DOI: https://doi.org/10.68064/jshe.2024.ftbjrvb3

Exploring Applique Craft Technique In Production of Household Clothing Articles In Rivers State

Wonah, Efemena Enamegwolo & Sonye, Comfort. Ukrajit

Abstract

The study explored applique craft technique in production of household clothing articles in Rivers State. Specifically, the study produced five household clothing articles using applique craft technique and determined the functional, aesthetic and expressive attributes of diverse prototype household clothing articles produced. Research and Development design was used for the study. The population of the study was 20 judge's representatives from three groups (6 Home Economics teachers, 7 registered tailors and 7 registered clothing entrepreneurs). There was no sampling since the population size was small and manageable. The result shows that five household clothing articles (throw pillow, potholder, wall hangar, oven mitten and water system toilet tank cover were produced using applique craft technique. The result also shows that the judges were satisfied with all the items on functional, aesthetic and expressive attributes of all the products made. Findings on functional attributes of prototype products revealed mean value for suitability of fabric ranging from (4.58± 0.86) to (4.75 0.97); length of product (4.58 0.82) to (5.00.00) among others. The aesthetic attributes show mean values for texture ranging from (4.83 0.94) to (5.00 .00) for texture; (4.75 0.46 to (5.00 0.00) for color; (3.92 1.02) to 5.00 .00) for line placement among others. The expressive attributes show mean values ranging from 4.58 0.94 to (5.00 .00) for all the expressive attributes under consideration. The study concludes that utilizing applique craft technique for household clothing articles will bring about innovation in production of craft. Thus, increase in market for clothing articles made with applique craft technique as there will be increase demand. This will bring about innovation, creative exploration and create room for a good market for entrepreneurs. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended among others that applique craft techniques should be used in production of household clothing articles by craft producers and that innovative household clothing articles should be produced by craft producers using applique craft technique based on its functional, aesthetic and expressive attributes.

Keywords: Craft, Textile craft, Applique, Production, Clothing articles

Introduction

Craft is a pastime that includes skill in making matters with the aid of hand. In a different understanding, craft is intuitive and expressed via making and doing. It is a career that calls for a particular sort of skilled work normally connected to people occupied in small scale production of goods. According to Kuleeva et al., (2021) craft is the introduction and manufacturing of a vast range of utilitarian and decorative objects produced on a small scale with hand strategies being a sizeable part of the cost-introduced content material. Crafting includes a ramification of art forms, from sculpture and metalwork to knitting and printing. These crafts can all be divided into

five primary sorts based totally on their shape and motive: decorative, paper, purposeful, style and textile crafts (Loughran, 2019).

Textile craft are types of craft in which beneficial and ornamental devices are made completely with palms using yarns or fabrics (Loughran, 2019).). Different types of fabric craft exist. These include any kind of craft where you work with cloth, yarn, or surface design. Some examples are weaving, dyeing, knitting, patch paintings, cloth printing, ornamental stitches, toy making, quilting and applique craft (Lasisi et al., 2022).

The word "appliqué" is derived from the French verb "appliquer," which means "to position on." It refers to a fabric craft wherein one piece of material is sewn over another for an ornamental impact. Appliqué is found in lots of styles of folk art and it range from basically decorative to symbolic (Lasisi et al., 2022). The strategies contain slicing cloth to shape and stitching it directly to a background cloth. In its broadest feel, an appliqué is a smaller ornament or device implemented to every other surface. It is a method by which the decorative impact is acquired through terrific-imposing patches of colored fabrics on a base material, the edges of the patches being sewn on a few shapes of stitchery. In operating applique, pieces of fabric are carried out on pinnacle of some other for decoration or functional purpose. It is different from what is called patch work in which small portions of minute fabrics are usually joined to make a large piece of cloth or for repairing a damaged fabric or for decoration purposes (Khan & Sahar, 2019).

