



DEPICTIONS ON WOOD: ACCEPTATION AND INTERNALIZATION OF WOOD, WHICH IS AN INTERCULTURAL INTERACTION TOOL, AS “A VALUABLE OBJECT” (WOOD IS VALUABLE)

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Abstract

Wood has been used in all the societies since the beginning of the world in the same or similar manners thanks to the benefits it has provided to humans in terms of elimination of the various requirements relating to everyday life as a paraphernalia or application or as a tool. In this scope, wood, a natural fibrous and porous natural material obtained from trees, has served for the entire humanity by means of being used directly or indirectly as included into construction partially or completely, in terms of fulfillment of the requirements and needs. In this sense, existence of wood in the daily life directly or indirectly will continue in the future as in the past. The fact that wood has a significant role in our lives as a tool or paraphernalia or a manner of application and that it has been a significant intercultural instrument of communication that ensures the transmission of culture among the generations and cultures demonstrate the indispensability of wood; in other words, its characteristic of being a very valuable material that is used passionately. In summary, wood, a natural and organic material, is a very important existence in our lives and a very valuable material for us thanks to its benefits it provides to us. The reason for wood for being such a valuable material for us is its unique properties with its anatomical structure and chemical compounds as well as its physical and mechanical properties. In this essay, the phenomenon of acknowledging wood that is an intercultural tool of interaction as a “valuable object” was depicted through unique compositions created in a different manner and structure as much as possible with 3 original descriptions that were prepared in line with the subjective mentality based on the idea that “Wood is Valuable.”

Keywords: Wood, Depictions, Intercultural Interaction, Value

AHŞAP ÜZERİNE BETİMLEMELER: KÜLTÜRLERARASI ETKİLEŞİM ARACI OLAN AHŞABIN “DEĞERLİ BİR NESNE” OLARAK KABUL EDİLİP ÖZÜMSENMESİ (AHŞAP DEĞERLİDİR)

Özet

Ahşap, bir eşya olarak veya bir araç-gereç olarak veyahut bir uygulama olarak günlük hayata ilişkin çeşitli gereksinimlerin giderilmesi noktasında insanlara sağladığı faydalarıyla, dünya kuruldu kurulalı gelmiş geçmiş tüm toplumlarda aynı veya benzer şekilde kullanılmıştır. Bu mahiyette, ağaçlardan elde edilen lifli ve gözenekli doğal bir malzeme olan ahşap, ihtiyaçların karşılanması ve gereksinimlerin giderilmesi hususunda, tamamen veya kısmen konstrüksiyona dahil edilerek doğrudan ya da dolaylı şekilde kullanılmak suretiyle tüm insanlığa hizmet etmiştir. Böyle bakınca, günlük hayatın içinde ahşabın doğrudan veya dolaylı olarak var oluşu dün ve bugün olduğu gibi yarın da böylece devam edecektir. Ahşabın hem eşya veya araç-gereç veyahut uygulama biçiminde hayatımızda önemli bir yere sahip olması hem de kültürler ve nesiller arasında kültür aktarımını sağlayan önemli bir kültürlerarası etkileşim aracı olması, geçmişten günümüze tüm kültürlerde ahşabın vazgeçilmezliğini, başka bir deyişle ahşabın bir tutku ile kullanılan çok değerli bir malzeme olduğunu göstermektedir. Özetle söylemek gerekirse, doğal ve organik bir malzeme olan ahşap bizim hayatımızdaki çok önemli bir mevcudiyettir ve bizlere sağladığı faydalarıyla bizim için çok değerli bir malzemedir. Bizim için ahşabın böylesine çok değerli bir varlık olmasının sebebi, onun anatomik yapısı ile kimyasal bileşimi ve fiziksel özellikleri ile mekanik özellikleri çerçevesinde kendine has özellikleridir. Bu yazıda, kültürlerarası etkileşim aracı olan ahşabın “değerli bir nesne” olarak kabul edilip özümsemesi olgusu, “Ahşap Değerlidir” zemininde öznel mantalite öngörüsüyle hazırlanmış olan 3 adet orijinal betimleme nezdinde, mümkün olduğunca değişik tarzda ve yapıda oluşturulan özgün kompozisyonlarla betimlenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Ahşap, Betimlemeler, Kültürlerarası Etkileşim, Değer

1 Introduction

In this article, wood, which is an intercultural interaction tool, have been depicted with distinctive compositions constructed with styles and structures as different as possible with a mentality foresight upon the basis of “Wood is Valuable” through 3 original depictions. The focus of this article is to highlight the importance of wood for us in terms of its acceptance and internalization as a valuable object.

