

## **HERITAGE REVIVAL BY THE USE OF SAUDI BEDOUIN TEXTILES IN THE GULF MANTLE**

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**ABSTRACT:** *The present study aimed to revive heritage by using Saudi Bedouin weaving in the Gulf mantle. To achieve this aim, a questionnaire was developed to measure the product aesthetic, functional, and design aspects. Furthermore, the present study adopted the experimental approach to explore the relationship between the use of Saudi Bedouin weaving and heritage revival by enriching the aesthetics of the Gulf mantles via the production of samples of Gulf mantles grafted with Saudi Bedouin weaving. Findings showed that implemented products could achieve a degree of agreement and success in light of specialists' evaluation means of Saudi Bedouin weaving enrichment extents for the aesthetic aspect, designed mantles fitness for the functional aspect, and the design integration and symmetry with the Gulf mantle. Findings also revealed no statistically significant differences ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) among the means of evaluation aspects in light of specialists evaluation for the whole evaluation aspects.*

**KEYWORDS:** Heritage Revival, Saudi Bedouin Textiles, Gulf Mantle, Design Aspects, Functional Aspects, Aesthetic Aspects

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Activities, professions, and vocations of residents in the Arabian Peninsula have been varied according to its environments diversity. One of these vocations that was popular among Bedouin communities in the Arabian Peninsula was textile industry, because of its importance in their daily lives. Industry of handmade textile was associated with the conditions of desert environment. The availability of necessary raw materials such as the wool of sheep and hair of goats and camels gave hand to such industry. Their use exceeded the industry of homes and clothing to ornament and decorative units with bright colors that Bedouin woman inspired from environment while performing textile industry. Besides, they fulfilled the basic needs of residents for long times. Along with the enormous economic mutation because of oil discovery in Saudi Arabia that was accompanied by changes in Saudi society that almost led to many aspects of heritage aspects such as crafts in general and specifically Bedouin textile industry were in danger of extinction. So the goal of the present study was to try to keep such authentic heritage through using it in the Gulf mantle in a way that fits lines of modern fashion.

### **Theoretical framework**

Due to the rapid and successive change through which Arab societies go that has caused a change in many of our inherited traditional ways, we find that precious monuments of our heritage if not extinct are threatened by extinction and disappearing. It should be clear that there is no discrepancy between moving along with and adaptation to modern era innovations, on one hand and the preservation of the heritage of old society.

Clothing is of the arts that reflect an image of life in any community including its characteristics and features. In this image, community activities are clearly seen in all aspects as affected by various environmental elements, (Lobbad, 2008).

Archeologists were interested in the history of their ancestors regarding all aspects of their lives including clothing, which is part of man's heritage who existed on this earth. Textile or clothing industry was one of the oldest industries known to mankind who was motivated by his need to such industry, (Al- Samak, 1435).

Wool knitting wool is one of our heritage landmarks, which is subjected to vanish because of the rapid development. The comfort provided by wool clothes is reflected in the policies of clothing industry that has been giving much interest to psychological and physical comfort. This is certainly is clear in consumers vision at markets, (Broega & Silva, 2012). Fabric weight also plays an important role in determining the fabric aesthetic properties and allows body organs to move freely without any constraints or stress such as hands movement when wearing a piece of clothing made of wool, (Mohammed & Ghalib, 2014:318). It is true that durability of wool hair textile may be less than the required, but there are other properties that may offset this weakness of hairs such as high elongation and ability to moduli which give a high degree of performance and aesthetic efficiency when used with clothing, (Hassan, n.d). Traditional handmade weaving craft is an important part of the physical culture of human societies. It still constitutes a rich traditional and cultural heritage that is cherished by everyone, (Ahmed, 2007). Furthermore, handmade weaving craft played an important role in the life of Bedouin communities in Saudi Arabia. It is appropriate for the desert environment conditions because of grazing and in the same time the availability of raw materials used in textile, such as house industry and ornaments, (Hinnawi, 2007). Bedouin art of weaving is one of the traditional folk industries practiced by our ancestors in the past. It relies on local materials and the skill of the weaver, (Humaidan, 2008.37). Craft activities and more specifically those related to Saudi Bedouin weaving products spread out because of the availability of local raw materials in a certain area, (General Authority for Tourism and National Heritage, 2015). Traditional decorations are also authentic art that needs more study and analysis for many aspects that are vague and threatened by extinction such as decorations of handmade weaving, (Al-Zahrani, 2014). Hence, the researcher of the present study tries to conduct an experimental study that aims to conserve an aspects of such an authentic heritage through the use of Saudi Bedouin textile in the enrichment of Gulf mantle aesthetics.

