Asia Pacific Science Press

Critical Humanistic Social Theory
ISSN(O):3005-9291
ISSN(P):3005-9283
Vol. 2 No.3 (2025)

Comprehending the Culture Picture Scroll of China: A Case Study of Linguistic Elements in the Popular Song "Luochahai City"

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Abstract: This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the lyrics of the Chinese pop song Luochahai City, exploring how they reflect social phenomena and cultural values. The study emphasizes the integral connection between language and culture, asserting that analyzing song lyrics can offer valuable insights into different aspects of Chinese culture. A mixed-methods approach is employed, combining both qualitative and quantitative data analysis through the lens of narrative theory to identify cultural markers within the lyrics. These markers include Chinese characters, idiomatic phrases, distinctive expressions, and societal values.

Quantitative analysis is used to examine individual characters and idioms, investigating their contextual meanings and cultural significance. Meanwhile, qualitative analysis involves reviewing media commentary and insights from music industry professionals, which provide a broader perspective on the song's impact.

The findings demonstrate that the lyrics function like a Chinese picture scroll, intertwining cultural and linguistic elements into a cohesive narrative that encourages deeper reflection on societal issues. In conclusion, the paper underscores the role of cultural elements in enriching the song's meaning and fostering critical engagement with Chinese society, while suggesting future research directions that highlight the importance of lyric analysis in understanding culture.

Keywords: Luochahai City; Chinese Culture; Linguistic Elements; Chinese Society

Published: Jul 29, 2025

DOI: https://doi.org/10.62177/chst.v2i3.502

1.Introduction

Generally speaking, a Chinese popular song called Luochahai City has attracted many people pay attention to its lyrics. Not only do the lyrics convey emotion and story but also reflect social phenomenon, history and culture. Chinese lyrics take a variety of shapes depending on the language to show how closely tied language and culture are. Empirically supporting the inseparability of language and culture.[1] In contrast, few attentions to lyrics that call for exploring the fundamental element of Chinese culture.

Chinese culture has several facets that are founded on language and are reflected in the context. Many readers can understand the content between lines of Chinese. Therefore, it is undeniable that Chinese culture is rich, and the deeper the culture, the more vibrant. Studying Chinese culture is important because it demonstrates Chinese soft power and has ramifications beyond just the language and the country's borders. Each case below is connected by how they exemplify what I have come to call

the optimization of culture: the strategic preparation and readying of cultural goods to orient them toward and ready them circulation, discovery, and use on particular platforms.[2] The song "Luochahai City" originated from a story in the ancient classical novel "Strange Tales of Liaozhai." The novel, with its ironic style, reveals the darkness of society and includes various characters, such as a few kind-hearted ghosts and some morally ugly men. Therefore, the novel, with its literary merit and irony, has been passed down to the present day. Dao Lang, the writer of the song "Luochahai City," released it in 2023, and it quickly broke records in the world of popular music. The song's lyrics not only showcase its literary qualities but are also full of irony. Moreover, it is said that Ma Ji is a main character who has a strange experience, witnessing a world that is entirely different from normal society. The most crucial point is that we should clearly understand the forms, patterns, and metaphors of Chinese characters. And a role how Chinese lyric plays in the society of China, particularly the Luochahai City. It is necessary to study the Chinese song based on text analysis step-by-step using a number of tables with statistical data. The Chinese culture is illustrated on the tables, covering a variety of topics worth researching in practice and producing some insightful reflections of contemporary society.

A few papers on culture studies which are relevant to song lyrics. It is entirely divided into two sections: one discusses the music itself, reflecting its subject matter directly while the other discusses how profound idea leads to abstract subject matter. No matter how simple or complex the subject matter, Chinese culture needs to be expanded so that it covers many levels and not just one component. Chinese culture exhibits a variety of components, such as language, literature, and so on. Song as a material and discursive artifact and literacy practice of remembrance resulted in an indelible creation.[3] Previous research on the lyrical culture of songs is limited, but it should explore the deep connotations in Chinese culture. Therefore, Chinese culture will be thoroughly explored based on the song's lyrics.

