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Evaluation of Drape of Lined Two-Piece Set-in Sleeves on Tailored Jackets

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ABSTRACT: *The paper aimed to evaluate the drape of two-piece set-in sleeves of fully lined jackets developed and produced by level 300 Home Economics Education students in the University of Education Winneba. The study was conducted using fifty (50) respondents conveniently sampled from two hundred and seventy-one (271) level 300 students. Observation guide (assessment form) was used to collect data from the respondents. It was discovered from the result of the study that the mean of mean scores for the fit characteristic of the two-piece sleeve was 2.70 which is quite high. It is recommended that the findings be made available to all lecturers and students in the Department of Integrated Home Economics Education to serve as a guide to help improve on the performance of Level 300 students offering Clothing Technology 1 in subsequent years. It should also be made accessible to other educational institutions offering Clothing and Textiles.*

KEY WORDS: Two-Piece Set-in Sleeves, Tailored Jackets, fit, drape

INTRODUCTION

Sleeve is the part of a garment that covers the arm, or through which the arm passes or slips. The pattern of the sleeve is one of the characteristics of fashion, varying in every country and era. *Jacobs (2020*) explains that sleeves are an important feature of fashion design and garment making that have both aesthetic and practical functions and their designs can be created in any fabric and any style and they are a crucial element of a garment's look and silhouette. Sleeves are both functional and design elements of a garment. As functional elements, sleeves must allow for freedom of movement and comfort and must enhance the overall purpose of the garment. As design elements, sleeves should complement the bodice to which they are attached. The paper specifically assessed the drape and the quality of fit attained on two-piece set-in sleeves on tailored jackets designed and produced by level 300 Integrated Home Economics Education students. The main purpose of the study is to evaluate the quality of drape attain by level 300 students of the Integrated Home Economics Education of the University of Education, Winneba to proffer strategies for improvement

Level 300 Integrated Home Economics Education students were tasked to design and produce a well-fitted lined tailored jacket with a two-piece set-in sleeve as a garment project under the supervision of the researcher for a first semester course "*Clothing Technology 1".* The students drafted both the jacket and the two-piece sleeves following instructions from the *"Metric Pattern Cutting for Women's Wear"* by *Winifred Aldrich* to fit their individual sizes. A *toile* was made from the drafted pattern pieces using a relatively cheaper medium-weight cotton fabric before the construction of the main jacket using a medium weight wool suiting fabric. Evaluation of the toile revealed that some of the students' sleeves

puckered at the crown, the seam lines of the two-piece sleeves were noticeable when the jackets were worn, some sleeves after lining did not fit the wearers, and also some sleeves were twisted after lining and so the entire two piece sleeve did not meet the fit characteristics expected of a lined set-in two-piece sleeve. It is against this backdrop that the researcher sought to find out how the students' two-piece sleeves on their main tailored jackets will drape, and to check the quality of fit attained.

Baker (2007) identifies three basic types of sleeves as set-in, raglan and kimono sleeves. A set-in sleeve is a separate, precisely shaped piece of fabric which joins the garment in a seam that encircles the arm over the shoulder. The raglan sleeve is a separate, precisely shaped piece of fabric which joins the bodice in a diagonal seam extending to the neckline area whereas the kimono sleeve is a sleeve that is cut as one with the garment (front and back bodice) or as a part of it, such as a yoke. Amongst the three, Baker contends that the one-piece set-in sleeve is the most popular of the three sleeve types. In support, Thread Magazine (2015; 2016) argues that set-in sleeves are the most traditional and common type of sleeves. Bithell (2021) also upholds that set-in sleeve style gives a more professional, formal look than raglan and kimono sleeves.

The set-in sleeve can be one-piece or a two-piece. In the view of Adams (2021), the two-piece sleeve is a sleeve fashioned from two pieces of fabric instead of the more traditional approach that employs only one piece. The purpose of this type of sleeve is to allow for a greater range of bending motion at the elbow. Often the two-piece sleeve is chosen when a more tailored appearance is desired (Adams, 2021). Consequently, Baker (2007) further cautions that special care should be given to layout, cutting and marking of the set-in sleeve as in all garment construction since slight deviation from the proper grain alignment can result in a poorly fitting sleeve, regardless of the technique used in applying the sleeve to the armhole. Thus, accuracy in cutting and transferring of all pattern markings is important since the symbols and notches are the only guides for properly easing the sleeve into a comfortable, well-proportioned position in the garment.

