# Research on cultural gene of Jing embroidery patterns of traditional clothing

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**Abstract.** In order to tap the modern value of Jing Embroidery, promote the living inheritance and activation innovation, the artistic and cultural elements of Jing Embroidery patterns are summarized. From the perspective of dress regulation, the cultural genes of Jing embroidery patterns are combed, and three cultural gene values are obtained: the belief power of advocating nature, the good wish of seeking good fortune and avoiding evil, and the order of superiority and inferiority that highlights status. The in-depth study of cultural genes provides a reference for the innovative design of Jing embroidery patterns.

Key words: traditional clothing; Jing embroidery pattern; Cultural gene; Cultural value

# 1. Extraction of gene patterns from traditional Jing embroidery

Jing embroidery patterns are influenced by various cultures, and the gene structure elements are complete, meeting the "six element theory". The six element theory of cultural gene explains its specific composition; Any traditional process is a hexagonal structure composed of six gene elements[1]. Specifically, in the pattern of Jing embroidery, six gene elements are constructed, including composition, color, theme, behavior, semantics and environment. The phenotypic characteristics of roots were divided into dominant genes and recessive genes. Dominant genes focus on the expression of visual art performance; Recessive genes focus on the transmission of spiritual and cultural connotation. Based on the decomposition of the elements of Jing Embroidery, this paper summarizes the cultural gene model of Jing Embroidery patterns.

#### 1.1 extraction of dominant genes

Dominant genes of Jing embroidery patterns include color genes, theme genes and composition genes. Their characteristics determine the external characteristics of Jing embroidery patterns. The existing use of Jing embroidery are mostly based on their dominant genes.

Taking Figure 1 as an example, the primary visual effect of Jing Embroidery pattern focuses on the color principle, and the use of contrast colors in clothing is characterized by a strong sense of hierarchy. The second is the theme of elements. In the clothing, butterfly, grape, peony and other animal and plant patterns are the main patterns, which are vivid and full of imagination and stories. Finally, it is the rhythmic rhythm of the form. Square patterns are characterized by uniform rhythm and squareness.









(a) Green Satin Embroidered butterfly pattern jacket and its artistic elements

(c) Element theme

(d) Constitutive form

Fig. 1 Green Satin Embroidered butterfly pattern jacket and its artistic elements

(b) Color principle

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The color gene is influenced by the theory of yin and Yang and five elements and Confucian ritual system, which forms a unique color system; And other elements, such as Luojing embroidery patterns and plant patterns; The constitution of genes is the same as that of most patterns, including single, suitable and continuous patterns.

As for the patterns of Jing embroidery, the dominant gene directly affects people's first impression of it. The gorgeous colors, rich themes and rhythmic composition reflect the artistic visual value of Jing embroidery.

#### **1.2 extraction of recessive gene**

The recessive genes of Jing Embroidery include behavioral genes, semantic genes and environmental genes, which have guiding significance for modern innovative design .

Figure 2 shows the eight regiments of coat of arms, which is the regulation of Jing Embroidery pattern. The eight regiments of arms are often used in women's clothing above imperial concubine level; Auspicious patterns include longevity pattern, lotus pattern, dragon pattern, etc., implying longevity. The dragon is the supreme symbol of imperial power, full of the most solemn blessing of heaven and earth; Focusing on the regulation of official uniforms, Figure 2 shows women's court uniforms.



(a) women's single dragon robe embroidered with (b) Heraldry regulation (c) Auspicious pattern (d) Regulation of official service lotus flower colored yarn and its cultural elements

# Fig. 2 women's single dragon robe embroidered with lotus flower colored yarn and its cultural elements

The behavioral gene of Jing Embroidery patterns is embodied in the regulation of heraldry, which usually includes two, four, eight and nine heralds; The semantic gene directly reflects the auspicious implication and reflects the people's expectations for a better life at that time; The induction of environmental genes in the pattern of Jing embroidery can be understood as the carrier of the pattern of Jing embroidery, including seven types of official clothes: court clothes, auspicious clothes, regular clothes, casual clothes, travel clothes, rain clothes and military clothes.

The recessive gene gives spiritual and cultural support to the pattern of Jing Embroidery, and has the function of highlighting the superiority and inferiority, praying for blessings and wishes.

With the comparative analysis of recessive gene and dominant gene, the gene model of Jing embroidery pattern culture is obtained as shown in Figure 3.

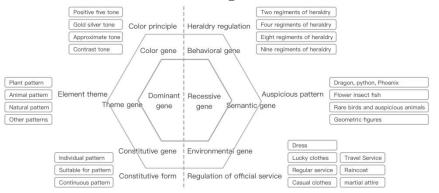


Figure 3 cultural gene model of Jing embroidery patterns

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# 2. Cultural characteristics of Jing embroidery patterns of traditional clothing

Jing embroidery pattern not only has artistic expression tension, but also has cultural connotation accumulation. The combination of the two forms the cultural expression characteristics of Jing embroidery pattern. The research classifies the artistic expression and cultural connotation, and sums up three cultural expression characteristics of Jing embroidery patterns: clear pattern level, rich theme and full form.

#### 2.1 clear pattern grade

The patterns of Jing embroidery are usually hierarchical.Influenced by the court culture and Confucian culture, the use of standard is clear and hierarchical, and the use of traditional clothing is strictly restricted. The strong standardization is reflected in the rules and regulations of Jing embroidery patterns and the color principle.

2.1.1 strict and unified regulations on heraldry

The heraldry first appeared in the Shang and Zhou Dynasties in the form of system, and was prosperous and good at the Qing Dynasty. The Qing Dynasty formed a heraldic system of two regiments, four regiments, eight regiments and nine regiments based on quantity [2].

According to Zuo Zhuan, "Zhao Wen, Ming Gui Jian" [3], the number of regimental tattoos is closely related to their status and identity. The more regimental tattoos are used, the more they become exclusive to royal relatives. The nine regimental tattoos are the special ones directly used by the emperor. See Table 1 for a comparison of specific patterns.

Pattern regulation	Dress specifications	Applicable status and grade		
Two regiments of arms	Dress	Member of the royal family		
Four regiments of arms	Gowns	The emperor, the prince, the prince, the prince's sons, the princes and the prefectures		
Eight regiment insignia	Auspicious clothes	Empress dowager, empress, concubines, first grade to seventh grade life wives		
Nine regiment insignia	Auspicious clothes	Empress dowager, civil and military officials, life woman		

Table 1. specific regulations of Heraldry regulation

#### 2.1.2 color principle derived from "five elements"

Influenced by the theory of yin, yang and five elements, the theory of five elements and five colors occupies a dominant position in the use of colors in Jing embroidery [4]. Black represents water, white represents gold, red represents fire, yellow represents soil, and green represents wood. The five elements complement each other, producing red, green, yellow, blue, purple and other colors. The five elements are the main colors in traditional clothing patterns.

The use of the five major color systems has clear provisions, and personnel at different levels must strictly abide by the restrictions of the clothing color rating system, and shall not skip the level without authorization [5]. See Table 2 for specific characteristics.

Table 2.	five color	systems a	and their	characteristics	of Jing	g embroidery	/ patterns
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Color	Color implication	Color name	Users
system			
Red	Red It represents flame and sun, symbolizes victory, and		Emperor empress and imperial concubine
system	auspiciousness.	Reddish	Empress, member of the royal family, concubines of Ministers above grade 3
	Yellow, the Royal exclusive color, is the most noble color in history, representing power and dignity.	Bright yellow	Emperor, empress dowager, Queen
Yellow series		Apricot yellow	Empress dowager, empress dowager, crown prince and princess
		golden	The empress, the Royal concubine,

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Blue	It means strong and long	Shi Qing	Princes, princes and their families
Diue	vitality	Bluish	Ministers with five grades
Green system	Implies vitality and vigor	green	It is widely used without restriction
Purple	On behalf of the powerful, implicit, gentle, implied	Purple	Empress dowager, empress dowager, imperial concubine
line	auspicious ambition	Purplish	Four women and above

#### 2.2 rich theme and Implication

The theme of Jing embroidery patterns is rich, and the use of its elements comes from people's expectations. The theme of the elements is closely related to the auspicious implication.

