The Culture of Wearing Chador and the Iranian Islamic Revolution Affecting Thai Society in Today’s World

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Abstract—The objective of this research is to analyze the wearing of chador among Thai Muslim women in relation to the Iranian Islamic Revolution and to examine the wearing of chador among Thai Muslim women affecting cultural identity. The research employs a mixed method, designed to conduct qualitative research by using a survey research method without participation. The sample group is 25 Shia Muslim women in Pho Thong Sub-District, Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, which is divided into 2 groups, including 10 people who had studied in Iran and 15 people who had never studied in Iran. For qualitative research, it consists of in-depth interviews and documentary analysis. The research found that firstly the wearing of chador among Thai Muslim women is related to the Iranian Islamic Revolution since Shia women have faith in the doctrine of the Shia Islam as the model appearing in the Islamic Republic of Iran. They believe that it is correct according to the Islamic principles. Therefore, they adopt these principles and practices such as dress code to practice in Thailand without thinking that it is wrong or impractical. Secondly, the wearing of chador among Thai Muslim women is associated with the Iranian Islamic Revolution because after the Islamic Revolution of Iran, it has led to changes in various countries including of Thailand, which could be observed from the current dress of Muslim women. The wearing of chador has created the identity of Shia Muslims in Thai society.

Index Terms—The wearing of chador, The Iranian Islamic Revolution, Thai society

I. INTRODUCTION

Garment and dress are highly relevant to human life. Clothing is one of the essentials for human life. Dressing is a human behavior that is a continuation of the invention and use that humans produce in response to their own needs which a study of anthropologists and historians explains. The behavior of the human body beautification is a universal behavior and found in all cultures. Anthropologists have divided their considerations into two areas: one, the style and characteristics of body decoration, such as clothing, hairstyles, etc., and two meanings of dress. Anthropological studies have shown that in a complex and stratified society, the decoration of the body is a symbol of social status, honor, and dignity. It is a symbol of class and status, such as jewelry, expensive clothes will reflect the position of the person. The more people in the upper class, the more there are jewelry and clothing that are expensive, detailed and exquisitely beautiful. Thus, the jewelry and clothing of the aristocracy were like works of art and aesthetics, reflecting social rules. The way people dress in each culture indicates they are members of a group, or in other words, clothes and dress indicate “Cultural Identity” and “Ethnic Identity” that separates who is like us and different from us. It is also a gender distinction on how men and women should dress. How should children and adults dress? Anthropologists believe that embellishing the human body is another type of “language” that expresses various beliefs and also to show others who they are and who we are [1][2]. Therefore, the study of the dress of people in society is an important issue in addition to understanding the way of life of the people. Humans also make sense of grouping and creating their own identity through dress. Considering the existing studies on dress in Thai society, the authors found that most of them describe the methods of fabric production introducing major production sources clothing styles or styles of dress that are separated by historical periods. This study led to several approaches one interesting approach is the study of social history focusing on patterns and the change in social patterns and contexts in order to show the dynamic way of life and relationships of people in that society [3]. The study of Chador culture and the Iranian Islamic Revolution that affect Thai society today. There is almost no education. This article attempts to understand and explain the Chador wearing of Thai Muslim women in relation to the Iranian Islamic Revolution and to analyze the impact of wearing Chador of Thai Muslim women on cultural identity. In the area of this article, we will talk about the dress of Muslim women. In the area of Pho Thong Sub-district, Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province only.

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II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research is to analyze the wearing of chador among Thai Muslim women in relation to the Iranian Islamic Revolution and to examine the wearing of chador among Thai Muslim women affecting cultural identity.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

This research was mixed methods research between qualitative research by collecting research papers and data from books, textbooks, research reports, research articles, papers and interviews. Quantitative research was also designed by using a survey research method, collecting data by non-participant interview method from 25 Shia Muslim women in Pho Thong Sub-district, Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. They were divided into 2 groups: 10 people who have studied in Iran and 15 people who have never studied in Iran for qualitative research. In-depth interviews and document analysis have been compiled.

