 20 provinces and 483 counties. Japanese scholars have also attached great importance to the collection and research of our national genealogy documents for a long time, and there have been a number of eye-catching results. The most representative of which is *China Research on Genealogy*^[2] compiled by Tagura Akioguro in 21 years, which is based on Chinese genealogy preserved in Japan. Among the works of other foreign scholars related to the study of the Chinese genealogy, the more representative and academically influential are the British anthropologist Morris Friedman's *Clan Organizations in Southeast China*^[3], the United Kingdom Sinologist Ke David Emperor and Ancestor: *Country and Clan in South China*^[4], *Collection of Native Official Genealogies of the Zhuang Nationality*^[5] written by Japanese historian Fadoo Taniguchi and Chinese scholar Bai Yaotian, Japanese ethnologist Segawa Masahisa's *Genealogy: Clan, Fengshui, Immigration of Han Chinese in South China*^[6], etc. However, it is a pity that none of the foreign studies on genealogy involves the Gelao nationality.

In the last decade, with the efforts of a group of experts and scholars represented by Wang Heming, Chen Zhiping, Zhang Zhiqing, Guo Youling, Wang Huabei, Fu Bo, He Xiaofang, Li Lin, Zhang He, Wu Piqing, Wang Jun, Wu Yazhi, and Li Tianyi, the domestic academic circle has made remarkable progress in the study of ethnic genealogy. In recent years, Wang Heming and Chen Zhiping have taken the study of ethnic minority genealogy as one of the key directions of the genealogical literature project research: *Genealogy of Ethnic Minorities Provides First-hand Information for the Formation of the Chinese Nation*^[7] and many other papers by Wang Heming, which have deepened our understanding of the value and status of genealogy of ethnic minorities; chapter on "the centripetal consciousness of ethnic minority genealogy" in the book *Fujian Genealogy*^[8] and his treatises on "articles on the Collection and Collation of She Ethnic Genealogy in Fujian and Taiwan"^[9] by Chen Zhiping also have a high theoretical and methodological guiding significance for the collation and research of ethnic minority genealogy. The *Beijing Library Genealogy Series • Ethnic Volumes*^[10] (100 volumes), edited by Guo Youling et al, and preface written by Zhang Zhiqing, is one of the large-scale data collations works with

the largest number of genealogy sections of ethnic minorities in full text at present. But Wang Huabei's monographs on genealogy of ethnic minorities in China^[11] and genealogy of ethnic minorities^[12] are the most representative academic achievements in the comprehensive study of genealogy of ethnic minorities. As far as the genealogy of the northern minorities is concerned, the arrangement and research achievements of the genealogy of the Manchu and Hui ethnic groups are relatively outstanding: The representative achievements of Manchu Genealogy Research are "Manchu genealogy research"^[13] by Fu Bo et al, "Manchu family tree research"^[14] by Li Lin, the Manchu genealogy compilation in Qing dynasty (up, down)^[15] edited by He Xiaofang, "Born at the right time: Jin Yuzhang, a descendant of the Qing dynasty, tells his family's history orally"^[16] by Jin Yuzhang and a series of research papers by Yu Pengxiang, Sun Ming and others; The Hui family tree research results are mainly represented by Zhang He's discussion and research of the Hui genealogy^[17], Wu Piqing's selecting compilation of Hui genealogy in Hebei^[18] and other works. Besides, In particular, the genealogy of the Xibo people in Shenyang^[19] edited by Wang Jun et al. and the oral family history of the Oroqen people^[20] written by Wu Yazhi, which are representative achievements in the genealogy research of the less populated ethnic minorities in the north. The research on the genealogy of ethnic minorities in southern China mainly focuses on Bai, Yi, Miao, Tujia, Dai, Naxi and Hani. In addition to the literature or book genealogies similar to those of the Han nationality, the oral genealogies of the Miao, Yi, and Hani nationalities have also received special attention. An Analysis on the Cultural Meanings of the Orally - spread Genealogy Names of "Short - skirt Miao"^[21] by Li Tianyi et al. and the *Complete Works of the Oral Culture of the Hani Nationality • Genealogy of the Hani Nationality in Honghe Prefecture*^[22] (Vol.1-10) are the main representatives in this field. The above research results show that the genealogies of Chinese ethnic minorities are diverse in form and rich in content. In addition to the book genealogies of Chinese ethnic minorities, there are other forms such as the rope-tied genealogies, oral genealogies and folk handwritten family lists. Obviously, these works have important reference value for the collection and arrangement of the genealogy of the Gelao nationality in terms of

