

## On the Structural Characteristics of Folk Songs

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*Abstract: Folk song is one of the basic Chinese folk genre, it is the people in the field of labor (the mountain wood, grazing, farming cultivate etc.) or walking, to amuse, to express feelings, convey affection folk songs. The music character is sincere and simple, the enthusiasm is bold and unrestrained, the improvisation is strong. Free to extend the tone for the sentence, the sentence, often constitute rhythm recitation of the melody and the freedom to sing with extended tone long free rhythm, make full use of the lyric songs spread widely distributing, is also very rich, it accumulated a China working people thousands of years of cultural information. Not only the study of national psychological structure and cultural characteristics have great significance and value, but also has the function of adjusting social relations.*

*Keywords: folk songs, structural features, two sentences, four sentences, change extend*

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### 1. QVERVIEW

In this thesis, I will elaborate the structure characteristics of folk songs, folk songs in extended structure feature structure is the basic structure and change. The basic structure of the folk songs include type two phrase structure and four phrase structure transforms echoing in the article, I introduced two kinds of structure forms and examples corresponding to the song, and made a brief introduction. Change expansion structure is developed on the basis of the basic structure, which is derived from the need of content. Roughly divided into five songs, plus "catch phrase sentence" and "sentence structure, expand the catch" extended structure, "catch five" songs, "eight sentences", and onomatopoeia and mimicry words extended structure, insert body structure and expansion part repeatedly or reproduction of the expanded structure. Which describes the framework of various musical structure, and the song is briefly introduced, and the song is briefly introduced. Specific as follows.[1]

### 2. THE BASIC STRUCTURE

The folk song structure is very rich, but on balance four echoes two phrase and phrase structure transforms are the most common and the most basic structure, the other structure is generally obtained from these two kinds of structure changes.

## 2.1 Two phrase structure echo on

This is a song only on the two phrases of single music segment structure of music, is the most commonly used structure style folk melodies, and folk melodies all the changes of structure foundation, called on the sentence structure shows that the symmetric relation between a call all two. A melody generally showed a rising trend, and falls on the tonic above four degrees or thirds, naturally formed under the sentence of the comma; melody is mostly winding down trend, finally fell on the tonic mode, forming perfect termination - shasheng. The structure of music sentence is Xintianyou, Shanqu, Pashandiao, flowers etc. North plateau area in Northern Shaanxi folk songs are widely used as "porters" Xintianyou "on a slope under a beam".

"Transfer" is a description of the porters in the desolate Loess Plateau, forced away from Porter Porter went missing and lamenting the suffering theme of fate. The song is a single music section two phrases, the five sound features melody mode, music started by bass into the pitch up after falling slightly downward at the top of the four degree adjustable tonic tone, that knot in the subdominant; the next sentence is still starting from the tonic, slightly upward after gradually slow down steadily falling in the tonic, after the phrase is a phrase with head and tail before the change (aa'), end on the tonic, as a typical northern Shaanxi folk tune tune. "Transfer" is echoed on the porter under typical sentence structure.. This echo type structure, with a higher register, plus singing slightly free rhythm and long breath, the music is very touching. Xintianyou "on a slope under a beam" is also echoed up and down the two phrase structure. The whole song by taking seven sound mode, tune loop downs, melody is more abundant. The words from the treble, tonic, re began, up to the whole music treble sol, then jumped into the downlink using seven degree intervals and eight degrees upward jumps, causing the ups and downs of the melody. The words in the above La tonic Quint is extended to form a comma. The sentence in the Alto area slightly extended is gradually down to the bass, and end on the tonic. The whole song is structured symmetric, and melodic rich, long breath with soothing rhythm, the music is rich in the Loess Plateau style, desolate, broad and charming.[3]

## 2.2 Introduction four phrase structure

This is a single music segment structure of music song by four phrases, the formation structure transforms between the four phrases, the first sentence is up, showing the thought of music; the second sentence for the sentence, to undertake the first sentence of the third sentence for echo; to sentence, factors of introducing new, expanded Enthone; the fourth sentence to sentence, melody fall on the tonic, the whole song ended. The first two music was mostly the echo type structure, the three or four phrase melody often according to the first two changes into. Four introduction structure transforms phrase structure of music and China poetry is the same strain, in fact it's the lyrics and melody structure is always consistent. With exquisite balance of harmonious beauty of symmetry. The structure of music around the folk songs especially the

southern folk songs are widely used. Guizhou folk songs such as "the sun comes out according to white rock" Jiangsu folk song "hand" "brother love willow at the sun comes out according to white rock" is a typical phrase structure transforms four folk songs. Since the first sentence, melody rose fell on top of the second sentence is tortuous Quint; slow down back to the tonic, half the termination of the sentence make sense; the third sentence materials from second at the end of the sentence but do decorative runqiang and falling, the melody produced "turn" the feeling of the fourth sentence repeated second sentences; strengthen the melody, "close" -- the effect of termination.

### **3. CHANGE THE STRUCTURE of EXPANSION**

On the basic structure of sentence and the four phrase, the need for content, folk songs are also derived from the changes in the structure of various characteristics, the structure of music more diverse folk songs, folk songs to enhance the artistic appeal.

#### **3.1 Five sentence song**

This is the four sentence lyrics in the introduction tail added, the formation of five words, the last sentence mostly with a summary of the nature, and are often humorous characters. Five the word lattice of the sentence is standard, although the structure of the tune is mostly five sentences, but the format is not uncommon. The most common melody structure is (A+B+C (AB) +A '+B'). Five sentences out of balance from the song because of breaking around, added a lot of changes in the special flavors such as Hunan chestnut flowering line ".

"Line" is a chestnut flower five jiao mode, five typical sentence structure, form structure for A+B+C (AB) +A '+B', the first sentence from the above four degrees Do into the tonic, subdominant in fall, second subordinate sound on entering, falling on the tonic, third the music from the tonic, down to the tonic, article four or five of the first two words repeated sentence changes. The whole song no obvious climax, but the melody is beautiful, give a person a kind of light blue miss feeling. [4]

#### **3.2 The expansion structure of "driving sentence"**

This is in the middle of the basic structure of folk songs into roughly. A music festival or a short phrase structure dynamic law is very strong, the repeated or repeated changes, expand the phrase forming a fast, extended structure makes the basic structure of the original balance of symmetry becomes non symmetrical. Inner Mongolia, such as mountain climbing "want to kiss".

Mountain climbing "want to kiss" is a typical plus "cast sentence" of the expansion structure. The basic structure of it is echoed up and down type two phrase, sentence in "you say" after inserting a section of the "catch" materials and strictly repeated five times, the formation of

extended Changle sentence. From this example can be seen, to convey the feelings of the singer.

### **3.3 "Catch the five sentence" Song**

This is the "insert in the middle of the four basic catch phrase sentence", the expansion of the passage is commonly used in some areas of the South dynasty. Because the "catch sentences" and the basic four phrase is five words, so the image of the folk singer called "catch five". Such as the Guizhou folk song "Zhaicai" is the "five sentence structure driven", because the imported two sentences, the structure further expand and vivid music.

### **3.4 "Eight"**

This is more than two echo based phrases, phrases inserted into the middle of the four similar opera number plates in nature, finally began to repeat or repeated changes of echo pattern phrase, together constitute the eight sentence, called the sentence eight folk. The structure form in Sichuan, Shaanxi, Yunnan and other places of folk songs. Such as Sichuan's "follow the sun all the way".

### **3.5 The expansion of structure sound, onomatopoeia and the like**

It is inserted in the phrases in various distinctive onomatopoeia and mimicry words that can be expanded and the basic structure of folk music. Its nature is similar to adding "cast sentence". Such as "cut oats".

"Cut oats" (Shanxi) is a description of the working life of rural youth song, plus a phonogram "our time", "Ge collapse" and "mountains, ditch, Cha Li block with reduplication phrases, to add a lot of fun.

### **3.6 Insert body expansion structure**

This is the first of two relatively independent folk songs interspersed together again. A very distinctive structure of music popular in Hubei, Sichuan and other regions. People called the "wear song", "wear, wear" chant chant "". It can take the first two relatively independent folk songs interspersed together again. One of the first songs with the main folk nature, often called "stem", another song with a chorus of nature, folk often vividly called "leaves". The two songs can be independent concert, after the reorganization and break up with a seamless heavenly robe formed a new song, the art of thinking is quite similar in poetry "palindrome poem", showing superb creative skills of folk singer. Such as "speaker". [5]

### **3.7 The extension of the part of the repeated or reproduction**

Used in the folk songs of freedom and universal. The southern folk songs in the so-called "two year sentence", "five words half" belong to this kind of structure form. If the south wind on the mountain folk song "wind" leaves.

"The wind on the mountain leaves gone with the wind" is a typical "two sentence" structure cycles, inserted in the two phrase between the half sentence, the first sentence is the latter part of the repeat.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

Express feelings can be said to be the most important function of folk songs, folk song lyric features become the most prominent in a variety of folk songs in the genre. Improvisation is a basic feature of folk songs, folk songs in this feature is quite distinct. There is a close relationship between improvisation and the folk song singing mountain wild environment. The local characteristic is the distinct regional characteristic. This is one of the basic characteristics of folk songs in common, but in the folk genre especially. This is due to some folk songs mostly sung in a relatively small area, so the use of feature rich dialect dialect in the language, must use the most well-known port in the area of tone, often depending on the dialect tones derived decorative songs belong to a large number of a region or nation cavity, forming the so-called "folk songs out the township, is a native of the characteristics of each cavity". The structure of music folk songs in fact than the above mentioned to a variety of folk songs, structure of music style and musical ideas for the important basis and Enlightenment of structure style and music of Chinese traditional musical Siyou significance.

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