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## PKM Exploration of Shibori Technique and Lontara Script Motifs on T-Shirts for Guidance Studio in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

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### Abstract

This community service activity aimed to introduce Indonesian cultural wealth in the form of Lontara script motifs and how to apply motifs to T-shirts using the shibori technique at the Guidance Studio, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The partner's problems include only recognizing batik motifs as one of Indonesia's cultural heritages, even though there are many other motifs that are the wealth of Indonesia such as the Lontara script motif. Therefore, the service team offered a solution to show and provided additional knowledge related to the Lontara Aksara motif on fabrics and clothing. The method of implementing this service used counseling and direct practice. The Kuala Lumpur Guidance Studio group was given material about the richness of Indonesian culture, one of which was the Lontara script motif and a demonstration of making Lontara script motifs on T-shirts using the shibori technique. This activity received a very good response from the participants and the local government. The service team introduced the richness of Indonesian culture in the form of script motifs that are created in innovative textile crafts.

**Keywords:** Community service, lontara script, shibori technique, indonesian culture, t-shirt

### Introduction

Indonesia is an archipelago consisting of cultural diversity stretching from Sabang to Merauke. One form of cultural diversity that exists in Indonesia is the existence of script in each region. Especially in the South Sulawesi region, a province located in the eastern part of Indonesia, is an area consisting of several tribes, including the Bugis-Makassar tribe. In the area we can also find a script commonly used by the Bugis-Makassar tribe, namely Lontara Script.

Lontara script is a traditional script typical of Bugis-Makassar. Lontara script has a very important role in the life of the Bugis- Makassar community because it contains high cultural values and is important as a guide to community life (Daniswari, 2022). The use of Lontara script is actively used in community life as traditional and literary writing in the South Sulawesi area. Besides being used in a number of manuscripts, Lontara script can also be found on road signs in the Makassar area. Along with the times and cultural diversity, Lontara script can now be found on fabrics that are commonly known as Lontara script motifs.

Along with the times and technological developments, new thought processes and ideas emerge and are applied in various industries, such as fashion and textiles (Puspa Nur Ayda, 2020). One form of idea that can be applied is by giving motifs to textiles so that it can create a new trend in fashion. Making Lontara script motifs on a fabric can be applied and used as a fashion trend. The addition of motifs to a fabric can add to the beauty and distinctiveness of an outfit.

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The Lontara script motif itself has been widely found and known by the Indonesian people, but in the Kuala Lumpur Guidance Studio group, the Lontara script motif on clothing is something new that they have encountered. So far, only batik motifs are known, so there needs to be an introduction and additional knowledge related to other motifs that can be applied to fabrics or clothing, one of which is the Lontara script motif.

In this activity, the service team introduces and provides knowledge related to the application of Lontara script motifs on T-shirts by combining shibori techniques. Shibori technique is a technique of decorating fabrics by applying certain patterns by tying, sewing, folding, the fabric is then dipped in dye (Kurniati & Irmayanti, 2023). Shibori is a Japanese textile processing art. The meaning of "Shiboru" comes from the word "Shiboru" which means squeezing, pinching, pressing, binding and twisting. The activity performed in shibori is a technique of processing fabric before it is usually dyed. Shibori belongs to the group of traditional textiles, and its coloring is known as resist and shape-resist dyeing which is commonly referred to as tie-dye (Juniati & Yuwanto, 2018). In Indonesia itself, Shibori is commonly called jumputan although the technique is still done in quite simple ways. Unlike textile fabrics sold in fabric stores in general, Shibori has its own special features in the form of unexpected color elements and motifs from the dyeing process (Suantara et al., 2017). This shibori technique has been implemented or applied by fabric craftsmen in Indonesia such as in scraft products, clothing, household linen and others. In this PKM, T-shirt clothing will be used as a container for the application of the shibori technique and Lontara script motifs because T-shirt clothing is clothing that is often used in everyday life, so it is hoped that the application of Lontara script motifs in T-shirt clothing will be better able to introduce Indonesian culture to the world, especially the culture of the people of South Sulawesi which is very distinctive with the Lontara script motif.

## Methods

This Community Service (PKM) was carried out in Malaysia. The strategic target of this service activity is the Kuala Lumpur Guidance Studio group. The service team began the activity by collecting some information related to the partner group's knowledge of Indonesian culture, especially knowledge of Lontara script motifs in clothing. The information was then used as the basis for providing materials and practices needed by the training participants. In the implementation of the tutorial, the service team briefed the partner group and practiced directly on how to make Lontara script motifs on fabrics using the shibori technique. The tutorial was demonstrated in stages accompanied by direct practice by the partners. At the end of the activity, the partners were shown the final result of making Lontara script motifs on T-shirts using the shibori technique.

