

(for example, reel side reflector **320**) being provided on a side of the variable display means to cover an area sandwiched between the symbol placement face and the symbol transmission face on a face on the side of the variable display means, and configured to assist image display of the image display means.

[0015] According to the configuration, in the area formed as the reel **3** is circular in cross section, namely, the area (image display assistance area) sandwiched between the symbol placement face and the symbol transmission face on the face on the side of the reel **3**, display of the image is assisted with the image display assistance means as the background of the image display means, so that the player perceives color development in the area on the image display means with the image display assistance means as the background, the color development effect of the image can be enhanced with good energy efficiency, and the player can clearly recognize the image and enjoy playing a game.

[0016] According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a gaming machine including: a variable display means (for example, reels **3**) configured to variably display a plurality of symbol rows on which a plurality of symbols are placed; an image display means (for example, liquid crystal **504**) being provided in front of the variable display means and configured to display an image concerning a game; a symbol illumination means (for example, reel backlight **513**, fluorescent lamp **510**, any other illumination light for illuminating the symbols from behind or from the front of the symbols) configured to illuminate the symbols; and an image display assistance means being provided on a side of the variable display means and configured to reflect light emitted from the symbol illumination means (for example, reel side reflector **320**, white plate, and mirror plate disposed on the side of the variable display means) and to assist image display of the image display means.

[0017] According to the configuration, the light from the symbol illumination means provided for illuminating the symbols is reflected on the sides of the symbol rows and arrives directly or indirectly at the areas in front of the variable display means, so that the image in front of the variable display means is illuminated for improving color development of the image in front of the variable display means, the illumination effect of the image can be enhanced with good energy efficiency, and the player can clearly recognize the image and enjoy playing a game.

[0018] In the gaming machine of the invention, the symbol illumination means may include a rear illumination lamp (for example, reel backlight **513**) for illuminating the symbols from behind the symbols and the image display assistance means may reflect light emitted from the rear illumination lamp.

[0019] According to the configuration, not only the light emitted from behind the symbols to illuminate the symbols is applied to the image through the symbol row, but also the light leaked in the lateral direction is reflected on the side of the symbol row for illuminating the display area in front of the variable display means, so that full use of the light from the rear illumination lamp is made and the illumination effect can be enhanced with good energy efficiency.

[0020] In the gaming machine of the invention, the symbol illumination means may include a front illumination lamp

(for example, fluorescent lamp **510**) for illuminating the symbols from a slanting direction of the front of the symbols and the image display assistance means may reflect light emitted from the front illumination lamp.

[0021] According to the configuration, not only the light emitted from the slanting direction of the front of the symbols to illuminate the symbols is reflected on the symbol row for illuminating the image, but also the light leaked in the lateral direction is reflected on the side of the symbol row for illuminating the display area in front of the variable display means, so that full use of the light from the front illumination lamp is made and the illumination effect can be enhanced with good energy efficiency.

[0022] In the gaming machine of the invention, the image display assistance means may be attached to a housing (for example, reel case **310**) for housing the variable display means.

[0023] According to the configuration, the image display assistance means is attached to the symbol row side, so that when the door is opened or closed, the image display assistance means does not become a hindrance and the door can be opened or closed without a hitch as compared with the case where the image display assistance means is attached to the door of the machine. The image display assistance means can also be disposed tightly along a triangular region and energy efficiency can be improved.

[0024] In the gaming machine of the invention, the image display assistance means may be a white plate.

[0025] According to the configuration, for example, a mold member can be used as the white plate, so that the illumination effect can be enhanced at a low cost. White enables the player to well perceive color development.

[0026] In the gaming machine of the invention, the image display assistance means may be a mirror plate.

[0027] According to the configuration, a mirror plate has a good reflection efficiency, so that the illumination effect can be enhanced.

[0028] According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a gaming machine including: a variable display means (for example, reels **3**) configured to variably display a plurality of symbol rows on which a plurality of symbols are placed; an image display means (for example, liquid crystal **504**) being provided in front of the variable display means and configured to display an image concerning a game; and a side illumination means (for example, side illumination light **1325**) being provided on a side of the variable display means and configured to illuminate the symbols on the variable display means from a side of the symbols.

[0029] According to the configuration, the light emitted from the side of the symbol row arrives directly or indirectly at the display area in front of the variable display means, so that color development in the display area in front of the variable display means is improved, the illumination effect of the image can be enhanced, and the player can clearly recognize the image and enjoy playing a game.