

Mongolian Costume

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ABSTRACT

The Purpose of this study is to introduce traditional Mongolian costume easily and shortly in various ways. The Mongolian costumes are very simple and convenient to wear because they are made in consideration of Mongolian culture in which people live with livestock and ride horses every day. Furthermore, they are associated with traditional national ceremonies. It is interesting the Mongolian costume is similar to Korean Hanbok. More studies of Korean costume and Mongolian costume will be significant for cultural and historical interchanges between two countries.

Key Words : Mongolian costume, Deel, Mongolian tribes, Hanbok

I. Introduction

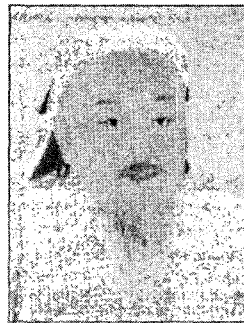
Costumes of people in the world are closely related to natural environment, weather, history, culture and economy. Mongolian costumes are designed to be appropriate to cold winter, hot summer, dry and windy spring and nomadic life mainly for cattle raising. In other words, the Mongolian costumes are very simple and convenient to wear because they are made in consideration of Mongolian culture in which people live with livestock and ride horses every day. Furthermore, they are associated with traditional national ceremonies.

II. Traditional Mongolian Costume

1. Deel

As for traditional Mongolian costume Deel, its neckband looks similar to collar of Korean tradi-

tional costume Hanbok and Japanese Kimono.



<Fig. 1> Portrait of Chingis Khan



<Fig. 2> Hanbok



<Fig. 3> Kimono

Since Ching Empire invaded Mongolia in the 18th century, the Mongolian costume has been influenced by the Ching Empire, and the shape of the neckband has changed to look like that of Manchurian costume (Fig. 4), and this trend still exists.

The Mongolian costume is similar to Korean Hanbok (it is more similar to men's costume than women's costume that is composed of *jeogori* and *chima* (skirt), and this type of Hanbok is usually worn by girls these days), but its neckband is more noticeable, and it has buttons in the neckband, chest, armpit and waist part, and a waistband made of long cloth or leather is used. The waistband not only keeps the body warm but it also makes some space that becomes a very wide pocket. It is an ankle-length costume, and the waistband is fastened a bit upward. It is made so long as to protect legs, knee and feet that are most vulnerable to cold weather and wind while riding a horse.

2. Mongolian Tribes and Costume

Currently, various tribes such as khalkha, dūr-vid, buryat, kazakh, zakhzin, barga, bayad, uzemchin, dariganga, uryankhai, torguud, darkhad and ööld live in Mongolia, and if they wear their traditional costume, it is hard to tell their ethnicity. Of them, khalkha people make up 90 percent of the entire population. Except for kazakh people, every minority originated from Mongolians. Official Mongolian language used in Mongolia is derived from khalkha dialect.

The Deel worn by Mongolians might be different by tribes, but there are many similarities. For example, the Deel is made of different materials by season. It is made of thin cloth in summer, thicker and warmer cloth with cotton inside in



