

Combination of Daur Clothing Decorative Art and Modern Fashion Design^{*}

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Abstract: On today's clothes market and international fashion stage, the dress adornment elements of ethnic minorities have always deeply impressed design masters, received great attention and, are constantly surprising fashion designers. China is a country with multiple ethnic minorities, which have extremely rich ethnic minority dresses and adornment elements. On studying the major dress adornment elements of the Daur, a typical ethnic minority in northern China, we have discovered their strong ethnic features. The major dress adornment elements of the Daur were with the purpose to explore and continue traditions. Combining the modern fashion design with the delicate decorative art that the Daur people sew various laces and embroideries on their dresses, was to discover and use the essence of Chinese ethnic dress and adornments, and demonstrate the talent of ethnic minorities in clothes design. Given what have been founded, combined with the application of modern design methods, the adornment elements of ethnic dresses can represent their ethnic characteristics as well as reflecting the sense of the modern age.

Key words: Daur; decorative art; modern clothing; link

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Introduction

Decoration is an important factor for presenting the beauty of clothing. Sometimes a very simple decorative technique can add a finishing touch to the beauty of the clothing. The Daur clothing has various patterns and methods in its decoration, including laces, hand embroidery, color purple, rims, surface stitch, different buttons and button loops, all of which can achieve the purpose of decoration^[1]. Regarding their practical values, these adornments themselves add to the functions of the clothing. Collar rims, cuffs, front fly, and slits are major decorative parts of decoration (Fig.1). Adding embroidered patterns and colorful rims to these parts can both increase the sense of beauty and firmness of the clothing. There are usually some patterns and rimming

decorations sewn on the back and finger-joints of gloves (Fig.2), and the soles of boots, which are also both for the additional beauty, and because these are the parts that are easily worn, scratched, and torn at working^[2]. The beautifully embroidered rich patterns on the tobacco pouches and handkerchiefs can also play the function of reducing the wear and tear of the cloth and extend its usage.



Fig.1 Daur female dress



Fig.2 Daur leather glove

1 Combination of Daur Clothing Decorative Art Modern Fashion Design

The traditional art of an ethnic group and modern fashion are not contradictory concepts, but have many common features. The Daur ethnic minority clothing decorative art originates in the region far away from cities, but its simple and natural beauty can be easily merged into modern fashion in many aspects, which is the essential condition for the modern fashion design with ethnic minority characteristics.

The Daur clothing decorative culture has a long history with a very deep cultural content. Its decorative shapes and forms are in different varieties, with rich and colorful styles and details^[3]. It has a very high esthetic value in patterns, color, and forms. These are the theoretical basis for exploring how to use the Daur traditional decorative art on the modern fashion design. During the process of trying

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to combine them, the most important is how to conduct modern innovation of the ethnic traditional clothing decorative art, and extend the new ethnic clothing style created to a larger field of modern fashion design, so that the ethnic art can require a entirely new vitality in modern life and implement the excellent ethnic culture and spirit into modern clothing.

2 Reorganization of Decoration Elements

In the process of collecting, organizing, and analyzing the Daur clothing, we are trying to discover the detailed features of the Daur clothing for further development, so that they can be used in the modern fashion design and bring new inspiration to the modern fashion design.

2.1 A summary and reorganization of the lines and colors in the decorative pattern

The Chinese ethnic minority groups have the tradition of emphasizing decoration since ancient time, so the decorations on their clothing and adornments have a great variety. If we disperse the lines and colors in the decorative patterns and extract the decorative factors that have the most ethnic minority features and reference values and are most suitable to today's taste, we can then analyze the trends of modern fashion and combine them together, in order to make the modern clothing with typical ethnic styles. This is also the key for the innovation of fashion design with ethnic minority features.

In the traditional decorative line patterns, the method of "dispersing and reorganizing" was used in ancient China. The so-called "dispersing" means to disintegrate or shift the original pattern structure and matching method, break up the original structural organization, and extract the most typical and representative elements. The so-called "reorganizing" means to reorganize the dispersed and extracted elements, and conduct necessary finishing process, in order to obtain an entirely new form that can merge into the characteristics of the original patterns. This is an important innovation of forms. In the practice of the modern innovative design of the traditional art, this traditional formation method is very useful in the modern formation design. There are many decorative patterns in the Daur patterns, including the front fly, lower hem, embroidered patterns on the cuff, rimming, and the various delicate lines on the tobacco pouch (Fig. 3). Some of them are complicated and warm, and the others are simple and bright^[4]. It is important to fully analyze the structural features of their original forms in the process of dispersing, so as to ensure the relative independent and representative characteristics. It is also important to consider how to apply the traditional decorative elements into the modern fashion design in the process of reorganization (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3 Embroidery on the Daur tobacco pouch



Fig. 4 Design idea that applies the extracted pattern on a dress

2.2 Borrowing of the decorative details from the Daur clothing

Decoration is an important factor of presentation for the beauty of the clothing. Sometimes, very simple decorative details can bring a finishing touch to the beauty of the clothing. In the process of collecting, organizing, and analyzing the Daur clothing decorative culture, many unique decorative details were discovered. We have selected two (Figs. 5 and 6) to study their forms, materials, and technique, and considered how to merge these bright points into the modern fashion design (Figs. 7 and 8).

