Terminologies that characterize the visual and physical properties of wood carving as cultural heritage

(Article)
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Abstract
This study aims to investigate the physical and visual properties of the traditional Malay wood carving as cultural heritage component, which has been inherited from the old generation of carvers since the 17th century. The objectives of this study are (1) to identify the tangible and intangible attributes of the wood carving components that denote cultural heritage value, and (2) to analyse the characteristics and physical properties of the wood components. Personal interview with Malay carvers, field observation, visual and laboratory analyses were conducted to determine the physical and chemical properties of the selected wood carving components from Tenggol and Sabah. The result of analysis characterized the traditional concept of carving into transformation, transformation, translation, reference, transference, transmission, transformation, transference, and translation. Also, the result of laboratory test shows that different types of woods, especially Harvest and Carghi were used for the fabrication of carving components. The study found that Carghi-based wood carving has distinctive physical and chemical characteristics that distinguish it from those found in Harvest-based wood carving. The study suggests that the visual and physical characteristics of the carving components characterize their heritage values. The characteristics determine the distinctiveness of the carved components that has become the key determinants to their heritage attributes resulting to significant pieces of work. Future research could be conducted to determine the suitable method for preserving the wood carving in cultural heritage. The Malay traditional wood carving need to be prototyped to ensure its cultural heritage value are maintained in good condition. © 2017 American Scientific Publishers All rights reserved.

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