# **Analysis of Women's Dress Color in Tang Dynasty**

Xiaohua Huang<sup>1, 2, a</sup>, Yueyun Shao<sup>3, b, \*</sup>, Sangnan Su<sup>4, c</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Design, Ningbo Tech University, Ningbo, Zhejiang, 315100, China

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of innovation and design, City University of Macau, Macau, 999078, China

<sup>3</sup>Zhejiang Fashion Institute of Technology, Ningbo, Zhejiang, 315211, China

<sup>4</sup>School of Design, Ningbo Tech University, Ningbo, Zhejiang, 315100, China

<sup>a</sup>email:hxhzdnblgxy@163.com, <sup>b, \*</sup>email:284700323@qq.com, <sup>c</sup>email:710086964@qq.com

\*Corresponding author

**Keywords:** Tang Dynasty Women; Dress; Color

**Abstract:** The Tang Dynasty's political enlightenment, economic abundance, and ideological integration are the reasons for the colorful formation of Tang Dynasty costumes. During the Tang Dynasty, the development of the weaving industry and the continuous absorption, blending, and innovation of costumes constituted the unique costume culture of the Tang Dynasty. The article analyzes the color of women's clothing in the Tang Dynasty, expounds the individual language of the clothing color of the Tang Dynasty, and points out the changes in the clothing color of the Tang Dynasty. The unique charm of the Tang Dynasty women's clothing color phenomenon is analyzed from the integration of the Tang Dynasty's political economy and culture and the development of the weaving industry.

#### 1. Introduction

The Tang Dynasty showed unprecedented prosperity regardless of the development of clothing, clothing and style. In the Tang Dynasty, the inheritance of traditional costume color culture, insisting on the bright and colorful hue and color, the gorgeous color, reflects the style of a great country. Clothing can be a barometer of socioeconomic politics. The Tang Dynasty was the prosperous era of ancient society in China, especially during the period of the Zhenguan rule and the prosperous era of Kaiyuan. The politics was clear and the economy developed rapidly. The people were rich in food and clothing, and absorbed the outstanding points of the fusion of other countries' costumes. Further development. Among them, the women's clothing of the Tang Dynasty is divided into court women's clothing and women's regular clothing, and their clothing colors are also different, but in general, they can not be free from the shackles of feudal etiquette.

# 2. Colors of Court Ladies' Clothing in the Tang Dynasty

There are strict regulations on the color of official clothes in the Tang Dynasty. Civilian and military officials serve different colors according to the size of the official rank, from first to ninth grade. Women can dress in the same or lower colors according to their husbands or their sub-grades. The bright colors are only for people with high status and status. The color of women's clothing in the Tang Dynasty became a mark to measure the level, and it also had a profound impact on future generations. According to the requirements of feudal etiquette, the court women were divided into the queen mother, the queen, the princess and the wife and daughter of the court officials. Its clothing has a distinctive grade color.

Jackets, the queen is enrolled, and is used for ceremonies. The jacket of the robes is dark blue, embroidered with Cui Zhai, woven into plain gowns with plain gauze, vermilion lace on the sleeves

and apparel, the knee straps and buttons are dark blue, and the border is blue-red and Cui Zhai is woven as a decoration. Ju Yi, the queen's silkworm dress, is probably a shade of yellow. The color of the ritual dress is messy and there are no patterns. Huachai ritual dress is the costume used by the prince to marry. Tu Zhai is the dress of the crown prince. Most of them were woven into princely princess dresses in turquoise and green. The dresses were embroidered with embroidered daggers and vermilion scarves. They were also decorated with green brocades and gold ornaments. The large-sleeved dress is the costume used by the wives and daughters of the sixth-rank officials to the nine-rank officials. The overall color is cyan, including shoes and socks.

## 3. The Color of Ordinary Women's Clothing In the Tang Dynasty

Changfu is more arbitrary than the constraints of dresses. Tang Dynasty Changfu is colorful and luxurious. Most of them are underskirts, men's clothing and men's clothing, among which underskirts can best show the gorgeous colors of women's clothing in the Tang Dynasty. Its basic mix did not change much throughout the Tang Dynasty, but its color is closely related to the Tang Dynasty's transition from prosperity to decline.

# 3.1. Early Tang Dynasty

In the early Tang Dynasty, women's clothing was dominated by Luosha and silk, with light and pure colors and simple colors. Through the collection of Tang Sancai in the Chinese History Museum, you can get the usual dress of the Terracotta Warriors for the early Tang Dynasty women, small-sleeved long skirts, skirts and chests above the chest, and women in the early Tang Dynasty most like to embellish silk, most of the silk colors are dark and gorgeous The main color. At the beginning of the establishment of the Tang Dynasty, it was necessary to ensure the gradual development of the economy, and society advocates conservation, which is the reason for this fashion.

