

A Study of Clothing Design with the Example of Minnan Dialect Nursery Rhymes

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Abstract: In Chinese language and culture, Minnan dialect is an art form with great regional cultural characteristics. While reflecting its own artistic value, Minnan dialect nursery rhymes can inherit the history and culture and reflect the life wisdom of generations of Minnan people. Therefore, the integration of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in clothing design can effectively reflect the cultural characteristics of Minnan region. Based on this, the article first introduces Minnan dialect nursery rhymes, then analyzes the application of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in clothing design from the connection between Minnan dialect nursery rhymes and clothing design, and carries out the application practice by means of text experiment for reference.

Keywords: Minnan; dialect nursery rhymes; clothing design; application

1. Introduction

Nowadays, with the continuous development of clothing design, more and more Chinese designers take other forms of artistic expression such as language and writing, music and calligraphy as their design inspiration, and gradually integrate more distinctive elements of different Chinese regions and cultures in their design direction, so that clothing design with cultural connotation and emotional connection is unique, enriches people's wearing system. The design of clothing with cultural connotation and emotional connection is unique, which not only enriches people's wearing system, but also brings more modern artistic clothing design to the public^[1], achieving the dual purpose of inheriting local language and improving aesthetic demand.

2. Overview of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes

Minnan dialect nursery rhymes, also known as "reading book songs", are children's rhymes sung in Minnan dialect based on the complex and musically beautiful rhymes and rhythms of the local language of Minnan^[2], and are constantly supplemented and modified in the process of singing. The Minnan dialect nursery rhymes are closely related to the living habits and cultural characteristics of the Minnan people, and with the continuous development of society and the increasing enrichment of cultural life, more and more people are paying attention to Minnan dialect nursery rhymes.

2.1. Origin of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes

Minnan dialect nursery rhymes originated from farming civilization and arose in village society, and appeared in the Tang Dynasty^[3]. In the middle and late Ming dynasty, as the Minnan people crossed Taiwan and went to the South China Sea, the spread area of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes extended to Taiwan, China and Southeast Asian countries^[4], and was promoted by integration with local culture, thus creating many new contents. By now, the popular areas of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes were mainly concentrated in Minnan, Fujian Province, China, Taiwan, China, and Southeast Asia where the Chinese diaspora of Chinese descent lived.

In the 1920s, Zhou Shuan, the first generation of modern Chinese musicians, composed the "Sleeping Song" for the Minnan nursery rhyme "Wuwu Yao", creating a precedent for musicians to compose Minnan nursery rhymes; after the 1950s, Yang Yang, Yuan Rongchang, Wu Huorong, Yang Shuangzhi, Chen Bin and other new generation of musicians in Chinese mainland have composed

and composed many Minnan children's songs, among which the more influential ones are Yuan Rongchang's In the 1980s, many musicians in Taiwan also devoted themselves to the creation of Minnan children's songs, and Lin Er and Jane Shangren composed many new ones.

2.2. Cultural Characteristics of Nursery Rhymes in Southern Fujian Dialect

2.2.1. Types of genres

- (1) Cradle song: It is a song-like and non-song-like rhyme to lull infants to sleep.
- (2) Game songs: Nursery rhymes that are recited by children during their games, accompanied by certain game actions.
- (3) Song of the Year: The main song is about the year and the second is about the month, which are sung by children during the New Year festival.
- (4) Counting Song: A nursery rhyme that is used to subtly train children to remember numbers and count by depicting images suitable for children's aesthetic psychology.
- (5) Questions and Answers: Nursery rhymes that take the form of questions and answers or a series of questions and answers to describe things and reflect life.
- (6) Chain of tunes: It is a nursery rhyme with the rhetorical technique of "thimble" to structure the whole song, such as "A piece of copper on the zenith": "A piece of copper on the zenith carries people. When people want to go, they carry the dog. If the dog wants to bark, it carries the pestle. If the pestle wants to spring, it carries the palace. If the palace wants to rise, it is carried to the chair"
- (7) Funny song: also known as playful song, strange song, refers to the intentional distortion of the original face of things, so that it has a humorous and satirical meaning.
- (8) Rhyme: the use of allegorical techniques, to capture the riddle and riddle between a certain connection to narrate the phenomenon or the characteristics of things, for example, to guess the "water" thing, the riddle in the rhyme is expressed in this way: "two sisters son, two sisters son, Ping Hang He Ping big. A garden in, a yuanshi outside." [5]

