



Research Paper

“Surface Ornamentation” Beautification of the Garments – A Study

Prof Pooja Verma

Director

Amity School of Fashion Technology

Amity School of Fine Arts

Amity University Lucknow, India

ABSTRACT -- Fabric embellishments are the ornamentation techniques that are usually added to fabric surfaces to make them look more enchanting and gorgeous. Different kinds of surface design techniques are commonly used for embellishing the fabric. The materials that are used for this process include embroideries, fabric manipulations, fringe, laces, beads, buttons, etc. In many ways, embellishment is the ultimate tool of the designer.

In addition to the multitude of construction and finishing techniques used, the fabric can also be worked upon or embellished in many ways to enhance its surface. Most of the embellishing methods, such as various embroideries, laces, quilting, applique, and beadwork are ancient techniques of decorating fabric and are still largely executed manually by hand. A special industrial sector in trimmings, lacework, embroidery, and other embellishments has also developed that uses the latest innovative technology to recreate the hand-worked effects on the surfaces.

KEYWORDS: Embellishments, Decoration, Fabric, Gorgeous, Surface, Trimmings

Received 01 June, 2022; Revised 11 June, 2022; Accepted 13 June, 2022 © The author(s) 2022.

Published with open access at www.questjournals.org

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of surface ornamentation of clothes is almost as old as the invention of clothes themselves. Evidence from history reveals that people used numerous objects and accessories to adorn their clothes. Presently apparel industry holds the honour of being one of the fastest-growing industries both domestically and internationally. This industry has been estimated to directly employ as many as 35 million people in India, barring the indirect employment that it has rendered in its allied sector. The surface ornamentation has been used by famous Indian fashion designers like Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Neeta Lulla, Gaurav Gupta, etc. and in an international arena, Alexander McQueen, Peter Pilotto, Sara Corynen, Roberto Cavalli, etc. use lots of **surface ornamentation** in their designing.

Surface ornamentation is a skill. It has been prevalent in India for ages. Practically every Indian state is known for its own style of surface ornamentation. For example, Gujarat is known for mirror work, west Bengal is known for Kantha embroidery, and so on. With each generation contributing to the art of ornamentation and embellishment, it only got better. Surface ornamentation adds visual appeal and enhances the overall look of a garment. The main justification of surface decoration is to add an element of interest for the wearer and for the spectators as well. The most common materials used for surface ornamentation are various types of embroideries, mirrors, beads, sequins, laces, threads, wires, buttons, etc. Fabric manipulation is another interesting skill for surface ornamentation. Various types of ornamentation techniques and styles were used to get wonderful results. These techniques highlight the look of a garment. Ornamentation elevates the value of a garment by appearance as well as by price.

“Surface Ornamentation or embellishment” purely depends on the creativity and exclusive ideas of fashion designers. There is no limit to it. Almost everything around us can be utilized for the ornamentation of garments or fabrics. Be it traditional dyeing and printing techniques to the now latest radium finishes.

II. TYPES OF SURFACE ORNAMENTATIONS

In addition to the variety of construction and finishing techniques used, the fabric can also be manipulated or embellished in a variety of ways to enhance its surface. Most surface embellishing methods, such as embroidery, quilting, applique, and beadwork are the ancient techniques of decorating fabric and are still largely executed by hand. A specialized industrial sector in embellishments has also developed that uses innovative technology to recreate the hand-worked effects on the surface.

Surface Embellishment: this is an important component of free form, it's a great way of highlighting your personality, your style, and skills in your designs. There are thousands of ways to embellish; a few basics are explained. Common techniques of embellishment used as value addition are:

2.1 PRINTING AND DYEING TECHNIQUES –

This is an easy method of surface ornamentation. A beautiful effect can be obtained by using wonderful colours. With a printing tradition dating back to the ages, India is host to a variety of textile art. Different regions boast different textures, fabrics, and techniques and each has a distinct style recognizable when worn. The concept of printing has undergone a complete revolution and presently this industry is booming.

2.1.1 Block Printing -- Block Printing is a method of hand printing on textiles with colors. Block Printing in India in other forms is widely known as “Woodblock Printing”, “Woodcut Printing” or “Hand block Printing”. The block printing is done by following a process where the required designs are carved on the blocks and natural dyes are used for printing on fabrics.

