

THE EPIC CREATION AND LIFE STATUS OF EPIC SINGERS IN CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

The life status of epic singers in contemporary context is an important issue that should be paid attention to when we study contemporary epic creation. The creation of epic singers is closely linked with their daily lives, and we often see the impact of real life in their performances. The words, metaphors and depictions they use vary with the social changes. This is one of the reasons why contemporary young epic singers' performance styles are different from their predecessors.

Mongolian traditional epic singers' epic creation and performance have a very comprehensive quality. In addition to the epic performance, epic singers are also good at singing folk songs, saying the words of praise, as well as other kinds of folk genres. Some of them even play an important religious role in local community, and are often invited to chanting in some folk rituals. A variety of talents creates the diversity of identity, and the more folk activities they participate in, the better for their epic creativity. Their interactions with the audience are very frequent.

The traditional life depicted in epics changes with the social developments, and the way of epic learning has also changed. Now young epic singers can not only learn epic performance from a master, but also from texts, audios, videos and other new ways. The achievements depend on their own talents and efforts. However, the living condition of epic singers is also one of the elements of influence which should not be ignored. Epic singers are facing a severe situation that the rhythm of social life is getting faster and faster, the way of entertainment is dazzling, and epic tradition is declining.

The pressure of life leads the young epic singers to be willing to learn more about what can be profitable in a short time, rather than the epic learning that requires a lot of time and energies. In Inner Mongolia, many young epic singers often appear in a wedding, birthday party, opening ceremony or some other folk activities to sing folk songs, say praise words and Holboo. These performances are popular and rewarded. Obviously, in such a scene, it is not suitable for epic performance.

The life status of epic singers affects their epic creativities. Because each performance by epic singers is a new creation, and their source of creation is their lives. Every singer has his (or her) own characteristics in language skill, performance style, and artistic achievement. Epic creativity not only comes from their learning, but also from their lives. In this sense, the study of epic singer's life status is also an important issue in epic research.