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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ANKARA AND ASO-OFI USAGE IN ILORIN WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper compared the usage of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin west local government in Kwara State. Three research questions were raised with three null hypotheses, related literature were review for the study. Descriptive research design using survey method was adopted, the population for this study comprised twelve wards in Ilorin West local Government Area of Kwara State, the total population was 365,500. Three wards were randomly selected and a sample size of ninety (90) respondents from Baboko, Alanamu, and Oloje ward in Ilorin West Local government were used. The instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire and was statistically analysed using t-test. The result from the study revealed that there was a significant difference between Ankara and Aso-Ofi fabric and the usage in Ilorin West local Government, also there was a significant difference in the price of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government. The result further revealed that there was a significant difference in the level of availability of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government. Based on these findings it was recommended that Producers should engage in the production of Aso-Ofi in different styles, colour and texture, which will be suitable for different occasion as it is done in the production of Ankara fabric. Government should encourage weavers (producer) to establish local small scale weaving industry to serve as a source of income and provide job opportunities for the youths in Ilorin West Local Government area of Kwara State.

Key words: - Availability, Price, usage, Ankara and Aso-Ofi, Kwara State, Nigeria

Introduction

The production of traditional Aso-Ofi (traditional woven fabric) and Ankara (foreign textile) among the people of Ilorin west local government of Kwara, is long rooted in their culture since the 12th and 13th century. The ethnic diversity in Nigeria is reflected well in its clothing culture such as the Hausas, Igbo, and the Yoruba's have their significant clothing attire and fashion. Yoruba tribe have significant clothing which are Aso-Ofi and Ankara. Aso-Ofi is the short form of Aso Ilu Oke i.e. cloth from the up country (meaning cloth from the hinterland) borrowed from ofi the loom on which the cloth is produced. While Ankara was formally known as foreign wax print, it was originally manufacture by the Dutch for the Indonesia textile market but by design, this prints gathered significantly more interest in Africa than the Indonesia reflecting more on African styles and culture. Ankara fabric formerly the wrapper worn by the village woman in Nigeria, now became the toast of fashion design and fashion freak for those who want to wear stylish designed cloths. Ankara can be used to produce different apparel for both male and female which includes shirt and trouser, blouse, skirt and wrappers. Today Ilorin is known to use Ankara fabric more than the traditional Aso Oke. Oyelola (2004) found out that Yoruba youth prefer foreign materials to Aso Ofi because of their flexibility, adaptability and suitability for different design and styles. Today, the people of Ilorin west Local Government area of Kwara State are known for their Aso-Ofi production which is exported to various places at home and abroad.

Statement of the Problem

It was observed that the use of Aso-Ofi in Ilorin west local government has declined greatly and the reason for this sudden change may lie within the following factors: The production process of Aso-Ofi may be longer than Ankara, may be because of the use of modern machine yet to be introduced in the production of Aso-Ofi fabric, as it is in the case of Ankara fabric production. Aso-Ofi may be considered too plain and

expensive than Ankara, while the 6 physical properties such as texture and durability of Aso Oke might be a great factor to be considered as determinant usage of the fabric in Ilorin west local government Area of Kwara State. Aso-ofi is still worn at weddings and special ceremonies but they are not extremely popular, not as Dutch wax prints which comes in varieties of colour and designs suitable for each occasion. Therefore this study seek to compare the level of usage of Ankara and Aso-Ofi fabric in Ilorin west local government area of Kwara state

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of the study was to compare the level of usage of Ankara and Aso-Ofi fabric in Ilorin west local government area of Kwara state

Specifically the study intend to determine:

1. difference in the usage of Ankara and Aso Oke in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State
2. difference in the price of Ankara and Aso Oke in Ilorin West Local Government area of Kwara State.
3. difference in the of availability of
4. Ankara and Aso Oke in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State

Research question

The research question were raised

1. What are the differences in the usage of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State
2. What are the differences in the price of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State
3. What are the differences in the availability of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated for the study

1. There is no significant difference in the usage of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State
2. There is no significant difference in the price of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State.
3. There is no significant difference in the availability of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West local government of Kwara state.

