A Synthesis of Cultural Knowledge on Thai-Khmer Textiles

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Abstract

This study aims to synthesize cultural knowledge on Thai-Khmer textiles by using content analysis. Research population is articles, books, and related research from various databases such as ThaiLIS, Digital Research Information Center (DRIC), Science Direct, Emeral, H.W.Wilson, and 125 data from Department of Cultural of Thailand database. Analysis form and information science and library science framework were used in categorizing knowledge and knowledge structure, additionally, Faceted Analysis approach was used in analyzing attributes of knowledge.

There were 2 major aspects of the synthesis as 1) 2 classes of tangible Thai-Khmer textile culture which are 1.1) 7 subclasses of tangible and moveable textile culture as weaving tools, materials used to build weaving tools, raw materials for weaving, types of weaving textiles, clothes and common equipment textiles, textile patterns, and 21 subclasses of textile color. 1.2) textile culture is tangible but immovable consisting of 2 classes as places where textile were produced, 5 subclasses of places where textiles were used and 2) 2 classes of intangible textile culture which are 2.1) 3 subclasses of textile culture concepts as teachings, beliefs, and 15 subclasses of values and 2.2) textile culture norms consisting of 4 subclasses as ways of life, traditions, rituals, and 14 subclasses of principles which relates to Thai-Khmer textiles.

Attributes of knowledge which are from Faceted Analysis approach are categorized into 2 classes and each class consists of 4 subclasses and 16 divisions. Each category contains explanation, scope, and significant attributes of knowledge which is divided into 16 auxiliary tables as table 1 a list of weaving tools, table 2 a list of materials used to build weaving tools, table 3 a list of weaving raw materials, table 4 a list of dying materials, table 5 categories and names of textiles, table 6 a list of textile types, table 7 a list of textile patterns, table 8 a list of textile colors, table 9 a list of places related to textiles, table 10 teachings, table 11 beliefs, table 12 values, table 13 ways of life, table 14, traditions, table 15 rituals, and table 16 principles.

The significant attributes of knowledge are gathered from faceted analysis approach which sorts concepts and categorizes content. The findings are able to apply as principles in scoping cultural knowledge of Thai-Khmer textiles and as guidelines in developing cultural knowledge of Thai-Khmer textiles database.

Keywords: knowledge synthesis, textile culture, Thai-Khmer ethnic group