

RELIGIOUS FEATURES OF DANCING IN KOREA

*Scientific supervisor: Head of the department
Theories and practices of the Korean language (UzSWLU)
Azimova Amira Muminovna*

*Olimjonova Asalabonu Ziyodjonovna
Student of the Uzbek State World Languages University
2 undergraduate course*

Аннотация: Традиционные корейские танцы, вбирая все этнокультурные особенности, представляют собой удивительное и неповторимое явление в мировой культуре. В танцевальном искусстве Кореи, как и в других видах творчества, существует несколько различных направлений: шаманские, народные, религиозные, придворные.

Ключевые слова: Культура Кореи, танец, природа, пение, народная жизнь, ритуальные и религиозные танцы, конфуцианство, шаманизм, буддизм.

Abstract: Traditional Korean dances, taking all the ethno cultural features, represent an amazing and unique phenomenon in world culture. In Korean dance art, as in other types of creativity, there are several different directions: shamanic, folk, religious, court.

Keywords: Korean culture, dance, nature, singing, folk life, ritual and religious dances, Confucianism, shamanism, Buddhism.

Korean traditional dance and music are great examples of how ordinary people have influenced Korean performing arts for centuries. Mixing a wide range of emotions in one vocal or dance performance illustrates the depth and breadth of emotions of the Korean people. Created and performed for the masses, Korean traditional dances and music embody beauty and power unlike any other performing art in the world.

As indicated in the source called "Culture of Korea"¹ - dance has remained one of the core elements of Korean culture for centuries. Korean dances were the rule of prehistoric ancestors who sacrificed to the Gods.

Nowadays, traditional Korean dance has become a form of representation in the theater, as well as a way of expressing human thought.

Korean traditional dance is a sacred, magical ritual action in its origin. This is due to the fact that the dances were based on the traditions of religions. This is due to

¹<https://nsportal.ru/ap/library/muzykalnoe-tvorchestvo/2015/05/31/koreyskiy-tanets-ot-drevnosti-do-sovremennosti>

the strong influence of religions such as Shamanism², Buddhism³, Confucianism⁴, which influenced the formation of dance culture. There are three types of ritual dance in Korea - shamanic, Buddhist and Confucian. Each type of dance has its own specific dance attributes inherent in a particular religion from which the dance originates.

Shamanic dances during the worshipping can be attributed to the fundamental basis of Korean plastic culture. The way to implement this connection was ritual actions, the essence of which consisted in playing special instruments, singing and dancing. The rituals of Korean shamanism pursue many simple everyday goals. The main one is to achieve harmony and well-being of one's community. The cult practice in Korean shamanism is very diverse. The main function of shamans is to conduct the "kut" ceremony, during which the shaman performs an ever-accelerating dance to the accompaniment of drums and bells. In parallel with the dance, chants are performed-incantations in which the shaman calls upon her patron spirits. The culmination point of worshipping is the shaman's falling into a trance, during which her "communication" with spirits takes place.



Mudan shaman dance. Degu Theatre, 2003

Most of the dance movements that accompany the Confucian rite are laconic and majestic. 64 dancers (men standing in eight rows) slowly bow to the beat of the music during the Confucian ritual performed today. The ceremony performed in honor of the

² Shamanism is the oldest form of religion and a way of harmonizing the human community with nature, the surrounding world

³ Buddhism-an Indian religion or philosophical tradition based on teachings attributed to the Buddha.

⁴ Confucianism-is a system of thought and behavior originating in ancient China.

20 rulers of the Joseon dynasty is distinguished by a wide variety of movements: in addition to respectful bows, dancers (also eight rows of eight people), dressed in magnificent purple robes, make a movement with their hands describing a circle and lift their legs (bending at the knee and lifting 10-15 centimeters off the floor). At the beginning of the XXI century, this ceremonial dance is performed strictly according to certain rules, being sacred, cultic. Collectively, all ritual Confucian dances are called "ilmu", they are still performed in spring and autumn in Confucian temples in Seoul and are dedicated directly to Confucius and his disciples. Similar ritual dances were performed at the Imperial Ancestral Temple on the outskirts of Seoul. Ilmu dances consist of a "Civil dance" and a "Military dance", performed by two groups of dancers who form 8 lines, 8 dancers each. This arrangement in these dances was called the "Eighth Ilmu". The dances use a whole series of simple, slow and stylized movements, but not for the dance itself as such, but for the purpose of conducting a sacrifice ceremony.



Confucian ritual dance Ilmu – performers of the "civil dance"

Buddhist dances, which were introduced in Korea in the VIII century, came from India through China and already in the IX century acquired characteristic Korean features, losing their original appearance. Despite this, 4 dances that make up the main part of the repertoire of Buddhist ritual rituals have been preserved. These dances were performed for the purpose of invoking the Buddha with a prayer for the souls of the dead so that they could reach paradise. One of the most famous Korean Buddhist dances is a rather complex ritual dance "Chakpop" (creation of dharma), consisting of three interconnected parts. First, the "Butterfly Dance" is performed, which, with its

grace, subtlety and restraint of execution, is not inferior to the light, airy movements of a butterfly,

The dance is accompanied by the accompaniment of a large gong and Buddhist invocation singing. Of the 14 types of this dance that existed, only 6 variations have reached us, which are performed to this day. Usually, the "Butterfly Dance" is danced by two monks who are dressed in long white and yellow robes with very wide sleeves. On their heads there is an ordinary monastic pointed cap, which is significantly weighted with additional folds and decorated with ornaments. The dancers also wear red robes that pass over the shoulder and buttoned on the host, which resemble winged insects (butterflies).



Thajuchum is a butterfly dance. Buddhist Temple, Seoul, 2008

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