<Fig. 4> Manchurian Costume



<Fig. 5> Khalkha_men's costume



<Fig. 6> Khalkha_women's costume



<Fig. 7> Buryat_men's costume



<Fig. 8> Buryat_women's costume



<Fig. 9> Kazakh_men's costume



<Fig. 10> Kazakh_women's costume



<Fig. 11> Zakhzin_men's costume



<Fig. 12>
Barga_women's
costume



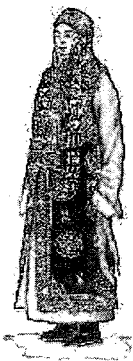
<Fig. 13>
Bayad_men's
costume



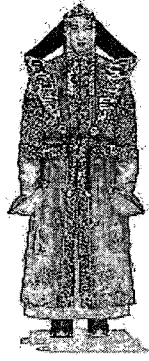
<Fig. 14>
Bayad_women's
costume



<Fig. 21>
Ööld_women's
costume



<Fig. 15>
Uzemchin_women's
costume



<Fig. 16>
Dariganga_women's
costume



<Fig. 17>
Uryankhai_men's
costume



<Fig. 18>
Uryankhai_women's
costume



<Fig. 19>
Torguud_men's
costume



<Fig. 20>
Darkhad_men's
costume

spring and autumn and wool or leather covered with cloth in winter when thicker and warmer clothes are needed to keep the body warm. There are many kinds of winter Deels. If it is very cold, tulging Deel is worn (it is made of the skin of grown lambs), if it is less cold, horgang Deel is worn (it is made of the skin of baby lambs), and if it is an ordinary winter day, ujureteng Deel is worn (it is made of the leather of lambs killed between summer and autumn).

Since it is lower than minus 30 degrees Celsius in winter, Mongolians use dakh made of the skin of goats and wolves to keep their body warm. The dakh is characterized by placing hairy side outside.

3. Cultural Factor and Costume

There are differences in shape and cloth by gender, age and region. Ordinary people tended to make their clothes by using cheap cloth whereas aristocrats and upper class people wore clothes made of quality silk imported from China and Tibet and hair ornaments made of gold, silver and other jewels. Aristocrats or high ranking officials wore yambani huvtsas, and some say that the word

is etymologically similar to a word meaning nobility.

Mongolians sometimes wear a vest on the Deel. The vest for men is called *khantaaz* and the vest for women is called *uj*.

Many Korean scholars have conducted studies on Deel, and further research and modifications are necessary.

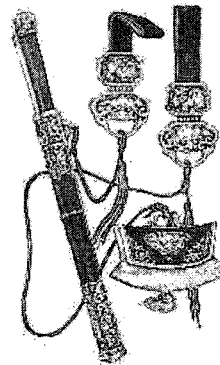
cup looked pompous. Since they led a nomadic life traveling long distances, they often slept in others' houses, so they needed to carry the knife, the chop sticks and the cup for hygienic reasons. Meanwhile, since the cup was made of silver, it was effective in sterilization. There were metal craftsmen who made above mentioned ornaments, and their prices were different according to the amount of used silver and the level of skill.



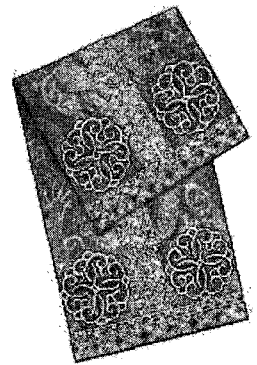
<Fig. 22>
khalkha_upper
class men's
costume



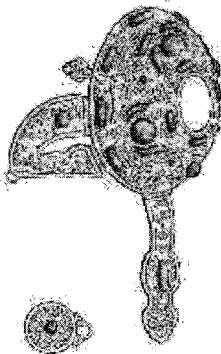
<Fig. 23> hair ornaments
made of gold, silver and other
jewels



<Fig. 25> Knife set



<Fig. 26> Snuff pocket



<Fig. 24> hair ornaments
made of gold, silver and
other jewels



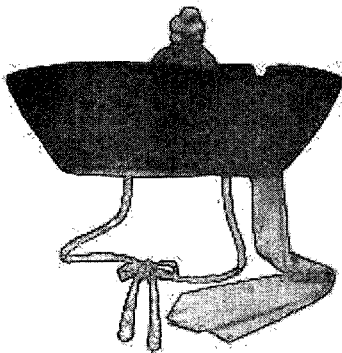
<Fig. 27> Cup pocket

Ordinary people also used ornaments. If Mongolians became men, most men carried a knife, chop sticks, a fire-making tool set, snuff and a cup. The pockets that contained the knife, the snuff and the

