

Formative Characteristics of Trousers in the Minor Ethnic of Yunnan Province

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Introduction

Yunnan(云南) province is located in southwest of China in which has four seasons and many historical remains. Twenty-six minor ethnics live in the Yunnan province which is known as a living folk museum. This is because they have preserved and developed their folk costume, artcraft, music and dance in their peculiar way with natural/cultural surroundings. It can be worth examining how climatic and circumstances change evolve certain differences of dress shape in same ethnics. The basic form of Eastern trousers was constituted initially from the trousers worn by Scythians, and through the Huns(匈奴族), China, Korea and Japan. Research into costumes of minor ethnics can contribute to the study of origin of the trousers, as this group of people have well succeeded the basic form of trousers through their cultural history and everyday life.

Methodology

This study, at first, investigates geographical surroundings of each minor ethnic group, and figures out the style of all trousers by measuring the each size, then compares designs, colors, patterns and fabrics. This formative characteristics of trousers examined will be comparatively investigated with the form of Korean trousers, Paji. The sources of the study are the twenty-four trousers, selected from the costume of minor ethnics, belongs to the Yunnan Folk Museum, which exhibited at the Korean Folk Village on May 2003, as well as other relevant literatures' records. Among all 24 trousers measured, 9 materials are for man and the others

are for woman. The ethnic group and a number of measured clothes are followed: Hani(哈尼,4), Tibetan(藏,4), Yi(彝,4), Shui(水,2), Yao(瑶,2), Nahsi(納西,1), Lisu, Menggu(蒙古,1), Bai(白,1), Bulang(布朗,1), Pumi(普米,1), Lahu(拉祜,2). This comprises of about 50 percents (12/26 groups) in minor ethnics at the Yunnan province. Trousers are put on waists consisting of two trousers' legs, and cover front and back parts of under body. According to Hansen, trousers are divided by two groups: types of loin-clothes or leggings. By Park Chun-Soon, six origins of trousers are examined: Dae style, Yookyun style, Jeonsoo style, Darisogok style, Bang(or rectangle) style, Wontong style and Toogo style. Ko Bok-Nam classifies the traditional Korean trousers as follows: for men, wide or tight trousers, and for women, men's style and crotch-opened or closed style. For the classification of styles of trousers, form, wearing, length, fabric can be suggested. By the form of trousers, there are divided by Sapok-sewn attached style or Kojangee style. The Sapok-sewn attached style is for the construction of men's trousers in Korea. Marupok and Sapok are attached to waists by sewing. Then, Dea(belt) is used in wearing of this form of trousers. This style is observed in Honghe(紅河)Hani, Yuxi(玉溪)Hani, Diqing(迪慶)Tibetan, Honghe Yi, Chuxiong(楚雄)Yi, Qujing(曲靖)Shui, Baoshan(保山)Lisu, Dexiong(德雄)Bulang, Simao(思茅)Lahu, Lincang(臨滄)Lahu, Lijiang(麗江)Pumi, Honghe Yao. The Kojangee style is for the construction of women's trouser in Korea. In making up women's trousers, firstly, for Marupok, cutting Po along the trousers' length and folding half with length, then sewing Mu at Ko part of trousers for the completion. This style is observed in Honghe Hani, Diqing Tibetan, Kunming(昆明)Yi, Honghe Yao, Lijiang Nahsi, Mongolia, Dali(大理)Bai. Yanggakbunri style is shown in Tibetan, the form without the waist part. Sapok-sewn attached style is classified by the triangle or rectangular Mu attached, and the large or small Sapok attached style. The triangle Mu attached style is shown the form of triangle Mu sewn at Go part. This is found in Honghe Hani, Diqing Tibetan, Qujing Shui, Baoshan Lisu, Simao Lahu, Lincang Lahu, Lijiang Pumi. The rectangular Mu attached style is shown the form of rectangular Mu sewn at Go part. This is found in Honghe Hani, and especially, it is observed the

rectangular Mu in the Kojangee style in Honghe Hani. The large or small Sapok-sewn attached style is shown in Honghe Hani, Yuxi Hani, Chuxiong Yi, Qujing Shui, Honghe Yao, Dexiong Bulang. With regard to wearing, the Sapok-sewn attached style and Kojangee style are expressed in different manner. In wearing of Sapok-sewn attached style, one folds the waist part and tie it with belt. Or, a thin (less than 1cm) string is located inside the waist line for the use of tying. The Kojangee style shows a elastic band in the waist line. Also string is found to tie up for the wearing. For an exception, Honghe Yao is found that they use a front zipper or a button at side-seam open. The trousers in the Lama shows a wider waist, so the upper part of the waist line folds down in wearing it. The length of trousers is long between 80cm and 110cm. Yet, there are found that Honghe Hani's trousers are short as 35cm, and the Baoshan Lisu's 61cm or the Lincang Lahu's 70cm. The long length of trousers are observed in everyday life or formal situation. Honghe Hani's short trousers are emphasized as its role of working clothes. It can be noted that this is similar to Jeju diving women's clothes, MulSoJungee. The short trousers in Baoshan Lisu and the Lincang Lahu have not been worn alone, followed with Kakban. In this wearing, legs cannot be exhibited. This seems to be influenced from the confucianism of the Han. One may be able to assume mutual connections between the Han and other regions. The main materials are cotton or hemp. Botanical dyes are collected easily and used for its dyeing. Blue-black colored fabrics come from indigo plant. Plain cotton fabrics without patterns are used in general. Cotton fabrics are made by hands, which thus shows narrow width as small as people's waist. People have made thicker cotton fabrics from thick and rough cotton yarn. They have decorated the trousers with Hwabyun, embroidery and applique. For example, stitching Hwabyun on the plain black trousers and it is located at the end of trousers are found. Also, other applications are observed: direct embroidery on trousers, applique at crotch or end of trousers, pleats at front waist and a flower pattern.

Conclusion

Although within the same ethnic groups, each may have different costume culture by diverse custom as they have had a different tributary. And environment of production and cultural difference can influence the diversity of the costume. This costume of minor ethnics in China has reflected the origin of Eastern Asia costume culture and historical transformation of costume. In comparison with the Hanbok Paji, folding the trousers and using the string for wearing is found as similar. Also, the form and construction manner are alike. Meanwhile, the difference can be found that the length of rise of the minor ethnic's trouser is shorter than Korean's, and the width of trousers is smaller, thus ease and voluminous silhouette cannot be found in the trouser of the minor ethnics. There are found shorter and narrower style in Alpine region, whereas in hill area, people wear wider and longer trousers. This is because regional environment and productive life in general. The main material of the costume is the cotton, because this can be easily collected by the botanical production across the region. Likewise, the colors of fabric are selected by the easy way of collecting dyes in their environment. The black color appears by repeating the indigo plant dyeing. This study suggests that one can examine the type of human culture through the forms of costume which reflects folk custom, geography, economy, etc. This, in turn, can be used as a basic information for other studies, and in particular, for the study of origin and structure of the trousers.

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