

CONGRESS PAPER (Review Article)

Examination of Equestrian Branches and Clothing

Binicilik Branşları ve Giysilerinin İncelenmesi

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ABSTRACT

Historically, horses and equestrians have played an important place in many countries. The horse was used as a vehicle in nomadic communities, wars, entertainment and races. Turkish domesticated the horse and became the first society to ride horses. Until today, they have used the horse in many games (rahvan, javelin game, horse archery, horse wrestling). The organization of such games have decreased exponentially, yet, international equestrian practices have continued in the world and equestrian types (three-day competition, dressage, show jumping, equestrian endurance, equestrian gymnastics, equestrian riding, reining) have become important. Accordingly, equestrian clothes gained importance and besides the lack of uniform riding clothing, the clothes varied according to the branches. In this context, the aim of this study is to make a literature review on the history of riding, its branches, clothes and the materials used. In addition, the examination of the fabric and model formation of existing equestrian clothing is also included in the aim of the study.

ÖZ

Geçmişten günümüze kadar, at ve binicilik birçok ülkede önemli bir yere sahip olmuştur. Göçebe yaşayan topluluklarda bir araç olarak kullanılan at, aynı zamanda savaşlarda, eğlencelerde ve yarışlarda da kullanılmıştır. Türkler atı evcilleştirmiş ve ata ilk binen toplum olmuşlardır. Günümüze kadar geçen zamanda da birçok oyunda (rahvan, cirit oyunu, atlı okçuluk, atlı güreş) atı kullanmışlardır. Geçmiş dönemlere göre, şu anda bu tür oyunların düzenlenmesi azalmış olsa da dünya üzerinde uluslararası binicilik uygulamaları devam etmiş ve binicilik çeşitleri (üç günlük yarışma, at terbiyesi, engel atlama, atlı dayanıklılık, atlı jimnastik, atlı arabacılık, dizginleme) ön plana çıkmıştır. Buna bağlı olarak binici giysileri önem kazanmış ve tek tip bir binici giysisinin olmamasının yanı sıra giysiler branşlara göre çeşitlilik göstermiştir. Bu araştırmanın temel amacı, binicilik tarihi, branşları, giysileri ve binicilikte kullanılan malzemeler konusunda derleme bir çalışma yapmaktır. Ayrıca çalışma kapsamında hali hazırda kullanılan bir binici giysisinin kumaş ve model yapısı incelenmiştir.

Keywords:

Equestrian history, Equestrian,
Equestrian clothes

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Binicilik tarihi, binicilik, binici giysileri

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1. Introduction

The societies, which discovered all the skills and abilities of horses, historically used them as the fastest means of transportation and benefited from their power and speed in agriculture, transport and postal services (Murathan et al., 2019).

The earliest communities known to use the horse in hunting and warfare are Assyrians, Babylonians and Hittites. The Scythians were also very skilled in riding and known to be the first community to use the saddle. Equestrian art began to develop in Ancient Greece thanks to the Scythians. The importance given to equestrianism in Ancient Greece can be understood from the first written source, Xenophon's 'Hippike' (Equestrian) (Ksenophon, 2019). With the development of equestrian sport in time, the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) was established in 1921, with headquarters located in Switzerland.

The main aim of the federation is to gather and unify all the rules related to equestrian sport as well as to expand and develop equestrian sport in developing countries. The main principle of the Federation is to create equality and sports ethics without any discrimination among member countries. Also, international equestrian sports branches are determined by the FEI. Jumping, dressage, eventing, endurance, vaulting, driving and reining are international equestrian sports branches (FEI).

Equestrian sport is a movement-based active sport and is affected strongly by environmental factors and thus, has its own unique clothes. After the equestrian branches emerged at the beginning of the 20th century, the corresponding clothes emerged as well in this period and preserved the traditional equestrian image for a long time. Yet, it is not possible to say that the equestrian world is completely unaffected by design, technological developments and innovation. While preserving traditional clothes and forms, studies continue to make competition dresses more stylish, remarkable and functional (Dashper ve St. John, 2016). In this context, the main purpose of this study is to examine the history of equestrianism, equestrian branches and equestrian clothing extensively.

