

Traditional Kanchipuram and Thirubuvanam Silk Saris: A Study of Heritage and Craftsmanship

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Abstract:

People living in the state understand their ethnic origin, their culture and how their identity is characterized in the world. They are very attached to their rituals and traditions. Tamil culture is rooted in the arts and lifestyles of the Tamil people in India and around the world. The main purpose of this study is to highlight the specific characteristics of the traditional Kanchipuram and Thirubuvanam silk sari. When you try a study about traditional silk sari, it is remarkable that this study raises the following questions: firstly, how does silk Sari take its first position among other saris? Then, how is it well known all over the world? And then, why do people give so much importance to silk sari especially the distinctive occasions in Tamil culture? Finally, how do the two saris differ? We can continue this study to find various interesting facts.

Keywords: Silk sari – features – Thirubuvanam – Kanchipuram - Tamil people.

1. INTRODUCTION

People's beliefs come from their art in all its forms. Fabric manufacture is part of the artistic end. To understand the underpinnings and outcomes of the drawing and weaving of Tamil Nadu silk saris, one must be aware of the land and its people, as well as the artists and artisans who shape them. We know something about their history, both temporal and spiritual. It is also being aware of what they want to be dear and true. The gods they worship, the rituals they perform, their rituals of spiritual passage, their objects of joy and desire, their attitudes to love and death, their visions of the earthly paradise, all this and more are woven in the fabric making by the Tamuls. It is a joyful convergence between the various areas of Tamil thought. One simply has to study the silk saris, as if they were a kind of information of the people, as much as the Baradanâtiyam or the Carnatic music. Tamil Nadu silk saris are part of the Tamil soul and ethos.

It is interesting to do this study about silk sari. The main objective of the study will be to establish the specific characteristics of the traditional Kanchipuram and Thirubuvanam silk sari. When a study is done about traditional silk sari, it is remarkable that this study raises the following questions: First of all, how does the silk sari take its first position among the other saris? Then, how is it well known all over the world? And then, why do people give so much importance to silk sari especially the distinctive occasions in Tamil culture? Finally, how do the two saris differ? We can continue this study to find various interesting facts. Silk saris play an indispensable role not only in Indian tradition, and especially in Tamil customs, but also in various family ceremonies and festivals.

2. THE HISTORY OF THIRUBUVANAM SILK SARI

Almost every state has its own brand of silk and weaving centers, and has revived their traditional patterns and crafts. It is the most famous city for its aesthetically pleasant silk saris from the time of the Cholas. It was built by the family of King Chola, who would be named after Kulottunga Chola III, who was an Emperor of Thirubuvanam. One of the most lucrative commercial in the city was the trade in silk saris, dhotis and hand-woven towels. As the city progressed and diversified its crafts, it conformed to the tasteful clothing of modern Indian women. The Company of hand-woven trade Cooperative by private production and marketing was established in 1955. At that time, traditional weavers were subject to a feudal system of hierarchy and lived on a low income prior to the establishment of the Society. However, since the company was founded, artisans and weavers have thrived in this trade, and weaving has become more of a way of living than of doing business. Now the Society has about one thousand eight hundred twenty-six weaving members and provides employment to about two thousand families. The Company currently operates with thirty-nine sales points spread throughout the state of Tamil Nadu, and another in Pondicherry, which supports thousands of people and creates livelihoods. Silk saris have an indispensable place in Indian tradition, and especially in Tamil customs. The enormous trade in silk saris reflects many Indian values and traditions.

2.1. THIRUBUVANAM SPECIFICATIONS

First we will start with the specification of Thirubuvanam, which is a town near Kumbakonam, in the state of Tamil Nadu. This historic city has preserved a long history of the silk weaving art and has resisted the test of time. Thirubuvanam saris are very rich in fine quality with good quantities of silk thread. The speciality of Thirubuvanam silk saris is that silk thread is used in the chain and frame to manufacture high-quality, uniform, and high-gloss saris. Thirubuvanam silk is folded like an angavastrame, means a garment for the top of the body, is known for the free suspension edges and ends of the finely worked saris are beautifully adorned with the sari which is a fine golden or silver thread used in traditional Indian garments. The silk saris are very fascinating thanks to its large edges in contrasted colors with fine patterns and designs.

