

Suteeluk Kraisuwan 2010: Style, Construction Technique and Quality of Thai Ethnic's Clothing. Doctor of Philosophy (Tropical Agriculture), Major Field: Tropical Agriculture, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Kajjarus Pirothamsiri, Ph.D. 144 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study clothing styles, clothing construction techniques and clothing qualities of Black Tai, Blue Hmong, Karen, Yao and Black Lahu. The samples were 50 from Black Tai in Suphanburi Province, Blue Hmong, Karen, Yao and Black Lahu in Tak Province. The data were collected by interviewing and observing the construction technique. The body measurements and the clothing sizes of the samples were determined. Frequency, percentage and mean were applied to analyze data.

The research found that most female participants were a housewife between 31-40 years of age. Most male individuals were between 21-30 years of age; were employed in the agricultural sector with an unstable income. They wear their ethnic clothing just for festivals or cultural occasions. Their ethnic clothing is usually made once a year and is of original style.

The research ascertained that most woman's blouses are jewel necklines and wear Pra Sin, except Yao and Black Lahu which wear wide crotch pants. Man shirts of most ethnic groups have jewel necklines, except Karen has V-neckline. Most of pants are loose and have wide crotch plants. All ethnic groups construct their clothing without any patterns. Most parts are in quadrilateral shape and have straight armholes. Folded parts are used as shoulder line. Fabric is usually little leftover. Most of clothes are sewn with the application of whipstitch and flat-fell seams.

The research established that cotton is the most widely used fabric which is thick, medium weight with low to medium count fabrics and has breaking force and elongation within the standard range. Furthermore, Black Tai clothing has the highest average of stitches per inch and the seam of Karen clothing has the highest average of breaking strength. The flat-felled seam is mostly used except the Blue Hmong which uses plain seam and even basting stitches and the Karen which uses whipstitch. The Black Tai woman clothing is a semi-fitted garment; the Black Lahu woman clothing is a loose garment; whereas the Blue Hmong, Karen and Yao woman clothing is a very loose-fitted garment. The clothing of Black Tai man is a loose garment but those of Karen, Black Lahu, Blue Hmong and Yao are very loose-fitted garments.

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Student's signature

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Thesis Advisor's signature