

THE STUDY OF THE ACHIEVEMENT IN WEAVING SKILL TRANSFER OF THAI LUE TRIBE AT WANG PAI VILLAGE IN CHIANG MAI

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ABSTRACT

Abstract— Wang Pai Village is located in Tha Ton District, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. It is the residence of Thai Lue, an ethnic group which still carries on their own culture and local wisdom.

Wang Pai Village would like to promote their community as cultural tourism destination. Their villager created many activities for tourist to learn about their culture such as traditional food, tea making, their local dessert, etc.

However, after researcher' fieldwork, it founded that the village committee which respond about tourism for their community would like to conserve their cultural heritage “Thai Lue homespun’ bed sheet; “Pa Sop Luang” and “Pa Sop Noi” which have an identity design and at present, no one in their village could weave it. Besides, the village committee also has an idea that they will set up a learning base of “Thai Lue homespun waving” to promote their culture to tourist.

Nevertheless, as above-mentioned, there is no one in Wang Pai Village could weave “Thai Lue homespun”, therefore the villager committee then find other villager from another village whose could weave “Thai Lue homespun’ bed sheet; “Pa Sop Luang” and “Pa Sop Noi” to transfer there weaving skill to 2 representative sample which selected by purposive sampling to learn to weave “Thai Lue homespun’ bed sheet; “Pa Sop Luang” and “Pa Sop Noi”.

Therefore the purpose of this research is to study on the achievement in weaving skill transfer of Thai Lue Tribe at Wang Pai Village in Chiang Mai.

To accomplish the goals and objectives, qualitative research was applied. Research instruments used are in-depth interviews and action learning. The study also uses both primary data and secondary data.

Research result shown that 2 representative samples was successful to learn weaving original style of Thai Lue and all agree that it not difficult to do hand weaving Thai Lue homespun bed sheet; “Par Sop Luang” and “Par Sop Noi”

Keywords— Cultural Heritage, Thai Lue Tribe, Homespun, Weaving, Local Wisdom, Wang Pai Village, Mae Aei, Chiang Mai Province



Fig. 1 Wang Pai village, Chiang Mai
Source: Pornnapat Berndt, November 16, 2018

INTRODUCTION

Thailand is positioned in Southeast Asia, a recognized geographical region of the Asian continent, bordered by the Andaman Sea, Gulf of Thailand, Indian Ocean and the countries of Burma (Myanmar), Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia [1].

Wang Pai village or call in Thai as Ban Wang Pai, is located in Tha Ton District, Chiang Mai province north part of Thailand. It is a dwelling of Thai Lue Tribe which established since 1984. Villager would like to promote cultural tourism and started in 2007. However, it was not successful at that time as they was not ready and lack of experiences in tourism management. Afterwards, they re-operated again in 2016 until now. Their community has many activities for tourist to join and learn their culture such as “Baai Sri Sùu Kwan” ceremony in Traditional Thai Lue, dessert making, and touch Thai Lue food, etc. [2].

After interviewed Mr. Supachai Srisopha, chairperson of Wang Pai Village, it found that they would like to conserve their own cultural heritage: waving of tradition bed sheet; “Par Sop Luang” and “Par Sop Noi” which at present no one in their community could weave it. Moreover, they would like to have more income from hand waving which will generate income to their community [3].

“Par Sop Luang” is a Thai Lue beed shet which have weaving’ design in full piece.



Fig. 2 “Par Sop Luang”, Wang Pai Village
Source: Pornnapat Berndt, December 13, 2018

“Par Sop Noi” is a Thai Lue beed shet which have weaving’ design in half piece [Fig.4].



Fig. 3 “Par Sop Noi” Wang Pai Village
Source: Pornnapat Berndt, December 13, 2018

Unfortunately, as above mention, no one in their village could not weave this tradition bed sheet, therefore, it challenge that they can success to conserved their cultural heritage or not and what is an opportunity and what is an obstacle for them to reach their objective.

Therefore, researcher then would like to study on the achievement in weaving skill transfer of Thai Lue Tribe at Wang Pai village in order to support them to conserve their cultural heritage while generated income to local community.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research focused on the study of the achievement in weaving skill transfer of Thai Lue Tribe at Wang Pai village in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The research instruments used are observation and in-depth interviews of instructor and 2 representative samples which selected by purposive sampling to learn to weave “Thai Lue homespun’ bed sheet; “Pa Sop Luang” and “Pa Sop Noi”. The study also uses both primary and secondary data.

RESULTS

Research result founded that no villager in Wang Pai village could weave Traditional bed sheet. For this reason, therefore, researcher and chairman person of Wang Pai village Mr.Supachai Srisopha then find the people who could weave Thai Lue traditional bed sheet nearby village. After field work, it founded that it has person who could weave which are the villager in “Ban Mok Jam” Village name is Mrs. Hom Pornchai.

Mrs. Hom Pornchai is “Thai Yai Tribe” who weaving homespun as carrier and her homespun is for sell to tourist. She is 48 years old.



Fig.4 Mrs. Hom Pornchai.
Source: Pornnapat Berndt, December 13, 2018

Mrs. Hom Pornchai is willing to transfer her weaving skill to two representative samples. Nevertheless, she charge for her labor for teach weaving as 150 Thai Baht per hour [4]. Therefore, researcher then selected sample by purposive sampling as limited of research budget.

