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The Trend of Rebuilding of Villages – Graffiti in Villages

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Abstract

With the promotion of tourism gaining more and more popularity, many villages start to come up with strategies to attract tourists and promote their economical development and the graffiti in village is a popular one among them. On one hand, it does successfully attract tourists and put the town on the map. On the other hand, whether it has other drawbacks to the local culture is also a concern for many people. With that question in mind, we did this study to investigate people's opinions on the graffiti in their village in terms of interviews and research from the online materials with a view to finding an answer to the question and, even better, discover a win-win alternative based on the information.

The results of our research are as follows:

The advantages of promotion of the graffiti:

1. It can facilitate the pass-on of history and cultures.
2. It can compliment the landscapes of villages.
3. It has new appearances and interpretation on the abandoned and old buildings.
4. It promotes the development of economy and tourism

The disadvantages of promotion of the graffiti:

1. There is no relations between the contents of drawing and local culture.
2. It accelerates the destruction of local culture and buildings
3. It comes in superficial contents and may violate laws.
4. It resembles other village's graffiti.
5. The problem of garbage and noise pollution are created by tourists.
6. Its paint is vulnerable to longtime weathering.

Key words: graffiti, village, graffiti on walls, promote tourism

I. Motivation and Purpose

In recent years, the government has attempted to promote many kinds of strategies in order to retrieve the people and resources from leaving their hometowns or attracting them to come back, hoping to continue the significance of the cultural history which villages pass on and also wishes the villages can return to the former lively status. So, it proposes a lot of methods to change the villages, and graffiti in villages is one of them.

Graffiti in villages is springing up everywhere. It is common to see them come

in a wide variety of colors and patterns on the walls of villages, with flocks of tourists swarming to. However, with the advent of these things, some threats are appearing along gradually. For instance, with a great deal of people visiting the villages, nothing but a lot of noise and trash were left. So, How can we cope with these things? Following the trend of rebuilding of villages, does it have other alternatives, which not only propel the development of villages but cut down on the damage it caused to the villages as well? With the questions in mind, we did this study to investigate people's thoughts about the various graffiti in villages.

II. Method

This research aims to investigate people's opinions on the practice of graffiti in villages. So we arranged several interviews including a couple of questions to ask. To the end, we did some research and gathered the introductions and comments on graffiti in difference villages from diverse websites as well as information from books themed the "rebuilding" of old sites in order to design the question to be asked. We interviewed several subjects randomly living in the targeted villages. Finally, we arranged and analyzed these data and got the results of the conclusion.



Digram1:Process of research

III. Interview

III.1 Instrument of the Interview

Four participants took part in the interviews. The content of the interview includes two parts. The left part is participant's personal information, including the age, the career, the gender, and for how long we interviewed each person. The right part is the statement the interviewees have made.

III.2 The content of the interview

We organized what we got from the interviewees. Four of them have different views. According to the table 1, three of them are students while the other is a career woman who lives in the village. Only one of them holds negative opinions on the practice of graffiti. The rest of them, however, either agree or accept the application of it in village.

Backgrounds of participants	Attitude	The statement from each interviewee
Interviewee 1 Age: 16 Career: student in Taichung Gender: female The length: 15 minutes.	Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a new trend in new generation. • It's stunning, artistic and breathtaking. • It reflects the future of local culture. • It attracts tourists and supplies fresh sight for people. • It's enjoyable to watch the favorite comic on them.
Interviewee 2 Age: 16 Career: student in Yunlin Gender: male The length: 10 minutes.	Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic characteristics should be preserved. • Children misunderstand that the graffiti in villages is original face. • Quiet and simple villages are a kind of art.
Interviewee 3 Age: 16 Career: student in Yunlin Gender: female The length: 10 minutes.	Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like to watch others' artworks. • I can get ideas and inspirations from them. • I hope to see the unique artworks. • I can learn lessons from them.
Interviewee 4 Age: 43 Career: housewife Gender: female The length: 20 minutes.	Acceptable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can bring new fresh air to locals • It might have imitated others works • It should have been done based on the local culture. • It may do harm to the locals' convenience and peaceful lives.

Table 1: The content of the Interview

III.3 The pictures taken during Interview

Because our school is in Tuku Twonship, we decided to select the graffiti in Huwei, the neighboring township of Tuki, as our destination. Two members of our team paid a visit to the Cat Village, (cat on the roof) , in Yunlin Huwei Township to conduct the interview on Aug 30 ,2015. We randomly interviewed four people living there. They were all willing to help us when we told them our intention. One of us did the interview job and the other took the picture at the same time. The photos include the graffiti and the interviews with the subjects.