2 Depictions

The implications forming a basis for the following depictions were internalized with professional/technical knowledge and in these depictions that were made with a woodlover approach;

certain theoretical explanations to strengthen wood awareness and general depictions to introduce wood (considered as an exquisite natural material in intercultural interaction) were made. The content of each presented depiction has its unique construct and the detail forming the depiction is emphasized in the first line of the depiction.

2.1 The First Depiction

Wood that is an intercultural tool of interaction is indeed a valuable thing thanks to its properties. The fact that wood that is a natural and organic material obtained diligently from the trees in the forests that are carefully grown as a reflection of nature, having unique characteristics with its anatomical structure, chemical compounds, and physical and mechanical

properties; that it can be designed and determined in the manner and form that is wanted, in particular against the living and lifeless pests, and that it can be positioned according to the conditions of its location and its envisaged purpose of use; that it is an eco-friendly and warm material thanks to its fibrous and porous structure; and that it has an easily processable and malleable structure because of its charm, beauty, and aesthetic value; has rendered it a select material that is used in the everyday life widely and for various purposes as an indispensable part of our life from the past to present and made it a very valuable object as a tool of intercultural interaction between past and present (and even future). Wood that has occupied a significant part in the lives of humans in terms of fulfilling many requirements regarding everyday life since the beginning of the world has been considered as a select material in all the past and present cultures, to the extent that wood has played a very significant part in the realization of the interactions through the communication of the peoples with different cultures with each other and the development and expansion of civilizations thanks to such interactions. In this framework, when the phenomenon of acknowledging wood that is an intercultural tool of interaction as a "valuable object" is analyzed, it can be seen that wood has always been an example of cultural acknowledgement from the past to the present. Accordingly, in the intercultural interaction taking place thanks to the imaginary, visual, verbal, and/or written communication established between humans, through various attitudes and behaviors, senses and thoughts, as well as various tools and/or reinforcing materials and applications with the feature of being attractive, wood has a very important role.

Wood that has provided contributions between the people with different cultures and the different generations of the same culture in intercultural interaction, a process based on the fact that humans can know and understand each other by means of establishing communications with each other, has always occupied a significant place in the life of humankind throughout the history. The societies composed by the people with the different cultures that are affected by each other more or less in the process of universalization, which is acknowledged as globalization, may take the shapes/forms and manners of manufacturing woodworks belonging to other cultures as examples. This is no doubt a significant point in terms of wood because the societies that have learned the current properties and become aware of its benefits included in their lives more and more, started to become interested in the forms of wood in different cultures as well, and created a synthesis among the cultures by way of wood. This way, a cultural change and development inspired by the other cultures or previous generations take place in view of the interaction emerged in that society. In this context, the fact that wood that has been with the humankind at all times to be used for the same and similar purposes since the prehistory is a material that provides the interaction by establishing communication between the previous and subsequent generations of the same culture and between the people from different cultures is apparent as a pure reality. In this sense, it is manifest that wood, a significant intercultural tool of interaction, has been acknowledged as a valuable object to the extent that it has existed in everyday life at all times as a tool, paraphernalia, or application directly or indirectly, and as a select natural material that has never been outmoded. Hence, wood, a natural and organic material obtained from trees, has been used from time to time as a subjective tool, paraphernalia, or application that fulfils a requirement, and from time to time as a visual figure, symbol, or motive being the overt or covert indicator of

the attitudes and behaviors that reveal the personal or social senses and thoughts.

