Evaluation of vernacular landscape attraction for traditional village tourism: A case study of Yongfeng Village in Lanzhou

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Abstract: In the context of rural revitalization, the benign development of traditional village tourism is of great significance to the implementation of Rural Revitalization Strategy in China. Taking Yongfeng Village in Lanzhou as the research object, this paper discusses the evaluation method of vernacular landscape attraction. Through the research on the internal and external environment and historical culture of Yongfeng village, this paper constructed the rural landscape attraction system and evaluation index. With the help of the effective data of the questionnaire survey, this paper made an empirical calculation of the rural landscape attraction intensity of Yongfeng Village by using the methods of AHP and factor analysis. The results show that: (1) the protection and rational use of historical and cultural resources is the core content to improve the attractiveness of rural tourism landscape; (2) the internal space is the connotation externalization of the attraction of rural landscape, Renovating the historical built-up environment is the material basis for attracting tourists' in-depth experience. Therefore, the effective way to enhance the attraction is to activate and integrate the material and non-material rural landscape resources of traditional villages.

1 Introduction

In April 2012, the Ministry of housing and urban rural development and other four ministries and commissions jointly promoted the investigation of traditional villages. Since then, the protection and reuse of traditional villages across the country has begun. In October 2017, comrade Xi Jinping made a strategic plan for revitalizing the countryside in the nineteen major reports of the party. Since then, the No.1 central document has directly or indirectly encouraged the development of rural tourism throughout the country. Rural landscape can be formed only after a very long evolution, which bears the characteristics of farming culture different from modern urban and rural areas. In this context, the traditional village has naturally become a high-quality object of rural tourism development. The government and private capital gather to promote the rapid development of traditional village tourism. Although tourism plays a positive role in the revitalization of traditional villages, in practice, it often falls into the dilemma of low-level development because of the homogenization of tourism products, projects and business forms. The over development of eager for quick success and instant benefit leads to the destruction of traditional villages. Through the tourism perspective to evaluate the local landscape attraction of traditional villages, it can not only clarify the value structure of rural tourism resources, but also guide the reasonable development and effective protection of traditional villages. It is of great significance to the protection of traditional villages and the healthy and sustainable development of rural tourism industry.

Most of the existing studies analyze the composition and evaluation of landscape value from the macro-object of rural settlements, and the research results of different scholars are not the same. Wang Yuncai, Laurent, Jeong, Li Yuqi, etc. Chinese and foreign scholars have established rural landscape quality evaluation systems in different areas from aesthetic value, social value and ecological value. Sirakaya, Xie Zhijing and stensek comprehensively evaluate the rural landscape based on tourists’ preferences, attitudes and satisfaction, and guide the establishment of a harmonious and progressive rural landscape ecology in terms of society, economy and environment. As far as the traditional village research is concerned, the results are mostly focused on the value analysis and protection evaluation of heritage. For example, Li Qingquan et al. constructed an index system from three aspects of traditional architecture, site selection pattern and intangible cultural heritage to evaluate the value of historical and cultural resources and guide the protection and tourism development of traditional villages. Yang Liguo et al. constructed the index system and evaluation function from the four aspects of authenticity, living attitude, integrity and inheritance, which can better evaluate the protection and utilization status of historical heritage in traditional villages. In addition, some scholars have explored the composition of rural tourism attraction. For example,
Fairclough[14] discussed the dual tourism attraction of landscape and heritage in Western Europe. Xiao Guangming[15] analyzed the potential attraction of Zhaoqing ancient villages as tourism resources. Shan Fubin et al.[16] constructed a multi-level evaluation method of rural cultural tourism attraction by taking Hetuala village as an example.

From different angles, there are different ways to construct the element system of tourism attraction. In this paper, the classic theory of tourism area proposed by Liu Binyi et al.[17] is introduced into the research, and the evaluation model of the attraction intensity of traditional village landscape for tourism is established. Taking Yongfeng Village, a traditional Chinese village in Lanzhou City, as an example, this paper further analyzes the intensity structure of landscape attraction, and studies the mechanism of local landscape tourism attraction.