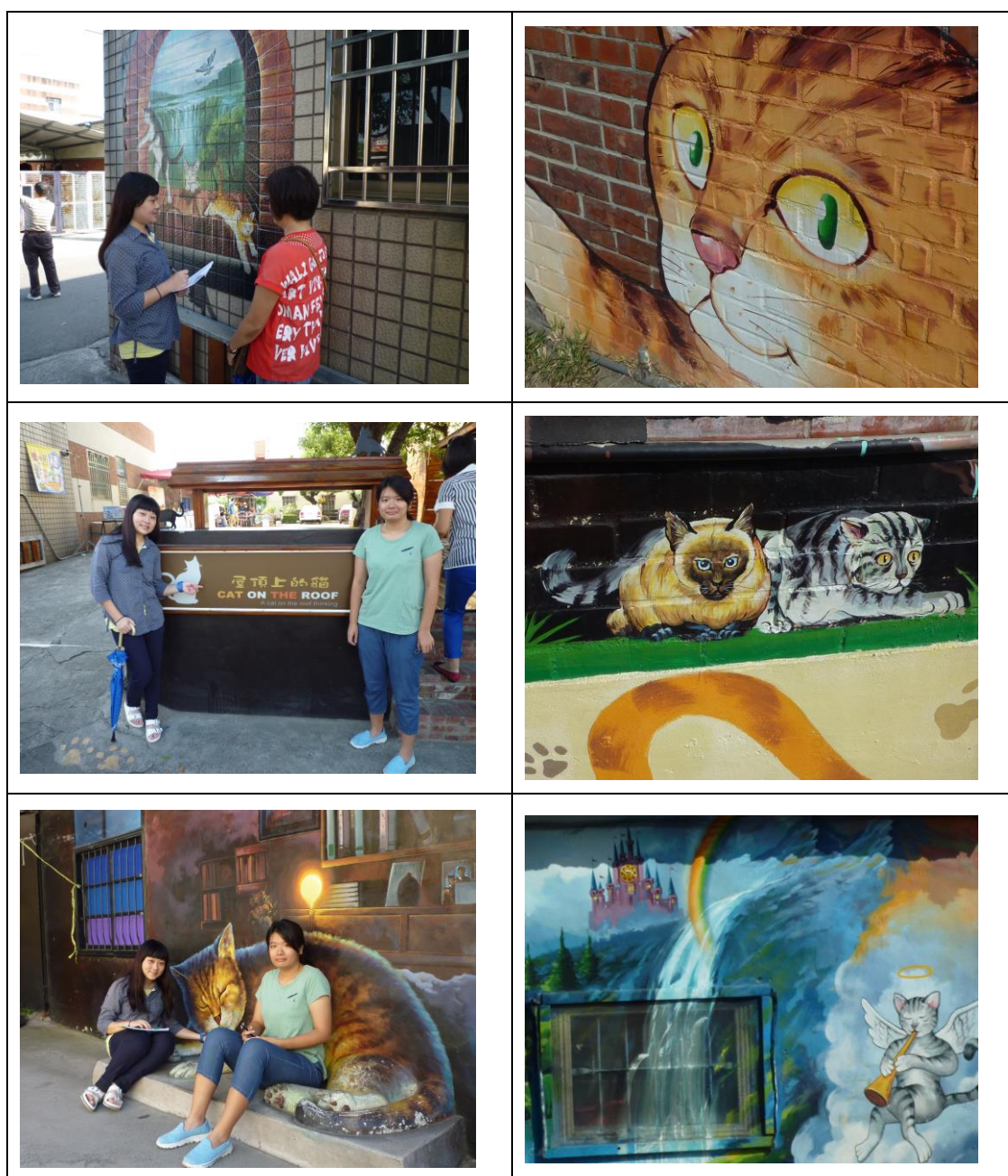


Table 2: Pictures taken during interview

IV. Comments collected from websites

We not only wanted to know the people's real feeling about the graffiti, we are also curious about online comments on graffiti, which are available on the website. In order to design the questions used in the interviews and have a comprehensible view, I collected and organized much of them and presented them in terms of a table form as follows.

The table includes two parts. The left space lists the comments we collected from some websites while the right part indicates the corresponding sources, the website address. It's obvious that the attitude toward the graffiti varies from person to person. Generally speaking, most of the comments are negative with two of them in favor.

