

About Significance of Traditional Handicraft Patterns in Research of Urban Culture of Ganja

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ABSTRACT

In scientific work for the first time has been researched the significance of traditional craftsmanship patterns from ethnographic and archaeological point of view in investigation of development of features of urban culture in Ganja on the basis of scientific arguments. Also, in this article were noted the main results of investigations of local researchers in this field with scientists from the USA and Japan on the basis of application of innovative technologies and methods. The main moment of historic-ethnographical importance of development of the main traditional branches of craftsmanship of Ganja has been systematic investigated on the basis of innovative technologies and facts. Were researched the basic skill characteristics of different wares of these traditional handicraft branches.

Keywords: Ganja, Urban culture, handicraft kinds, historic-ethnographical research, Azerbaijan, innovative research methods

INTRODUCTION

In the territory of ancient Ganja have been carried out scientific researches, archaeological and ethnographical investigations by local scientists together with researchers from National Museum of Natural History of Smithsonian Institution of the USA and Tokio Museum University of Japan with the purpose to study of historical formation and development of Urban culture. During these scientific investigations have been used some main innovative academic methods:

1. Application of biochemical innovative technologic methods (as radiocarbon, dendrochronologic methods and etc.);
2. Research of local materials of craftsmanship patterns [1-3];
3. Determination of traditional methods and materials of handicraft wares on the basis of innovative roads;
4. For the first time research of problem of genesis of handicraft traditions on the basis of production technology and technique of local craftsmanship patterns of ancient and classical periods;
5. Foundation of the new scientific direction on ethnography and ethnology on the basis of investigation of sustainable historical features of handicraft branches in research of the historical past of formation and development of Urban culture;
6. Investigation of importance of the handicraft patterns as the main source in research of characteristics of formation and development of Urban culture (formation process of the features of urban culture) for ancient and classical periods on the basis of scientific arguments [4-6].

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

The main aim of our investigations is research of significance of local traditional handicraft patterns as a source in research of features of urban culture in Ganja.

Because, one of the areas of initially appeared human civilization was an integral part of Azerbaijan, the historical land of the city Ganja. Scientific and archaeological researches have proved that Ganja was cradle of science and culture not only of Azerbaijan, but also of the whole East. The majority of historical monuments, that are demonstrate the ancient history of Ganja, which is the national wealth of our people, today gain unique place in the expositions of World's museums. In state and private museums of Metropolis, Munich, Berlin, Hamburg, Louvre, Paris, Moscow, St. Petersburg and other cities rare and valuable exhibits, that concern to the history of ancient Ganja are preserved [1]. Ganja city that located on an altitude of 400-450 meters above sea level is situated on the west of Azerbaijan, 375-kms to the west from the capital city Baku, on Ganja-Kazakh plain, that located in the Kura - Araz lowland, at the foot of the Lesser Caucasus on the north-east. Ganja, that has changed its location at least 4 times since its establishment, is located in a favorable position from the strategic point of view. That why it always has been the center of attention of foreigners. Ganja, that was the victim of a terrible earthquake many times, also was the subject of attacks of Mongols, Kharezmshahs, Georgians, Arabs, Russians and other invaders. Ganja has turned to the arena of war damage of different countries of the World. But in spite of it didn't shaken, and using the genetic power revived and developed, and rose to the level of great cities.

SOLVING METHODS OF PROBLEM AND TESTING

Historic and ethnographic exploration of problems and branches of crafts is very important, as a way of studying along with history and culture of the people, years generated political-economic and relations of production. During our researches in 2012-2013 years we determined some new scientific arguments and facts in this field. The increase in quantity of handicraftsmen in a city directly has been bundled to population growth. Closely bundled to an economy and a daily life of the people, craft employment were one of the basic carriers of national traditions. The competition of production of production plants and factories has not reached still serious level and consequently was created a favorable condition for spreading of traditional occupations there. In addition, products of these craft branches have been closely bundled to a life and traditions of the people, and it would be difficult to replace with their factory production [1].