### **Aims of the study**

The study aims to:

- Detect the aesthetic elements in Saudi Bedouin textile.
- Employ textile decorative units in enriching the aesthetics of Gulf mantle.
- Add findings of the present study to clothing and textile courses.
- Maintain the survival and continuity of Saudi Bedouin textile as a heritage by using it in innovative and modern forms.
- Find new design solutions to beautify clothes by using Saudi Bedouin clothes textile.

## **Importance of the study**

The study is important because it:

- may contribute to the benefit of the aesthetic elements in Saudi Bedouin textile, and
- Emphasizes the importance of benefiting from Saudi Bedouin textile to enrich the aesthetics of Gulf mantle.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Study approach**

The present study followed the experimental approach to explore the relationship between the use of Saudi Bedouin textile, on one hand and heritage revival by enriching the aesthetics of Gulf mantle, on the other hand. To do so, samples of Gulf mantle that is decorated by Saudi Bedouin textile would be produced.

### **Study instrument**

A questionnaire to measure the product aesthetic, functional, and design aspects was developed.

### **Study hypotheses**

The present study aims to check these hypotheses:

- Implemented products achieve the degree of acceptance and success in light of specialists' evaluation means to the extent to which Saudi Bedouin textile enriches the aesthetic aspect of Gulf mantle (the first aspect of evaluation).
- Implemented products achieve the degree of acceptance and success in light of specialists' evaluation means to the extent to which designed mantles fit the functional aspect (the second aspect of evaluation).
- Implemented products achieve degree of acceptance and success in light of specialists' evaluation means of the designed mantles' coherence, symmetry, and integratuion, (the third aspect of evaluation)
- Implemented products achieve degree of acceptance and success in light of specialists' evaluation means for all aspects of the designed mantles.
- There is a statistically significant difference ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) among the three evaluated aspects in accordance to evaluators' means.

### **Procedures of the study**

#### **Study instrument**

A questionnaire to explore the relationship between the use of Saudi Bedouin textile and heritage revival by enriching the aesthetics of Gulf mantle was prepared through the production of mantle samples that were grafted by Saudi Bedouin textile. Three main aspects

were the content of the questionnaire's final version. Then it was presented to a set of arbitrators in the field of home economy to check its validity through procedural wording of all aspects, items, clarity, and measurement of aesthetic, functional and design aspects. Questionnaire reliability was also calculated via multiplicity of the viewers of one products and then the agreement coefficient of their estimations via Cooper formula as below:

$$\text{Agreement rate} = \frac{\text{Number of questionnaire item that are agreed on}}{\text{Number of items that are agreed on} + \text{number of item disagree on}} \times 100\%$$

Two colleagues at the department of Home Economics gave hand. The questionnaire was presented to them to check its content and use instructions and then evaluate the aesthetic, functional, and design aspects of three products. After that, agreement coefficient of the three evaluators for each product were calculated. Table (1) shows the agreement coefficient of evaluators for the three products.

**Table.1 Agreement coefficient of evaluators for the three products**

Agreement coefficient on the first product	Agreement coefficient on the second product	Agreement coefficient on the third product	Mean of agreement coefficients on the three products
88%	83%	82%	84.33%

Table (1) shows that the mean of the three agreement coefficients was (84.33%) that indicates that the questionnaire is reliable and can be used a study instrument.

### **The production of Gulf mantles decorated by Gulf Bedouin textile**

The researcher developed (12) design and presented them to a group of arbitrators who were faculty members of Home Economics specialty, mainly clothing and textile to choose the best six designs in terms of:

- The extent to which Saudi Bedouin textile enriches the aesthetic aspect of the Gulf mantle.
- The adequacy of designed mantles for the functional aspect.
- Design harmony, symmetry, and integration.

After the determination of the best six designs, the researcher provided six mantles for implementing the designs on them. The researcher provided the Saudi Bedouin textile, cut it, and fixed it to the selected design forms depending on the tools needed such as suitable yarn and needles. Figures (1-6) show the implemented products and specifications.



Black mantle closed from the front by a neck slot as (V) shape, ruffled cut on the chest and expansion from the tail line. It is decorated by Saudi Bedouin textile at the chest cut, tail line and sleeve bracelet.