Two representative samples was is two females Thai Lue Tribe from Wang Pai Village whose have experience for hand weaving Mrs. Sangjoi Srisopha (36 years old) and Mrs. Nee Woasang (38 years old). Both of them have hand weaving experience to weave Thai Lue skirt.

Wang Pai village has no loom in their village, therefore, two representative samplings have to learn to weave traditional bed sheet at “Ban Mok Jai village:” which more readiness to transfer weaving skill.

Besides, to learn to weave tradition bed sheet, learner have to buy weaving equipment such as reed, harness and weaving thread. Instructor.



Fig. 5 Mrs. Sangjoi Srisopha, Wang Pai Villager
Source: Pornnapat Berndt, December 13, 2018



Fig. 6 Mrs. Nee Woasang, Wang Pai Villager
Source: Pornnapat Berndt, December 13, 2018

Instructor, Mrs. Hom Pornchai stated that in traditional bed sheet each design has meaning such as some design interpret horse or some interpret Naga. To weave the whole sheet it will take time at least one month.

As limit of research budget then two represent samplings could learn to weave traditional bed sheet only two patterns with are horse pattern and Naga pattern.

Researcher set objective to achieve in weaving skill transfer as following:

1. All representative samples able to Inserting woven thread and know how to use the loom.
2. All representative samples able to known about meaning of pattern deeply.
3. All representative samples could weave 2 pattern of traditional bed sheet completely.

Research resulted shown an achievement in weaving skill transfer to representative samples as follow:

In objective one, all representative samples able to Inserting woven thread and know how to use the loom very fast as they used to weave their one skirt.

Following with objective two, it was not successful as instructor also does not know about the meaning of pattern truly. Therefore, all representative samples then known the meaning roughly.



Fig. 7 Instructor explained the meaning of each pattern
Source: Pornnapat Berndt, December 13, 2018



Fig. 8 Pattern which represent "Horse"
Source: Pornnapat Berndt, December 13, 2018

The Last objective, all representative samples could weave 2 pattern of traditional bed sheet completely. The instructor was achieved to transfer her weaving skill to 2 representative samples with thin 12 days (4 hours per day equal 48 hours) for 2 patterns. (Cause of lack of research budget as above mentioned).

Representative samples No.1, Mrs. Sangjoi Srisopha revealed that it not difficult for her to learn to weave tradition bed sheet because she have basic skill in weave before. However, the problem for her is back pain even learn only 4 hours a day. Moreover, weaving thread also heart her hand [5]. This information related to research result of Pornnapat Berndt and Teera Intararuang on the topic of "The study on the success in cotton hand weaving skill transfer by elderly in Angsila district, Chonburi province" [6]. However, she felt really glad as she can weave it even only two patterns. This research was inspired her to fine the way to learn more pattern [7].



Fig. 9 Mrs. Mrs. Sangjoi Srisopha, represent sample No.1
Source: Pornnapat Berndt, December 13, 2018

Representative samples no.2, Mrs. Nee Woasang revealed that it not difficult for her to learn to weave tradition bed sheet also. However, she has to same problem with representative samples No.1 which is back pain. However, she felt really glad as representative no.1 because they have the same intention to conserve their community cultural heritage and want this activity to be part of cultural tourism for Wang Pai village [8].



Fig. 10 Mrs. Nee Woasang, represent sample no.2
Source: Pornnapat Berndt, December 13, 2018

CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

A. Conclusion

Want Pai village had much potential for tourism sector as they have beautiful natural scenery and still carry on their own tradition and culture. The most important is villager strong ambitious to promote their community for cultural tourism.

“Thai Lue homespun” bed sheet; “Pa Sop Luang” and “Pa Sop Noi” is one of their cultural heritages which villagers in Wang pai village strongly ambitious to conserved to the next generation. Moreover, if they could success to finish to weaving all patterns of “Pa Sop Luang” and “Pa Sop Noi”, it could be their own career in the future or it could be part of learning base for tourist also.

It can conclude that it was Achievement in weaving skill transfer of Thai Lue tribe at Wang Pai village. It took 48 hours to learn 2 patterns (4 hours per days for 6 days). However, for meaning of each pattern still not truly known the meaning as instructor also does not know the meaning.

This research was a start point to conserve this cultural heritage. However, it not completely success to learn hole bed sheet as limit of research budget. Therefore, all stakeholders should support or promote them in order to conserve cultural heritage of Thai Lue tribe in Wang Pai village. In addition, it could be a career for villagers in order to generate income to local community.

B. Discussion

This research resulted was not cover in all contents as limit of budget. However, it could be the starting point

to continue to conserve cultural heritage of Thai Lue in Wang Pai village which community awareness in their own culture and tradition.

For meaning of pattern it should continue study because it will be an story to tell to tourist and it value for Thai Lue to conserve their cultural heritage to pass on knowledge to their next generation.

SUGGESTION

Wang Pai Village have a lot of potential to be a tourist destination as their have plenty of natural and cultural tourism resource. However, villager still lack of knowledge of tourism management. All stakeholder such as Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Education institution, Hospitality Sector, etc. should involve, educated them and support them in any dimension in order to generate in come to local community while conserve this unique traditional and culture of Tai Lue Tribe in Wang Pai village.

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