Ankara and Aso-Ofi fabric

Ankara and Aso-Ofi fabric are long rooted in Nigeria history; both are mainly worn by men and women for either ceremonial purpose or casual purpose. As these two textiles became more sophisticated, they were also used as currency for trading; many of the ancient designs and weaving methods are now used for Ankara today and remain an important part of African lifestyles. Ankara nowadays portray more of Africa's image, style and motif, all this attribute contributed to the trendiness of Ankara fabric within and outside Nigeria. Ankara fabric which originated from Europe is commonly known as "African fabric" goes by a multitude of names: Dutch wax print, Real English Wax, Veritable Java Print, Guaranteed Dutch Java, and Veritable Dutch Hollandaise. Ankara has always been a huge symbol of Nigerian and African identity. According to Shonibare (2011) African print, popularly known as Ankara, has gained popularity in the global fashion scene since 2010. The material is primarily associated with Africa mainly because of the tribal-like patterns and motifs. This fabric acquired its current name Ankara when the Turks made a cheaper version of the fabric recognizing this opportunity, the Dutch decided to focus on West Africa. As such, the prints changed to reflect more of African culture and lifestyle. The author found out that Dutch manufacturers of these fabrics thereafter made some changes to designs and motifs in order to cater to the tastes of their new African customers. Earlier designed motifs used plants and animals believed to be universal to all cultures. In the 1920s prints began to feature portraits of local community leaders and chiefs in their designs that people could buy in to celebrate their leaders (Shonibare2011). The author further stated that

the tradition continued with portraits of African heads of states and prominent politicians used as design motifs starting in the 1950s. The long and short though is the universal acceptance of these prints in the West African market specifically. Ankara is one of the cheapest traditional fabrics (made even cheaper when Chinese manufacturing of the fabric became widespread). While African fabrics like Aso-Ofi are reserved for special occasions, but Ankara is used for every kind of activities and every day wear.

Aso-Ofi on other hand is a timeless woven cloth form which they negotiate and explicate their socio-economic space although, the indigenous Yoruba Aso-Ofi has a long history and has undergone transformation in texture and colours over the years, Aso-Ofi is a short form of Aso-Illu-Oke (meaning cloth from the hinterland) or Aso-Ofi, a name borrowed from ofi the loom on which the cloth is produced. Although it is said that Aso-Ofi /Aso-Ofi derives its name from ofi the Yoruba name for loom, the etymology of the word "Ofi" derives from the action of throwing the shuttle from one hand to the other. Ofi (meaning he throws it), a subject and verb, which describes the technique of making of Aso-Ofi. Both Aso-Ofi and Aso-Ofi are used interchangeably by the Yoruba people (Aremu 2002). Aso-Ofi is the traditional wear of the Yoruba's people in Nigeria (the tribe of the southwest people in Nigeria, Africa). Aso-Ofi represents one of the cultural vehicle through which the younger generation could continue to experience the tangible aspect of clothing tradition .part of the lore passed down to the younger generation is that the Yoruba are renowned cloth weaves, a craft that they practice to meet their fashion taste and variety of needs,. According to Ojo cited in Shonibare 2011, weaving as a domestics industry flourished throughout Yoruba land and it was an industry dependent on the availability of raw materials from cotton plant thus weaving "became localize in areas where cotton thrive best and where alternative occupation were rear.

Decline in the usage and Production of Aso-Ofi, resulting in continuous acceptability of Ankara fabric

Ojo (2006) identified three main problems that led to decline in the use of Aso-Ofi , which include; exorbitant price of raw materials, limitation in traditional and contemporary uses and modernization. The limitation in fashion use is probably due to hard, stiff and heavy nature of the fabric compared to the factory printed 'Ankara' fabrics. The British policy in Nigeria from 1886 was designed to knock down the home industries in order to guarantee continuing importation of British made goods to her colonies which Sir Lord Laggard implemented. These policies, which sought markets for the British goods at the expense of the indigenous textile industries in 1904, recorded the beginning of decline in the production and patronage of indigenous textile industries (Okeke 2005). The introduction of cotton cloth and European-style garments in the early years of 1900 changed the consumption patterns and created stiff competition for the indigenous textile industries. Renne (1995) observed that factory printed cloth like Ankara has broad spectrum of colours and designs; they are lighter in weight, more comfortable to sew, wear, and care for. For these reasons imported damasks, velvets, satins and famous Ankra gained popularity as prestige garments while indigenous Aso-Ofi cloth was rejected.

