

WEAVING WEBS OF PROTECTION: GRINGSING TEXTILES

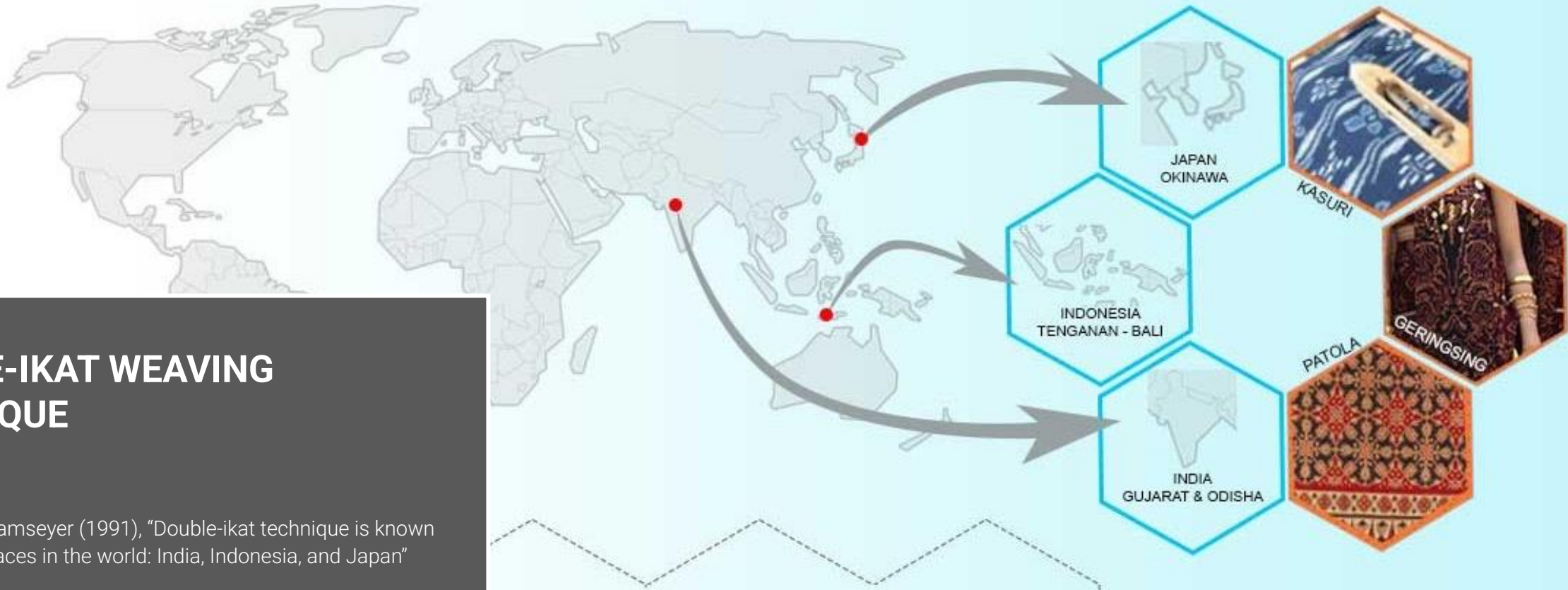


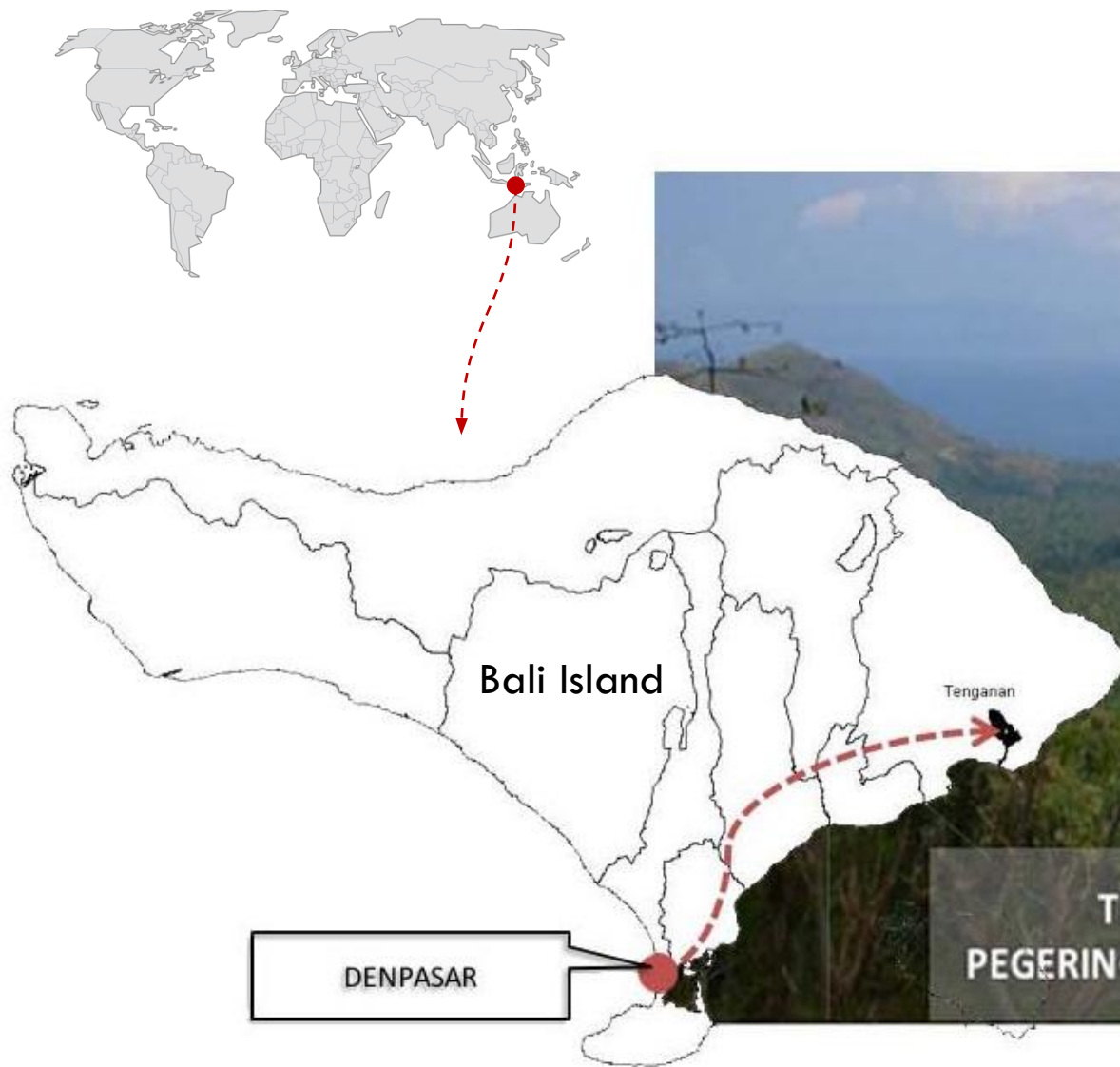
Nyoman Dewi Pebryani, M.A., Ph.D – The Indonesian Institute of the Arts Bali

THE CHANDI SUMMIT 2025 – CULTURE FOR THE FUTURE

DOUBLE-IKAT WEAVING TECHNIQUE

According to Ramseyer (1991), "Double-ikat technique is known only in three places in the world: India, Indonesia, and Japan"





Bali Island

Tenganan

DENPASAR

TENGANAN
PEGERINGSINGAN VILLAGE

distinctive

According to Kohn (1960), *Geringsing* is constructed from two local words, *gering* and *sing*. *Gering* means sick and *sing* means no, so *Geringsing* means protection from sickness

THE CONCEPT OF PROTECTION IN THE TEXTILES

The people in Tenganan Pegringsingan Village deeply value their ancestral legacy, viewing it as essential to maintaining harmony with nature (Gittinger,1999; Ramseyer, 2009). Village administrators implement policies to ensure the sustainable use of forest and rice field resources.

People in Tenganan believe that protection can be achieved when the elements that support the process creating Gringsing textiles are in balance and harmony

p

PATTERNING WARP AND WEFT THREADS

Patterns reflection in horizontal and vertical directions, and the patterns created in both the warp and weft threads

t

THE CHOICE OF TIME

Picking a perfect day to start the process, as the artisans believe that starting with a good day will bring good luck

c

APPEARANCE OF COLORS

Consistently use three colors in appearance: white/light yellow, red, and black.