2.2. THIRUBUVANAM SILK SARI SIGNALISTICS

Thirubuvanam is an ancient temple town associated with the manufacture of aesthetic silk saris, traditionally weighing about four hundred to one thousand three hundred grams. The silk weighs about four hundred grams and the rest of the weight is made up of wire, these silk saris would measure about eighteen feet or six meters in length and four feet or 1.34 meters in width with a single unilateral edge. In practice, it takes fifteen days to make a sari with finesse. These saris are beautifully hand-woven and contain fine-worked brocades and patterns that are welcomed. Silk is stronger than most natural fibers and its strength is comparable to that of synthetic fibers such as nylon and polyester. Silk clothing is light but warm and absorbent. They have excellent draping qualities and have natural resistance to friction and folds. It is the only company, in particular, with a certificate from the International Organization for Standardization, which speaks too much about product qualities.

These of Thirubuvanam are the traditional saris for the wedding that weave in pure silk and the thread galvanized with fine silver and pure gold, the average weight adorned with patterns, structure and edge woven in the same single chain. They are made from often domesticated silk worms of the genus: "Bombyx" which feeds on the leaves of the myrtle, and therefore, it is similarly called "Myrtlesil" or "Natural Silk". The specialty of Thirubuvanam silk sari is the use of threaded silk in the chain and frame to produce high-quality, shiny, uniform and shiny saris. The Company uses the best wire and gold galvanized wire with silver threads. The silk is colored in the

company that had its own dyeing factory with its ease of effluent treatment facility and zero liquid waste and given to the weavers under patterns. The collective drawings of the patterns used at Thirubuvanam are natural and floral such as the mango, the pot, the temple, the rudraksham, the diamond, the finger ring and Kodi visiri refers to the pattern of the vine in flower. Another edge specialty is "Korvai" means solid or contrasted edges with finely woven string wire. The three very small bells designate the salangai or ankle bracelet which could well be followed by the damier pattern of the peon's eye, the bracelets, the arms, the clusters of grapes, lianas and mangoes.... All models are in a sari and the surprise button represents the work of the colored thread between the wires.

As for sari colors, delight in the plains of the infinite vivacity of the green parrot, dark brown coffee, golden yellow chateau... choose your moods, or may be surprised by the double colored as the peon neck denotes colors with a mixture of blue and green, the lion has orange and red colors, the new mango leaf possesses colors with a blend of green and purple. As for Pallus, these are end pieces decorated with a sari, take freely when they are woven separately, then skillfully woven together with the main part of sari, without any meaning of joining, the wonder of Petni's work is called a zigzag shape.

2.3. THIRUBUVANAM SILK SARI SPECIALITY

Silk threading is the unique specialty, is used in the chain and frame to manufacture high quality, uniform, and high gloss saris. The silk is folded in the sari as an angavastrame means a garment intended to cover the upper part of the body. We are also known for the edges and patterns of fine-worked pallu, that they are aesthetically adorned with precious wire. The large edges in contrasted colors with patterns and finely crafted drawings are very fascinating. Most popular patterns are influenced by temples, flowers, natural leaves, fruits, pawn eye, rudraksa balls and birds such as pawn and parrot.

2.4. OWN UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

There are several attributes and characteristics of Thirubuvanam silk saris that stand out from others. In addition to being an essential collection element for any amateur, these features articulate the novelty: [i] Thirubuvanam's silk sari has its own unique characteristics. It has a sari of a traditional wedding value, medium weight decorated with patterns, bodies and edges woven in the same unique chain. First of all, it is very smooth and extends on the body of the wearer with elegance. This particularity is due to the style of twisted chain weaving. On the other hand, Kanchipuram's different sari may appear to be hard and seem to be stiff because they are woven with a three-fold chain. [ii] In addition, the palate of a Thirubuvanam silk sari is always woven on the weaving craft that simply continues on the sari's body. With a difference of the main body woven with the pallet that is dyed by a type of dyeing and decoration or the technique of dying, the fixation of the weaving have no trace of irregularity by partially dividing the chain threads and re-adjusting the tension and reticulated the new one that provides the strength sufficient for its durability, this process of weaving technique is called regionally "porai iloupou" which distinguishes the silk sari of Tirubuvaname from the work called "pitni" of the Kanchipurame silk Sari or any hand-woven sari while in the variety of Kanchipeuramou, the pallou is a piece of the decorated end of a sari, takes freely when woven separately to the body of the sari, although sometimes the difference can be seen in the state of matured tissue between the palate and the body. In this type, wires are not uniform in solidity. Thus, the silk sari from THICO Society is a special blend of finesse and solidity. [iii] Another specialty of Thirubuvanam's silk saris uses silk threading in the chain and frame to make high-quality, uniform, and high-gloss saris. The company

uses the most skilled wires and uses it in its pure state, The Company addresses the contemporary and traditional style, and is a center for saris, especially during the wedding season.

