

## Research Article

# Promoting local wisdom through the dimensions of applied folk dance forms Case study: Weaving loincloth in five colors of Lao Wiang community, Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province.

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## Abstract

A study of the process of weaving loincloths in five colors: a case study of Lao Wiang community, Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province. Community products were creative research, the objective is to study the process and process of weaving loincloths in Lao Wiang people, Ban Noen Kham, Chainat Province at present. The loincloth in five colors is a culture on a beautiful cloth, the uniqueness of Lao Wiang, Ban Noen Kham. The creation of the work has foreseen the importance of five colors of loincloth and used it as inspiration to study the process of weaving of five colors of loincloth according to the process of Lao Wiang, Ban Noen Kham community to conserve local wisdom of Lao Wiang community, Noen Kham district, presented in the form of applied folk dance using the concept of semiotic theory to create works. In addition, the creators have studied and gathered information from related documents, interviewed experts about research and visited the area to bring the information that has been created to create a show.

The research results showed the creation of dance works from local wisdom on the process of weaving loincloths in five colors of Lao Wiang people at Ban Noen Kham, Chainat Province, a set of five colors of loincloth, can be classified according to 8 elements of the dance, as follows: 1) The performance was created from the Lao people's liking for the wisdom of weaving the loincloth in five colors, divided into 3 periods, as follows: Color Lines, Phase 2, Precious Wisdom of Noen Kham's loincloths, and Phase 3, Noen Kham Growing Products, OTOP. 2) Selected actors with basics in performing Isan folk dances, beautiful bodies and witty in front of the stage, it also requires discipline in training. 3) The style is designed by using gestures from the villagers' five colors of loincloth weaving process to create a dance gesture for beauty. 4) Music and sound design, using Isan musical instruments in the Pong Lang orchestra type using the music pattern, melody, floor and newly created melody. 5) Equipment designed by using some equipment in the process of weaving five colors of loincloth, used as symbols. 6) Venue at the auditorium of Ayutthaya Rajabhat University. 7) The costumes, part 1, are designed using silk or cotton threads that are woven into five colors of loincloth, Part 2 is designed by bringing Lao Wiang, Noen Kham traditional costumes to improve. 8) Light to help camouflage the errors of the show and help convey emotions, feeling. The results of this research are consistent with the conceptual framework and fully comply with the objectives set by the researcher.

**Keywords:** Local wisdom, Five colors of loincloth, Applied folk dance, Performing arts

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## Introduction

Thailand is a country that has a diverse culture in many aspects, including Thai painting, ancient sites, traditions, languages that can still be divided into different local languages, all of which have been inherited for a long time. Until it may become a civilization, culture can be divided into 2 groups: tangible culture, which is tangible objects such as objects of art, architecture, or abstract culture is something that does not use objects such as music, rituals, customs, traditions, traditions (Sunpongsri, 2013, p.27). Wisdom is one of art and culture in knowledge, the thoughts of the local people have been passed down from generation to generation and have treated each other for a long time, each community has valuable wisdom. Unique shows the culture, local traditions and the way of life of the people in the community may be agricultural wisdom, food wisdom and the wisdom of clothing. Wisdom also clearly shows the uniqueness of various ethnic groups, such as the weaving of the Lao Wiang people of Ban Noen Kham. Chainat Province who was a Laotian who migrated from Vientiane during the Rattanakosin War to live in Thailand. Therefore, there is one wisdom that comes with it, namely weaving.