Sleeves have a tendency to wrinkle, specifically at the elbow area (Adams, 2021). However, the two-piece sleeve offers less wrinkling than the one-piece sleeve. The reason being that by using two pieces of fabric, a slight L-shape is created, similar to the bend of the elbow and mimicking the way an arm is naturally held. The two-piece sleeve has seams which appear at both the front and the back of the arm (Bunker, 2011). The under section of the sleeve will actually be a bit smaller than the upper part of the sleeve, this will make the seam appear less noticeable on the finished garment. The seams of the two-piece sleeve also fall slightly off the centre from the front and back of the arm. With the seams falling in the offset places, they are then less apparent when the sleeve is worn. This strategic placement of the seams, allows for greater range of motion. Baker (2007) argues that proper ease distribution is a must for a well-made, comfortable set-in sleeve. If the sleeve is not correctly set into the armscye (armhole), the sleeve will be uncomfortable and the sleeve area unsightly.

Meanwhile, Adams (2021) hints that the designs for jackets tend to use the two-piece technique even more so than shirts and blouses. This is because jackets necessitate even greater motion, as another garment is usually worn underneath them. Whatever the type of long-sleeved clothing worn, the two-piece sleeve offers the wearer a graceful, tailored fit (Adams, 2021). It further provides a more refined shape than a one-piece sleeve. The extra seam at the back is an added shaping opportunity, as it offers twice as many seams to adjust for a better fit.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a mixed method approach which used a descriptive research design. Stangor and Walinga (2014) point out that descriptive research design creates a snapshot of the current state of affairs, it provides a relatively complete picture of what is occurring at a given time and allows the development of questions for further study. Descriptive research is more towards collecting data and trying to find out some insight out of that data using statistical analysis (Jena, 2020). Descriptive research uses both qualitative and quantitative methodologies for data collection (Upen, 2018).

The study looked at the drape of fully lined two-piece set-in sleeves on tailored jackets produced by L300 Home Economics Education students. Accordingly, the descriptive design was deemed appropriate, and used to accomplish the objective of this study. The target population for the study was all Level 300 Home Economics Education students (female; 261, male; 10) who studied '*Clothing Technology 1'* as a first semester course in 2021Convenience sampling technique was employed to arrive at a sample size of fifty (50). Convenience sampling is a non-probability sampling technique which relies on data collection from population members who are conveniently available to participate in the study (Dudovskiy, 2018). Fifty (50) respondents were selected based on Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2000) submission that a sample size of thirty is a minimum number if researchers plan to perform statistical computation with the data.The first fifty (50) respondents who happen to submit their works on the day of assessment were selected to be part of the study. They wore their jackets and their two-piece sleeves were assessed, using fit characteristics of a set-in sleeve and two-piece sleeve adapted from Baker (2007) and Association of Sewing and Design Professionals (2008).

RESULTS

Table 1. Evaluation of fit characteristics of a set-in sleeve

Fit Characteristics of a Set-in sleeve	H(3) Freq.	A(2) Freq.	L (1) Freq.	Mean	SD
1. Sleeve is matched to the bodice armscye at the high point of the sleeve to the shoulder line of the bodice	43 (129)	7 (14)	0 (0)	2.86	0.35
2. Right sleeve is inserted into the right and the left sleeve into the left arm scye for correct fit and hang of the sleeve	45 (135)	0 (0)	5 (5)	2.80	0.60
3. Smooth, rounded cap with no pleats or gathers	32 (96)	14(28)	4 (4)	2.56	0.64
4. A slight amount of ease in underarm area; greatest amount of ease in cap of sleeve is at back and front. No ease at shoulder line at the top of sleeve cap	36 (108)	10 (20)	4 (4)	2.64	0.63
5. Good armhole line resulting from straight, even stitching and well-matched seams.	34 (102)	9 (18)	7 (7)	2.54	0.73
6. No diagonal wrinkles	39 (117)	11 (22)	0 (0)	2.78	0.41
7. Excess bulk in seam has been removed prior to finishing seam	35 (105)	10 (20)	5 (5)	2.60	0.67
8. The two seam lines appear less noticeable on the finished garment	38 (114)	10 (20)	2 (2)	2.72	0.53
9. Sleeve lining does not pull or twist the sleeve when worn	42 (126)	8 (16)	0 (0)	2.84	0.37
10. Lining does not appear on the edges of the sleeves on the right side.	40 (120)	7 (14)	3 (3)	2.74	0.56
Grand mean				**2.70**	

