

The effects of the environment on Costumes and embroidered handcrafts in Najd desert tribes

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Abstract:

Traditional Costumes is considered as a documentary resource through which the image of a given community is portrayed with all its economic, social and psychological aspects, as well as the manifestation of the interaction of humans with their environment. Due to its vast size, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is distinguished by its multicultural diversity. Thus; every area of the kingdom is characterized according to its habits, customs, and natural environment. Such diversity in life styles produces diversity in the Costumes and handcraft styles and decoration among Bedouins and city dwellers. To preserve heritage from being lost or forgotten due to social and economic changes as well as Bedouins settling down in villages and cities, the researcher has chosen this vital part of heritage.

The researcher has followed field data collection. The methodology of data collection varied and included: a questionnaire, personal interviews, observation, regulated note taking, voice recording, digital photos and video recording of clothes and embroidered pieces. This research follows the descriptive historical methodology. The research goals were met.

This research aims to:

- The changes that traditional Costumes and embroidered handcrafts of Najd desert tribes .went through and the reasons that caused such changes
- The impact of some environmental factors on traditional Costumes and embroidered crafts .of Najd desert tribes

-The impact of modernity and civilization on the traditional Costumes and embroidered handcrafts on Najd desert tribes

-A comparison between traditional Costumes and embroidered handcrafts in the research area and their counterparts in other Saudi areas and desert tribes in other Arab countries

The study has revealed a similarity in the cloths worn by women in Najd desert and Najd cities and some desert tribes in other Arab countries. And a similarity was also existed between embroidered handcrafts in Najd desert and embroidered handcrafts in other parts of the kingdom and some desert tribes in Arab countries.

Introduction and research problem:

Traditional Costumes is considered as a documentary resource through which the image of a given community is portrayed with all its economic, social and psychological aspects, as well as the manifestation of the interaction of humans with their environment. Due to its vast size, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is distinguished by its multicultural diversity. Thus; every area of the kingdom is characterized according to its habits, customs, and natural environment. Such diversity in life styles produces diversity in the Costumes and handcraft styles and decoration among Bedouins and city dwellers. To preserve heritage from being lost or forgotten due to social and economic changes as well as Bedouins settling down in villages and cities, the researcher has chosen this vital part of heritage

Research goals:

-The changes that traditional Costumes and embroidered handcrafts of Najd desert tribes went through and the reasons that caused such changes

-The impact of some environmental factors on traditional Costumes and embroidered crafts of Najd desert tribes

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Search Terms:

Traditional Costumes: Clothing styles that are passed on within the group of the groups have no beginning and no designer. Reflect customs and traditions of the community they belong to. It also reflects the patterns and evolution of life

Bedouin: Bedouins and the desert and Bedouin Unlike urban areas, and people began seemed to come out any Badithm

Najd : is a plateau located in the center of the Arabian Peninsula, the largest geographical region " ,in the Arabian Peninsula in Saudi Arabia and the rise between 700 to 1500 meters above sea level.

Previous Studies:

- 1- Study of Alajaji, Tahani Nasser (2011), Ph.D. Dissertation titled: Costumes and Traditional Embroidered Costumes in the Bedouin settlements of Najd, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 2- The study of Al-Bassam, Leila Saleh (1408H, 1988), a Ph.D. dissertation. Its subject is: Techniques and decorations of Traditional Clothing in Najd and it constitutes a comparative field study between men's and women's clothing. The study aims at studying and comparing the techniques and materials used for decorating men's and women's traditional clothes.
- 3- The study of Al-Bassam, Leila Saleh (1985), a published Master's dissertation titled: "The Traditional Heritage of Women's Clothing in Najd". It aims at studying traditional clothes in Najd, their types, techniques and decorations.
- 4- Study Mutairi, Seetah Mohammed (2003) Ph.D. thesis, theme: the study of traditional textiles and preservation methods and documented.
- 5- Study Samar, Muhammad (1993), published research, the theme: the impact of different environments on some traditional clothing styles for women in Saudi Arabia.

Research Procedures:

Research Methodology:

this research has employed the historical and descriptive methodology.

Styles of Collecting the Scientific Material:

Multiple styles and tools were used in collecting the scientific material to ensure that complete and accurate information and data have been obtained. Tools have included the following:

Questionnaire, Personal interviews, audio recordings, observation, museums and acquisitions , traditional and digital photography.

Findings:

1-The changes that traditional Costumes and embroidered handcrafts of Najd desert tribes went through and the reasons that caused such changes:

A- Various Changes of Traditional Costumes:

- Bedouin women replaced *Allthma* with *burqa*, where the *burqa* spread among all the tribes in Najd desert .



-Women from both nomadic tribes Anza and Shammar become wearing a "*burqa*"

-Bedouin women wore "*Alkarta*" which is an evolution of "*Almqta*" which is distinguished by trimming in the waistline.



-Women of Anza tribe replaced "*Almahoethel*" with "*Almqta*".



-Various kinds of fabrics were used in the fashion business, such as natural fibers and synthetic fibers and mixed ones.

-Varied colors used in the fashion business, and bedouin were not only wore black.

