

National Clothes of Kazakh Women

N.A. Kobzeva, E.S. Ananeva

nadiatom@mail.ru

(Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia)

Nowadays, with the phenomenon of globalization and world-wide civilization, most of people are no longer wearing their traditional clothes in their daily life.

On one hand, the modern clothes are more suitable for contemporary activities, works and influenced by the particular situation or circumstance. On the other hand, ethnic group's clothes always have countless tied with its culture. A type of clothes generally reflects the history of one particular ethnic group and the lifestyle the local residents have. Besides, the traditional costumes are usually closely related ethnic identity.

Folk costume (also regional costume, national costume, or traditional garments) expresses an identity through costume which is usually associated with a geographic area or a period of time in history, but can also indicate social, marital and or religious status. Such costumes often come in two forms: one for everyday occasions, the other for festivals and formal wear.

The purpose of this paper is to describe Kazakh women's national clothes.

But we must first say a few words about Kazakhstan. The Republic of Kazakhstan is situated in the central part of the Euro – Asian continent. Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country in the world. Kazakhstan is known for an incredible variety of natural landscapes, which are spread over a vast area. Mountains and glaciers, vast steppes and desert and over a hundred and twenty nationalities

A Kazakh woman traditionally wore a dress with a waistcoat. Generally, outerwear of women was similar to that of men: similar jackets, waistcoats, gowns, wide leather belts, it differed from men's only in colours and some decoration details.

Headwear of Kazakh women, similar to many other nationalities, was also a kind of indicator of their marital status. Headwear of married women differed in different tribal groups, but girls' headwear was

comparatively similar throughout the territory of Kazakhstan. Girls used to wear hats of two types: skull cap (*Takiya*) and a warm hat (*Borik*), decorated with otter, fox or beaver fur. A tuft of owl feather was often sewed to the top of *takiya* for decoration purposes, which also played a role of a talisman. Gimp, tassels, gold embroidery and even silver coins were also used for decoration.

Kazakh women's national bridal headwear *Saukele*, which is a high (70 cm) conical hat, is of particular importance. The most expensive of them were evaluated in a hundred selected horses. *Saukele* was a mandatory part of girl's dowry, and was prepared long before the girls reached the age of marriage, together with a wedding gown, which was often made of expensive fabric, usually red coloured. Bride was supposed to wear a *saukele* during the wedding ceremony, and then it was worn on holidays for some time after the marriage.

It should be added that the whole idea of a national costume is to express a dedication to a country, without having to say a thing. Also, when wearing it on occasions, to celebrate something related to national values.

Thereby, the national Kazakh women's costume can be considered as a very important part of Kazakh culture.

To the Question of Russian Traditions

N.A. Kobzeva, M.V. Kuznetsov

nadiatom@mail.ru

(Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia)

Doubtless, every country and every nation has its own traditions and customs. It's very important to know traditions and customs of different nations, because it will help us to know more about their history and life.

One cannot speak about Russia without speaking about Russian traditions and customs. Russians are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up. A great number of customs and traditions date back to the early days of Russia and we can say that they are the reflection of the country's history and the people's psychology. To know the customs and traditions means to understand the people, their art and culture better.