

Studies on the Restitution of the Imaginary Environment through the Comparison of Korean, Chinese and Japanese Historical and Cultural Landscape

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ABSTRACT

This study had the purpose to restore imaginary environment involved to symbolic thinking system of Eastern culture discontinued by scientific and reasonable rationalism of Western. To restore imaginary environment, this study selected example places such as Seoul, Beijing, Kyoto which were ancient cities of Korea, China, Japan each and used hermeneutics and phenomenological access method to draw out the element of imaginary environment by analyzing historical and cultural view of example cities.

Through comparison and re-interpretation of historical and cultural view of three countries[Korea, China, Japan] in Northeast Asia, as the result of drawing imaginary environment involved within it, it was structured that the spirit and the factor of natural environment of places involved to each cities were reflected as the factor of civilized environment, organized that each element was united, and more sanctified the spirit of place step by step.

This study has the meaning as first trial which comparatively analyzed city spaces of existent place of human life by new concept called imaginary environment. It may has the meaning that verifying the universality of imaginary environment involved to historical and cultural view of three Northeast Asian countries, however, there was limitation to examine specificity up to detailed elements of each city.

Key Words: Imaginary Environment, Genius Loci, Historic and Cultural Landscape, Phenomenology

1. Introduction

Human beings in prehistoric times behaved as the being which already had abundant intellect and imagination. When you see the aspects of unconscious activity(dream, illusion, hallucination, and delusion of grandeur), it is assumed that ancient people was not different with modern in strength of such activities and abundances. Recently, various findings consisted from paleontology have in common that they have made the origins of human beings and cultures to ascend time by time. It is proved to be true that ancient people conducted more complex mental-spiritual activities than 20~30 years ago(Eliade, 1976).

Projected objects which projected to the nature were

started to remove according to the development of science. Universal original forms are still remained to our unconsciousness, however, and this revealed their shapes as various forms. Such original type, that is, the feeling caused by original form is superhuman and inhuman impulse as an impression involving sanctity, and this is an experimental condition already given when human beings are born and a most basic condition which have human beings to be worthy of human beings. Today, reaching to the machine civilization times, profound emotional energies indwelling in dehumanized society according to the development of the most reasonable and scientific consideration, however, in spite of this, we open the pathway headed to unconsciousness through dreams. Also, it regenerates the image of original forms forgotten as a part of

adjusting activities and imageable language before logic. Because unconsciousness preserve the prehistoric features which forms the part of fundamental mind, and restore old things such as illusion, imagination, way of method in ancient times, and basic instinct which were outmoded in course of next development(Lim, 1981).

We, civilized men have two environments. One is natural environment, and the other is social one. Natural environment includes every phenomena which have direct relation with our lives such as every nature - that is, sun, moon, mountain, stream, sea, air, weather, earth, living thing, and mineral, and in social environment, every things produced from our lives - that is, political, economical, social, historical environments-are subjected. Primitive man, however, had another third environment other than such two kinds of environments. It was a world of spirit. Sometimes, it gave some profit to people, but mostly it was the environment which gave disease and death. It was once called as imaginary environment(Keller, 1915) because this environment can only exist within imagination of people.

Based on the spirit activities of unconscious world, there had been existed original forms(Utopia, Paradise, Garden of Eden, Kingdom of Heaven, Arcadia, Beautiful Scenic Place and Blessed Land, Fairyland, the Happy Valley, Scenic Spot, Heaven) which were intended to build in real world since the ancient times.

In this study, we intend to define the concept of imaginary environment as (Imaginary environment existing within consciousness and unconsciousness of human beings) which is ranged from ancient primitive people to modern civilized people including the world of spirit called by professor Keller. Based on the concept of such imaginary environment, this study was intended to find inspiration and information which will be a help to current work in the example of past pattern, grasping the feature of imaginary environment forgotten to civilized people by judging ideological background, natural environmental factor, civilized environment factor which created native pattern of history-culture view realized in the longitudinal flow of time.