Various literature including research and review articles, books, and master's and doctoral theses on these subjects have been reviewed. In addition, to extend the knowledge on the subject, semi-structured interviews have been conducted with experts from the Turkish Equestrian Federation (TBF) and Eskişehir Equestrian Club. Also, a written interview was held with Osmangazi University, Mahmudiye Horse Breeding and Coaching Vocational School. The official website of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) has been examined to access the regulations and detailed information about the branches. In the last part of the study, riding trousers from Pikeur and a riding jacket produced by 'Fouganza' were examined in terms of fabric and pattern characteristics.

2. Equestrian Branches

After the equestrian sport developed and became widespread, 5 branches were determined by the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) with certain rules.

2.1. Eventing

Eventing, as in other branches, is held by national and international federations in various categories according to their degrees. In this competition, the rider competes with the same horse in different branches for three consecutive days; dressage on the first day, overcoming the natural obstacles on the second day and show jumping on the last day. These competitions are held in accordance with national or international regulations related to corresponding branches (Ünver, 2006).

2.1.1. Dressage

Dressage training is the basis of all equestrian branches. Thus, training is an indispensable element not only for dressage horses but also for competition, hobby as well as carriage horses. Horses trained for dressage are expected to move well, be elegant, be strong, fluent and obedient. In order for a horse to be bred with these characteristics, it must have a certain appearance (Figure 1.).

A typical dressage horse should have elegant and harmonious lines. A lively neck, curved shoulder, sufficiently long back, and hind legs that are well angled are advantages for these types of horses. The musculature should be short and strong rather than long and flat. (Figure 2.) (Radtke, 2010).

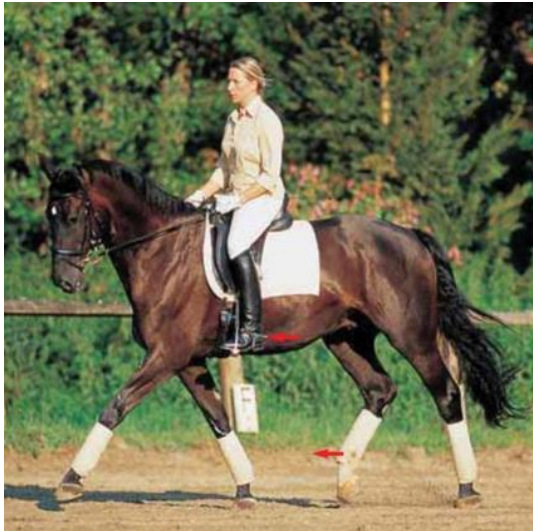


Figure 1. Dressage horse and rider
Görsel 1. Dresaj atı ve binici



Figure 2. Dressage horse
Görsel 2. Dresaj atı

2.1.2. Show Jumping

Among the equestrian sports, show jumping is the most common one in the Olympics. In this branch, the goal is simply to pass the tracks without touching the obstacles. In a show jumping competition, the harmony of the rider and the horse are evaluated and the tracks prepared in different places are to be crossed (Figure 3.). The aim of the competition is to reveal the skill of the rider, the attention of the horse to the obstacle, ability, power and obedience (Ünver, 2006).

Show jumping is performed over artificial obstacles, instead of in natural areas. The competitions mostly take place in a grass field with all possible weather conditions. Show jumping is also an Olympic and popular independent sport administered by the FEI (Muir & Sly, 2009).



Figure 3. Show jumping horse
Görsel 3. Engel atlama atı

2.1.3. Endurance

Equestrian endurance is known as a challenging and demanding sport. The distance chosen must be suitable for both horse and rider in this sport. The health of the horse is most important at all levels. Thus, horses go through veterinary control at every stage. Yet, such controls are not mandatory for riders. Equestrian endurance, like other equestrian sports, requires skill and good equestrianism, but unlike other disciplines, the time spent in the saddle takes hours rather than minutes (Figure 4.).

The rider is exposed to several different types of terrain and several weather conditions in a single ride. Thus, equipment that is not suitable for the horse and the rider creates stress and tension in the horse as well as rider (Muir & Sly, 2009).



Figure 4. Equestrian endurance horse and rider

Görsel 4. Atlı dayanıklılık atı ve binicisi

2.1.4. Vaulting

Equestrian gymnastics is simply defined as gymnastics performed on horseback. It is an international sport administered by the FEI since 1982 and was developed from a teaching method used to accustom novice riders to the horse's movement, instilling a sense of balance and confidence. To train novice riders, cavalry schools provided jumping exercises to improve their balance, especially when the horse was in motion. To be a good athlete, it is necessary to have a good natural balance.

