

A Study on the Traditional Sewing Introduced in 'Joseonbongjeonseo'

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1. Introduction

The history of needlework may be as old as the history of tailoring and putting on clothes. It seems that there has been no need to record, since the sewing skills were handed down by oral transmission between mother and daughter or ladies rather than recorded by text. It is no exaggeration to say that the advent of recording tradition on the sewing or tailoring skills was at the beginning point of female education. As the teaching of the sewing work was started at school not home spaces, textbook on sewing works started to be published. In doing so, as a result, the record of Korean traditional sewing skills has been initiated.

This study examines traditional sewing skills on the basis of 『Joseonbongjaejeonseo』 which is the first textbook on the sewing skills, and arranges traditional Korean sewing skills by considering current sewing skills and others.

2. Varieties and features of Korean sewing in 『Joseonbongjeonseo』

『Joseonbongjeonseo』 records 14 kinds of sewing skills: “Gamchimjil”; “Homjil”; “Bakeumjil”; “Sangchim”; “Hwigapchigi”; “Sadduigi”; “Sichimnoki”; “Gongguruegi(Seumchinoki)”; “Mineunbeop”, “Galeumsolbeop”, “Gopsolhagi”, “Ssamsolhagi”, “Duiungsolbeop”; and “Solollineunbeop”

Among these, Gamchim, Homjil, Bageumjil, Sangchim, Hwigapchigi, Saddueigi, Sichim, Gonggureugi, Gopsol, Ssamsol and Duiungsol are sewing skills and other three skills are for margin treatment.

‘Sichimbeop’ and ‘Duiungsolbeop’ which are not so familiar to Korean, can be easily found in dress artifacts, and ‘Sololineunbeop’ which is also unfamiliar name, has been practised as one of completing methods for margin parts. In this paper I try to give specific explanations by demonstrating these methods directly and finding actual examples in authentic relics.

1) How to make Sichim(completing by fixing the inner and outer sides of the cloth)

It is called ‘Sichim beop’ and means that it is basting skill not to show the lining material and the interval between stitches is like the length of the needle.

This is a method to prevent from dropping down caused by the cloth's weight or different in and out sides, and has a fixing effect like decorative saddle stitching. Generally, Sichimbeop is

regular stitching method but 'Sichimbeop' here make an effect like decorative saddle stitching. Some are under 1cm per three broad stitches and repeat three broad stitches leaving three centimeter long interval. Some may consider that this method takes not back stitching but broad stitching for making decorative saddle stitching effect. However this is one of traditional Korean sewing stitches since it has have a term, 'Sichimnotneunbeop' for a long time.

It is easily found in Korean dress relics that this sichim beop was done at 4 to 5 centimeter inside of large size clothes such as Po. In addition, in the case that stuff cotton wool or papers in the clothes, Sichim beop was used to keep the lining materials in.

2) How to make Duiongsol

'Duiongsol beop' is also one of sewing skills and its detailed process is acknowledged as follows: sew with leather, fold it up, cut the part off slightly inside, and fold with sewing the margin turned inside out in order to turn the margin inside.

If we make an actual practice in accordance with these explanation, prepare two pieces of texture, and sew them facing insides. After sewing up, leave the margin slightly(about 0.3cm) and cover the back margin with the front margin. There are a number of cases to complete seams in this way. Accordingly, we can see this is the sewing method called 'Yetssamsol'.

'Yet(old) ssamsol' is similar to 'ssamsol' in terms of "methodology" but has slightly different factors. Thus it had been optionally called "Yet(old) ssamsol". However, as a result of actual demonstration in accordance with 『Joseonbongjaejeonseo』, it matches with 'Duiongsolbeop.'

3. Conclusion

This study attempts to find traditional sewing methods which have not been well-known but kept their names, and finds some sewing skills which has have different names or been anonymous, by showing actual examples from dress relics. All the while, Duiongsol has been called 'Yetssamsol' and 'Sichimbeop' was a kind of decorative saddle stitching skills. By giving the genuine names and methods through this study, we can clearly find that in spite of the technical inheritance by oral transmission within female communities, every sewing method has its own name and distinctive skill. We need to apply these terms and methods which are not widely acknowledged, in restoring and investigating Korean traditional customs with more willingly attitude.

Reference

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