The reality in view of the above explanations is that even the transmission of our feelings and thoughts by means of wood shows that wood is a universal entity without any doubt. At this point, the universality of wood is the clear indicator that it is valuable before all humans. In the acknowledgement of wood as a valuable object, its contribution to the development and expansion of civilizations, and thus, its substantial role in the intercultural interaction, have a significant impact without a doubt. It is a reality that wood, a natural and organic material, has always been valuable since the beginning of humanity. At this point, in an attempt to match the phenomenon of value and wood, the value of wood will be apparent. In its sense as a word, since value is the importance or superiority given to an object or entity or an activity in individual or social grounds, the phenomenon of value that is a subjective approach and that is agreed upon and shared by people in the similar manner is universal. In this perspective, attaching a value to something is a humanly fact that is teachable and learnable and that is cognate with the phenomena of liking and making a claim. In this sense, exhibition of similar attitudes and behaviors toward something valuable at all times shows that it is permanent. From this angle, it appears that humans have always considered wood as a valuable material for themselves as an indispensable close friend. The fact that wood is being used for the time being almost in the same manner and for the same purposes as in the past is the clear evidence of the value attached to it.

We can exemplify the value of wood through our own behaviors; we act carefully toward the wooden products and we approach them with sympathy. Such tendency of us is a typical indicator of how important wood is for us. As we list possible examples regarding the properties and benefits of wood that facilitates our lives through its use in many areas, we can understand its value. The aesthetic property of wood, a natural and organic material with its fibrous and porous structure, provides a separate value to the construction where it is used, to the material with which it is integrated, and to the space in which it is located as a tool, paraphernalia, and application, to the extent that the wooden image that comes to the foreground in the decoration of the interiors furnished with a wood-reinforced setup warms the cockles of people's hearts and that the harmony of the wood as a reflection of nature with the place and its beauty aesthetically with its attraction make it more alluring. The impact of the aesthetic property of wood that exhibits the fact that it is a valuable object on people is so substantial that we frequently encounter for the time being the attempts of imitating wood visually and showing the buildings as wooden in their outer facade coatings by means of using the artificial materials in the reinforced-concrete and/or steel constructed buildings in terms of their exterior visual quality at first sight.

In the light of these remarks, it can be said that wood that is a natural and organic material obtained diligently from the trees in the forests that are carefully grown as a part of nature has always been valuable from the past to present among the people of different cultures (and among the generations of the same cultures) and its value will surely continue in the future as well.

2.2 The Second Depiction

Wood is a natural material obtained by means of cutting the old trees that are both lifeless and powerless against the impacts in terms of the area where they are grown and that have reduced

performance in taking part in photosynthesis taking place in the form of reverse reaction as receiving carbon dioxide from air and revealing oxygen within the framework of the biological lifecycle. In this context, by planting at least two saplings in the place of the trees that are chopped down and transformed into wood from the forests, the sustainability of the forests is ensured and it is also ensured that the wood obtained from the trees in such sustainable forests can be procured any time and in any amount conveniently. In this sense, wood is a natural material whose source can be renewed and the anatomical structure and chemical compounds as well as physical and mechanical properties that are inherent within the tree from which wood is obtained are reflected to the wood itself and they determine its characteristics. In this perspective, wood is very valuable with its unique natural and organic structure.