2 Evaluation Model of Attraction Intensity of Rural Landscape In Traditional Villages

In this paper, the literature method and expert consultation method are combined to construct the evaluation model of landscape attraction intensity. Firstly, it classifies, distinguishes and selects the complex elements of attraction proposed in the literature. Secondly, referring to the selection criteria of the first to the fifth batch of traditional villages in China, this paper establishes a conceptual model of attraction with full consideration of regional characteristics, and uses Delphi expert consultation method to refine and optimize it. Finally, AHP and factor analysis are used to design a composite evaluation index system to form an evaluation model of traditional village landscape attraction intensity.

2.1 Construction of landscape attraction system of traditional villages

2.1.1 Attraction composition

According to the definition in the Notice on the Survey of Traditional Villages, traditional villages are those with a long history and rich cultural resources. From the perspective of tourism discipline, traditional villages are a special type of tourist attractions. According to the theory of landscape tourism area, attraction of scenic spots is determined by image, uniqueness, recognition and other factors. Therefore, from the perspective of spatial function, the external production environment of traditional villages, such as mountains and rivers landscape, irrigation and water conservancy, can be divided into settlement external space; The internal living environment of streets, lanes, squares and residential buildings is divided into the internal space of settlements. In addition, the historical culture, artistic aesthetics and experience science carried by the internal and external space are the essence of the traditional village landscape. Based on this, the attraction of local landscape can be divided into three parts: external space attraction, internal space attraction and historical and cultural attraction.

(1) External space attraction. It mainly refers to the attraction of beautiful and scarce rural natural landscape. The overall natural landscape of a village is one of the main factors of attraction. The quality of natural landscape depends on its own characteristics, diversity, and whether it is reasonably protected. If the original natural characteristics of the village can be protected and the environment can be reasonably improved, the farmland scenery has become the biggest attraction of the local scenery, such as the traditional village of Hani terrace, the traditional village of polder around Taihu Lake and so on.

(2) Internal space attraction. It mainly refers to the attraction of artificial landscape environment. It includes not only the overall form of rural settlements, but also local architecture, local flora and fauna, agricultural production and public places. The interior landscape space actively responds to the natural environment and regional climate, and adheres to the Construction Philosophy of adjusting measures to local conditions. The pattern of streets and alleys, the texture of courtyards and the architectural style all contain wise scientific ideas, and precipitate rich historical culture and folk customs.

(3) Historical and cultural attraction. The cultural heritage, tradition, origin and special cultural value of landscape are the main sources of historical and cultural attraction of rural landscape. Rural traditional festivals, folk stories, unique customs and former residences of celebrities are the main manifestations. Cultural differences are the root of the existence of local landscape, so the core of the attraction of local landscape lies in the cultural attributes of traditional villages.

2.1.2 Establishment of the conceptual model of strength evaluation

Ko. t. g[18] used the method of combining holistic approach and reductionist approach in tourism evaluation model. Based on this idea, this paper constructs the conceptual model of traditional village landscape attraction intensity evaluation. Based on the analysis of the composition of traditional village landscape attraction, according to the aspects involved in the practice of traditional village protection, this paper summarizes the traditional village landscape attraction model, which is divided into three levels (Figure 1).

First, the first layer and the second layer are determined by holistic approach. The first layer is the criterion layer, which includes three systems: external space attraction, internal space attraction and historical and cultural attraction. The second layer is the factor layer, which includes 13 dimensions such as mountain, water potential, vegetation, farmland, pattern, streets, dwellings, buildings, structures, events, folk customs, skills and seasons. The first four dimensions belong to the content of external space attraction, and the last four dimensions belong to the content of historical and cultural attraction. Secondly, the third layer, the index layer, is determined by the method of reductionist approach. 13 groups of 34
specific indicators were used to subdivide and describe from the corresponding factor level of each dimension.