TECHNICAL PROCESS: Steps of creating Gringsing Textiles



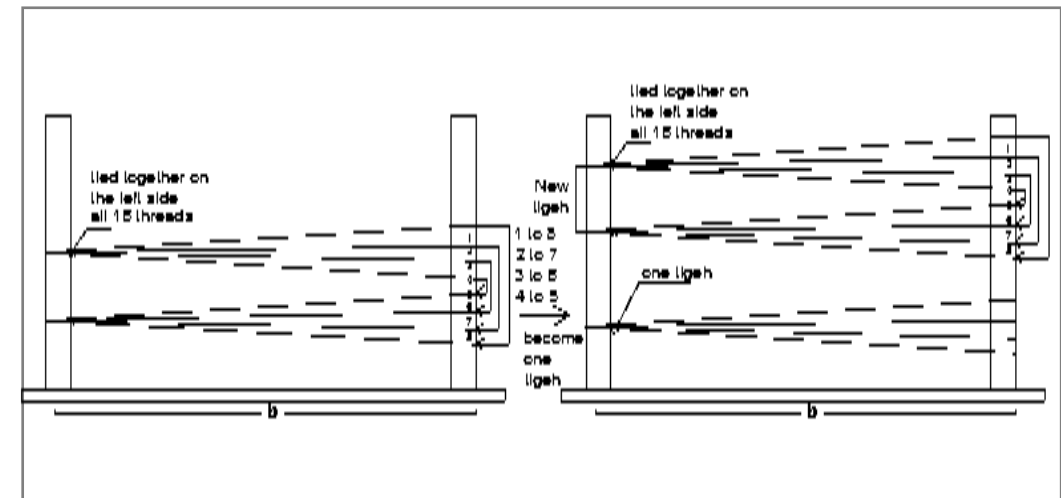
Spinning the cotton into the yarns



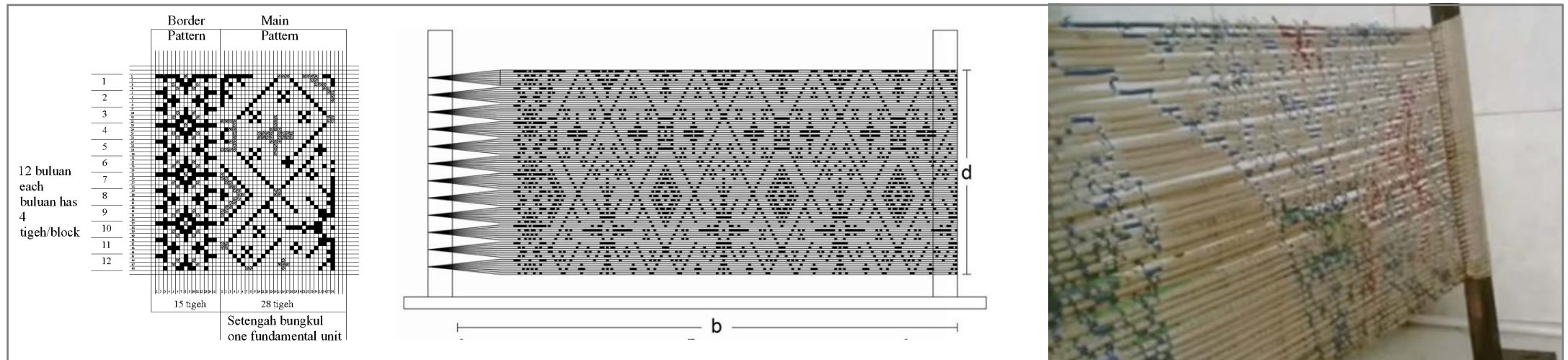
Dyeing the threads with
basic color



Transferring the yarn to the
weft frame



Calculation in Transferring the yarn to the weft frame



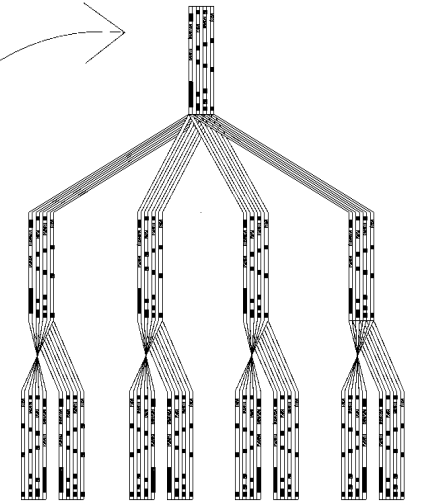
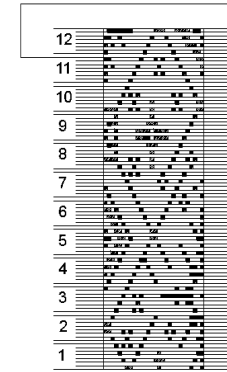
Calculation in Transferring the yarn to the weft frame and tying the threads