Chinese culture is expressed through song lyrics, which require linguistic study. Culture is connected to language which the basic element is worth studying. Various culture is based on the Chinese, including words, sentences, text, and context. The claim that similarity in word use can be used to measure similarity in concepts is motivated by the distributional hypothesis of word meaning, according to which words that occur in similar linguistic contexts have similar meanings.[4] In terms of words, it is an interesting to analyze the Chinese character because Chinese with a long history and deep culture connotation. Nonetheless, it remains the case that some Chinese characters have visual features that provide an indication of their meaning. [5] The abstract part of Chinese reflecting the situation and containing some stories should be analyzed. As a result, it combines with narrative theory, which is a framework for analyzing texts to determine how to construct stories and convey meaning, and it improves the overall impression of the story. It is here where we see a clear example of analysis that focuses on the structural aspects of narrative, in this case small stories.[6]

The culture that is reflected in the song, Luochai City, is rooted in literature as well as language. A language has an association with stories in literature. Several approaches will be used to address the key issue, which is how to examine the song's lyrics step by step. The song will use quantity research with the use of a lot of data. Utilizing a large dataset helps to enhance the model's ability to learn and identify patterns, while diversity in the dataset ensures that the model can generalize to new and unseen instances.[7] Chinese characters will be used to investigate the data because they can be separated or combined to produce words with various meaning. Additionally, it examines objective data in a narrative framework, particularly when it comes to characters who appear in vivid scenarios. vivid visual imagery has characteristics resembling the real scenario in that it is generally clear, bright, sharp, detailed, and lively.[8] The intricate Chinese characters that are woven into the captivating tales expand a rich culture that is worthwhile of study using various approaches. In order to demonstrate a Chinese picture scroll of Luochahai City, three questions should be listed below:

1. What are the features of Chinese characters in Luochahai City's lyrics?
2. How do idioms and distinctive phrases in the song's lyrics encapsulate cultural narratives?
3. What the society phenomenon is reflected by the lyrics of Luochahai City?

2. Cultural elements in the lyrics of "Luochahai City"

Luochahai City is a popular Chinese song which lyrics refer to wonderful tales and have a huge influence on society. The song was written in 2023 by a singer named Dao Lang, and it was filled with deep cultural references including Chinese

characters, idioms, and sardonic meaning. A number of song lyrics are based on the analysis of context.[9][10][11]Some previous studies related to culture[12][13][14]and Culture-related studies have been done in the past. The context of song lyrics includes a variety of cultural elements, such as local culture, distinctive culture, cross-cultural element, and more. The pop song, Luochahai City contains rich culture based on the context, and it will be list below:

The lyrics, which comprise individual Chinese characters and have a semantic context, are extremely interesting to study, especially from a linguistics perspective. It was underlined that Pu Songling's Strange Tales of Liaozhai, a classical masterwork from the Qing dynasty, served as the inspiration for the story narration of lyrics. The most common aspects of language learning measured were story comprehension and vocabulary or word leaning.[15]Therefore, it is essential to study the lyrics language or story. Additionally, it makes a explore to the rich Chinese culture through Chinese characters, idioms, and even a story in the lyrics.

The language objective of context will concentrate in threefold. First, it makes analysis on a series of Chinese characters in construction rule instead of the recognition of sing one. Second, the context will reflect a special Chinese culture, related to history in the lyrics. Third, the context in which Chinese characters formed metaphor can apply in society.

In terms of culture context, the lyrics of Luochahai City will demonstrate in multi-aspects. Chinese characters have a few unique characters, when combined with others, can create new characters with different meaning in lyrics. It follows that investigating pragmatic phenomena requires a careful consideration of the context in which such phenomena take place; and that, by the same token, embracing the dynamics of pragmatic variation—and the social meaning that it takes on—entails situating pragmatic variables in the scenarios in which they are deployed, and in the expectations and constraints that such scenarios generate.[16]On the other hand, the narrative that is intended to resemble a picture includes characters, settings, and plots that are all related to the culture.

There are certain Chinese characters used in the lyrics, and a few stories will be shown below: Evidently, in Chinese culture, the devalued Chinese are represented by animals like the chicken and the donkey, which are both represented by the Chinese characters 鸡 and 驴 respectively. Moreover, songs are often meant to be contextualized into broader narratives that unfold in entire albums rather than single sets of lyrics.[17]In the lyrics' narration, there is a major character named Ma ji who is a lovely young man, when he arrived in Luochahai, there were other men who are odd and unattractive and they fascinated about Ma ji. In terms of narration of story, it could be described as a Chinese painting which is one part of culture.

The data is based on different parts of lyrics, including morphology, lexis, semantics, sentence, narration, text, and context. Song lyrics are rich in meaning. In recent years, the lyrical content of popular songs has been used as an index of culture's shifting norms, affect, and values.[18]The analysis will be covered the whole lyrics, from lexis to context which are not only the language but also the culture. It also extends the scope to deep conception in history, society and rhetoric.