The aesthetic of appliqué is a diffusion of colors to contrast, it could then be completed finished with unique threads to feature greater sewing, beading to decorate the shapes amongst others. Applique could also be mixed with other varieties of needlework to bring about innovation. Innovation is the process of creating, experimenting, transforming and packaging of goods and services (Niedderer & Townsend, 2024). Innovation can be redefined and explored in applique craft technique to increase production efficiency and quality of applique products. This is because applique has developed into a fantastically ornamental art and it's far used in various craft work everywhere globally (Lasisi et al., 2022). It may be used on many surfaces and can be a decorative manner to complete off many items including cushion, scarves, baggage, and household clothing articles including table mats, oven mittens, wall hangings among others. Moreover, there is an increasing demand for craft products globally, especially for home accessories, decorations, gifts and products for garden and outdoor living which are simultaneously used for decorative and functional purposes (USAID, 2006). The rise in consumers' disposable incomes and the tendency to accessories and re-style homes with unique articles are the major driving factors of the surge in demand for crafts and decorative products. The technical competencies of appliqué craft provide vivid potentialities for creative textile explorations and production.

Production can be at different scales, from once-off pieces through to small-batch manufacturing. Production may be home-based, project-based or in formal commercial premises. Production is the process or procedures to transform a set of input to output having the desired unity and quality. According to Gersak (2018) production is an organized process of conversion of raw materials into useful finished products. Finished products are assessed and evaluated by consumers based on a variety of their needs and attributes in their decision process. These attributes may be functional, aesthetic and expressive as consumers prefer products that fulfil functional needs, and also appeal to them aesthetically and expressively (Alhassan et al., 2023)). Functional attributes are those that help meet the needs of the consumer such as length of products, types of fabrics, width of products, relationship between product and lining as well as products that protects, aid mobility/ job performance and provide comfort when in use; expressive attributes relate to the communicative, symbolic aspect of a product that conveys a particular message or identity which reveals unique and socially shared meaning. The aesthetic attributes focused on

the overall shape of a product including design, lines, texture, color, rhythm among others (Alhassan et al., 2023). All consumers do not evaluate product alternatives using the same criteria. Therefore, it is important to understand the attributes consumer considers important in the evaluation of household clothing articles produced from applique craft techniques. Hence, the need for the study on exploring applique craft technique in production of household clothing articles in Rivers State.

Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to explore applique craft technique in production of household clothing articles in Rivers State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Produce household clothing articles through usage of applique craft technique in Rivers State.
2. Determine the functional, aesthetic and expressive attributes of prototype household clothing articles produced using applique craft in Rivers State

Research Methodology

Research Design: The research design for the study is Research and Development. Research and development design was used for production process of household clothing articles using applique craft. R and D design is an industry-based development research design in which the findings of research are used to design new products and procedures or improve on existing products. R and was used to follow specific steps to produce household clothing articles through usage of applique craft technique. These steps were selection of designs, enlargement of designs on paper by drawing, making of patterns, development of templates from the designs, transferring templates to fabric, sewing of the design to fabric and production of household clothing articles with applique craft technique.

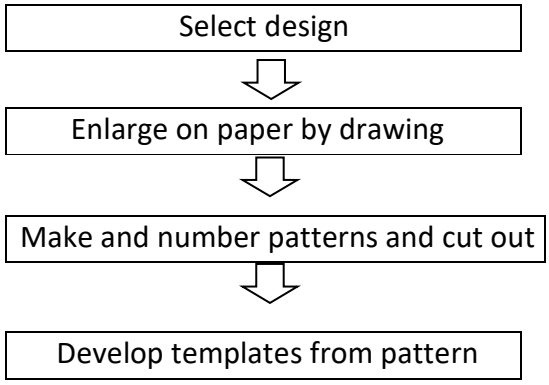
Area of the Study: The study was carried out in Rivers State, Nigeria. There are lots of household who use household clothing articles in Rivers State. Therefore, the need to be innovative and improve on applique craft technique to produce household articles.

