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Exploring Tapestry Materials in Men's Denim Jacket Design

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Abstract

The fashion industry faces increasing pressure to adopt sustainable practices due to the growing volume of textile waste generated by fast fashion consumption. This study explores the application of tapestry materials as an innovative design element in men's denim jackets through an upcycling approach. The research aims to examine the aesthetic, functional, and sustainable potential of combining reclaimed denim with tapestry textiles in contemporary ready-to-wear menswear. A practice-based design research method was employed, including material exploration, concept development, design experimentation, and prototype creation. Tapestry materials were selected for their rich textures and distinctive patterns, while patchwork construction, fabric manipulation, and decorative stitching techniques were applied to integrate the materials into denim jacket designs. The results demonstrate that tapestry materials significantly enhance the visual appeal of denim jackets by creating unique focal points, increasing product value, and strengthening product individuality. Furthermore, the combination of recycled denim and tapestry textiles supports circular fashion principles by extending material life cycles and reducing textile waste. This study concludes that the integration of tapestry materials into denim jackets offers an innovative and sustainable design strategy that successfully combines environmental responsibility, functionality, and contemporary aesthetics in menswear.

Keywords: tapestry textile, denim jacket, sustainable fashion, upcycling, menswear

INTRODUCTION

The fashion industry continues to experience rapid growth, driven by increasing consumer demand and continuously evolving fashion trends. In Indonesia, the fashion sector has developed significantly through the emergence of young designers and fashion brands that combine traditional and contemporary design approaches. This development has intensified competition and encouraged designers to create innovative products that are both aesthetically appealing and environmentally responsible [1], [2].

Unlike conventional fashion products that primarily serve as body coverings, contemporary fashion has become a medium for self-expression, allowing individuals to communicate identity, lifestyle, emotions, and social values through clothing choices [3]. Consequently, designers are challenged to develop ready-to-wear products that not only satisfy functional requirements but also provide artistic value and distinctive visual characteristics for modern consumers [4].

One approach to achieving this objective is through textile surface design exploration. Among various textile techniques, tapestry offers unique textures, intricate woven patterns, and strong visual appeal that can enhance garment aesthetics. Beyond its decorative function, tapestry also has the potential to strengthen garment structures while increasing product exclusivity. Integrating tapestry with denim

provides opportunities to create innovative menswear designs while supporting sustainable fashion practices through material optimization and upcycling [5].

Previous studies have examined the application of alternative textile materials to improve the aesthetic quality of menswear. Research has shown that incorporating textured materials such as tapestry and knitted fabrics into denim garments creates richer visual dimensions and enhances product value. However, limited studies have specifically investigated the integration of tapestry materials into men's denim jacket designs from both aesthetic and functional perspectives.

Therefore, this study aims to explore the application of tapestry materials in men's denim jacket design through a practice-based experimental approach. The research focuses on analyzing the aesthetic, functional, and sustainable potential of combining reclaimed denim with tapestry textiles to produce innovative ready-to-wear menswear that reflects contemporary design while promoting environmentally responsible fashion.

METHOD

This study employed a practice-based research design using a quantitative descriptive approach to evaluate the feasibility of a men's denim jacket incorporating tapestry materials. The quantitative descriptive method was applied to systematically describe and assess the product development outcomes based on respondents' evaluations [6]. The research process consisted of four stages: material exploration, design development, product manufacturing, and product feasibility evaluation.

The primary material used in this study was reclaimed denim fabric, while Novus fabric and tapestry textiles served as supporting materials applied to selected parts of the jacket. Material exploration was conducted to examine the texture, pattern characteristics, and compatibility of these materials in producing an aesthetically appealing and functional menswear product. The design development stage included preparing design sketches, developing garment patterns, constructing the jacket prototype, and applying tapestry through patchwork and decorative stitching techniques.

Data were collected through direct observation and a product feasibility questionnaire. Observations were carried out throughout the material exploration and garment production processes to document material characteristics, construction techniques, and the implementation of tapestry elements in the jacket design. After the prototype was completed, a product feasibility assessment was conducted using questionnaires distributed to respondents with knowledge and experience in the fashion industry.