It is clear that the study—whether it is language or story—evolved inside a cultural framework. This procedure performance framework is consonant with the Cultural Dimension found in this study.[19]All of these components—along with a set of numbers that represent the scientific hypothesis—will be thoroughly used by the mix studies approach.

3.Approaches to data generation and processing

3.1 Quantitative research procedures in lyric analysis

The analysis will be reflected in the quantitative method based on the song's text.This approach makes it possible to identify a wide range of components, such as a single word or a group of words, that are connected to certain Chinese characters.The approach's objective is to gradually demonstrate the different aspects of Chinese culture.

The research process will begin with a word and proceed to include phrases, sentences, and context in order to clarify any misunderstandings of Chinese culture. Naturally, there have been miscommunications and misunderstandings because people judge others based on their cultural values.[20]Next, many analytical facets will mostly focus on quantitative methods under narrative theory. Thus, narratives encompass a broad spectrum of representational accounts, and the field of narratology encompasses a diverse set of theoretical lenses for analyzing them.[21]To improve the effectiveness of the applied approach, several results will be deduced from the analysis.

3.1.1 About the Special Chinese Characters of Song Lyrics

Luochahai's song lyrics are enriched with Chinese patterns and connotations.Connotation is intimately involved with notions of appropriateness in language use; i.e. with pragmatic effect.[22]In terms of 437 Chinese characters, some of their meanings alter from new characters when combined with existing characters, as shown in table 1. In addition, there is no one-to-one mapping between phonology and orthography in Chinese.[23]

Table1. Special Chinese characters from Luochahai City

Special Chinese characters	number	meaning
马	8	horse
户	7	household
又	6	again
鸟	6	bird
驴	9	donkey
鸡	12	chicken
Percentage: 1%	11%	

The percentage is calculated by ratio.

3.1.2 About the special Chinese phrases of song lyrics

This section pertains to both special Chinese phrases and Chinese idioms. As for the scarcity of these idioms, it should be noted that idioms are metaphors, and adjectives, being purely descriptive, do not typically take on metaphorical meanings themselves, but only in combination with nouns.[24]Some Chinese characters are long or short, as listed below.

Table2.Special Chinese phrases(idioms) from Luochahai City

Special Chinese phrases (idioms)	number	Meaning
一丘何（一丘之貉）	1	jackals of the same lair
苟苟营（蝇营狗苟）	2	shameless trick
十里花场	1	entertainment places
公公	1	eunuch
美丰逸少倜傥	1	handsome and elegant bearing
华夏	1	an ancient name for China
司晨	1	the cock crows the dawn
如意	1	A traditional artifact
Percentage: 1%	2%	

Although some specific Chinese phrases occupy for a small percentage, they are associated with diverse aspects of profound Chinese culture.

3.1.3 About the special Chinese sentences of song lyrics

In the song lyrics some sentences with the ironic meaning that are worth investigating, particularly the implicit sense. This ingredient can be contextually or linguistically added. When that happens, this figure easily supports an ironic interpretation.[25]

Table3. Special Chinese sentences from Luochahai City

Special Chinese sentences with ironic sense	number	Meaning
只为那有一条一丘何	1	There is a river are called yi qiu river
何水流过苟苟营	1	and it flows the gou gou campground
苟苟营当家的又杆儿换作马户	1	The place's host is Ma hu
十里花场有佯名	1	He is famous in entertainment place
她两耳傍肩三孔鼻	1	She looks ugly
那马户不知道他是一头驴	2	Ma hu don't know he is a donkey
那又鸟不知道她是一只鸡	2	while You niao don't know she is a chicken
岂有画堂登猪狗	1	how can pig and dog ascend to the hall
哪来鞋拔作如意	1	why do they take shoehorn as a traditional artifact
Percentage: 2%	2%	

Table 3 contains certain sentences excerpted from the lyrics, and they serve as context in a sarcastic sense. Based on the Chinese with deep culture, the sentence meaning is slightly different from the phrase.

3.2 Applied qualitative method on Luochahai City

This section presents a few musicians' and media entities' viewpoints on Luochahai City via web search which is the quality method to collect information, creating a deep ponder on society.

3.2.1 Perceptions of renowned musicians

According to a renowned musician Li Shuangjiang, Dao Lang's song is unique. A unique purity and sincerity without excessive ornamentation and garishness. His musical inspiration originates from his profound feelings about life and surroundings.

Taiwan region's famed singer Li Zongsheng revealed that he has developed a habit of listening to Luochahai City on every day. He also stated that the song revitalizes Chinese music.

Andy Lau, a well-known Hong Kong singer, stated that he felt the rhythm and melody were excellent, and that he purchased the book Strange Tales of Liao Zhai to better understand the lyrics. Finally, he found that Dao Lang is so talented that all literary quotations are used appropriately.

Han Hong, a Chinese popular singer, commented that this isn't just one song, but everything that I think and that it represents a cold society with enough severity to stir up painful memory.

A famous music reviewer Ding Taisheng regarded that the song take Luochaguo as the background, revealing a false society that reverses beauty and ugliness, pursuing the attractive appearance while ignoring the inner value. The irony isn't just a critical viewpoint, but also an attack on the entire phenomenon, demonstrating Dao Lang's profound thought on the entertainment industry and society.

3.2.2 Perspectives of Influential Media Entities

People Daily Overseas edition appraised that Dao Lang's music played a deep influence on media, culture and commerce. Both CCTV and Bei jing News speak highly of it, and point out that the song reflect the public's actual emotional demand. It is the perfect blend of national culture and popular components.

According to Taiwan region's United Daily News, the lyrics of Luochahai City reflect Taiwan region's current status as Luochaguo, which is characterized by pseudomorphism and chaos. It also pointed out birds and horses are covered from politics to all kinds of industry.

According to Hong Kong's Ta Kung Pao, it originates on Strange Tales of Liao Zha but is not the same as the original. It is filled of folklore, influenced by ancient classical literature, and contains thoughtful reflections on social reality.

From the musician's personal perceptions to media's perspectives on the lyrics of Luochahai City which are all reflect not only a viewpoint to culture experience but also multi views to the society's deep thinking. By the quality method, it can analyzed that all different kinds of industries are reflect unfair social phenomena and worth pondering. As a result, the lyrics of Luochahai City represent a society that is unfair and chaotic, thus solving research question 3.

4.A data-driven account of Chinese culture

The lyrics of Luochahai city are made up of Chinese characters, phrases, and sentences, all of which contribute to the plot. Furthermore, narratives often include emotional appeals resulting from the modulation of the dramatic intensity in the plot.[26] This section will step by step assess the data from the above tables and certify the song lyrics' compatibility with Chinese culture in several ways.

The smallest unit of song lyrics is Special Chinese character. Table1 generalizes them linguistically, and there are six special Chinese characters listed below: 马 , 户 , 驴 , 又 , 鸟 , 鸡 . All Chinese characters are nouns except 又 , which signifies again and is an adverb. The words 马 and 户 represent donkey while 又 and 鸟 represent chicken, respectively. The shape of each Chinese character conforms roughly to a square frame, each standing on its own.[27]According to narrative theory, narrative roles are classified as narrative elements. For example, a deep involvement with characters inhibits the development of reactance by creating a sense of connectedness and trust.[28]In additions, these features of Chinese characters can respond to the research question 1.They occur 11% in the repetition of lyrics, creating a lasting effect on the audience. One striking

feature of popular music is the use of repetition in lyrics as a rhetorical device.[29]It not only represents a group of animals, but these animals are biased in Chinese culture.

Some Chinese phrases occupy 2% of the song lyrics, and two of them are idioms. Chinese idioms can have positive or negative connotations. The idioms 一丘之貉 and 蝇营狗苟 have a negative connotation, referring to a group of nasty guys doing a shameful act. Conversely, where collocates and concordance lines predominantly indicate negative attitudes, they are labelled as 'unfavourable'.[30]The other Chinese phrases appear only once in the lyrics while some have a positive meaning, such as 美丰姿少倜傥 , which describes Ma ji as a handsome and attractive youth. All of the idioms and phrases described above convey an impression of narrative, which is the answer to research question 2. The narrative theory has a beginning that reflects surroundings and characters in lyrics. Stories are a specific type of narrative. Within narratives stories are distinguished from other types of narrative, such as expositions and news. Stories must provoke emotional responses, and have a clear beginning, setting and ending, a primary goal of entertainment and a sequence of causally related events which includes a challenge or unexpected incident, the reaction of characters to that challenge or incident, the consequences of those reactions and some sort of resolution.[31]While terms like "differences," "traits" and "characteristics" may be appropriate to describe some individuals in certain contexts.[32] 华夏 , 晨司 , and 如意 are good expressions, but 公公 and 十里花场 have a negative connotation. The sense of these sentences can be examined in the table 2.

