

THE MEANING OF COLOR AND CLOTHES IN KYRGYZ CULTURE

ЗНАЧЕНИЕ ЦВЕТА И ОДЕЖДЫ В КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ КУЛЬТУРЕ

Аннотациясы: Адамдын сырткы келбети ёзү жана анын улуту жөнүндө айтып турат. Кыргыз элинин салтык кийим кечелери улуттун руханий маданиятын жана эь бир маанилиц экенин жана ёлкёниц тарыхы менен да тыгыз байланышта экенин билдирип турат. Бул макалада кыргыздын улуттук кийим-кечеси жана анын маданий мааниси жөнүндө айтылат.

Негизги сөздөр: баш кийим, Ак калпак, Элечек, эркек кишинин салтык кийим-кечеси, аялдын салтык кийим-кечеси, тон, чапан, белдемчи, чепкен, чыптама.

Аннотация: Внешность человека может рассказать многое о человеке и его народе. Традиционная одежда Кыргызского народа очень важная часть матери и духовной культуры нации и связана с историей страны. Это статья о национальной кыргызской одежде, ее чертах и культурном значении.

Ключевые слова: Головной убор, Ак Калпак, Элечек, традиционная одежда мужчины, традиционная одежда женщины, тон, чапан, белдемчи, чепкен, чыптама.

Abstract: Personal appearance can tell a lot about a person and his nation. Traditional clothes of the Kyrgyz people is important part of material and spiritual culture of the nation, and it is closely linked with the country's history. This article is about Kyrgyz national clothes, about its features and cultural significance.

Keywords: Headdress, Ak Kalpak, Elechek, traditional men's costume, traditional women's costume, ton, chapana, beldemchi, chepken, chyptama

Kyrgyz culture has been greatly influenced by their nomadic heritage. It is reflected in the way a household was run, in customs and rites. Because of their nomadic lifestyle, Kyrgyz people moved from place to place. Today most of the Kyrgyz are settled, moving to larger cities, but there are still traditional villages in the mountains and rural areas. Traditional clothing of the Kyrgyz has undergone many changes during its development. As other aspects of material culture, the Kyrgyz clothes clearly show distinctive features that were peculiar to individual tribal and territorial groups, it is also distinguished by the unique typical for the nomads. In common use was clothing made of coarse woolen cloth of domestic manufacture, made from animal skins, felt, leather and wild animals. Personal appearance can tell a lot about a person and his nation. Traditional clothes of the Kyrgyz people is important part of material and spiritual culture of the nation, and it is closely linked with the country's history. In this article I

want to tell about Kyrgyz national clothes, about its features and cultural significance.

The mountains exert a strong influence over every aspect of Kyrgyz life. That is true also about their traditional national costume. Even though the country experiences a continental climate, that means summers can be very hot with temperatures rising into the forties, nomadic life in the high meadows (jailoo) meant that temperatures could change dramatically during the course of the day – and nighttime temperatures could fall below zero. The main emphasis in the creation of Kyrgyz National clothing is the heat preserving. Winter clothing was made on the basis of cotton, furs of wild animals and felt. It is known that Kyrgyz people have worked on the land since ancient times, but most of them led nomadic life, so the traditional Kyrgyz clothing is inherent features of nomad's clothing. Outdoor clothes is mainly was made of wool pets, but the most popular clothing was made of raccoon, sable and fox skin. There

was a difference between ordinary people and rich people. Clothing of poor people was made from calico, while the clothing of rich people was made from silk, velvet and brocade.

Since ancient times the Kyrgyz people reflected the nation's coloration and traditions in their appearance. Any traditional style of clothing is closely connected with the peculiarities of climate and natural conditions of the region, so the Kyrgyz people were focused on practicality and heat retention in their national dresses. Traditional costume of the Kyrgyz men and women has remained unchanged for hundred years. Moreover, with the passing of the years it becomes more valuable and popular. Even the Kyrgyz fashion designers and fashion houses increasingly use national patterns and the Kyrgyz ornament in their collections.

Female and male headdress played a significant role in the life of Kyrgyz people. It was strictly prohibited to go bareheaded, to throw the headdress on the floor, to forget it or even to exchange it on something else. The most popular Kyrgyz headdress is Ak Kalpak. All round the year has been worn white wool hats Ak-Kalpak-Kyrgyz National hat. Even now days Kalpak is being the most popular national male hat in Kyrgyzstan. Light-colored felt hat, embroidered with patterns in contrasting colors – it is the ancient Kyrgyz conical hat which was made of four wedges expanding downward. When ready to use the edges usually bend up, so it keep the eyes from the sun and face from the rain and snow. White, light wool keeps the head warm in wintertime as well as reflect runrays in hot summers. Kalpak reminds pyramidal shape of mountain peaks of Tien-Shan mountain kingdom. Black or colourful edges, various patterns, tassel, decorated the cone of Kalpak, displays the fantasy of people who make Kalpaks in larger numbers. According to Kyrgyz traditions it is allowed to wear Kalpak indoors, eat or even pray. Very often Kalpaks are given to the culprits of family or public holidays, honorable guests. According to people's believes Kalpak has some sacred guarding strength.