-Locally made shoes were replaced with imported ones.

B- Changes of the traditional embroideries:

- Sheets and pillow cases embroidered with mat stitches have spread out.



- With the advent of machines, automatic embroidery was used in textile decoration.

-Embroidery was replaced by the fabric added and patching with geometric shapes in the decoration of some embroidered textiles such as bed sheets, bags and pillows, and the machine has been used in installation of pieces.



-*Almekhalh* made of cloth or leather was replaced with a ready-made one.



C - Reasons that led to the Occurrence of these Changes:

-The nature of the population of the desert, commuting from one place to another searching for pasture.

-Change of the pattern of life in Najd desert, and use of the paved roads by bedouins ; where life in the past was simple and based on grazing and livestock.

-Establishment of towns and villages for the resettlement of the people of the desert, where a lot of them settled, and change their way of living.

-Crossing of pilgrims line in the region, and trade with them, convey to them the latest developments witnessed in the outside world.

-The emergence of means of transportation, such as cars, which increased the pace of life, . Ross (1994, 94) confirmed that change has contributed to the lack of handicrafts in the region.

-Growth of foreign trade has led to cheap clothes with different colours and textures.

-Global industrial and technological progress occurred in all areas of life, especially in the field of fashion and textile industry and decorating styles. **Ross (1994, 94)** reported the lack of manual work such as needlework in the desert, where the women began to acquire sewing machines.

2- The impact of certain factors on traditional costumes and embroidered works in Najd desert:

A - Impact of geographic factors:

- Najd desert is characterized by a continental climate which is hot in summer and tends to be cold in winter, and it is observed that there is a significant difference in temperature between night and day on most days of the year, creating a characteristic and traits in various kinds of fashion and forms, including: the use of light fabrics somewhat dark colors of cotton more in the work of fashion pieces, as well as the use of the cloak and the scalp at night to keep warm. Most men in the Arabian Peninsula used the ready- made broad dresses that help in cooling and cycling of the air inside the body, and the white color helps in reflecting the heat.



-A woman covered her head with se
cover the face to protect herself from
sun, wind and sand storms.

used the *burqa* or *Allthma* to
changes, such as the heat of the

-The climate of the region has affected the fashion forms, as they are distinguished by length and breadth and multi- pieces of dress put on each other, and with fashion pieces that were not known in the cities and villages of Najd, such as "*burqa*" and "*Allthma*".



-The impact of some environmental factors on traditional Costumes and embroidered crafts of Najd .desert tribes

-The impact of modernity and civilization on the traditional Costumes and embroidered handicrafts on Najd desert tribes

-A comparison between traditional Costumes and embroidered handicrafts in the research area and - their counterparts in other Saudi areas and desert tribes in other Arab countries

-Every tribe lives within certain canonical boundaries, and moves within those limits searching for pasture, but they may live as neighbours in places of grazing, hence, as a result of that way of life, each tribe is characterized by a special and distinguished style of clothes, where you can recognize the member of the tribe through the fashion worn by him.

-Neighboring tribes have similar fashions, such as the similarity of the Harb and Mutair tribes, and Shammar and Anza tribes.

-Some traditional fashion pieces of women in Najd desert are similar to the costumes of Najd towns and villages, and some tribes in Hijaz (Bassam, 1988; Fada, 2003; khukir, 2005).

-There is a similarity of some traditional fabrics names in the research area with some denominations in the regions of Saudi Arabia (Al-Bassam, 1985, 101; Mutairi, 2003, 291, 292, 294;

-Almradouf, Albawal, Alcodari, Ajaji, 2005, 96 - 101), such as: coastal, raw, velor, linen, gauze Albraism, Alchalki, broadcloth, Goghk Mahuad, Rose, Alammerakane, Alttro, spraying rain, cardamom loan, the Khat Albalda.

-Some motifs used by Bedouin women in the study area on traditional embroideries are similar with the rest of the deserts of the Kingdom and some deserts of Arab countries.

-As a result of movement and association with different cultures the impact of these cultures on some decorations such as the presence of human and animal inscriptions wore unusual fashion to the environment and coordination of roses in a vase or pot with plants of different shapes.



B - The impacts of social and economic factors:

- Still a married woman of some tribes, such as "Subaie," "mutair", "Harb," and "Otaiba" covers her face with "burqa", and do not reveal her face to one even her husband.
- Bedouin women in Najd desert were wearing a few pieces of clothes, with less embroidery, compared to the urban clothes, and that is because of the nomadic life and movement and low income.
- Anza tribes do not wear Mahoethel due to lack of effectiveness during work as well as it uses more fabrics.
- Fabrics used in the fashion industry and embroidered textiles in the desert varied according to the level of income and social situation and the type of piece and occasion.
- The Bedouin women are dyeing the yarns and fabrics used in the fashion business. -
- The Bedouin women sewed her dresses as well as the ones of her family.
- The Bedouin women are decorating their dresses with wool yarns prepared by them, depending on the economic situation, or the availability of other decorating yarns.
- Motifs embroidered in traditional costumes became less in the desert due to the preoccupation of - Bedouin women with works, such as **Sadu** and household chores or burdens.
- Decoration of the **Hawdaj** according to the economic and social situation of women, as well as age; where the Hawdaj of the chieftain women is distinguished with frequent decorations and large size, but elder women's one will be without frills.



