

Aesthetic Characteristics and Social Function Analysis of Lisu Ethnic Costume Art

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Abstract: The clothing of the Lisu ethnic group, as a splendid and colorful national art treasure, has aesthetic value far beyond visual stunning. Each stitch and thread contains the ingenuity of the craftsman and the delicate expression of national emotions, highlighting a unique blend of primitive and modern charm. The clever combination of complexity and simplicity not only reflects the profound understanding and awe of the Lisu people towards the natural world, but also reflects their pursuit of a harmonious and symbiotic life philosophy. In terms of color, the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group is known for its vibrant and eye-catching appearance. Through the clever combination of high saturation colors such as red, yellow, and blue, it conveys a love for life and a longing for the future. In terms of pattern design, cultural elements such as myths and legends, totem worship, etc. are integrated, which not only traces the memory of ancestors but also serves as an important carrier for the inheritance of national culture. In social occasions, the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group is a symbol of identity and status. It is like a vivid historical picture, silently telling the story of the nation, strengthening the cohesion and sense of identity within the ethnic group, and playing an irreplaceable role in promoting ethnic unity and harmonious development.

Keywords: Lisu Ethnic Clothing; Aesthetic Features; Social Function

1. Introduction

The Lisu ethnic group, a brilliant pearl embedded in the southwestern border of our country, has a clothing culture that is like a river crossing time and space, carrying a thousand years of wisdom and emotion, flowing until now, shining brightly. The costumes of the Lisu people are not just daily necessities for covering their bodies and

avoiding the cold. They are living fossils of national history and culture. Each set of costumes is a vivid historical book that tells the story of the harmonious coexistence between the Lisu people and nature, as well as their unique pursuit and expression of beauty.

In terms of aesthetic features, the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group demonstrates a high level of artistic accomplishment with its complex and exquisite craftsmanship, bright and harmonious color matching, and profound pattern design. From simple lines to intricate embroidery decorations, from the natural sun, moon, and stars to mythological totemic symbols, every detail reveals the ingenuity and profound cultural heritage of the Lisu people. These costumes are not only a visual enjoyment, but also a spiritual touch, making people admire the aesthetic taste and artistic creativity of the Lisu people while appreciating them.

When it comes to social functions, the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group plays multiple roles. They are not only symbols of identity and status, but also help individuals position themselves within their ethnic group; It is also an important medium for socializing and etiquette, conveying respect and friendliness through the wearing and matching of clothing, and promoting unity and harmony within the ethnic group. In addition, the costumes of the Lisu ethnic group also carry the responsibility of educating future generations. Through the patterns and stories on the costumes, they impart the history, culture, and values of the nation to the younger generation, ensuring the transmission of national culture from generation to generation. Therefore, a deep analysis of the art of Lisu costumes is not only a discussion of an aesthetic phenomenon, but also a comprehensive understanding of the integrity, continuity, and profundity of Lisu culture.

2.The Aesthetic Characteristics of Lisu

Ethnic Costumes

2.1 Suitable for Both Complexity and Simplicity

The clothing of the Lisu ethnic group presents a simple yet not simplistic aesthetic in its overall structure. Its basic style is usually simple, mainly in two forms: top and bottom skirt or top and bottom pants. The tops are often paired or slanted, with simple and elegant designs on the collar, cuffs, and other areas, without too many complicated decorations, giving people a clean and neat feeling. The bottom dress or pants also focus on simple lines, emphasizing practicality and comfort. This minimalist design reflects the Lisu people's pursuit of nature and a simple life.

However, within the seemingly simple clothing structure, the decoration of Lisu ethnic costumes is extremely rich and complex. The Lisu people are good at using various colors, patterns, and decorations to embellish their clothing, making it shine with colorful charm. In terms of color, the Lisu ethnic group advocates the principle of "good five colors", cleverly applying bright colors such as red, yellow, green, blue (black), and white to various parts of clothing. These colors complement each other, creating a lively and rhythmic beauty. For example, the Hua Lisu ethnic group in Baoshan area often wears red as the main color tone in their clothing, paired with auxiliary colors such as yellow and green, giving a strong visual impact.