2.2.2. Artistic techniques

The Minnan dialect nursery rhymes can reflect the traditional Chinese artistic techniques of fugue, simile and rhetoric, and make use of the richness of Minnan tones and the variety of rhyming parts to show the musical beauty and rhythm, which can improve the artistic effect of the expressions and enhance their artistic influence and spiritual charm. For example, "The Crying God" adopts the rhetorical technique of repetition; "The Wooden Louse Wants to Marry a Man" adopts the rhetorical technique of personification; "The Three Dou Fires in the Shiri River" adopts the rhetorical technique of exaggeration; "A Little Dew on a Grass" adopts the rhetorical technique of borrowing; "The Song of Collecting Lan" adopts the rhetorical technique of prose; "The Man Sticking Flowers" adopts the rhetorical technique of contrast, etc. [6]

2.2.3. Ancient sounds and meanings

The Minnan dialect retains the characteristics of ancient Chinese vowels, one of which is the clearing of the ancient all-vowel vowel; the second is the ancient "light lip" vowel; the third is the ancient "lingual" vowel. The northern dialects are mostly for the lingual consonants, while the southern Min dialects are "tongue-on-tongue", mostly for the apical consonants; fourthly, the ancient "Ming", "Wu" and "Yi" consonants are read as turbid consonants [b] and [g].

The rhymes of the Minnan dialect also retain the characteristics of ancient Chinese. First, there are three complete sets of nasal rhymes; second, the three sets of ancient intonation rhymes are completely preserved; third, the Minnan dialect has only three calls: open, qi, and hapax, while the northern dialect has a handful of calls [y], [yan], [yue], and [yun], which are mostly classified as hapax. The Minnan dialect has a complete set of the "ancient four tones" of Ping, Shang, Go, and In, instead of the modern "four tones" of Yinping, Yangping, Shang, and Go of the northern dialects.

The Minnan dialect retains many ancient words and meanings, some of which are even commonly used in the dialect, and some of which are derived for other uses. The most obvious thing is that, like ancient Chinese, the Minnan dialect has many monophthongs in common use.

The Minnan dialect nursery rhymes, on the other hand, are chanted in the form of music, rhyme,

and pinyin, making them catchy. [7]

2.3. The value of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes

Due to the impact of modern culture and the loss of dialects, Minnan dialect nursery rhymes are gradually withdrawing from the life of the public, but as a way and path to educate and entertain, the inheritance and protection of innovative development of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes have social and historical values that cannot be ignored. [In June 2009, Xiamen Xiang'an District Minnan Nursery Rhymes Cultural Research Association was established. In December 2015, the first "Minnan Nursery Rhyme Day" was established in Xiamen.

3. The connection between Minnan dialect nursery rhymes and clothing design

On the surface, there seems to be no cultural connection between Minnan dialect nursery rhymes and clothing design, but in essence, the two have a complementary connection. Both Minnan dialect nursery rhymes and clothing design are practical forms of artistic expression, and the nature of both is basically the same in the process of evolution. For Minnan dialect nursery rhymes, it is a unique Chinese cultural art and language symbol, with strong inheritance, and can reflect its own artistic value. For clothing design, if you want to continue to innovate on the original design, you can integrate various artistic elements including dialects, and fuse across borders to improve the charm of the design. Nowadays, with the national emphasis and promotion, Minnan dialect nursery rhymes are getting more and more attention and love from people. Therefore, in the process of clothing design, designers can explore the essence of them and innovate the means of application, so as to better promote clothing design to realize its own vitality and the value of artistic fusion development. [8]

3.1. Structural evolution

Art has a commonality, clothing design and Minnan dialect nursery rhymes have a similar evolutionary process, in the inheritance of ancient thought at the same time to promote China's excellent traditional culture. The artist's inspiration for creation comes from life, looking for subjects in real life to determine design methods, expressions and creative contents.

