

A Study on Aesthetic Artistic Characteristics of Typical Patterns of Tongdao Dong Brocade Based on Dong People's Humanities

Yi Xiao

Visual communication design, Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Huaihua University, Huaihua City, Hunan Province, 418008

Email:15115295588@163.com

Keywords: Dong culture; Tongdao Dong Minority; Dong brocade; Typical patterns; Artistic features

Abstract: In Chinese traditional culture, Dong culture occupies an important position, of which Tongdao Dong culture is a typical representative of several Dong cultures, and Tongdao Dong brocade is an important constituent, which plays a significant role that cannot be ignored in the process of inheriting and promoting Dong culture. Tongdao Dong brocade patterns are exquisite and elegant, full of artistic connotation, and have abundant ethnic characteristics in content, pattern, composition and color, all of which fully embody the artistic beauty of Dong culture. This paper has done a thorough research to the above. First it introduced the folk custom implication and the cultural origin of Tongdao Dong brocade pattern; then from three aspects including pattern content, pattern color and pattern structure, it discussed the aesthetic artistic characteristics of Tongdao Dong brocade's typical patterns, and summarized the artistic connotation and the aesthetic rule within Tongdao Dong brocade. It is expected that Dong culture can be endowed with new vitality, so that it can realize better inheritance and development in the near future, and step onto the world stage.

1. Introduction

Tongdao Dong Minority Autonomous County has played an important role in the process of inheriting the ethnic intangible cultural heritage, and is believed to be one of the places where Dong brocade is concentrated. Tongdao Dong Minority Autonomous County is located in the south of Huaihua City in Hunan Province, at the junction of Hunan, Guangxi and Guizhou provinces. The area concentrates Dong culture such as sacrifice, singing and dancing, diet, clothing, architecture and so forth. Especially in clothing, it has a long historical origin, of which Tongdao Dong brocade is the most famous. Tongdao Dong brocade was called "Lun Zhi" in ancient times. It has a variety of types and obvious artistic features. It was originally born in the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period. It belongs to a traditional handicraft, which inherits the weaving skills of the ancient Baiyue ethnic group and shows the civilization and wisdom of the Dong people. Tongdao Dong brocade has a unique weaving technique, among which the patterns are rich and varied, the colors are bright and colorful, and the implication is profound. It contains unique cultural connotations. The patterns are elegant and unique, abstract and complicated. Most of them are presented in geometric figures. The diamond patterns are the main ones, and the artistic quality is extremely high. They occupy an important position in many brocade cultures in our country. In 2008, Dong brocade weaving techniques were officially included in the National Intangible Cultural Heritage List, thus becoming one of the important carriers for displaying and inheriting Dong culture, and developing into a classic symbol symbolizing Dong culture.

2. The Folk Connotation and Cultural Origin of in Tongdao Dong Brocade Patterns

2.1 Folk Connotation

"The symbolic meaning given to decorative patterns by human beings is universal, tortuous and profound". Tongdao Dong brocade has rich and varied patterns, with distinctive features and

beautiful colors. In the spiritual world of the Dong people, they believe that "all things have spirituality", Therefore, the most commonly used means in many artistic expressions is to "express feelings with things". They like to express their beautiful blessings in life and people's hearts with the help of various animals and plants in nature. They are eager to fulfill their ideals and wishes with the help of the aura of all things in the world, thus obtaining a happy life. It is precisely based on the existence of this ideology that most of the patterns in Tongdao Dong brocade are expressed as various animals and plants in nature, of which the most representative ones are sun pattern (representing nature), gourd pattern (representing plants), spider pattern and phoenix pattern (representing animals), etc. In addition, Dong culture has a long history, and farming culture is one of it. Therefore, smart and simple Dong women used their intelligence and wisdom to weave Dong brocade with plant patterns, which not only met the aesthetic needs of Dong people, but also created various Dong brocade artistic works. It can be said to enrich Dong people's spiritual culture to a great extent. ^[1]

