

Analysis of Journal Papers about Studies of Ancient Chinese Villages

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Abstract

Based on CNKI database, the author has retrieved that, from 1989 to 2015, 318 papers about ancient village studies have been published in core Chinese journals. With literature statistical methods, the author analyzes and classifies the year and the number of studies, research themes, journals in which the papers are published, main creative units of such literature, core author group distribution and teases out there are 318 first authors and 12 main core authors as well as 11 core journals. The results show that ancient Chinese village landscape construction, ancient town settlement space type, traditional residential building space, village cultural landscape protection and sustainable development, reproduction of space environment of ancient villages, ancient village landscape planning, protection and development of ancient villages, the development and protection of the ancient village landscape are the hot spots in ancient villages researches in China and have made great achievements and progress.

Key words: Ancient Chinese villages; Journals; Literature analysis

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INTRODUCTION

“Ancient village is the basic unit of agricultural society. Our deepest roots are in the various ancient villages

and they are our final spiritual homes. Because of our geographical diversity, historical complexity and cultural diversity, the diversity of Chinese culture lies in ancient villages; our intangible cultural heritage mainly lies in ancient villages; the vast majority of ethnic minority cultures lie in ancient villages.” (Feng, 2006)

There are sets of data claiming that in 2000 China had 3.6 million natural villages; in 2010, the number of natural villages was reduced to 2.7 million. In a decade, 900,000 villages have disappeared. There are nearly 300 natural villages disappearing within a day, and these natural villages contain a number of ancient villages. The disappearance of villages has its inevitability, but the disappearance of ancient villages is regretful. In China’s vast rural areas, currently there are a hundred thousand villages, and there are only about 5,000 or so of relatively well-preserved ancient villages before the Qing Dynasty. Rural civilization retained represented by ancient villages offers irrecoverable civilization type and irreversible civilization trend to China and the whole human beings. If it disappears or declines, where can we go to find homesickness? How do we find the history of the memory of the soul? These ancient villages have distinctive regional characteristics. Specifically, ancient villages contain both village architecture, layout planning, material and cultural content of basic necessities and residents’ lifestyle, village regulations and rules folk art and family spirits and other non-material cultural elements. It contains ethics, sociology, architecture, environment, agriculture, tourism and other multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge.

Ancient villages are the largest original cultural heritage of our nation. In the Protection process of ancient villages, we shall not only fully to protect the economic and cultural interests of the villagers, but also pay attention to the cultural conservation and development capacity-building of the villagers. Only this can lead to the long-term development of ancient villages and that is an important guarantee of the unique practical value, cultural characteristics, humanitarian arts and civilization heritage of ancient villages. In the 1960s and 1970s, to protect areas with historical heritage, Japan proposed the “three-

no” actions of “no removing, no selling and no renting”. The sparse layout of Guangfu Village and Hakka Dragon Houses with a strong sense of form as well as a common four-sided courtyard in Beijing and timber-framed houses in the west of Hunan should all focus on the protection of the village’s production and living styles.

Currently, the industry development trial within ancient villages is tended to focus on individual cases. Only the overall platform operation can maximize the integration of resources to achieve the sustainable development of ancient villages. It is also a manifestation of carrying forward the fine traditional Chinese culture. In the agrarian age, every village was a basic unit of society as well as a cultural container: village planning, building community, bridges and temples.

At this stage, researches concerning ancient villages are mainly about ancient Chinese village landscape construction, ancient town settlement space type, village cultural landscape protection and sustainable development, planning of space environment of ancient villages, ancient village landscape planning, protection and development of ancient villages, the development and protection of the ancient village landscape. The research range of ancient villages is mainly about ancient village tourism, the protection and development of ancient villages, ancient villages landscape research, ancient village case study and ancient village literature reviews.

