

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
GRADUATION PROJECT 2023

指導教授：施佑芝老師
Dr. Yu-Chih Doris Shih

真善美聖

**The Comparison of Peruvian and Japanese
Traditional Clothing**



學生：劉若竹撰
Jolin Liu

Jolin Liu

407221348

Cross Cultural Communication: Global Understanding Project

Final Individual paper

9 January 2022

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Clothing is an essential element in people's life that people must and need to wear them every day. A journal Clothing Cultures indicates that people are often involved in the production and consumption of clothing to some degree. Therefore, it can be said that clothing is a personal and universal culture around the world. In addition, clothing can represent social expectation, regulations and behavior among people. For example, in Middle-East areas, most of the females have to wear conservative garments such as Abaya and veil. The reason is related to the Koran, which emphasizes the characteristics that people should possess. People should pursue the virtue of being chaste, nature and moderation that they can't show their body to other people (The Culture of Islamic Clothing). It also can be related to the gender information shared by speaker, Farid Lai. In brief, clothing has a strong connection with the place we live, people's lifestyle and culture.

Last week, I introduced the Peruvian and Japanese traditional clothing. Due to the time limitation, I choose the important and basic part to share with classmates.

Therefore, I will provide more details about their traditional clothing in this essay.

First, I will describe the Peruvian traditional clothing. Actually, Peru can be divided into three main geographic areas, including coastal area, plateau and rainforest. Due to the factors of weather and unique national culture, Peruvian wear different kinds of garments in different areas (Peruvian Tourism Office). I will introduce them respectively. For people who live in coastal areas, their clothing have different kinds of designs and they would mix diverse styles of clothing together. Men tend to wear “Unku”, which is like a short cloak without sleeves. Women would like to wear long dresses, which are made of silk. Also, they would like to use fresh flowers to decorate their hair and hold a white handkerchief. For those who live in plateau, dressing in the most famous and representative Peruvian traditional clothes that I have mentioned in my presentation. For female’s clothing, which can be divided into four main items. First, they often wear Lliclla, a kind of shawl, which is a rectangle handmade weaving fabric and can keep them warm. Women can use a “Tupu”, knot or pin to fix it to their body. “Tupu” is also called “Tupo”, it is a kind of handmade pin and it was made of gem in the past. The skirt they wear is called “Polleras”. Basically, this skirt is covered by black and several color bars called “Puyto”. When people see this kind of skirt, they can gain information about that woman. For example, they can know where she came from, what her social status is. The “Montera” is a special hat with color

felt, which can trace back to 15 centuries. In addition, the hat represents the sun that is associated with the Inca civilization. The skirt they wear is called “Juyuna” or

“Jobona”, which is a wool weaving coat and it emphasizes the female body shape.

However, the male’s traditional clothing is simpler than the female one. They also wear “Lliclla”; however, its shape is diamond. The hat they wear is called “Chullo”,

which has the earmuffs and tassel designs on it. Interestingly, if people see a man wearing this kind of clothing, they can identify his marriage situation, race, social

status and occupation. For people who live in the rainforest, they wear flimsy outfits

due to their hot and humid climate. Generally, they will wear white plant weaving

gown with a colorful kerchief. Moreover, they will wear “Cushma”, which is a corset decorated with geometric patterns of the region’s unique culture. In short, Peruvian

traditional clothing are colorful and the designs are slightly different and diverse in

different tribes. The materials they used for making these traditional clothing are

strongly connected with nature, such as wool fiber, plant weaving, flower decorations

and so on. Through learning their clothing, people can have a clearer picture of their

life and history.

Second, I will describe the Japanese traditional clothing’s origin and features.

Japanese traditional clothing is called “kimono”, which comes from China and people

view it as a kind of underwear in the beginning. Nowadays, kimono is a national dress in Japan that represents its exquisite culture and history. Kimono is a complicated clothing, including complex wearing methods, categories and the strict norms when wearing them. Therefore, I will only introduce specific kimono in this essay.

According to the degree of formality, kimonos can be divided into different categories. For female kimono, which can be separated into three main kinds, including formal visiting dress, visiting dress and casual clothes. I will focus on the visiting dress because this kind of kimono is the primary category of kimono in Japan.

Visiting dress is popular in modern times that Japanese often wear this kind of kimono in their daily life. Visiting dress is decorated with several patterns and a single tone that makes women look elegant and beautiful. Interestingly, most of the designs on kimono are across the clothing; thus, the whole pattern will be revealed if people fold the fabric together. Actually, Japanese have to wear specific kimonos in particular situations. For example, people will wear visiting dress in formal occasions, such as celebrating New Year, attending graduation ceremony, participating in formal tea parties and so on. Male kimono is simpler than the female one that it only has two main categories, including visiting dress and casual clothes. Male visiting dress is the most common male formal kimono in Japan nowadays. This kind of kimono is mainly black with the design of a family crest, which makes men look solemn and grand.

After introducing the Peruvian and Japanese traditional clothing, I will compare the similarities and differences between them. I will discuss four aspects: color, when do people wear traditional clothing, their major features and the differences between female and male clothing. First, Peruvian clothing are more colorful and diverse than kimonos. Because of the weather, people developed different clothing in specific areas. However, the visiting dress I mentioned is a single tone with several delicate patterns that is more elegant than the Peruvian one. In some designated areas in Peru, local residents still often wear traditional clothing; others wear it in special festivals. In contrast, Japanese wear visiting dress on formal occasions and this kind of garment is expensive. For their main features, Peruvian clothing is often handmade with some natural characteristics. However, the major feature of Japanese traditional clothing is that Japanese divide and design different kinds of kimono, which fit in particular occasions. Also, different levels of kimono have varied price and production time. Finally, the surprising similarity is that both Peruvian and Japanese female clothing is more complicated than the male one.

To sum up, clothing has a strong connection to people's lifestyle, history and culture. Through learning different clothing regulations, we can learn the value and

virtue of that country or area. It can be said that clothing is a visible but imperceptible cultural symbol.



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