

Romanticism of Fashion

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Romanticism is advocating the conception called the respect of diversity and individuality in the modern society dominated by post-modernism trying to accept the various values. This is a very important spirit that is being solidified by the explosive consumption of materialism and the tendency of narcissism.

For the definite understanding of romanticism in fashion, this study is designed to examine the characteristics of romanticism in art and fashion on the basis of occurrence background of romanticism. The romanticism fashion in the 19th century has already studied through the previous research, but it left something to be desired on the connection between the past and the present. Because the meaning of romanticism was mostly reduced and was merely studied about only external form. Thus, this study is designed to examine the characteristics of romanticism in fashion through the bibliographies on philosophy, aesthetics, architecture and art and through the fashion history books.

With the challenge about dehumanization resulted from the civilization development of industrial revolution at the end of the 18th century, romanticism as the mean to express the spiritual independence from the aristocratic class gave high position to the spirit than to the form. It means the tendency attached great importance to the demonstration of the creative spirit without any restriction by relying on impression, intuition, impulse, and passion when they recognize the diversity and select the form or content in art.

The characteristics of romanticism in literature and art which are applied to fashion are sensuality, ornament, exoticism and complexity. On the basis of these characteristics, the fashion of romanticism was analyzed as

follows.

First, sensuality to emphasize sexual region of woman's body and to make 'X' silhouette is through exaggeration and exposure. This is the external characteristic of romanticism that wants to relieve femininity.

Second, ornament is expressed in the gorgeous color and the varied material, details and trimming to add the fantastic mood, and the accessory to express the aristocratic elegance. This is a very important characteristic that produces the fantastic and romantic mood.

Third, exoticism to express aspiration for East is expressed either in items or accessories imported from the East, or in exotic material and pattern. This is the characteristic of fashion to express the desire to escape from the reality in the mysterious mood.

Fourth, complexity is expressed, contrasting or harmonizing the various patterns, color, material in a fashion by the textile with the rich color and print of the various feeling and many trimming. This is the external characteristic of the romanticism fashion combined the experimental mind of the technical progress with the romantic trend in those days.

These characteristics of romanticism fashion in the 19th century presented with the various phenomena by working complexly rather than independently. As the proper object to express the trend, these romanticism fashion in the 19th century have become the mean to express the dream like heat wave or the delicate feeling, escaping from the current real life of industrial revolution. Therefore, to examine the characteristic of romanticism fashion related the past trend and art is of great value as the very important data to investigate the romanticism fashion spreading in the modern fashion.