Research tools, the tools used for data collection are the method of non-participation of the interview with the question-and-answer approach about 1) Knowledge of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, 2) How is the Chador Dressing Associated with Iran? 3) Shadow wearing and identity creation.

IV. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

![Fig. 1 Conceptual Framework]

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A headscarf or hijab must be covered when leaving home or meeting other men with whom we can marry. The word hijab means covering not only to cover the body but also to calm the mind and to express proper expression. Islam is a religion that has a comprehensive set of beliefs and practices with the Holy Quran. It is the supreme constitution for life. Islam, besides being a religious belief Islam is a way of life. There are specific behavioral patterns that have been defined as standards. The Prophet Muhammad said that Islam is an inseparable culture in terms of religion and way of life.

The Quran is the book that the Prophet Muhammad ate from Allah. The Scriptures cover all aspects of the way of life, be it faith, politics, economy and society, including the provision of women's dress as well. These provisions are utterances or directives from Allah who wish to communicate directly with humans for mankind to implement those laws which will bring benefits to all human beings. In other words, the Quran is the constitution of Muslim life. It is a law that everyone must obey. No Muslim has denied even a single paragraph of the Quran [4][5].

In Islam, there are provisions relating to the dress of women who follow Islam must dress completely. A headscarf or hijab must be covered when leaving home or meeting other men with whom we can marry. The word hijab means covering not only to cover the body but also to calm the mind and to express proper expression. Islam is a religion that has a comprehensive set of beliefs and practices with the Holy Quran. It is the supreme constitution for life. Islam, besides being a religious belief Islam is a way of life. There are specific behavioral patterns that have been defined as standards. The Prophet Muhammad said that Islam is an inseparable culture in terms of religion and way of life.

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**Style of Hijab**

The hijab is required by religion and cover all parts of the body except or can only be seen on the face and palm that means covering your feet. The length of the cloth must cover the chest. Colors and patterns should be modest and unattractive. The style of hijab will vary depending on the area and culture of each person as we see each other often. It can be divided into 4 types as follows:

1. Hijab is a universal form of covering that can be seen everywhere. There may be colors or patterns based on the eras and fashions that we commonly see and can be adapted to any style of clothing, both modern and traditional. Most Muslim women tend to wear this kind of hijab.

2. Burqa is a hijab that covers all parts of the body, including the eyes, but the eyes are made of a thin mesh cloth so that the wearer can see through the mesh over her eyes most are seen in Afghanistan.

3. Niqab is a long hijab that covers the face and can only be seen by the eyes. It is mostly worn in Arab countries and in many countries. In Thailand, quite a few people choose to cover the Niqab.

4. Chador (Chador) is a large black veil in the shape of a semicircle that extends to the ground. Most of them are found in Iran [6] [7] [8].

Therefore, the general dress of Muslim women must include a hijab for Muslim women in Thailand. In the past, there was no strictly religious dress code because there is no clear understanding of Islamic dress code and a sense of attachment to their former society, as well as the comfort of wearing. As a result, Muslim women in the past wore religious clothing for important ceremonies or special meetings. However, nowadays the dress of Thai Muslim women has changed. Thai Muslim women give the importance of cultural and religious dress the dress of Muslim women is characterized by the use of cloth to cover the body as closely as possible. Collectively referred to as the “hijab”, it is considered to be a safe garment for women from tying, mocking and harassment.

For countries in the Middle East region most women wear a dress that covers their entire body as it has long been a feature of the Middle Eastern ethnic tribal culture. The dress of the people will be consistent with the harsh environment, which is very hot and cold including the dust of sand and in accordance with the way of life of society in the past that is characterized as a society that fights and competes including the war between the tribes. Therefore, it was necessary to cover up their bodies completely. This kind of body covering thus causing the tribal attire until now, it has evolved into a dress that covers all parts of the body, such as the abaya dress in Saudi Arabia kalibiyah dress. It is called a gallibiyyah in Egypt and in the Islamic Republic of Iran called Chador. Chador is a type of robe used to cover the bodies of Muslim women in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic countries in the Middle East. Chador is a long veil in the shape of a semicircle. Most are black or white. Chador is a large piece of cloth that can cover the wearer's head to feet. Most of the time, Chador will not sew his arms. Instead, it is used to support Chador by hand or a brooch to keep Chador from falling off.