C - The impact of the religious factor:

- Bedouin women costumes are characterized by extreme length and breadth, which hides the details of the body.
- All the tribal women cover their heads as there are many headcovers used by all tribes.

-All the tribes used "**Hawdaj**" to carry the woman while moving and traveling , and that stems from concern for the comfort and protection of women.

3. Effect of unifying the Arabian Peninsula:

-After unifying the Arabian Peninsula by the mighty efforts of King Abdul Aziz Al Saud and after the discovery of oil and taking the advantage of this wealth in all regions of the Kingdom, a comprehensive development occurred in all aspects of life, and some pastoral areas turned to villages and Hajar, and, Bedouins were settled which appeared so clear in their costumes, fabrics and methods used in making these costumes.

-Bedouin women only wore their outer dresses while they roam in different places, and now abaya only in the recent years.

-Bedouin women in Anza and Shammar tribes only wear *Allthma* during the passage of men, and with time became covering their faces.



3- The impact of modernity and civilization on the traditional Costumes and embroidered handcrafts on Najd desert tribes:

The desert embroideries and costumes has not changed much in the research area as argued by the Western travelers, where the same forms of fashion and embroideries are recognized such as headwear , outer and interior dresses , gowns , accessories and embroideries like "" and others (Dozy, 1971; Dixon, 1997; Mozl, 1997;; Burkhat, 2005; Oppenheim, 2007; Hess, 2010).

-Some pieces of urban fashions were quoted, and used along with the traditional costumes of the nomads in the area of research, such as garment, karta and pants.



-Bedouin began to wear shoes, especially when going to the towns.

-The dominant color in the work of traditional costumes in the area of research was black, and after the colorful fabrics became available, varied colors were used in their work.

-Bedouin women used cloth or jellal to conceal herself while she travels within the places (madareb), where she was in the past only used her outer dresses while wandering in her “madareb”.



-Availability of materials in the market, led to the implementation of some fashions and new traditional embroideries ie, sheets and pillow cases.

-Use of automatic embroidery or fabric added by sewing machines to decorate sheets and pillow cases.

-Some motifs embroidered on the sheets and pillow cases are derived from some aspects of life in cities such as mosques.

4-A comparison between traditional Costumes and embroidered handicrafts in the research area and their counterparts in other Saudi areas and desert tribes in other Arab countries

Due to the nature of nomadic life in the research area they are moving from one place to another in search of fertile pasture, without limitation Ismail (1983, 121) argued that the economic activity of the population of the desert is grazing and travel in the desert of the Arabian Peninsula; which created a cultural association with people of the villages and cities in regions of the Kingdom, as well as with the nomads in the nomadic areas of the neighboring Arab countries, and by comparing the traditional costumes in the Najd desert with traditional costumes in some nomadic regions of the Kingdom and Arab countries, we find that there are striking similarities, and this demonstrates the effects on the research area by the regions of the Kingdom and deserts of the Arab countries.

Embroidered works:

Embroidered worked items used in the research area like Almzbah, Almazwada, Alodoul, etc., and (Mutairi, 2003, 280), those species are known in the regions of the Kingdom (Maiman, 1988.62-65) (Daagani 1993,215-222) and in some Arab countries, even though are different in denominations or materials or decoration.



-Bedouin women in Najd used "Hawdaj", which is the same Hawdaj used in the nomadic areas of the neighboring countries (Almsalat, 1999, 145-147).

4- Embroidery and Decoration:

-Bedouin woman in Najd used **Alkatel (shrasheeb)** in prettying pieces of costumes and, and by comparing it with previous studies, we find that women in various regions used "Alkthel" in decorating their costumes (Bassam and Hafez, 2000, 30; Mutairi, 2003, 194; Fada, 2003.357), and also known in the Syrian Desert (Hamami, 1972, 254), and the Sinai Bedouins in Egypt (Sidqi, 1989, 176).



-Bedouin women in the research area were known by prettying some fashions with "hems" which has been known to some tribes in the Kingdom (Bassam and Hafez, 2000, 29; Mutairi, 2003, 194), and Valley deserts of Arab States (Hamami, 1972, 254; Jader 0.1979 , 31, 44).

-It is noted that there are similarities in the decoration and graphics and some embroidery stitches used, and methods of decoration in traditional costumes and crafts embroidered in the research area and traditional costumes and crafts embroidered in the Kingdom and some nomadic areas in the Arab countries, which may be the result of the surrounding environment of the lines and zigzags and flowers and trees, leaves and geometric shapes and others (Bassam Sidqi, 1999, 323).

Recommendations:

1-Development of Folklore, so as to keep pace with the latest developments, taking into account keeping of roots and values.

2-To encourage scientific research that aims to detect the properties of this popular creativity and benefit from it in the development of society, by collecting the samples of folklore and present them and study and utilize them in various fields of life.

3-To encourage investment in the fashion industry with interest of environmentally agreeable production to Saudi Arabia.

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