As wood is natural and organic material obtained from trees, it is the reflection of nature as a tree derivation and it has served for the humanity since the beginning of the world with its unique anatomical structure and chemical compounds as well as physical and mechanical properties. Thanks to its easily malleable structure, aesthetic value and charm that stand out through its fibrous tissue and pattern, its internal strength that is durable against loads despite its lightness, and its eco-friendliness and unique naturalness, wood has been used in all the societies for the same or similar reasons and for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements to continue everyday life. An analysis on the contribution of wood to the development of civilizations, in addition to its feature of fulfilling the basic requirements of humans and needs regarding daily life, will show that wood has been a significant intercultural tool of interaction by means of being utilized as a methodological application, paraphernalia, tool, or another article and that it has played a significant part in the interaction of the peoples with different cultures or between the different generations of the same cultures. Presently, by the impact of the improving mass communication tools, it appears that global approaches with the popular use of wood as a natural and organic, original or complementary material, in an application, or in making paraphernalia or objects have increased. Hence, wood, a natural fibrous and porous natural material, is also a material that can be used individually or as together with the other materials within the same construction thanks to its complementary and supportive nature and therefore, it appears to us many times as an ancillary or original material. In particular, in the present world in which malleability of wood is provided in various means through the improvements exhibited within the framework of the science and technology involved with wood, the examples that will ensure that wood will stand out with its scientific and technological dimension as well as its artistic feature as a natural material when it comes to fulfillment of the expectations of people whose desire to obtain aesthetics and spaciousness along with perfection and comfort, play a part that reinforce the preference of it. This situation provides the use of wood in the everyday life in a widespread manner with multiple and various products directly or indirectly that are designed and produced diligently and demonstrates that wood that has been a select and intercultural tool of interaction in all the past and present societies is a valuable object and a significant material that is preferred with indispensable passion at universal levels. It is clear that, regardless of the time and circumstances, the requirement that wood is a natural material preferred and utilized at all times will never change. Wood will continue to be used in the future as it is now and it was in the past. Wood is a natural and organic material yearned purely by the people who clutch onto life with the love of nature; it is clear that wood will

continue to exist in our future being one of our unique friends, as it took part with its traces in our past. It is clear that this situation regarding the continuity of wood is an absolute reality.

Naturally, all of this information makes wood much more attractive material in order to encourage its use in all aspects of our daily lives as long as it fits our needs and requirements. In fact, in order to find our essence, we need wood that has provided us with many benefits in almost every field of life as a select material with its unique properties and as a tool or paraphernalia or an application since the beginning of the world. Obviously, its mission to serve us will always continue to do so. By bringing all of this information together, we are almost sure that wood will continue to stand beside us as an important part of our lives.

2.3 The Third Depiction

As we have all realized as the people fond of wood, the properties and benefits of wood are innumerable. Wood is a natural material obtained from trees and, in view of its fibrous and porous structure, it has an easily malleable nature to the extent that it can be easily processed manually and it can take the desired form/shape when processing. Because of its naturalness, wood is beautiful thanks to its pattern and colors it contains and it is aesthetic with its current charm. Thanks to this feature of it, wood has a subjective structure that gives comfort to a person. The fact that wood is a natural material obtained from trees is important for those people who use it. For example, when we give children a toy made of wood, he/she tries to grab and hold it in his/her hand and to understand its nature and discovers the natural pattern of the tree thanks to the wood. Wood is natural as it comes from nature in view of its creation. It gives confidence to humans through its naturalness. The wooden toys presented to children are in the nature that they prove the confidence we feel in them. It is a very valuable entity and object with such form of it.

As wood is a malleable material, it can be utilized in a wide range of applications in the daily lives depending on the purpose and location of use. As the toys of very different designs and types can be made depending on the easy shaping feature of wood, it provides a significant contribution when it comes for the children's eyes to notice it as a valuable asset and a natural material.

Another feature that highlights wood as a valuable object is that it is a warm material as a relative phenomenon. As wood has high specific heat, it does not allow the person touching it to feel the cold; the rough tissue of wood increases the senses of a person regarding nature and naturalness in view of sensual touching and makes him/her feel that he/she has touched a natural/living being. Wood that is a pleasant and nice material thanks to its visual impact it reveals through its anatomical structure containing fibrous and porous tissue puts a person at ease in such form of it spiritually and, thanks to its porous structure, it drives the static electrical load in the body of the person into its own body to neutralize the electrification in the body and gives comfort to the person physically. It can be said that such subjective naturalness and organic structure of wood that give comfort and relaxation spiritually and physically have significant role for persons dealing with wood in being calm and docile. Hence, as wood that is such a warm and friendly material comes right from the heart of nature, it is eco-friendly and healthy. In this scope, in view of the fibrous and porous nature of wood, as relaxation takes place in the body through the neutralization of the static electricity in the body when touched, it is possible by using the wooden toys to eliminate the energy

accumulation relating to static electricity loading that stands out as one of the numerous factors affecting the preschool children in terms of their lack of peace through the tensions created to a substantial extent.