Cloth is a product of wisdom with cultural capital from the past to the present fabric production to meet human needs. In addition to using cloth as clothing to cover the body, humans also use cloth in everyday life and use many other things such as sun visor, turban, and cover up some parts of the body. Fabrics fall into the category of basic necessities known as garments. Clothes keep the body warm and safe, and fabrics are essential for life. The clothes of the villagers in the community tend to weave cloth for their own use within the household. As for weaving, it will be the duty of a woman. It has been passed down from generation to generation as a wisdom and cultural heritage. One of the weavers found in Thailand is a group of people of Lao descent which in the past had migrated from Laos and came to live in Thailand until now. Weaving of Thai people of Laotian descent today, mostly due to the skill, wisdom and expertise of weaving fabrics of Thai people of Lao descent such as Sin Tin Jok cloth, local weaving cloth and loincloth. At present, the Lao Wiang community, Ban Noen Kham. The loincloth has been woven in five colors that are unique to the Ban Noen Kham community. In addition, the community has also brought products to join the One Tambon One Product Project. And has been selected to receive an OTOP award at the 4 star level for 6 consecutive years. The five colors loincloths are outstanding in terms of bright, beautiful colors that are unique, including red, yellow, green, white, orange, indicating it is a loincloth of five colors of Lao Wiang community, Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province, with each color having a different meaning according to the way of use. It is a multicultural society in Thailand that appears in many ways, many forms or latent in traditions can be said that in the diversity of diversity in terms of social dimensions that are not the same, but still appear to be the same (Wongsayanawa, 2009, p.10), it appears as a way of life clothing until it is a community product and generates another channel of income. Cloth is an invention from the wisdom of creating product results and is a factor in being a garment, but it still connects the story of the wisdom of the community. In addition, performing arts still have a specific form of clothing. It is another process of creating works through the form of performing arts in cloth to express, communicate the ideas of the villagers, producers, and is also a tool to create pride that can be easily understood through creative performances especially. Performing arts are cultural mediums that can connect stories through physical expressions. Music is another tool that can communicate easily and completely.

With the foregoing, the creators were interested and a study was conducted on the wisdom of weaving of the Lao Wiang community at Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province and bring to create a form of applied folk dance and to promote local wisdom through the dimension of performing arts movement. It is presented as the process of weaving loincloths in five colors of Lao Wiang community at Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province for the enhancement of wisdom in the form of another aesthetic approach.

## Objective

1. To study the history and the process of weaving loincloths in five colors of Lao Wiang community, Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province.
2. To create works of applied folk dance, the five colors of loincloth dress.

## **Research conceptual framework**

The creative researcher has established a conceptual framework for creative studies by using the concept of creating works based on 8 elements of the performing arts as a creative guideline.

## **Elements of the dramatic arts**

The authors have defined 8 research elements (Kulpisan, 2020, p.7) as follows:-1) Screenplay design. 2) Casting. 3) The design of the dance performance style. 4) The sound and music design in the performance. 5) The design of the props. 6) The design of the costumes for the show. 7) Show venue design. 8) Show lighting design.

## **Methods of conducting research**

The researcher conducted the research according to the following steps:-

1. Study the information from the document, the researcher has studied related research papers, books, textbooks, and information media related to the research topic.
2. Study the data from the field, the researcher will select those who are related to the topic to make personal communication by using a personal communication field with people who have expertise in the wisdom of weaving loincloth in five colors of Lao Wiang village, Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province.
3. Take the data obtained from the study for analysis as a guideline for conducting research.
4. Design and present complete creative works.

## **The design of the eight elements of dance**

A study of the process of weaving loincloths in five colors : a case study of Lao Wiang community at Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province in order to create works of applied Isan folk dance, the five colors of loincloths, the creators have brought elements of the dance arts to be used as a guideline for their creations in order to get a complete work, it consists of 8 elements as follows:-

**1. Screenplay design performance**, it is the first thing that is required in a design to be able to easily create a plot or sequence of events because the script determines the entire story as well as the other elements. The researcher designed the chapter by applying the theory of semiotics in the design to illustrate the process of weaving the five colors of the loincloth of Lao Wiang, Ban Noen Kham. The show is divided into 3 sections as follows:-

Phase 1, colored lines, in this performance, there will be a lyric telling about the color of the loincloth that is red, green, white, yellow and orange, indicating the silk or cotton threads in the loincloth of the Lao Wiang, Noen Kham people. What colors are there for viewers to understand more.

Phase 2, Precious wisdom of Khao Ma Noen Kham (the loincloths of Noen Kham). In this performance, it shows the process of loincloths weaving in five colors of Lao Wiang people at Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province. starting from spinning and how many weaves until it becomes a piece of cloth.

Phase 3, Noen Kham growing OTOP products. During this period, it will show the display of products made of loincloth in five colors and the use of five colors of loincloth of Lao Wiang, Noen Kham people for various uses, including being an OTOP product of Noen Kham district.