**Figure.1** First product



Black mantle closed from the front middle line with a circular neck slot with a prince cut that is decorated by tail line.

**Figure.2** Second product





Black mantle closed from the front middle line with a circular neckline, an expansion from the bottom and torso foundation from the middle line, which is decorated by Saudi Bedouin textile on the side parallel to the tail line and on the sleeve bracelet.

**Figure.3** third product



Black mantle with a placket from the front and circular neckline decorated by Saudi Bedouin textile on placket sides and sleeves bracelets.

**Figure.4** fourth product



Black mantle closed from the front middle line with a neckline shaped as letter (V) with a cut on chest line seam and rattle beneath the seam cut, an expansion from the bottom and a rattle on sleeves bracelet that is decorated with Saudi Bedouin textile on the chest cut, neckline, and sleeves bracelet.

**Figure.5** fifth product



Black mantle with a placket open from the front, a circular neckline, long sleeves, and expansion from the bottom. It is decorated with Saudi Bedouin textile with cross lines on the hip and knee levels and beneath the knee parallel to the tail line.

**Figure.6** sixth product

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After the selection of the best six designs and the production of mantles, produced mantles were subjected to evaluation by a set of arbitrators of faculty members at the department of Home economics. A questionnaire was used to detect the results regarding the extent to which Saudi Bedouin textile could enrich the aesthetic aspect of Gulf mantle, the fitness of designed mantles to functional aspect, and the design coherence, symmetry, and integration.

### Findings related to the first hypothesis

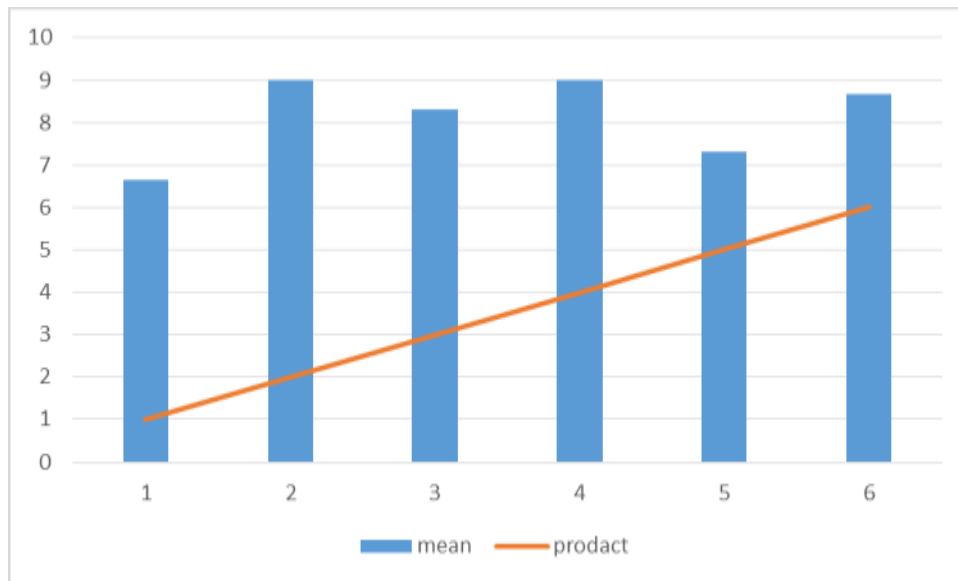
To check the first hypothesis that stated "Implemented products achieve the degree of acceptance and success in light of specialists' evaluation means to the extent to which Saudi Bedouin textile enriches the aesthetic aspect of Gulf mantle, (the first aspect of evaluation)", mean scores of evaluators' ratings were calculated as shown in table (2).

**Table.2 Mean scores of evaluators' ratings for Saudi Bedouin textile aesthetic aspect**

Indicators	Products					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
The extent to which the design contributes to enriching the aesthetic aspect of Gulf mantle.	2	3	2.66	3	2.33	3
The design containment of aesthetic values.	2	3	2.66	3	2.33	2.66
Design compatibility with Gulf art.	2.66	3	3	3	2.66	3
Sum of evaluators' means.	6.66	9	8.32	9	7.32	8.66
Evaluation of Aesthetic aspect.	74	100	92	100	81	96