Destiny of the 'once before' cheap Ankara fabrics, that was normally reserved for cultural festivities have undergone a magical transformation to become a choice for the rich and famous. Fabrics which were once considered out of fashion had changed to become a sizzling fad. Nowadays, Ankara fabric has become an inevitable part of any social functions. Fashion designers sensed this trend and are coming up with appealing designs to capture the apparel market. This fabric has infiltrated the fashion world as well blended with matching fabrics for good designs. Ankara fabrics are the fancy of many people the appeal of the finished product depends on the creativity, and skills of the designer. Since it is a cotton fabric with different motifs, these fabrics can be used for apparel both office and formal occasions. A printed outfit with small motifs will make perfect clothing. This fabric has infinite creative applications like shirts, bags, clothes, dresses etc. Styles, and designs available for this cloth are endless which makes all people; men and women, young, and the aged become glued to it. Ankara has made a comeback in a big way with modern patterns, and vibrant colours, Ankara fabrics have been the desired choice of African women. Due to its affordability, this garment was once considered suitable for under privileged. However with the lapse of time, the fabric found favour with contemporary fashion, and modern styles. Ankara has its own virtues, and looks more graceful when tailored in the right way.

Methodology

Research Design

Survey research design was adopted for this study. Survey method of research is concerned investigating document which is in existent and non-existent on the present status with generalized statistics resulting when data is obtained from a large number of cases (Ali, 2006).

Population for the study

The total population for this study comprise all the 12 wards in Ilorin west local government area of Kwara state and the target population was 365, 500. (Source: Ilorin West Local Government)

Sample and sampling techniques

Three wards were randomly selected. These wards include Alanamu (31,820), Baaboko (34,390), and Oloje (23,800). These wards were stratified using 0.1% of the population to choose the sample size of 32 for Alanamu ward, 34 for Baaboko ward and 24 for Oloje ward, giving a total of 90 respondents used as the sample size for the study.

Instrument for the Study

Structured questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire titled use of ankara and Aso-Ofi questionnaire (CUA A Q) was divided into two sections. Section A elicited the demographic information of the respondents, while Section B questions were on the research questions raised and it was assessed using 4 point scale of strongly agree (4)points, agree(3) disagree (2) and strongly disagree (1) with a decision point of 2.50. the instrument was validated by a lecturer in the department of Home Economics and Food Science, and another from measurement and evaluation department faculty of Education University of Ilorin. A coefficient of 0.670 was obtained

Method of data analysis: The data collected were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Research questions 1-3 were answered with descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation while hypotheses 1-3 were tested with inferential statistics such as t-test and all the null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussions

The results were presented and discussed based on the research questions

Research Question 1

What are the differences in the usage of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State?

Table 1: Mean scores on comparison of Ankara and Aso-Ofi usage in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Aso oke is in vogue	2.26	0.09	Disagree
2	Aso-Ofi is a traditional attire for ceremonies e.g wedding, naming ceremony e.t.c	2.82	0.11	Agree
3	Aso oke is used as office wear	1.94	0.10	Disagree
4	Aso-Ofi is now used as Aso-Ebi (commemorate cloth) to connote uniformity	2.63	0.08	Agree
5	Ankara is in vogue	3.43	0.09	Agree

6	Ankara is a traditional attire used for e.g. wedding, and naming ceremony e.t.c	3.04	0.06	Agree	Table 1 revealed that the respondents agreed with item 2, 4, 6, 7,
7	Ankara is now used as office wear	2.50	1.11	Agree	
8	Ankara is now used as Aso Ebi (commemorate cloth) to connote uniformity	3.24	0.09	Agree	

and 8 while they disagreed with items 1 and 3. This indicated that the respondents disagreed that Aso-Ofi is in vogue which means that Aso-Ofi is not really common in term of usage among the people of the area. They disagreed that Aso-Ofi is used as office wear, they don't engage in the wearing of Aso-Ofi as casual office wear, the respondents also agree that Aso-Ofi is use as Aso-Ebi (commemorate cloth) to connote uniformity during ceremonies. The respondents also agreed that Aso-Ofi is used for ceremonies such as naming, wedding, ceremony and coronation. Aso-Ofi is normally worn by the celebrant and some of their relatives, The respondents agreed that Ankara is in vogue, which indicate that they use it for all kinds of things like ceremonial wear, domestic wear even people wear it to office on Friday as casual wear, the respondent agree that Ankara is now use as ceremonial attire e.g., weddings and naming ceremony. The respondents agreed that Ankara is now used as office casual wear and also the respondents agreed that Ankara is now used as Aso Ebi.