background materials, research methods and even academic thoughts.

Although some achievements have been made in minority genealogy research, it is still a weak link in the whole genealogy research. At present, the genealogical research of ethnic minorities mainly focuses on the large population of Manchu, Mongolian, Hui, Yi and so on, while the genealogical research of many other ethnic minorities is still in a blank state. Among them, the genealogy study of Gelao nationality is not completely blank, but it is just starting. The Gelao nationality is one of the oldest ethnic minorities in southern China recognized by the academic circle. However, up to now, except the two papers published by me recently, no other articles or academic works specifically introducing the genealogy of the Gelao nationality have been found. Some representative works that specifically study the genealogy of ethnic minorities, such as *Research on Family Tree of Ethnic Minorities* and *Research on Genealogy of Chinese Ethnic Minorities*, do not mention the genealogy of the Gelao nationality. The reason may be that the genealogical materials about the Gelao nationality are extremely scarce at present, or even lacking, which seriously affects the development of relevant studies.

At present, although there is no monograph about the genealogy of the Gelao nationality, some historical and archival papers mention the genealogy of the Gelao nationality. For example, the *Investigation of the Daozhen Gelao Clan*^[23], written by Weng Jialie, said that the three names of Zheng, Luo and Han in the Gelao group of Daozhen County have their genealogies respectively. *Analysis of Genealogy Archives of Ethnic Minorities in Guizhou province*^[24] written by Qu Zhilin et al. briefly introduced the volume number, revision and collection of the Gelao nationality's *Genealogy of Han's family*. *A Hundred Years Record of the Gelao Nationality*^[25] (two volumes, 2008) contains the article *The Family Precepts of the Daozhen Gelao Clan* by Mei Yingkui, which is a reference to the "Pon's Family Instructions" of the Gelao Nationality in Pingmo Town, Daozhen County. The book *"Qingzhen Gelao Clan"*^[26] (2004) describes the "Wang's Family Instructions" in Daozhen Tonggu and the "Guo's Family Tree" in Daozhen Yanshang. The book *Gelao Clan: Survey of Hongfeng Village in Dafang County, Guizhou*^[27] written by Zhang

Xiaohui et al. briefly introduces the Gelao Genealogy of Hongfeng Village in Pudi Township, Dafang County, Guizhou Province. All these can provide useful clues and research ideas for the collection, arrangement and research of the genealogy of the Gelao nationality. In addition, among the studies on the Gelao nationality, Qian Zongfan's *Study on the Patriarchal System of Ethnic Groups in Guangxi*^[28] has a special chapter on the patriarchal system of the Gelao nationality, which provides necessary historical background information for the genealogical analysis and research of the Gelao nationality.

In recent years, due to the impact of rapid social and economic changes, many ancient genealogical trees of the Gelao nationality have been in an endangered state of constant destruction or even disappearance due to lack of due attention and protection. With the passing of a large number of elderly priests and family elders, many of the most precious and oral family trees are dying out. Therefore, it is urgent to collect and sort out the genealogy of the Gelao nationality in a comprehensive and systematic way.

