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Exploration of the Integration of Transparent Bustier and Fabric Spiral as Aesthetic Elements in Couture Fashion

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Abstract

The development of couture fashion encourages designers to continuously explore construction techniques and textile manipulation to create garments with strong aesthetic value and distinctive visual characteristics. One of the innovations that can be applied is the combination of transparent bustier construction and three-dimensional fabric spiral manipulation. This study aimed to explore the application of a transparent bustier and fabric spiral as aesthetic elements in couture fashion and to evaluate the feasibility of the resulting garment. The research employed a practice-based research approach with descriptive quantitative and qualitative methods. Data were collected through direct observation during the creation process, semi-structured interviews with fashion practitioners, documentation, and product feasibility assessments conducted by three fashion experts consisting of a fashion lecturer, a couture practitioner, and a fashion designer. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data were analyzed through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results showed that the integration of a transparent bustier and three-dimensional organza fabric spiral successfully created a distinctive visual focal point and enhanced the artistic value of the couture garment. The feasibility assessment obtained a total score of 437 out of a maximum score of 450, resulting in a feasibility percentage of 97.11%, categorized as very feasible. The highest scores were achieved in the aspects of aesthetics and product uniqueness. Therefore, the exploration of transparent bustier and fabric spiral can be considered an innovative design approach that contributes to the development of couture fashion with high aesthetic quality and strong visual identity.

Keywords: couture fashion, transparent bustier, fabric spiral, fabric manipulation, aesthetic elements, feasibility assessment

INTRODUCTION

The fashion industry continues to evolve through innovations in design, construction, and textile manipulation, particularly in couture fashion, which emphasizes exclusivity, craftsmanship, and aesthetic value. Contemporary couture design no longer focuses solely on silhouette and decoration but also on the exploration of materials and structural elements that create distinctive visual identities. Therefore, designers are increasingly encouraged to develop innovative approaches that combine construction techniques with decorative textile manipulation to produce garments with strong artistic characteristics.

One of the key structural components in couture garments is the bustier. Traditionally, a bustier functions as a body-supporting structure that shapes the silhouette; however, recent developments have expanded its role into an aesthetic element that contributes significantly to the visual identity of a garment. Previous studies have shown that bustier construction can enhance both structural quality and aesthetic appearance in couture fashion (Atmaja &

Kusumastuti, 2026; Puteri & Mayasari, 2024). Alongside structural innovation, fabric manipulation techniques have become increasingly important in creating texture, dimension, and visual interest. Studies

by Burns (2022), Rohmat et al. (2025), and Haq and Qullub (2023) demonstrate that spiral fabric manipulation can generate dynamic visual effects and strengthen the artistic value of fashion products.

Aesthetic quality in fashion is influenced by the harmony of form, texture, proportion, and visual composition (Zou et al., 2022; Hoppe, 2022). In couture fashion, these elements are often achieved through the integration of structural construction and three-dimensional decorative details. Fabric spiral manipulation offers opportunities to create movement, rhythm, and dimensional depth, while transparent bustier construction provides a contemporary visual effect that highlights the body's silhouette without diminishing elegance.

Although previous studies have examined bustier construction and spiral fabric manipulation separately, research investigating the integration of transparent bustier construction with three-dimensional fabric spiral application as a unified aesthetic concept in couture fashion remains limited. Most studies focus either on bustier development as a structural component or on fabric spiral as a decorative embellishment. Consequently, there is still a lack of research exploring how these two elements can be combined to create a distinctive couture design with enhanced aesthetic value.

The novelty of this study lies in the integration of a transparent bustier and three-dimensional fabric spiral as the primary aesthetic elements of a couture garment. Unlike previous studies that treated spiral fabric as a supporting decoration, this research positions it as a dominant visual component that interacts directly with the transparent bustier to create a dynamic focal point and strengthen the garment's visual identity. This approach offers a new perspective on the application of textile manipulation in couture fashion.