1. RESEARCH METHOD OF ANCIENT VILLAGES

Using Chinese periodical full-text database as the data source, select all subject areas in the directory of “search control condition” with the selection of “journal years” of 1989-2015 years; for “source categories”, select “core journals”. In the directory, select “input search condition” as “ancient village”. A total of 322 papers are retrieved. After removing duplicates and other non-related literature, use literature statistical methods. Research literature analysis of calycanthaceae germplasm resources to classify 318 papers based publish time, theme, first author and journals where the paper was published (Ming et al., 2004; Yuan et al., 2012; Li et al., 2000; Xu, 2009; Sun, 2008).

2. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS OF ANCIENT VILLAGE STUDIES

2.1 Ancient Village Literature Publish Time and Number Distribution

Totally between 1989-2015, there are 241 papers in Chinese literature periodicals related to ancient villages. For each year the number of papers published, please see Table 1. Data show that in 1989-2015 (between 1989-1995, there were no formal relevant papers), the number of papers published is an upward trend. During 2005-

2006, literature growth increased. In 2014, the number of research literature on ancient villages reached a peak. In general, the research work related to ancient villages continues to strengthen.

Table 1
Year Statistics of Ancient Chinese Village Literature

Publish time	Number	Proportion	Publish time	Number	Proportion
1996	1	0.31%	2007	22	6.91%
1997	1	0.31%	2008	15	4.71%
1998	3	0.94%	2009	33	10.37%
1999-2000	1	0.31%	2010	39	12.26%
2001	2	0.62%	2011	27	8.49%
2002	7	2.92%	2012	36	11.32%
2003	2	0.62%	2013	17	7.08%
2004	2	0.62%	2014	54	16.98%
2005	7	2.20%	2015	24	7.54%
2006	25	7.86%			

2.2 The Thematic Distribution of Ancient Village Research Literature

Table 2 shows the distribution of the research themes of ancient villages includes: ancient village tourism (56), protection and development of ancient villages (74), case studies of ancient village in Henan province (13), case studies of ancient village in various provinces (120), literature review on the study of ancient villages (30) and ancient village landscape studies (25). From the data analysis, we can find that the study of ancient villages in various provinces, especially featured ancient villages have been a hot spot in research of ancient villages. There are a total of 133 papers on the research of ancient villages in Henan and other provinces. There are 30 papers of literature review, mainly involving research of ancient village landscape construction, ancient town settlement space type, the protection and sustainable development of ancient villages’ cultural landscape, ancient village spatial environmental planning, landscape construction of ancient villages, the protection and development of ancient villages, the development and protection of ancient villages’ landscape and other related aspects. They cover all aspects of the research areas of Chinese ancient villages comprehensively.

Table 2
Thematic Statistics of Ancient Chinese Village Literature

Theme	Number of papers	Proportion
Ancient village tourism	56	17.61%
Protection and development of Ancient villages	74	23.27%
Case studies of ancient village in Henan province	13	4.09%
Case studies of ancient village in various provinces	120	37.74%
Literature review on the study of ancient villages	30	9.43%
Ancient village landscape studies	25	7.86%

2.3 The Number of Core Authors of Chinese Research Literature of Ancient Villages

Table 3 shows that, there are 17 people who authored or published articles as the first author on ancient research and there are the core authors, in which the number of papers published in the top three scholars are Liu Peilin in Hengyang Normal University with four papers and the

newest publishing in 2005, Lu Song in Anhui Normal University with three papers and the latest literature published in 2010 and Shao Xiuying in Taiyuan Teachers College with three papers and the latest literature published in 2014. There are 15 authors who recently have published two papers and 275 authors who have published one paper.

