A Study on Landscape Assessment with Photo Classification Method: Focusing on Bukhansan National Park

*Younsun Jang[1], Kyuchul Lee[1], Yonghoon SON[1]

1.Seoul National University

'Subjectivity' is one of the important factors of assessing the landscape cognition. However, the earlier studies were focused on finding out the objective and unified values rather than the subjective viewpoints from respondents. The purpose of the study is to find out the ways of appreciation of the landscape by analyzing and classifying subjective values and cognition of natural landscape using Q-method with the photographic medium to complement the problems of the earlier studies. The research focuses on Bukhansan National Park in Korea, collects the 1,738 pictures from hikers and extracts 25 representative landscape pictures of the whole. Second, The research classifies of 25 photographs by using Q-method with 5 factors which are naturalness, diversity, coherence, exotic feelings and preference. Lastly, the study analyzes the detailed reasons of evaluation by interview to participants.
In conclusion, green landscape with various vegetation is highly rated for naturalness. The landscape with various natural factors and seasonal change got high points on diversity. There are narrow variations of interpreting naturalness, but there are wide variations of interpreting diversity. The landscape which is stable and harmonious rated highly on consistency, and the unusual landscape with huge scale got a high points on exotic feelings. As a result of correlation between preference and assessment factors, the landscape which has a strong naturalness is highly preferred. The study indicates that people preferred the landscape with natural factors rather than man-made facilities on the landscape of Bukhansan National park. We may conclude that this study would be used as basic data to compare the ways of appreciation of the landscape between countries.

Keywords: cognition of landscape, Q-method, classification of photos, naturalness, preference