### 2.1.3 Index selection of strength evaluation

Each individual indicator in the indicator system reflects a certain aspect of the rural landscape of traditional villages from a specific perspective. From the index layer, the factor layer to the criterion layer, finally take the target layer as the comprehensive expression of the whole research object of rural landscape. The comprehensive evaluation model of rural landscape is constructed by multi-factor linear weighting function method. Follow the principles of systematicness, hierarchy, representativeness, operability and quantification to select the measurement indicators \(^{[19]}\). Considering the influencing factors of traditional village landscape attractiveness, further select and determine the specific measurement index under each factor.

In the attraction of external landscape space, the visual impact of landscape space on people is first, followed by experiential. Therefore, from these two aspects, the indicators of mountain, water potential and farmland are determined as ornamental and experiential. Vegetation as a special landscape, vegetation coverage, regionality and diversity are important attractive factors. The attraction of internal landscape space condenses the main living and production space of villagers, which is the space most closely connected with local residents. Regionality, uniqueness, artistry and experience are the important indicators of this level. In the attraction of historical and cultural landscape, the main indicators of this level are remoteness, popularity, appreciation, experience and difference. In order to improve the pertinence and operability of the research, Delphi expert consultation method is used to further correct the index system. Translate some abstract concepts into questions that are easier for the interviewee to understand and answer.

### 2.2 Data collection and processing

From August 1 to 27, 2019, we visited tourism related departments, rural landscape reconstruction related design units and universities twice to investigate the staff who understood the industrial situation and university teachers who carried out relevant research by means of interviews and questionnaires. In the first stage, more than 40 people were pre investigated by open interview, and the index system and weight were improved according to the suggestions put forward in the interview. In the second stage, the formal survey was completed in two steps, with a total of 208 valid questionnaires before and after. First, 140 people were interviewed and 113 questionnaires were completed; Secondly, in order to increase the authenticity and reliability of the data, another 240 questionnaires were issued successively, and 95 valid questionnaires were recovered. The questionnaire mainly investigates the attraction factor intensity of external space attraction, internal space attraction and historical and cultural attraction. The Likert scale was used to set the grade score, and each evaluation index was scored according to the grade rules of "very unimportant 1", "unimportant 2", "generally important 3", "important 4" and "very important 5".

At present, fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method, analytic hierarchy process (AHP), factor analysis method, neural network analysis method and structural equation model are mainly used to analyze the variables affecting the indicators at home and abroad. This study uses spss22 to obtain the commonness of sample data, and uses AHP and factor analysis to determine the weight of each index in the index system.
2.3 Determine index weight

2.3.1 Determination of subjective weight by analytic hierarchy process

Analytic hierarchy process (AHP) can analyze the index system qualitatively and quantitatively. First, according to the importance of the elements, the hierarchical structure of pairwise comparison between the upper and lower levels is established, and then the quantified comparison results are formed into a judgment matrix. Assuming that there are n elements in the lower layer that are dominated by the upper layer, take two elements i and j each time, and use eij to represent the ratio of the importance of i and j to form a judgment matrix of n elements. 

\[ E = (e_{ij})_{n \times n} \quad (e_{ij} > 0) \]

Normalize the elements of each column in the judgment matrix, and the general term of a single element is shown in formula (1) \(^{[20]}\). The judgment matrix added and normalized by rows is shown in formula (2) \(^{[20]}\).

\[ e_{ij} = \frac{c_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} c_{ij}} \quad (i, j = 1, 2, \ldots, n) \]

\[ t_{ij} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}} \quad (i = 1, 2, \ldots, n) \]

If \( \sum_{i=1}^{n} t_{ij} = n \), then the matrix E is consistent. The larger the value of Ci, the more inconsistent the matrix E is.

\[ CI = \frac{\lambda_{max} - n}{n-1} \]