Mean scores of evaluators in table (2) reveal that implemented products have achieved success and acceptance regarding the level of enrichment of Saudi Bedouin textile for the aesthetic aspect of the Gulf mantle. Ratings were (100%) for the second and fourth products, (96%) for the sixth product, (92%) for the third product, (81%) for the fifth product, and (74%) for the first product. Such ratings, for sure indicate that implemented designs during implementation process have accounted for the design contribution to enriching the aesthetic aspect of Gulf mantles, the design containment of the aesthetic values, and its compatibility or coherence with Gulf art. Therefore, it is encouraging to accept the first hypothesis regarding the enrichment of the Saudi Bedouin textile in the implemented mantle designs for the aesthetics of Gulf mantle. Figure (7) shows the evaluators' mean scores for the aesthetic aspect of implemented products.





**Figure.7 Evaluators' mean scores for the aesthetic aspect of implemented products**

### Findings related to the second hypothesis

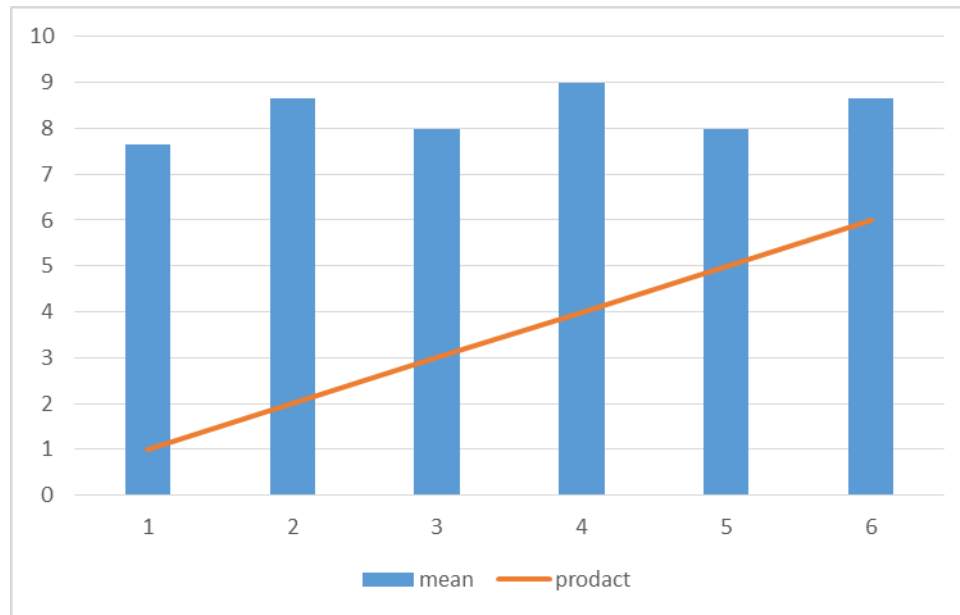
To test the second hypothesis that stated "Implemented products achieve degree of acceptance and success in light of specialists' evaluation means of the designed mantles' appropriateness for the functional aspect, (the second aspect of evaluation)", mean scores of evaluators' ratings were calculated as shown in table (3).

**Table.3 Sum of specialists' ratings for the functional aspect Saudi Bedouin textile in Gulf mantle (functional aspect)**

Indicators	Products					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
The extent to which the design fits the functional aspect of clothing.	2.66	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
The design's appropriateness for the use of the Gulf mantle.	2.33	3	2.66	3	2.33	3.00
The simplicity of implementing the design of the Gulf mantle.	2.66	2.66	2.23	3.00	2.66	2.66
Sum of evaluators' means.	7.65	8.66	7.99	9.00	7.99	8.66
Evaluation of the functional aspect.	85	96	89	100	89	96

Table (3) proves that implemented products have achieved success and acceptance as shown by the mean scores of specialist's evaluation for the appropriateness of the designed mantles for their functional aspect. Ratings were (100%) for the fourth design, (96%) for the second and sixth designs, (89%) for the third and fifth designs, and (85%) for the first product. That is, specialists' ratings, revealed that implemented designs during implementation process have accounted for the design appropriateness for clothing functional aspect, the design's coherence with the use of Gulf mantles, and the simplicity of implementing the Gulf mantle design. Therefore, it is encouraging to accept the second hypothesis regarding the

appropriateness of the designed Gulf mantles for the functional aspect. Figure (8) presents the evaluators' mean scores for the functional aspect of implemented products.



