

Master's Thesis Abstract

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Title

Research and investigation on Ainu ethnic costumes and regional characteristics -- based on the data of Hakodate Northern Ethnic Archive

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From around the 12th or 13th centuries, the Ainu people living in Hokkaido, the Kuril Islands, and the southern part of Sakhalin developed an indigenous culture different from Yamato culture in terms of living habits, religion, and clothing. However, with the development of Hokkaido and the implementation of internal localization policy, Ainu's unique culture was affected by Yamato cultural assimilation and was in danger of disappearing.

Patterns can be seen everywhere in the daily life of the Ainu people. Because Ainu culture without writing, the unique pattern culture is expressed through the medium of clothing. Therefore, the researcher mainly focus on the clothes and patterns of Ainu people for this research.

In the history of Ainu research, there are many people who have studied clothes. However, few of them analyze regional characteristics by comparing clothing data across collection sites. For this research, the researcher collected a total of 200 Ainu garments from the archives of the Northern Nationalities Museum in Hakodate City, and the catalogues of the museums of Russia or Hokkaido, moreover, categorized them by region and type. Based on the above research work, the researcher analyzed the number of clothes, materials used in the main body, patterns, etc., and made relevant data tables.

Based on the database, I mainly analyzed and studied the collected Ainu clothing from six aspects. And because the number of garments collected from Hidaka, Iburi and Sakhalin is the largest, the analysis of regional characteristics of clothing is mainly carried out in these three regions. Through the analysis of data, the similarities, and differences of different kinds of clothing are clarified. I analyzed and studied the characteristics of various Ainu garments and the characteristics of the places where they were collected. In this way, the researcher also trying to do my best to protect Ainu culture, which is in danger of disappearing.

With the deepening of the research, I realized that there are also some deficiencies in my research. These deficiencies are mainly caused by incomplete information in the database. Therefore, in the following research, I will take improving the database as the new research goal. In addition, in the future research process, I will also explore the similarities and differences in the clothing and patterns of Ainu people and their surrounding ethnic minorities by comparing their clothing.

Keywords: Ainu, Hokkaido, Sakhalin, Clothing, Embroidery, Pattern