Negative comments	Sources
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visitors may watch it out of curiosity for the first time, but not again. 2. It may violate the law. 3. Villages should remain their original face without many colors blended inside. 4. Red bricks represent hometowns memory of Taiwan. They can't be painted like canvas. 5. If red bricks are painted, they can't return to their original appearances. 6. We should come up with other alternatives to promote the tourism of village in a sustainable way like no other. 7. The graffiti should be associated with the local community. 8. Tourists may influence the local people. 9. It will accelerate the destruction of local culture. 	http://www.newsmarket.com.tw/blog/63666/ http://news.ltn.com.tw/news/local/paper/845878 http://www.ettoday.net/news/20150113/450915.htm http://talk.ltn.com.tw/article/breakingnews/1193712
Postive comments	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due to graffiti in villages, children like to return hometown more than over. 2. It attracts many people to see. 	

Table 3 Comments collected from websties

V. Results

V.1 Comparison of the comments collected from websites and the interview





We made a comparison between the results from the interview and the comments from websites in terms of a table and analyzed the results to see if there is any differences and similarities between them. The mark “circle” means that we did get some information from either the interviewees or websites. The mark” cross” stands for nothing given either from the interviewees or the websites.

Source The pros and cons of Graffiti	From the interview	From some websites
Remaining of the original face and historic characteristic.	O	O
Graffiti reflecting the feature of the local culture.	O	X
Attracting tourists and children's homecomings	O	O
Giving wrong notion to children.	O	X
Getting ideas and inspirations from graffiti.	O	X
Bringing new fresh air to local villages.	O	X
Mimicking other graffiti in other village	O	X
Problems brought to the locals by visitors	O	O
No desire to watch it again	X	O
Insistence on the originality of the red bricks	X	O
Other alternatives advisable	X	O
Possible violation of laws	X	O
No relation to the local culture	O	O
Acceleratin of destroy of original face	X	O

Table 4 Comparison of the comments from websites and the interview

V.2 The pros and cons of graffiti in villages

There are both opposers and proponents of practice of graffiti in village. In order to clarify and visualize the comments from both sides, we generalized their comments with photos taken from websites in terms of table5. The left part of the table indicates the advantages of applying graffiti to village in terms of words and pictures while the right part suggests the disadvantages of it. Both kinds of pictures are complemented with its website address.

advantage	disadvantage
<p>1. It can facilitate the pass-on of history and cultures.</p>  <p>Source: http://pink.123blog.tw/c.php?id=32804</p>	<p>1. It has no relations between the contents of drawing and locall culture. 2. It accelerates the destroy of local culture.</p>  <p>Source: http://www.ettoday.net/news/20150113/450915.htm</p>
<p>2. It can compliment the landscapes of villages.</p>  <p>Source: https://yukiblog.tw/read-3145.html</p>	<p>3. It comes in superficial contents and may violate laws. 4. It resembles other village's graffiti.</p>  <p>Source: http://mmweb.tw/88142</p>



Source:

<http://judyw.pixnet.net/blog/post/25776202>



Source:

<http://news.ltn.com.tw/news/society/breakingnews/1497329>.

3. It has new appearances and new interpretation on the abandoned and old buildings.



Source:

<http://mimg47.pixnet.net/blog/post/4289725>

5. It destroys the old walls.

6. Garbage and noise pollution created by tourists.



Source:

<http://news.ltn.com.tw/photo/local/paper/613486>



Source:

http://tw.on.cc/cn/bkn/cnt/news/20150801/bkncn-20150801063829460-0801_05011_001.html



Source:

<http://lerohome.pixnet.net/blog/post/61285906>

<p>4. It promotes the development of economy and tourism</p>  <p>Source: http://news.ltn.com.tw/photo/local/paper/525753</p>	<p>7. Its paint is vulnerable to longtime weathering.</p>  <p>Source: http://jimmraz.pixnet.net/blog/post/41581633</p>
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Table 5 Advantage and disadvantage of graffiti in village

VI Conclusion

In this study, we got many comments on the pros and cons of the graffiti in village. We can conclude some results revealed from the survey as follows.

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The graffiti in village has both benefits and downsides. In our opinion, preserving the old memory and creating new chances have to proceed at the same time. The point is what we can do to get the win-win situation?

Graffiti in villages may not be the best strategy, but it doesn't mean that it can't work out. We have to consider it twice. In a time when graffiti in villages is very popular, how can we paint impressive artworks to keep people staying. Good programming, good ideas, and good discussion are elements. We should have each resident reach a general agreement and have a clear picture of the benefits and the disadvantages in mind. There are some questions worthy to be discussed beforehand. Should the old walls be preserved? Should the number of tourists be limited? Should we set up the trash bins along the roads and do cleaning work on a regular basis? All the preparation work have to be taken into consideration beforehand. Besides graffiti, there are still many good methods out there to change the status quo of villages. We should figure out a good strategy to both continue the tradition and create opportunity rather than imitating others' ideas.

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