



Folk Art of the Ancient Tamils

Dr. S. Kamaraj

Linguistic Data Consortium for Indian Languages,
Central Institute of Indian Languages,
Mysore - 570 006.

Abstract- Folk arts are the arts that naturally appear and delight people as a haven of emotion. In this computerized environment, the history and traditions of the ancient Tamils can be learned by studying folk arts. The arts such as Therukoothu, Karakattam, Villupattu, Kaniyan Aattam, Oilkummi Puliyattam, Tholpa Vaikoothu and Silambattam had a special place in the life of the ancient Tamils. Folk arts have been a source of mental pleasure, a drain on human emotion, and an outlet for emotion. And that's why they still exist. Natural knowledge, deep emotion, simplicity and directness are hidden in these arts. They are associated with time and then with society. It is the centre of the aesthetic sensibilities of the people of the country. The aim of the study is to take these lessons to the younger generation so that they can build a healthy and prosperous future society.

Keywords - Tolpaikoothu, Therukoothu, Karagaattam, Villupattu, Ganiyanattam, Puliyattam.

I. Introduction

Art is a natural human emotion. Folk arts are a source of entertainment for the people. Art is an expression of human emotions. That's why they live through the flood. In this respect, folk arts such as Therukoothu, Karakattam, Villupattu, Kaniyan Aattam, Oilkummi, Puliyattam, Tholpaikoothu and Silambattam were noted.

Therukoothu

Therukoothu is conducted by the Tamil speaking people of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. A street fight is a fight in the street. They are an entertainment ritual and a medium of social communication. It is simple and takes place in the open air. It will go on throughout the night. This is one of the Tamils. Koothu Therukoothu is a very simple form of street play with (1) myth, (2) folk tale, (3) reform or awareness story, which is performed in an open-air stage without any stage or screen. The Tamils followed certain traditions in conducting the Virata season for those who wanted rain, the Satyavan Savitri for those who wanted childbirth, and the Meenakshi wedding for those who wanted to get married. There is a tradition of praise, kattiyakkaran, credits, characters, song from inside the screen, song from outside the screen, introduction, storytelling, mangalam singing. Epics, legends, historical events and life events form the theme of the street performance.

Karakattam

Karaga play is associated with Mariamman. The word karakam is found in Tolkappiya and Purananutra. The one that is taken during the festival season is called Shakthikaram and the one that is taken professionally is called Athikkaram. Devotees are powerful. This section contains melam, tappam and other percussion instruments. There will be satyagraha melam in the amphitheatre and there will be water in the Kumbh at the peak



of power. Above it is the neem leaf, in the middle the thread is wrapped around the coconut palm. Those who fast will carry the Kumbh. The fast at the temple will end. The bottom of the pit is a pit. It is known as Karasuchembu in Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram, Karakattam in Madurai and Kumba in Tirunelveli.

Villupattu

The bow has a special place in folk art. It is said that the bow dance was originated by a king in the 14th century. Instruments of the bow are the bow, the bow, the bow, the reed, and the reed. We know that eight types of side instruments were used including the four instruments of Pamba, Urumi, Thakai and Thundubi. Villupuram is the native place of Kumari and Paddy districts. "When the poet Subbu Arumugam mentioned about the origin of the bow-tip, he said," "In the southern part of the country, when the hunters came from hunting and sat in the shadow of the tree, they slid the bow from the shoulder into the lap and started the song by tapping the arrow on the reed." "" Similarly, the mention of Villupattu is found in the book Deivachilaiyar Viralividu Thoothu, which describes the specialty of Villupattu. The mridangam highlights the speciality of the bow.

Before the story begins, he sings a song. Lord Ganesha will be worshipped. After Kuruvadi, the history of Avayadakkum Pillar Nattuvallam is told and the art of chanting in the temple festivals where the worship is held at the end is also used for political propaganda today. Artist N.S. Villupattukal, the story of Krishna, is a glorious art that has kept many songs alive.