In terms of patterns, there are various types of patterns on the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group, including animals, plants, geometric shapes, etc. These patterns often have specific symbolic meanings, reflecting the Lisu people's reverence for nature and gods, as well as their longing for a better life. For example, some clothing may feature bird patterns, symbolizing freedom and auspiciousness; The pattern of flowers represents beauty and prosperity. The Lisu people vividly display these patterns on their clothing through exquisite embroidery, weaving and other crafts, making the clothing more artistically infectious.

In addition, the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group is also accompanied by a large number of decorations, such as gemstones, pearls and agates, gold, silver and jade pendants, flower bags, jewelry, necklaces, etc. These decorations not only add a sense of luxury to the clothing,

but also reflect the wealth and status of the Lisu people. On some important occasions, Lisu women wear a full set of decorations, shining brightly from head to toe, showing unparalleled nobility and beauty.

The aesthetic principle of combining simplicity and complexity in Lisu costumes has gradually been formed by the Lisu people in their long-term practical life. It not only reflects the pursuit of simplicity and beauty by the Lisu people, but also showcases their love for rich decoration. This seemingly contradictory combination has achieved a harmonious beauty in the clothing of the Lisu people, fully demonstrating their aesthetic wisdom and artistic creativity.

2.2 Rhythm and Rhythm

The beauty of rhythm and melody in Lisu ethnic costumes is mainly reflected in three aspects. Firstly, there is static aesthetics, which creates a lively and rhythmic beauty through the regular combination and repeated appearance of colors. The Hua Lisu people in the Baoshan area apply the five colors of red, yellow, green, blue (black), and white to various parts of their clothing. These colors complement and complement each other in their clothing, forming a harmonious color rhythm. For example, the red color of the top contrasts with the green color of the skirt, while the yellow waistband is used for transition and harmony, making the entire outfit more colorful and vivid.

Secondly, there is dynamic rhythm. When the Lisu people walk, the bead strings hanging around the women's round hats sway rhythmically, the decorative materials carried by them beat rhythmically on the body during human movement, and the rhythmic swaying of the Lisu women's pleated skirts in the Nujiang area all exhibit a dynamic and rhythmic beauty. These dynamic elements change with the movement of the human body, giving people a sense of agility and liveliness. For example, when Lisu women walk, the hem of pleated skirts gently sways with their steps, like waves, full of rhythm and melody.

Finally, there is the musical rhythm, and the Lisu ethnic costumes use colors freely and boldly, with bright and pure colors, just like the colors on an artist's palette. On the basis of a unified color tone, paired with rhythmic color lines, ribbons, and surfaces, coupled with the

collision sound of decorations during human movement, such as the crisp sound of copper bells and bamboo bells around the waist, it gives people a musical rhythmic beauty both visually and audibly. This musical rhythm not only enhances the artistic appeal of clothing, but also harmonizes the costumes of the Lisu ethnic group with their music culture, together forming their unique artistic charm.

2.3 Compare and Reconcile

Comparison is a common expression technique in the design of Lisu ethnic costumes. In terms of color, the Lisu people are good at using color contrast, especially the contrast of primary colors, to create vivid colors and give people a strong visual impact. Comparing black and white, red and green, etc., can highlight the characteristics and connotations of clothing. At the same time, a contrast has been formed between large and small areas, complexity and simplification, and virtual and real aspects, making the characteristics of the objects more prominent and enhancing the artistic appeal of the clothing. For example, on a piece of clothing belonging to the Lisu ethnic group, a large area of black fabric contrasts with a small area of red embroidery. The steady black color complements the bright red color, making the embroidery more prominent and eye-catching. In addition, the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group also emphasizes harmony in comparison. By combining colors and arranging patterns, contrasting elements are coordinated to achieve overall harmony and unity. For example, in the contrast between red and green, yellow can be added for transition and harmony, making the colors softer and more harmonious. In the design of patterns, attention will also be paid to the combination of complexity and simplicity, as well as the combination of reality and virtuality, to make the entire garment both diverse and unified.

3. The Social Function of Lisu Ethnic Clothing

3.1 Cultural Inheritance

The clothing of the Lisu ethnic group is like a treasure trove that carries rich cultural connotations of the ethnic group. It is an important embodiment of the history, traditions, beliefs, customs, and other aspects of the Lisu people. On top of that exquisite clothing, every

pattern, every color, and every decoration seems to be telling an ancient story and conveying profound symbolic meaning.

