

The history of textile production is very rich in terms of technical solutions of interlaces and fibre twists. The beginnings of development of this branch of human activity are noted in Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Period. The art of fabrics use was not only related to the production of clothing but also obtaining food, building construction and container production. The appearance of threads or turned cord made of plant fibre can be considered revolutionary as the ability of grass, leaves and reed processing into sprangs, mats and fabrics greatly accelerated human adaptation to the ecosystem conditions in which they lived.

Textile production of New Stone Age is poorly examined as textile products become easily destroyed as the effect of their deposit in the ground. The knowledge on production and processing of natural fibres in Neolithic Period is taken from the interpretation of artefacts indirectly confirming the advanced textile production such as loom weights, spools or spindle whorls. Microscopic analysis of vessel type ceramics ornamented with so-called cord ornament which was a universal decorative motif used by the lowlands communities 4th and 3rd millennium BC can provide entirely new information on this topic. It often happens that such examination is the only source of information on textile production in terms of micro and macroregional research. Unfortunately besides a few exceptions such analysis are virtually not done.

The aim of this project is the attempt of finding the answer to the question on how these impressed ornaments, observed on ceramic vessels found in funeral context of late Neolithic societies living in the west area of the Polish Lowland was made, taking into consideration the role of textile products. The outcomes of this research will also make it possible to define fibre raw material and technical solutions of interlaces and textile products types which were probably created and used in the area of Neolithic times on the aforementioned area.

The selected source material will be analysed macro- and microscopically and defined based on the group of textile products used in production and decoration of clay vessels. Consequently more experimental examination in order to verify the thesis formulated during the specialist analyses will be held. In the course of examination, natural fibre products of plant and animal origin, which prehistoric potter probably used in the process of creating and decorating the walls of analysed collection of vessels, will be made. The whole process will be made by hand, using the techniques and methods used in prehistory. Textile matrix created in this way, will be pressed onto earlier prepared copies of ceramic shapes made of natural clay and then fired.

The research, to a great extent, will expand the current knowledge on textile production of the Late Stone Age in Central Europe, and the socio-economic organization of Neolithic cultural units. The obtained outcomes of expertise may also be a cause for research on ritual-symbolic sphere of discussed communities, including, the role of textile production and textile products. Experimental examination, which has not been conducted on such scale, is an innovative solution. The use of microscopic analysis of source material in combination with archaeological experiment will allow interdisciplinary and complex examination of the issue. The analysis will also introduce new interpretation of source material which, so far, hasn't been analyzed textile-wise.