

# Colors of Costume in Korean Basic Culture

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This research has for its object to look carefully into the peculiarity of the color of the costume in the Korean culture by revealing the characteristic and the idea of the color being discovered in the Korean basic culture, which has the majority of the Korean people. The scope of the basic culture was divided into folk belief, folk game and folk play. Within these limits, the colors of the dress, accessories, instruments were extracted by comparing with the naked eye in NCS Color System. For the analysis of hue and tone the secondary dimensional analysis using NCS color system and the three-dimensional analysis using the software, COLOR 3D Version 2.0, were done.

The result of this investigation is as the following:

1. The colors of the costume were 1174 in total and 296 when the overlapped ones were excluded. For the characteristic of the costume color in the Korean basic culture, achromatic color was found to have the highest frequency and yellow and yellowish red and purplish blue followed. For the color tone, 1 area (Toned light gray) and 6 area (Toned dark gray) of NCS nuance and 3 area (Brilliant) and 4 area (Deep chromatic) of high chromaticness appeared very frequently whereas the middle chromaticness showed low frequency. As the representative colors in the Korean basic culture, 27 colors that based on Five-elements color of yellow, yellowish red and purplish blue were extracted. The color arrangement used in the dress of the Korean basic culture adopted the visual effect of the primary color that based on Five-elements color and white and red were proven very important in the color arrangement. When the color of the Korean basic culture was compared with the color of the upper class based on the result of the preceding study, it was found to be a little high in brightness whereas a little low in saturation. Also, it was shown to use more limited color than the upper class.

2. Traditionally, in daily life the Korean

people dressed in achromatic color due to custom, habit and outer economic and politic limitation. On the other hand, in unusual and chaotic occasion they used gorgeous color instead. So, this was shaped as bisected costume culture. The frequency of the color tone that belongs to 3 area (Brilliant) and 4 area (Deep chromatic) was 44.4% for folk belief, 43.9% for folk game and 38.9% for folk play. This implies that people dressed in color with high saturation in religious circumstances rather than in artistic ones.

The conclusion of this research is as follows:

1. The colors of the costume in the Korean basic culture are white, gray and black of achromatic color and yellow, yellowish red and purplish blue were shown as the main colors. This confirms that the colors that based on Five-elements color are becoming the basis too basic culture.

2. The primary colors showing in religious service, game and play that we perform, as a part of contemporary folk festival should be understood as the succeeded tradition in which Korean citizen used chromatic color with chaotic meaning in order to overcome their desperate reality.

3. Arche-pattern, which is a characteristic commonly found in the Korean traditional society, was shown as a characteristic of color.

4. The color of the costume in the Korean basic culture was a symbol of the divine world that is distinguished from the mundane world and was used as an instrumental meaning needed in entering the world of chaos, in earning the existence needed in reality and in returning to the world of cosmos.

This research is significant for it prepared the basis that can be of help in understanding the color culture of the contemporary Korean people by examining the origin of the color individually selected by the Korean base citizens in their religious and ideological life through the color of the costume in the Korean basic culture.