Therefore, this study aims to explore the application of a transparent bustier and fabric spiral as aesthetic elements in couture fashion and to evaluate the feasibility of the resulting garment through observation, interviews, and expert assessment. The findings are expected to contribute to the development of innovative couture design approaches that integrate structural transparency and three-dimensional textile manipulation.

METHOD

This study employed a *practice-based research* approach with descriptive qualitative and quantitative methods to explore the application of a transparent bustier and fabric spiral as aesthetic elements in couture fashion. The research process consisted of design development, material exploration, garment construction, and product evaluation.

Data were collected through direct observation, semi-structured interviews, documentation, and product feasibility assessment. The feasibility test involved three fashion experts, including a fashion lecturer, a couture practitioner, and a fashion designer. The assessment instrument used a 5-point Likert scale covering six aspects: design, sizing, sewing technique, aesthetics, garment performance, and product uniqueness.

Qualitative data were analyzed through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including mean scores and feasibility percentages. Instrument validity was evaluated using Aiken's V, while reliability was measured using Cronbach's Alpha. The feasibility level of the developed couture garment was determined based on the percentage of the obtained score relative to the maximum possible score.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result of Transparent Bustier Exploration

The exploration process began with the development of a transparent bustier as the primary structural element of the couture garment. The bustier was constructed using semi-rigid tulle reinforced with boning to maintain stability while preserving transparency. Several fitting sessions were conducted to achieve an optimal balance between body contour formation, comfort, and visual aesthetics.

Table 1. Observation Results of Transparent Bustier Construction

Observation Aspect	Findings
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Pattern Accuracy	The pattern successfully followed body contours and produced a proportional silhouette.
Structural Stability	The bustier maintained its shape during fitting and movement.
Transparency Effect	The transparent tulle created a lightweight and elegant visual impression.
Body Support Function	The bustier effectively supported the upper body structure.
Comfort Level	The garment remained comfortable for movement and presentation.

The observations indicate that the transparent bustier functioned not only as a supporting structure but also as an aesthetic element that strengthened the visual identity of the couture garment.

Result of Fabric Spiral Exploration

The second exploration stage focused on fabric spiral manipulation using organza. The process involved cutting, shaping, pressing, and assembling fabric strips into spiral formations. Multiple prototypes were developed before determining the final configuration.

Table 2. Observation Results of Fabric Spiral Development

Observation Aspect	Findings
Shape Formation	Spiral structures maintained a consistent three-dimensional form.
Volume Quality	Organza produced sufficient volume without excessive weight.
Visual Rhythm	Spiral arrangements created movement and visual flow.
Structural Integration	Spiral elements integrated harmoniously with the bustier.
Aesthetic Impact	Spiral forms became the dominant visual focal point.

The final spiral composition generated a dynamic visual effect resembling a starburst phenomenon. This effect contributed significantly to the couture character of the garment.

Characteristics of the Developed Couture Garment

Table 3. Product Characteristics

Component	Description
Garment Type	Couture Evening Gown
Main Material	Satin, Organza, Tulle
Bustier Type	Transparent Structured Bustier
Decorative Technique	Fabric Spiral Manipulation
Supporting Decoration	Lace, Beads, Sequins
Silhouette	Fitted Upper Body with Extended Skirt
Design Emphasis	Three-Dimensional Spiral Structure
Visual Concept	Dynamic Luxury and Contemporary Couture

The resulting garment demonstrates a combination of transparency, dimensional structure, and decorative detailing that reinforces its couture identity.

Interview Findings

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a couture supervisor and a professional fashion designer.

Table 4. Interview Findings

Informant	Statement Summary
Couture Supervisor	The transparent bustier demonstrates excellent structural quality and couture craftsmanship.
Couture Supervisor	Fabric spiral successfully creates dimensional depth and visual interest.
Fashion Designer	The garment possesses a strong visual identity and originality.
Fashion Designer	The integration of transparency and spiral forms differentiates the design from conventional evening gowns.

These findings indicate that both experts perceived the garment as innovative and aesthetically

distinctive.

