

The Comparison of Formative Characteristic on Men and Women's Underclothes in the Medieval Ages

Ju-Ae Kim and Jeong-Ah Jang*

Dept. of Clothing and Textiles, Gyeongsang National University

Dept. of Fashion Design, Miryang National University*

Up to this periods, the study of underclothes, has been each studied with division of men and women's underclothes. However in the Middle Ages, as men and women's outwears are especially designed with sexual distinction, it is necessary to compare that how this is applied to underclothes, and what difference of men and women's underclothes is like. In the study, around the Middle Ages, as it studies that how social environment influenced underclothes and formative characteristic which underclothes have is associated with garments and underclothes. The comparison of the function and composition with the men and women's underclothes in the Middle Ages helps completely understanding about underclothes in the Middle Ages.

In the Middle Ages, as underclothes are not generally revealed, it is recognized to be not important but inefficient and bothersome. In the Middle Ages, body was involved with the sense of shame and sin influenced by the religious austerity. This mentality was applied to the underclothes, therefore they were the symbol of humility and sinfulness. This represents that underclothes were affected by the environment of social and culture. Men and women's underclothes are emphasize utilitarian in function to protect the skin from the garments' rough surface and the garments from secretion out of metabolic.

As the outwears reveal the body line, the underclothes are affected by it. So men and women's distinction in the outwears is applied to the underclothes. In the late Middle Ages, as women exposed their body line in thin chemise to represent sexual attraction, but men wore the underclothes only to protect their body. It is a great difference in function of men and women's underclothes. In modern, underclothes' sexual function has a little represented from women's underclothes in the Middle Ages.

The conceptions that the underclothes like a represent the changing times did not affect much in the Middle Ages. The underclothes are significant utilitarian in function rather than class distinction and sexual attraction, but are more varied in technology and quality than ancient ages.

In the Middle 14C, class distinction and sexual attraction certainly present on the garments but are not applied to the underclothes. However, rank sign from the underclothes' materials and sexual attraction' function from thin clothes are weakened. In Modern, it is none that the distinction of men and women's underclothes is presented from the Middle ages. In the history of underclothes, it is important to identify rank sign, but in the Middle ages, only the function to protect the body is emphasized.