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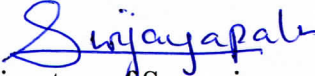
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Improving Colour Reproducibility in Bulk Production of Single Jersey Cotton knits using Reactive Dyeing

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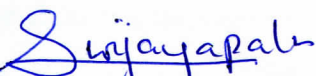
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Abstract

Dyeing is a widely used operation in textile processing, and dyed textiles account for significant amount of the total textile production. Colour, particularly colour consistency, is a critical quality parameter in dyed textiles, on which is a high level of expectation is placed by apparel manufacturer, as it can lead to the mismatching of garment panels and non-conformity with customer requirements in readymade garments. Reactive dyes are popularly applied to cotton knits due to the advantages of reactive dyes such as higher level of colour fastness properties, obtaining different shades, and the applicability of various methods. However, a lack of reproducibility in some cases has been observed in reactive dyeing on cotton knits. Hence reproducibility has to be enhanced in order to obtain a cost effective, competitive and environmental friendly reactive dyeing process. Therefore this research focuses on the improvement of reproducibility of reactive dyeing on cotton knits.

The reactive dyeing process depends on certain important factors such as the level of pretreatment, quality of dyes, dyeing auxiliaries and water used, and the dye bath variables. Therefore the bulk dyeing trials are performed on the level of pretreatment and the other factors are kept constant. Thus the number of bulk dyeing trials including light, medium and dark shades, are conducted on variables such as degree of whiteness, pH level and absorbency of the material which are achieved during the pretreatment process. The recommended degree of whiteness for this reproducibility was not exactly determined because it ultimately affected to the strength of the white material. Therefore it can be concluded that the degree of whiteness should be kept as high as possible without damaging the fabric. The recommended pH level for the improvement of reproducibility was $\text{pH} = 7$. At this pH level, maximum level of reproducibility can be achieved. The recommended absorbency level for the improvement of reproducibility was 3 sec. according to the test method of American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) 79. By maintaining the above parameters within the recommended range acceptable level of reproducibility can be achieved in dyed cotton knits.

Dedication

*I lovingly dedicate this dissertation to my wife,
who supported me
each step of the way*

Acknowledgement

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to my research Supervisor Dr.(Mrs.) Samudrika Wijayapala, Senior Lecturer, Department of Textile and Clothing Technology of the University of Moratuwa.

My heartfelt thanks to Mr V.A.Nandasena former Managing Director Vantex (Pvt) Ltd for providing me with guidance and encouragement.

It is with sincere thanks that I would recall the helping hands offered by Head of Department Dr Gamini Lanarolle and all the staff members of the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology of the University of Moratuwa to complete this research study successfully.

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Table of Contents

Page No

Declaration of the candidate & Supervisor	i
Abstract	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Table of content	v
List of figures	ix
List of table	x
List of abbreviations	xi
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Scope of Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study	3
1.4 Significance of the Study	3
1.5 Problem Identification	4
2. Literature Survey	5
2.1 Reactive dyes for cotton knits	5
2.2 Properties of sumifix supra dyes	7
2.2.1 Effect of Metallic ions in water	9
2.2.2 Compatibility of Combination dyeing	9
2.3 Dyeing mechanism of sumifix supra dyes	10
2.4 Contributing factors for reproducibility in bulk dyeing	11
2.4.1 Preparation of cotton material to be dyed	12
2.4.2 Weight of the material to be dyed	12
2.4.3 Weighing of dyes/dyeing auxiliaries	12
2.4.4 Dye bath variables	12
2.4.5 Time and temperature profile	12
2.4.6 Machine flow and sequence	12
2.4.7 Combination of dyes	12

2.5	Theoretical solutions for RFT dyeing	13
2.5.1	Study 1	13
2.5.2	Study 2	13
2.5.3	Study 3	14
3.	Experimental Procedure	16
3.1	Material used for experiments	16
3.2	Dyes used for experiments	16
3.2.1	Chemical used for experiments	16
3.3	Preparation of samples for dyeing	17
3.3.1	Scouring of cotton	17
3.3.2	Bleaching of cotton	17
3.4	Dyeing machine used and evaluation of reactive dyeing reproducibility	18
3.4.1	Spectrophotometer used for evaluation of reactive dyeing reproducibility	19
3.4.2	Selecting of pass/fail criteria	20
3.5	Experimental method	21
3.5.1	Selections of variable and fixed factors	21
3.5.1.1	Variable factors	21
3.5.1.2	Fixed factors	21
3.5.2	Selection of shades for the experiment	21
3.5.3	Light sources used for measuring ΔE	22
3.5.4	Experimental design	22
3.5.4.1	Experiment on the effect of degree of whiteness	22
3.5.4.2	Experiment on the effect of pH value	26
3.5.4.3	Experiment on the effect of level of absorbency	30
4.	Results and discussion	34
4.1	Effect of whiteness on colour reproducibility in bulk dyeing	34
4.1.1	Bulk trial and colours on the effect of whiteness	35
4.1.2	Comparison of ΔE values for each samples	35
4.1.3	Effect of whiteness of the material to be dyed	39

