COMPARABLE ANALYSIS OF COLOURS OF LITHUANIAN FOLK BEDSPREADS AND TOWELS

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Introduction
The folk bedspreads and towels are very important part of Lithuanian tangible cultural heritage. They are distinguished by their variety of colors, patterns, ornamental motives and weaving techniques. The aim of the investigation is to analyse and compare colours and their number in one item of Lithuanian folk bedspreads and towels preparing the recommendations for folk textile reconstructors.

Materials
The Lithuanian folk bedspreads (165 units) and towels (132 units) from Southern Lithuanian region Dzūkija were investigated. All the garments were woven in the period of the 19th century – the 20th century. The researched items are exhibits of Alytus Local Museum.

Colours of the bedspreads and towels were established during visual inspection of photos and were established only approximately, because to estimate the exact colour code with Pantone colour palette is not possible due to fabrics’ discolouration.

The diagrams of colours and number of colours are performed using the MS Excel software.

Results and Discussion

It can be seen that 21 colours were found in the bedspreads and only 12 colours were obtained in the towels. White colour was the most popular for both. However, black colour was the second popular colour in bedspreads, while it was the last one in the towels. It is seen that colours of natural linen (grey, brown) were popular in Lithuanian folk towels. Other colours were used rarely in these fabrics. While distribution of colours of Lithuanian folk bedspreads were totally different. Yellow, red, dark green, dark blue and cherry colours were found quite often in bedspreads.

The distributions of number of colours in Lithuanian folk bedspreads and towels are mostly the combinations of two colours. Combinations of 1–11 different colours in one item were found in bedspreads, while combinations of only 1–6 colours were obtained in folk towels.

Conclusions
1. Colours and number of colours of 165 Lithuanian folk bedspreads and 132 folk towels were analysed and compared during investigation.
2. It was established that 21 different colours were obtained in bedspreads and only 12 colours were found in towels.
3. The most popular colours in bedspreads were white, black, yellow, red, dark green, dark blue and cherry. White, grey and brown colours were widespread in folk towels.
4. It was estimated that combinations of 1–11 colours were found in bedspreads and 1–6 colours – in towels. Two-colours combinations were obtained in both kinds of investigated assortment. One-colour towels also were popular.