**Figure.8 Evaluators' mean scores for the functional aspect of implemented products**

**Findings related to the third hypothesis**

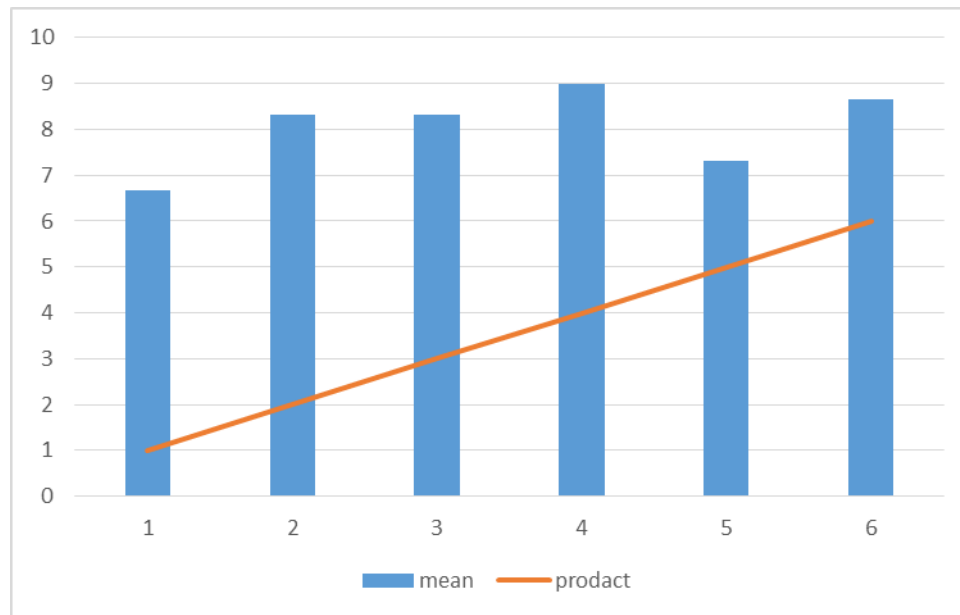
To examine the third hypothesis that stated "Implemented products achieve degree of acceptance and success in light of specialists' evaluation means of the designed mantles' coherence, symmetry, and integratuion, (the third aspect of evaluation)", mean scores of evaluators' ratings were calculated as shown in table (4).

**Table.4 Sum of specialists' ratings for the coherence, symmetry, and integration of of Saudi Bedouin textile in Gulf mantle (design aspect)**

Indicators	Products					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Fulfillment of proportion and proportionality in the design.	2.66	2.66	2.66	3.00	2.66	2.66
Availability of unity and coherence element in the design.	2.00	2.66	3.00	3.00	2.33	3.00
Achieving balance in design.	2.00	3.00	2.66	3.00	2.33	3.00
Sum of evaluators' means.	6.66	8.32	8.32	9.00	7.32	8.66
Evaluation of the design aspect.	74	92	92	100	81	96

Table (3) indicates that implemented products have achieved success and acceptance as revealed by the mean scores of specialist’s evaluation for the design coherence, symmetry,

and integration. Ratings were (100%) for the fourth design, (96%) for the sixth design, (92%) for the second and third designs, (81%) for the fifth product, and (74%) for the first product. In other words, specialists' ratings, revealed that implemented designs during implementation process have accounted for achieving proportionality and the availability of unity and coherence in the design. Thus, the second hypothesis is accepted regarding the achievement of the design symmetry and comherence. Figure (9) shows the evaluators' mean scores for the design aspect of implemented products.



