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INTERPRETATION AS AN UPDATE TOOL TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Specialty 5.7.8 – philosophic anthropology, philosophy of culture

ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION
Submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Pilyak S.A.'s dissertation research "Interpretation as a tool for actualizing tangible cultural heritage" was carried out at the UNESCO Department of the Institute of Public Administration and Management of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. Scientific consultant — Doctor of Philosophy, Professor Astafieva Olga Nikolaevna.

Relevance of the research topic

The condition of heritage objects often forms a negative attitude to the issues of its preservation and perception of the past in principle. Therefore, the actualization of heritage as the realization of its potential in the socio-cultural environment is a complex task of theoretical and practical orientation. The resolution of contradictions related to cultural heritage is an important task of our time. Despite numerous scientific works and multidirectional research work, heritage remains beyond unambiguous assessments and precise theoretical definitions. On this basis, it seems appropriate to conduct a comprehensive philosophical understanding of the phenomenon of heritage.

The heritage object is dependent on how it will be "read" and interpreted. The study of tools for actualizing and interpreting cultural heritage should consist, among other things, in structuring the accepted methods and practices, their philosophical comprehension and formation of a unified platform that will allow to continue the development of effective methods.

It seems necessary to conduct interdisciplinary, comprehensive studies of creativity based on the development of philosophical principles of this phenomenon, generalization and systematization of both domestic and foreign experience, and interdisciplinary experience, including philosophical and psychological approaches to the analysis of heritage, as well as natural science and humanitarian ideas about it. In our opinion, the implementation of a comprehensive theoretical approach gives the opportunity to deeply analyze the mechanisms of

genesis, preservation and use of heritage objects in modernity, based on which in the dissertation work we focus on the practical application of the research results.

The object of the study

Cultural heritage at the present stage of society development.

The subject of the study

The subject of the study is the potential of interpretation in the actualization and preservation of cultural heritage.

The aim of the study is to comprehend and substantiate the holistic philosophical and cultural methodology of interpretation as a tool for actualization and preservation of tangible cultural heritage.

In accordance with the purpose, the following research problems are set:

- 1. To reveal the genesis of the concept of "heritage" and the peculiarities of understanding cultural heritage as a philosophical category at the present stage.
- 2. To formulate a categorical apparatus of cultural and philosophical research on the interpretation of cultural heritage and to reveal the evolution of the concept of "cultural heritage" in the national regulatory and legislative framework defining the tools of cultural policy.
- 3. To consider the theoretical and methodological foundations of the study of the perception of cultural heritage, which have developed in humanitarian knowledge, and to identify the features of understanding perception, interpretation and cognition in the context of the research topic.
- 4. To reveal the specifics of the methodological procedure for the interpretation of cultural heritage in the structure of the evolution of hermeneutical approaches and modern global trends.
- 5. Formulate and substantiate the general principles of interpretation and translation of cultural heritage, taking into account the understanding of the uniqueness of the nature of cultural heritage as a result and platform for the development of human civilization and, based on this, consider the specifics of the artifact of tangible cultural heritage as an object of interpretation.

- 6. To substantiate the conceptual provisions on the peculiarities of the interpretation of heritage in the museum environment, defining the place of interpretation of cultural heritage as a management tool for socio-cultural activities and cultural policy.
- 7. From a cultural and philosophical point of view, to reveal the basic principles of interaction between the subject and the object in the process of interpretation, based on the need to determine the possibilities of updating cultural heritage in the field of its preservation.
- 8. Within the framework of the analysis of interpretation as a tool for cognition of heritage, to identify factors influencing not only the process of perception, but also the result, directing cultural philosophical discourse to comprehend the interpretation of cultural heritage in interaction and complement with accepted applied methods of preserving artifacts of tangible cultural heritage.
- 9. Conceptualize the idea of transition to fundamentally new scenarios for heritage preservation, based on the elaboration of a forecast for further expansion of interpretation as a full-fledged tool for updating and preserving tangible cultural heritage in the context of global trends in updating heritage as a special way to realize its potential.
- 10. To substantiate the expressive possibilities of heritage and new potential vectors of its introduction into modernity, justifying modern technologies for introducing heritage into everyday life, taking into account the established mechanisms of interpretation in the modern scientific and theoretical environment.

