

Seasonal impression affects landscape experiences and appreciation

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Introduction

There are many seasonal factors that affect landscape experiences and appreciation of landscape, such as climate, vegetation, traditional events, etc. Although more detailed analysis is needed for discussion, the results shown here, will be a useful base for our experience of landscape studies.

Method

Similar questionnaire tests were carried out in Helsinki, Leuven, Vienna, Corvallis, Sapporo, Amherst, Roanoke, Naha and Kaohsiung. The most north locates in subfrigid climate zone and the most south locates subtropical zone. Participants responded about the beginning of the season by month, preferences of seasons and months, associated words from seasons. They answered the important factors to identify the seasons and the preferable landscape in their area.

Results

1. Beginning of each season (Fig.1)

Spring begins at similar period in March or April but summer begins from May to July. Autumn begins September to November and winter begins mostly December. People of Leuven has long season of spring and Naha has long summer period compared to other areas. Naha also has short autumn.

2. Preference of season (Fig.2)

Spring was preferred most at Leuven in Belgium and preferred at Vienna in Austria and Sapporo in Japan second. People in northern area preferred spring season in north hemisphere. Summer was liked at Helsinki in Finland and Corvallis, Oregon USA. Summer was also liked in northern areas. Autumn was liked Kaohsiung in Taiwan, Naha in Japan and Amherst in Massachusetts, USA. Autumn was not liked in Europe. Winter was most preferred at Kaohsiung. Winter was not preferred in every area and disliked most at Helsinki.

3. Preference on month (Fig. 3-4)

People of cold areas, e.g. Helsinki, Sapporo, Vienna and Leuven, like warm season, from May to September. Helsinki people dislike October and November. Coldest season, December, January and February, was also disliked in most areas.

4. Preference and average temperature of months (Fig. 5-15)

People preferred warm months according to the rise of temperature. But people in warm areas do not show the same tendency. Kaohsiung people do not like the hotter season and their preference came down by the increase of temperature. Preferable temperature should be estimated 20-25 degree centigrade.

5. How people know the season (Table 2)

Important factors to know the season were listed by the frequency of their responses (Table 2). In most area, people find the season by the natural phenomena, i.e. weather, vegetation, animals. Naha, located subtropical area, finds their seasons by the social phenomena, i.e. events.

6. Impression of seasons (Table 3-6)

Associated words to spring showed flowers, green and sunlight. Summer associated sunlight, heat and sea. Autumn associated colored leaves and rain. Winter associated snow and cold but Naha people associated wind and New Year. With these results, changes in vegetation provided the important seasonal impression and featured their scenery. Temperature provided the important seasonal impression and the seasonal experience of landscape.

7. Preferable landscape (Table 7)

People responded by referring to many famous sightseeing areas nearby and features of landscapes. Helsinki people mentioned the scenery of lakes and forests but they have no popular name of area. Leuven people also have no popular area. Otherwise, Vienna people answered Salzkammergut and Kaernten most. Corvallis, Sapporo and Amherst people like scenery of mountains. Naha people like the scenery of seaside, and Kaohsiung likes sunset. Related to the reason of preferences, seasonal impression affected to the preferences, e.g Helsinki people like the summer scenery of lakes and Amherst likes the autumn scenery of mountains.

Conclusion

Seasonal impression affected to the appreciation of the landscape and natural phenomena like as flowers and fresh leaves

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affected to the impression of spring and the colored leaves affected autumn impression. They are important components of landscape.

Keywords: Seasonal impression, Experience of landscape, Landscape appreciation

Revisiting described landscape in Japan III

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After the long closed the country of Edo Era, many people visited Japan and found beautiful landscapes written in their travel notes (Table 1). Most famous notes were known as the "Unbeaten Tracks in Japan" (Bird, 1880) and the "Satow Papers PRO 30/33" (Satow, 1872-82). The long exclusion of foreigners made people curious in Japanese landscape. They had made hard trip to the inland of Japan and found the different landscape features to their native one. Bird wrote many letters to her sister in England and Satow (1884) made the first travel guidebook in English for central and northern Japan.

Both of them are interesting for Japanese to know the beautiful landscape ever existed in their own land. After the Second World War, the unbelievable recovery of economic activity and rapid immigration to urban area made confusion in the harmonious landscape. Most of those landscape were changed by the development for not only national projects and but also local constructions. The mature vegetation were cut down and besides the topography was reformed and new landscapes would be disturbed by eyesore of signboards constructed by the economic investment. Recently it is difficult for Japanese to find those landscapes described in the travel notes.

Then the travel notes had become precious data of beautiful landscape of Japan. For the hundred years, Japanese could not understand what they had written about because they had devoted to understand the technological development of western countries and their way of thinking. They had worked hard and raised the level of scientific knowledge and the technological advancement as to the same level of western countries. But they never paid their attention to the environment i.e. landscape. If they knew the value of the landscape like as European countries, they never lost their beautiful landscape described by the western travelers.

