Digital Textile Design Inspired by Saudi Traditional Symbols of Architecture to Promote the Cultural Identity of Adolescents

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Abstract:
The idea of the research has emerged, and it focuses on designing modern and innovative textiles inspired by Saudi traditional symbols with the aim of attracting adolescents and linking them to their cultures, as well as reviving these symbols in a way that can cope with the fast developments in cultures and trends. This is attributed to the cognitive awareness of the importance of traditional symbols for continuous communication between various generations. In addition, we are now living in the heyday and revival of the fashion world under fast developments in this world and the run for coping with it. Therefore, the research seeks to present a contemporary formulation of Saudi traditional symbols appropriate to the category of adolescents by using the technology of digital design as researchers attempt to design textile fabrics by using decorative units inspired by the symbols of traditional architecture designed with innovative ways that offer a contemporary formulation of Saudi traditional symbols with the use of the technologies of digital design. The aim is to develop awareness of the importance of traditional symbols and employ them in a creative manner that attracts the adolescents' category and boosts their affiliation to their cultural identity in order to confirm the continuity of communication and affiliation in society across generations.

Objectives: This study has been carried out to: explore the youths’ knowledge of traditional symbols and identify their link to the national identity, form decorative units inspired by the symbols of traditional architecture, design textiles by using decorative units based on the sample's trends, and measure the sample's acceptance of suggested designs.

Method: The research adopted the analytical method with application. It included the analysis and formation of Saudi traditional symbols, in addition to studying the sample's opinions in respect to the designs of textiles inspired by Saudi traditional symbols.

Sample: The research was applied to a sample of adolescents - males and females – of 15-18 years of age.

Tools: Two questionnaires were designed: the first is exploratory to measure the extent of the sample's acceptance of the idea of designing fashion and textiles stimulated by Saudi traditional symbols. The sample was distributed to 250 people of the category of adolescents. The second questionnaire was for measuring the sample's satisfaction of the designs of textiles stimulated by traditional symbols. Final designs of textiles were shown and distributed to 250 adolescents.

Results: In this research, the practical experiment is based on the analysis, structure and repetition of Saudi traditional symbols, inspired by Saudi architecture with all its details of doors, windows and archaeological drawings on walls and the symbols of "Al-Qatt Al-Assiri" (a national costume) to use them in the "digital design program: Illustrator" to attempt formulating, treating and producing them in different designs, taking into consideration the design's basics and elements with textile designs. Two strategies of design structure were used. They were: overlapping and repetition. Following the distribution of measurement survey of satisfaction
of the target category concerning modern textile designs, the questionnaire results were analyzed based on 3 main axes: the general look of the design, creative ideas, and the appropriateness of the design to the target category. These results are summed up as follows: The possibility of creating numerous decorative designs that are characterized by modernity and originality through the analysis of traditional symbols. This is in conformity with the study of (Al-Eissa, 2019) which emphasizes the richness of Saudi art with the values of linear rhythm that allows the artist or designer to derive inspiration from it in order to realize the aesthetic dimension. This also agrees with the study of (Zalatt, 2013) who asserts that Saudi and Egyptian popular art is rich with various popular decorations that enrich the design of fashion. There is also an agreement with the study of (Khessaifan, 2012) who emphasizes the polishing up of the popular heritage values to introduce its symbols to the front of creative imagination to make options at hand for creative people that represent their artistic heritage with the colors of art and literature. Here comes the role of fashion and textile design in rooting the national identity and maintaining it through making designs of symbols and traditional decorations. The study results of (Nabawi, 2018) and (Abdul Azeem, 2015) agree together, who confirm the need to contribute to the rooting process witnessed in the Arab world, and to protect popular symbols from disappearance and extinction since the Arab popular heritage has a positive effective role in consolidating our national identity. This is in conformity with the main target of this research: to depart from the familiar design systems in textile designs through overlapping and repetition. This agrees with the study of (Al-Shaimi and Taha, 2011), which asserts that preparing decorative designs by depending on repetition types and design basics leads to obtaining several unprecedented artistic and aesthetic values of these designs which enrich the field of designing.

**Keywords:**
Symbols, Architecture, Textile, Heritage, Adolescent

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