A Comparative Study on Landscape Evaluation Between Japan and Indonesia

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Introduction

The preference of natural landscapes is important for landscape planning from the view point of tourism. The purpose of this study is to clarify the differences of scenery recognition of Japan and Indonesia, and to find the characteristics of scenery elements that are highly valued.

Study Methods

The study was conducted with the following four steps: 1) after collecting the scenery photos of natural landscape from Indonesia (33 photos) and Japan (35 photos) of *waterfall*, *forest*, *seacoast*, *river*, *wetland*, *mountain*, and *lake* which the total of 68 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 the photos according to favorability (5-scale) and exoticism (3-scale). The respondents from Japan were 55 students at Chiba University, and from Indonesia were 50 students at Bogor Agricultural University. Cluster analysis (Ward's method, squared Euclidean distance) was applied for the analysis of photo categories, and Mann-Whitney U Test was applied for the analysis of evaluation variances.

Results and Considerations

In the photo grouping, the Japanese and Indonesian distinguished almost similar scenery groups. There were seven photos which were categorized in different groups in Japan and Indonesia. It was notable that the photos of *forest* which were categorized as *wetland* by the Japanese because it consists of high grass. Therefore, it is possible that the Japanese recognize grass as a set in wetland. Two rivers in Japan and Indonesia were categorized as *river* among Indonesian, but Japanese categorized it as *forest and mountain in distant view*. The *lake* was categorized by Indonesian, but Japanese categorized it as *forest and mountain in distant view*. The *forest* was categorized by Indonesian, but Japanese categorized it as *forest and mountain in distant view*. Japanese saw the forest from the bottom, so they could see the shape of the mountain which consists of forest. Japanese also differs the wetland as *wetland in distant view* and *wetland in close up view*. From the distant view, Japanese only could see the grassland as main view, but from the close up view they could see the detail of landscape element such as forest nearby the wetland. As for the results of preferences evaluation, statistically significant differences were detected with 25 photos, 17 were from Japan and 8 were from Indonesia. On the other hand, exoticism evaluation detected statistically significant differences with 48 photos, 28 were from Japan and 20 were from Indonesia. Preferences evaluation between Japanese and Indonesian were also quite similar. Neither Japanese nor Indonesian recognized preferences with sceneries of *forest* and *wetland*. However, either the Japanese or Indonesian prefer *waterfall* and *seacoast* than others. Japanese and Indonesian like prefer natural landscape with water element than without it. While, based on exoticism evaluation, *river* and *wetland* were not recognized by both of countries, but *coast* and *waterfall* were recognized by both of countries. It is inferred that water element in landscape have an important role in scenic beauty. River and wetland in this photos have no landscape element diversity in it. Both of countries share commonality in scenery evaluations of preferences and exoticism, but differences have been also found in recognition based on the viewing point.

Keywords: landscape evaluation, grouping test, preference, exoticism, Cluster analysis, Mann-Whitney U Test