The patterns on the clothing are rich and colorful, some of which may represent deities. In the beliefs of the Lisu people, deities are the guardians and guides of their lives. These divine patterns may be majestic images of gods or mysterious symbols, embroidered or painted on clothing, expressing the reverence and prayers of the Lisu people for the gods. When people wear clothing with divine patterns, they seem to feel the protection of the gods, gaining courage and strength to face various challenges in life.

Some patterns may also symbolize ancestors. For the Lisu people, the achievements and wisdom of their ancestors are their proud wealth. Ancestral patterns may be totems of families or depictions of heroic deeds of ancestors. These patterns remind future generations not to forget their roots and inherit the spirit and traditions of the family. Through the ancestral patterns on clothing, the Lisu people establish a spiritual connection with their ancestors, allowing their wisdom and courage to continue in future generations.

Natural elements are also a common theme in the clothing patterns of the Lisu ethnic group. Natural elements such as mountains, rivers, flowers, and trees reflect the Lisu people's love and reverence for nature. They live in the embrace of nature and coexist harmoniously with it. These natural patterns not only showcase the Lisu people's appreciation for the beauty of nature, but also express their gratitude towards nature.

Colors also have specific symbolic meanings in the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group. The bright red color may represent passion, courage, and vitality, symbolizing the tenacious spirit and indomitable will of the Lisu people in the face of difficulties. Blue may symbolize a deep sky and a peaceful lake, symbolizing peace, tranquility, and composure. Green may represent a vibrant land, reflecting a love for life and care for nature. The combination of different colors creates a unique visual effect in the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group, conveying rich emotions and meanings.

Decorations add a unique charm to the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group. Gorgeous decorations such as gemstones, pearls, agate, gold, silver, and jade pendants not only showcase the

wealth and aesthetic pursuits of the Lisu people, but may also contain special meanings. Flower bags, jewelry, necklaces and other small accessories are like small moments of beauty in daily life, embellishing the daily life of the Lisu people.

Through the inheritance of clothing, the culture of the Lisu ethnic group has been passed down from generation to generation. The elders pass on the skills of making clothing and their understanding of clothing culture to the younger generations, enabling them to gain a deeper understanding of the history and traditions of their own nation during the learning process. This kind of inheritance is not only the transmission of skills, but also a continuation of spirit and a commitment to national culture. It enables the Lisu people to maintain their unique identity and shine in a diverse world, while also enhancing the cohesion of the nation, bringing the Lisu people together to face the challenges and opportunities of life together.

3.2 Identity Recognition

As an important symbol of ethnic identity, the clothing of the Lisu people holds a pivotal position in their daily lives. There are certain differences in clothing among the Lisu ethnic group in different regions and branches, which have become important criteria for distinguishing identity.

Each unique clothing style represents the cultural characteristics of a specific region or branch. For example, the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group in some regions may be characterized by bright colors and complex patterns, while the clothing in other regions may be more simple and elegant. These differences reflect the differences in natural environment, lifestyle, and cultural traditions in different regions.

When the Lisu people wear their own ethnic costumes, a strong sense of belonging and identity arises. They seemed to have found their place in the national family, feeling the warmth and strength from their ancestors and compatriots. This sense of belonging not only makes them feel at ease and proud in their hometown, but even in places far away from their homeland, as long as they see people wearing the same Lisu ethnic costumes, they can immediately find spiritual support and reliance.

Wearing ethnic costumes can also enhance the national pride of the Lisu people. That exquisite clothing is the crystallization of their national wisdom and creativity, and the external manifestation of their unique culture. Whenever they wear traditional costumes, what they showcase to the world is not only their beautiful appearance, but also a confidence and pride in their own ethnic culture.

In their interactions with other ethnic groups, the unique costumes of the Lisu people have also become an important window to showcase their cultural characteristics. It attracts the attention of other ethnic groups, making them curious and interested in the culture of the Lisu people. Through the display of clothing, the Lisu people can introduce their ethnic traditions, customs, and values to the outside world, promoting mutual understanding and communication between ethnic groups. This kind of communication not only enriches the cultural connotations of various ethnic groups, but also enhances the friendship and unity between them, laying the foundation for building a harmonious and diverse social environment.

3.3 Social Etiquette

In the social activities of the Lisu ethnic group, clothing plays a crucial role in etiquette. On important occasions such as festivals, weddings, funerals, etc., the Lisu people carefully select and wear specific costumes to express their respect and importance for the occasion.