For this, the purpose of this study is that we considered traditional ideology and religious background in relation with this centering on the space which is realized the view of history and culture, the element of natural environment and civilized environment by selecting ancient cities of Northern East Asian three countries(Korea, China, Japan) which su-

periority of traditional culture is concentrated as examples.

Also, we suggested a developmental way of environmental planning by comparatively analyzing the relation among sciences of Western, and search and succeed to imaginary environment involved to symbolic thinking system of Eastern culture discontinued by scientific and reasonable rationalism of Western.

II. Study Contents and Methods

In modern studies, it will divide the main ranges of environmental planning as physical environments and objects of city space such as landscape architecture, architecture, city planning. environmental design dealt from this study, however, treated the contents related to city planning and architecture field supplementarily placing emphasis on environmental planning for applying to landscape architectural field. The ranges of environment planning which will be dealt from this study, includes imaginary environment as well as natural environment and social environment.

In background of imaginary environment, the view of history and culture which is taken most parts by natural environment of each regions and level of culture in times will be located. Therefore, in this study, we have made comparative analyzation collectively the view of history and culture in ancient city which can extract the imaginary environment.

As a spatial way, we analyzed the view of history and culture through spot and literature investigation as example locations such as Seoul of Korea, Beijing of China, Kyoto of Japan. As a temporal way, we grasped structural variation procedure and scenic feature of space in the flow of successive historical variation procedure from prehistoric times to modern times by analyzing temporal factor related to procedure of city forming.

As a content range, we considered with weighting to the primitive faith such as animism, totemism, and shamanism with the basis on the ideological background related with imaginary environment which is the subject of this study. Other than this, we analyzed correlation between the primitive faith and the idea of fairyland, Feng-Shui Theory, Yin-Yang and Five Elements Theory, the ideology of Heaven, Earth and Man.

As an analyzing method interpreting the view of history and culture, we used hermeneutic access method related with explaining the intend of structuring the view or symbolic meaning of intending to communicate, and phenomenological

access method related with explaining essence of the view and fundamental meaning through the experience by grasping the meaning of life from the view and regarding the view as existed place of human being.

We made a comparative analyzed correlation with city space by dividing the element of natural environment as animal, plant, topography, weather, symbolic element, and analyzed correlation between spatial area of each component by classifying the element of civilized environment as city, building, time, space, ideology. Also, in order to draw environmental designing theory, we divided the space into structural aspect, formal aspect, color, direction and analyzed the relation with space by dividing the center, axis, area, boundary. With relation to the component, we dealt whole component of city such as constructed building, implement and cultural factor.

III. Results and Discussion

1. Location

Scenic features in three countries(Korea, China, Japan) have similar condition from sun which gives absolute impact on natural environment because they located at latitude 30~40 degrees north. Such conditions, in the aspect of earth view, have similar features comparing to weather, vegetation, soil, geology, topography, and hydrology. However, in local aspects, it is shown the difference in details by the geographical features such that Korea is peninsular, China is inland, and Japan is island.

While Korea has the feature that hydrology springs from east and then flows to west by the *Baekdudaegan*, main rivers of China have the feature that they spring from the west and then flows to east by the Himalayas. In Japan, the hydrology is formed to every direction around Mt. Fuji. Common feature of three countries is harsh terrain, many moun-

tains, and a plenty of valleys. This leads to the development of mountain worship and the theory of divination based on topography, and becomes a factor which makes great impact on selection of location in city.

