

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.

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