The respondents consisted of five individuals from the internship institution, including one fashion designer and four employees. A purposive sampling technique was employed to select respondents who met predetermined criteria and were considered capable of providing objective evaluations of the developed product.

The research instrument was a product feasibility questionnaire based on the Guttman scale, which provides two response options: "Yes" (score = 1) and "No" (score = 0) [7]. The assessment covered six aspects: design, size suitability, sewing quality, aesthetics, garment performance, and product uniqueness.

The collected data were analyzed using descriptive quantitative techniques. The total scores obtained from all respondents were converted into percentages to determine the feasibility level of the developed product. The percentage values were then interpreted to evaluate the overall quality and feasibility of the tapestry-based men's denim jacket.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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The feasibility of the men's denim jacket developed with tapestry materials was evaluated by five expert respondents. The assessment covered six aspects, namely design, size, sewing technique, aesthetics, garment performance, and product uniqueness, with each aspect rated on a maximum score of 30. The scores obtained from the respondents are presented in Table 1, while the descriptive statistics of each aspect are summarized in Table 2.

As presented in Table 1, the total score of each aspect was converted into a feasibility

percentage relative to the maximum score of 150. The design aspect obtained 94.66%, size suitability 92%, sewing technique 94.00%, aesthetics 94.66%, garment performance 100%, and product uniqueness 95.33%. Based on the feasibility percentage criteria, all aspects fall within the “very feasible” category, indicating that the developed jacket successfully met the standards of design quality, construction, comfort, functionality, and visual appeal.

Table 1. Respondent Scores of the Product Feasibility Assessment

Respondents	Design	Size Suitability	Sewing Quality	Aesthetics	Garment Performance	Product Uniqueness
1	27	28	29	28	30	28
2	28	29	28	29	30	28
3	28	27	25	27	30	29
4	29	27	29	28	30	29
5	30	27	30	30	30	29
Total	142	138	141	142	150	143
Mean	28.4	27.6	28.2	28.4	30	28.6
Percentage	94.66%	92%	94.00%	94.66%	100%	95.33%

The descriptive statistics in Table 2 reinforce the consistency of the respondents’ assessments. The mean scores ranged from 27.60 to 30.00 out of a maximum of 30, accompanied by relatively small standard deviations, which indicates a high level of agreement among respondents. The garment performance aspect recorded the highest mean with no variation among respondents, whereas the size aspect showed the lowest mean. Overall, these results demonstrate that the integration of tapestry materials into the men’s denim jacket produced a product that is highly feasible and well received across all evaluated aspects.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of the Feasibility Assessment

Aspect	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Design	5	27	30	28.40	1.140
Size Suitability	5	27	29	27.60	0.894
Sewing Quality	5	25	30	28.20	1.924
Aesthetics	5	27	30	28.40	1.140
Garment Performance	5	30	30	30.00	0.000
Product Uniqueness	5	28	29	28.60	0.548
Valid N (listwise)	5				

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the application of tapestry materials in men's denim jacket design successfully enhances the aesthetic value, product uniqueness, and functional quality of ready-to-wear menswear while supporting sustainable fashion practices. By integrating reclaimed denim with tapestry textiles through a practice-based design approach, the developed product demonstrates that material upcycling can produce garments with contemporary visual appeal and environmental value.

The product feasibility assessment showed excellent results across all evaluated aspects. Design and aesthetics each achieved a feasibility score of 94.66%, size suitability reached 92.00%, sewing quality obtained 94.00%, garment performance achieved 100%, and product uniqueness reached 95.33%. These findings indicate that the developed jacket fulfills the criteria of quality construction, comfort, functionality, and visual attractiveness, making it highly feasible for contemporary menswear production.

The findings contribute to the development of sustainable fashion by demonstrating the potential of tapestry textiles as an alternative material for innovative garment design. Future studies are recommended to involve a larger number of respondents, explore additional textile materials, and evaluate consumer acceptance to further support the development of sustainable and market-oriented fashion products.

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