When you see the feature of location in Seoul, Beijing and Kyoto which are main cities of three countries, they are located at latitude 35~37 degrees north and placed on basin commonly. Seoul had been developed with consisting city structure of current size at Chosun Dynasty(A.D 1394~1910) undergoing Kochosun, Koguryeo, Shilla, Koryeo Dynasty from the Neolithic Period(B.C 4000) around Han river, and Beijing had been developed with forming city size from the Paleolithic Period(B.C 18000) through Yao, Jin, Yuan up to current size in Ming and Qing Dynasty(李名玉, 2003). Kyoto also reached the peak of city structures in Hei'An Period(AD 794~1185) from Paleolithic Period through Jomong Period and Yayoi Period after generation of kyoto basin prior to 2 million B.C.(室谷文治, 1994). As above, main cities of three countries show the feature of construction by differentiative repetition of historical layer under the condition of natural environment which is better for living(Table 1).

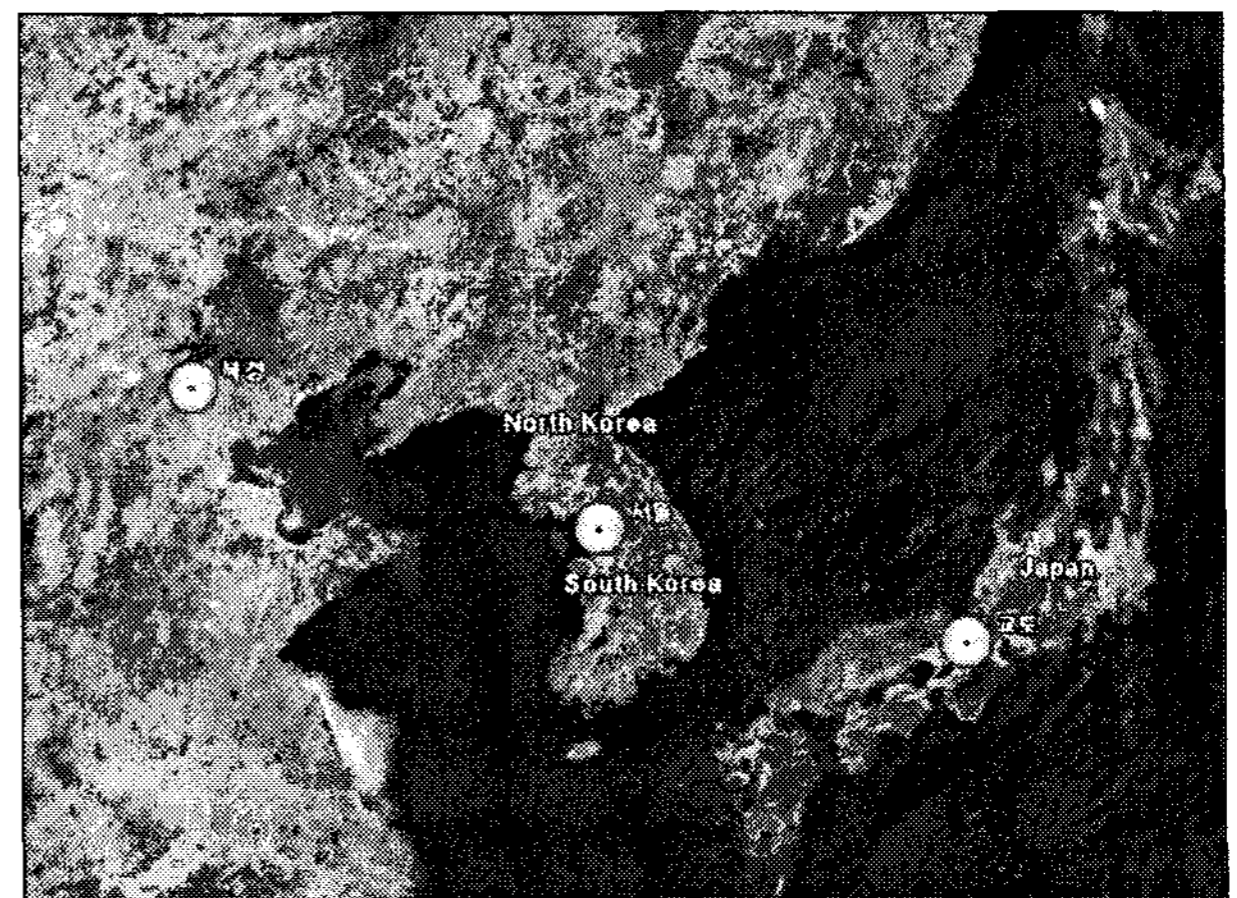


Figure 1. The Geopolitical Position of Korea, China and Japan
Data: Google Earth Program Data, 2005.