Thus, it can be said that the hijab is important and the main body of a Muslim woman. Muslim women's hijab is compulsory according to religion which every Muslim woman must follow this religion in order to show her faith in Allah and is considered a true Muslim.

Thailand is a country with freedom of religion. There were 94.6 percent of Buddhists, 4.6 percent of Muslims, 0.7 percent of Christian [9]. It is cultural diversity in the long-established Thai society. Thai society is a society that can coexist without conflicts in religion since the past. People in society interact with each other in different ways according to the practice of that religion.

In addition, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E.2550. People in religion as stipulated in Article 37, “A person has complete freedom to hold a religion, a sect of religion or religious ideology and shall have the liberty to obey religious ordinances or perform rituals according to their beliefs. When it's not an adversary of citizens and not
B. Thai Muslim Women’s Chador Wearing Related to the Iranians Islamic Revolution

The Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979 was one of the events in world history that demonstrated the importance of cultural forces in social change, but the distinguishing feature of the Islamic Revolution event is different from other revolutions. Traditional dress was used as a tool in the Islamic revolution. This caused a fight between political groups with religious ideology and those with secular political trends. The secularization of the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979 was a conflict between nationalistic groups and Western-minded Muhammad Reza Shah (1941-1979). The cause of the conflict was caused by the dissatisfaction of nationalists who saw that the Iranian government at that time had no real power to protect the country's interests. In particular, the oil interests that the Iranian government had to share in an unfair manner with Western powers [1 1] [1 2]. Tensions between the government of Muhammad Reza Pahlavi Shah and the people of Iran have increased, but on the other hand, the Shah of Iran has good relations with the West especially the United States Iran receives both military and economic aid from the United States. Public dissatisfaction led to riots in 1979. People marched against the king and this led to violence. A confrontation ensued between protestors and government soldiers, but in the end, Muhammad Reza Pahlavi Shah was unable to deal with the riots. Therefore, it had to flee from Iran. It was a victory for the people of Iran that made the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini a success. Then, an Islamic Republic was established in Iran.

Thailand in the 1980s received a wake-up call for the Islamic revival that formed the Middle East which is the birthplace of Islam. As a result, there was a trend of changing the dress of Muslims. From the incident of hijab movement in Yala in 1988, the incident demanding the right to wear hijab and dress is related to the religion of Yala Teachers College students. It shows costume as the case with a small number of Muslim students wearing a headscarf or hijab that has seen as a conflict of ethnic minorities and having to negotiate traditional rules within society. It is a historical bargain for Malay Muslims in the southern border provinces. It is one of the most important political movements for Malay Muslims in Thailand changing the style of wearing that wearing hijab. It is therefore an important indicator of the significant Islamic revival influence from the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian government has encouraged Iranian women to wear the hijab, the national dress known as Chador, a long, sleeveless black half-circle, veil circle. Most are black or white. Chador is a large piece of cloth that can cover the wearer's head to feet. Most of the time, Chador will not sew his arms. Instead, it is used to support Chador by hand or a brooch to keep Chador from falling off and a new style with sleeves similar to the general long gown which will be worn over another layer of attire, but it's not forcing anyone to wear it or not.

This is because the Iranian government has passed a law requiring all Iranian women to wear the hijab in public places. The popularity of wearing Chadors in Iran makes it imperative that people follow suit, although it is not compulsory, but for convenience and safety, Iranian women still wear Chadors. More interested in the fashion coats to wear especially affluent women and people of social status in Tehran. Iranian women wear long robes in more variety of colors. In addition, there are different designs or styles that are beautiful, however, they will use colorful bandages or turbans. (8) to match the outfit you wear, but there were still some who wore a layer of Chador on the outside.
Iranian women’s dress fashion has expanded into Thai Muslim society. As a result of the Thai students went to study in the Islamic Republic of Iran. While in Iran, I dressed in a Chador and has the view that the dress of Muslim women is correct and appropriate according to religion. There should be a style of dress that the Iranian government dictates and therefore adheres and practices it. When he returned to Thai society, he would discriminate and propagate religious concepts and dress to Thai Muslim women. As a result, the style of wearing Chador has expanded into Thai society especially Shia sect especially the Ruhullah Mosque community, Pho Thong Subdistrict, Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. During religious days women will wear Chador to attend the ceremony or some people wear Chador regularly with the view that this practice is correct practice according to Islamic principles.

