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The values of Zhuang brocade in Guangxi

Qiuying Yin¹

Dr.Homhuan Buarabha²

Dr.Nattapong Yamcharoen³

Abstract

This paper aims to explore the value of Zhuang brocade, including its aesthetic value and social value, and analyze the value of Zhuang brocade with aesthetic theory and ethics. By studying the origin and cultural background of Zhuang brocade, we can better understand its value in art, economy and society. Through the in-depth analysis of Zhuang brocade by qualitative research, we can realize that it is not only a work of art, but also a cultural heritage, bearing the wisdom of history and people. The purpose of this paper is to enhance the understanding and attention to the value of Zhuang brocade and promote its protection and inheritance.

Keywords: Zhuang brocade, value, cultural heritage, inheritance, Guangxi Province

Introduction

Zhuang Brocade is a traditional handicraft in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, with a long history and unique cultural background. As early as the Han Dynasty, the clever and intelligent Zhuang people made full use of all kinds of rich local plant fibers to weave homespun. Archaeologists excavated the orange-red palindrome fragments from the Mao's remnant pit of the Han Tomb in Luobowan, Guigang, Guangxi, and inferred the Zhuang brocade at that time or something very similar to it, which proved that the Zhuang people had mastered weaving technology in the Han Dynasty. (Chen,2008)

In the Song Dynasty, the modern "brocade" textiles appeared. In Song Dynasty, the handicraft textile industry of Zhuang nationality was more developed, and Zhuang brocade in Guangxi was favored because of its firmness, beauty, generosity and durability, and became an imitation variety. This is Zhuang brocade. The variety and color of the pattern are quite mature. (Li, 2016)

In the Ming Dynasty, the brocade craft of Zhuang people became more and more exquisite. It not only removes its heavy shortcomings, makes Zhuang brocade closer to daily life, but also improves its artistic value. This made Zhuang brocade take a qualitative leap, and became famous at home and abroad for its warm and generous colors, fresh and simple patterns, firmness and durability, and became a tribute to the royal family.

In Qing dynasty, Zhuang brocade was more colorful. At this time, although it is still a tribute to the royal family, ordinary people can also enjoy it, and it is becoming more and more popular and has become a best seller in the market. The production of Zhuang brocade has been continuously promoted, and even there has been a scene where every family has a loom and all women can brocade. Zhuang brocade is not only an indispensable thing in the daily life of ordinary Zhuang people, but also a precious gift and a necessary item in dowry. Weaving Zhuang brocade is a “female red” that Zhuang women must master, especially Zhuang girls in the boudoir to be married. The level of brocade is one of the criteria for evaluating whether women are also clever or not. In this period, Zhuang brocade has become a national handicraft that the Zhuang people are proud of, and it has been widely integrated into the daily life of the Zhuang people. (Chen,2008)

From the late Qing Dynasty to the Republic of China, with the invasion of capitalism to China, a large number of Zhuang brocade handicrafts began to disintegrate, and the ordinary Zhuang people lived a very hard life. Some basic food and clothing could not be solved, and the development of Zhuang brocade had no foundation. However, Zhuang brocade still plays an important role in people’s daily life and many traditional folk customs.

After the founding of New China, Zhuang Brocade ushered in a revival period. Since 1954, four brocade production cooperatives have been established in Xincheng, Jingxi, Binyang and Rongshui, which are rich in brocade, to carry out collective production and further develop into specialized brocade factories.

After 90’ s, Zhuangjin declined again because it could not compete with modern high-quality textiles in the market economy. Due to the complicated manual process, time-consuming production, high cost, low output and small profit margin, Zhuang brocade production institutions are facing a crisis, many workers engaged in Zhuang brocade production are forced to change careers, and the number of brocade weavers is naturally reduced. Nowadays, the younger generation is rarely involved in the brocade industry, and the inheritance and development of Zhuang brocade skills will face a great crisis. In order to rescue and protect Zhuang brocade, Zhuang brocade skills are not only included in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region intangible cultural heritage list, but also included in the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage lists.