This paper also is intending to examine the value of the landscape descriptions. Landscape is not exactly same as neither a picture nor a video image but is an actual feature of environment at a local site. And the appreciation of the landscape is not a mere description of the physical features of the environment but the impression arisen by the personal experience through their perceptions at the site. Then the appreciation of the landscape was depended on the stochastic process of their psychological responses aggregated and accumulated in their brain. Although the personal experiences differ among the people at the site, some part of experience will show similar impression among the people there.

Their similarities were depended on the probability which was given by both the similarity of the personal preference and the intensity of the stimuli of landscape. If the intense stimuli provided the strong impression on the traveler in ancient, we might find their impression described or we must probe the evidence of their impression even now. Therefore the experience of landscape is the most reliable and exact way to understand their description. So, we had made a trip to some areas described by the travelogues which were written by the western visitors to Japan until the end of 19 century.

We should say that we could have the coherent landscape experience with ancient travelers beyond both the time and the human race. This type of experience sometimes provides interesting scientific knowledge on the landscape evaluation, because a personal landscape experience provides a sentimental preference but the coherent experience of people provides the common appreciation of landscape through human being. In this case, people of today could find the similar impression on the landscape to the ancient travelers, so the landscape preferred by them might show the common preferable landscape to people of today. We would like to conclude that the landscape admired by the foreign visitors in old days might yet show the guideline to the landscape preservation policy of nowadays in Japan.

Keywords: western visitors, appreciation of Japanese landscapes, travelogue

Scenery of Play Grounds in Memory Among University Students in Qinghai Tibet Highland

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Introduction

Natural environment contributes to develop people's sensibilities and minds, it is an effective environmental education particularly for children - for basic character development through plays and nature experience. In Qinghai Province, multiple minority ethnic groups such as the Tibetan, the Mongolian and the Hui are mixed and reside together; therefore, cultural diversity is observed with mixed traditional cultures and ways of living in this area. For these reasons, the objective of this study has been set to clarify play grounds situations during the childhood period, with university students of different ethnic groups as a subject.

Study Methods

In this study, a sketching survey was conducted among students at Qinghai University for Nationalities. It is possible to compare results among different ethnic groups at this university. In the sketching survey, the subjects were asked to draw sceneries of their favorite play ground during their childhood, and thus play space in the memories of these university students were examined. 152 sets of sketching survey were distributed between July to November 2011, 137 sets have been collected. The number of respondents among the collected surveys is as following: the Mongolian (49), the Tibetan (31), the Han (25), the Hui (23), and others (9). The number of elements related to plays in the sketches has been counted for the analysis.

Results And Considerations

Various elements have been detected in the sceneries of the sketches including natural environment such as mountains, rivers and forests as well as roads and houses. The locations in the sketches ranged from nearby sites such as neighborhood, schools and roads to sites which are rich in nature like grasslands, mountains, water, woods, and farmland. Within the total of 137 sketches, 700 elements were distinguished. The average number of elements per sketch was 5.1. According to the ethnic groups, the number of elements drawn was, the Mongolian with the highest number of 6.2, the Hui with 4.6, the Tibetan with 4.5, and the Han with 4.4. The elements drawn in the sketches have been divided into the following six categories, with which the number in parenthesis indicates the number of elements found in the sketches of each category: nature and land utilization (391), buildings (125), transportation (86), people and animals (64), public buildings (29), and others (5). The number of elements in the sketches was then analyzed proportionally to the total number of respondents, 137. The nature and land utilization included mountains (72%), rivers (64%), woods (58%), and grasslands (28%). Buildings included houses (60%) and yurts (20%). The transportation category had roads (57%). In the category of people and animals, cows and sheep (26%) and people (12%) were detected. Finally, the public buildings category included schools (16%). A vast area was drawn as a play ground, commonly including mountains, rivers, houses, woods, and roads. In terms of play grounds in school, there were sketches which include class rooms and even details of a gym. In addition, the sketches of Mongolians included a large grassland, mammals such as cows and sheep, and the sun and the moon with yurts. Most sketches were of a rather far-sighted view with mountains in a distance with a river running through from a mountain, and woods were included as a part; and houses, yurts, buildings and roads were drawn towards the front. This sketching survey revealed: 1) a view of a play ground from the subjects' eyes and 2) the elements that construct a view. There is a possibility to detect correlation between the elements in the sketches and the living environment and customs of each ethnic group. The elements in the scenery included tangible geographic and topographic points of view as well as intangible cultural and social points of view.

