

Abstract

This thesis is a study of changes in the production of folk textiles of Baan Hat Sieo, a community of Phuan people, in the district of Srisatchanaalai, Sukhothai. It considers the role and significance of textile in the context of community life prior to commercialization. It then examines its role and significance in the present time. The study focuses on the changes in the form and motifs of the weaving pattern of Phaa Teen Chok [elaborately hand-woven narrow piece of fabric to be attached to end of a woman's sarong], as well as the changes in the processes of its production.

It is found that as the market consumption of Phaa Teen Chok grows, several changes occur. Motifs are modified to suit new technology, some new motifs are incorporated. However on the whole traditional pattern is retained. A new technology of "hao" is introduced to save production time. More people, men as well as women, become producers. Furthermore the choice of pattern, colour scheme, type of product are influenced by the taste of consumers who are urban dwellers. As a result of these changes a new meaning and role of folk textile is adopted. Instead of being the symbol of women in the tradition context, the folk textile has now become the symbol of its community.

It is also found that these changes are initiated by local people mainly. This partially explains the reason why, despite all the changes, the producers try to use the folk material to maintain their ethnic identity.