**2. Casting Actors**, they are another thing that is as important as acting. Without the actors, the performance would not be completed because the actors were responsible for conveying the story and being empathetic as the narrator through style and movement. For this reason, the creators choose actors who are female and have the basis for performing in Isan folk dances and have a flair for performing in front of the stage. They also have to have discipline in coming to practice and be responsible for the performance of the five colors of loincloth arts dance.

**3. The design of the dance style**, the dance design or choreography in performances related to the performing arts. Dance postures can convey different stories (Saithongkham, 2018, p.51), instead of using words and also using dance moves, which act as a symbol for various objects that the researcher wants to convey in order for the audience to understand the purpose for which the person wants to present the creative work in the form of applied Isan folk dance. It also brings the theory of semiotics and the concept of local

wisdom to be used in the design of dance styles. Performance design by use free dance moves, improvising by letting the performers interpret their own meanings where the creator will give the problem to say request to be improvised, folk style, or improvise, showing products made from loincloth in five colors; Therefore, it has been invented as a dance performance by imitating the weaving process of the villagers and then reinventing it to be beautiful using it as a dance in the applied Isan folk dance.

**4. Sound design and performance music**, Music used for performances is an important element that will help make the show more complete. The researcher therefore designed the music to be consistent with the acting style, including the script in order to meet the objectives that the researcher has set out to show. The creators have designed the sound using Isan instruments in the Pong Lang orchestra. Musical instruments used are harp, bass, can, vote, tail drum, tambourine, big drum, cymbal, small cymbal, big cymbal, and Isan fiddle. Moreover, the researcher has composed the lyrics about the color of the loincloth to make the audience understand more. But still maintain the Lao Wiang, Noen Kham, which today has a mix of cultural music. Therefore, it is similar to the music of the Thai-Lao or Thai-Isan people and has a sequence of melodies starting from a slow rhythm, continuing with the middle rhythm and ends at a rapid pace to adjust the mood in each stage of the show to be more attractive and fun, respectively, as follows:

Phase 1, colored lines. In this period, the researcher uses the lyrics in Thai-Isan or Thai-Lao languages to describe the different colors in the loincloth in order to make the audience better understand the performance. The music has a slow rhythm using a practice of Isan stylized singing. The lyrics are as follows, it takes 2 minutes.

(Dern Lam Peun or Isan stylized singing)

Pan na prae pah khao ma ngam sue	Khue si bong bok jang Fhang duai wa nai ya
Si daeng dai la khue hag sa mak khee	Dang lo hit nong phi phu
Phang si phi nong	
Si lueang tong su ri yo ngam song ngam song	Wat tha na phong lueam
Cha roen lon suk khee	
Si kheaw ni la ngam dee mu lhao	U dom khao lah nham
Lai dam phod cha na	
U dom fah tha ra din u dom sai	Phan na ra preuk sa bai
Som boon poon prom	
Si khao nom wi sut tha pha sue	Khue sat sue bong dai nai
Pha kha kuan	
Bo ri sut luan dhoy dang nai ja rit	Phut tha phum dan ni mitra
Khao ngam sue wai	
Si som dai pra neet nai jai thieng	Jai bo iang uay nerng
Therng thao wa ngam	
Som bak suk lam nai nam pen si	Sue khwam mai mark
Mee pen phrae ngam ko	

Phase 2, Precious wisdom of Khao Ma Noen Kham (the loincloths of Noen Kham). During this period, the researcher used newly composed music with a middle rhythm, not fast and slow. The music in this period has a faster tempo than Phase 1 to change the tempo showing the way of life and the process of weaving a loincloth in five colors of Lao Wiang people at Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province, takes 4 minutes.

Phase 3, the product grows of Noen Kham OTOP. During this period, the researcher uses newly composed music using faster rhythms than phase 2 which is fun to demonstrate the success of weaving loincloths in five colors and bringing products from five colors of loincloth to use in various fields. Including being an OTOP product of Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province, takes 3 minutes.

