

## **Understanding English instructions for fabric dyeing procedures**

Nowadays the Internet is a great source for those who are interested in handmade. Here you can find a huge amount of master classes and videos that can help you to learn some new skills. For example, clothes with ethnic motives are fashionable for the last half century (see, for example [8]), but usually they are created at home by enthusiasts, who follow instructions written by other enthusiasts. Unfortunately, many of them are written in English and there is no good analog to it in Russian. So sometimes it could be a bit hard to understand technical English texts. Let's view the difficulties that can appear during reading, for example, tutorial texts about batik.

Batik is a common name for different methods and ways of painting on fabric. To make batik, selected areas of the cloth are blocked out by hot wax or special resist, and the cloth is then dyed. The parts covered in wax resist the dye and keep the original color. This process of waxing and dyeing can be repeated to create more elaborate and colorful designs. After the final dyeing the wax is removed and the cloth is ready for wearing. For example, the artist may use different tools for waxing and dyeing, wax recipes with different resist values and work with silk, cotton, wool, leather, paper or even wood and ceramics. The ever widening range of techniques available offers the artist the opportunity to explore a unique process in a flexible and exciting way. There are several types of batik: hot, cold, free painting, they differ only in the method of reservation of the fabric.

Now we are going to consider a cold batik method. Cold batik is the easiest silk dyeing technique. The name "cold" means that the resist does not have to be heated before applying. There are so many kinds of resists; they could be water based, solvent based, rubber based, resist in bottles and resists in tubes. The difficulty is that in different directions for use you can see different names of it: the composition of reserving in single-purpose texts and reserve in Russian ones and even washable gel blue glue in American ones. There is more to it, if you use the bottled resist you should look up additional instruments such as a paint brush or the narrow spout of an applicator bottle. There are also many versions of the applicator. For example, a glass Tjanting Tool, that is bought in Russia. In Russia it is called 'Glass Tube for Batik' in daily use. It is difficult to find it available in USA, but there is a great alternative – Tjanting batik tool from Indonesia, carefully handmade in a small village with all copper parts and teak wood handles. Furthermore, such applicators have to be cleaned up after their using. You can make it with the help of special liquids like white spirit that is similar to petrol, in Russian. Americans use mineral spirit instead of it. And Europeans have their own alternate, it is Varsol. Their constitutions are similar. They all are petroleum solvent, just concentration or purification is different. After resist application we have the next process – dyeing. Masters use silk dyes or silk paints, it does not matter where do you live. Silk paints are pigment-based products that color the surface of the fabric, but do not penetrate into the fabric's fiber. These colors can be used on a wide variety of fabrics (including synthetics) and are set with a dry iron. Silk dyes color fabric by forming a bond with the fibers in the fabric. These are a wonderful choice if you do not want to diminish the natural luster of silk. Colors are light-fast and washable. Thereto, there is a great variety of methods to make painting more interesting and attractive. For example, blending different dyes, blending dye with water, dye splashing, splashing water, using effect salt and many others. After all the silk should be ironed and have a special bath. American artisans usually use detergents, when Russians fix dyes with a spoon of vinegar.

As to the hot batik, that is done by advanced users, here a hot wax is used instead of resist to protect fabric from dyeing. In some English instructions you can see the word "gutta", which is a mix of rubber and paraffin, however it can't be used alone because it becomes hard and cracks after dyeing. In Russia you have to use artificial or natural beeswax or Vaseline as a substitute. Melt your

premixed Batik Wax in the little melting pot, or for bigger projects, in a double boiler, electric wax pot, or old electric frying pan. Such appliances are rare in Russia, so Russian users prefer to adapt the process and do it with the help of steam bath. You can use the same instruments to cover silk with wax as in the cold batik. In Indonesia, wax designs are repeatedly stamped onto the fabric with intricate metal stamps made of copper called Tjaps or Caps. The process of dyeing is also similar. But to remove the wax out you have to proceed by trial and error. English tutorials advise just to boil the wax out while Russian ones say to iron it like sandwich with absorbent paper. There is more to it, if you use gutta you should place it into freezer so that the gutta is completely hardened and fragile then take it out and break the gutta off and remove the excess with iron.

So the main problem of translating of specialized texts is a plenty of specialized terms, like resist, blue glue, Tjanting batik tool and many other that hardly could be literally translated from English into Russian without replacement with an equivalent item. In addition, different measures of measurements play a great role in translating. For example, silk is measured in yards or inches in some tutorial. And if Russian people know inches because of Thumbelina, the word, yard, seemed to be unbeknownst to many of them. Moreover, technical literature in English is different in that the sentences in the text are really long, personal forms of the verb are often used in the passive voice, inversion is used.

In conclusion, I would like to say that understanding technical literature requires a person to be attentive. The most important thing is to have at least some understanding of the process. Such knowledge will help you to not just to understand the text, but to understand the function of different ingredients and possibly adapt the process for practical realities of your country. Knowledge of necessary terms and grammar helps deal with text structure well but may be not enough without knowledge of the process described.

### References

1. Gail Bartel. How to do Batik with Kids. URL: <http://www.thatartistwoman.org/2008/07/kid-friendly-batik.html?showComment=1217006880000#c8175233217470195672> (дата обращения 15.04.2015).
2. Gloria. About batik. URL: <http://www.dharmatrading.com/techniques/batik-instructions.html> (дата обращения 15.04.15).
3. How to batik. URL: [http://top.julieannsgroi.com/link-3-ways-to-batik-wikihow\\_aHR0cDovL3d3dy53aWtpaG93LmNvbS9CYXRpaw==](http://top.julieannsgroi.com/link-3-ways-to-batik-wikihow_aHR0cDovL3d3dy53aWtpaG93LmNvbS9CYXRpaw==) (дата обращения 15.04.2015).
4. Inese Eke. Silk painting techniques – cold batique. URL: [http://www.silkpaint.net/painting\\_techniques.html](http://www.silkpaint.net/painting_techniques.html) (дата обращения 15.04.2015).
5. Irina Dorofeeva. Painting a Scarf: Floral Dream in Sky Blue and Ocher. URL: <http://www.fineartsilkstudio.com> (дата обращения 15.04.2015).
6. Lori. How to Batik on Silk (silk scarves, playsilks...). URL: <http://www.waldorf moms.com/2013/08/how-to-batik-on-silk-silk-scarves-playsilks.html> (дата обращения 15.04.2015).
7. The batik guild. What is batik? URL: <http://www.batikguild.org.uk/whatisbatik.asp> (дата обращения 15.04.2015).
8. Аксёнова Н.В., Бадмаева Д.В. Бурятская национальная одежда как способ укрепления национальной идентичности // Молодой ученый. – 2014. – № 21 (80). – С. 731–732.
9. Ирина Лысенко. Покраска канвы и мулине красками Гамма: Батик-Акрил. URL: <http://mastera-rukodeliya.ru/vyshivka/uroki-stitch/472-batik-akril.html> (дата обращения 15.04.2015).
10. Техника «холодный батик». Пошаговая инструкция. URL: <http://www.stranamam.ru/article/726471/> (дата обращения 15.04.2015).

*Scientific Adviser: D.V. Shepetovskiy, Senior Language Instructor, TPU, Russia*