Table 3
Statistics of Authors Publishing More Than Two Papers as First Author

Author	Number of papers	Proportion	Author	Number of papers	Proportion
Liu Penlin	4	10.52%	Li Linjie	2	5.26%
Lu Song	3	7.89%	Li Xian'e	2	5.26%
Shao Xiuying	3	7.89%	Liu Huiyan	2	5.26%
Feng Shuhua	2	5.26%	Qi Jiahua	2	5.26%
Guo Hongyu	2	5.26%	Qin Zhu	2	5.26%
Qu Deyin	2	5.26%	Tian Mimi	2	5.26%
Cheng Jingjing	2	5.26%	Xie Hao	2	5.26%
Sun Li	2	5.26%	Yang Xiaowei	2	5.26%
Tang Lan	2	5.26%			

2.4 The Distribution of Journals in Which Ancient Village Research Literature Is Published

The statistics show that, a total of 188 journals have published articles on ancient Chinese villages study. From statistics of core journals which have published ancient village literature, we find that, from 1989 to 2015, a total of 11 core journals have published ancient village literature. The 11 core journals are *Development of Small Cites & Towns*, provincial journal *Shanxi Architecture*, core journals of *Journal of Anhui Agricultural Sciences*, *China Territory Today*, *Chinese and Overseas Architecture*, *Huazhong Architecture*, *Human Geography*,

Architecture and Culture, *Tourism Tribune*, *Art and Design (Theory)* and *China Ancient City*. More than 10 articles have been published in *Development of Small Cites & Towns*, and it has published 13 research articles on ancient villages, accounting for 5.4% of the total amount of papers. It is a main core journal for the distribution ancient village research literature. Journal that has published one article includes *Journal of Guizhou College of Education*, *Journal of Guilin College of Aerospace Industry*, *Henan Science* and *Journal of Hubei University of Economics (Humanities and Social Sciences)* and etc. with a total number of 157 journals.

Table 4
Statistics of Journal Distribution of Ancient Chinese Village Literature Published

No.	Journal	Number of Papers	Proportion	No.	Journal	Number of Papers	Proportion
1	Development of Small Cites & Towns	13	11.50%	17	Resource Development Market	2	1.76%
2	Shanxi Architecture	10	9.07%	18	City Planning	2	1.76%
3	Anhui Agricultural Sciences	9	7.96%	19	Human Geography	2	1.76%
4	China Territory Today	7	6.19%	20	Journal of Anhui College of Education	2	1.76%
5	Chinese and Overseas Architecture	6	5.31%	21	Urban and Rural Construction	2	1.76%
6	Huazhong Architecture	5	4.42%	22	Areal Research and Development	2	1.76%
7	Human Geography	5	4.42%	23	Hubei Agricultural Sciences	2	1.76%
8	Architecture and Culture	4	3.53%	24	Journal of Jiangxi Science & Technology Normal University	2	1.76%
9	Tourism Tribune	4	3.53%	25	China Economist	2	1.76%
10	Art and Design (Theory)	4	3.53%	26	Sci-tech Information Development and Economy	2	1.76%
11	China Ancient City	3	2.65%	27	Science & Technology Information	2	1.76%
12	Beijing City Planning & Construction Review	3	2.65%	28	Tourism Overview	2	1.76%
13	City Planning	3	2.65%	29	Journal of Zhejiang University of Technology	2	1.76%
14	Economic Geography	3	2.65%	30	Chinese Garden	2	1.76%
15	Shaanxi Journal of Agricultural Sciences	3	2.65%	31			
16	Journal of Suzhou College of Science and Technology (Engineering and Technology)	3	2.65%				

2.5 Unit Distribution of Ancient Village Research Literature

From the statistics of the unit of ancient village research literature, we find that there are a total of 235 units of the first author. There are four units which have published five or more research articles, accounting for 9.78% of the total articles published; there are 25 units which have published 2-4 articles, accounting for 10.65% of the total; there are 187 units which have published one, accounting for 79.57% of the total. From unit distribution of the literature, we find that the research units of ancient villages are dispersed and they lack continuity and professional dominance. The top 13 units are as shown in Table 5. The nature of units is mainly universities and institutes.

