the above state, a force for moving laundry 25 is strongly exerted by center vane 27, in an order of blade side surface 27a, blade upper surface 27b, and blade side surface 27c. Accordingly, center vane 27 may easily move laundry 25 in the above order.

This is because the laundry near blade side surface 27a rotates in accordance with rotation of agitator 7 by coming in direct contact with blade side surface 27a. Accordingly, a force in the rotation direction of agitator 7 is easily applied to the laundry.

Furthermore, in the case where the amount of washing water in inner tub 4 is small, the buoyancy of the laundry near blade upper surface 27b obtained by the washing water is small, and the laundry comes in direct contact with blade upper surface 27b. Accordingly, a rotational force is applied, by rotation of agitator 7, to laundry 25 near blade upper surface 27b by a frictional force with blade upper surface 27b.

Additionally, blade side surface 27a directly applies a rotational force to laundry 25 near a front side of blade side surface 27a in the rotation direction, by an agitation action of blade side surface 27a by the rotation of agitator 7. Accordingly, the agitation action, on laundry 25, by blade side surface 27a is greater than that by blade upper surface 27b.

That is, laundry near blade side surface 27c moves merely by the action of coming into contact with laundry moved by blade upper surface 27b and blade side surface ~~27e~~27a. Accordingly, the agitation action on the laundry at blade side surface 27c is smaller than that at blade side surface 27a and blade upper surface 27b.

Furthermore, as in the case of center vane 27, when agitator 7 is rotated clockwise, a force for moving laundry 25 is strongly exerted by peripheral vane 28, in an order of blade side surface 28a, blade upper surface

side surfaces formed on both sides of the blade upper surface, and the width of the blade upper surface, on a side of the outer periphery of the peripheral vane, is set to about 1/20 or more of the length of the outer periphery of the agitator. Accordingly, in the case of performing the washing step with a small amount of washing water, laundry comes in direct contact with the blade upper surface. Thus, an area which receives a frictional force by rotation of the agitator is increased, and laundry may be easily moved. As a result, the positions of pieces of laundry may be easily exchanged, and occurrence of unevenness in the washing of laundry may be further reduced.

Furthermore, according to the present exemplary embodiment, the length of the center vane of the agitator in the radial direction is set to about half the radius of the agitator. Accordingly, exchange of positions of pieces of laundry may be performed uniformly near the center of the inner tub and near the outer periphery. As a result, unevenness in the washing of laundry may be further reduced.

Furthermore, according to the present exemplary embodiment, the length of the peripheral vane of the agitator in the radial direction is set to half the radius of the agitator. Accordingly, exchange of positions of pieces of laundry may be performed uniformly near the center of the inner tub and near the outer periphery. As a result, unevenness in the washing of laundry may be further reduced.

Moreover, according to the present exemplary embodiment, the blade upper surface of the center vane is provided in a manner sloping downward closer to the base of the agitator, toward the outer periphery of the agitator. Accordingly, laundry positioned on a side of the inner ~~outer~~ periphery may be moved by the center ~~peripheral~~ vane. As a result, the positions of pieces of laundry may be easily exchanged, and unevenness in the washing of laundry

may be reduced.

Moreover, according to the present exemplary embodiment, the blade upper surface of the center vane is provided in a manner sloping downward closer to the base of the agitator, toward the blade side surfaces provided on both sides in the circumferential direction of the agitator. Accordingly, laundry positioned on a side of the center of the agitator may be moved to the side of the blade upper surface of the center vane. As a result, the positions of pieces of laundry may be easily exchanged, and unevenness in the washing of laundry may be reduced.

Moreover, according to the present exemplary embodiment, the blade upper surface of the center vane has a width in the circumferential direction reduced toward the outer periphery of the agitator. Accordingly, laundry positioned on a side of the center of the agitator may be moved to the side of the outer periphery. As a result, the positions of pieces of laundry may be easily exchanged, and unevenness in the washing of laundry may be reduced.

Furthermore, according to the present exemplary embodiment, the blade upper surface of the peripheral vane is provided in a manner sloping downward closer to the base of the agitator, toward the rotation center of the agitator. Accordingly, laundry positioned on a side of the outer ~~inner~~ periphery may be moved by the peripheral ~~center~~ vane. As a result, the positions of pieces of laundry may be easily exchanged, and unevenness in the washing of laundry may be reduced.

Moreover, according to the present exemplary embodiment, the blade upper surface of the peripheral vane is provided in a manner sloping downward closer to the base of the agitator, toward the blade side surfaces provided on both sides in the circumferential direction of the agitator. Accordingly, laundry positioned on a side of the outer periphery of the agitator may be moved to the side of the blade upper surface of the peripheral vane.