Population for the Study: The population for this study is made up of 20 judge's representatives from three groups: six Home Economics teachers, seven registered tailors and seven registered clothing entrepreneurs

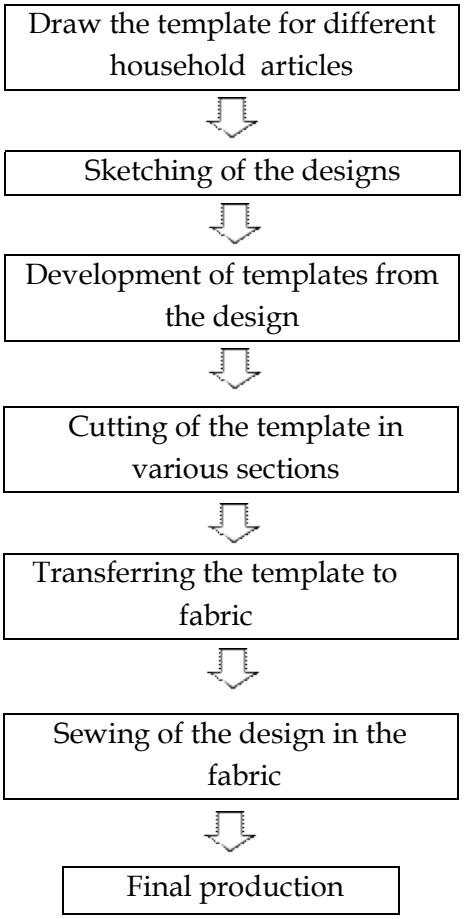
Sample and Sampling Technique: There was no sampling done since the panelist/ judge's population was small and manageable.

Research Instrument: The instrument for data collection was Household Clothing Article Evaluation Instrument for judges (HCAAIJ) that was designed by the researcher. Household Clothing Article Evaluation Instrument for Judges (HCAAIJ) was utilized by judges to evaluate the functional, aesthetic and expressive attributes of the produced household clothing articles. The instrument for the study contained two elements. Part I contained the demographic facts of respondents. This consists of judge's (Clothing Entrepreneurs, Tailors and Home Economics lecturers), Part II contained three sections (I, II and III). Section I centered on functional attributes, section II on expressive attributes and section III on aesthetic attributes of household clothing articles. A 5–point rating scale of like Extremely (LE) = 5; Like very much (LVM) = 4; neither liked nor dislike (NLND) =3; Dislike very much (DVM) = 2 and Dislike extremely (DE) = 1 was utilized in rating the functional, expressive and aesthetic attributes of household clothing articles.

Procedure for the Development of Templates



Construction of household clothing articles (wall hangar, pot holder, oven mitten, tank cover and throw pillow) using applique craft



Method of Data Analysis: Data for research question on functional, aesthetic, and expressive attributes was analyzed using mean and standard deviation. A mean of 3.00 and above was considered as satisfactory and accepted while mean rating that has less than 3.00 were regarded as unsatisfactory and unacceptable. All data collected were analyzed using statistical package of social sciences (SPSS) version 25.

Result

The result in Fig 1 -5 shows sketches and household clothing articles produced using applique craft technique. The household clothing articles produced includes throw pillow, pot holder, wall hangar, oven mitten and water system toilet tank cover. Figure 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a and 5a showed the sketches of the designed used for the production of household clothing articles while Figure 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b and 5b shows the prototype throw pillow, pot holder, wall hangar, oven mitten and prototype of water system toilet tank cover that was produced.