The choice of the theoretical and methodological basis of the study is due to the complex nature of the subject of the study. The potential of interpretation can be fully considered within the framework of an integrated cultural philosophical approach, in the contexts of philosophy, epistemology, hermeneutics, as well as cultural studies, anthropology, art history, history, and a number of other humanities. In-depth consideration of the problem is facilitated by the consistent application of methods peculiar to a wide range of humanities,

collectively revealing the phenomenon of cultural heritage. Therefore, the condition for conducting research is its interdisciplinarity.

In general, the methods used in the study represent a set of general scientific methods characteristic of the humanities and social sciences. The study was conducted using methods of analysis and synthesis, systematization and classification. The study also applied a general historical and philosophical approach combining the analysis of materials on the research topic and the study of the processes of formation and transformation of key concepts in historical development.

In the introduction thesis substantiates the relevance of the research topic is substantiated, the degree of its scientific development is analyzed, the purpose and main tasks are formulated, the scientific novelty, the theoretical and methodological basis of the research, the theoretical and practical significance of the research are revealed. The main provisions put forward for protection are put forward, information about the approbation of the research results is given.

In chapter I, "Interpretation of cultural heritage as a philosophical category", the conceptual field of research is considered, the features of the design of basic concepts and the allocation of the problems of genesis and preservation of tangible cultural heritage are analyzed.

In paragraph 1.1. special attention is paid to the domestic practice of using these concepts, including the consolidation of various interpretations in normative acts and the modern lack of uniform definitions in the regulatory field.

In paragraph 1.2. the theoretical and methodological foundations of the study of perception in the humanities are considered. The section provides a justification for the philosophical, cultural and anthropological contexts of the subject of the study. The paragraph substantiates the relevance of the research topic.

Paragraph 1.3. presents the structure of the evolutionary transformation of hermeneutical approaches applicable to the interpretation of cultural heritage phenomena. Within the framework of hermeneutics, which originated as a platform for the perception of cultural and religious meanings, tools and basic methods of interpretation were formed.

In paragraph 1.4. the features of interpretation at the present stage are analyzed, including the development of digital culture and the multiple reflection and fixation of cultural heritage in digital form, which contributes to the violation of the traditional interpretation scheme.

In Chapter II, "The specifics of cultural heritage as an object of interpretation", the specifics of tangible cultural heritage as an object of interpretation are considered and analyzed.

Paragraph 2.1. reflects the general principles of interpretation and translation of cultural heritage. Within the framework of this study, the specific features of interpretation are designated as principles. Consideration of each principle, its clear formulation, is carried out by the author, if possible, on specific examples of objects of tangible cultural heritage.

In paragraph 2.2. the tangible cultural heritage is analyzed as an object of interpretation. The process of individual artistic interpretation is analyzed using the example of folk art crafts, which serve as a noticeable manifestation of national cultural identity and collective creativity.

In paragraph 2.3. the museum is analyzed from the point of view of the mechanism of interpretation of cultural heritage. The methods of museum work are focused on the formation of the interpretation of the museum object in the mind of the visitor. Therefore, the analysis of approaches used in the museum field, from the point of view of interpretation research, is a necessary condition for understanding the mechanisms of formation.

In paragraph 2.4. the interpretation of cultural heritage is considered as a tool of manipulation. The formation of the necessary information field depends on the perception and interpretation of both individual events and cultural values and

cultural heritage. Consequently, cultural heritage, which largely forms national and regional identity, often in this case becomes a resource in achieving the desired.

Chapter III "Theoretical and methodological approaches to the interpretation of cultural heritage" analyzes approaches and methods in the interpretation of cultural heritage.

In paragraph 3.1. the relations of the subject and the object in the process of interpreting the tangible cultural heritage are considered and analyzed. Based on the results of the analysis, a conclusion is made about the complex nature of the relationship, which determines the illusory definition of the subject and object in the process of interpretation. The initial information limitation of the interpreter in the perception of the object is analyzed.

Paragraph 3.2. examines the factors influencing the interpretation of cultural heritage, as well as key concepts in the field of artistic culture and art related to interpretation.

Paragraph 3.3. reflects the mechanisms of interpretation of cultural heritage in cultural philosophical discourse. As noted in the study, the original meaning of the creation, which later becomes an artifact, often loses its noticeable sound, yielding to an abundance of subjective assessments synthesized by interpreters. Based on the results of the analysis of this process, a number of features of the interpretation of the heritage are formulated.

