

# Stage Costumes for Children's Play Performed in Preschool

## -A quantitative analysis on catalogs-

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Childhood is an essential period for physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development. The content of children's play needs to be educational since the value system of children are usually established in this period of time through repetition of learning process. Acting in a children's play can promote emotional and intellectual development by indirect experience. Stage costumes used in children's play an important role in expressing themes of play. Thus, the purpose of this study is to investigate various stage costumes used in different types of children's play and the current trend in stage costumes for children.

This study focused on stage costumes used for children in preschool age between 5 to 7. The research data was obtained from the catalogs printed in 2000 by 5 major stage costume makers. From these primary sources, total 838 stage costumes in color photos were obtained and used for the analysis. In this study, children's play was categorized into 5 different groups depending on the theme and they include: sports & dance play, animation play, folklore play, impersonation play, and play on livelihood. The result of study indicated that the stage costumes for all five different types of plays were appeared evenly. The stage costumes for sports & dance plays(25%) and animation plays(25%) consisted about half of total costumes analyzed. The costumes for sports & dance plays appeared most frequently and they included modern dance, folk dance, ballet, and gymnastics.

The next frequently appeared costumes,

though very similar to the sports & dance plays were based on 44 different domestic and imported animations. About 90% of the total consisted of costumes for imported animations including 14 different Disney animations, while only 10% showed characters from 4 animations produced domestically. This result shows the popularity of foreign cartoon characters, especially the Disney characters, among preschool children.

The costumes for livelihood plays consisted of both occupational and everyday clothes and they also appeared frequently in the preschool plays. The costumes for special occupations took almost 10% of the total and they included the popular occupations among preschool children such as soldiers, TV entertainers, sportsmen, policeman, and fireman. The costume for the impersonation plays which consisted about 15% of the total showed a large variety of objects originated from nature including plants, animals, and everyday objects. The costumes for folklore plays took about 20%. These included folk costumes originated from many different nationalities and ethnic groups. However, only 20% came from Korean folklore characters and they consisted about 3% of total costumes studied. This result showed that very small number of children's play were based on our own traditional folk stories. Special efforts were needed to develop more folklore plays based on our traditional folk stories for our preschool children to become familiar with our own culture.