2.3.2 Determination of objective weight by factor analysis

Factor analysis is used to evaluate the objective weight of indicators. First, assume that the observable random index variable \( X = (X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_p) \). The index variables are different in order of magnitude and dimension. The incommensurability can be solved by standardizing the data of random variable x. If the mean value is 0 and the variance is 1, the equation (4) \(^{[21]}\) is obtained.

\[ X_i = (a_{i1}f_1 + a_{i2}f_2 + \cdots + a_{ip}f_p) \quad (i = 1, 2, \ldots, p) \]

In this study, principal component analysis was used to calculate the common factor variance of each index. The size of the calculated value represents the influence of each index on the total variation, and the percentage of variance of each common factor in the total is the weight of the index in the whole.

2.3.3 Determination of compound weight

Comprehensive subjective weight \( w_{xi} \) and objective weight \( w_{zi} \) are calculated by using the formula \(^{[21]}\). The weight \( w_j \) of the index layer can be determined. The specific results are shown in Table 1.
3 The Empirical Research

3.1 Yongfeng Village overview

Yongfeng Village is located in the east of Jinya Town, Yuzhong County, Lanzhou. The village retains the layout of fort-type village built in Qing Dynasty, and the pattern of “village mountain river field” is complete. In 2016, it was listed in the list of the fourth batch of national traditional villages. It is also a demonstration village for the development of traditional villages in Lanzhou City and an experience base for traditional folk activities in Yuzhong County. The village, with its back on the north mountain and facing the Yuanchuan river, is located on the ancient Silk Road by the Yuanchuan river. It plays an important role in business accommodation and post station in history. It has important historical value. It has accumulated rich traditional material heritage and diversified intangible culture. Since 2017, Yongfeng Village has successively completed the protection planning and design, and the landscape renovation construction of the historical core area. At present, it actively promotes tourism construction under the guidance of the government, and is an important part of cultural tourism resources in Lanzhou. Taking Yongfeng Village as a case study, it has reference significance to study the landscape attraction of traditional villages in Northwest China and even in the whole country.

3.2 Evaluation function of attraction intensity index

Using the linear weighting method, this paper estimates the intensity of attraction of traditional village landscape. In (5) and (6) formula [20], $Z_i$ is the intensity index of index $i$ of index layer, $\lambda_i$ is the composite weight of $i$, $Y_i$ is assigned to likter5 of $i$, $Z_m$ is the total intensity index of traditional village landscape attraction.

$$Z_i = \lambda_i \times Y_i$$

$$Z_m = \sum Z_i$$

B3 The attraction of history and culture 0.4562

C7 Traditional residence 0.0821

C8 Public buildings 0.0364

C9 Structures 0.0062

C10 Historical events 0.1076

C11 Folk culture 0.2431

C12 Craftsmanship 0.0760

C13 Agricultural season 0.0295

D15 The historic attraction of streets and squares 0.0116

D16 The regional attraction of residential buildings 0.0522

D17 The unique attraction of residential buildings 0.0079

D18 The contribution of the artistry of residential buildings 0.0084

D19 The contribution of the aesthetic demand of residential buildings 0.0050

D20 The contribution of residential experience 0.0087

D21 The representative contribution of public buildings 0.0250

D22 The historic attraction of public buildings 0.0114

D23 The contribution of the structure's ornamental 0.0029

D24 The attraction of the structure's remoteness 0.0023

D25 The contribution of structure functionality 0.0011

D26 The attraction of historical events 0.0610

D27 The attraction of the popularity of historical events 0.0465

D28 The ornamental contribution of folk culture 0.0783

D29 The experiential attraction of folk culture 0.0597

D30 The contribution of folk cultural differences 0.1051

D31 The ornamental contribution of craftsmanship 0.0633

D32 The experiential attraction of craftsmanship 0.0127

D33 The attraction of agricultural products 0.0202

D34 The attraction of seasonal festivals 0.0093
3.3 Result analysis

3.3.1 Reliability analysis

In the study of the attractiveness intensity of rural landscape in Yongfeng Village, in order to ensure the reliability of the analysis data, the reliability analysis of the indicator layer was carried out using formula (7)\(^{[20]}\).