2 Theories and methods of the genealogy study of the Gelao nationality

in February 2001, the General Office of the Ministry of Culture issued a notice (Ban She Tu Han [2001] No. 29) on assisting in compiling the *General Catalogue of Chinese Genealogy*, saying: "Genealogy, together with local Chronicles and official history, constitutes the three pillars of the Chinese nation's historical edification, and is a part of China's precious cultural heritage. Genealogy contains a large number of materials related to demography, sociology, economics, history, ethnology, pedagogy, biographies and local history, which are of great value for academic research, and also of great significance for Chinese at home and abroad to identify their roots and ancestors and strengthen national cohesion". It can be seen, a family tree is a compilation of family information, involving knowledge of many subjects. Therefore, genealogy research can not only adopt the research method of a single discipline, but should absorb the advantages of others and apply the research methods of multiple disciplines. The genealogy research of Gelao nationality will adopt the following research methods.

2.1 The combination of document acquisition method and field survey method

The research team will conduct fieldwork in Wuchuan, Daozhen and Shiqian counties in northern Guizhou province, Wenshan in Yunnan province and Longlin counties in Guangxi province to investigate the distribution and inheritance of their genealogy and relevant background information, which will lay a good foundation for the collection and arrangement of the genealogy of the Gelao nationality. Combining with the requirements of literature acquisition, the research group will use the methods of participatory observation, in-depth observation, structural and semi-structural interview in the field survey of ethnology to search for the clues of book genealogy literature resources and obtain oral genealogy materials, to make the acquisition of literature information more comprehensive.

2.2 Digital collection method

The collection of the genealogy of the Gelao nationality will fully respect the cultural property rights of collectors of the original folk genealogy. No acquisition or collection of the originals will be carried out, but high-definition pixel scanners or photographic equipment will be used to digitally copy them. In this process, each genealogy and its pages will be strictly numbered in order to facilitate the later arrangement.

2.3 Document cataloging method and summary method

The team will strictly comply with China national standard "literature cataloging the general and specific provisions," in particular, in 2014 published by the national library press genealogy metadata specification of the national library and cataloging rules^[29]; According to the ethnic distribution and cultural and historical characteristics of the Gelao nationality, the research group classified and cataloged the genealogical materials collected for the Gelao nationality into four areas, namely, Zunyi area in northwest Guizhou, Tongren area in northeast Guizhou, northwest Guangxi and northeast Yunnan. In addition to the external information such as distribution, collectors, physical form (length, width and old damage degree), the abstract is more important for a general description of its text content.

2.4 The method of content analysis and value analysis

On the basis of comprehensively and systematically classifying and sorting out the genealogy of the Gelao nationality, team will carefully study the text content of representative or valuable family trees, analyze their types, styles, connotation composition and characteristics, and further analyze and study the social functions and multiple values of these family trees as well as the inheritance and protection counter measures. In terms of academic value, the analysis will be carried out by closely combining the characteristics and important issues of the studies on the history and culture of the Gelao nationality. For example, the authenticity of historical documents such as the Record of Jiu Tian Da Pu, which is controversial for the Gelao nationality, can be searched for relevant clues through the research on the ancient genealogy content of the Gelao nationality.

2.5 Comparative analysis on intra-clan and inter-clan

The comparative analysis here mainly includes two levels: The genealogy of the Gelao nationality collected from different areas should be compared and analyzed in terms of form, style and content, etc., and the genealogy of the Gelao nationality should also be compared and analyzed in terms of form, type and function between the genealogy of the Miao nationality and Dong nationality similar to each other. Only through comparative analysis can we find out the similarities and differences between the genealogies of the Gelao nationality in different regions and between the genealogies of the Gelao nationality and those of other nationalities, and truly understand the characteristics and unique values of the genealogies of the Gelao nationality.

Specific implementation steps are as follows: First of all, with the method of field investigation, the folk genealogy resources distribution and inheritance of the Gelao nationality will be found out. Secondly, based on this, the folk genealogy resources scattered among the Gelao nationality area were collected as comprehensively and systematically as possible. Then the collected genealogies were classified, including summarizing the contents and compiling them into books. Finally, on the basis of the above work, using the relevant theories and methods of multiple

disciplines such as philology and ethnology, the form, content, function, value and inheritance protection mechanism of the collected genealogy are analyzed and studied.