By converting Minnan dialect nursery rhymes into textual form in clothing design, the style structure of clothing can be organized with the human body as the main structural point, using the vertical central axis to cross the horizontal central axis on the outer contour of the human body to form a field grid, then drawing horizontal lines through the breast tip and above the iliac bone to form eight frames, followed by drawing horizontal shoulder lines through the shoulder and neck points, and then drawing the shoulder at a 10° oblique angle at the shoulder and neck fixed points. The lower flat line below the ilium is drawn at an oblique angle of 10°. Depending on the type of garment, the lower flat line can also be drawn above the knee or below the knee to the ankle, thus forming eight compartments, and then the left and right shoulder, left and right waist, left and right iliac position line, and 1/2 of the left and right lower flat line, each connecting the left and right breast tips, forming 16 compartments and 25 nodes. [9]

The symmetry of the garment can present a sense of stability, that is, a sense of symmetry and solemnity. Field grids and mannequins are shown in Figure 1.

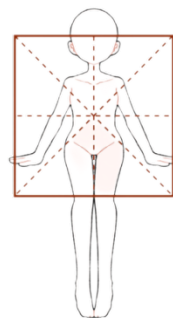


Figure 1: Field grids and mannequins

3.2. Rhythmic beauty

The law of formal beauty is the summary and abstract generalization of human experience in creating the form of beauty and the process of beauty. It mainly includes: symmetry and balance, simplicity and unity, harmony and contrast, proportion, rhythm and rhyme, and change and unity. Minnan dialect nursery rhymes have the beauty of rhythm and rhyme, which is transformed through the form of words and applied to clothing design, usually from the four aspects of point, line, surface and body.

In garment design, the point constitutes the line, the line constitutes the surface, and the surface constitutes the body, while the line usually includes the structure line, the contour line, and the stitching line, similar to the form of words, and designers often consciously design the reality and level of the line. Modern clothing design widely used in the shape of the body pleats, so that the lines produce a variety of changes, such as straight lines with curves, curves with straight lines, from which you can see the sense of spatial reality, thus constituting a rhythmic beauty.

4. Analysis of the application of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in clothing design

Clothing is an indispensable item in people's daily life, and the Minnan dialect nursery rhymes are an important part of China's local language. If designers fully draw on the art form evolved from Minnan dialect nursery rhymes when designing clothing, they may design unexpected clothing. Based on the combined use of the essence of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes, clothing design can create a unique sense of beauty and show people more charm of clothing.

4.1. The direct embodiment of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in clothing design

In the process of clothing design, the existing pattern elements of Minnan or the life scenes sung in Minnan dialect nursery rhymes can be used as patterns and reflected in the clothing through embroidery and digital printing.

4.1.1. Embroidery

The embroidery process contains three types of embroidery: hand embroidery, sewing machine embroidery and electronic embroidery technology. Among them, hand embroidery is relatively flexible and decorative, and is suitable for use on clothing and fabrics. The current garment design process often involves the use of techniques such as colored embroidery, carved embroidery, beadwork and ribbon embroidery.^[10]

4.1.2. Digital printing

The combination of garment style and printing pattern is an important means of modern digital printing technology widely used in the field of garment design. There are many design options for digital printing, whether using Photoshop or other graphic tools, all of which can be used to create complex and beautiful garment patterns.^[11] There are two ways for designers to design garments: designing the garment style first and then designing the pattern, and designing the pattern first and then designing the garment style.^[12]

4.2. Indirect embodiment of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in clothing design

This is the indirect embodiment of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in clothing design, which effectively interprets the language spirit and emotional connection contained in Minnan dialect nursery rhymes and integrates them into the concept of clothing design. There are many kinds of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes, with various contents and forms. In this paper, we mainly discuss the application of the widely circulated nursery rhyme "Tian Wu Wu" in clothing design.

4.2.1. Overview of "Tian Wu Wu"

As a popular nursery rhyme in southern Fujian, "Tian Wu Wu" has been passed down in a narrative way among the people. In the Quanzhou version of the Minnan nursery rhyme "Tian Wu Wu", the depicted scenes are closely related to the ancient farming production environment in Minnan. Minnan is bordered by the East China Sea, and the climate is ever-changing. When working in the fields in summer, before heavy rains came, it would often happen that "the sky was dark". In such a region, which was trapped in drought and drought-stricken, people not only had anxious expectations for rain,

but also genuinely hoped for smooth winds and rain.