\[
\alpha = \frac{k \bar{r}}{1 + (k-1) \bar{r}}, \quad \left( \alpha \in (0 \sim 1) \right) \quad (7)
\]

In Equation (7), \(k\) is the number of projects evaluated in the study, and \(\bar{r}\) is the mean value of the correlation coefficient of the evaluated projects. The reliability test was conducted by SPSS22, and the results showed that Cronbach’s \(\alpha\) coefficient value was 0.910, indicating that the reliability data had inherent consistency and good reliability. We can use index layer data for measurement.

3.3.2 Sample characteristics analysis

Table 2 shows the basic demographic characteristics of the sample investigated in this study. 248 valid questionnaires were analyzed, of which the highest proportion was those engaged in tourism performing arts, accounting for 26.18% of the total. In addition, the majority of the samples were 36-50 years old, accounting for 58.8% of the total. Most of the people in the sample have received higher education, and 50.21% of them have received undergraduate education.

Table 3 shows the intensity index of attraction of vernacular landscape for Yongfeng village. According to the index evaluation system and formula (6), the overall intensity index of local landscape of traditional villages in Yongfeng Village is 3.6243, and the intensity index of each level is shown in Table 3.
### 4 Conclusion and Discussion

4.1 The historical and cultural attraction reflects the core connotation of the rural landscape, and traditional villages should activate historical landscape resources and extend the cultural context of the landscape.
From the criteria level, compared with the external space attraction, internal space attraction and historical and cultural attraction, the intensity index of historical and cultural attraction (1.6012) ranks first, indicating that historical and cultural attraction is the most important factor affecting the attraction of traditional village landscape. In the process of rural landscape construction, attention should be paid to the living protection of historical and cultural elements such as folk culture, agricultural seasons, and craftsmanship. Among them, the attraction of folk culture (0.8543) ranks first. In the process of developing tourism, we must pay special attention to the excavation of folk culture. The attraction of folk culture comes from cultural differences. Only by fully excavating the differences of folk culture can tourists experience the charm of folk culture and attract more people. In Yongfeng Village, the sacrificial ritual of Qi Yue Guan Shen, the social drama and the traditional hookah production process are combined with the characteristics of traditional culture, and the measures such as adding relevant exchange activities, organizing academic exchanges, carrying out folk art performances, and improving social participation are conducive to the continuation of the landscape context. Historical events (0.3915) are also the focus of public attention. At the beginning, the cognition of villages was largely derived from the cognition of historical celebrities and historical events. There are many historical stories spread in Yongfeng village, such as the General of Jianwei, Golden “Yellow Jacket”, Fuyuan Tai Yanzheng Association Corps, Princess Wen Cheng went to Tibet and so on. The construction of cultural exhibition hall can better display the long history and culture of Yongfeng Village. Craftsmanship (0.2501) is a traditional village folk art, including wood carving, brick carving and production techniques. The traditional folk houses in Yongfeng Village are not decorated with heavy colors. Using black brick, gray tile, adobe and other materials, the whole village has unique architectural decoration and exquisite carving technology. It is not only a reflection of the historical and social customs and culture, but also the host's yearning and sustenance for a better life, so it should be inherited. Agricultural season (0.1053) is unique to villages. The agricultural products produced in rural areas have always been favored by tourists. Therefore, the construction of agricultural infrastructure should be strengthened to ensure the breeding and planting of agricultural products such as livestock, poultry, fish and shrimp, grain, fruits, and seasonal vegetables. To shape the "one village, one product" agricultural characteristic cultural landscape.