Calculation in Transferring the yarn to the warp frame and tying the threads



4. MESA'AK DIHI



Dyeing the yarn and indigo and red and Ordering the threads




weaving

PROTECTION

The concept of protection embodied in the stages of creating Gringsing textiles, from the choice of the natural materials which provide protection in sustainability, patterning both the warp and the weft as the symbolization of balance and intersection of horizontal and vertical connection in nature



RED
BLACK
WHITE/
LIGHT YELLOW



LIGHT YELLOW
FROM KEMIRI;
RED IS FROM
CURCUMA;
COMBINATION
INDIGO AND RED IS
BLACK

COLOR SYMBOLISM

Geringsing textile consistently uses three colors: red, black, and light yellow. These three colors represent deities in Balinese Hindu: Brahma, Wisnu, and Siwa. The deities represent the cycle of life: creator, maintainer, and destroyer or purificator.

The concept of protection is also translated in the choices of picking a perfect day to start the process, as artisans believe that starting with a good day will bring good luck. The artisans usually avoid starting the procedure of making Gringsing on a day called kajeng.

RED, BLACK, LIGHT-YELLOW



CULTURAL SYMBOLISM

A plus sign (+), *tapak dara*, is a fundamental symbol. Tapak dara means unification of elements in the center so that balance condition can be achieved.

This plus sign is applied as an exit/entrance to the village in four different directions.

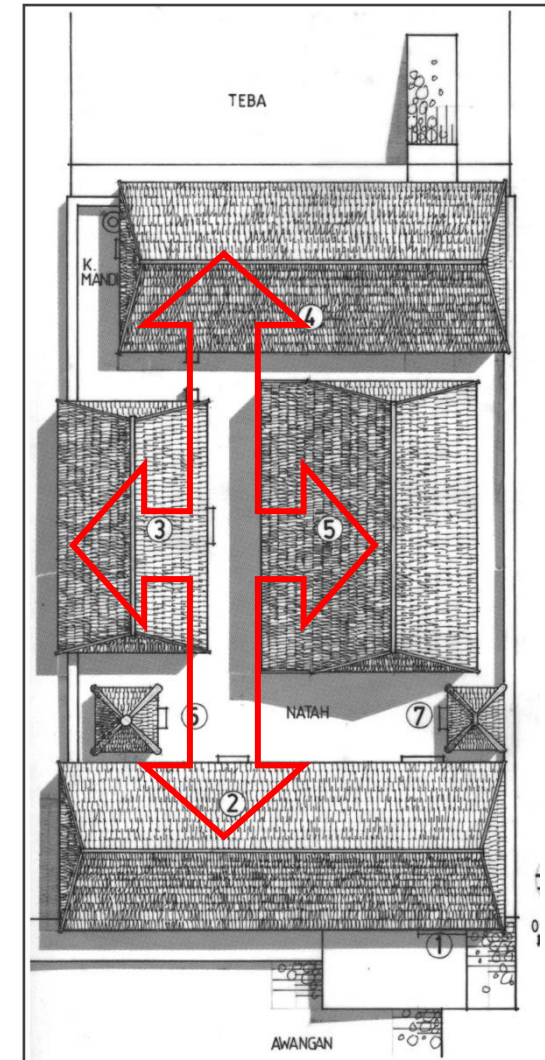
TAPAK DARA

TAPAK DARA (PLUS SIGN)

The plus sign is also applied in other parts:

- The priest applies *tapak dara* to the house columns during a house warming ceremony
- All the house layouts in this village consist of four buildings in one area with the arrangements following the plus sign.
- The plus sign also appears in the textile patterns.
- A traditional doctor used to apply the plus sign with lime battle to the part of body that is in pain.

PLUS SIGN



THE USES OF GERINGSING TEXTILE

Geringsing textiles is used as an object to be offered, worn, and passed down to the next generations as an heirloom. People in this village treat *Geringsing* textiles as a sacred object that provides protection for the people who make and wear it. The textile's name aligns with the literal meaning of *Gringsing*.

TEXTILES





GRINGSING TEXTILES AS HEIRLOOM

Remarkably, not only are Gringsing textiles as an heirloom for the Tengananese, but also the warp and the weft threads that have been through the dyed process.