Men's national costume includes a wide tunic shirt with a high collar, a sheepskin coat that is called "ton", and a quilted "chapan". Chapan is a long outerwear that is sewed on wadding or a camel hair. The lining is made of a cotton print,

and the outside is covered with silk velvet, woolen cloth or velvet. There was a wide variety of chapan or ton – men's dressing gowns. They all were wrapped over the right side, which is typical for the clothes of ancient Turkic nomads. A chapan had a tunic-like design, tight sleeves, and dense through stitching. Green lace was sewn on the edges of the flap, sleeves and hem. There were chapans for women and men in the old days, but today only the elder people wear it. A chepken, a dressing gown made from woolen homemade fabric, was also worn over the rest of the clothes. Thus it was made to be wide, long-flapped, with long and wide sleeves. It was made without lining, which was different from the analogous clothes of the northern Kyrgyz, whose dressing gown had a lining. The winter type of clothes included a fur coat (ton, postun) made from sheepskin. Rich peasants made it from the fur of an otter, fox or wolf. One fur coat was made from six to eight skins. The design was of one type. The shoulders were slightly canted; sleeves were wide; the flap became wider at the bottom; and the wrapover was deep. It also had side vents. Southern Kyrgyz dyed the coat in two colors: white or orange. The most ancient form of fur coat is without a collar. A border of black fur (4-5 cm width) was sewn on the edges of the coat. Sometimes the border was double, both black and white fur. Not only fur but also strips of black velvet or satin were also sewn on. Felt clothes such as kementay (raincoat) were usual amongst cattle-breeders of northern Kyrgyzstan. The single-breasted light dressing gown – jelek – made from cotton fabric was usual amongst Kyrgyz men of the older generation during the warm season. It was compulsory to wear a sash, a wide leather or velvet belt, decorated with silver plates. The shoes of Kyrgyz were of different kinds: chokoy, paycheck, charik. The first two were worn by the poor. Chokoy had a stocking-like shape; it was made from one piece of skin up to the knees. Paycheck had no top. It was a piece of skin with a narrow leather strip which was tied around the ankle. Charik was made from the tanned skin of a horse or ox. Winter Kyrgyz men's clothing is a sheepskin coat and wool trousers. Shoes are the boots with soft soles without heels, which are called "Maasy". Maasy are usually wearing with galoshes.

Tebetel – female headdress made velvet and symbolizes freedom from conjugal ties, was worn by the young girls. Winter types were trimmed with marten fur and decorated with feathers of eagle owl. Wedding cone-shaped head dress called “shokulo” was made of bright brocade and velvet. It should be done a long time before the wedding. According to traditions “shokulo” was made and decorated by “Djene” (elder daughter-in-law) . After wedding, bride’s “shokulo” was kept in her parents house while her girlish tebetel was passed to her younger sister.

Headdress is an indispensable attribute of a married woman. It sits tight on the head and completely cover the hair. Headdress is decorated with ornaments made by various types of seams with colored threads. A turban of white material called “elechek” is always wearing over the hat. The Kyrgyz woman were wearing elechek in summer and winter. It was absolutely unaccepted to go outside without it. “Elechek” was considered as holy. It was only thing that stay along with holy book of Koran. (in the past, when the Kyrgyzes lived in the yurts, those two items were placed on the special shelf on the female part of the yurta.) After death of mistress, white turban, which she wore being alive, served her as shroud.

The main features of women’s costumes are the dress and wide trousers. Young girls wore clothes made of bright silk fabrics. “Koynok” is dress-shirt which was worn over the “chypatama”. Chypatama is a sleeveless velvet jacket, embroidered with black color patterns. Red is typical for a young woman’s dress, whereas old people wear clothes of darker colors. Dresses were made long, almost down to the feet, with sleeves much lower than the wrist. For any years women’s dress as well as men’s remained tunic-like. Gores with small double-sided inclination are inserted on both sides. Straight or a little bit tightened sleeves are sewn on at a straight angle. The most ancient dress with a horizontally cut neck from shoulder to shoulder is the turajaka. A border was sewn on its neck. Girls and women wore this type of dress. A dress with horizontal-vertical cut neck was calleduzunjaka. Women’s wide trousers were made from multicolored, bright fabrics. The design was the same as that of men’s trousers, with a rhomb-like insertion. They were made long. An ornamental border was sewn on the bottom edges of trousers down to the level of the ankle. A skirt

– beldemchi – worn on the hips, with a front vent, is very original, and organically connected to the Kyrgyz women’s clothes. It was worn on top of a dress or a dressing gown. A felt girdle, covered by black fabric, usually velvet was an essential part of the beldemchi. Married women wore beldemchi, usually after the birth of the first child. It was a necessity in nomadic conditions. It allowed free movement while protecting one from cold when riding a horse or doing housework in the open air or in a cold yurt. It was stitched together to the belt. Traditional woman’s clothing consists of a long white shirt that was served both as a dress and as long trousers, which were worn under the dress. Vest was worn over a dress. “Maasy” is woman’s shoes embroidered with black color patterns.

Features of the nomadic lifestyle of Kyrgyz people have been reflected in their national clothes. First, the clothes had to be light and comfortable, so that a nomad could comfortably ride on horseback. Second, the clothes had to be strong, but uncomplicated, so that it could be home-made. Third, it must reliably protect people from the cold, that is important in a mountain climate. The main materials for making clothes were coarse wool, felt, fur and leather. The noble families could afford expensive clothes made of fabrics from the towns of the Great Silk Road.

Kyrgyz traditional clothes, as well as the clothes of any other nations, can be valuable source for exposure ancient ethno genetic and cultural links. They appeared as original product of centuries old synthesis of Central Asian cultural phenomena, at the same time keeping many features of costumes of ancient people. In present days people in Kyrgyzstan wear different types of clothes. In villages you will observe women wearing traditional clothes like skirts, herchiefs. In cities they are less traditional and more modern.

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