4.2 The attraction of external space highlights the overall image of the rural landscape. Traditional villages should respect the regional landscape characteristics and improve the external landscape environment

In terms of the criterion layer, the attraction of external space (1.0640) ranks second. The mountain (0.4604) and water potential (0.3538) in the factor layer are more attractive. This is probably due to the fact that Yongfeng Village is located on the Loess Plateau, surrounded by mountains and rivers. Therefore, the development of the external space of traditional villages should pay attention to the protective use of mountains and water. At the same time, it should be treated differently based on the climate, geology, sunshine, rainfall, vegetation and other natural conditions where the village is located. For example, for Yongfeng Village, the development of the northern mountain mainly adopts the experience development mode, while the development and utilization of the southern water should pay more attention to the beautification of the landscape, and weaken the experience. This is due to the preciousness of water resources in the Northwest. The water environment of the Wanchuan River should be protected as much as possible, and the river course should be improved to make it more ornamental. For the adoption of vegetation (0.1526), attention should be paid to the selection of native vegetation. Vegetation with strong regional characteristics is more attractive. The transition from farming to tourism requires that the landscape experience of farmland (0.0969) be strengthened. The village comes from farmland, which is the material basis and typical life embodiment of the village. Therefore, efforts should be made to explore reasonable ways to promote farmland into effective tourism resources, such as agricultural picking garden, to attract the public to experience farmland life. We should strengthen the combination of agricultural modernization and village tourism industry, optimize and enhance tourism and experience agriculture. Because these natural environments are difficult to feel in modern cities, the external space is more attractive to non-local tourists.

4.3 The attraction of internal space reflects the concrete style of the rural landscape. Traditional villages should protect the historically built environment and sustainable landscape resources

From the criterion layer, the attractiveness of internal space (0.9593) ranks third, which is equivalent to the strength of the external space attractiveness index. This indicates that internal space attraction and external space attraction are synergistic driving forces. This is because most of the space inside the village is composed of historical built environment, which is a specific object that tourists can perceive from the nearest distance and has intuitive attraction. In the factor layer, the village pattern (0.3985) and traditional residence (0.3074) are more attractive. On the one hand, it reflects that the village pattern has a strong attraction to the consumer public; on the other hand, it reflects that the traditional residence, as the embodiment of villagers' life, have attracted public attention. Therefore, we should pay attention to the protection of the authenticity of the village pattern. The village pattern is formed through long-term historical evolution. External factors and village pattern should be integrated. Compared with public buildings (0.1330), traditional residence (0.3074) is more attractive to the public. And the public is concerned about the regionality
and uniqueness of traditional residence. Therefore, in the development of tourism, exploring experiential homestay is the way to make rational use of residential resources. The attraction of public buildings is relatively low. The reason is that the type, scale and quantity of public buildings in villages cannot be compared with those in cities, so it is difficult to impress tourists. Those traditional public buildings that represent the village’s clan culture and production activities are more attractive, such as the shuiyanfang and Jin’s ancestral hall in Yongfeng Village. The study also found that the attraction of streets and squares (0.0973) is the most easily ignored in tourism development. Because most of the streets in traditional villages are narrow and closed, and there are few open public spaces. It is difficult to excavate the historical connotation and cannot be fully utilized. The attraction of structures varies from village to village. The attraction of structures in Yongfeng village (0.0229) is the lowest among all influencing factors, which may be due to the small number of structures in Yongfeng village.

As the above viewpoints are formed based on the survey and interview of Yongfeng Village, there are still shortcomings in this study. Firstly, the conclusion of this study is limited by external factors. Whether and to what extent the regional differences will affect the research conclusions are unknown, and further investigation is needed. Secondly, the construction of the measurement index system in this research is designed and completed based on the Delphi method and the literature results. Although the strength results have passed the reliability and validity tests, the research index system is complex and the mistakes of factors and indicators are inevitable, which need to be further optimized and improved in future studies. Thirdly, considering that ordinary consumers do not understand the situation of traditional village vernacular landscape, it is difficult to provide valuable answers, so the sample does not include ordinary consumers. The relevant conclusions of this study need to be further tested.

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