First of all, the Thirubuvanam silk sari is once again different from the others by folding which is called as "visiri madippou", which means the folding is completely made layer by layer with the traditional hand like a folding of Angavastirame. Then he highlights the choice of regular density everywhere on the sari. Then, the floating threads at the back of the patterns of the chains and additional frames are more reduced in Thirubuvanam silk sari weaving. In addition, there is no adhesive process after weaving for its rigidity in the sari of Thirubuvanam like other silk saris. Thirubuvanam is woven by the regular change of the removal of chain wires and the assembly and maintenance of the tension of the chain wire naturally gives a sufficient coverage and rigidity. And yet, it has the best drapability due to manufacturing according to the conventional wisdom and hand-woven weaving methodology established over the years in the industry. Finally, most of Thirubuvanam's silk sari patterns are based on the very ancient tradition in the Thirubuvanam region.

3. THE HISTORY OF KANCHIPURAM SILK SARI

According to Hindu mythology, Kanchi's silk weavers are the descendants of Sage Markanda, the master weaver of the gods who must have woven the fabric of lotus fiber. In addition, cotton is also considered the favorite fabric of the God Siva, silk was preferred by the God Vishnu. The famous Kanchipuram silk sari is a sari traditionally hand-woven from myrtle silk, made in the streets of the city of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu, India. Kanchipuram has remarkable temples which are included by an incomparable genius, is otherwise called "the city of a thousand temples". The starting point of Kanchipuram silk, in a verifiable way, dates back to four hundred years, when the two weaving of the remarkable nets of Andhra Pradesh, namely, the Devangas and the Saligars, moved to this city, during the reign of King Krishna Deva Raya who belonged to the Chola dynasty. The rich sanctuary culture and the common usage of wearing silk clothes in traditions, weddings and services in this curious ancient city are expressed as being the motivation on which the networks of weavers settled here. These two weaving nets were only recognized worldwide for their silk weaving capabilities.

People from all over the country soon began to fall in love with the saris of Kanchipuram, in particular, for its grace and originality. It is affectionately worn by wives during the wedding, but the whole nation has begun to buy them to wear this elegant masterpiece on various occasions. These Kanchipuram silk saris can be purchased online at the Kanchipuram store. Kanchipuram silk saris are better known as "Chief of Saris", due to their brilliance, strength and gloss from the perfect wirework. They are worn for all ages for a wide range of capabilities and functions, structure a highly desirable piece of Indian bride's puzzle, and are regularly transmitted across ages. The nature of sari is more often examined than otherwise depending on how overwhelming the sari is. The heavier the sari, the higher the quality of the sari. This sari is best represented as a shiny silk sari with a work of sari. The sari is a metal thread generally made using gold or silver and interwoven with silk to make different patterns. In general, Kanchipuram sari patterns are dynamically drawn from the Pallava dynasty style and motifs, their temples, castles and works of art. In any case, even extraordinary scenes from the Indian epics of Ramayana and Mahabaradama can be seen nowadays. With the advent of time, we can also observe the use of ancient and modern patterns. Some of the most popular normal and usual patterns are: the buttoned jasmine flower is composed inside a square or a round, is especially known as Mallimaggu, or Thandavalam where parallel lines pass over the body of the sari. You will see a lot

of ladies wearing this style of clothing in the parties and important occasions. Kanchipuram silk saris have a unique character that no other sari can have.

3.1. THE CREATION OF A KANCHIPURAM SILK SARI

The ripe silk thread is carefully handled and arranged in the shade picked is chosen for the sari. The silk used in Kanchipuram sari is the best quality, the one that is not cut or broken. Moreover, the silk thread is a "double torsion", that is, each thread is actually made up of three simple curved strings, which makes it stronger and heavier than the other silk saris. The intriguing thing about Kanchipuram's sari is that the weaver first makes the edge, body and pallu of the sari independently and after that, tightly encapsulates them to make a single piece. A weaving system called "Korvai" where the beautiful edge and pallu of the sari are unexpected shading effects in relation to the sari's main body. At least two workers are required to make a sari of Kanchipuram according to the methods of Korvai, which conducts weaving and interwoven frame. A single Kanchipuram sari can last up to ten to twelve days, and a gradual improvement can take about twenty days to make the plan. The expenditure of the sari is based on the measurement of filet age embedded in the sari. The more sari does not gradually involve the expensive sari. Cleaning is reliably the preferred strategy fringing a proper silk sari.

