

THAI THERAVADA REGULATION'S INFLUENCES ON TEXTILE DESIGN.

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to study on uniqueness of practices for enlightenment in Theravada Buddhism and to study on design of printed fabric patterns based on uniqueness of practices of Theravada Buddhism. The research methodology was a qualitative research and primary data were obtained from a field study whereas secondary data were obtained from some related books. Data were collected for analyzing on appearance, colors, and patterns. The results revealed that the format of practices of Theravada Buddhism was methodical and traditional integrated with the principle of nature as well as simple and harmonious leading to creative printed fabric patterns design inspired by uniqueness of practices of Theravada Buddhism. In addition, this study also built the guidelines of contemporary product design helping to improve popularity of utilization appropriately.

Keywords: Buddhism, Theravada, design, fabric printing

INTRODUCTION

Buddhism has been existed with Thailand for over 2,500 years whereas most kings and populations have respected to Theravada Buddhism or traditional Buddhism. As a result, Buddhism becomes the national religion of Thailand with rules and regulations as inherited from the Buddhist era and recorded in Tipitaka consisted of 3 major categories in including Vinaya Pitaka, Suttanta Pitaka, and Abhidhamma Pitaka. These are all called as “Buddhist Discipline”, the teaching of Buddha who was the acknowledged one, the awakened one, and the enlightened one, with pure Dhamma compared as the core or key of Buddhism. Dhamma represented the principle of reasons that was consistent with the principle of truth of nature. It can be concluded that the subject matter of Dhamma is enlightenment and solution to end the cause or “suffering” by each person individually.

Buddhism came to Thailand with the growth of civilization of Thai people with cultural and artistic distinctiveness. When the principle of Buddha combined with the creative faith of the craftsmen, Thai identity was generated proudly and elegantly. This was called “Buddhist Art” that has been inherited to current world. Consequently, advancement of modern technologies for rapid production and technical fields has been developed and transformed based on the current of globalization, reduction of appearance, colors, and materials, etc., leading to contemporary creation helping increase value and utilization in daily life, especially appeal fashion. Besides covering body, it also expresses admiration and good taste. Therefore, in this research, the researcher applied the design guideline of printed fabric patterns as the principle technique of creative design. Printed fabric patterns design is considered as another type of fabric design that is highly preferred and demanded by the society and production and textile industry. Printed fabric patterns design is considered as another field of fashion design helping to add value of fabric for wearing with non-complex

production procedures, convenience, rapidity, and durability. Consequently, obtained fabric for cutting would be attractive with distinctive colors and different feeling in various styles based on inspiration of each designer.

Based on basic information, historical background, and artistic value, the researcher emphasized on the core of Theravada Buddhism. The faith of the artist and designer gave a creative work with elegance and value of teaching and practices under contemporary style that was valuable for studying, conserving, and developing to broaden and represent the growth of proud civilization of Thai people.

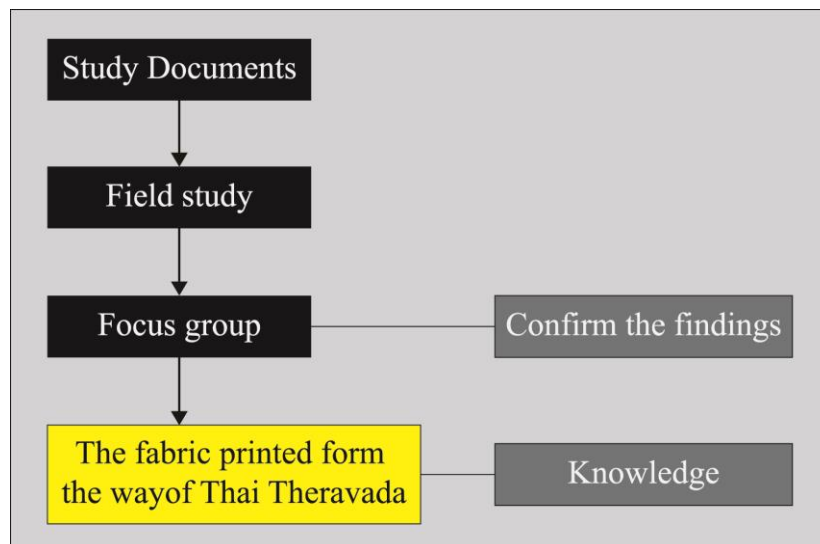
OBJECTIVE

1. To obtain the design guideline from identity features of practices of Theravada Buddhism.
2. To obtain style of printed fabric design inspired by practices of Theravada Buddhism.

