

English translation:

And now we'll speak about Ethiopian fashion. In Ethiopia, the clothes that are worn traditionally are called *Abesha kemis* or *Abesha libs*. In translation, this means "the clothes of Ethiopians." And often, this type of clothing is made from cotton. And the women – it's usually done by women – spin the cotton and they make these clothes. I don't know if this is done in factories now, but in the old days, everything was made by hand. And what makes each piece of clothing unique and different from others is its design, especially its *tilet*. *Tilet* is the design at the edge of the garment. So they make this [pointing to the white part] with cotton and this [pointing to the pink part] with thread. So it's the design that makes each piece distinct.

Now if you go to the city, there won't be many people wearing traditional clothes. If there's a holiday or a social occasion, then people will wear them. But one traditional thing that's worn from day-to-day is the scarf. This is what we call a *shash* [holding up the scarf], which is called scarf in English. Women wear this very frequently when they go out and about. Another thing, Ethiopian Orthodox and Catholic Christians wear traditional clothes or if that's not possible, then at least a scarf when they go to church. That means that in the [Ethiopian] Christian faith, when a woman goes to church, she should cover her hair; in order not to distract other people, she must cover her hair. So when women go to church, they dress like this [demonstrates how to wear a scarf] and cover themselves. The shawl is worn all the time. The shawl can also indicate mourning. If someone is going to a house of mourning after somebody has died, women often go wearing shawls. And if they wear it upside down, with the *tilet* resting on their heads [demonstrates how scarf is worn upside down], that shows that somebody has died. Even the way in which the scarf is worn can indicate the wearer's situation.

Now I'll show you some clothes. The traditional dresses of the past were full, one-piece dresses. But now, since Western ideas are entering our country, so many designs are becoming modern and changing. In the old days, there weren't many different types of dresses, but now, if you look at this skirt, it looks like a Western skirt. Before, they didn't have designs like this; it makes a V-shape in the middle. The *tilet* itself is a different kind, and you wear this as a skirt. Things are changing now, new fashions are being invented. This one [holding up a new piece] comes with a corresponding item; it is a skirt. A piece of clothing like this [holding up a top] would never be found in the old days, but now they've used a modern idea to make it. It's worn with a skirt. Something else that they've starting doing recently is making this like a long t-shirt and here the design is very pretty, they've put beads on it [pointing to beads]; the main thing is the design. Ethiopian women wear it with jeans or tight to make it modern. It's made so that they can wear it from day-to-day.

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