**Figure.8 Evaluators' mean scores for the design aspect of implemented products**

### Findings related to the fourth hypothesis

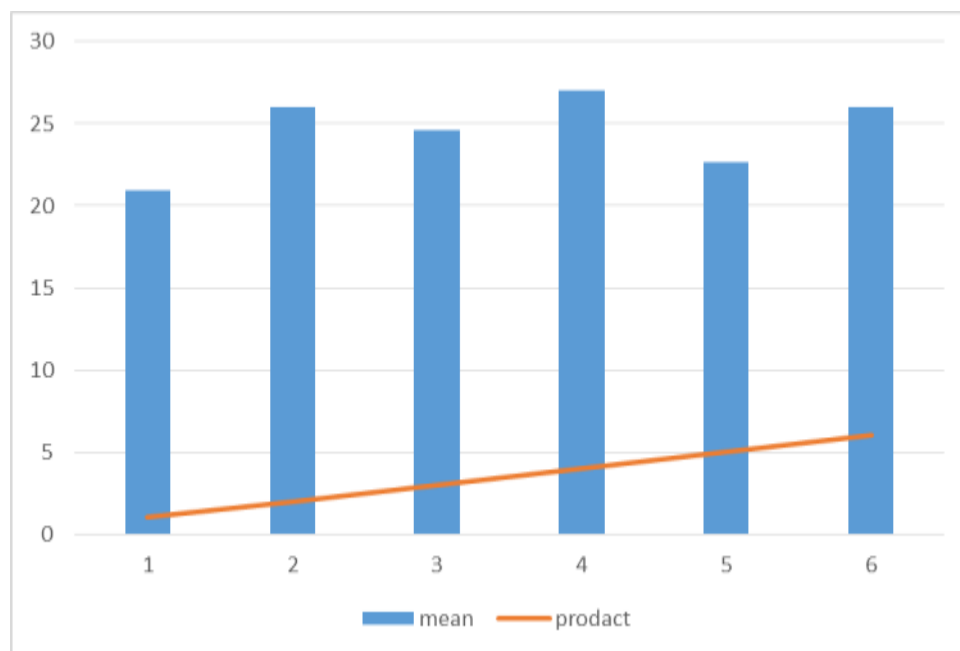
To examine the fourth hypothesis that stated "Implemented products achieve degree of acceptance and success in light of specialists' evaluation means for all aspects of the designed mantles", mean scores of evaluators' ratings were calculated as shown in table (5).

**Table.5 Sum of specialists' ratings for all aspects of evaluation**

Products	Evaluation aspects								Rank
	Aesthetic		Functional		Design		As a whole		
	Total	Rating	Total	Rating	Total	Rating	Total	rating	
1.	6.66	074	7.65	085	6.66	074	20.97	77.66	5
2.	9.00	100	8.66	096	8.32	092	25.98	96.22	2
3.	8.32	092	7.99	089	8.32	092	24.63	91.22	3
4.	9.00	100	9.00	100	9.00	100	27.00	100.0	1
5.	7.32	081	7.99	089	7.32	081	22.63	83.00	4
6.	8.66	096	8.66	096	8.66	096	25.98	96.22	2

Table (5) indicates that implemented products have achieved success and acceptance degree. Mean scores of specialists ratings for all the three aspects of produced designs, i.e. aesthetics, functional, and design ranged between (100%) for design number (4) and (96.22%) for designs number (2) and (6). Whereas, ratings were (91.22%), (83.80%), and (77.66%) for designs number (3), (5), and (1) respectively. symmetry, and integration. Ratings were (100%) and (1) respectively. In other words, ratings showed that implemented designs during implementation process have accounted for achieving the characteristics of the three main aspects of evaluation namely aesthetic, functional, and design aspects. cproportionality and the availability of unity and coherence in the design. Besides, perfection in the selection of various raw materials used in the final product of mantles, Saudi Bedouin textile, and threads was also of much consideration.

Thus, findings support the acceptance of the fourth hypothesis in accordance to specialists' levels of agreement and the success of the implemented mantles to satisfy the characteristics of te three evaluated aspects. Figure (10) exhibites the evaluators' mean scores for all aspects of implemented products.



**Figure.10 mean scores of specialists' ratings for all aspects of produced mantles**

### Findings related to the fifth hypothesis

To test whether there was a stistically significant difference ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) among the three evaluated aspects in accordance to evaluators' means, ANOVA was used. findings are presented in table (6).

**Table.6 ANOVA for evaluators' means of all evaluated aspects of produced mantles**

Source of variance	Sum of squares	DF	Mean of squares	F. ratio	Level of significance
Between groups	0.235	2	0.118	0.178	0.838 insignificant
Within groups	9.888	15	0.659		
total	10.123	17			

Findings in table (6) indicate that F. ratio (0.178) was not significant at ( $\alpha=0.05$ ). that is, evaluators' mean scores revealed no statistically significant difference among the three evaluated aspects of produced mantles. Hence, the fifth hypothesis is accepted.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is important to draw others' attention to the importance of the aesthetic elements of Saudi Bedouin textile.
- It is important to pay attention to use the textile decorative units to enrich the aesthetics of Gulf mantle.
- It is important to take advantage of the results of the present study to find new design solutions for clothing beautification by the use of Saudi Bedouin textile.

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