Table 1. The Location of Example Cities of Korea, China and Japan

City	Korea(Seoul)	China(Beijing)	Japan(Kyoto)	Remarks
Latitude	N 37° 34' 42"	N 39° 54' 56"	N 35° 01' 26"	-
Longitude	E 126° 58' 37"	E 116° 23' 27"	E 135° 45' 43"	-
Period	Chosun Dynasty: 1,394~1,910	Ming, Qing Dynasty: 1,368~1,911	Heian Period: 794~1,185	-
Terrain	Basin	Basin(Wetland)	Basin	-
River	Cheonggye Stream, Han River	Suzhou River	Oigawa River, Kamo River	-

2. Spatial Structure

External formed space of city space will be formed by the condition of natural terrain or hydrology, based on this, main buildings will be established, which these will have close relation with Yin-Yang and Five Elements Theory and Feng-Shui Theory. In three countries of Northeast Asia with the basis of such Yin-Yang and Five Elements Theory and Feng-Shui Theory, we observed and judged the spirit of the place (Norberg-Schulz, 1984)(earth spirit, soul spirit, vital spirit) residing natively within shape and direction of earth, and the place that human beings built city, temple, housing and grave.

The results of comparative analysis of example cities were as follows:

In Korea(Seoul), it is surrounded by mountains of nature (Baek'ak Mountain, Yinwang Mountain, Nakta Mountain, Nam Mountain, Kwan'ak Mountain), established at the place of water(Cheonggye Stream, Han River) development, and constructed Kunchŏngjŏn at full soul-spiritual place receiving earth spirit which inherited through the *Baekdudaegan*. Such place became a center of city soon, and is symbolized as the center of Nation and Universe.

In China, there is a tendency to make greater importance on water than mountain. As we can see in the example of Yheyuan(望天星編, 1995), the power of mountain(Wanshu Mountain) is weaker than water(Kunming Lake), also, this mountain was manually made with soil dug out from lake. In case of water spirit, China has static lake type while Korea has dynamic gravity flow. Also, using water, China has used as factor to divide boundary of spaces by using moat which is manual waterway around the city. Central factor symbolize the center of universe constructing Taihejŏn at the center of city in China(Beijing) as well as in Korea.

Establishment of Japanese city was greatly impacted by China. Especially, in Kyoto, it shows the feature established by copying LuoYang Province(Shinichi Masuishi, 1998). The moat which can be shown at main castles of Japan, also be grasped as the factor introduced from China. Main constructions which located as central element indicate sanctity of heaven, earth, and human. Places and territoriality were once called by the name of seal engraving according to human being who is the main body of space because these were divided by boundary element such as wall, moat, castle wall, and road.

If you examine the axis, you could know that China had used the central axis of north and south(meridian axis), and

Japan also had accepted and developed same concept. Korea had thought the meridian axis was important, however, had a strong tendency to accept the axis of natural terrain. Even in construction of road which can function as axis and pathway, three countries(Korea, China, Japan) constructed ChuJak road commonly. However, Korea bent the road in order to complement the direct impact from fire spirit of Kwan'ak Mountain on the palace wall with Feng-Shui.

Examining the boundary factor, Korea shows the feature which shrank the wall of castle using the natural terrain while China and Japan constructed manual wall and moat. Also, in case of the gate which is entrance by being constructed at boundary, Korea planned the gate considering direction, structure, form of gate with the importance of direction while China and Japan constructed as fixed forms to lattice type road network by each direction. Also, in Korea, the tendency which used the gate as the factor of treasure complementing Feng-Shui fault, is very strong. In particular, by naming east gate as *Heunginjimun* in order to complement weak point of left-hand blue dragon of city Four-God Mountain, it shows treasuring feature adding '之' character which resembles the shape of dragon and it is none in the gate of the other direction.

