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The Effect of Kufner Interfacing on the Collar Outcome of Men's Suit on Size M Dummy

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ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by the need to understand the impact of Kufner interfacing on the collar results of men's blazers on size M dummies. The purpose of this study is to describe the results of the blazer collar based on three main aspects: flatness, neatness, and balance, using Kufner interfacing. This study used an experimental method conducted from November to February 2024. Primary data were obtained from the assessments of 16 panelists, consisting of 4 lecturers and 12 trained students. The research instrument was a questionnaire, and the data were analyzed using descriptive analysis and the Friedman test to test the hypothesis. The results showed that the use of Kufner interfacing resulted in flatness of 80.47%, neatness of 91.67%, and balance of 88.28%, with all aspects rated in the "Very Good" category. The hypothesis test showed that Kufner interfacing significantly affected the flatness, neatness, and balance of the blazer collar, with a probability value smaller than the significance level ($p < 0.05$). This indicates that Kufner interfacing provides optimal results in the process of making men's blazer collars on size M dummies.

KEYWORDS

Interfacing, Kufner, Men's Blazer Collar, Flatness, Neatness, Balance

INTRODUCTION

The suit is one of the types of formal attire that has long been an essential part of men's fashion, especially for formal occasions. A suit, worn over a shirt, consists of several components, one of which is the collar. According to (Amira & Suci, 2024) men's clothing is defined as body coverings worn by men made from textile materials that directly cover the skin as well as those that do not. According to (Harmelia & Yuliarma, 2021) "clothing encompasses all items worn," from the head to "the tips of the toes," that showcase beauty and "harmony." Clothing consists of three elements: primary clothing items such as kebaya and baju kurung, complementary clothing items like watches, belts, and footwear, and decorative clothing items (accessories) such as earrings and rings. According to (Ranelis, et al, 2024), a men's suit is formal attire complemented by a long-sleeved shirt, vest, and matching tie. (Wahyuningsih, 2022), adds that a suit is formal men's wear paired with a long-sleeved shirt and can be completed with a vest and trousers made from the same material**.**

One of the critical elements that determine the quality and appearance of a suit is the collar. The collar on a suit consists of two parts: the main collar and the lapel. A high-quality collar can be identified by the flat shape of the lapel, the back part that adheres to the shirt, and the front part that

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rests against the chest without wrinkles. To achieve the perfect collar shape, interfacing is used as a supporting and shaping material that helps the collar stay firm, stiff, and neat (Masruroh, 2014).

Interfacing plays a crucial role in garment construction, especially in tailored clothing like suits. According to Yasnidawati (2007) interfacing can be used on various parts of a garment, such as collars, cuffs, waistbands, and other sections that require stiffness and structural integrity. With advancements in garment technology, interfacing now comes in various types, one of which is Kufner. Kufner is a type of interfacing with a smooth texture, adhesive backing, and available in various thicknesses. It is considered ideal for creating collars that are flat, stiff, and thick.

In this study, Kufner interfacing is used to examine its effect on the collar outcome of men's suits. Based on preliminary experiments, using Kufner interfacing resulted in collars that are flat, stiff, thick, and neat. This suggests that Kufner provides good structural support to the collar, which is a key indicator of suit quality. However, although Kufner is frequently used in the fashion industry, research on its effectiveness for men's suit collars is still limited in the literature. The aim of this research is to describe the collar results of men's suits made using Kufner interfacing on a size M dummy in terms of flatness, neatness, and balance. Additionally, it seeks to identify the advantages of men's suit collars made using Kufner interfacing.

METHOD

This study was conducted using an experimental approach involving 16 respondents as panelists (Arib, et al. 2024). The selection of respondents was carried out using purposive sampling to ensure appropriate representation in line with the research objectives (Amin & Garancang, 2023). This research has two main variables: the independent variable, which involves the use of Kufner interfacing, and the dependent variable, which includes the outcome of the collar of men's suits on a size M dummy, focusing on flatness, neatness, and balance.

Data collection was carried out by distributing questionnaires to the panelists, containing questions related to the results of the collar of men's suits on a size M dummy using Kufner interfacing (Abubakar, 2023). The collected data was then analyzed descriptively to provide an overall picture of the characteristics of the men's suit collar on a size M dummy. Additionally, a hypothesis test using the Friedman K-related sample test was conducted to examine significant differences (Artaya, 2018).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research aimed to describe the smoothness, neatness, and balance of men's suit collars made from semi-wool fabric using two types of interfacing: Kufner interfacing and sugar-coated interfacing. Data collection was carried out through a validated questionnaire, and the data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and the Friedman test with the assistance of Ms. Excel and SPSS. Based on the data obtained from the questionnaires distributed to 16 panelists, this study successfully identified the characteristics of the collar outcome of men's suits on a size M dummy using Kufner interfacing. The observations focused on three main aspects: collar flatness, neatness, and balance.