The "Tian Wu Wu" is a one-word, one-tone piece, using the "re", "mi", and "sol" triad to form a levelling pattern, and based on the "Tian Wu Wu", "mi", and "sol", it is a piece of music. The lyrics are based on the words "Tian Wu Wu", "Tortoise blowing", "Turtle playing the drum" and "Le Belly", which are repeated in the same tone. The rhythm of the song is not only purely descriptive, but also highlights the characteristics of the daily spoken rhythm of southern Fujian, taking the phonetic sounds in the dialect of southern Fujian as the core of the tone, constantly changing the phonetic pattern, improving the musical structure, making the rhythm with neat and changing characteristics, and highlighting the characteristics of southern Fujian nursery rhymes. The content of the rhyme highlights the joyful psychology of the people when "the sky is woo-woo and it's going to rain", which is rich in children's characteristics and can express people's aspirations for a better life.^[13]

4.2.2. Text experiment case study

Stage 1: paste the word (Figure 2). The text will be font design and then directly collage to the clothing, this stage of clothing style design before the text design, clothing structure is often relatively simple.



Figure 2: Paste the word

Stage 2: text deformation processing (Figure 3). The text will be changed in form, so that the text fits the human body and garment structure more closely, this stage is first text design and then garment style design, garment silhouette is more single, usually expressed as H-type.



Figure 3: Text deformation processing

Stage 3: Text experiment (Figure 4). The target text will first be changed by body shape, and then by means of combination, cutting, superposition, deformation, etc. to form a new text structure, and convert it into clothing structure, such as collar, sleeve, skirt, etc. This stage is firstly for text design and form transformation then for clothing style design, and the clothing silhouette is variable and has unique style.



Figure 4: Text experiment

Stage 4: pattern extraction and line drawing. The text is broken down and deformed into the structure of the garment to make it more graphic and integrated with the garment. This stage focuses on the idea expressed by the text, as shown in Figure 5, the author chose the "five elements" of gold, wood, water, fire and earth as the source of inspiration, and the silhouette of the garment basically fits the text.

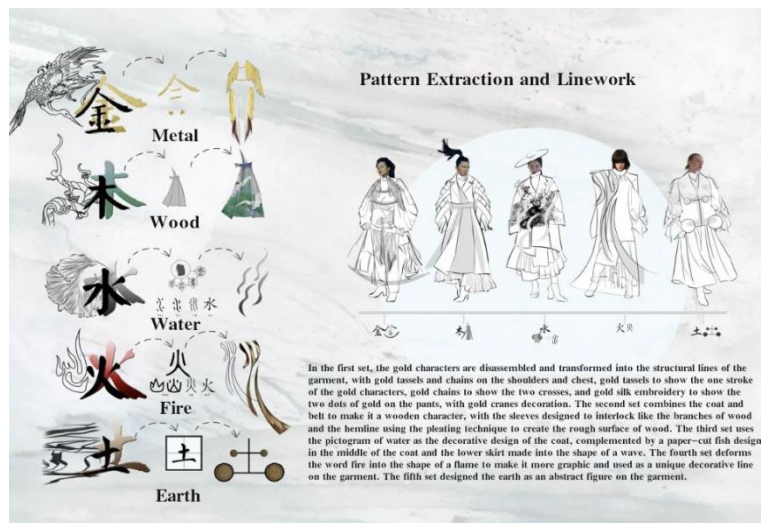


Figure 5: Pattern extraction and line drawing

Stage 5: a complete rendering is formed. This stage integrates and colors the source of inspiration, design concept, text deformation, and line drawing, focusing on highlighting the connotation expressed by the text. As in Figure 6 the designer embodies the connotation of the five elements in the complete effect drawing, including the background, clothing colors, etc.



Figure 6: A complete rendering is formed

4.3. The actual embodiment of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in clothing design

Fashion design is a kind of visual art, while Minnan dialect nursery rhymes are a kind of language art, each of them has its own style and characteristics, but both of them contain the same flavor. The Minnan dialect nursery rhymes are philosophical and allegorical, based on thinking about life and summarizing experience, and they have a guiding role in people's daily life, while the art of clothing design can make use of the rich linguistic state and embody the realm of beauty through the wearing of symbols. People create Minnan dialect nursery rhymes and clothing designers design clothes, both of which have the same initial purpose, hoping to convey emotions and divine charm through their works, and to convey their careers, thinking and demeanor to people through their works. The application of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in the form of textual experiments with various types of lines, constructions, and textures in clothing design can create more artistic design works.

