Exploring the Impact of Street Arts Variables in Preserving the Malaysian Culture

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Abstract: Street art has been becoming one of the popular artwork in contemporary art scene. It has become a tool to help in sending out messages to everyone very easily on a constant basis, just like official advertising and other communication tools. Regardless of cultural or racial differences, street art, in such a creative communication method has the ability to link with people. In fact, some cities in Malaysia have gained popularity since the creation of street arts. With the rise of street arts in Malaysia, some renowned street artists are being commissioned to produce the artworks. Despite the fact that the installation of street art has been established for quite some time, yet it is only now that people are more aware of its importance in improving the city’s image, further to preserve our culture. There is still limited knowledge about the guideline to support the street art activities in preserving our culture. Therefore, this study aims to establish Factor Analysis in Exploring the Impact of Street Arts Variables in Preserving the Malaysian Culture. This paper addresses three variables which is independent variables, moderator and dependent variables. Factor analysis was conducted and eventually a whole new framework for the guideline in supporting the street art activities is proposed in developing tourism sector meanwhile preserving Malaysia culture.

Keywords: Factor Analysis, Street art, Malaysian culture, tourism sector

I. INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary visual art environment, street art has become one of the tourist attractions in urban spaces and has become one of the tools that preserve cultures and heritage. According to Riggle (2010), street art has a very strong effect on people due to their visual messages that are both very attractive and shocking to their views. It also has the ability to link people regardless of cultural or racial difference in ways nothing else can (Stower, 2010). Burnham (2010) suggested that creative urban intervention creates opportunities for street – level research and development into city development. Malaysia is not an exception to the invasion of street arts. In fact, some cities have gained popularity since the creation of street arts such as Penang, Malacca and Selangor. In the research area, according to Ismail (2014), the empirical knowledge on the guideline in supporting street art activities to preserve our culture is limited. Therefore, this paper aims to establish Factor Analysis in Exploring the Impact of Street Arts Variables in Preserving the Malaysian Culture. To determine the measurement of scales and items for this research, factor analysis was applied to evaluate the items of the variable.

Generally, there are three variables in this study which is the independent variable (Cultural), Dependent variable (City Image) and moderator variable (Guidelines). The dimensions in these variables were identified using the Varimax rotation in the principal component factor analysis. The application of factor analysis is vital in order to recognize whether a common factor or more than a single factor exists in response to these items. Thus, in order to comprehend the fundamental structure in the data matrix, factor analysis was applied to distinguish the most practical set of variables (Hair et al., 2010). Further, the values of the Measure of Sampling Adequacy (MSA), Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KOM) and Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity were examined to decide the suitability of the items. The MSA value of the individual things was set to be 0.50 and over, as well as KMO for by and large thing’s value should be 0.60 and over. The Bartlett’s Test is observed to identify the closeness of significant relationships among the variables. It is vital to continue with figure analysis in case the value of the test is huge and significant (p < .050). Ultimately, the main items from the variables will determine the success factors in preserving the Malaysian culture through street art projects in the tourism sector. In addition, a list of important factors derived from 26 questions has been identified in determining suggestions of successful items in preserving the culture through street arts to develop the tourism sector in Malaysia. 384 respondents were asked to rank the credibility of these qualities to determine the successful street art project in the form of questions based on Likert scale (Strongly Agree – Strongly Disagree). This paper, in the following sections, is divided into four parts; the first section presents culture content analysis (independent variable), followed by items of guidelines (moderator), factor analyses of the item in the city image (dependent variables) and last but not least presenting the new framework based on the analysis done.

II. CULTURE CONTENT ANALYSIS (INDEPENDENT VARIABLE)

The validity of Culture Content has been assessed using Exploratory Factor Analysis. There were 12 items in the proposed culture content. The items are divided into four sections: three items for culture, three items for heritage, three items for art and three items for ethnic.
Figure 1: Items in Cultural content (Independent Variables)

As can be seen from Figure 1, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) value of 0.792 is very optimum for these correlation items in culture content. Result obtained from Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity is 0.000 which is significant through factor analysis on 12 items based on 384 valid respondents. This data has answered the first objective which is to identify the cultural content of street arts commonly displayed by the street artists to find correlation items after rotating.

Table 1: KMO and Bartlett’s Test (Cultural content)

| Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) | .792 |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Approx. Chi-Square      | 1492.467 |
| Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity | 66 |
| Sig.                    | .000 |

Table 1 above which tabulates the results of factor analysis signified that few items need to be rearranged using new names of variables. Results of factor analysis with Varimax rotation revealed the existence of four (4) components with initial Eigenvalues greater than one that explains 65.13 percent of the total variance.