Table 5
Statistics of the Number of Papers of Ancient Village Literature Research Units

No.	Unit	Number of papers	Proportion
1	Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology	6	11.53%
2	Huazhong Normal University	6	11.53%
3	Anhui Normal University	6	11.53%
4	Tongji University	5	9.61%
5	Huangshan University	4	7.69%
6	Hefei University of Technology	4	7.69%
7	Suzhou Institute of Technology	3	5.76%
8	Nanjing Agricultural University	3	5.76%
9	Hunan University	3	5.76%
10	Henan Agricultural University	3	5.76%
11	Southeast University	3	5.76%
12	Anhui University	3	5.76%
13	Anhui University of Finance and Economics	3	5.76%

DISCUSSION

Looking at ancient village literature from 1989 to 2015, through analysis, we can see that, the study of ancient villages has made remarkable achievements and it has the following characteristics:

- a) Ancient Village research shows an increasing trend on the whole, but there was a relative lack of research before 1990.
- b) Study of the ancient villages focuses mainly on case studies and the protection and development of featured ancient village.
- c) Research of ancient villages lacks continuity and researchers are scattered. Some researchers have published only one relevant research result.
- d) The units are relatively concentrated and they mainly are universities and research institutes. For the top 13 units, they are mainly in Hubei, Shaanxi, Anhui.
- e) Core journals publishing ancient village research papers do not have a professional dominance.

In summary, each of the ancient village should have its own attributes and characteristics and is the root of the ancient Chinese civilization. They have not only the building structure adapting to the local climate characteristics, but also unique architectural patterns in line with the aesthetic of the area. They also contain ancient, mysterious, intangible cultural heritage, such as folk stories, original music, folk dances, classical dramas and traditional handicrafts as well as a variety of unique folk customs. They directly reflect the folk emotion, ethnic temperament and cultural diversity of Chinese culture.

Ancient village studies should be on the basis of understanding and grasping the overall situation to establish a complete protection system and protect the geographical characteristics and folk traditions ancient villages represent, the intergenerational genetic, geographical, rural relations and the continuation of traditional practices and culture; they carry on the history and memory of village growing, changing and developing. We should preserve and utilize cultural heritage symbols; and finally, development and protection should be combined. We should summarize the successful model for the development and protection of ancient villages to promote them in various ways and find a balance between development and conservation.

CONCLUSION

Ever since the start of human activities, ancient villages have been existing and they still continue the traditional customs. However, since people's concepts of the protection of ancient villages are inconsistent and with the differences in resource and endowments and different mode of operation as well as urbanization and the level of economic and social development, different models of ancient village protection and development have been formed. By comparison, we find the following common experience in ancient village protection and development for other places to learn from.

- a) Government leading mainly reflects in the organization and launch, sector coordination, planning guide and financial guide to form the construction pattern of the overall linkage, resource integration and social participation. Government lead does not mean the government does everything. Beautiful countryside construction needs to form pluralistic participation. However, the government is the leader and manager for the development, protection and development of ancient villages;
- b) Ancient village residents use the way of constantly trying to gain experience, with the most economical, practical and easiest way to carry out the construction. They understand the materials, are familiar with the tools, have access to technology and they know how to inherit them; from a practical point of view, to adhere to

the “green, humanity, wisdom, intensive” concept, we need to consider the rural landscape texture, development status, cultural history and tourism development and other factors, combine with the overall urban and rural planning, industrial development planning, land use planning, infrastructure planning and environmental protection planning. We should respect the will of the inhabitants of ancient villages, ensure scientific and rational planning and design and make the masses satisfied.

c) We should respect the concept of history and culture. These ancient villages inherit the wisdom of ancestors for thousands of years, represent the local culture, and are a symbol of Chinese national spirit. By spatial transformation, integration of resources and human development, these villages, residential buildings, streets and pavilions and featured local buildings can achieve sustainable development. Ancient villages’ beautiful natural environment, ancient survival wisdom, especially the cultural imprint and heritage properties make them have rich connotations. The difference is that, the actual situation of spreading to the private sector, ancient villages

have to face many challenges. This is also a historical proposition with a realistic significance.

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