4.4. Practice of applying Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in clothing design

The first stage is to paste the characters. The three characters of "Tian Wu Wu" were transformed and then disassembled and deformed and pasted on the human body model, as shown in Figure 7.



Figure 7: Paste the characters

Second stage, structure design. The three characters of "Tian Wu Wu" were designed on the human body model to form variations of the garment components, including straps, ribbons, pendants, backpacks, and collar shapes, as shown in Figure 8.

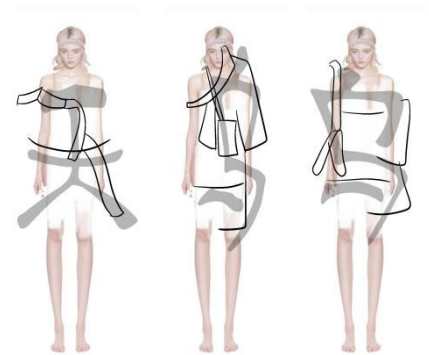


Figure 8: Structure design

The third stage is to draw the line according to the text deformation. According to the "Tian Wu Wu" text change from the clothing parts and structural lines, the clothing silhouette design, as shown in Figure 9.

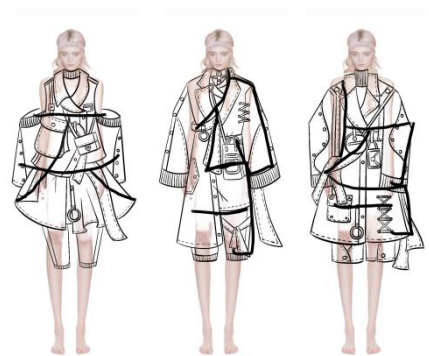


Figure 9: Draw the line according to the text deformation

The fourth stage is to complete the effect, as shown in Figure 10. The overall color of Tian Wu Wu is expressed in gray blue and gray purple, while the beige color at the collar and cuffs expresses the color of farmland.

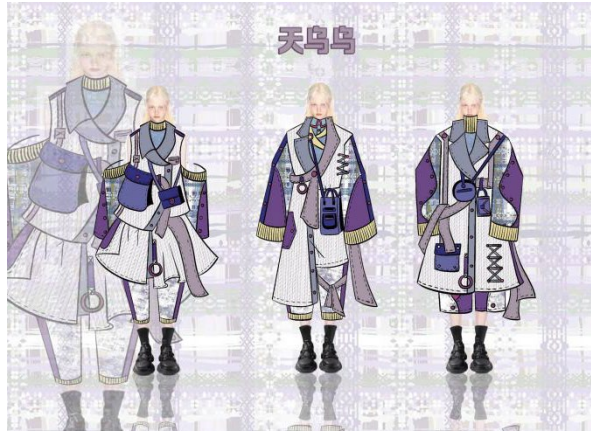


Figure 10: Complete the effect

5. The fusion of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes and clothing design sheds light on contemporary life

The fusion of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes and costume design has brought inspiration to people. The Chinese language is rich in history and needs to be taken seriously. At the same time, it can be used to enrich modern art, such as film and television, theater, architecture, and clothing design, to reflect the elements of Chinese culture in people's lives, thus inspiring national self-confidence and igniting people's passion for national culture.

It is worth considering how to further promote and inherit the Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in contemporary times. As a clothing designer, we should make the clothing design form richer and more diverse, and fully manifest its aesthetic function. The combination with Minnan dialect nursery rhymes forms a cross-field dialogue, and the novel design form will enrich people's wearing system, and also guide contemporary people to pay more attention to Minnan dialect nursery rhymes, and further promote the regional language and culture, so as to realize the organic integration development of various arts.

6. Conclusion

The Chinese language and culture are profound and essential in the development of China's culture, while clothing design as an art is also a kind of culture, the development of the two is essentially similar and has certain internal connections. The article first gives an overview of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes, then discusses the connection between Minnan dialect nursery rhymes and clothing design and the application of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in clothing design respectively, and finally proposes the inspiration of the integration of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes and clothing design to contemporary life, hoping to further enhance the demand for continuous high-end clothing design. The use of Minnan dialect nursery rhymes in fashion design is much more than what is discussed in this article. There are many ways to integrate and transform Chinese language and culture with the art of fashion design, and it is hoped that future scholars will actively explore and pass on the long-standing Chinese language and culture.

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