However, Zhuang Brocade faces some challenges and problems. First of all, with the acceleration of modernization and the impact of foreign culture, Zhuang Brocade is facing the risk of inheritance fracture and skill loss. Therefore, we need to strengthen the training and inheritance of Zhuang Brocade skills and encourage the younger generation to participate in the learning and innovation of Zhuang Brocade. Secondly, the marketing and commercialization of Zhuang Brocade are also facing some difficulties. It is necessary to strengthen brand building and market expansion to make Zhuang Brocade a cultural product with international competitiveness. The formulation and implementation of cultural protection policies and regulations also need to be

further improved, and the legal protection and market supervision of Zhuang Brocade should be strengthened. This paper puts forward the following suggestions: we should strengthen the protection and preservation of Zhuang Brocade to ensure that its unique artistic, cultural and historical values can be passed down. It is also necessary to encourage the combination of innovation and inheritance, and through the integration of modern elements and technologies, Zhuangjin will glow with new vitality and market competitiveness (Zhou Luo, 2018)

It is necessary to strengthen education and publicity, improve the public's knowledge and understanding of Zhuang brocade, and cultivate the awareness of appreciation and protection of Zhuang brocade. Finally, we should establish a platform for cooperation and exchange, promote dialogue and cooperation between Zhuang Brocade and other cultures, and promote the influence and popularity of Zhuang Brocade on the international stage.

This paper focuses on the aesthetic value and social value of Zhuang brocade, and analyzes the material, color and pattern of Zhuang brocade with aesthetic theory. Use ethical theory to analyze the social value of Zhuang brocade. The qualitative research method combining interview and literature survey is adopted to enhance the understanding and attention to the value of Zhuang brocade and promote its protection and inheritance.

Object

To study the values of Zhuang brocade in Guangxi

Research Methodology

This study adopts qualitative research methods, through consulting relevant literature and field research. Research tools include survey, interview, observation and focus group discussion. The research steps are as follows:

1. Collect relevant literature of Zhuang Brocade. Explore its value, as well as field visits to three famous Zhuang brocade production bases in Guangxi, to provide sufficient evidence support for the research.

2. The target group includes the following people: key insider (K1): Zhuang brocade cultural heritage inheritor and Zhuang brocade operator in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; temporary informant (C1):10 salespeople, learners, regular employees and interns; General informant (G1):25 residents, tourists and buyers.

3. Research tools include observation and interview. Draw lessons from relevant literature, sort out the value of Zhuang brocade, and provide clearer ideas and theoretical support for the research. The data of aesthetic value and social value are obtained by observing and interviewing K1, CI and G1.

4. Data collection is divided into two stages:

1) Study and collect secondary data from relevant literature, articles, research and other sources to establish a framework. Collect data during field visits through observation and interviews.

5. Analyze the data by content analysis method, and give the results in the form of descriptive analysis.

Result and Discussion

aesthetic values

The production process of Zhuang brocade includes material selection, dyeing and weaving. First of all, high-quality silk thread, gold and silver thread and other materials are selected and dyed as needed to obtain rich and colorful colors. Then, skilled craftsmen use unique weaving techniques to interweave threads and gradually present unique patterns and patterns. Zhuang brocade has a variety of patterns, such as flowers and birds, animals, natural landscapes and other elements, which means auspiciousness and beauty. (Sample, 2018) Aesthetics studies the essence of art and beauty, and explores the aesthetic characteristics of works of art and the principles of artistic creation. The traditional Zhuang brocade is colorful, which reflects the warm character, colorful life interest and love for life and nature of the Zhuang people. With the development of social economy and the change of people's aesthetic concept, the color of Zhuang brocade still reflects the innate enthusiasm of Zhuang people, and has been improved according to modern aesthetic concept. The brocade produced by Tan Xiangguang's brocade factory is more elegant and fashionable in color matching. In the application of Zhuang brocade, the traditional Zhuang brocade is generally used to make quilts, clothes or baby bags. In Tan Xiangguang's studio, you can see all kinds of wall hangings, mascots, fashions and so on made of Zhuang brocade, which is ornamental, making Zhuang brocade more widely used, not only having practical value, but also having ornamental value. Dewey emphasized that the task of contemporary aesthetics is to restore the connection between art and human experience. He believes that any kind of experience has aesthetic nature as long as it reaches perfection.