**C. Wearing a Chador by Thai Muslim Women has an Impact on Cultural Identity**

According to historical evidence, Islamic groups first appeared in southern Thailand. Since the 14th century, the ruler districts Islam During the Ayutthaya period (1350–1767), Muslims who came from Malay settled a large number of houses in Ayutthaya[13] [14] [15] [16] [17] from evidence of Thai history. It was found that religious conflicts did not appear and people who practice Buddhism and Islam. There is mutual cooperation between Thai Buddhists and Thai Muslims in the administration of the country, come together in every era Muslim society in Thailand has been at peace for a long time. However, after the Iranian Islamic Revolution Conflicts in the Muslim world have arisen and have extended to Thai society that is to say, there was an idea of partisanship in Thai Muslim society, namely the division of Sunni and Shia groups. The Shia Muslims are a group that adheres to the guidelines of Imam Khomeini (1979-1989). The differences in beliefs between the two groups led to conflict among Muslims and current Shia Muslims are fewer than Sunni Muslims. Therefore, it is necessary to create their own identity dressing by wearing a Chador is one of the identities of Shia Muslims who follow the beliefs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The result of this identity creation has resulted in cultural impacts in Thai society that is to say, from the past, religious dress was accepted by Thai society and there was no conflict. However, when religious principles are introduced to describe the relationship with dress wearing a Chador by a Thai Muslim woman, it has created the identity of Shia Muslims in Thai society. Shia Muslim women wear a Chador for religious validity and another manifestation is that wearing a Chador makes a difference between Sunni Muslims and Shia Muslims in Thailand especially in religious ceremonies. It is considered a change and an impact on cultural identity that appears in Thai society.

**VII. RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE**

From the results of the data analysis that answered the above research objectives, this results showed that it was developed a linkage diagram between Thai Muslim women's dress code, and Chador wear related to the Iranian Islamic Revolution. It was also showed how Thai Muslim women’s Chador wear affects cultural identity which consisted of 1) applied through educated leaders from Iran, and 2) applied through community dress and religious dress.
CONCLUSION

Thai Muslim women’s Chador dress is associated with the Iranian Islamic Revolution. This is because Thai Shia Muslim women have faith in Islamic teachings, Shia sects, as precedents in the Islamic Republic. Therefore, the doctrine and practice such as dressing for practice in Thailand without thinking that it is wrong or impractical. The facts of the constitution have already been stipulated in this regard and the wearing of Chadors by Thai Muslim women has an impact on cultural identity. It was found that the effect of wearing Chador has created the identity of Shia Muslims in Thai society. Shia Muslim women wear a Chador for religious validity and another manifestation is that wearing a Chador makes a difference between Sunni Muslims and Shia Muslims in Thailand especially in religious ceremonies. Therefore, Thai Muslim women’s Chador dress is associated with the Iranian Islamic Revolution. This can be considered from the dress of modern Muslim women. The dress by wearing this Chador has created the identity of Shia Muslims in Thai society.

Therefore, to prevent and prevent divisions in society, the study of wearing Chador is therefore an important aspect that cannot be overlooked because nowadays it is observed that the women who wear the Chador are Shia Muslims and get ideas from Iran. Therefore, Shia Muslims, who are a minority in Thai Muslim society, have created their own identity due to religious conflicts. Originally, the dress was just wearing a hijab. According to Islamic principles, it came to wearing a Chador to show identity in society. Clothes and dress, thus indicating the “cultural identity” and wearing of the Chadors of Shia Muslim women in Thailand has created a cultural identity associated with the Iranian Islamic Revolution, which is something, that is very important and changing in the world.

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