

# The Application of Tea Culture in International Chinese Language Education

Zexia Zheng, Meimei Chen

School of Humanities and Communication, Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics,  
Hangzhou 310018, China

## Abstract

**Cultural confidence is the basic and lasting force in the development of a country and a nation. The general secretary spoke of Chinese traditional culture on many occasions, expressing its recognition and respect for the traditional culture and the value system of traditional thoughts. China has many legends and works about tea. Chinese tea culture has a long history and strong national characteristics, which condenses the humanistic spirit of the Chinese nation. The introduction of Chinese tea culture in international Chinese language education has great help to tell Chinese stories, spread Chinese culture and promote the development of teaching Chinese as a foreign language. This paper discusses the main principles and problems to be followed in the introduction of tea culture into Chinese international Chinese language education. Finally, it puts forward some concrete suggestions on the application of tea culture in international Chinese language education.**

## Keywords

**Chinese tea culture; Culture teaching; International Chinese Language Education.**

## 1. Introduction

Chinese tea culture is an important part of Chinese traditional culture. The word "tea" in almost all languages in the world originates from Chinese. It is said that Chinese tea culture is declining gradually. In recent years, the industry calls for the revitalization of tea culture is eager. It is of great practical significance to introduce tea culture into international Chinese language education for inheriting and developing traditional excellent culture. As we all know, culture teaching is essential. Culture is an objective and internal gene element. Through the analysis of the specific performance of culture, we can see that the inheritance and transmission of any culture is based on the corresponding language premise of the implementation of the activities. For students, culture is one of the most important contexts in language learning. Facing the learners with different cultural backgrounds, properly and timely introducing tea culture into international Chinese language education through the medium of "tea" can not only enable students to learn the knowledge related to tea, and it also enable them to understand the history of Chinese tea, the impact of tea culture on Chinese diet, medicine, religion. The profound influence in the field of literature can make Chinese tea culture go further to the world with the promotion of international Chinese language education.

## 2. Main Principles of Introducing Tea Culture into International Chinese Language Education

### 2.1. Principle of Pertinence

First of all, tea culture should be combined with Chinese language knowledge in teaching. The teaching of tea culture should be closely connected with the setting of language courses. In the

selection of course contents, students' Chinese level, learning objectives and learning styles should be considered to comprehensively select the corresponding contents in tea culture.

Secondly, although cultural development has a strong continuity, we should pay more attention to the realistic cultural characteristics. With the rapid development of society, the function and significance of tea culture are constantly updated. When teaching tea culture, we should focus on synchronic culture so that students can understand tea culture in nowadays. In the initial stage, we can start with the common milk tea shops in shopping malls, so as to start the journey of tea culture.

## **2.2. Practical Principle**

Culture teaching should be closely combined with real life to achieve "learning for application", and guide students to observe the performance of Chinese culture in our daily life. With the method above, students may understand the spirit of Chinese traditional culture and Chinese values, so as to trace the essence of tea culture. Learning Chinese tea culture in intercultural context, only depends on simple explanation is not enough. For teachers, it is difficult to convey the essence of tea culture. For students, it is also difficult to comprehensive the charm of tea culture. Therefore, we should practice the principle of practicality in teaching. In addition, we can also organize corresponding tea culture theme activities, such as organizing students to visit tea bases, hold tea art shows, arrange tea rooms and other practical activities. All these activities can not only enhance students' enthusiasm and practicability of tea culture, but also enable students to understand the charm of tea culture during the process.

## **2.3. Make Full Use of Modern Teaching Technology**

Modern teaching technology has the advantages of high efficiency, flexibility and vividness, which can achieve better effect in international Chinese language education. For example, when explaining the tea-making program, it can be explained with pictures, or short videos such as Tiktok, Kuaishou, bilibili, etc.. In this way, students can understand the teaching content faster, improve learning efficiency faster. On the other hand, it may also help to level up students' enthusiasm, so that making the learning process more relaxed and pleasant.

## **3. Matters Needing Attention in the Process**

### **3.1. Pay Attention to the Combination of Students' Cultural Background**

Use of the way of cultural comparison is of great importance. Teachers should compare the similarities and differences between Chinese and foreign cultures in order to apply them to teaching practice. Tea, coffee and cocoa can be explained together, thus students can build their knowledge about tea based on the original knowledge system. We should try to avoid unnecessary content that may bring about cultural disputes or even cultural conflicts. In short, teachers should have a basic understanding of the cultural background of the students, at least not to make common mistakes.

### **3.2. Teachers Should Have Certain Knowledge of Tea Culture**

The shortage of teachers is an important factor in international Chinese language education. According to the requirements of the syllabus of certificate examination for international Chinese language teachers, there are five standards for their cultivation and development. The five standards are basis of Chinese language teaching, methods of Chinese language teaching, class organization and class management, communication between Chinese culture and interculture, professional ethics and professional development. In the teaching of Chinese culture knowledge, we can say that teachers play a considerable role. Chinese teachers have become a certain resource for students to understand Chinese culture knowledge through the virtue of teachers' professional knowledge and deep understanding of Chinese culture.

On one hand, teachers who teach Chinese tea culture should study the relevant works and legends of Chinese tea, for example the six kinds of tea, the places of their origin, tea-making technology and procedures, etc. On the other hand, teachers should also elaborate on the influence of tea culture on the behavior and value orientation of Chinese people. In fact, the latter is the core of Chinese cultural knowledge and also an important part of international Chinese language education.