METHODOLOGY

This research is a qualitative research and it was conducted by collecting information and data from documentary study and field study at Wat Chantaram (Thasung) Temple as well as the study conducted by listening to the opinions of some experts. Obtained data were analyzed in the form of qualitative research based on information on characteristics of Dhamma of Theravada Buddhism requiring logic for analyzing data. In addition, data obtained from actual conditions without variable control were also utilized in the form of natural research. Subsequently, the results of data analysis and research were presented in the form of descriptive research with illustration.

Figure 1
Conceptual Framework



RESULTS

1. Analysis on Specific Characteristics of Practices of Theravada Buddhism as the Creative Design Guideline of Printed Fabric

Creation of patterns based on analysis on the core of teaching and practices for ending suffering of Theravada Buddhism in order to obtain the design guideline of printed fabric patterns from practices of Theravada Buddhism was as follows:

1.1. The Buddha's teaching was simply consistent with the natural principle whereas the subject matter was revealing the truth of life encountered by humans in daily life that had never been understood, i.e., inaccuracy of human's body was normal and simple including birth, being old, illness, and death or decay.

Figure 2
Nature of Body



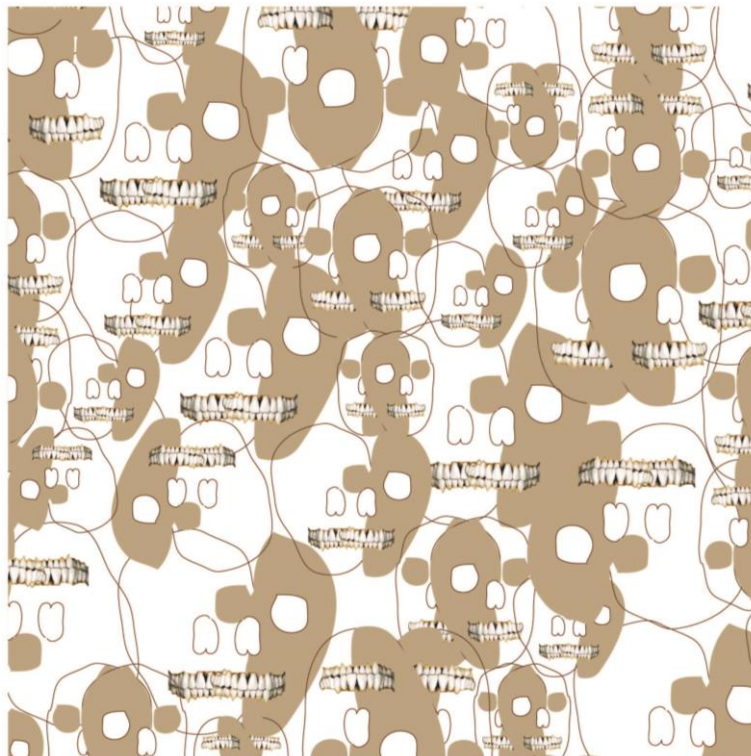
1.2. The Buddha's practice is perseverance, i.e., repeated self-practice with determination and patience for gaining expertise and ability to eliminate lust.

Figure 3
Patterns of Body Condition Representing Perseverance by Repeating Patterns with Various Sizes



2. Patterns created by analyzing on the core of teaching and practices for ending suffering of Theravada Buddhism and utilization of forms and colors by imitating nature that was suitable for designing to create printed fabric patterns inspired by practices of Theravada Buddhism.

Figure 4
Printed Fabric Patterns Design obtained from Practices of Theravada Buddhism



CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

For creative printed fabric patterns design inspired by practices of Theravada Buddhism, from analyzing data, the guideline on patterns creation was obtained whereas imitation of nature represented inaccuracy of body and colors. Natural format was reduced to be simpler with repetitive patterns and various sizes representing perseverance under practices of Theravada Buddhism with unequal level of perseverance of humans. The key elements of patterns were body organs including teeth, eyes, ears, skull, and blood. Three sizes of patterns, including large, medium, and small sizes, had been applied with appropriate composition as defined by the principle of composition. Color tones were beige, light beige, brown and white.

To design patterns of printed fabric based on practices of Theravada Buddhism, the model pattern was created and composited independently as proper to obtain modern and unique works that were different from printed works in general markets. The obtained results revealed problems caused by the model patterns on too small patterns leading to unclear printed fabric. As a result, the researcher considered that the model patterns should be thicker and larger for clearer patterns. However, to conduct this research, the researcher worked with other experts on printed fabric works and the researcher was suggested and admired that the obtained work was considered as novel pattern that was different from printed fabric patterns found in general markets.

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