The specialty of weaving an original Kanchipuram silk sari has been passed on as an inheritance from the first absolute weavers hand-picked by King Rajaraja Chola to weave these saris, to the present age of the weavers who work more than a thousand hand crafts in the Kanchi region. Since 2005, Kanchipuram silk has been granted the status of a geographical indication for its insurance. Authentic Kanchipuram silk is manufactured in this way by local Kanchi artisans in the state of Tamil Nadu in India. The geographical indication mark must be searched to ensure the starting point of the sari.

The saris are woven by the pure silk thread of mulberry which is used in the manufacture of the saris of Kanchipuram comes from southern India and the sari means the thread that comes from Gujarat. The three shuttles are used to weave a Kanchipuram sari. While the weaver works on the right, his helpers work on the left of the shuttle. The color of the edge and pattern are usually very different from the body. If the pallu has the suspended part of the sari end, it must be woven in another shade, it is first woven separately and then gently embedded in the sari. The part where the body meets with the pallu is often indicated by a zigzag line. In a true Kanchipuram silk sari, the body and edge are woven separately, then interwoven. The joint is so strongly woven even if the saris tear, the edge will not detach. This differentiates Kanchipuram silk saris from others. The saris are distinguished by their wide contrasted edges. Temple edges, tiles, stripes, and flowers are traditional patterns found in the Kanchipuram sari. The patterns and drawings in Kanchipuram saris have been inspired by images and inscriptions in southern Indian temples or natural features such as leaves, birds and animals. These are saris with rich woven pallu that represent paintings of King Ravi Varma and the epics of Mahabâradame and Ramayaname. They vary considerably in the cost depending on the difficulty and the issues of the work, the colors, the raw materials used such as gold sari etc. Silk is also known for its quality and craftsmanship, which contributed to earning its name.

3.2. UNIQUITY OF KANCHIPURAM SARI

The weavers weave both separately and eventually join them as the color, body patterns, and pallet are completely different. You can spot a zigzag pattern called "Pitni" where the body brings together the pallet. It is also a fairly common practice to weave the edge of the sari separately,

then assembles to each other which is called "Korvai" is done with such precision even if the sari tears, the border will not detach. Moreover, as the sari is made of three silk threads twisted with a silver thread, the fabric is extremely strong and durable. This, however, can also add weight, making a regular Kanchipuram sari as heavy as two kilos. Another way to find Kanchipuram silk sari is as follows: [i] It has one of the most speaking signs is that the edge of the sari and the body will be absolutely in contrast. However, you have cheaper versions on the market, which follow the same style codes, but they use artificial sari. One must look carefully at the color of the finished work of sari to identify a sari factice. [ii] One of the most unmistakable ways to distinguish between an original and fake Kanchipuram silk sari is to find some loose threads from the sari, burn them, pick up the remaining ashes and feel them. You will find a smell similar to that of burned hair or burned leather. Those that have manufactured using artificial fibers will not have ashes during combustion. [iii] Another easier and more feasible test would be to look for the loose ends of sari in the sari. The pure sari is made of red silk thread, which is then twisted with a silver thread and soaked in gold. If you find the sari white or any other color, you can be sure that this sari is fake. [iv] Also check the silk mark that is given to Kanchipuram pure silk saris.

4. THE GEOGRAPHIC INDICATION MARK

In order to present the traditional Indian heritage of the Saris of Kanchipuram has been subject to the Geographical Indication Act. Kanchipuram saris are the attractive exquisite saris from India originating from the Kanchipuram district in the state of Tamil Nadu. They are only awarded with the silk mark by the Silk Council of India and this label under the sari is guaranteed for its authenticity. They were awarded the Geographical Indication Mark of the Government of India in 2006, which gives it distinct identification and recognition in India and around the world. This Geographical Indication label has proved to be a marker for creating Kanchipuram trademarks. According to this Geographical Indication, we should maintain the level of weight, quality and mark of sari as mentioned in the provisions of the law. Following the implementation of Geographical Indication for Kanchipuram saris, sales have increased worldwide.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, when research has been done on traditional silk sari, it is remarkable that Thirubuvanam silk Sari is known for the edges and free suspension ends of the finely worked saris are beautifully adorned with the sari which is a regular thread traditionally made of fine gold or silver used in traditional Indian clothing. While those of Kanchipuram are better known as the "Head of Saris", as a direct consequence of their brilliance, strength and shine from the perfect wirework. They are worn for all ages for a wide range of capabilities and functions, they structure a highly desirable piece of Indian bride's puzzle and are regularly transmitted across ages. Silk saris play an indispensable role not only in Indian tradition, and especially in Tamil customs, but also in various family ceremonies and festivals. The enormous trade in silk saris reflects many Indian values and traditions.

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