

Study About Childhood and Recent Memories of Daily Life Sceneries Among University Students

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1. Introduction

A sustainable society is one that coexists with nature. What is nature which affects our daily life? In this study, sketches of daily life sceneries during childhood and those during young adulthood have been analyzed, and individual memories towards surrounding nature have been revealed.

2. Study Methods

Research on “Familiar Sceneries in Daily Life” was conducted from November until December, 2016. The survey was conducted with Japanese university students at Chiba University, and 200 responses were collected. In this survey, respondents were asked to draw sketches of daily life sceneries during their childhood and young adulthood. In addition, the following items were studied: structural elements of the sketches, areas where they have experienced nature, and the distance between people and the scenery. The current address and the address during childhood were collected, and each of impression of green space in those addresses was also evaluated by respondents.

3. Results

During childhood, respondent's places of residence spreads across 35 prefectures. During their young adulthood, they become concentrated in Chiba Prefecture, Tokyo and three other surrounding prefectures. Over 60% lived in residential areas in the suburbs during both childhood and young adulthood; however, the proportion of respondents who feel that green space around residency was plentiful varied at 78.5% in childhood versus 40.5% in young adulthood. They recognized surrounding green space lesser during young adulthood than during childhood.

The categories of the spaces drawn were: inside school, parks, farm land, compound spaces, river/water side, a way home, mountains, and forests. Parks were drawn most often (18.5%) for childhood, and inside school (42.5%) for young adulthood. Those strong tendencies were observed in young adulthood sketches compared to the childhood sketches. The distance to the scenery drawn was as follows: within 10 meters counted 67.0% for childhood, and 55.0% for young adulthood. Sceneries drawn were both in short distances.

Their own actions and geographic landscape/geography left stronger impressions during childhood than young adulthood ($p<.01$).

4. Considerations

It has been confirmed that “surrounding nature” is influenced by the space where one usually spends time, rather than influenced by the distance to the scenery. This study showed that there was a difference of impressions of “surrounding nature” between childhood and young adulthood.

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