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Analysis and Study on Long Pants of Folk Costume in Zhejiang Province

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Keywords: Long Pants, historical origin, costume shape, function of regional culture

Abstract. Zhejiang province is located in the coastal area of southeast China. Its folk costumes have the particular culture implication due to its unique historical and cultural background, customs and geographical regions. As an integral part of regional costumes which formed in the coastal specific natural and human environment, Long Pants not only displays a certain degree of multi-cultural identity of territoriality, comfort and efficacy but also reflects its customs, religions, aesthetic preferences and so on. Through the analysis and research of historical origins, costume shapes, colors and decorative patterns in depth, this paper systematically elaborates and sums up its functions of regional culture.

Introduction

Because of the differences in geographical regions and the modes of production and life-styles, the costumes of fishermen who live in the coastal area of Zhejiang province form a feature with its unique regional style. "In old times, the grown-up fishermen were accustomed to wearing the Chinese blouse with buttons on the right, vest and Long Pants."^[1] Long Pants is a kind of special trousers with full of regional characteristics in folk costumes in Zhejiang province. It is also the working clothes of fishermen. The term Long Pants comes from its silhouette with shorter length and looser trouser legs. The front section is the same as the back in shape. They are all straight. It is called the "Long Pants" because the appearance likes two carried lanterns when it is worn over slacks. There is no clearly records of its origins in history. From late Qing Dynasty and early Republic of China to before the founding of the People's Republic of China, such pant was generally worn by fishermen living in the East China Sea Islands. Combining literature research and customs, this paper takes Long Pants as the breakthrough point to explore historical origins, costume shapes and the transmitted feelings from fashion pattern decorated in Long Pants. For the transforming of society, as the cultural relics, the existing Long Pants is rare nowadays. The fashion drawings in this paper refer to the collections in museums of coastal villages in Zhejiang province.

The Historical Origin of Long Pants

To study the origin of Long Pants, it is necessary to know the culture of Zhejiang province. As the land of ancient States of Wu and Yue, Zhejiang province has a long history. The culture of costumes has its own unique features. For one thing, mainly affected by the culture of the Central Plains of China, its costumes have passed down the culture of States of Wu and Yue with the feeling of water-towns south of the Yangtze River. For another thing, its folk costumes are affected by the culture of Southern Fujian province during the development of the folk costumes for the following factors: geographical location, natural environment, and historical social reasons. Thus the costume itself demonstrates distinctive regional features. In the book of The Belief Investigation

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