The above-mentioned are selected decorative details from the Daur clothing, which we have tried to combine with the modern fashion design and acquire new inspiration. As a matter of fact, in the long history of the Daur clothing culture, there are many things to be discovered and used in the modern clothing. We should make in-depth exploration, research, and consideration on how to fully combine both together.



Fig. 5 Patched wool decoration on the Daur leather sock

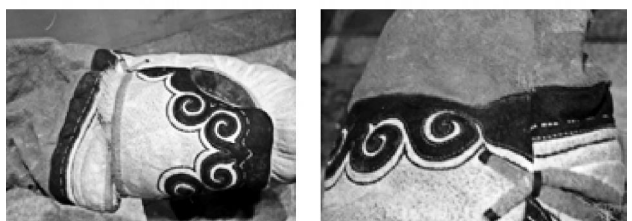


Fig. 6 The decorative detail on the Daur winter glove



Fig.7 The decorative detail above is used on the modern fashion design

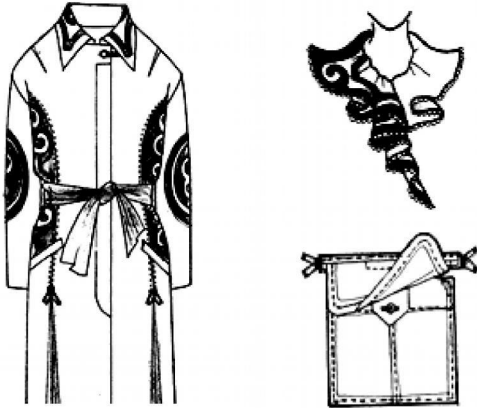


Fig.8 The detail elements in collar and pocket in Fig.7 used in the designs of the wind-breaker

2.3 Change of decorative parts

The Daur people always put laces and patterns on their robes, hats, shoes and boots, gloves, and tobacco pouches. The patterns have rich colors and lines. In their traditional clothing, the decorated parts are usually the collar, cuff, front fly, lower hem, and slit^[3]. We can try to break these traditional models and change the parts of decoration used on the clothing, in order to bring different visual effects to the clothing. We can borrow and change the design ideas for designing the decorative parts of the clothing, and combine the Daur clothing decorative pattern into the modern fashion design. (Figs.9 and 10).



Fig.9 Daur embroidered flower pattern



Fig.10 Traditional decorative parts on the Daur clothing

2.4 Change of decorative materials

Due to the influence of the backward situation in

textile, printing and dying, and clothing manufacturing industry, the materials of the ethnic clothing were limited in formation and qualities long time ago^[5]. In today's development of the textile technology, the clothing materials and auxiliary materials have had deep changes in function and quality. The ethnic clothing has more options and new styles will appear in the fashion design. The high-tech has made many designs possible. The sources of materials can be very extensive, and they also have to be decided by the design.

As a result, in the modern fashion design, the embroidery with silk thread is still a major method, but many name-brand clothes have begun to change materials, using such new materials as glittering slices, rhinestone, beads, metal, imitation stone and shell to replace the silk thread, which has achieved new visual effects (Figs. 11 and 12). We can also try to use the Daur clothing decorative pattern on the modern fashion design with this method.



Fig.11 JOHN RICHMOND 2005 Autumn and Winter Collection (Decorated with bronze slices)



Fig.12 ARNI 2005 Spring and Summer Collection (Decorated with plastic slices)

3 Conclusions

During the process of exploring the Daur ethnic style, based on the Daur traditional clothing decorative art, the modern fashion design ideas to fully create modern clothing with typical ethnic features were used. It reveals the traditional Daur clothing decorative art to the world with an entirely new method, so that the traditional clothing decorative art can be further developed as well as creating market values.

At present, many international fashion designers are trying to obtain inspiration from the Chinese ethnic minority clothing and create various new clothes that combine both ethnic minority styles and fashionable ideas. This is a great contribution of the Chinese ethnic minority clothing to the modern clothing factory. Regarding the fashion stage in the country, we should further explore and

develop the unique ethnic minority clothing tradition and create clothes that both have our own national characteristics and meet the trend of the international fashion development.

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