4.2	Effect of pH level on colour reproducibility in bulk dyeing	40
4.2.1	Bulk trials and colours on the effect of pH level	40
4.2.2	Comparison of ΔE values for each samples	41
4.2.3	Effect of pH value of the material to be dyed	44
4.3	Effect of absorbency level on colour reproducibility in bulk dyeing	45
4.3.1	Bulk trials and colours on the effect of absorbency level	46
4.3.2	Comparison of ΔE values for each samples	46
4.3.3	Effect of absorbency of the material to be dyed	50
5.	Recommendation and Future work	51
5.1	Conclusion	51
5.2	Recommendations on RFT reactive dyeing on cotton knits	52
5.3.	Other dyeing conditions for colour reproducibility in bulk dyeing.	52
5.3.1	Dye bath variables	52
5.3.1.1	Condition of steam supply	52
5.3.1.2	Calibration of thermo meters and pH meters	53
5.3.1.3	Condition of jet dyeing machine for bulk dyeing	53
5.3.2	Quality of dyes/ dyeing auxiliaries	53
5.3.2.1	Water Quality for the dyeing process	53
5.4	Suggestions for future work.	54
5.4.1	Correction factor for the pretreated material	54
5.4.2	Bulk dyeing trials based on separate scouring and bleaching process	54
5.4.3	Preparation of mini bulk	54
	Reference List	55

List of Figures

		Page No
Figure 2.1	A sumifix supra dye molecule	7
Figure 2.2	Dye molecule link with metal ion (M)	9
Figure 2.3	Compatibility of various types of reactive trichromatic dyes for exhaust dyeing	10
Figure 2.4	The substitution reaction between dye molecule and cellulose	11
Figure 3.1	Bulk dyeing machine (Ecosoft- serial Number 40940)	19
Figure 3.2	Spectrophotometer (DatacolourSF600X)	20
Figure 3.3	Samples obtained from trail No.01	23
Figure 3.4	Samples obtained from trail No.02	24
Figure 3.5	Samples obtained from trail No.03	25
Figure 3.6	Samples obtained from trail No.04	27
Figure 3.7	Samples obtained from trail No.05	28
Figure 3.8	Samples obtained from trail No.06	29
Figure 3.9	Samples obtained from trail No.07	31
Figure 3.10	Samples obtained from trail No.08	32
Figure 3.11	Samples obtained from trail No.09	33
Figure 4.1	Pretreatment process for the regular whiteness	34
Figure 4.2	Comparison of ΔE values for trial N0.01 (Light green)	36
Figure 4.3	Comparison of ΔE values for trial N0.02 (Beige)	37
Figure 4.4	Comparison of ΔE values for trial N0.03 (Orange)	38
Figure 4.5	Pretreatment processes for the regular whiteness	40
Figure 4.6	Comparison of ΔE values for trial N0.04 (Beige)	41
Figure 4.7	Comparison of ΔE values for trial N0.05 (Violet)	42
Figure 4.8	Comparison of ΔE values for trial N0.06 (Maroon)	43
Figure 4.9	Pretreatment process for the regular whiteness	45
Figure 4.10	Comparison of ΔE values for trial N0.07 (Light blue)	47

Figure 4.11	Comparison of ΔE values for trial N0.08 (pink)	48
Figure 4.12	Comparison of ΔE values for trial N0.09 (Beige)	49

List of Tables

		Page No
Table 4.1	Test results for trial No.01 (Light green)	36
Table 4.2	Test results for trial No.02 (Beige)	37
Table 4.3	Test results for trial No.03 (Orange)	38
Table 4.4	Test results for trial No.04 (Beige)	41
Table 4.5	Test results for trial No.05 (violet)	42
Table 4.6	Test results for trial No.06 (maroon)	43
Table 4.7	Test results for trial No.07 (light blue)	47
Table 4.8	Test results for trial No.08 (pink)	48
Table 4.9	Test results for trial No.09 (Beige)	49

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
MLR	Material to Liquor Ratio
RFT	Right First Time
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
VS	Vinyl sulphone
MCT	Mono Chloro Triazine
AOX	Aromatic Organo Halogen
AATCC	American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists