

CARPET WEAVING TECHNOLOGY IN SURKHANDARYA: TRADITION AND MODERNITY

Head of the Department of History, Associate Professor, TISU
Yormatov Faxriddin Joylovovich
Terdu Teacher of the Department of World History
Mallayev Dilmurot Tursunmurodvich

Carpet weaving is an invaluable cultural heritage that expresses the national identity, aesthetic taste and spiritual values of the people. The traditions, symbolic patterns and color harmony passed down from generation to generation in the process of carpet weaving embody the folk mentality, philosophy of life and ideas of harmony with nature. The traditions of carpet weaving, especially with the participation of women, are important not only as a craft, but also as a factor strengthening kindness, solidarity and spiritual harmony in society.

Hand-woven carpet weaving is a very labor-intensive process. For example, an experienced carpet weaver spends about 20-25 days to weave one square meter of pile carpet. That is why hand-woven carpets are considered one of the most expensive handicraft products[1].

The main raw materials for carpet weaving are natural wool, silk and cotton. The most preferred wool fibers are angora, merino, camel wool and mohair, which have a silky, thin, long and elastic fiber. Merino wool is the fine, soft wool of merino sheep. The wool of Australian merino sheep is considered the best of such wool. Merino wool is thin, soft, with twill fibers, 6-8 cm long[2].

Whether camel wool is soft or coarse depends on its age. The natural beautiful color of the wool, from light brown to dark brown, allows this wool to be used without dyeing. Cotton fiber is an important raw material for textiles. In carpet weaving, cotton fiber acts as the warp (melting) in pile carpets. Cotton fiber was widely used in weaving hard pileless carpets in Central Asia. Cotton fiber was very rarely used in weaving expensive carpets.

Hemp fiber is a long fiber obtained from the stem of the hemp plant. Thin, soft and dense, with high moisture absorption properties. Since the hemp plant is also grown in Uzbekistan, it is considered a local raw material. It is mainly used to make sacking, packaging materials, tarpaulin, hemp yarn (rope), and arrack yarn used in carpet weaving. Silk fiber is a valuable textile raw material. Silk is also used for its decorative properties, luster, and whiteness. No other type of wool has such luster as silk fiber (even the wool of Angora goats, English long-haired sheep, and young Karakul lambs). Silk fibers (silk) are coated with serosin, a protein glue that the silkworm secretes to hold the cocoon, so silk is more like horsehair than silk. Gluing and washing silk lightens its color and makes it softer and shinier.

In the Surkhan oasis, when spinning yarn, the raw material was first combed, cleaned and stretched. Then the yarn was collected by a rotary motion and the finished yarn was stored in various round balls. The collected yarns were then dyed and woven.[3] The main tools used in carpet weaving: -knife - mainly used to trim each pile in the weaving of pile carpets, leaving a length of 0.8 - 8 mm, and in the case of short pile carpets, leaving 3 - 7 mm. -scissors - used to make the pile of carpets denser, the pile of the pile and the square yarn. -tuf-(comb) is used to quickly comb the tanda yarn with the combed side of the tuft with a certain force. -measuring tool - used to determine the flatness of the weave in the process of carpet weaving. After being removed from the workshop, the flatness of the carpet is checked again.

In the early 19th century, carpets were woven on low, simple looms set close to the ground. These traditional looms, called "ormak" in the Surkhan oasis, were placed almost at ground level, mainly for the convenience of women.[4] Over time, carpet weaving technologies improved, and more modern, convenient, and larger "spool" looms began to be produced.

The carpet weaving machine is constructed as follows: 1. The support – the whole part is supported and the stiffener that controls the shaft, and the releaser, which is needed to reduce the

distance between the upper and lower shafts, to hold the thread of the loom more loosely, and if necessary, more tightly[5]. 2. The lower shafts – hold the thread of the loom shaft and help to strengthen the tension of the threads. 3. The frame of the loom – since the frame of the loom and the body are in one place, the loom has two rows of small (nail) needles that are adjusted to the size of the carpet being woven, and one row of needles contains the main threads, and the other row contains the auxiliary threads. The additional threads are tied to these needles and separate the main and auxiliary threads. 4. The part (body) that separates and tightens the warp thread – is used to replace the main and auxiliary threads in the loom when necessary, that is, to bring the main thread to the front instead of the auxiliary thread, and helps to tighten the warp thread[1].

The technology of carpet weaving in the Surkhandarya oasis has been formed over the centuries and developed based on the unique traditions of the region. The methods and patterns used in the process of carpet weaving reflect the historical experience and aesthetic views of the people. Today, this type of craft is developing in accordance with modern requirements, while preserving its traditions.

ADABIYOT VA MANBALAR RO‘YXATI

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