

# **LOCAL SURIN SILVER BEAD HANDICRAFT: A ROOTED CULTURE OR ONLY A NEW COMING FASHION?**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The local handicraft is usually an interesting object reflecting local culture and society. Many local handicraft might have long history and related to rooted culture. However, some might be new things coming to the community. Here, the author discussed on Local Surin Silver bead handicraft namely "Pa-keum". The main argument is whether this object is relating to rooted culture or only a new coming fashion. The author proposes that it should be a new fashion and missed interpreted by several experts in the local area.

**KEYWORDS:** Silver Bead, Culture, Fashion.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The local handicraft is usually an interesting object reflecting local culture and society. Many local handicraft might have long history and related to rooted culture. However, some might be new things coming to the community. Here, the author discussed on Local Surin Silver bead handicraft namely "Pa-keum (ปะเกียม)". In Surin, a rural province in Thailand locate about 400 km from capital in northeastern region, Bangkok, the silver beam is a present famous local handicraft. Many tourists who visit Surin province go to the silver bead shop and buy the silive bead product. Due to the sharing border with Cambodia, the local culture in Surin province usually shares the common aspects with Cambodian culture. The main argument is whether this object is relating to rooted culture or only a new coming fashion. The author proposes that it should be a new fashion and missed interpreted by several experts in the local area.

## **CLAIMS BY SOME LOCAL EXPERTS THAT THE SILVER BEAD IS ORIGINATED FROM ANCIENT CAMBODIAN ROOTED CULTURE**

Many local experts who fix with the nationalism idea usually present that silver bead is an object reflecting the local wisdom with rooted culture and belief originated from ancient Cambodia or Khmer.

The main references are usually the design style of the local silver bead object and the oral telling story by local elderly handicraft maker, who is usually promoted as a "local teacher".

The "local teacher" usually mentions that the silver bead has its root from Cambodian palace in Phnom Penh for many hundred years. The local experts usually mention and claim for triangulation check to verify and support that silver bead is originated from ancient Cambodia.

## **SILIVER BEAD, IS IT A NEW COMING FASHION TO SURIN PROVINCE**

There are many interesting evidences that are discordant with the proposal of local experts who fix idea with nationalism. First, the subjective telling from local teacher might not be reliable and is not confirmed by triangulation check. The Cambodia palace in Phnom Penh is not very old. The exact old palace is at Ankor and the telling of the local teacher referring to Phnom Penh is not reliable. Second, based on the local old sculpture, textile and picture in museum, there has never been any evidence of local Surin people wearing silver bead. The Camdodian people presently not wear silver bead in daily life as well. In addition, Surin province has just been set for less than 2 hundred years. In addition, the old rooted handicraft should be based on the local available material such as local plant [1]. Theoretically, "ethnic differences in use values" must be observed with relationship to local contexts and evidences [2]. However, silver has never been found in Surin province or nearby area. Therefore, the claim that the silver bead is a rooted culture for a long time does not sound.

In fact, the bead wearing is a culture from India which has been implemented in other part of Thailand and might affect the idea of the new settle people in Surin province. In addition, the silver bead might be only a new fashion to correspond the need of the tourist who has just visit to Surin province for few decades. The handicraft of silver bead has been seen in the

record for a few years. The way to product some objects that attract the tourist and can be sold is simple explained by the concept of "handicraft-making contribute to household survival [3]." It is likely that the silver bead is a new fashion without any rooted history or relationship to ancient Cambodian culture.

## **CONCLUSION**

Surin silver bead handicraft is a good example of a local handicraft product that is produced aiming at local business for tourist and is a "fashion" but should not have very old rooted culture and might not relate to ancient Cambodian culture. Attempt to explain that the silver bead has long history can reflect the nationalism idea of some local experts.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** None

## **REFERENCES**

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