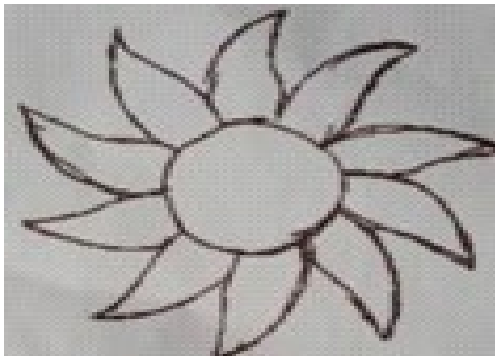


Fig 1a: Applique sketched design for throw pillow



Fig 1b prototype throw pillow produced

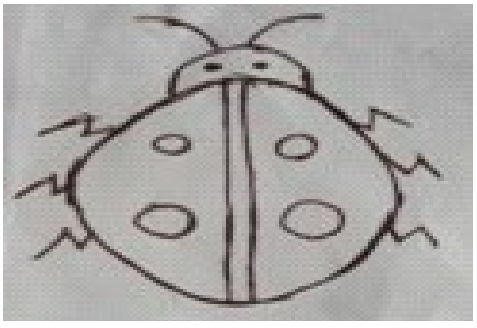


Fig 2a: Applique sketched design for pot holder

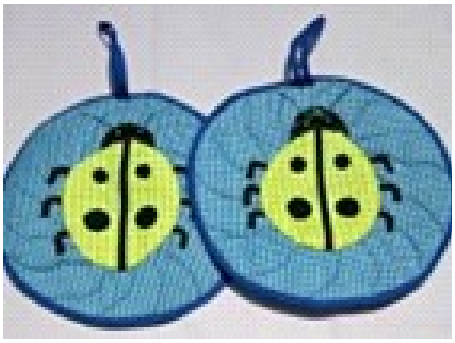


Fig 2b: Prototype pot holder produced

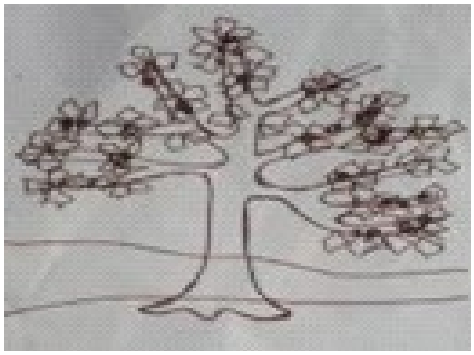


Fig 3a: Applique sketched design for wall hangar



Fig 3b: Prototype wall hangar produced

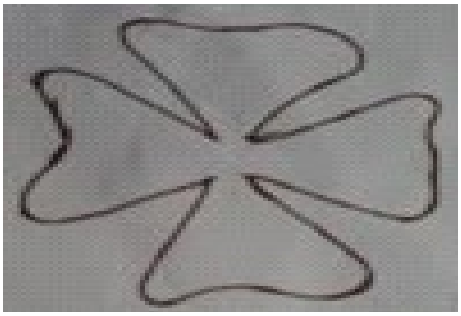


Fig 4a: Applique sketched for oven mitten



Fig 4b: Prototype oven mitten produced

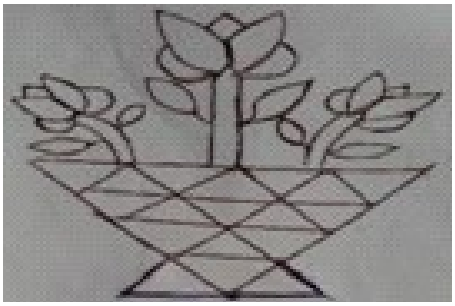


Fig 5a: Applique sketched design for water system toilet tank



Fig 5b: prototype water system toilet tank cover

Table 1 shows the ratings of the judges on the appropriateness of the various types of household clothing articles produced by judges on functional attributes. The table shows with mean values ranging from 4.58 – 5.00 for all the functional attributes under consideration. This show that all the items on functional attributes were like extremely by the respondents. This included types of fabric, length of product, width of product, relationship between product and lining and general acceptability respectively and were above the cut-off point of 3. 00 (X Ã 3.00). The result shows that the judges were satisfied with the aesthetic variables of the prototype household clothing articles produced using applique and quilting craft.

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation rating of judges on acceptability based on Functional Attributes of Household Clothing Items Produced Using Applique Craft Technique

Item	Mean	SD
Suitability of fabric used for potholder	4.75	0.93
Suitability of fabric used for water system toilet tank cover	4.67	0.86
Suitability of fabric for wall hangar	4.75	0.91
Suitability of fabric for oven mitten	4.75	0.97
Suitability of fabric for throw pillow	4.67	0.75
Length of potholder	4.75	0.99
Length of water system toilet tank cover	4.58	0.86
Length of wall hangar	5.00	0.00
Length of oven mitten	5.00	0.00
Length of throw pillow	4.75	0.92
Width of potholder	4.75	0.93
Width of water system toilet tank cover	4.58	0.85
Width of wall hangar	5.00	0.00
Width of oven mitten	5.00	0.00
Width of throw pillow	4.75	0.94
Relationship between:		
Potholder and lining	4.75	0.98
Water system toilet tank cover and lining	4.58	0.84
Wall hangar and lining	5.00	0.00
Oven mitten and lining	5.00	0.00
Throw pillow and lining	4.79	0.94
General acceptability of potholder	5.00	0.00
General acceptability of water system toilet tank cover	5.00	0.00
General acceptability of wall hangar	5.00	0.00
General acceptability of oven mitten	5.00	0.00
General acceptability of throw pillow	5.00	0.00