2.2 Cultural Origin

"Meaningful forms can be regarded as symbols. The use of a medium to represent or refer to something that can be understood by the public. According to Pierce's semiotic theory, any symbol is composed of three elements, namely, media related matter, object related matter and interpretation related matter. Each symbol has three related elements. If anything does not show these three related elements, it is not a complete symbol. " The artistic creation of Tongdao Dong brocade has profoundly confirmed this concept. The decoration and design of Dong brocade patterns are a collection of various conforming applications. At the same time, Dong brocade is also decorated on various objects as another cultural symbol in the sense, and is endowed with a good will to contact with gods. Extract patterns from nature, obtain creative inspiration, and repose their own beautiful emotions, endowing patterns with beautiful language implication, to a large extent, bearing the Dong people's beautiful long-cherished wish for life. In this symbol system, each symbol exists independently and has its own characteristics. It can be said that the symbol expression forms of typical patterns of Tongdao Dong brocade are mainly divided into two types, namely abstract art and concrete art, which not only reflect the local culture of Dong Minority, but also feel the love of Dong people for nature and life.

1) Sun pattern: Tongdao Dong people believe in the gods in the sky. They believe that the sun, moon, stars, etc. are the supreme existence and the embodiment of the gods. They can bring people blessings and protection and make people live a happy and beautiful life. Therefore, the sun pattern is woven on the Dong brocade. Relatives and friends can be protected by the God of Nature by wearing the costumes made of these Dong brocade, thus obtaining health and happiness.

2) Gourd pattern: There is a legend in Tongdao Dong Minority that a gourd once fell into the water and was rescued by villagers. Gourd pattern came into being and was passed down from generation to generation, representing good luck.

3) Phoenix pattern: Under normal circumstances, Dong people like to weave phoenix pattern in brocade quilts. The bird pattern with its head held high is used as the trim of brocade head handkerchief. Some look at each other relatively, while others show the posture of fluttering wings and flying, symbolizing good luck

4) Well-shaped pattern: Well-shaped pattern is very common in Tongdao Dong brocade. As Dong people like drinking well water, they regard well water as the source of life, have great respect for well water, and call well water the god of good luck. It is incorporated into the Dong brocade, hoping to be protected and blessed by the gods.

5) Spider pattern: The Tongdao Dong people believe in the "Sa" god. As one of the "Sa" gods, the ancestor god of "Sa Ma Sui E", is incarnated by spider, which bears many children and has strong vitality, spider pattern has also been widely used in Dong brocade ^[2]. The connotation is to have more children and more blessings, which fully reflects the respect and worship of the Tongdao Dong people for maternal reproduction.

In short, in Tongdao Dong Minority, the application of each pattern in Dong brocade shows rich

artistic connotation and cultural origin. The close connection between life and art is not only a symbol for Tongdao Dong people to express their wishes and spirits, but also a key carrier for inheriting Dong culture.

3. The Aesthetic and Artistic Features of Typical Patterns of Tongdao Dong Brocade

The birth and development of Tongdao Dong brocade cannot be separated from the ingenuity of Dong women. Every moment of weaving presents the charm and value of manufacturing art. The design and creation of Dong brocade patterns did not have ready-made reference patterns at first. In the continuous development of our country, they are passed on to weavers through dynasties. This art has profound cultural value and humanistic connotation, which contains intriguing temperament and charm. The reason why Tongdao Dong brocade has today's achievements and connotations is closely related to its composition, color, styling and other aspects, which fully shows the diversity of aesthetic and artistic features. The following is an analysis of the artistic features of Dong brocade patterns from various aspects and angles in combination with the actual content of Tongdao Dong brocade, hoping to better grasp the symbolic changes and language forms of Dong brocade patterns on this basis.