Block printing remains much more time-consuming than machine printing but is still widely used today. Many people praise the craftsmanship and artistry of hand-printed textiles



Block printing on fabric

2.1.2 Bandhani – Also known as Bandhej, is a tie and dye technique that dates to the Indus Valley Civilization, the cloth is plucked by fingernails into tiny bindings, and it is then dipped in for a dye bath. The tied area of the fabric is dyed in vibrant colours. Bandhej is a combination of a cluster of patterns, beautiful colour, and alluring twirls. A design made up primarily of dots of different sizes against a backdrop of bright colors marks bandhani, adorable.



Bandhej in making

2.1.3 Batik- The beautiful batik is a technique of wax-resist dyeing applied to the fabric. This technique originated in Egypt and had traces of its legacy in many countries. The process includes soaking, beating, drawing patterns, applying wax, and other techniques. A wax-resist dyeing technique, this process can be applied to the whole length of the cloth or on a small piece of fabric also.



Students showcasing batik samples

2.2 INDIAN EMBROIDERY – Be it hand, or machine embroidery India is famous for its varied stitches all over the globe. Some important embroideries are discussed here –

2.2.1 Kantha of Bengal --: From states like West Bengal, Odisha and Tripura come Kantha embroidery, chiefly practiced by rural women. With motifs of flowers, animals, celestial objects, and geometric patterns, Kantha embroidery is done by stitching on the cloth, which gives a wrinkled and wavy effect. Stitches used are running stitch, darning, satin, and loop stitch. Originally done to create cushions, blankets, sarees, and bedspreads, now Kantha is used in most garments for both men and women.



Awesome Kantha Embroidery

2.2.2 Zari & Zardozi of Uttar Pradesh -- Introduced by the Mughals, Zari is the very form of opulence, used on silk and velvet. Originally, Zardozi embroidered clothes used gold or silver threads with precious stones and pearls making them luxury items, exclusively worn by the affluent and rich. Be it party wear or a wedding trousseau, the garment would be incomplete without embellishments. The traditional Zardozi, Mirror work, and sequins of various shapes and sizes add glamour to the costumes.



Zari & Zardozi

2.2.3 Phulkari of Punjab --Mentioned in the folklore of Heer Ranjha, Phulkari comes from a rural embroidery tradition in Punjab. Earlier the base cloth was dull, often hand-spun khadi, which is then completely covered with bright colored embroidered design leaving no gaps. Now a variety of fabrics like chiffon, silk, cotton, etc. are used to give vibrant look to the Phulkari embroidery. Each motif follows a geometric pattern with motifs of nature (chiefly flowers) using darn stitch for easy vertical, horizontal, and diagonal thread work.



Colorful Phulkari embroidery

2.2.4 Chikankari of Lucknow – This ethnic embroidery has been introduced by Mughal empress Noor Jahan, Chikankari originated from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It began with white embroidery on a white cloth, requiring patience and skill, this embroidery is done by stitching on patterns traced on a variety of cloth materials like muslin, silk, chiffon, net, cotton, etc. Initially, white thread was used to depict motifs of nature (flora and fauna), but now colored threads are used as well.



Ethnic Chikankai Embroidery

2.2.5 Kashida of Kashmir -- This embroidery gets its name from its place of birth, Kashmir. Kashida embroidery is created by using thick colorful threads as well as glass beads to create different patterns. Various stitches are employed for Kashida such as **darning stitch, stem stitch, satin stitch, and chain stitch**. The material used for Kashida embroidery is cotton, wool, or silk in a variety of colors. The motif used is everything related to nature like flora, from flowers to intertwining vines, from leaves on branches to blossoming flowers.



Kashida Embroidery

2.2.6 Kasuti of Karnataka -- Kasuti is a traditional form of folk embroidery practiced in the state of Karnataka, India. Kasuti work which is very intricate sometimes involves putting up to 5,000 stitches by hand and is traditionally made on dress wears. Four types of stitches employed in Kasuti embroidery are Gavanthi, Murgi, Negi and Menthi. Gavanthi is a double running stitch used for marking vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines, Murgi is a zig-zag stitch, Negi is a running stitch and Menthi is a cross-stitch resembling fenugreek seeds



Kasooti embroidery

2.3 FABRIC MANIPULATIONS –

Fabric manipulation is a three-dimensional design of clothing from flat patterns. There are numerous ways to manipulate and redesign fabric or control it to become 3-dimensional forms.