Kaniyanattam

The game of kanyan is also called the crown game. There is a proverb in Tirunelveli district that there is no temple without Kali Aattam and Ganiyan Kootham. Seven people take part in the game. One lead singer. Two female candidates. Three readers. One of the sheet. According to researchers, this art, which is dependent on men, is the oldest art before the 16th century. Ganiyan Kettu is conducted by the Ganiyal caste itself. The procedures in this type of Kettu are, eight fasts before the donation is held on Tuesday, Friday, the donation is held on Friday, the Mathiyamam is oiled and the donation is held on Friday in the temple, the song is sung in the name of Sudalaimadan. He is the one who blesses. He cuts off the hand of the weaver and pours the blood on the leaf. 21 Blood will be poured out on the leaves. There will be demonstrations. The service starts at nine o'clock in the evening. Begin with a greeting. The leader will sing. One will be a helper. What the lead singer sang, the others would repeat with the crowning game. The female actors perform to the tune. It's four in the morning. Examples from the Mahabharata and Ramayana will be narrated during the play. In the Ganiyan play mostly the story of Sudalaimadan, the story of Isakyamman, the story of Mantra Murty, the story of Siruthonda Nayanar etc. are told. In the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, especially in the Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts, Ganiyan is performed in rural temple donation ceremonies.

Oyilkummi or Oyilattam

The players wear a turban on their head, a garland on their neck and a shawl on their feet. Hold your hand. Two teams will play against each other. Oyilattam is a symbol of Tamil culture as a native child of Sandalwood, a land of mythological and historical



treasures, a land of cultivation of devotion. Most of the songs are from the Ramayana. Apart from this, the basic game of Undu Oyil Kummi is thirteen, singing and playing in the same order as the bridegroom methods of Oyilattam, singing the story of Pavala Kodi, the story of Madurai Veeran, the story of Murugan, the story of Siruthondar, the wedding story of Valli. Every game has its own set of elements. Every game is different. The song on Oyilattam highlights the speciality of Oyilattam as "Oyilattam celebrated by the people in Madurai in our harmony with the chariot, if the wing spreads, if the mayilattam jumps together, if the oyilattam flutters, if the puliyattam disappears on the screen, if the shadow falls." Stand a cubit away from your person without rubbing against the person, and do not rub your feet against your hands, and do not rub against the surface of your clothes, and do not scatter your roots in the water. "

Puliyattam

Tiger game is a game in which a tiger and a hunter play together. A mix of music and dance. It is held during the festival season. The person playing the role of a tiger wears a tiger face mask on his face and wears a half-sleeved shirt like a tiger and a turban like a tiger. The body is lined with yellow and black stripes. He will tie a rope around his leg. A rope is tied between the tiger's paws and one holds it. A hunter pretending to be a hunter would act as if he were lurking and leaping, as if he were aiming to shoot a tiger. The game is played both solo and in conjunction with the bear game.

Tholpavai Koothu

Because it is carried by the shadows of the dolphins, the dolphins are called shadows. Dholpa Koothu is called Dholu Bommatala in Andhra Pradesh and Thollu Momme Adda in Mysore. In Kerala, tholpa is called koothu or kuzhakkuzhi and is given a special name in each village. There are three to six people in the paavikoothu. Two sins are forgiven. There are two singers. A white curtain hung in the middle of the open space. Between the light and the screen will be operated sins. He wears a bandage on his leg and raises his voice. The folk belief is expressed that if the Ramayana, the story of Nalla Thangal, the story of Arichandran are conducted through Dholpa Koothu, it will bring rain to the country. It is said that it was first introduced in China and then brought to India via Indonesia. We know that milk has been present in India since the 12th century. Children's programs are held in countries such as the United States. In South India, the situation is better. Maintaining folk arts and undertaking scientific research on them will be of great benefit to the society. The artists who conduct Dholpavakutas leave their homes with their families and perform in different cities and return to their native villages after six months. Therefore, they are considered artists.

Silambam

A game played with sticks is called Silambattam. Silambathul is a Tamil martial art and one of the Tamil heroic sports. This process is also called rolling. It is an intense form of self-defense that includes hand movements, foot movements, and body movements. Silambattam is based on stopping the wire thrown by the person standing in front, touching the body with the wire. Six months of training is essential for learning Silambu. It takes two people to learn. In today's environment, both can be seen learning Silambattam and playing it well. Silambattam always finds a place in festivals, temple festivals and processions. For example, in the districts of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Nagapattinam, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi,



Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli. Apart from this, the students of schools and colleges are also given training in Silambattam and prizes are given. Cycling is the best form of exercise. Every nerve and muscle in the body is activated when the rod is lifted and rotated. This helps Silambam training to achieve strength, energy, quickness, physical flexibility of the body. Silambattam is a martial art which is performed with great skill and skill.

II. Conclusion

Folk art reflects the cultural life of the community. The art and culture of a country is the best tool to reflect that society. Art is not only a means of entertainment, but also a means of communication. The arts are connected to the earth and to us. They have their own characteristics and characteristics. It is not only for entertainment but also for mental and social well-being. The folk arts of Tamil Nadu are unique in many ways.

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