3.1 Pattern Content: Combined with Local Sentiment, Profound Connotation

The core of pattern inheritance is based on ethnic culture and local customs. It not only plays a certain decorative role, but also embodies Dong people's love and reverence for all natural things and expresses their expectation for a better life. The formation of Dong brocade patterns is not realized in a short period of time. It cannot be achieved overnight, nor directly imitate natural things, but it is formed by the intelligent Dong people through conscious refinement and creation in the long humanistic activities. Different patterns have different cultural cores and different values. For example, the sun pattern, spider pattern and other patterns in Tongdao Dong brocade are formed on the basis of the "Sa God" culture believed by Dong people. It is an artistic product evolved from spiritual culture. It fully expresses the Dong people's respect and worship for the "Sa God", expresses the Dong people's spiritual quality of daring to fight against natural disasters, and also reveals their expectation for a better and happy life. Another example is the lantern pattern, landscape pattern and Mozi pattern in Tongdao Dong brocade, which are based on regional culture. They fully express the characteristics of "skillfully combining locals' feelings" in Dong Minority culture and reflect the expectation and pursuit of Dong people for a happy life. In addition, the colors of the patterns in Tongdao Dong brocade are also different. Each color has different meanings, which usually express the beautiful connotation of prosperity, longevity and happiness of future generations. The clever and intelligent Dong people skillfully use symbol patterns to express their feelings and wishes in their hearts and manifest the Dong people's pursuit of a better life ^[3].

3.2 Pattern Color: Plain and Colorful, Harmonious and Unified

In the primitive society of our country, people are used to believing in gods, and in many people's opinions, belief usually has some illusory color, which is also reflected in Tongdao Dong brocade culture. The choice of patterns and colors of Dong brocade is varied and colorful, which not only contains certain aesthetic value, but also reflects the formation and development of Dong people's ideology to a certain extent. Tongdao Dong brocade is mainly divided into colored brocade and plain brocade according to color classification, which form a sharp contrast and have different lasting appeal. Plain brocade is usually simple in color and is mainly woven in one color or two colors. Common color combinations include black and red, black and white, black and blue, simple in tone, pure and solemn. Generally, dark tones are selected as the background color and matched with bright patterns, in which the relationship between the three major tones of black, white and gray is flexibly used, presenting a feeling of elegance. Colorful brocade is integrated with many different colors, with harmonious and colorful colors. It is mainly through weaving different color blocks to match and coordinate colors, and through interweaving colors to create artistic beauty. At first glance, it looks simple but gorgeous, and brings people visual enjoyment. It can be said that

these two different color matching effects in Tongdao Dong brocade culture have also greatly improved the mysterious color and aesthetic value of Dong brocade patterns.

3.3 Pattern Composition: Harmonious Structure, Complement Each Other

The pattern composition of Dong brocade is rich and varied, not limited to structure or form. Although it contains a sense of order and follows the traditional artistic composition habits, it contains certain freedom.

(1) Harmonious Structure

Through the flexible use of dots, lines, surfaces and other elements, different composition methods have been created, making the pattern structure of brocade of great aesthetic value. For the composition weaving design of Tongdao Dong brocade patterns, symmetrical structure is usually adopted and consists of different geometric figures. Most of the combination methods are two-party continuous or four-party continuous. For example, in the weaving process, the whole brocade surface is arranged with dragon and phoenix patterns of the same style and size in a four-party continuous way, which looks complicated and orderly, exquisite and delicate at first sight.