2.2.1 rich and changeable element themes

According to the types of element themes, Jing embroidery patterns can be divided into four categories: plant patterns, animal patterns, natural patterns and other patterns. The patterns of Jing Embroidery are mostly taken from nature, giving users a sense of intimacy and expectation.

The four types of themes have their own characteristics. See Table 3 for the characteristics and usage rules of different themes.

Tuble 5. the elements, themes and endracteristics of sing emotoridery patterns					
Element theme category		Specific classification	Theme features		
Ani	Animals in myths	Swallow, crane, cormorant, magpie,			
mal	and legends	snake, etc	More vitality, ambition and other		
patt			meanings, showing a strong		
ern	Objective animal	Dragon, Phoenix and Qilin	desire for desire		
S	-				
Diant nottoma		Mainly including flowers, grass,	Representing people's pursuit of a		
Plant patterns		trees, etc	better life		
Natural patterns		Sun, moon, mountain, river, cloud	It contains beautiful yearning		
Other a other a		Character pattern, character pattern,	Its implication is clear and		
	Other patterns	geometry pattern, utensil pattern	straightforward		

Table 3. the elements, themes and characteristics of Jing embroidery patterns

#### 2.2.2 profound and long-term implication

According to the classification of allegory, the theme of Jing embroidery pattern elements can be divided into four parts: dragon, python, phoenix, flowers, insects, fish, rare birds, auspicious animals, and geometric figures. The allegory is profound and long-term, with positive significance.

The auspicious implication is presented through the clothing carrier to express people's yearning for good wishes and attitude of seeking advantages and avoiding disadvantages. See Table 4 for auspicious patterns summarized from the perspective of implication.

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Classification	Theme elements	moral
of patterns		
Dragon,	Dragon Python pattern	Legend is regarded as the symbol of divine power
python, Phoenix	Phoenix pattern	Phoenix is auspicious bird, with auspicious meaning
Flower insect	Flower pattern	It is connected with moral demeanor of the world
fish	Insect fish pattern	Auspicious implication
Rare birds	Patterns of rare birds	Rare birds have both moral integrity and talent
and	Auspicious animal pattern	There are religious and emotional connotations
auspicious		
animals		
Geometric	Geometric pattern	There are more auspicious meanings such as homophony
figures	Figure pattern	Hope to prolong life and hope for a better life

Table 4. specific specifications of auspicious patterns

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#### 2.3 full form

Jing embroidery and full pattern. The variety of clothing types and the full and flexible patterns constitute the full characteristics of Jing embroidery patterns.

#### 2.3.1 clothing categories with varied forms

The implementation of the official dress system reached its peak in the Qing Dynasty, and the court dress was divided according to the use scene and the level of etiquette <sup>[6]</sup>.

The official dress is the carrier of Jing embroidery patterns, and the official regulation is to strictly classify the palace dress according to the use scene, including seven categories of dress, auspicious dress, regular dress, casual dress, travel dress, military dress and rain dress [7]. Specific specifications are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. the spectric norms of the regulation of official dress				
Clothing category	Usage scenarios	Users		
Dress	The emperor ascended the throne, married, offered sacrifices or important activities	The emperor, the prince, the princes, the officials and their families		
Lucky clothes	Large scale festival celebration	The emperor, the prince, the princes, the officials and their families,		
Regular	Banquet guests, the emperor before	The emperor, the prince, the princes, the		
service	the death of the funeral period	officials and their families		
Casual clothes	Yanju, Empress of Emperor	The emperor, the prince, the princes, the officials and their families		
Travel Service	Go out on tour, hunt and ride	Emperors, princes and princes		
Raincoat	rain	Emperors, princes and princes		
martial attire	military activity	emperor		

#### Table 5. the specific norms of the regulation of official dress

#### 2.3.2 A vivid and vivid form of composition

The composition form of Jing Embroidery patterns is a concentrated reflection of the aesthetic of the times, with strong practicality and aesthetics, which can be divided into three categories: individual patterns, suitable patterns, and continuous patterns [8].