3 The value and significance of the genealogy study on Gelao nationality

3.1 Academic value

Firstly, it will provide solid data support for related research in philology, ethnology, history, and other disciplines. As a kind of precious data and special document type, genealogy is an important research content of philology. The collection, arrangement and research results of the genealogy literature of Gelao nationality can further enrich the research content of ethnic philology and expand its academic space. Many genealogies have recorded lots of historical facts and folk cultural things, and the Gelao nationality is no exception. Through collecting and sorting out the genealogy, we can undoubtedly understand the history and current situation of the ethnic group more comprehensively, and lay a solid literature foundation for the research and development of ethnology, history, folklore and other disciplines.

Secondly, it is beneficial to expand the research scope and field of genealogy. Previous genealogical studies mainly focus on the genealogy of the Han nationality, but there are few studies on the genealogy of ethnic minorities, let alone the Gelao nationality with a small population. By systematically collecting and sorting out the genealogy of the Gelao nationality scattered among the folk, it not only contributes to the protection and inheritance of the genealogy resources of the Gelao nationality, but also helps to deepen the understanding of the diversity and integration pattern of Chinese genealogy culture through understanding the representation, status and influence of the genealogy culture in the Gelao nationality. The collation and publishing on Gelao genealogy literature can make up for the ethnic minority research long-term lack of Gelao genealogy data and results of this deficiency. This will make a unique contribution to the enrichment of the research connotation of genealogy, the construction of the Ethno Genealogy and the improvement of the research system of genealogy in China.

Thirdly, it is helpful to promote the development

in-depth and breadth of the study of the Gelao. For a long time, there have been few achievements in the study of Gelao nationality or Gelao study, and the research is relatively backward, which is a weak link in the study of ethnology and ethnic history. For example, recently, we searched the CNKI search bar with "Gelao nationality" as the topic words, and only 1161 relevant literature items were obtained. However, the number of literature items searched for the "Manchu" as the subject words is 24450, which is more than 21 times higher than that of the two. Therefore, the weakness of the studies on the Ge Lao studies can be clearly seen. The main reason is the lack of research data. The collecting, organizing, the research of Gelao genealogy will be help to improve the situation, not only because of this academic work itself can enrich and expand the connotation, of and more importantly; And more importantly, it can provide rare and precious materials, which can help further deepen the research on the history and culture of the Gelao nationality.

3.2 Practical significance

Firstly, it helps to promote the family construction of the Gelao minority areas. On February 17, 2015, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out in his speech at the Spring Festival Group Meeting that "no matter how much the times changes, no matter how much the life pattern changes, we should pay attention to family construction, pay attention to family, family education, family style". Later, he emphasized on several occasions that "the future and destiny of the family are closely linked to the future and destiny of the country and the nation". The family rules and instructions in the genealogy of the Gelao nationality are the crystallization of the wisdom of the ancestors and carry the sentiment of the generations on ethics and morality. Among them, the family rules and instructions such as "encouraging people to be kind", "showing filial piety to parents", "getting rich with hard work" and "harmonious neighbors" have very important the oretical and practical significance for promoting the family construction of the Gelao nationality areas.

Secondly, it helps to excavate the excellent cultural heritage of the Gelao nationality and enhance their cultural confidence. The contents of the family tree, such as the patriarch's instruction, the mottoes of governing the family, the rules and precepts of the

family, and the artistic writings, are all full of the essence of the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation. The family tree outlines all aspects of life from filial piety and fraternal etiquette, family management to do the official for the people, through the state to help the world of family instruction. Therefore, it is of great theoretical and practical significance to collect and sort out the folk genealogy of the Gelao nationality, protect its national wisdom and excavate the contemporary value of excellent national culture.

Thirdly, it helps to strengthen ethnic unity and realize the harmony and stability of the Gelao ethnic areas. The genealogy of the Gelao nationality is the total record of its blood relationship, which connects the family members closely. The family rules in the genealogy play a role in adjusting the relationship between the family members and maintaining the normal production and living order of the family and village.

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