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Study on the Waistband of RedYao Women in Guangxi of China

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Abstract

RedYao is a subline of Yao with a long history. The name of RedYao originates the red costume of women. In the background of culture tourism, The costume of RedYao come into notice for uniqueness. But for waistband, the previous studies mostly focus on the color and shape and no analysis on craft. This article records the making process of waistband on the base of field work including the weaving of main part and hand knitting of the tassels. Now the waistband as a economic resource promotes the regression of costume craft for its' simplicity. As an a example of the waistband, Craft Simplification can foster interest, popularize the basic craft knowledge and enlarge the inheritor cycle which provides a new way to protect the traditional craft.

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Introduction

RedYao is a subline with a long history of Yao. They call themselves ju lian or ju nuo^[1] which means Yao people. They mainly lives in Sishui and Heping village, Longsheng county, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in China for more than 1900 years. RedYao is famous for red costume of women which wins the good

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reputation of nation in peach forest. The costume of RedYao is decorated by wax printing, embroidery and brocade which embody the underlying connotation of Yao culture. The waistband of RedYao women is two cun(0.67 metre) wide by nine chi (three metres) long in plain weave which is decorated with tassels in both ends. It is made by simple waist loom. It is a necessity of life also a traditional Artwork.

Research method

The research objects is the waistband of RedYao including the first document evidence and papers about RedYao, the material items of common people in the daily life of RedYao women and on display of the Guangxi Museum of Nationalities. The three steps were included: first of all, related literatures about RedYao made us understand the history of the nation. Based on studies of material items, the aesthetic significance and effectiveness use of the waistband is analyzed. Secondly, based on the field work done within the Longsheng County for several times, the weaving process of waistband is reproduced. At last, the popularity of the waistband technique provides a new way to protect the traditional craft.

Results and discussion

1.1. The practical function of waistband.

In the RedYao's costume, the appearance of waistband is not only to meet the need of dressing , but also to decorate and beautify. Firstly, it meets the need of dressing. Because the women's upper outer garment of RedYao have the "left lapel". With no button and the cloth is heavy, the waistband is needed to tighten the garment. Secondly, the waistband is a decoration. It is bright red or rose red and echoes the colour of garment which provides a visions transition from the bright-coloured garment to the plain black apron. The use of waistband is drawing the outline of women's profile. When women walk the tassels wave which are full of dynamic beautify and rhythm sensation.



Fig.1. girls in weaving garment and waistband

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