

A Comparative Study on Landscape Cognition Between Japanese who have been in New Zealand(NZ) and who have not been to NZ

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Introduction

NZ is almost same size and has same climate, temperate zone and subtropical zone, with Japan. Though a lot of Japanese have immigrated to or lived on long term in NZ, few Japanese knows NZ well because the long distance between both countries might be bottleneck for flow of people. Thus, the objective of this study is to clarify differences of landscape recognition of Japanese who have been in NZ and Japanese who have never been to NZ.

Methods

69 landscape photos taken in both countries (35photos from Japan, 34photos from NZ) were categorized to the group of coast, waterfall, river, forest, wetland, mountain, and lake. Respondents were asked to select three photos each for characteristic landscape image of NZ and Japan. Then, they were asked to write down the three keywords each about the landscape image of both countries. Respondents were the group of 25 Japanese people who have been in NZ (NJG), the group of 42 Japanese people who have never been to NZ (JPG), and the group of 12 New Zealander people (NZG).

Result

Firstly, the most selected photo as the characteristic landscape image of Japan among all groups was the photo of Mt.Fuji with Ashinoko lake and shrine gate (NJG76.0%, JPG74.0%, NZG50.0%). Also, second top photo was Mt.Fuji's one. The different result was shown on third top photo. NJG chose the photo of Mt.Fuji with forest (32.0%), JPG chose the photo of creek (28.7%), NZG chose the photo of waterfall with autumn leaves (16.7%), and the photo of forest with lingering snow (16.7%).The creek's photo selected by JPG was recognized as Japanese landscape though taken in NZ.

For the characteristic landscape image of NZ, there was not the photo selected intensively such as Mt. Fuji one. However, the most selected photo was common among all groups. That was the photo of lighthouse on cape surrounded by ocean (NJG36.0%, JPG40.5%, NZG16.7%). As Second top photo, NJG chose the lake on volcano with volcanic steam (24.0%). JPG selected the solid magma in volcanic crater (23.8%) and the lake (23.8%). These two photos might be chosen as the characteristic landscape image of NZ because those are unfamiliar sceneries in Japan. In NZG, it was hard to find out the characteristic scenery because the groups of selected photos were decentral.

For keywords about the landscape image (KLI), noun showing plants and landscape, noun showing animals, noun showing color, adjective indicating impression, and proper noun were answered. As KLI of NZ, FOREST, MOUNTAIN or HILL was answered 29.6% as total. And GREEN, DYNAMIC or BROAD was answered 22.2 % for each in NJG. People would have the image of landscape that broad and dynamic mountain and hill are spread in NZ. On the other hand, JPG answered BROAD(35.0%), MEADOW and GRASSLAND(27.5%), SKY(25.0%), WILD(25.0%) as KLI. Though it also shows broad image, JPG would have the image of broad glass land instead of mountain or hill.

It revealed the difference of landscape cognition between NJG and JPG. There was not obvious difference on the photo selecting exercise. However, JPG recognized the photo taken at NZ as Japanese landscape photo. For KLI, JPG indicated broad glass land, and NJG shown the landscape consisted of broad forest and mountain.

Keywords: Japan, New Zealand, Landscape Cognition, Landscape

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