Not only there are Chinese characters and phrases with cultural significance, but the excerpt sentences that make up the story will demonstrate literary. At the same time, literary appreciation is also a cognitive activity, an aesthetic activity, and a re-creation activity.[33]In terms of literary, it is derived from Liaozhai, an ancient classic work written by Pu Songlin during China's Qing dynasty. It becomes strong when learners must combine and apply new and known words in a novel context (e.g., sentence creation and composition writing).[34]Based on the function of narrative theory, some sentences even context of lyrics are full of satire sense. Ansgar Nunning, in "Surveying Contextualist and Cultural Narratologies," argues that "in the age of interdisciplinary narrative research, narratology would stand to gain a lot by taking various contexts into account, and that cultural analyses and context-sensitive interpretations of narratives would stand equally to gain by actually applying and refining the categories provided by narratology".[35]Some sentences in the lyrics, such as 只为那有一条一丘河 , 河水流过苟苟营 , and 苟苟营当家的叉杆儿换作马户 constitute the scenery and person. The river 一丘河 rhymes with the Chinese idiom 一丘之貉 whereas 苟苟营 rhymes with 蝇营狗苟 .Other sentences, such as 十里花场有浑名 , 她两耳傍肩三孔鼻 , 那马户不知道他是一头驴 , 那又鸟不知道她是一只鸡 , 岂有画堂登猪狗 , 哪来鞋拔做如意 . All of the sentences are not isolated but constitute a picture in context that can better explain culture, and it corresponds to the response to research question3.Table 3 refers to these above sentences as a part of the lyrics, which illustrate not only the sardonic sense but also Chinese culture will arouse people's meditation.

5.Conclusion and Implication

The essay has been merged with a mixed way to analyze the lyrics, including Chinese characters, phrases, sentences, narration, and their Chinese culture. It contributes to Chinese culture, as seen by the implication of the lyrics, which are based on a set of data in the pop song Luochahai City. While critical linguistic stylistic accounts for the linguistic choices and styles in the lyrics and accommodates the underlying ideological implications of the linguistic frames in the lyric.[36]It expands the plot to a more vibrant painting with literacy and an ironic twist in the context. The report presented three findings that will open up new sights for future investigation.

First, scholars should pay attention to a wider range of lyrics, particularly those associated with Chinese culture. What's more, because culture operates in the mind, different cultural notions can be activated in memory by the context.[37]It is logical to conclude from the essay that Chinese culture can be conveyed not only via nouns but also through phrases and sentences with ironic or positive connotations. These connotations–along with the experiences that accompany them – influence how easily the word is learned, recognized, recalled and retained in memory.[38]As can be found, a picture feeling of lyrics is consist of numerous components, including descriptions of animals, men, and women, as well as rich Chinese culture.

In addition, an image appeared in mind when the Chinese characters, phrase, and sentences constitute in the context of lyrics. Each line was carefully examined together with the preceding and the following line to understand the contextual meaning.[39]

For narration, a series of pilots that present the tale in various ways of language, including cultural background. The function of narration, which focuses on how to effectively convey information, is presented in the lyrics of Luochahai City. Narratives are essential building blocks of all cultures, and they seem to have a constitutive relationship to the culture from which they are narrated; that is, they both shape the culture and are shaped by it.[40]The lyrics conveyed Chinese culture with different ways. In literary, they are relate to metaphor, rhyme, satire and other rhetorical devices.

The third finding demonstrates that the entire lyrics of Luochahai City are full of sardonic sense, so that the vivid picture of Chinese culture does not only occur between lines but more important reveals a society that reflects a series of realities inspire people's deep thinking.

There are certain similarities among Chinese characters, phrases, and sentences in the lyrics. Some Chinese characters must be repeated several times in order to leave a lasting impression. The single Chinese characters that appear twice or more times in lyrics will play an important role. All of these parts offer numerous advantages, but they will also impose limitations on future research, which will be listed below.

According to the passage, an understanding of Chinese culture through lyrics is limited. On the one hand, future research should include additional song lyrics and identify similarities and differences. There are many song lyrics associated with Chinese culture, and further inquiry into more songs will reveal various pictures. On the other hand, if conditions permit, the study should be combined with interdisciplinary approaches.

Funding

no

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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