In order for the horse to remain calm, strong, stable and balanced during the equestrian gymnastics sport, it is necessary for the athlete to be brave and stable to perform the exercise in a balanced way (Figure 5.) (Muir & Sly, 2009).



Figure 5. Vaulting
Görsel 5. Atlı jimnastik

3. Equestrian Clothes

The Smyrna Race Club races, which were initiated by the Levantines in the 1850s, were held according to the rules in England. Also, in accordance with those rules, the jockeys dressed in the jerseys determined by the horse owners.

The race rules in France were taken as a basis in the races of the Race Improvement Committee period, which started to be held in 1927. According to these rules, jockeys wore a long-sleeved jacket and sweater made of one or more colours and silk fabric, with a single button on the front, a closed collar, white panties and yellow ankle boots and caps.

While the cap may be the same colour as the jacket sweater or in a different colour, it should be made of 'a long visor and silk fabric'. Under the sweater, a plain and white necktie and scarf would be used. It is not possible for jockeys to participate in the competitions unless they do not wear proper outfits and do not pay attention to cleanliness and elegance (Figure 6.) (Aydın, 2018).



Figure 6. Equestrian Clothes
Görsel 6. Binici giysileri

4. Equestrian Pants and Jacket Review

Within the scope of the study, riding trousers belonging to Pikeur and a riding jacket produced by Fouganza were examined in terms of fabric and pattern properties. As a result of this examination, the following findings were obtained.

For the riding trousers;

- Suede leather is used for easy grip on the saddle.
- The form of the trousers does not restrict movement during boarding and ensures a full fit to the body.
- Velcro is used in the legs that can provide a comfortable use with boots (Figure 7.).



Figure 7. Equestrian Pants
Görsel 7. Binici pantolonu

For the riding jacket;

- Knitted fabric with a flexible and soft structure is preferred not to restrict the movements of the arm and shoulder of the rider during the harness.
- The pattern of the garment has a model that will not prevent the movements of horse harnesses during use, and close-fitting cuts have been used to fit the body perfectly.
- The fabric is cotton and has a thin but protective structure to prevent sweating during movement (Figure 8.).



Figure 8. Equestrian Jacket
Görsel 8. Binici ceketi

5. Results

Horses are suitable animals for running and competition due to their body structure and thus, have historically been used by humans for riding in daily life, wars and races. In addition to being used more as a means of transportation during the nomadic period, the horses connect best with people emotionally. After the transportation vehicles and war equipment that emerged with the development of the industry, horses preferred to be used more for entertainment and games by people.

Horses are animals with special body forms and features. As they are exposed to different tracks and obstacles, especially the ones used for game purposes, should compete in fields suitable for their body structures. In time, it has been seen that international equestrian branches were clearly determined and the games and the races were carried out within the framework of certain rules. After the determination of different branches, the horses were chosen for the branches suitable for them. In this context, the riding harnesses and the materials used by the riders started to differentiate and gain importance. It is extremely important that the materials used on the horse are made of materials that will not harm the health of the horse.

The harmony between the horse and the rider on the tracks and obstacles is as important as the harnessed areas for the comfort of both parties. It is necessary for the rider to sit on the horse in a stable manner that does not disturb the horse. Horse harnesses have been an important factor that helps the rider in this respect. In addition to the harnesses, the clothes used by the rider should be comfortable and in a form that would not affect the movements during riding.

As a result of the literature review, it was concluded that the colour, form, fabric and accessories of the riding clothes used for the competitions were defined in accordance with the regulations (Aydın, 2018). Yet, it can be seen that the clothes used for different branches and free riding do not have a clear rule in design apart from the technical requirements. In addition, it was concluded that the traditional style continues in the riding clothes.

6. Conclusion

Many studies related to the history of equestrians and its branches have been included in the literature. On the other hand, concerning equestrian clothing there is more information in the regulations than in the literature. It is mostly stated in literature that the appearance of the clothes from the past to the present is largely preserved. Equestrian sport continues to develop and become as widespread today as it was in the past. In addition, clothes are extremely important for equestrian sports, as it is one of the rare sports in which the entire human body is in motion. Thus, this research which

examines the equestrian branches and the current clothes, provides valuable insight and will pave the path for future studies.

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