Key: High (H) =3; Average (AV) =2; Low (L) = 1

DISCUSSION

Table 1 present data on the fit characteristics of a set-in sleeve on a jacket produced by level 300 students of the Home Economics Education Department of UEW. Majority (86%) of the respondents matched their sleeves to the bodice armscye at the high point of the sleeve to the shoulder line of the bodice, therefore, their matching was rated high (3). Also 14% were graded average (2) for the same item, with a mean score of 2.86 (SD=0.35) which is interpreted as quite high. Again, majority (90%) of the respondents' sleeves were inserted correctly; right sleeve was inserted into the right and the left sleeve into the left arm scye for correct fit and hang of the sleeve, hence were ranked high (3). Only

10% were placed low (1) because they interchanged the position of the right and left sleeves. This variable had a mean score of 2.80 (SD=0.60) which is also interpreted as quite high. Some (64%) respondents' sleeves were appraised high (3) for their cap of the sleeves appear smooth and rounded with no pleats or gathers. Moreover 28% were ranked average (2) and 8% were regarded low (1) for the same item. The mean score was 2.56 (SD=0.64) which is interpreted as quite high.

There was a slight amount of ease in underarm area; greatest amount of ease in cap of sleeve is at back and front and no ease at shoulder line at the top of sleeve cap of 72% of the respondents' sleeves and so were assessed as high (3). However, 20% and 8% of the respondents scored average (3) and low (1) respectively for the same variable. The mean score was 2.64 (SD=0.63) which is also interpreted as quite high. It was also observed that 68% of the respondents' sleeves had a good armhole line resulting from straight, even stitching and well-matched seams and were evaluated as high (3). Moreover 18% were rated average (2) and 14% ranked low (1) for the same item. The mean score was 2.54 (SD=0.73) which is also quite high. Additionally, 78% of the respondents' sleeves showed no diagonal wrinkles and were ranked as high (3) while 22% were rated average for the same variable with a mean score of 2.78 (SD=0.41) and which is interpreted as quite high.

It was detected that 70% of the respondents' sleeves seams joining the under sleeves to the upper sleeves, and seams joining the crown of the sleeves to the armholes were not bulky meaning excess bulk in seam were removed prior to finishing seams and were therefore graded high (3). Likewise 20% and 10% were rated average (2) and low (1) respectively for the same item. The mean score was 2.60 (SD=0.67) which is interpreted as quite high. On the other hand, 76% of the respondents seams joining the under sleeves to the upper sleeves appeared less noticeable on the finished garment and were rated high (3). Similarly 20% and 4% were graded average (2) and low (1) respectively for the same variable with a mean score of 2.72 (SD=0.53) which is also quite high. Majority (84%) of the respondents' sleeve lining does not pull or twist the sleeve when worn and as a result they were evaluated as high (3). Besides, 16% were ranked as average (2) with a mean score of 2.84 (SD=0.37) which is quite high as well. Majority (80%) of the respondents' linings did not show on the edges of their sleeves on the right side and so were rated high (3) but 14% and 6% of the respondents were rated average (2) and low (1) for the same item respectively with a mean score of 2.74 (SD=0.56). The mean of means score for fit characteristics of a set-in sleeve is 2.70 which is quite high.

Implications to Research and Practice

Findings from the study could be beneficial to both lecturers and students in all institutions offering Clothing and Textiles to adopt the right fit characteristics of a well-made two-piece sleeves and eventually contribute to the quality of jackets they may produce

CONCLUSION

The mean of mean score for fit characteristics of a set-in sleeve was 2.70 which is quite high.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, it is suggested that the findings be made available to all lecturers and students in the Department of Integrated Home Economics Education to serve as a guide to improve level 300 students' performance in jacket making in subsequent years. It should also be made accessible to other educational institutions responsible for training students in Clothing and Textiles to serve as a guide in making a two-piece sleeve.

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