In the specified period of history in Ganja developed basically carpet weaving, weaver's business, craft of the tailor, squeeze men, forge and a jeweler, trades of dyer, the stone mason, the cooper and leather dresser, weapon business and other similar craft branches. Among these crafts especially developed carpet weaving. To so wide development of carpet weaving promoted availability of raw materials. In addition carpets were very widely used in a population life-both as furniture, and as a curtain, both as sand bed and as a coating for a floor. In carpet weaving have been held basically women. It has been bundled by that in a Muslim society of the woman preferred to work in house conditions. However also know cases when men were occupied with this craft [2].

From the point of view silkworm breeding development and it's preparing technology there were two main forms of production: so-called raw silk weaving and felt weaving. In these important technological processes it has such kind of production stages as cocoon opening, silk initial processing, preparing of raw silk, weaving technology, painting and decoration. In the ancient Ganja during the stage of the Middle Ages the great progress of silkworm was represented by raw silk weaving. For this reason, on the basis of local traditions production of

delicate silk textiles from raw silk. There were made such kind of important samples of art as atlas and kelaqai (silk kerchief) [4]. We must pay attention to the moment that differs from the other silk fabrics, kelaqai was prepared by specialists. But distinctly of production of raw silk that was city silkworm breeding and was man activity, felt production was woman work. In Ganja, that know as the ancient cultural center, the saddle-making handicraft differed from others with rich old traditions. First time preparation of the vehicles was house profession. But afterwards saddle preparation needed of qualified skilled masters, so a new type of art saddle-making, started to form. Historically the traditional art of saddle-making in Ganja developed in direction of cargo and passenger saddle making. The art of saddle-making within the local saddle-types and their components were determined on a specialization. The production of cargo or pack-saddle a rule was engaged by pack-saddle maker. For this reason, in most cases, the profession was called trade of pack-saddle maker [5].

On a ground classifying crafts it has been defined that by the end of XIX century a number of fashionable trades began to disappear. Among them were wool-carder, hatcheller, selsbchy, dhulfachy, carriers. They have got rid of and have been replaced by representatives of new crafts [6-7]. Distribution of experts of certain crafts on quarters and neighboring communes was prominent of crafts. For example, it is possible to recollect. In these neighboring communes functioned craft departments. Wood treatment products historically have been represented in various fields of social and cultural life in Ganja as the kitchen appliances: trough, quadruped, rolling-pin, mortar and pestle, ladle, spoon, trough, also transport means: sleigh, car, and ski [5].

During these scientific investigations have been used some main innovative academic methods as research of importance of the handicraft patterns as the main source in research of characteristics of formation and development of Urban culture (formation process of the features of urban culture) for ancient and classical periods on the basis of scientific arguments, determination of traditional methods and materials of handicraft wares on the basis of innovative roads, for the first time research of problem of genesis of handicraft traditions on the basis of production technology and technique of local craftsmanship patterns of ancient and classical periods and etc.

The craftsmanship of carpet-making is one of the important cultural achievements of the Eastern people in Azerbaijan production of carpets appeared during I millennium BC. But carpet-making in the first period of Middle Ages has turned to the independent sphere of craft. In Ganja, that has minimum 4000 years history, production of carpets differed with quickly development. In this ancient city, that is native land of great Azerbaijani poet and thinker Sheikh Nizami Ganjavi, were weaved very uncial, inimitable kinds of carpet. In Ganja, that has rich traditions, were prepared carpets with various characteristics. For this reason one of Azerbaijani carpet groups are Ganja carpets or (Ganja-Kazakh carpets). Pay attention that in Ganja namely local kinds of carpets-palaz (carpets without of pile) are weaved [6]. These carpets that are producing by local inhabitants are differing with specific handicraft features. Majority of local wool products, richness of natural colors and existence professional carpet-making women made for quick development carpet making craftsmanship in Ganja and in its surround territories [3].