1. Collar Outcome of Semi-Wool Fabric Using Kufner Interfacing in Terms of Flatness

Before discussing the research results in detail, the following is the descriptive statistical data illustrating the evaluation of the collar flatness of men's suits on a size M dummy using Kufner interfacing. These results were derived from the assessments of the panelists involved in the study, as follows:

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics Based on Smoothness

Item	Total	Mean	%	Criteria
The suit collar appears flat (smooth)	55	3,44	85,94	Very Smooth
The suit collar looks sleek	51	3,19	79,69	Very Smooth

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The suit collar feels stiff when touched	49	3,06	76,56	Very Smooth
The suit collar feels thick when held	51	3,19	79,69	Very Smooth
Average	52	3,22	80,47	Very Smooth

The analysis results show the panelists' evaluation of the collar outcome of semi-wool fabric using Kufner interfacing in terms of flatness. It was found that all items were rated as "very flat." The average scores for each item ranged from 3.06 to 3.44, receiving a "Very Flat" rating. From the panelists' assessment of the collar flatness on semi-wool fabric using Kufner interfacing, it was found that the overall average score was 3.22. The overall percentage reached 80.47%, indicating consistency in the panelists' evaluations of the collar outcome. This suggests that using Kufner interfacing results in a very flat and satisfactory collar outcome for the panelists.

2. Collar Outcome of Semi-Wool Fabric Using Kufner Interfacing in Terms of Neatness

Next, the descriptive statistical data related to the neatness of the men's suit collar on a size M dummy using Kufner interfacing is presented. This evaluation is based on the panelists' observations to assess the neatness of the collar outcome, as follows:

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics Based on Neatness

Item	Total	Mean	%	Criteria
The produced collar is wrinkle-free	61	3,81	95,31	Very Neat
The produced collar is bubble-free	55	3,44	85,94	Very Neat
The collar result is free from thread remnants	60	3,75	93,75	Very Neat
Average	59	3,67	91,67	Very Neat

The panelists' evaluation of the collar outcome of semi-wool fabric using Kufner interfacing in terms of neatness found that all items were rated as "very neat." The average scores for each item ranged from 3.44 to 3.81, with an overall average of 3.67. The overall percentage reached 91.67%, indicating that the collar outcome using Kufner interfacing was rated as very neat by the panelists. This suggests that the consistent use of Kufner interfacing results in a very neat and satisfactory collar outcome for the panelists.

3. Collar Outcome of Semi-Wool Fabric Using Kufner Interfacing in Terms of Balance

The descriptive statistical data related to the balance of the men's suit collar on a size M dummy using Kufner interfacing is presented. This evaluation aims to assess the extent to which the balance of the collar is achieved according to the expected quality standards, as follows:

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics Based on Balance

Item	Total	Mean	%	Criteria
The width of the collar on the right and left sides appears equal	62	3,88	96,88	Very Balanced
The bottom of the collar meets the top lapel at an average angle	61	3,81	95,31	Very Balanced
Average	62	3,84	96,09	Very Balanced

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The panelists' evaluation of the collar outcome of semi-wool fabric using gula interfacing in terms of balance found that both items were rated as "Very Balanced." The average score for each item was 3.88 for item 1 and 3.81 for item 2. The overall average score was 3.84. The overall percentage reached 96.09%, indicating that the collar outcome using gula interfacing was rated as very balanced by the panelists. This demonstrates that the use of gula interfacing provides a highly balanced and satisfactory collar outcome for the panelists, with high consistency across all items.

4. Hypothesis Testing Results Using Kufner Interfacing with the Friedman Test

The following are the results of the Friedman K-related sample test, which provides an overview of the impact of using Kufner interfacing on the quality of men's suit collars:

Table 4. *Fridman K-Realeted*

Test Statistics[a]	
N	16
Chi-Square	31.097
Df	2
Asymp. Sig.	.000

a. Friedman Test

The Friedman test results, used to identify significant differences in panelist evaluations of flatness, neatness, and balance in the collar of a men's suit on a size M dummy using Kufner interfacing, showed statistically significant results. With a sample size (N) of 16, the resulting Chi-Square value was 31.097 with a degree of freedom (df) of 2. The Asymp. Sig. (p-value) was 0.000, which is much smaller than the significance level $\alpha = 0.05$. The interpretation of these results is that there are significant differences in panelist evaluations of flatness, neatness, and balance in the collar of the men's suit.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the panelists' assessment of the collar of the men's blazer made from semi-wool fabric using Kufner interfacing, the average score for smoothness was found to be 3.22, with an overall percentage of 80.47%. This indicates that the use of Kufner interfacing results in a very smooth collar. Factors that may contribute to the higher percentage of smoothness include good material quality, more precise application techniques, characteristics that are better suited to semi-wool fabric, and high compatibility with the material. The panelists' evaluation also indicated that the collar of the blazer using Kufner interfacing was rated as “Very Neat,” with an average score of 3.67 and an overall percentage of 91.67%. Kufner interfacing provided a very neat and satisfactory result, likely due to the material's suitable characteristics, minimal side effects during application, and good interaction with other materials used in making the blazer. In the evaluation of balance, Kufner interfacing received a “Very Balanced” rating with an average score of 3.53 and an overall percentage of 88.28%. Although the result was very good, factors such as texture and thickness, durability against aging, and interaction with the manufacturing process may have slightly affected the balance score, which was somewhat lower compared to the sugar coating interfacing. The Friedman test results, used to identify significant differences in panelists' evaluations of smoothness, neatness, and balance in the men's blazer collar on a size M dummy using both Kufner interfacing, showed statistically significant results. With a sample size (N) of 16, the probability value (Asymp. Sig.) obtained was 0.000, which is much smaller than the significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$. The interpretation of these results is that there is a significant difference in the panelists' ratings of smoothness, neatness, and balance in the men's blazer collar using Kufner interfacing.

According to Aliem & Nahari (2015), interfacing is used to "support and shape parts of garments such as collars, cuffs, lapels, pockets, yokes, waistbands, and buttonhole areas." Meanwhile, according

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to Chairunnisa (2024) interfacing is "a material placed between layers of clothing to provide strength to certain parts of a garment." A previous study by Sa'adah & Yulistiana (2019) explored the impact of different types of interfacing on the final outcome of manipulating fabric box pleats on tailored skirts. Interfacing, which serves as a stabilizer to maintain the garment's shape, is applied to key parts of clothing such as collars, cuffs, and pockets. This study aimed to compare the effectiveness of three types of interfacing: woven fusible interfacing 901, nonwoven fusible interfacing 25F, and knit fusible tricot interfacing, in terms of shape, volume, proportion, durability, and aesthetics. Using observational methods involving 30 respondents, data were processed through the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis statistical test. The results showed a significant impact of the interfacing type on the fabric box pleat manipulation results. Among the three types of interfacing tested, woven fusible interfacing 901 provided the best results in terms of both shape and aesthetics.

Research by Elliza & Nelmira (2023) compared the final results of shawl collars made from bellini fabric using three different types of interfacing: Kufner, sugar-coated fabric, and viselin. This study aimed to assess the differences in final results based on thickness, stiffness, surface smoothness, and the stability of the shawl collar shape. Data were collected through questionnaires distributed to 18 panelists and analyzed using one-way ANOVA. The results showed that, in terms of thickness, Kufner interfacing had the highest average (4.22), followed by sugar-coated fabric (3.56) and viselin (2.78). For stiffness, Kufner also scored the highest (3.94), followed by sugar-coated fabric (3.78) and viselin (3.22). In terms of surface smoothness, Kufner again excelled with an average of 4.78, followed by sugar-coated fabric (4.17) and viselin (3.89). Regarding shape stability, Kufner stood out with a score of 4.56, while sugar-coated fabric (3.67) and viselin (3.56) ranked lower. Overall, the ANOVA test showed a significant difference in the shawl collar outcomes with the three types of interfacing, with a significance value of 0.000 indicating a clear difference Ananda & Nelmira (2024).

Conducted a study on the effect of varying the number of DMC embroidery threads on the results of English sheer embroidery using Toboyo cotton fabric. The results showed that embroidery with 1 thread achieved a "Tight" density (77.08%), while 2 threads reached a "Very Tight" density (91.67%), and 3 threads achieved optimal density (95.00%). In terms of neatness, the embroidery with 1 thread was rated "Very Neat" (87.75%), 2 threads received a score of (87.25%), and 3 threads were also rated "Very Neat" (89.25%). The stitch balance indicated that embroidery with 1 and 2 threads was rated "Very Balanced" (81.37% and 87.45%), while embroidery with 3 threads reached a high quality score (84.17%). This study found significant differences in the use of 1, 2, and 3 threads of DMC embroidery in terms of density, neatness, and stitch balance.

Based on the results of this study, several suggestions can be proposed. First, for the author, this research was completed as a requirement for obtaining a bachelor's degree at Universitas Negeri Padang, particularly in the Department of Family Welfare Education, Tourism, and Hospitality. Second, for future researchers, it is recommended to expand the scope of this study to include various types of clothing and other fabrics to determine whether these findings can be generalized or are specific to certain cases. Third, for the tailoring industry, the findings of this research can serve as a guide in selecting the appropriate type of interfacing to achieve smooth, neat, and balanced collars, especially in men's suit tailoring. Lastly, for teachers or instructors in the field of fashion design and sewing, this research can be integrated into training curricula to provide students with a deeper understanding of the importance of interfacing selection in garment construction.

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