

The Making of Ethnic Costumes among Miao in Southeast Guizhou Prefecture: Women's Inheritance of Textile Production and Embroidery Techniques

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Background and objectives of my research

Those which symbolize the ethnic minority most directly in China today are the ethnic costume. The ethnic costume of Miao in Southeast Guizhou Prefecture are well-known for lively embroideries and silver ornaments, and often adopted by the domestic television and the magazine. Those who wear the ethnic costume at the representation, in many cases, are the women. As for the costumes of the man, these almost are the same as Han Chinese, on the other hand, as for the costumes of the woman, these are obviously recognized as the unique style of “Miao”.



Pic1 Miao Embroidery in Southeast Guizhou



Pic2 Miao woman embroidering

And, also those who produce costumes and embroideries are Miao women. In the Miao society which is the patriarchal society, embroidery techniques was succeeded by the women. As Chinese market economy is developing rapidly, the ethnic minority culture is becoming the target of the tourism business more strongly. In that situation, how are textile production and embroidery techniques succeeded and maintained in their lives?

As previous researches are surveyed, the costume of Miao is discussed only about global expansions with social transfiguration, the marker of Miao image, or analysis of the production techniques themselves. In addition, that is discussed as the tool when some Miao appeals modern characteristic. However it is not certain how much important for them to appeal modern characteristic in their lives, and

how they are involved in the “modernization” in fact. Furthermore, it is not clear how Miao women produce textiles and inherit these embroidery techniques in their lives.



Pic3 Miao women embroidering