Made of precious metals gold and silver jewelries, that prepared by Ganja masters, are divided into 4 main groups for wearing and putting: Neck jewelries - it is included such kind of jewelries, that gold piece coin, imperial, cardamom or barley, medallions, bracelets, different kinds of beads and etc., jewelries for arms and fingers – this group include bracelets, bangles and rings with various precious stones as (turquoise, rubies, pearls and etc.), head jewelries – skull-cap and others, jewelries for clothiers [8].

From the construction point of view, samples of pottery, that concern to Antique period, also to the period of Hellenism in Ganja, differed in various forms as pictorial vases, ceramic figures, connected dishes. During the end of Middle Ages and New Period in Ganja and its regions ceramic has following kinds as building ceramic materials, unglazed ceramic products, glazed ceramic products. For Middle Ages and New period among pottery products of Ganja ceramic samples as clay construction materials have great importance [9].

The formation of pottery on the territory of ancient Ganja is concern to the stages of ancient history. Basis on research works carried out by the various persons in XIX century and experts-archeologists at the beginning of XX century in old ruins of the city and surrounding areas there were found different samples of pottery. In the first half of the XVIII-XIX centuries, as well as in other parts of Azerbaijan, in Ganja household objects, forging weapons and jewelries that made from metal were decorated with different technical ways. As in many places, production of wool, cotton and silk in and around Ganja made necessary emergence and development of weaving. Becoming weaving one of the ancient spheres of crafts in and around Ganja was connected with the rich raw material base here. Presence of useful plant species for textile, including cotton, high level development of wool area of agriculture-sheep and goat breeding, camel breeding, horse breeding, presence of cotton cropping in Middle Ages and finally, regular expansion of silkworm breeding in this area created a foundation for growth of weaving here [10]. In addition, during the research work in Ganjabasar and other territories monuments there have been found whole and parts of weaving loom and different sizes of clay and bone samples that consist to weaving [1]. Traditional spheres of crafts are invaluable and reliable sources of studying of culture, aesthetic taste, outlook (world outlook) of the Azerbaijan people.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND APPLICATIVE SIGNIFICANCE

1. For the first time has been researched the significance of traditional craftsmanship patterns from ethnographic and archaeological point of view in investigation of development of features of urban culture in Ganja on the basis of scientific arguments.
2. Were noted the main results of investigations of local researchers in this field with scientists from the USA and Japan on the basis of application of innovative technologies and methods.
3. In the future it would help to continue the both scientific-research works, also ethnographic and archaeological investigations, excavations and for the main academic results in this field.
4. These scientific investigations have a great applicative significance. It is possible of production of these handicraft wares for ancient, classical and Mediavel periods on the basis of its production technology and materials in the modern time as new models.
5. Investigation of the main traditional craft branches on the basis of new, innovative methods and technologies is very important. Results of these researches show the significance of different patterns of craftsmanship kinds as a source in studying of historical past of nations.
6. In traditional production of cloth manufactory trade historically played an important place. This kind of craft that developed on the basis of local raw materials was tied with cotton-growing economy. Since the time of the early Middle Ages, Ganja as other big cities has been the main center of Azerbaijan in production of cotton

cloth. In this ancient city printed cotton and calico fabrics have been widely produced. In traditional cloth productions the main place took the urban mines [8-10].

CONCLUSION

Importance of typical local wares of handicraft branches of Ganja was investigated for the first time in research of historical formation and development of the main Urban culture elements and construction feature – craftsmanship blocks (quarters). For the first time in the territory of ancient Ganja have been carried out scientific researches, archaeologic and ethnographical investigations by local scientists together with researchers from National Museum of Natural History of Smithsonian Institution of the USA and Tokio Museum University of Japan with the purpose to study of historical formation and development of Urban culture.

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