At the festive moment of the wedding, Lisu women will wear the most gorgeous costumes and various dazzling jewelry. They dress up carefully not only to showcase their beauty, but also to express blessings and joy to the newlyweds. The bright colors, exquisite patterns, and gorgeous decorations symbolize the beauty and happiness of marriage, adding a strong festive atmosphere to the wedding. The wedding costumes of the Lisu ethnic group usually use festive colors such as red and pink, symbolizing the prosperity of the newlyweds' lives. At the same time, the floral patterns and auspicious symbols on the clothing also express good wishes for the newlyweds.

At a solemn funeral, people will wear solemn attire. Black, white and other solid colored clothing express condolences and respect for the deceased. The solemnity and simplicity of clothing reflect the reverence of the Lisu

people for life and their remembrance of the deceased. Funeral attire usually avoids overly bright colors and ornate decorations to reflect a solemn and dignified atmosphere.

The standardization and emphasis on the costumes of the Lisu ethnic group fully reflect their social etiquette and cultural traditions. From the style and color of clothing to the matching of decorations, there are strict regulations and established customs. These norms are not only respect for social occasions, but also for the inheritance and maintenance of national culture. They help maintain social order and harmonious interpersonal relationships, making social activities of the Lisu ethnic group more orderly and solemn.

3.4 Aesthetic Education

The aesthetic value of Lisu costumes is like a treasure of art, playing a crucial role in cultivating the aesthetic concepts and artistic cultivation of the Lisu people. Starting from childhood, children of the Lisu ethnic group come into contact with and appreciate the clothing making and wearing of their elders in their daily lives. They observed the exquisite patterns, brilliant colors, and unique shapes with curious eyes, planting the seeds of love and pursuit of beauty in their hearts.

The exquisite patterns on the clothing, some are delicate embroidery, some are antique weaving, each pattern embodies the wisdom and creativity of the Lisu people. The vivid animal patterns, beautiful floral patterns, mysterious geometric patterns, etc. not only showcase the observation and perception of the Lisu people towards nature and life, but also stimulate children's imagination and creativity. Through appreciating these patterns, children learn to express their emotions and ideas in an artistic way.

The brilliant color matching is also a major feature of the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group. Vibrant colors such as red, yellow, blue, and green interweave with each other, creating a strong visual impact. While appreciating these colors, children gradually learn how to use them to express emotions and create beauty. They will try to use color combinations from Lisu ethnic costumes in their painting, handmade crafts, and other activities to cultivate their aesthetic abilities.

The unique styling design adds artistic charm to the clothing of the Lisu ethnic group.

Whether it's loose robes, exquisite skirts, gorgeous headwear, or unique shoes, they all reflect the unique understanding and pursuit of beauty by the Lisu people. These designs are not only aesthetically pleasing but also practical and functional, providing children with excellent examples for learning design and craftsmanship. Through observing and imitating the clothing styles of their elders, children develop their own aesthetic taste and creativity.

The costumes of the Lisu ethnic group have become an important source of artistic creation. Artists such as painters, poets, and musicians draw inspiration from clothing and create many works of art with Lisu ethnic characteristics. These works not only enrich the cultural connotation of the Lisu ethnic group, but also leave valuable artistic wealth for future generations. At the same time, the inheritance and development of Lisu ethnic costumes have also promoted the innovation and prosperity of ethnic culture. With the changes of the times, the Lisu people continue to incorporate new elements and creativity while maintaining the characteristics of traditional clothing, making their clothing more in line with modern aesthetic needs. This innovative spirit not only promotes the development of Lisu culture, but also provides useful references for cultural innovation of other ethnic groups.

4. Conclusion

The aesthetic value of Lisu costumes plays an important role in cultivating the aesthetic concepts and artistic cultivation of the Lisu people. Since childhood, the Lisu people have gradually formed a recognition and understanding of beauty by observing and learning from the clothing production and wearing of their elders. The exquisite patterns, vibrant colors, and unique shapes on clothing inspire people's aesthetic emotions and creativity, becoming an important source of artistic creation for the Lisu ethnic group. At the same time, the inheritance and development of Lisu ethnic costumes have also promoted the innovation and prosperity of ethnic culture.

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