As above, natural environmental feature of three countries which are remarkably different in geographical condition classify the commonness and the differentiation clearly in structure of city space(Table 2).

3. Elements

City, castle, individual construction, temple and altar, and shrine are embodied as round shape iconology according to traditional world view adjusted to the feature of main body of faith and residence. For example, space and element related to the sky expressed as round shape, related to the earth as square, and related to human as square shape. The direction of space will be basically decided according to circular path of sun, which may become reference point of the Polestar.

The element which makes impact on formation of historical and cultural view is mostly natural environmental factor, and, in topographical feature, land, mountain, cave, forest, valley, river, stream, lake are main elements. Weather elements are sky, sun, moon, star, cloud, snow, spirit, symbol element is Castle Star(Jamiwon) in spatial aspect, and five elements are wood, fire, soil, metal, water.

Table 2. Comparison of Spatial Structure of Example Cities in Korea, China and Japan

City	Korea(Seoul)	China(Beijing)	Japan(Kyoto)	Remarks
Spatial Structure	Center	Royal throne, Kunchonjon, castle wall	Royal throne, Taihedian, Forbidden City, Imperial castle, altar	Dairi, Gosho space of ruler
	Area, Place	Five Region Fifty-Two Lane, Sam-Mun Sam-Jo	Sea castle, O-Mun Sam-Jo, Imperial castle, Zijin castle	Jo, Bou, Sagyo, Ugyo, Kamigyō, Shimogyō
	Boundary	Samkak Mt, Nak Mt, Inwang Mt, Mokmyuk Mt, Castle	Yan Mountain, moat	Higashiyama, kitayama, Arashiyama, Kameyama, moat Feng-Shui, Yin-Yang and Five Elements, Against Mountain and Close Water
	Axis, Pathway	Buk'ak Mt. → Kwan'ak Mt. Axis, Chujak Road	South-North Axis, arterial road, alley, Chujak Road	South-North Axis, Dori Chujak Road

The elements of civilized environment are city, castle, bridge, road, wall of castle, moat, garden, temple, altar, grave, statue, incense burner, tower, tombstone, architecture, and gate, within individual building, main elements are bottom, wall, pole, ceiling, shape of roof, color, and structure. Detailed elements are stairs, mirror, well, spring, pond, and garden. Also, tomb, megalith(alignment), painting element(wall painting) and cultural element are New Year customs.

Temporal element also operates as important factor to formation of historical and cultural view. City was accumulated and constructed by differentiating layer with human culture, therefore it has deeply involved with sense of place. With this, temporal element turned out to have close relation with spatial structuring element, we placed the element symbolizing spring and morning to the east, symbolizing summer and noon to the south, symbolizing fall and dinner to the west, and symbolizing winter and night to the north. New Year customs which are done in main subdivision of season of a year, also have close relation with the element of natural environment(Sun, Moon), and arrangement of main construction considered scenic aspect is made by considering the element of time and natural view.

As a result, elements of natural environment and symbolic elements can be reflected and shown to the element of city structure commonly in Korea, China, and Japan, in particular, there is a point of sameness which have organic relation for space and element because symbolization of natural environmental element is reflected to structure, form, color, direction of component. For example, the space which symbolize sky is expressed round type column and round type ceiling to plane shape of round type, the space which symbolize the earth is expressed column of square and ceiling of square to the plane of square. Also, the element which symbolize the earth is

arranged to east, and the element which symbolize moon will be arranged to west. In space, it has the feature indicating spatial moving procedure from the earth world to heaven world which vertical rising system is indicated remarkably by becoming centering.