**5. Design of the props**, using the equipment will help make the show look real and a more complete show. The device is the one that makes the picture of the show clearer, the audience can understand the show more by using the equipment to assemble, it must be considered appropriate and consistent with the performance with good equipment that must not be a burden on the performers, able to move in and out of the

stage easily. The researcher has designed the equipment used for the show by using some of the equipment in the process of weaving the five colors loincloth of Lao Wiang, Ban Noen Kham and creative design using semiotics theory (Angkasirisap, 2001, p.1). In this show, the creators have used artificial silk in the show. There are five colors: white, green, yellow, red and orange, which used in the performance of the 2nd period, the precious wisdom of Khao Ma Noen Kham, when spinning the thread, in which the process of weaving loincloth, villagers will bring cotton or silk obtained from the factory and spin them into tubes or cores in order to put it in a bobbin and then weave a few looms as the next step. Equipment used in this show, the researcher took into account the appropriateness and conformity to use the device on the show by giving the device and the performance the same way. The equipment that the creators used in this show is the right size for the movement of the performers. Therefore, there are no obstacles in the performance. This show therefore came out completely and looks realistic as the researcher has shown.

**6. The design of the costumes,** which were used for the show. Costume is an important element for performances because the attire can tell about the well-being of the ethnic, representing the identity of that locality, the actor's verb and make the show look more beautiful and attractive by using a technique to change the dress quickly, which can be divided into 3 periods:-

Phase 1, colored lines from inspiration. The image of five colors of silk or yarn as mentioned above. The creator therefore designed the costumes for the show as follows: a high bun headband with a bun tilted on the left side, cloth dress wrapped around the chest with silk threads hanging along the body. The sarong has silk threads hanging around the body, silver jewelry, necklaces, earrings.

The second phase, the precious wisdom of Khao Ma Noen Kham, and the 3rd period, the product of Noen Kham growth, OTOP, the product of the growth of Noen Kham OTOP by the researcher was inspired by Lao Wiang people, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province. When there is an important event or festival, Lao Wiang people, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province will dress in traditional Lao Wieng clothing, such as wearing navy or indigo long-sleeved shirts with buttons in front of the round neck, wearing a Mudmee sarong against the Teen Jok, wearing a sabai jok, high hair, jewelry wearing silver necklaces, earrings, bracelets. The show set is detailed as shown in the picture as follows:



**Figure 1** Image of costumes, 1st - 3rd period  
source: Phoomwattana, 2022

**7. The design of the venue for the show,** the venue of the show can be considered a very important element of the show because it will help practice to make the show look attractive. The creators therefore chose Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Rajabhat University Auditorium as the venue for displaying creative dance works for the first time. Because it is a closed place, it is easy to design the lights for the show. Moreover, the auditorium has a large space for displaying works. And there is an area convenient for the actors to enter and exit so they do not obscure the viewing experience or make noise during the performance.

**8. Show lighting design,** the lighting design will help make the show more beautiful and complete. It also helps to camouflage performance errors. The lighting in the show helps to convey emotions, feelings, and the transition between performances makes the show less boring and addictive. The creators therefore designed the lighting according to the stage of the show as follows:

Phase 1, colored lines, the researcher uses blue-white light. It is the light in the opening of the show that shines from the left side of the stage and then turns to the right to make the light fall on the actors to create a dim light and create thus adding more light using yellow and orange light in order to make the costumes of the actors in each color stand out, before the end of the first performance, use orange light shining from behind the stage to create the shadows.

Phase 2, Precious wisdom of Khao Ma Noen Kham, the design uses blue light to introduce the villagers because the second period has changed the costumes from the first period and weaving loincloth, the researcher chose orange and white light because the researcher wanted to see the dancing process. And the researchers wanted to use light to make the actors' costumes stand out.

Phase 3, the product of Noen Kham growth, OTOP, uses white and yellow light in the performance because the researcher wants the audience to see the dance moves and the display of products made from loincloths in five colors to make them stand out.



**Figure 2** The lighting design used in the show  
source: Phoomwattana, 2022

## Discuss the results

The creation of dance works from local wisdom on the process of weaving loincloths in five colors of Lao Wiang people at Ban Noen Kham, Chainat province, the loincloths in five colors, the creators want to present the applied Isan folk dance performances with the purpose of studying and creating a performance from the process of weaving loincloths in five colors of Lao Wiang, Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province. The authors have researched documents, research textbooks, and interviews with experts. It also uses a creative research process to design the creative works in the performing arts, in which the creators have divided the design issues according to 8 elements of dramatic art.

