

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE USE OF PINEAPPLE LEAF FIBRES AS AN
ALTERNATIVE YARN FOR SONGKET MOTIVES.**

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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

Songket has its own aesthetic values. It depends on the materials used to make it. Among the most common materials are cotton threads, pineapple, banana, gold and silver. Once, people usually use *songket* that was made from cotton, pineapple, and banana, while those that are made from gold and silver thread are for royalties and aristocrats. This research was done to study the advantages of the pineapple fibre that can be made into thread and replaced the gold and silver thread in weaving. This research is also done to identify the suitable tools and materials to be used in ripping pineapple leaves to extract the fibre. Apart from that, it is done to identify the differences between natural coloured thread and chemical coloured one. Instruments that have been used in this study are interviews and observations. This interview was carried out by 3 respondents. All the data given based on the processes and the artwork. This is an experimental research using qualitative methods. The result of this study shows that pineapple fibre thread is very suitable to be used as motives in *songket* and can replace the gold or silver thread.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Creating and producing textile considered as one of the creative Malay's inheritance that has been passed down for generations. The idea and motive of the textiles that exist in Malaysia have similarities with some other places within the Southeast Asia region (Rodgers,1985 and Arney,1987). Textile production is also said to be linked to an area that was situated at Segenting Kra, Thailand. According to Wheatley (1961), it is an ancient kingdom known as Langkasuka which existed since the very first century. The importance and usage of textile as trading commodity is described by Shellabear (1977). Shellabear states that Malay Sultan(s) imported fabrics from India that are satisfactory. At the same time, European traders also brought fabrics from India to be traded with spices (Irwan and Hall, 1971). Dames (1921) explained that the *sarung* has been used by the Malay people for various purposes such as bathing clothes, cradles, headgear and night outfit. Gittinger (1979) stated that the one in South East Asia is called *kain petak*. The one that is known as *kain pelikat* have some similarities with the one from India. However, *kain petak* that was produced by Malay people is different from Indian *kain pelikat* especially in term of their pattern. At the end of 19th century, Malay Archipelago was introduced to sewing machines from Europe. This changed the traditional crafting industry.