We could check the same point and difference of Northeast three countries by study of comparative example as below (Table 3, 4).

As a result of studying historical and cultural view of main cities in Northeast three countries regarding phenomenological accessing method as frame of analysis based on thoughtful background such as animism, totemism, shamanism, imaginary environment which has been understood in the abstract. Also, we can verify that the spirit of place has been more reinforced because the nature of spirit and natural environmental element which each place has, are projected to space and combined elements structurally and organized.

IV. Conclusions and Suggestions

This study has the meaning as the first example which comparatively analyzed city space which is existing place of human life with structured analyzing frame, and historic and cultural view of traditional city space of Northeast three countries with new concept which called as imaginary environment. Verifying the generality of imaginary environment involved to historical and cultural view of Northeast Asia had a meaning, however, there was limit to examine the differentiation of each nation and city even to the detailed factor.

For continuous study in future, the study of ancient ideological history field should be preceded. Also the study which graft with environmental planning theory accepting the study

Table 3. Comparison the Component of Example Cities in Korea, China and Japan

City	Korea(Seoul)	China(Beijing)	Japan(Kyoto)	Remarks
City	Castle, bridge, fortress, altar, grave, royal tomb, garden	Castle, bridge, castle wall, moat, altar, grave, royal tomb, garden	Castle, bridge, castle wall, moat, altar, grave, royal tomb, garden	
Construction	Shrine, temple, tower, tall building, pavilion, gate	Shrine, temple, tower, tall building, pavilion, gate	Shrine, temple, tower, tall building, pavilion, gate	
Structure	Well, spring, chimney, pond	Well, spring, chimney, lake	Well, spring, pond	
Implement	Incense burner, statue	Incense burner, statue, tower, tombstone	Statue, tower	
The element of natural environment [weather, animal, plant]	Sky, sun, moon, star, cloud, snow, deer, crane, turtle, dragon, chinese phoenix, unicorn-lion, pine tree, willow, peony, lotus	Sky, sun, moon, star, cloud, snow, spirit, cattle, lion, crane, dragon, chinese phoenix, giraffe, pine tree, willow, ume tree, chrysanthemum, Oriental arborvitae, lotus	Sky, moon, star, cloud, snow, cattle, tiger, sheep, deer, crane, turtle, dragon, chinese phoenix, pine tree, camellia seeds, ume tree, lotus	
The element of shape	Round type, square, square type (rectangular, cross, hexagon, the form of a T, octagon)	Round type, square, square type (rectangular, cross, the form of a T, octagon)	Round type, square, square type (rectangular, hexagon, the form of a T)	
Color element	Five colors (Black, blue, red, white, yellow)	Five colors (Black, blue, red, white, yellow)	Golden color	
Culture	New Year Customs (元旦, 上元, 端午, 七夕, 百種, 秋夕, 冬至, 除夕)	New Year Customs (春節, 元宵節, 端午節, 七夕, 仲秋節, 冬至)	New Year Customs (お正月, 七夕, お盆, 師走)	

Table 4. Comparison the Building Background of Example Cities in Korea, China and Japan

City	Korea(Seoul)	China(Beijing)	Japan(Kyoto)	Remarks
Building Background	Animism, Totemism, Idea of a Fairyland, Feng-shui, Yin-Yang and five elements Theory, Heaven, Earth and Man Theory, Ancestor worship, Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism	Animism, Totemism, Idea of a Fairyland, Feng-shui, Yin-Yang and five elements Theory, Heaven, Earth and Man Theory, Ancestor worship, Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism	Animism, Totemism, Idea of a Fairyland, Feng-shui, Yin-Yang and five elements Theory, Heaven, Earth and Man Theory, Ancestor worship, Confucianism, Buddhism, Shintoism	

result of folklore field and religion field. Also, based on this study, it is need to verify that imaginary environment was universal and general culture environment by comparative study with western historical and cultural view. It is a future subject to embody the study result obtained through such course, and apply to environmental planning field.

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