Wood that has an organic structure in view of its naturalness does not contain bacteria and it is hygienic with its structure inflicting no harm on human health. Opportunity to provide hygiene with wooden tools, its naturalness, and ability for them to discover nature, made it possible for children to play mainly with wooden toys. On this opportunity, playing with the wooden toys by children provides them with substantial benefits in terms of their discharging thanks to the property of wood for relaxing psychologically and physiologically through its natural and organic structure (within the framework of the perception of visual impact and sensual touch in view of the phenomenon of naturalness).

Wood is an object that fulfills the needs of humans, that is entirely natural, that is eco-friendly, and that is very valuable for us humans. It is a material liked and preferred by humans in view of the articles and applications as well as paraphernalia that are required for the continuation of everyday life and in terms of construction and decoration thanks to its properties.

Wood is also used as a toy. The wooden toys obtained from wood that is an organic and natural material with its fibrous and porous structure provides significant contributions thanks to their versatile range of properties in the psychosexual stages of development of children, particularly at the preschool age. In this perspective, wooden toys are designed in order to develop the smaller and larger muscle motor skills, which are referred to as psychomotor skills based on the learning of coordinated activity as well as eye-hand coordination of children; to improve their mental lexicon; to ensure their cognitive development in terms of focusing, problem-solving, visual perception, and spatial intelligence; to support children's auditory-verbal development within the improvement of the language processing skills; to teach some basic concepts that help enrich a children's understanding of life and the world in order to make sure that children become aware of details such as color, shape, dimension, texture, weight, sound, number, time, location, and so forth; to improve their social-emotional development and self-care skills; and to reach awareness in terms of culture and nature, through educational and developmental approaches. In the preschool development process and cognitive field, wooden tools: a) provide contribution in the perception of the concepts of whole-part, full-empty, in-out, same-different, tall-short, big-little, thick-thin, heavy-light, fast-slow, forward-backward, more-less, over-under, front-back, in front of-behind, up-down, above-below, top-bottom, right-left, corner-edge, high-low, and the other certain concepts; b) support the skills of identification, recall, relation, matching, grouping, aligning, result-estimation, problem-solving, comparison, and decision-making; c) assist in distinguishing the intermediate colors and main colors; d) strengthen vocabulary; e) building mathematics skills. In the preschool period in which the formation of the conceit and mental development have been completed to a substantial extent and which is an important period in terms of psychosexual development, introduction of the pattern and beauty of a natural material to children by means of wooden toys provides substantial benefits for the development of a child. Only this is a sufficient reason for us to admit wood as a valuable object.

Wood is the most valuable material on earth, because it plays a key role in just about every part of our daily lives. It is a material not only for ourselves but for our families and children as well.

Just as our children are our future, wood, which we utilize for the purpose of supporting their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development, and for ensuring that they are raised as the individuals who are patient, sharing, tolerant, able to express themselves freely, creating solutions to the problems, analyzing the events, entering into cooperation, establishing communication through humanistic understanding based on the love of nature, is the common future or all of us. In other words, wood is an irreplaceable select and natural material and the guarantee of our future thanks to its organic pattern and naturalness.

It is a matter of fact that the appropriateness of each of these statements is necessarily true and is appreciated in the fields of science and technology as well as art and literature, and education. In reality, wood is a universally usable material that fulfills our expectations due to its specifics, viz., wood has outstanding characteristics and distinctive features based on the anatomical structure, chemical compounds, physical properties, and mechanical properties.

3 Conclusion

Wood has a substantial importance in terms of intercultural interaction as an efficient tool of interaction thanks to its contribution to the development of civilization and it is a very valuable object for all the people from the past to the present as it has been utilized in many fields in the everyday life. In this context, the fact that gradual increase in the manufacture of children's toys from wood in the present times and purchase of wooden toys by the parents as the educational toys and presence of the wood based or wood supported paraphernalia and small and big tools and applications in almost everywhere, particularly in our kitchens, reveals the value of wood, a natural and organic material thanks to its fibrous and porous content. In sum, wood that we have used in a widespread manner for different purposes in every period of our lives since the beginning of the world is very important for us thanks to its endless benefits it provides to us through its subjective properties.

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