(2) Complement Each Other

The composition of the Tongdao Dong brocade patterns brings out the best in the design of the main patterns and the secondary patterns, not only considering the connection between the two in the spatial level, but also considering the aesthetic needs of the Dong people and the local folk culture. In terms of weaving technology, warp and weft are orderly and checkered, which fully expresses the concept of "harmony" that is paid more attention to in traditional handicrafts. From different angles and levels, it reflects the artistry and technology of Tongdao Dong brocade, promotes the organic combination of the two, and presents rich artistic connotation and profound artistic value. The pattern weaving process of Tongdao Dong brocade usually adopts two methods, namely weaving and cross-stitching, which are designed according to the direction of warp and weft, fully reflecting the technological characteristics of orderly warp and weft. In the weaving of Tongdao Dong brocade, there are certain differences in the weaving methods of plain brocade and colored brocade. Plain brocade is usually woven mainly by two kinds of two-color yarns. The patterns on the front and back sides are the same but the composition and color are different. The style is unique and novel, and both sides of brocade are common. The weaving of colored brocade requires many kinds of yarns of different colors. The weaving of each pattern requires colored weft threads to cross-stitch. When finishing, the original colored weft threads are cut to leave thread ends. Therefore, the front of colored brocade is colorful and flat, the back is full of messy thread ends, and only one side is available. The two weaving methods have their own characteristics and aesthetic feeling. In addition, it is checkered flowers, which is another technological feature of Tongdao Dong brocade. In the process, the metrical dot matrix method is adopted to construct the corresponding block shape, and on this basis, regular processing and arrangement are carried out to make them form different patterns through arrangement and combination.^[4] The patterns obtained through such operations have certain regularity and repeatability, which are harmonious and unified on the whole and contain very strong formal beauty.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, Tongdao Dong brocade art is a typical representative of Dong culture. After thousands of years of evolution and development, it has precipitated profound cultural connotation. Its artistic style is also very unique and mysterious, which fully reflects the long-standing regional culture of Dong folk customs. The typical patterns of Tongdao Dong brocade have rich and varied aesthetic features, no matter color, composition and content has unique crafts and cultures, which not only show the wisdom of the Dong people, but also fully embody their pursuit and expectation for a better life, realizing the integration and interweaving of modern thinking and ancient civilization. To a certain extent, it applies modern semiotic theory, which has great aesthetic value and artistic connotation. It is of great practical significance to promote the inheritance and development of China's traditional culture.

Acknowledgments

This work was financially supported by the funds: (1) The construction and research of online digital platform of Dong brocade art in the context of Rural Revitalization (No: 19C1486, Department of education of Hunan Province); (2) Research on the collection, arrangement and application of Dong brocade patterns in Western Hunan (No: 19YBX014, social sciences of Hunan Province).

References

- [1] Wan Qing.Study on Aesthetic Features and Artistic Quality of Typical Patterns of Tongdao Dong Brocade [J]. Beauty and Times (I), 2017, 696 (04): 19-20.
- [2] Qiao Song.Research on the Brocade Art of Tongdao Dong Minority in Hunan [D]. 2016, (02): 85-86.
- [3] Xiang Ying-xi.Study on the Semantics and Aesthetic Characteristics of Tongdao Dong Brocade Symbols [J]. Tomorrow Fashion, 2018, (09): 96-97.
- [4] Hu Bo, Zhou Huihuang.Artistic Features of Tongdao Dong Brocade Patterns and Their Application in Modern Furniture Design [J]. Industrial Design, 2018, (05): 36-37.
- [5]Hu Bo, Zhou Huihuang.Artistic Features of Tongdao Dong Brocade Patterns and Their Application in Modern Furniture Design [J]. Industrial Design. 2018 (05): 36-37.
- [6]Xiao Jiuling.Research on the Application of Regional Cultural Symbols in Modern Tourism Products--Taking Tongdao Dong Brocade Patterns in Hunan as an Example [J]. Textile Industry and Technology. 2019 (08).
- [7]Liang Yun.On the Aesthetic Image of Dong Brocade [J]. Hunan Packaging. 2018 (01).
- [8]Wang Huanhuan, Liu Xiaofei.Research on the Protection and Inheritance of Tongdao Dong Brocade under the Background of Sharing Economy [J]. Research on Communication Power. 2019 (05).
- [9]Hu Bo, Zhou Huihuang.Research on Furniture Innovation Design Based on Tongdao Dong Minority Cultural Characteristics [J]. Identification and Appreciation of Cultural Relics. 2019 (07).