Keywords: Tibet Highland, Play, Sketch, Landscape, Ethnic Groups

Residents' Attitude Towards Cultural Landscape at Alxa Beisi in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in China

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Introduction

Cultural landscape has been utilized to promote tourism at Alxa Beisi in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in China. The objective of this study has been set to clarify the evaluation of cultural landscape by residents in the area. Beisi was established in 1804 and currently consists of 15 temples and over 100 buildings. The number of monks once counted 993 in 1869, but has come down to six as of 2007. Due to the decreasing number of monks, it became difficult to maintain Beisi as a temple; therefore, it is now utilized for tourism.

Study Methods

A field research has been conducted in August 2007 and August 2012. An attitude research was run among the Mongolian residents in the surrounding area of Beisi. Interviews were organized and answers were collected from 271 respondents. The content of the research included demographics of the respondents, images of Beisi, opinions about tourism development, and expectations for ecotourism. A Chi-square test was applied for the analysis.

Results and Considerations

The surrounding area of Beisi was designated as National Forest Park in 2002. This designation included Beisi as a part of the park, and ecotourism started. For the purpose of regulations for nature conservation and tourism usage, charges have been imposed to visitors to enter Beisi since 2002. It is open free of charge only once a year on a festival day. Occupations of the residents in the surrounding area of Beisi also changed from nomadism to hotel businesses and souvenir shops.

The gender among the respondents split with 135 males and 136 females. Regarding the number of visits to Beisi, 63% visited one to three times a year, while 18% never made a visit. The purpose of visits was prayer (72%) and events (52%). With the evaluation of images of Beisi, the following images exceeded 50% with the response of *very much agree*: *Beisi is a sacred site of Buddhism* (76%), *Beisi is attractive* (66%), and *a place to interact with monks* (51%). It is inferred that Beisi is still considered among the Mongolian as an attractive and sacred site for Buddhism.

With a statement of *suitable for a tourism spot*, the total of *very much agree*, *agree*, and *somewhat agree* counted 94%. Similarly, statements about tourism development resulted in; *destruction of serenity of a sacred site of Buddhism* (85%), *destruction of environment* (84%), and *promotional activities of environmental preservation* (80%). Residents in the area think that Beisi is suitable for a tourism spot but are simultaneously concerned about destruction of the environment and serenity as a sacred site of Buddhism. Furthermore, it was uncovered that tourism development of Beisi was considered as promotional activities of environmental preservation. The results of opinions about tourism development with multiple answer questions are as follows: *communicate Mongolian ethnic culture* (55%), *communicate Buddhism culture* (54%), *communicate importance of environment preservation as a nature experience site* (36%), and *increase regional economic revenues* (26%). These regional residents thought tourism development as a mean to communicate Buddhism culture and the Mongolian ethnic culture. Expectations to Beisi with multiple answer questions resulted in; *a place for prayers* (69%) and *a place for nature experience and green activity volunteers* (61%). These results imply that the regional residents considered Beisi not only as a place for prayers but also as a place for nature experience and green volunteer activities. As a result of a Chi-square test, statistically significant differences were detected. Statistically significant differences were also detected according to ages with a statement: *Beisi is attractive*. The younger the respondent is, the higher the evaluation is with attractiveness of current Beisi. The older respondents thought that the traditional identity has been lost due to the deterioration of natural environment around Beisi and new buildings.

Keywords: Cultural landscape, Residents, Natural environment, Regionally specific, Ecotourism, History

A Study of the Impressive Experience in Japanese National Parks

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Compared with the mean score of strength of impression, we studied who had magnificent impression. Results show that "the first-time visitor", "the under thirties", "female", "the people who spend a long time walking in the national park", "the people who visited national park on a clear day" have a magnificent impression.

Compared with the odds ratio, we studied the relationship between the strength of impression and the satisfaction of the visitor's activities. Results show that the satisfaction of "see the scenery" is strongly connected to the strength of impression. The satisfaction of "appreciate flowers and trees" is also strongly connected with the strength of impression. From these results, the satisfaction of "see the scenery" has a stronger connection with the strength of impression than the other activity satisfaction.

We also focused on the moment of impressive experience and studied the relationship between the strength of impression and the element of impression. Results show that "beauty" is strongly connected with the strength of impression. "Magnificence" has the next strongest connection with the greatness of impression. According to these results, "beauty" has a stronger connection with the greatness of impression than any other element. In addition, many respondents answered that "magnificence" and "beauty" of the national park could not be experienced through television or the internet.

Finally, a correlation analysis was conducted to study the difference between "impressive experience" and "overall satisfaction." Results show that "impressive experience" was more significantly correlated with "contribution to the richness of life" than "satisfaction". From the viewpoint of enrichment of one's life, "impressive experience" is an important index to manage national parks. "Impressive experience" was also more significantly correlated with "intention to recommend" than "satisfaction". Word-of-mouth is important to attract potential visitors to national parks. In regard to "intention to revisit," there is nothing statistically significant about the correlation coefficient between "impressive experience" and "overall satisfaction."

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Keywords: National Park, Impressive Experience