

## A Comparative Study on Landscape Evaluation Between Japan and Korea

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### Introduction

The objective of this study is to clarify differences of landscape recognition of both nationalities and also to uncover characteristics of landscape elements that are highly valued with university students in both countries were asked to distinguish and evaluate landscape photos which had been taken in Japan and Korea.

### Methods

1) after collecting landscape photos of national parks from both countries, 37 photos of waterfall, forest, sea shore, river, building, swamp, mountain, and lake were selected from each country, which sum up to a total of 74 photos, 2) these photos were categorized in groups by 105 university students and each group was labeled with a name, 3) the same students evaluated these photos according to preference (5-scale) and exoticism (3-scale), and 4) they were asked to select three photos which they believe to represent the unique characteristics of the nation, so that landscape that exhibit the unique characteristics of each nation can be extracted. The subjects from Japan are 52 students who belong to Chiba University, and those from Korea are 53 students who are registered at Seoul National University. Cluster analysis (Ward's method, squared Euclidean distance, 3) was applied for the analysis of photo categories, and Mann-Whitney U Test was applied for the analysis of evaluation variances.

### Results

With the photo grouping exercise, there were seven photos were categorized in different groups in Japan and in Korea. Three of them were categorized as RIVER by the Japanese but as LAKE by the Koreans. Also, a famous site in Japan which shows a set of a waterfall and a temple was categorized as WATERFALL among the Koreans, but was considered as CULTURAL LANDSCAPE by the Japanese. CULTURAL LANDSCAPE is a group name given to the landscape comprised with buildings. As for the results of preference analysis, statistically significant differences were detected with nine photos. On the other hand, exoticism evaluation did not detect statistically significant difference with 36 photos. Among these 36 photos, 15 were from Japan and 21 were from Korea. In addition, FOREST and COAST both scored low on exoticism evaluation in both nations. When the subjects were asked to select photos which show characteristics of the other nation, half the photos were cultural landscape (59% of Japan, and 49% of Korea). Contrarily, when the subjects were asked to select photos which show characteristics of his/her own nation, cultural landscape (25% of Japan, and 29% of Korea) and landscape of famous sites were selected. In particular, the selection among the Koreans exhibited disparity.

### Considerations

With the photo grouping exercise, the Japanese and the Koreans both distinguished almost similar landscape groups. However, it was notable that the photos of RIVER which were categorized as LAKE by the Koreans did not contain rocks along the water. Therefore, it is possible that the Koreans recognize river and rocks together as a set. Neither the Japanese nor the Koreans recognize exoticism with landscape of FOREST and COAST. It is inferred that they can distinguish characteristics of each nation with cultural landscape which include buildings. These evaluation results indicate that landscape evaluations of the Japanese and those of the Koreans share commonalities. Photo selections of characteristics of the nation also indicated that cultural landscape are the distinguishing factor of unique characteristics. As photos of natural landscape alone were hardly selected as representation of the characteristics of a nation, it is possible that the Japanese and the Koreans do not have any distinct images of the other part's natural landscape. There is also a possibility, particularly with the Koreans, that there is no common recognition of nature landscape which represents Korean characteristics.

Both countries share commonality in landscape recognition and evaluations, but differences have been also uncovered.

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