# 3.2. The Tang Dynasty

Different from the simple and frugal in the early Tang Dynasty, women's clothing became more gorgeous and loose in the Tang Dynasty, and the color changed from simple and simple to colorful. In this period, women like red, green, and blue, and most of them use these colors, and the sleeves of the jacket also become fatter. The bright and colorful Datang embodies people's love for bright colors during this period. After the administration of Zhenguan in the Tang Dynasty, the political economy developed rapidly, and people's living standards became more and more developed, and they were more affluent than in the early Tang period. In this period, the Tang Dynasty incorporated the characteristics of the costumes of other surrounding ethnic groups. The prosperous Tang period was the ancient Chinese costume. The most open, most gorgeous and most diverse period in China.

## 3.3. The Middle and Late Tang Dynasty

In 755 AD, the Anshi Rebellion broke out, the Tang Dynasty's political economy was hit hard, people's lives became increasingly difficult, and the glamorous wind was replaced by the plain. The green shirt and white dress in Zhou Fang's "Swinging Lady's Picture", using pigment Faint, can't find the red and green colors that used to be wanton.

## 4. The Tang Dynasty's View on Clothing and Color

The color concept in the Tang Dynasty was closely related to the level of productivity, cultural status and religious belief at that time. Red is considered to be a symbol of life, warmth, nobility, and joy, and is often used by dignitaries and nobles. Yellow has the highest brightness in the color spectrum, pure and bright, and is respected by Buddhism. It is believed that it has the power to expel evil and is later used as a special color for emperors. The cool color has a simple symbol, which is mostly used by the common people, but the common people also used red in the ancient festive festivals, showing a cross-complexity. But generally speaking, the more "li" color is not

allowed, and arbitrary development will be considered alienation.

From the use of women's clothing colors in the Tang Dynasty, it is not difficult to find that the gorgeous and gorgeous colors are well deserved to be the most popular colors of the Tang people. Its use of color has also gone through a process from inheriting tradition to breaking through tradition and returning to tradition. In the early Tang Dynasty, under the oppression of the feudal ritual system, the shape and color of clothing had strict requirements, and the inferiors were not allowed to use the shape and color of the superior. And the requirements for the official uniform system have also been constantly improved. Tang initially inherited the old system of the Sui Dynasty, and later broke through the tradition in the prosperous Tang Dynasty. Women's clothing began to be exposed, and the color became rich, like red and green. This all shows that the Tang people had their own choice of color, boldly used red and green in combination, and had their own unique aesthetic. There are both inheritance and breakthroughs, for example, yellow, a color that can only be used by the emperor, turns the status of yellow into an absolute respect. In the middle and late Tang dynasties, the Tang people's use of color has returned to tradition, admiring the beauty of elegance and simplicity, which also shows that the aesthetics of the Tang people have continuously changed with the development of society.

# 5. The Influence of Weaving Technology on the Clothing Color of Tang Dynasty

In the history of Chinese weaving, the Tang Dynasty can be said to be one of the iconic periods. During the Kaiyuan year, the Tang Dynasty's weaving industry was highly developed, with superb silk weaving skills, and a wide variety of silk weaving works with different characteristics. This all shows that the weaving industry developed rapidly in the Tang Dynasty. During the period from the Tang Dynasty to the Tang Dynasty, the weaving industry was mainly dominated by the lower reaches of the Yellow River, but after the strike of the Anshi Rebellion, it slowly shifted to the south and moved to the vicinity of the Yangtze River Basin. "Guangdong Brocade" is one of the most distinctive fabrics. It is woven with metal wire dyed with flowers, and it has evolved into a "printed fabric". Among the many silk fabrics, the most characteristic of the Tang Dynasty is the double-sided brocade and the silk. Moreover, not only the silk technology has made great achievements, but the printing and dyeing technology has also been unprecedented. The technologies of batik, pinch dyeing, and strand dyeing are also very good. Many different dyeing methods have also emerged. From the beginning of the Tang Dynasty, the dyeing technology can be said to have been diverse. The development of the weaving industry in the Tang Dynasty made the Tang Dynasty costumes also shine. It can be said that the reason why the Tang Dynasty has such elegant and luxurious clothing is inseparable from the development of the weaving industry.