## Implementation and Results of Activities

This training activity on the exploration of shibori techniques and Lontara script motifs on t-shirts is a tridarma of higher education activity in the form of community service carried out by lecturers from the Department of Family Welfare Education, Makassar State University. International community service carried out at Guidance Studio, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, aims to introduce Indonesian cultural wealth in the form of Lontara script motifs in clothing to the Kuala Lumpur Guidance Studio Group and provide education on how to apply Lontara script motifs to T-shirts using the shibori technique. The service team hopes that this training can be a provision for participants to increase knowledge and skills about the shibori technique combined with script motifs which are traditional scripts typical of Bugis-Makassar and can be shared with others such as relatives, neighbors, and other mothers who are not members of this training.

This training was attended by housewives at the Guidance Center, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This series of activities began with the introduction of Indonesian cultural

wealth in the form of Lontara script motifs on clothing. Regional script is one of the national assets that needs to be maintained and developed. Lontara script is a script that still exists in the southern part of Sulawesi, and is still used in social life, although its intensity is decreasing. The term Lontara has two meanings, namely as a history and science and the second meaning is as writing (script). In this case the Lontara script is Bugis script and Makassar script, although initially there was a separation between the two, namely there were groups that named Bugis script and others named Makassar script, but in the end it was agreed to be one term, namely Lontara script (Abd. Aziz Ahmad, 2014).

The activity continued with an introduction to how to make Lontara script motifs on T-shirts using the shibori technique. Shibori is a fabric dyeing technique that includes stitching, tying, winding, pinning and wrapping. The basic Shibori technique is drawing on the fabric, and tightly tying knots using thread. After that, the fabric is dyed with one or many colors. The fabric is dyed several times based on the color used and the motif created (Suantara et al., 2017). The method of delivering training materials adjusts to the objectives to be achieved, such as increasing knowledge, skills, and shaping attitudes is a training implementation strategy. The service team's explanation of the shibori technique is very easy to master by the trainee mothers with tools that are easily available in stores.

Next, the instructor explained the tools and materials as well as the stages in making Lontara script motifs on T-shirts using the shibori technique. At this stage. Participants were shown and introduced to the functions of the tools and materials to be used. Then practice directly on how to make Lontara script motifs on fabric using the shibori technique. Participants were very enthusiastic about this activity as seen from the reciprocity in the form of questions and the alertness of the community during the demonstration process.



Figure 1. Folding the T-Shirt before Tying and Coloring.

The steps in making Lontara Aksara motifs on T-shirts using the shibori technique begin with (1) Preparing the tools and materials to be used, (2) Folding or tying the fabric according to the chosen motif, (3) Wet the fold with water glass to bind the dye so that the dye does not fade easily, (4) Mix water with dye according to size, Dip the folds that have been given water glass, (5) Wrap the cloth that has been given color using plastic for approximately 5 hours, (6) After the dye has soaked perfectly into the fabric fibers that have been tied, open all the ties, (7) Wash the cloth with water until the color of the water changes to clear and clean, (8) Dry the cloth in the sun and wait until it dries, and (9) Sterika the cloth to make it look beautiful. Tutorials are demonstrated in stages accompanied by direct practice by the partners. At the end of the activity, the partners will be shown the final result of making Lontara script motifs on T-shirts using the shibori technique.



Figure 1. Demonstration of Making Lontara Script Motifs on T-Shirts with Shibori Techniq.

This training activity using the shibori technique provides many immediate and long-term benefits for participants. In this training activity, participants listened to the material delivered orally, along with written materials distributed at the beginning of the activity. The participants were also very enthusiastic about the training, as seen from their enthusiastic attitude towards each material presented. The participants asked many questions about the content of the training, and their enthusiasm was evident. 80% of the participants asked various types of questions during the training. After completing this training activity, it is expected that the participants will be interested in applying it in their respective living environments to improve their skills and in the long run to improve the community's economy.



Figure 3. Enthusiastic Participants Following the Training on Making Lontara Script Motif T-Shirt Products with Shibori Technique.



Figure 4. Lontara Script Motif T-Shirt Product with Shibori Technique.

This community service program at Guidance Studio, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is expected to be able to introduce Indonesian cultural wealth in the form of script motifs. The application of script in industrial innovation makes the interest of connoisseurs and the public realize the diversity of culture. The diverse culture of the archipelago's script makes it rich in aesthetic value. Aesthetic value to be explored and created into modern industrial lettering innovations (Arifin, 2019). This activity aims to bring this latest technique to the community, providing opportunities for community members to learn, create, and appreciate innovative textile craft art.

## Conclusion

The implementation of the Community Partnership Program (PKM) Exploration of Shibori Technique and Lontara Script Motifs on T-Shirts for housewives in Guidance Studio, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia received a very good response from the participants and the local government. The service team introduced the richness of Indonesian culture in the form of script motifs created in innovative textile crafts.

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