## **4. The Application of Tea Culture in Chinese Language Teaching**

### **4.1. Select Appropriate Content of Tea Culture Teaching According to Reality**

There are seven things in Chinese proverbs which are named "firewood, rice, oil, salt, sauce, vinegar and tea". Besides, "Qin, chess, calligraphy, painting, poetry wine and tea" are also enjoyed by Chinese scholars. These all vividly outline the importance of tea in Chinese life. Chinese teachers can choose to explain the characteristics of various kinds of tea, including the production process, efficacy of tea, characteristics of tea soup. Six different kinds of tea are found in China, including green tea, black tea, green tea, white tea, yellow tea and black tea. Moreover, modern reprocessed tea, such as flower tea, fruit tea, medical health tea are extraordinary popular as well.

Different tea types have their own origin, which suggests that we can carry out more targeted tea culture in teaching according to the teaching location. Maybe we can taking green tea as an example. Universities and colleges in Hangzhou may take Longjing green tea as the starting point for tea culture teaching. This is not only convenient for the preparation of tea and tea sets, but also easy for the teachers to explain and introduce. In this way, it may make students feel friendly, so as to stimulate their enthusiasm and enthusiasm for learning.

### **4.2. Use the Enjoyable Way of Research, Teaching and Study**

The activities of Chinese cultural teaching should not be limited to classroom and teaching materials. Teachers can flexibly use various methods to arouse students' interest. Under the circumstances of objective conditions, we can use the enjoyable way of research, teach and study. The enjoyable way may including visiting the tea-making factory, establishing Tea Art Association and tea business camp, so as to let students integrate into the tea world. It is suggested that Chinese teachers can organize students to the tea village and experience the fun of labor. Teachers can guide students to visit the whole process of tea farmers' fried tea and tea-making progress. And students can enjoy the tea art performance and taste the tea soup with pleasure. Through the appreciation and training of tea art, students can feel the spirit of Chinese tea culture, understand the relationship between the integrity and continuity of Chinese traditional culture, and comprehend the essential characteristics of Chinese traditional culture personally and deeply.

Maybe we can take Hangzhou as an example. Students can be organized to visit the China National Tea Museum and Longjing Village. As we all know, China National Tea Museum is a professional museum which established by the National Tourism Administration, Zhejiang Province and Hangzhou City. It is a special Museum of tea culture. Longjing tea has the reputation of being "the best tea in the world". Longjing Village is located in the southwest of the West Lake. Such unique teaching resources are the advantages of tea culture teaching in universities and colleges in Hangzhou.

### **4.3. Use Electronic Resources in Teaching and Study**

Film and television resources play an exceedingly important role in international Chinese language education. Appropriate film and television materials can promote the teaching process, improve teaching efficiency, and enhance the sense of interaction in the class. In addition to teaching in classroom and extracurricular research, students should also explore

the practice of tea in Chinese life. In the ancient TV series, some scenes may be set in the tea room, accompanied by the tea process of making and drinking. After such scenes are edited into short videos and shown to students, they would understand the significance and charm of Chinese tea culture much more easier.

There have been many literary works about tea culture in China. According to the statistics, tea is mentioned in seven poems in the book of "Shijing", which is the first poetry collection in China. A book named "Chajing" is even more famous all around the world. "Chajing" is written by Lu Yu in Tang Dynasty. So appropriate literary works can be selected according to the students' Chinese level. And the selected materials should be consistent with the students' Chinese level or slightly higher than their current level.

#### 4.4. Hold the Theme Competition of Tea Culture

Cultural theme competition is a good way for students to experience tea culture and integrate into Chinese culture. It allows students to innovate in form and participate in it in an all-round way from planning, organization, production and other links. Universities and colleges would hold the culture exhibition of Chinese food. It expressed the people and home behind Chinese food culture through books, multimedia, art works, games, literary forums and other multi-dimensional activities. The deep connotation of Chinese and society, the deep feeling of Chinese and nature, the comparison of Chinese and foreign food culture may be totally understand through the activities about tea culture. Students can understand China through tea culture. Hold the theme competition of tea culture to organize students to complete specific tea related activities in the form of assigning tasks. Videos of tea art, interviews with milk tea shops, tea-picking and tea-making in Longjing Village are all forms of competition that can be taken occasionally. By holding these theme competitions, students can understand the inner characteristics of Chinese tea culture, truly respect different cultures, build up multicultural awareness and learn Chinese language much more better.

### 5. Conclusion

With the remarkable improvement and continuous enhancement of cultural self-confidence, more and more foreign friends show great curiosity and interest in China and Chinese culture. Many of them began to learn Chinese language, contact and understand Chinese traditional culture as well. Tea culture is an important and indispensable part of Chinese traditional culture. The development of tea culture teaching with Chinese is conducive to the real integration of language and culture. In the international teaching of Chinese language, we can take tea culture as the carrier and introduce Chinese culture from the perspective and way of tea culture.

### Acknowledgments

2021 Postgraduate Scientific Research Project of Zhejiang Province(Y202147295);  
2021 Postgraduate Fieldwork Fund Project of Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics (21TYDC070) ;  
2021 Postgraduate Project of The Collaborative Innovation Center of Chinese Characters Overseas Communication and Calligraphy Industry "Language Planning in International Chinese Language Education in New Era: Based on SWOT Analysis Model".

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