People in Tenganan Pengringsingan village believe that the value of Gringsing textiles is equal to gold. The dyed threads are considered a valuable asset for the people in the village.

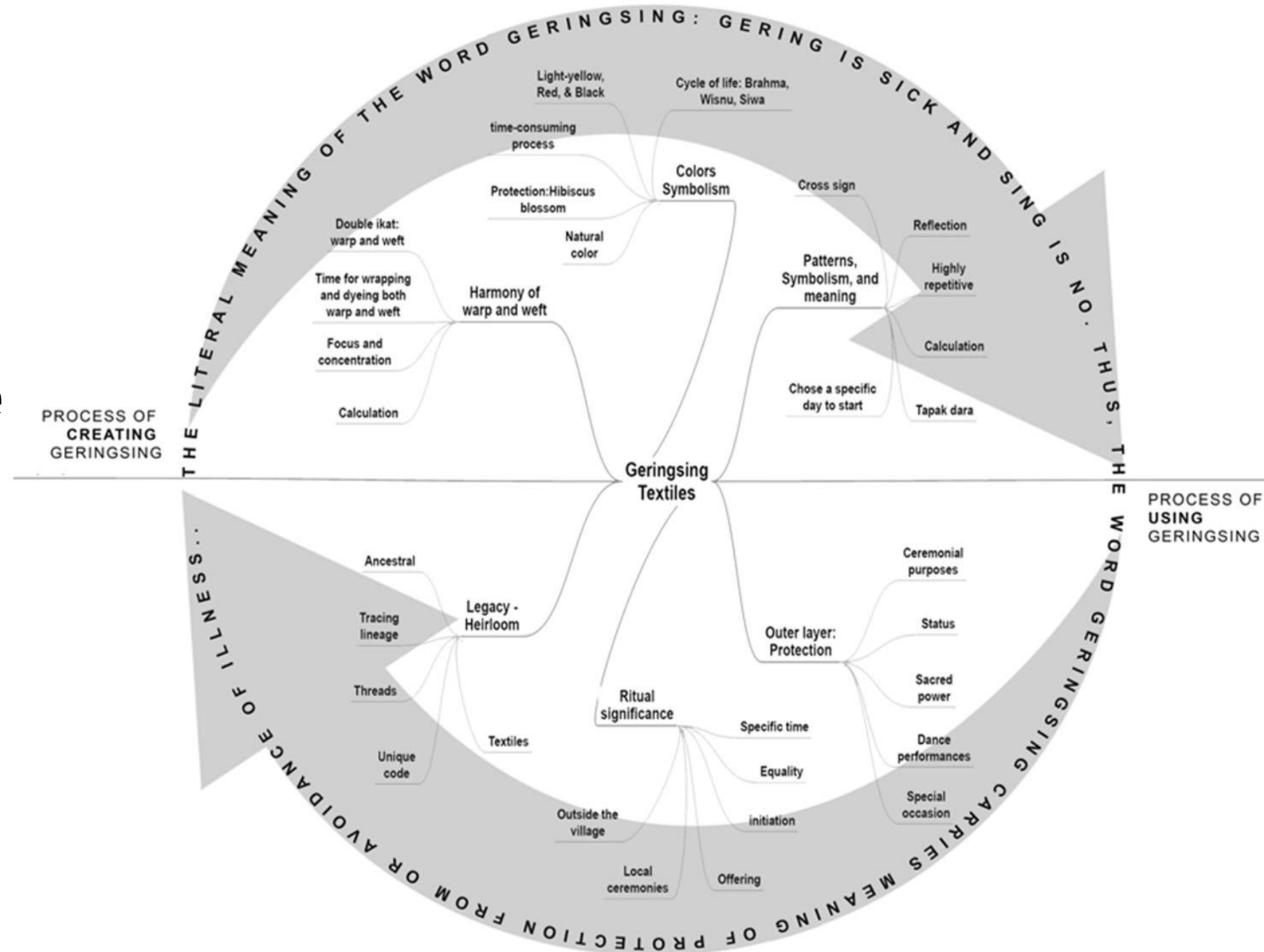
HEIRLOOM

Balance and Protection as Cultural Theme

Balance is a necessary condition to achieve protection. The word 'Geringsing' meaning protection from illness. The plus sign, which people in the village believe symbolizes balance/ unification of elements, provides protection.

The intertwining of the elements that support the process of creation and usage of Gringsing Textiles, can be interpreted as weaving a web of protection.

PROTECTION





THANK YOU