In chapter IV, "Heuristics of interpretation of tangible cultural heritage", based on the analysis of a set of existing methodological problems, a forecast for the implementation of interpretation as a tool for updating tangible cultural heritage is worked out. The chapter argues that the interpretation of cultural heritage can become the key to its preservation for future generations.

In paragraph 4.1. the analysis and systematization of problematic contours of existing methods of preservation and actualization of tangible cultural heritage in philosophical understanding is carried out. Using the example of real objects of cultural heritage preserved on the basis of current norms, as well as methods

adopted and approved by the professional community, a set of philosophical problems is formulated and analyzed within the framework of the study.

In paragraph 4.2. the process of interpretation is considered as a method of preserving cultural heritage. It is noted that interpretation, as well as the concepts of representation and translation, have not yet been defined in the status of a special activity for the preservation of cultural heritage. In the paragraph, as a method of preserving cultural heritage, the process of interpretation is considered, which affects the actualization of heritage.

Paragraph 4.3. examines the potential of interpretation in the context of the preservation of cultural heritage. The concept of the potential of cultural heritage, traditionally presented as a set of unrealized or not fully realized opportunities related to heritage, is analyzed.

In paragraph 4.4. a cultural and philosophical forecast of the sphere of preservation of cultural heritage artifacts is formed. The prospects of the sphere, various individual and model scenarios for the promotion of heritage sites, allowing to introduce a specific monument into the spiritual and economic turnover, are outlined.

In the Conclusion of the thesis, the author formulates the main conclusions of the conducted research, justifying the provisions submitted for defense.

Scientific novelty of the research is the following:

1. The author's consideration of the problems of cultural heritage as a philosophical category is presented; the problems are formulated, the properties of cultural heritage are determined. In this dissertation research, for the first time, a philosophical understanding of the process of interpretation is carried out as a tool for the sustainable development of human civilization, including that which is particularly relevant at the present stage. Within the framework of the study, the phenomenon and genesis of cultural heritage are considered and conceptually described.

- 2. As part of the disclosure of the evolution of the concept of cultural heritage, it was determined for the first time that the provisions of the current regulatory framework in the field of cultural heritage preservation consider and regulate the preservation of exclusively physical embodiment of cultural heritage objects. At the same time, the conclusion is made and justified about the high importance of practical work on the actualization of the spiritual value of cultural artifacts, which requires scientific understanding. The research is aimed at solving methodological problems and theoretical elaboration in this branch of scientific knowledge.
- 3. The author's research methodology is proposed, developed and tested, aimed at consistent disclosure through a step-by-step analysis of the stages of awareness of the value of heritage, consideration and analysis of preservation, actualization and reinterpretation of heritage on the example of a limited group of cultural artifacts. Solving intellectual tasks in this sequence, as proved in the study, allows for the most complete and positive interpretation of the heritage site.
- 4. The understanding of the phenomenon of the ambivalent nature of cultural heritage has been clarified, expanded and meaningfully defined, a set of concepts of spiritual and material embodiments of the heritage object has been introduced, requiring, within the framework of updating the artifact, respectively, introduction into cultural and economic circulation through a specific individual interpretation.
- 5. Based on the results of the analysis of the specifics of cultural heritage in general and the artifact as an object of interpretation in particular, a set of principles clarifying the specifics of the process of interpretation and translation of cultural heritage was formulated and introduced into the categorical series of philosophical anthropology for the first time, namely, the principles of modernization, identity, digital embodiment, actualization and deconstruction were highlighted and reasoned. The significance and applicability of the characteristics of these principles in practical work aimed at the positive positioning of cultural

artifacts as a result and platform for the development of human civilization is substantiated.

- 6. The specificity of the museum space as a special environment serving the purposes of interpretation of cultural heritage is substantiated. The implementation of the topical theme of preserving historical memory, the identification and presentation of the historical and cultural significance of an artifact in the museum environment is argumentatively presented as an effective and full-fledged process. The methodology of museum work as an object of interdisciplinary discourse is described and analyzed for the first time from the point of view of the mechanism and sequence of interpretation. The key place and importance of the interpretation of cultural heritage as a management tool for socio-cultural activities and cultural policy are determined and justified.
- 7. The assessment of the multilayered structure of the current stage of development of the sphere is given, for the first time some directions of development and practical solutions for the removal of maladaptation factors are proposed. It is concluded that the management of understanding and perception is an important tool for directing the vector of human and social development. The potential of interpretation in order to model the human worldview is considered and theoretically understood. Within the framework of the study, for the first time, the use of this tool in the context of cultural heritage was analyzed and theoretically worked out.
- 8. The substantiation of the interpretation of cultural heritage as a type of activity that acts in effective interaction and complement with accepted applied methods of preserving artifacts of tangible cultural heritage is presented. The adaptation of information about the heritage site and its intensive promotion, planned on the basis of the conclusions obtained within the framework of this study and taking into account the specifics of the mechanisms of interpretation and actualization of cultural heritage, have a high potential practical result in strengthening the significance and high status of the artifact in the modern socio-

cultural environment. This data set makes it possible to construct the perception of an artifact and gradually build a social motivation for its preservation.

- 9. For the first time, taking into account the ambivalent nature of cultural heritage, the concept of updating an artifact is proposed as a special way to realize its potential through multi-vector work with physical and spiritual incarnations. The author personally developed and tested a number of methods for promoting heritage (using the example of a specific object) and strengthening its role in modern communication culture within the framework of a well-developed concept. Within the framework of the study, the following basic methods are formulated: the formation of a contextual field for the presentation of an object, the stratification of the target audience and the definition of optimal tools for attracting individual groups of subjects, the multiformat of promotion.
- 10. A comprehensive methodology for the practical application of interpretation as a tool for the actualization and preservation of tangible cultural heritage is proposed, which consists in the multi-vector adaptation of information about the heritage object in order to form images that saturate the communicative field and build individual socio-cultural links between human consciousness and the monument. The expansion of information presentation formats leads to an increase in the audience perceiving the artifact to the absolute majority, which ensures high efficiency of work on updating the heritage.

Statements to defend:

1. Based on the analysis of the author's interpretation of the fundamental concepts and features of understanding cultural heritage as a philosophical category, the following problems of cultural heritage as a philosophical category are formulated within the framework of the research: problems of generation and existence, uniqueness, actualization, adaptation, commodification, preservation of cultural heritage, as well as the problem of harmonization of relations, including interethnic and interfaith.

- 2. As part of the development of the categorical apparatus of the cultural philosophical study of the interpretation of cultural heritage and the disclosure of the evolution of the concept of "cultural heritage" in the domestic regulatory framework, it is concluded that the appropriate development of the current domestic regulatory framework in the field of support, conservation and application of the possibilities of cultural heritage objects may reflect the concepts of interpretation and actualization of heritage. The logical improvement of cultural policy at the present stage is intended to be the formation of awareness of the value of cultural artifacts, which is a special format for the preservation of cultural heritage sites, which requires appropriate institutionalization, resource and regulatory support.
- 3. Undoubtedly, there remains a significant potential for the practical use of mechanisms for correcting the result of interpretation that arises in human consciousness. At the same time, the information obtained as a result of the process of cognition of the heritage artifact and formalized in the form of concepts, judgments and conclusions can be adjusted and adapted in order to further preserve the heritage object.
- 4. Hermeneutics, as a methodology of interpretation, has laid down a number of provisions that form the basis of cognitive procedures in the field of interpretation of cultural artifacts. To date, the tools, methodology, problem and conceptual field of this branch of scientific knowledge have been formulated. The processes of cognition and perception received a structural design, which formed a theoretical platform for practical interpretation, ensuring the effective actualization of cultural heritage objects.
- 5. It is substantiated and argued that the interpretation of cultural heritage, taking into account the understanding of the uniqueness of the nature of cultural heritage as a result and platform for the development of human civilization, is characterized by a number of principles, including the modernization of the subject of interpretation, identity, digital embodiment of tangible cultural heritage,

actualization of cultural heritage, deconstruction. Also, within the framework of the study, the following list of the main features of the tangible cultural heritage as an object of interpretation is highlighted, reasoned and systematized: the temporality of cultural heritage, the personality-forming role of heritage objects, the permissibility of creating an object of cultural heritage within the framework of interpretation.

- 6. The position is substantiated that the museum environment is an example of the consistent application of the principles of preserving cultural heritage through interpretation and actualization. The expansion of the use of approaches peculiar to the museum sphere in socio-cultural activities and the implementation of cultural policy, namely a special sequence of stages of working with the object-artifact-exhibit, the formation of a specific individual context that expands the possibilities of perception of the object, methods of adapting information and addressing to historical memory, has significant practical potential.
- 7. In the process of interpretation, the relationship between the subject and the object is complex and illusory. It is noted that the subject-interpreter, due to the effect of the laws of perception, is initially limited in his understanding of the heritage object. A person, having a relationship to heritage as one of its actors, perceives an artifact, actually being inside the system of facts of historical memory. Thus, the result of perception is formed as a result of the actual dialogue.
- 8. The priority importance of actualization of tangible cultural significance as the most important format of activity for its preservation in the physical and spiritual space has been established and declared. The methodology of updating cultural heritage is formulated and philosophically justified, which consists in adapting information about the artifact and multi-vector promotion based on segmentation of the target audience.
- 9. Understanding the interpretation of cultural heritage in cultural philosophical discourse makes it possible to argue the need for its adoption as a technique that complements existing practical activities for the preservation of

objects of tangible cultural heritage. It is noted that the existing methodology in the field of cultural heritage preservation, limited by concern for the physical preservation of individual outstanding objects, needs serious adaptation to the needs of modern society by expanding the formats of activities. The self-exclusion of artifacts of the past from the socio-cultural environment, together with a lack of information about the object, including on ideological or religious grounds, inevitably lead to the elimination of dialogue between man and heritage. The activity of updating cultural heritage as a type of work for the preservation of cultural heritage removes these risks.

- 10. The idea of using the enormous potential of cultural heritage for the development of human culture and humanity as a whole is conceptualized. The proposal to use heritage as a reliable symbol of the currently relevant transformations capable of ensuring sustainable progressive development of regions, states, corporations and communities is substantiated and reasoned. The importance of practical work on the actualization of cultural heritage, which is one of the most effective ways to transform the cultural landscape, is clarified.
- 11. A set of measures ensuring the interpretation of cultural heritage, its adaptation and multi-vector phased introduction into the modern spiritual world and everyday life of a person is the most productive way to preserve heritage.

Theoretical and practical significance of the study

The theoretical significance of the dissertation research is due to the development of a new approach to the preservation of tangible cultural heritage as a complex process encompassing the complex of material and spiritual embodiment of heritage. The results of the work contribute to the philosophical understanding of the problem under discussion and outline new promising directions in modernizing the methodology of actualization and preservation of heritage. The study of the mechanisms of interpretation and actualization of cultural heritage makes it possible to better assess the potential of modern practices in the field of cultural heritage preservation, assess their strengths and weaknesses

and consider the possibilities of developing the sphere. The results obtained during the work on the dissertation can be used to develop and enrich the fundamental sections of philosophical knowledge — ontology, epistemology, axiology, to expand the theoretical field of anthropology, philosophy of culture and cultural studies. The practical significance of the research lies in the fact that the materials and results of the dissertation research can be taken into account and used in the development of regulations in the field of preservation of cultural heritage, humanitarian and cultural activities, implementation of cultural policy, as well as in the teaching of a wide range of socio-humanitarian disciplines.

The reliability of the research results is confirmed by the reasonableness of the main provisions, the consistency and logic of the presentation of the concept, the extensive source base of the study (699 sources), provided by the fundamental nature of the problem posed, reliance on modern history and theory of culture, the complexity of the methodology and the generalization of extensive empirical material.

The validity and reliability of the study results

The results of the study are reflected in 112 publications with a total volume of more than 60 print-pages, including 2 monographs. 16 articles have been published in leading peer-reviewed journals recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission of the Ministry of science and higher education of the Russian Federation (the list of peer-reviewed publications recommended for publishing the results of dissertation research for the degree of Candidate of Sciences, for the degree of Doctor of Sciences), of which 16 are in journals from the RANEPA list; 4 articles in English in the materials of international conferences. The materials identified by the author were used in the preparation of the Great Russian Encyclopedia (license agreement No. 346 PB/F-LA). In 2023, the author was awarded the Medal of the Russian Academy of Sciences for young scientists of Russia in the field of philosophy, sociology, psychology and law for a series of works on the interpretation and actualization of cultural heritage. The

main results are presented at more than 40 national and international conferences, as well as tested in the form of lecture courses delivered by the author. The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters combining fifteen paragraphs, a conclusion, and a list of references consisting of 699 sources, including 30 sources by foreign authors.

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