The patterns form an overall layout by means of radiation, extension and rotation, so as to make the patterns harmonious and unified. The three forms are shown in the table 6.

Table 0. composition and characteristics of sing emotordery patterns				
Form of constitution Common patterns		Common patterns	Characteristics of the formation form	
Individu	al pattern	Patterns of animals and plants	The subject matter is relatively rich, the nimble realistic characteristic	
Suitable for	Square fit	Plant pattern, animal pattern	It has the function of balance and stability, distinct level, full and interesting	
patterns	Round fit	and geometric pattern	characteristics	
	Binomial	Geometric patterns, plant		
Continuo	continuity	patterns, animal patterns	With a strong sense of rhythm, lively and	
us pattern	Tetragonal	Geometric pattern, plant	free, full of rhythm, strong sense of integrity	
	continuity	pattern and natural pattern		

Table 6. composition and characteristics of Jing embroidery patterns

The distinctive patterns, rich themes and full forms combine to interpret the meaning of Jing embroidery from a more inclusive perspective. The cultural value of Jing embroidery is transmitted through cultural genes, which is the value of Jing embroidery inheritance.

### 3. Cultural gene value of Jing embroidery patterns of traditional clothing

Cultural genes are the basic elements that play a decisive role in the inheritance, development or change of cultural characteristics [9]. Summarize the cultural gene connotation of Jing embroidery

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patterns, including the belief power of advocating nature, good wishes for good and avoiding evil, and the order of superiority and inferiority that highlight status.

#### 3.1 the belief power of advocating nature

Whether it is the heraldry management position in the dress regulation, or the color characteristics of Jing embroidery patterns, it highlights the connotation of nature worship.

Therefore, the belief in nature has become a cultural cause that can not be ignored in Jing Embroidery, and it is also the reason why the ancients valued dress regulations.

#### 3.2 good wishes of pursuing good fortune and avoiding evil

The ancients believed that the strength of mountains and rivers in nature was enough to prevent danger; Among all things in nature, beloved animals and plants are endowed with the moral of long life and courtship.

The beautiful wish of seeking good fortune and avoiding bad luck is to regard all things in nature as the embodiment of a beautiful life and embody it in clothing, which reflects the yearning for beauty in ancient society. Clothing is also one of the carriers of seeking good fortune and avoiding bad luck and hoping for good wishes.

#### 3.3 order of superiority and inferiority

The dress regulation and pattern composition in the pattern of Jing Embroidery have a strong function, highlighting the user's superiority and inferiority. The strict division and implementation of the hierarchy of superiority and inferiority have effectively maintained the feudal ruling order.

The three cultural genetic values, namely, the belief in nature, the good wish to seek good and avoid evil, and the order of superiority and inferiority that highlight status, have given birth to the functional nature of Jing embroidery patterns. Under the constraints of cultural gene value and functional constraints, the characteristics of Jing Embroidery patterns become traceable, which is the reason why Jing Embroidery patterns have been inherited so far.

#### 4. Conclusion

With its exquisite patterns and bright colors, Jing embroidery has become the fashion of the royal family. Its intrinsic value and aesthetic characteristics have also become one of the performance of court aesthetics. In this paper, through the research on the cultural gene of Jing embroidery, the artistic characteristics and cultural connotation of Jing embroidery patterns are obtained. The purpose of in-depth study on the cultural gene of Jing embroidery pattern is to better apply its artistic expression and cultural heritage to modern scenes, complete the purpose of inheriting traditional culture of Jing embroidery and innovative design of patterns, and provide impetus for the realization of live inheritance and innovation.

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