Table 2: Total Variance Explained

| Component | Rotation Sum of Squared Loadings | % of Variance | Cumulative % |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1         | 2.930                            | 24.169        | 24.169       |
| 2         | 2.056                            | 17.130        | 41.298       |
| 3         | 1.513                            | 12.662        | 53.911       |
| 4         | 1.346                            | 11.219        | 64.130       |

The first component is comprised of five (5) items related to cultural tourism. This factor with loadings ranging from 0.546 to 0.803 accounted for 24.17 percent of the variance in the data. The original name of the main items was changed to cultural tourism because all the items were revealed as one component under culture content after the rotation. The second component accounted for 17.13 percent of the total variance with loadings ranged from 0.554 to 0.849. This factor consisted of four (4) items, a mixture of three (3) items from heritage tourism, and one (1) item from the cultural tourism. The original factors remained using the existing name of heritage tourism. The third component which includes one (1) item related to art tourism. This factor accounted for 12.61 percent of the total variance in the data with loadings ranged within 0.915. The last component which includes two (2) items is related to ethnic tourism. This factor accounted with 11.22 percent of the total variance in the data with loading ranged within 0.573 to 0.837.

Table 3: Factor Analysis of Cultural Content

| Independent Variables (IV) after rotation | Component |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Traditional culture represents pluralistic nature of our society. | 802 |
| Art tourism is a mode of artistry to the society. | 747 |
| Ethnic tourism represents the identity of indigenous traditional group of people. | 506 |
| Art tourism is a form of entertainment to specific places to visit and explore and engage in activities related to art. | 672 |
| Art tourism is an instrument to facilitate harmony and understanding among people. | 540 |
| Cultural heritage is an identity that represents a country. | 349 |
| Heritage tourism involves visiting historical or industrial site and the overall appreciation to gain an appreciation of the past. | 370 |
| Heritage tourism is a result of any experience valid in specific places especially related to activities and activities that reflect the history of mankind in the past until now. | 347 |
| Religious beliefs and traditional elements of nature will reflect the city's memory. | 354 |
| The specific culture of a place reflects the legacy of the city's cultural commitment through successful Street Arts Project. | 915 |
| Tourists can learn about the culture of a place or destination and gain new experience or knowledge. | 437 |
| Ethnic tourism refers to the travel motivated by tradition, perception, and ethnic attraction. | 502 |

Table 4: KMO and Bartlett’s Test (Moderator)

The KMO results in Table 4 reflects the value for guideline factors with 0.792 and Bartlett’s test shows a significant value (Approx.. Chi-square = 435.193, p < .001) indicating the significance of the correlation matrix and appropriateness for factor analysis.

Table 5: Guidelines

| Guidelines | 6 sub-items (Question) in one component |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| - Goals and Objectives | |
| - Theme | |
| - Colour | |
| - Function | |
| - Rules | |
| - Planning process | |

Figure 2: Items in Guideline Moderator

To determine the validity of the component of the items in the guidelines which was also evaluated by the respondents in this research, principle component factor analysis was performed. Initially, there was only one component of this variable which is the guideline with six items all together.
Figure 3: Result of the scree plot to support the results validity of items in the guidelines.

Table 5: Factor analysis of moderator: Guidelines

| Items                                                                 | Component |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| The street artist who created the Street Arts Project used to follow the laws set by the authorities.    | .724      |
| The creative process is very important before executing the Street Arts Project.                      | .761      |
| The context and appropriate nature is very important were of the success of street art project.         | .813      |
| Objective and public must be accessed and available.                                                           | .835      |
| When someone wants to create street art they must have a specific function and not to be treated as vandalism. | .534      |

IV. FACTOR ANALYSES OF ITEM IN THE VARIABLE CITY IMAGE (DEPENDENT VARIABLES)

In this part, the items in the city image will be analysed for its validity using Exploratory Factor Analysis to find the correlation items. There are four (4) components for the proposed city image contrasting from the literature review chapter. On the other hand, eight (8) items are divided from four (4) components to produce the successful street art.

Figure 4: Component of the City Image as dependent variables

The Principal Components Factor Analysis of the city image, with varimax rotation, indicated the existence of four (4) components with initial Eigenvalues greater than one that explained 63.58 percent of total variance as can be seen in Figure 6. The total variance results supported by the result of KMO with value 0.783 and Bartlett’s Test’s significant value (Approx. Chi-square = 947.186, p < .05), indicating the significance of the correlation matrix and appropriateness of Factor Analysis.