Table 2 shows the ratings of the judges on the appropriateness of the various types of household clothing articles produced by judges on aesthetic attributes. The table shows with mean values ranging from 4.58 – 5.00 for all the aesthetic attributes under consideration. This show that all the items on aesthetic attributes were like extremely by the respondents. This included texture, colour harmony of fabrics, rhythm, lines at points of intersection, shapes and arrangement, general workmanship and acceptability respectively and were above the cut-off point of 3. 00 (X Ã 3.00). The result shows that the judges were satisfied with the aesthetic variables of the prototype household clothing articles produced using applique and quilting craft.

Table 2: Mean And Standard Deviation Rating of Judges on Acceptability Based on Aesthetic Attributes of Household Clothing Items Produced Using Applique Craft Technique

Item Statement	Mean	SD
Texture of potholder	4.83	0.94
Texture of water system toilet tank cover	4.92	0.93
Texture wall hangar	5.00	.00
Texture of oven mitten	5.00	.00
Texture of throw pillow	5.00	.00
Color of potholder	5.00	.00
Color of water system toilet tank cover	4.75	0.81
Color of wall hangar	5.00	.00
Color of oven mitten	5.00	.00
Color of throw pillow	4.75	0.86
Rhythm for pot holder	4.58	0.92
Rhythm for water system toilet tank cover	4.67	0.85
Rhythm for of wall hangar	4.58	0.90
Rhythm for oven mitten	4.83	0.82
Rhythm for throw pillow	4.67	0.78
Lines placement for potholder	4.00	0.84
Line placement for wall hangar	5.00	.00
Lines placement for oven mitten	4.00	0.85
Lines placement for throw pillow	3.92	1.02
Arrangement of shapes for potholder	5.00	.00
Arrangement of shapes for water system toilet tank cover	5.00	.00
Arrangement of shapes for wall hangar	5.00	.00
Arrangement of shapes for oven mitten	5.00	.00
Arrangement of shapes for throw pillow	5.00	.00
General acceptability of potholder	5.00	.00
General acceptability of water system toilet tank cover	5.00	.00
General acceptability of wall hangar	5.00	.00
General acceptability of oven mitten	5.00	.00
General acceptability of throw pillow	5.00	.00

Table 3 shows the ratings of the judges on the appropriateness of the various types of household clothing articles produced by judges on expressive attributes. The table shows with mean values ranging from 4.58 – 5.00 for all the expressive attributes under consideration. This show that all the items on expressive attributes were like extremely by the respondents. This included Promote self-esteem, promote confidence, promote social status, promote personality, gives satisfaction and general acceptability respectively and were above the cut-off point of 3. 00 (X Ã 3.00). The result shows that the judges were satisfied with the expressive variables of the prototype household clothing articles produced using applique and quilting craft.

Table 3: Mean and standard deviation rating of judges on acceptability based on expressive attributes of household clothing items produced using applique craft technique

Item Statement	Mean	SD
Prototype of potholder gives satisfaction	4.92	0.97
Prototype of water system toilet tank cover gives satisfaction	4.83	0.94
Prototype of wall hangar gives satisfaction	4.83	0.92
Prototype of oven mitten gives satisfaction	4.75	0.84
Prototype of throw pillow gives satisfaction	5.00	.00
Prototype of potholder can promote social status	4.83	0.91
Prototype of water system toilet tank cover can promote social status	4.67	0.85
Prototype of wall hangar can promote social status	4.83	0.90
Prototype of oven mitten can promote social status	4.75	0.80
Prototype of throw pillow can promote social status	4.58	0.94
Prototype of potholder can promote personality	4.92	.00
Prototype of water system toilet tank cover can promote personality	4.83	0.81
Prototype of wall hangar can promote personality	4.83	.00
Prototype of oven mitten can promote personality	4.75	.00
Prototype of throw pillow can promote personality	5.00	.00
Prototype of potholder is generally accepted	5.00	.00
Prototype of water system toilet tank cover is generally accepted	5.00	.00
Prototype of wall hangar is generally accepted	5.00	.00
Prototype of oven mitten is generally accepted	5.00	.00
Prototype of throw pillow is generally accepted	5.00	.00