Expert Feasibility Assessment

Table 5. Expert Assessment Scores by Aspect

Aspect	Expert 1	Expert 2	Expert 3	Total
Design	24	25	24	73
Sizing	24	24	23	71
Sewing Technique	24	25	24	73
Aesthetics	25	25	24	74
Garment Performance	24	24	24	72
Product Uniqueness	25	24	25	74
Total	146	147	144	437

Table 6. Feasibility Percentage by Aspect

Aspect	Score	Maximum Score	Percentage	Category
Design	73	75	97.33%	Very Feasible
Sizing	71	75	94.67%	Very Feasible
Sewing Technique	73	75	97.33%	Very Feasible
Aesthetics	74	75	98.67%	Very Feasible
Garment Performance	72	75	96.00%	Very Feasible
Product Uniqueness	74	75	98.67%	Very Feasible
Total	437	450	97.11%	Very Feasible

The results indicate that the developed couture garment achieved an overall feasibility level of 97.11%, categorized as Very Feasible.

Descriptive Statistical Analysis

Table 7. Descriptive Statistics

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Design	3	24	25	24.33	0.58
Sizing	3	23	24	23.67	0.58
Sewing Technique	3	24	25	24.33	0.58
Aesthetics	3	24	25	24.67	0.58
Garment Performance	3	24	24	24.00	0.00
Product Uniqueness	3	24	25	24.67	0.58

Table 8. Overall Descriptive Statistics

Statistic	Value
Mean	4.86
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.35
Variance	0.12
Minimum Score	4
Maximum Score	5

The mean score of 4.86 indicates that the garment received an excellent evaluation across all assessment aspects.

Frequency Distribution Analysis

Table 9. Frequency Distribution of Expert Ratings

Score	Frequency	Percentage
5	77	85.56%
4	13	14.44%
Total	90	100%

The majority of evaluations (85.56%) were categorized as Excellent, indicating a highly positive

perception of the developed garment.

Instrument Validity and Reliability

Table 10. Aiken's V Validity Analysis

Aspect	Aiken's V
Design	0.96
Sizing	0.93
Sewing Technique	0.96
Aesthetics	0.98
Garment Performance	0.95
Product Uniqueness	0.98
Average	0.96

Table 11. Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Number of Items
0.942	30

The Aiken's V value of 0.96 indicates excellent content validity, while the Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.942 demonstrates very high reliability.

Discussion

The findings demonstrate that the integration of transparent bustier construction and three-dimensional fabric spiral manipulation successfully generated a couture garment with strong aesthetic quality and distinctive visual identity. The transparent bustier functioned effectively as both a structural and visual element, while the fabric spiral created a dominant focal point and enhanced dimensional richness.

The highest scores obtained in the aesthetics and product uniqueness aspects support the argument that innovative combinations of structural transparency and textile manipulation can significantly improve visual attractiveness in couture fashion. These findings are consistent with Burns (2022), who emphasized the importance of textile manipulation in creating innovative fashion aesthetics, as well as Rohmat et al. (2025), who highlighted the effectiveness of spiral fabric in enhancing visual appeal.

Furthermore, the interview findings revealed that the garment successfully balanced innovation, craftsmanship, and visual harmony. The high feasibility score, supported by strong validity and reliability values, indicates that the developed design approach has substantial potential for future couture fashion development.

CONCLUSION

The exploration of transparent bustier and fabric spiral successfully produced a couture garment with strong aesthetic value, innovative visual characteristics, and high technical quality. The transparent bustier contributed to the elegant and modern silhouette, while the fabric spiral served as a dominant focal point that enhanced visual dynamics and artistic expression.

The findings from observations and interviews revealed that the combination of transparent construction and spiral textile manipulation created a distinctive couture appearance without compromising structural stability. The expert feasibility assessment resulted in an overall score of 97.11%, categorized as very feasible. The highest evaluation was obtained in the aspects of aesthetics and product uniqueness, indicating that the garment successfully demonstrated innovation and originality.

Therefore, the exploration of transparent bustier and fabric spiral can be considered an effective design approach for developing couture fashion products that emphasize creativity, craftsmanship, and visual attractiveness.

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