

ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

Doctoral candidate: Phan Manh Duong

Dissertation title: Life cycle rituals of the Si La ethnic minority in Muong Te District, Lai Chau Province.

Major: Folklore Studies **Code:** 9229041

Scientific supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr Tran Van Binh

Institution: Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies

CONTENT OF THE ABSTRACT

1. Aims and objects of the study.

1.1. Aims of the study:

Researching to discover the practice of lifecycle ceremony of Si La people to be deeper conscious of culture and cultural identity of ethnicity. To be basically conscious of elements that impact lifecycle ceremony, contribute to preserve and promote cultural identity of ethnicity in the circumstance of currently strong change and integration.

1.2. Objects of the study:

- The dissertation focuses on researching main ceremonies related to lifecycle of Si La people in Muong Te District, Lai Chau Province. They are important ceremonies which can not be missed in the life of each people, contribute to determine cultural identity of Si La ethnicity.

- Specific content of research: system of ritual, character of traditionally cultural ceremony of Si La people, function, value, change of ceremony and cultural identity via lifecycle ceremony.

2. Methods of the study.

Field research method: From 2009 to 2021, researcher researched fieldwork at areas of Seo Hai and Si Thao Chai hamlets of Can Ho commune, Muong Te District, Lai Chau province. Researcher took information, data from individuals via methods: *Attention observation, deep interview, group discussion, record, notes, drawing, taking photos.*

Method of data comprehension and analysis: Researcher collected related information, inherited points of view of the authors, assessed from research works that had been printed to supply for data collected from areas related to ceremony and lifecycle ceremony.

Comparative method: Researching, analysing, comparing and reconciling cultural components of Si La people to see the change between tradition and modern.

3. Main results and conclusions.

3.1. Main results

1. The dissertation researches some typical lifecycle ceremonies of Si La people to make clear some matters related to culture, society and cultural identity of ethnicity.

2. The dissertation analyzes the role, character and function of lifecycle ceremony to see on – going movement during process of development of ethnic culture, but keeping the soul, cultural identity of Si La people in Muong Te District, Lai Chau province.

3. The dissertation contributes to supply plentiful data resources with system about lifecycle ceremony of Si La people in Vietnam and contributes to research and train about culture of ethnicity.

4. The result of dissertation as useful reference data helps Government authorities build strategy, policy on ethnic culture to maintain, preserve and promote the values of cultural identity of Si La ethnic group in particular and minority ethnic groups in Vietnam in general.

3.2. Conclusion

1. Currently, material culture of Si La people changes strongly upon trend near to culture of Thai, Ha Nhi ethnic groups and Kinh. In the circumstance, lifecycle ceremony expresses humanism, worldview of ethnic, saves traditional culture and is important signal to identify Si La people in community of Vietnamese ethnic groups.

2. Practising lifecycle ceremony plays important role in upholding spirit at the times of change, helping members set up relationship between individual and community, creating custom and tradition passed from this generation to other, controlling behavior of individual and being conscious of cultural value of ethnicity.

3. Cultural identity of Si La people expressing in lifecycle ceremony not only are elements or colors of culture existing long time and stability in the community, but also include new elements, result of communication process and traditional creation in current circumstance.

Scientific Supervisor

Doctoral Candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr Tran Van Binh

Phan Manh Duong