Table 6: KMO and Bartlett’s Test (City Image)

| Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy | Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| .783                                           | Approx. Chi-Square = 947.186 |
|                                               | df = 55                     |
|                                               | Sig. = .000                 |

Table 7: Total Variance Explained (City Image)

| Component | Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings | Cumulative % |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|           | Total % of Variance               |              |
| 1         | 1.721                             | 17.46        |
| 2         | 1.317                             | 34.83        |
| 3         | 1.524                             | 50.54        |
| 4         | 1.412                             | 63.80        |

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis

The first component which comprises of three (3) items is related to component 1. This factor has items loading ranging from 0.618 to 0.820 accounted for 17.46 percent of the variance. The second component is also comprised of three (3) items. This factor has items loadings ranging from 0.640 to 0.800 accounted for 16.704 percent of the variance in the data. Third, component three (3) has loadings ranging from 0.693 to 0.807 accounted for 16.581 percent of the variance in the data. The last component four (4) is comprised of two (2) items. This factor has a loading ranging from 0.618 and 0.665 accounted for 12.836 percent. To determine the first component name, the item with more items (questions) that are the same in one component is noted. After doing the rotation component matrix, the first component is comprised of three (3) items related to the structure factors and this is because, there are two (2) questions from structure factors with high value, and then one (1) question from behaviour factors. The second component is comprised of also three (3) items related to the landscape factors, in which two (2) questions from landscape factors with high value, and then one (1) from infrastructure factors. The third component is comprised of three (3) items, and this is also related to the behaviour factors, because of two (2) questions in behaviour factors with high value and one (1) question from structure factors. The last component is comprised of two (2) items, related to infrastructure factors, with high value.

Below is Table 8, Rotated component matrix.

Table 8: Rotated Component Matrix, City Image as a dependent variable

| Items                  | Component |
|------------------------|-----------|
| A proper and well-organised development of the structure of the city attracts visitors to visit the city. | .850 |
| The local community’s attitudes and behaviour will affect visitors’ attraction to visit the city. | .851 |
| Attractive and unique structures related to the culture and heritage of the city. | .858 |
| The landscape is related to urban design, architecture, parks spaces and generally public spaces in the city. | .850 |
| An ordered and structured landscape symbolise the city’s image. | .855 |
| A well-developed infrastructure allows the tourism attractions in the city and will affect the success of street arts as a medium to preserve the culture and heritage. | .850 |
| Inheritance of the attitude of residents about a new place. | .859 |
| The nature that has a specific function is influenced by the experience engaged with the place. | .850 |
| Values are also influenced by experiences that took place of the surrounding people. | .853 |
| The local infrastructure urban development will improve the living standard of the community. | .850 |
| The attitude or behaviour of people in a city also represent that identity. | .858 |
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V. NEW PROPOSE FRAMEWORK

As a conclusion, the result of establishing Factor Analysis to Investigate the Impact of Street Arts Variables in Preserving the Malaysia Culture, the creation and the existence of street art for public to experience the story of a city is crucial in creating a vibrant and cheerful environment.

![Image: New propose framework](image)

Figure 5: New propose framework

The Street Art Project will certainly develop the street arts as one of the favourable venue attractions. Thus, the city needs some additional creative art to enrich the area as well as stimulate and build the positive social environment. Preserving culture has a significant potential as a medium for people to interact and appreciate their surroundings while at the same time creating a playful and memorable place for the community. On the other hand, based on the result, new framework has been proposed accordingly (Figure 5) to determine the success factors in preserving Malaysian culture through the street art projects which could provide better insights for the local authorities in developing the city area as part of the tourism attractions.

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Qistina Donna Lee Abdullah is holding a Senior Lecturer Post and a Deputy Dean of Research and Postgraduate for the Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts, University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). She gained her PhD in Office Management System (Event Management) University Technology MARA Malaysia, Master of Management in Arts Management, University Technology Sydney Australia, and Bachelor Degree in Arts Management, University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Qistina launched her career as a Product Development Officer with the Arab-Malaysian Finance Berhad based in Kuala Lumpur before she began her career as an educator in UNIMAS. Qistina developed a strong sense of devotion for arts and management area whereby she is involved mainly in consultancy job which engage with the private sector, state government, GLC and community. Her research area and publications focuses on Leadership, Public Private Partnership, Arts, Culture and Heritage Management. Qistina committed to her career as she is currently supervising few postgraduate students and average of 40 undergraduate students. Her passion towards arts management is verified through few taught courses such as Funding and Sponsorship in the Arts, Financial Management in the Arts Organization, Research Methodology and many more. This experience gave her a deep appreciation on how important is her career and self-improvement in determining the future generations.

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Jimmy Salau is a research officer in the social development Sarawak in Ministry of Welfare, Community Wellbeing, Women, Family and Childhood Development. Graduated in arts in management at University Malaysia Sarawak, I have been working with Finance Institution (AEON Credio) as an Executive Management, this fill I learn about finance in institution, for example Loan and “Pay Back”, short term, long term, is all about money with our community. Before that 2016, I been working with Research Innovation and Management Centre University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) since last two year and I have successfully handled the correspondence research, attendance conference, publication, filing and data entry and also have working as a surveyor under World Wide Fund (WWF) and Eco- Ideal Environment and Science Malaysia.

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