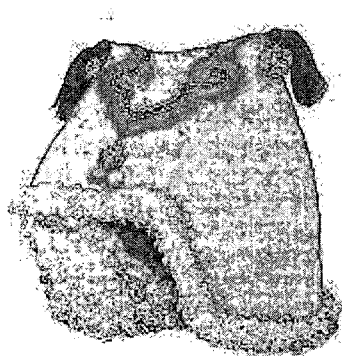
The costume also included hats and shoes. Most Mongolians wear a hat when they go out, and particularly, Mongolian men always wear a hat. Since they cherish their hat, they are very careful about keeping them at home. There are many different

kinds of hats by age, gender, social status and season. In particular, the hat carried special significance in traditional protocol. Ordinary people wore a different kind of hat from that worn by high ranking officials. One could tell the official rank by peacock's feathers and jewels on hats. A winter hat mostly had hairy skin, and ordinary people usually wore a hat made of the hairy skin of baby lambs and fox's hair whereas upper class people wore a hat made of the skin of otter and mink.

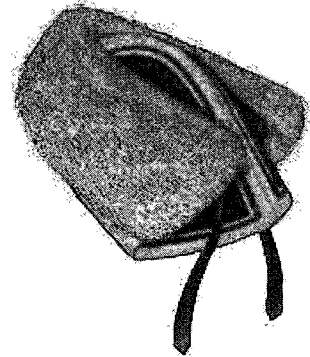
Since it is mostly cold, Mongolians usually wear boots called *gatal*. Since they are made of animal skin, people need to wear socks made of wool called *oims* before wearing boots. As explained above, aristocrats or upper class people used orna-



<Fig. 28> Khalkha_men's ordinary hat



<Fig. 29> Khalkha_children's winter hat



<Fig. 30> Winter hat

mental *gatal* and socks. The front of Mongolian shoes is pointed. It helps insert or pull out feet more conveniently when people ride a horse, and the pointed shoes are also used to poke the side of a horse. Some say that they protrude because the color of the pointed part changes or wears out fast as time goes by.

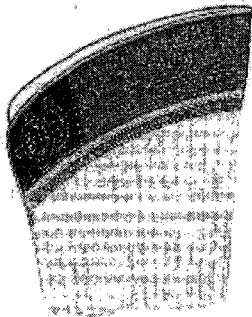
Traditional Mongolian shoes are different by region. The most representative *khalkha* people's shoes have thin leather ornaments of varied colors, and the price of the shoes is different according to the number of the ornaments. Shoes with 32 ornaments are the most expensive ones.

It is said that Korea's traditional shoes *Taesahae* that also have pointed front, various patterns and ornaments were influenced by Mongol Empire during the Goryeo Kingdom.

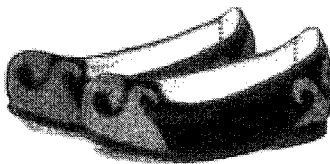
Some Mongolians who live near *Dariganga* in the east of Mongolia still wear a traditional costume that is similar to Korea's rainbow-colored *jeogori*. Citing that this area is related to the migration route of ancient *Kori* tribe, and that people call it *Solongus* meaning rainbow, a word that is reminiscent of the Korea's striped *jeogori*, some say that it is related to the *Kori* tribe.



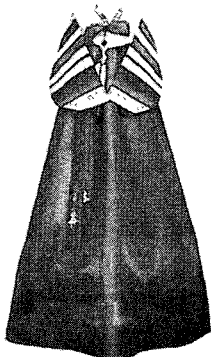
<Fig. 31> traditional Mongolian shoes



<Fig. 32> traditional sokcs



<Fig. 33> traditional Korean shoes



<Fig. 34> Korea's rainbow-colored jeogori

III. Conclusion

Costumes from China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia have a lot of similarities in shape, design, ornaments and color. It appears due to the fact that people from these countries implemented a lot of social, economic and cultural exchanges influencing one another during the Mongolia Empire. More studies of Korean costume and Mongolian costume will be significant for cultural and historical interchanges between two countries.

References

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