Research Question 2:

What are the differences in the price of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State?

Table 2: Mean scores on the comparison of Ankara and Aso-Ofi fabric prices in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State

S/N	Item	Mean	SD	Remarks
1	Aso Oke is a cheap fabric	2.11	0.81	Disagree
2	Aso Oke is an expensive fabric	3.27	0.74	Agree
3	Aso Oke is cheaper than Ankara	2.24	0.85	Disagree
4	Ankara is a cheap fabric	3.12	0.81	Agree
5	Ankara is an expensive fabric	2.28	0.76	Disagree
6	Ankara is cheaper than Aso-Ofi	2.93	0.69	Agree

Table 2 revealed that the respondents strongly agreed that Aso-Ofi is an expensive fabric, and Ankara is the cheap one, therefore they agreed that Ankara is cheaper than Aso-Ofi fabric.

The respondents also disagreed that Ankara is an expensive fabric, they also disagreed that Aso- Oke is cheap and also they agreed that Aso-Ofi is expensive than Ankara fabric. This result indicated that Aso-Ofi is averagely expensive than Ankara fabric, it also shows that Aso-Ofi is expensive than Ankara fabric in Ilorin West Local Government. From this result it can deducted that price is one of the factors that contributed to the decline in usage of Aso-Ofi fabric in Ilorin West Local Government area of Kwara State..

Research Question 3

What are the differences in the availability of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State?

Table 3: Distribution of Mean scores on the comparison of Ankara and Aso-Ofi fabric based on the level of availability in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State.

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Aso Oke fabric is readily available in bulk	1.91	0.94	Disagree
2	Aso Oke fabric is now produced using modern machine and this increases its availability	2.36	0.09	Disagree
3	Aso Oke is available in different styles, motif and colour suitable for each occasion	2.29	0.10	Disagree
4	Ankara fabric is readily available in bulk	3.10	0.11	Agree
5	Ankara fabric is now producing using modern machine and this increases its availability	3.60	0.13	Agree
6	Ankara fabric is now available in different style motif and colour suitable for each occasion	2.72	0.12	Agree

Table3 revealed that the respondents disagreed that Aso-Ofi is readily available in bulk, they also disagreed that Aso Oke fabric is now produced using modern machine, with this it can be deducted that Aso-Ofi is not available in large quantities, the respondents agreed that Aso Oke is available in different styles motif and colour suitable for each occasion, they also agree that Ankara fabric is readily available in bulk, and that Ankara fabric is now produced using modern machine. Lastly the respondents agreed that Ankara fabric is now available in different style motif and colours suitable for each occasion. This result shows that Ankara is readily available than Aso-Ofi fabric in Ilorin west local government of Kwara state.

Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the usage of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State

Table 4: t- test analysis on the differences between the usage of Aso-Ofi and Ankara fabric in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State

Group	N	Mean	SD	SE	DF	T	P	t-cal
Ankara		59.8750						
			17.8750	6.32014	88	3.328	0.005	1.96
Aso-Ofi		30.1250						
Total	90							

$\alpha = 0.05$

Table 4 shows the mean score, standard deviation standard error and observed t-value along with the critical value of t and degree of freedom and the probability level. The table indicate that mean score on Aso-Ofi usage is 30.16 which is lower than that of Ankara usage 59.88, the standard deviation is 17.8750, standard error of 6.32014 and t-value 1.96. The observed level of significance for the test is 0.005 which is lower than 0.05 ($p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the usage of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin west local government was rejected. Consequently there is a significant difference in the usage of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin west local government area. Hypothesis 2: there is no significant difference in the price of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State.