**Screenplay design,** the creator was inspired to design the script for the show a set of five colors of loincloth, by designing the script for the 1st show, the creators set the script to be a throwback to the past like a general weaving show that started from the way of life of the villagers, continue with the cotton collection until the weaving process which when the researcher has tried to rehearse the show and then make the creator. It was noted that the performance the researcher was doing duplicated the performance of others that had already been done and no difference assemble instructions of the qualified, therefore crystallized into 3 shows, which are the first period, colored lines, the second period, precious wisdom of Khao Ma Noen Kham and the third period, the product of Noen Kham growing, OTOP.

**Casting,** the creators therefore choose actors who are female and have the basis for performing Isan folk dances and having a beautiful body.

**The design of the style,** The choreography design is an applied Isan folk dance where the old dance moves that already exist, such as the traditional Isan dance or performances that the creators have seen familiar with experience to be modified to have something new to follow but still maintains its folklore. There may be an aura of contemporary coming in some episodes. It also uses techniques to translate a variety of rows to help make the show look dimensional and not boring and mixed with the use of improvisation techniques by

allowing the actors to interpret their own meanings. Whereas the researcher will give the question that asks for a dance (Improvise) in a village style or improvise showing products made from loincloth in five colors.

**Sound design and music for performances**, the creators have reinvented the music. The details of the period of the show were described as follows: Part 1, the creator had the musicians write the lyrics to tell the different colors in the loincloth in 2 minutes. The second part uses music in the middle rhythm, and soon, shows the way of life and weaving process of the villagers in 4 minutes, the 3rd period uses music with a fun fast rhythm in 3 minutes, the music that the researcher uses is Isan music in the Pong Lang type due to the flow of music culture nowadays, the music is similar to the music of Thai-Laos or Thai-Isan.

**Props design in show design**, the creators chose five colors of artificial silk, namely white, orange, green, yellow and red, to make a spinning wheel according to the committee's recommendation because it is easy to carry and does not hinder the actors, making the show interesting and beautiful.

**Venue design**, the creator chooses Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Rajabhat University Auditorium because it is a closed place, it is convenient to control the light and sound and large, convenient for organizing the show. There is space to do makeup and hair and changing of the show, there is also an area for the audience and the area for entering and exiting the stage of the performers.

**Costume design for actors costume**, designer by imitating the dress of the villagers by dressing, the researcher used a sarong cloth and a loincloth of five colors directly from Noen Kham District. Because the researcher wanted to show the identity of Lao Wiang, Noen Kham, there was not much change in the original costume. In the first period of the series, the researcher designed using observations from the silk threads used to weave loincloths sway and has a line, the researcher therefore used the fluidity to design a show set.

**Lighting design**, creative lighting, designers taking into account the show because of Isan folk performances will stand out in terms of dance moves and row variations to make the audience look there are dimensions that are not boring to follow:

The creation of works of art and culture, in addition to the benefits of those involved, still promotes persistence of the promotion of wisdom is important to the Thai nation because these are the heritage of wisdom or natural works, the way that is passed on from generation to generation as well as the benefits of creative work in terms of arts and culture, in line with the vision of the Ministry of Culture that "Culture creates good people, creates a good society, creates economic value to be the foundation for sustainable development of the country" It can be said that a prosperous nation is a nation that has art and culture to study, the creators therefore create works of performing arts to promote local wisdom in order to convey the process, the way of the community, in the form of an aesthetic work and also to create works that are integrated across sciences to be clearly works in order to become an art and a national heritage for the future.

### **Suggestions for future creative studies**

Creative performance in the field of dramatic arts in an applied folk style, a set of five colors of loincloth, and there is a point about suggestions for future creative study and research as follows:

1. Research in the field of dramatic arts titled "Study of the process of weaving loincloth in five colors: a case study of Lao Wiang community, Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province". Local wisdom should be preserved and can be used to promote tourism in a concrete way.

2. There should be creative performances in dramatic arts in the form of creative folk performances by promoting cultural capital wisdom with more mix of different ethnic groups to create a more diverse show.

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Case study: Weaving loincloth in five colors of Lao Wiang community, Ban Noen Kham, Noen Kham District, Chainat Province.

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