### 6. Color Changes of Women's Dresses in the Tang Dynasty

## **6.1. Early Tang Dynasty**

At the beginning of the Tang Dynasty, the chaos of the late Sui Dynasty had just ended, and the people were living in dire straits. Datang was being established at this time, and it was time for rest and recuperation to stabilize the turbulent politics. People's hearts are unstable, and of course they have no idea of dressing themselves up, and the weaving industry at this time is not as developed as it was during the Tang Dynasty. The policy of recuperation and interest-bearing policy implemented at the beginning of the Tang Dynasty has steadily increased the population, laying a good foundation for the subsequent economic development. Emperor Tang Taizong focused on agricultural development and implemented the system of uniform land, which greatly increased farmers' enthusiasm for production, and reduced expenditures and taxes. These policies not only allowed the political economy to develop steadily, but also promoted the people's longing for frugality. This popular trend was also reflected in the clothing of women in the early Tang Dynasty. The slimness in form and the simplicity in color formed. The fashion of women's clothing during this period. In terms of culture, the governance of Zhen Guan has led to rapid economic

development. The development of the Maritime Silk Road and the Land Silk Road promoted trade activities between the Tang Dynasty and Europe and Asia, and contributed to the integration of different cultures.

### **6.2.** The Tang Dynasty

In the prosperous Tang Dynasty, people's lives improved to a higher level, making the Tang people more plump than before, so women's dresses were generally wide and long during this period, and the wind of exposure was also prevailing, and the people were more confident. The development of the political economy, from the time of Wu Zetian to the first year of the Tang Dynasty, the national strength of the Tang Dynasty was strong, so that people had plenty of time to dress themselves up. The people in the Taiping prosperous world are full of self-confidence, so the red and green colors on the clothing are used to show the people's self-confidence. In terms of culture, this period was highly tolerant of culture, and the penetration of Confucianism was seldom but more embodied in Taoism and Buddhism. Women's status has been unprecedentedly improved. Women have a certain degree of freedom in dress and marriage and social relations. A group of talented and politically conscious women also appeared on the stage of history, such as Wu Zetian and Shangguan Wan'er.

### 6.3. The Middle and Late Tang Dynasty

In the middle and late Tang Dynasty, the rich and magnificent Tang Dynasty disappeared without a trace, and turned into a more mature way of using color. Although the whole is still more in favor of bright colors, it is difficult to see good colors like scarlet red and green in contrast, but light red and light green are more popular. In the history of science, it is generally believed that the main reason why the Tang Dynasty will decline so quickly is the outbreak of the Anshi chaos. Since then, the Tang Dynasty began to perish. The Anshi Rebellion caused a huge turmoil in the Tang Dynasty's originally stable political economy. All the living beings under the flames of war all year round have a hard life, and the population has declined sharply. The war allowed the government to increase taxes, and the people did not talk about life. In such a situation of internal and external troubles, people are in a state of panic, and the people everywhere are desolate and desolate. Naturally, the clothing color is no longer the color of the former red and green, and the overall tone is also dark. Culturally, the rulers of the late Tang Dynasty strongly advocated Confucianism. The women of the late Tang Dynasty were once again constrained by the Confucian feudal ethics, and the clothing became more conservative. Once again, they were fashionable and conformed to the Confucian standard. The robe and sleeves were more conservative and restrained than the Tang Dynasty.

### **Conclusion**

Color is an important part of clothing. It can express the different aesthetic mentality of people in different periods and reflect the development of political economy in different periods. The change of the Tang Dynasty's clothing and color is deeply affected by the changes of the times and the development of political economy. On the whole, women's clothing in the Tang Dynasty was inseparable from the constraints of feudal rites and education, but it was a breakthrough to varying degrees. The rich economy of the Tang Dynasty, the enlightened rule, absorbed the innovative attitude towards culture, and created a variety of costumes. To this day, there are still decorative patterns handed down from the Tang Dynasty that are used in modern times.

#### References

- [1]. Shen Congwen. History of Chinese Clothing. Xi'an: Shaanxi Normal University Press, 2004
- [2]. Huang Nengfu et al. History of Chinese Clothing. Shanghai: Shanghai People's Publishing House, 2004

- [3]. Li Zehou. Huaxia Aesthetics. Tianjin: Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences Press, 2004
- [4]. Luo Yikun. "Study on Women's Clothing Color in Tang and Song Dynasties", Hunan University of Technology, 2016.
- [5]. Xue Li. "Cultural Changes of Women's Clothing in the Tang Dynasty", Literary and Art Contest, 2010.
- [6]. Zhao Qingwei. "Discussion on Color Rheology of Ancient Chinese Clothes", Journal of Hubei University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition), 1997.
- [7]. An Caifeng. "From the Tang Dynasty Women's Clothing Changes to See the Aesthetic Interest of the Tang People", Tang Duxue, 2012.
- [8]. Xue Xia, Xing Wenkai: "Study on the Painting Language of the Tang Dynasty Beauty Painting Dress", Lantai World, 2015.
- [9]. Guan Zhigang: "On the Social Factor Group of Tang Dynasty Clothing Culture Prosperity", Art Observation, 2005.