Discussion

The findings of the study show that judges identified the functional attributes of the produced household clothing articles (throw pillow, wall hangar, pot holder, oven mitten and water system toilet tank cover). This finding is in line with Alhassan et al., (2023) who noted that functional attributes are those that help meet the needs of the consumer such as length of products, types of fabrics, width of products, relationship between product and lining as well as products comfort and fit. In the same vein, Sarita and Yadav (2019) stated that household clothing articles should be designed in such a way that its length and width can be comfortable for activities and serve its purpose for decoration of self or the home and for covering of surfaces of objects. The authors added that a well-designed household clothing article can also be used to protect objects from scratch, dirt and dust and can be used in doing different household chores by household members. Shivendra and Parmar (2018) agreed that household clothing articles should be designed in such a way that it protects surfaces, add beauty and decorates. Gupta, (2011) advised that household clothing should match the motion, degree of freedom, range of motion and body movement in addition to being comfortable to the wearer. Cass (2011) stated that the functional capabilities in clothing design are of the most importance and that consumers still desire functionality when it comes to household clothing articles.

The aesthetic attributes examined also shows that the texture of fabric, rhythm, color harmony, lines placement, shapes arrangement and the general workmanship of the prototype products were satisfactory and generally accepted by judges. Alhassan et al., (2023) stated that the aesthetic attributes focused on the overall shape of a product including design, lines, texture, color, rhythm among others. In the same vein, Khan and Sahar (2019) reported that the aesthetic elements allow appealing and aesthetic designs to be created which makes

designs appealing to consumers.

The expressive attributes shows that the produced household clothing articles will promote social status, personality and gives satisfaction. Khan and Sahar (2019) noted that beautiful designs bring about the expressive attributes, as products that are aesthetically beautiful will promote the social status of the user, promote self-confidence, self-esteem personality and bring about satisfaction to the user.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings, the paper concludes that the production of household clothing articles using applique craft technique in Rivers State is paramount and that the household clothing articles produced using applique craft technique is an innovation suitable for the achievement of ideal and fine circle of relative's household articles for families. In the same vein, utilization of applique craft method to create unique designs of household clothing articles will result in innovation in production. Thus, growth in market for household clothing articles. This will bring about creative exploration and create room for a superb market for producers. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Applique craft techniques should be used in production of household clothing articles by entrepreneurs.
2. Innovative household clothing articles should be produced by entrepreneurs using applique craft technique based on its functional, aesthetic and expressive attributes.

Reference

Alhassan, H., Afi Appiah, N & Ankai, B. K (2023). Quality attributes: consumers evaluation of tailored clothing in Ghana. *Journal of Marketing Studies*, 6(1); 1 -24

Cass, A. (2011). Consumer self-monitoring materialism and involvement in fashion clothing. *Australian Marketing Journal*. 9(1): 46 -60

Gersak, J. (2018). Design of clothing manufacturing process. systematic approach to planning, scheduling and control. Wood Head Publishing Series in Textiles.

Gupta, D. (2011). Functional clothing-definition and classification. *Indian Journal of Fibers and Textile Research*. 36: 321 - 326

Khan, S & Sahar, N. (2019). (Pattiwork: A unique applique craft of Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. *Asian Journal of Home Science.* 14(1): 159 – 168

Kuleeva, L., T., Listovskaya, L., Saifullina., I & Ibragimova, A., (2021) *The art of craft in the interior.* E3S Web of Conferences, 274 01029 https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/20212740102

Lasisi, I. A., Akinyemi, D.S & Adetona, S. A. (2022). Appliqué as a traditional art form on afro-design: prospects for contemporary Nigeria textiles. *International Journal for Innovative Research in Multi-disciplinary field.* 8(5); 190 – 197

Loughram, M. (2019). *The Five Types of Craft*. https://www.liveabout.com/the-five-types-of-crafts-193034

Niedderer, K. & Townsend, K. (2024). Craft, innovation and creativity. *Craft Research*. 1 -9

USAID. (2006). Global market assessment forhandicrafts.http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf docs/pNADN210.pdf