2.3.1 Applique–Appliqué is a popular way of decorating fabrics and garments. Shapes of one fabric are applied to the surface or background of another fabric. Applique work employs several stitches to attach the applied pieces onto the base material. The most common stitches and their uses are straight stitches or running stitches.



Alluring applique work

In today’s time, with the tremendous advancement in technology, modern embroidery machines can quickly stitch Appliqué designs usually by following a program. As soon as the program begins, the machine makes a loose basting stitch running over both layers of fabric. Next, the machine stops to allow a thread change or some other pre-programmed break. The designer can finally cut away the excess fabric from around the stitch to make it look neat and attractive.

2.3.2 Quilting -- It is the process of using a needle and thread to join two or more layers of material to make a quilt. With the sewing machine, the layers of fabrics are tacked together before quilting. Quilting is done to create bedspreads, wall hangings, designer clothing, and a variety of textile items. The 3-D surface texture in the fabric is achieved by sandwiching wadding or stuffing between layers of fabric.



Colourful Quilting

Now quilting designs have increasingly become popular as decorative textiles. As industrial sewing technology has become more flexible, quilting using exotic fabrics and embroidery began to appear in home furnishings.

2.3.3 Piping – The piping is a type of trim or embellishment consisting of strips of folded fabric inserted into a seam, typically bias binding — into a narrow strip and stitching it to the edge of a piece of fabric. It can also include a cord to give it an extra body. Piping is usually used to define or reinforce the style lines of clothing. Presently, piping is common on upholstery, but it is also used on female clothing especially blouses. Piped pocket openings, clothing edges, and seams are characteristic of Western wear.



Piping as decorative items

2.3.4 Fringes & Tassels -- A Fringe is an ornamental textile trim, and a border or edge of hanging threads, cords, or strips, and was often found on garments as decorative items. The Fringes originate in the ends of the warp, projecting beyond the woven fabric. In this way, a garment would not require hemming. To achieve an edge, several strands of weft threads would be removed, and the warp threads would remain like fringes.

In 1922, fringe first became a decorative fashion embellishment as part of the flapper look, a popular western dress style for women. Skirts suddenly rose above the knee for the first time in European history, and fringe was used to add a little length to the daring styles of the skirts.



Decorative Fringes & Tassels

2.3.5 Smocking -- Smocking is a design technique, developed in England, used to gather fabric so that it can stretch. This embroidery style is purely decorative and represents status symbols. Smocking is practical for garments, to be both form-fitting, and flexible. Before the invention of elastic, smocking was commonly used in cuffs, bodices, waistlines, and necklines in garments, where buttons were undesirable. Smocking controls the fullness of a piece of fabric, with beautiful embroidery stitches. To get the desired look, evenly woven fabric with a smooth surface is ideal for smocking.



Smocking Patterns

2.4 TRIMMINGS –

The material which is used in the sewing other than the fabric to make a garment look more attractive, are known as trims. Some of the trims are directly attached to the fabric to make garments. Trims can be threads, buttons, lining, beads, zippers, etc. A basic garment looks beautiful and appealing with these tiny details. These trims can be used for surface ornamentation or to give the garment a heavy look. The trims look alluring and add a style quotient and an aesthetic appeal to the overall look of a wearer



Variety of trimmings

III. CONCLUSION

Fabric embellishments or ornamentations are decorations that are normally added to fabrics to make them more beautiful, because of the nature of the decorative patterns and designs, which they create. In many ways, embellishment is the ultimate tool of the designer. In several aspects, fabric manipulation in its simplest construction is useful. From the point of functionality, it provides ease and comfort. Aesthetically, they maintain an elongated feminine silhouette and the lines also extend body movement. On the other hand, for its users, the fabric manipulation relates to traditional advantages, of the trend, which might be contradicted by the youth conception as set aside in fashion.

Thus, Fashion ornamentation is a type of decoration done on any fabrics and garments to add an aesthetic look to a wearer. Today’s customers select garments that are surface enriched with decorative works. **Surface ornamentation** will continue to be the highlight of every garment. **Surface Embellishments** on garments and apparel will never go out of fashion.

REFERENCES

- [1]. <https://thedesigncart.com/>
- [2]. <https://www.nytimes.com/>
- [3]. <https://www.yourlibaas.com/>
- [4]. www.tradesindia.com
- [5]. www.fibre2fashion.com
- [6]. www.pinterest.com www.sewguide.com
- [7]. <https://www.brainkart.com/>