Social value

In addition to its own charm value, Zhuang Brocade's value at the social, cultural and national levels can not be ignored. As the crystallization of the wisdom of the Zhuang people, Zhuang brocade contains the dedication and sense of identity of generations, and it is already a symbol of the Zhuang people. Zhuang brocade, as an important cultural symbol of Zhuang people, can stimulate their social identity. Zhuang brocade represents the history, tradition and culture of the Zhuang people. By making, inheriting and displaying Zhuang brocade, the Zhuang people can establish close ties with their national identity. Zhuang brocade plays an important role in social communication. As an important decoration for ceremonies, weddings and celebrations, it not only shows the identity of the Zhuang people, but also strengthens the cohesion between communities and families. MacIntyre's theory of virtue holds that people's pursuit of goodness always occurs in the context defined by the tradition of their lives. The significance and goal of virtue lies not only in maintaining the necessary relationship and unified individual life form to obtain the inherent benefits of practice, but also in maintaining the tradition of providing the necessary context for practice and individual life. In this sense, it is also a virtue to be able to understand the tradition to which you belong or face. At the National People's Congress of China in 2022, representatives from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region attended the meeting in Zhuang brocade costumes embroidered by Lu Meilian Nafu, which reflected the sense of national identity.

As a part of traditional handicrafts, Zhuang brocade bears rich Zhuang culture. Through the inheritance of Zhuang brocade, the younger generation can learn and inherit the textile skills, pattern design and cultural traditions of Zhuang nationality. The production process of Zhuang brocade needs experienced craftsmen to teach it. The inheritance of this traditional skill not only retains valuable handicraft skills, but also conveys the wisdom and creativity of the Zhuang people. The inheritance of Zhuang brocade also promotes the diversity and development of Zhuang culture, enabling it to continue to inherit and innovate in modern society.

As the intangible cultural heritage of China, Zhuang Brocade represents one of the treasures of China culture. The protection, inheritance and promotion of Zhuang brocade show the country's attention and commitment to Zhuang culture. National support and protection measures help to enhance the popularity and influence of Zhuang Brocade at home and abroad, and promote the spread and exchange of China culture. As one of the important representatives of China culture, Zhuang Brocade has made positive contributions to national identity and national unity, and also plays an important role in international cultural exchanges.

Conclusion

This paper deeply studies the value of Zhuang Brocade, including aesthetic value and social value. By introducing the origin of Zhuang Brocade, we know its rich historical and cultural background. The research objects include the value of Zhuang brocade, such as artistic beauty, exquisite craftsmanship and expression of cultural symbols, as well as social values, such as cultural protection, social cohesion and economic development. Through hard work, we can protect and inherit the value of Zhuang brocade and promote the traditional protection and innovative development of Zhuang culture. At the same time, the unique charm and value of Zhuang brocade will be more widely recognized and spread, making positive contributions to the identity, cultural heritage and economic development of Zhuang people. This also provides important experience and reference for the protection of rich and diverse cultural heritage. Through joint efforts, we can realize the continuous inheritance and development of Zhuang Brocade and show its unique charm and value at home and abroad.

suggestion

In addition, there are some suggestions that can further promote the protection and inheritance of Zhuang brocade:

1. Strengthen professional training and skill inheritance: establish a training mechanism, train more Zhuang brocade craftsmen and designers, and inherit Zhuang brocade's skills and innovation ability. Through apprenticeship, workshops and seminars, we will promote the new generation to learn and inherit the traditional knowledge and skills of Zhuangjin.

2. Establish protection institutions and policy support: Establish special Zhuang Brocade protection institutions or organizations to be responsible for the protection, identification, display and marketing of Zhuang Brocade. At the same time, government departments should introduce relevant policies and regulations, provide economic and policy support, and encourage the protection and development of Zhuangjin.

3. Strengthen international cooperation and exchanges: actively carry out splendid exchanges and cooperation with other countries and regions to promote cultural exchanges and sharing. By holding international Zhuang Brocade exhibitions, cultural exchange activities and academic seminars, the influence and popularity of Zhuang Brocade will be expanded.

4. Innovative design and market expansion: Encourage innovative design, integrate Zhuang brocade into modern fashion and life fields, and develop more products with a sense of fashion and market competitiveness. At the same time, actively explore domestic and foreign markets, and promote the sales and promotion of Zhuang brocade products through e-commerce platforms, exhibitions and cultural tourism (Wang, 2019).

To sum up, Zhuang brocade, as a precious heritage of Zhuang culture, has important explicit and implicit values. By strengthening protection and inheritance, promoting innovation and development, and promoting cooperation and exchanges at home and abroad, the unique charm of Zhuangjin will be more widely recognized and spread. At the same time, the protection and development of Zhuang brocade will also make positive contributions to the identity, cultural inheritance and economic development of Zhuang people. We expect that with continuous efforts, Zhuangjin will glow with new brilliance and continue to be cherished and appreciated by the world.

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