Table 5: t- test analysis on differences between Aso-Ofi and Ankara fabric base on price level

Group N	Mean	SD	SE	DF	T	P	t-critical
Ankara	53.5000	11.24278	4.49259				
Aso-Ofi	36.8333	10.87045	4.43784	88	2.639	0.25	1.96
Total	90						

$$\alpha = 0.05$$

Table 5 shows that the mean scores on Aso-Ofi usage is 36.8333 which is lower than that of Ankara usage 56.8333. The standard deviation is 11.24278 for Ankara and 10.87045 for Aso-Ofi , standard error of 4.49259 and 4.43784 for Ankara and Aso-Ofi respectively. The t- value 1.96, the observed level of significance for the test is 0.25 which is lower than 0.05($p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the price of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State is rejected. Consequently there is a significant difference in the price of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin west local government area in Kwara State.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in the availability of Ankara and Aso-Oke in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State.

Table 6: t- test analysis on differences between Aso-Ofi and Ankara fabric base on level of availability

Group N	Mean	SD	SE	DF	T	P	t-critical
Ankara	53.0000	11.24278	4.49259				
Aso-Ofi	36.8333	10.87045	1.85143	88	4.075	0.002	1.96
Total	90						

Table 6 shows the mean scores on Aso-Ofi usage is 36.8333 which is lower than Ankara usage of 56.8333. The standard deviation is 11.24278 for Ankara and 4.53505 for Aso-Ofi. Standard error of 4.58984 and 1.85143 for Ankara and Aso-Ofi respectively The t- value 1.96, the observed level of significance for the test is 0.002 which is lower than 0.05($p < 0.05$). This implies that Ankara is significantly different from Aso-Ofi base on level of availability in Ilorin west local government. The null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference is rejected. Consequently there is a significant difference in the availability of Ankara and Aso-Ofi in Ilorin West local government.

Discussion of findings

The findings revealed that the use of Aso-Ofi fabric has greatly declined compare to Ankara fabric which is highly in vogue and more used than Aso-Ofi. The findings is in agreement with the report of Ojo (2006) who found out that Aso-Ofi is no more in vogue compared to Ankara fabric which is now highly used in a variety of ways. The finding is also in agreement with the finding of Shonibare (2010) that Aso-Ofi is still used as traditional attire for ceremonies like wedding and coronation. He also revealed that Ankara is in vogue. It is also revealed that Ankara is now used as a casual office wear. The second variable that was observed to be significant was the price. There was massive agreement that Aso-Ofi was expensive compared to Ankara fabric. This confirmed the finding of Ojo (2006) that there are three main problems that leads to decline in the use of Aso-Oke, which include; exorbitant price of raw materials, limitation in

traditional and contemporary uses and modernization. The limitation in fashion use is probably due to hard, stiff and heavy nature of the fabric compared to the factory printed 'Ankara' fabric. The third hypothesis revealed a significant difference in the level of availability of the two fabrics. The study revealed that Aso-Ofi fabric is not readily available in bulk compared to Ankara fabric which is readily available bulk at almost every fabric sales outlet. The study further revealed that Ankara is now produced using modern machines compared to Ankara fabric which is still produced using primitive equipment which slow down the production of Aso-Ofi. Finally the study revealed that Ankara is readily available in different styles, colour and motif that are suitable for many occasions. Ankara is readily available than Aso-Ofi fabric in Ilorin West Local Government Area. It may become weak or lose its validity as a result of internal social changes. Therefore the findings of the study reveal that Aso-Ofi is still a traditional attire taking as Aso-Ebi which used for special occasions like weddings and coronations, but drastic reduction in the usage of Aso-Ofi is experienced due to unavailable of different motif, style and colour that are suitable for each occasion.

Conclusion

The study concluded that in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State, Ankara is readily available, the price is reasonable and there is increase in usage than Aso-Ofi.

Recommendations

Base on the findings it was recommended that

1. Government should encourage weavers (producer) to establish local weaving (Aso-Ofi) as a small scale industry, as this will serve as source of income for them and provide job opportunities,
2. The proper packaging of Aso-Ofi and its popularity internationally can lead to more demands from the international market. Which will lead to wealth creation.
3. Producers should engage in the production of Aso-Ofi in different types, colour and textures, which will be suitable for many occasions as it is done to Ankara fabric

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