DIALOGUE for Approaching to Inhabitant’s Evaluating Sphere of the City

Finding Visible and Invisible Urban Systems individually composed in Inhabitant’s Notion:

Case project for diverse future scenario in Nishijin, Kyoto

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This research is developing the "dialogue-based" approach for creating future scenario with various evaluation by inhabitants for the city with case project in Nishijin, the northwest part of Kyoto historic center.

Nishijin is a vast historic industrial area in Kyoto (Fig.2), which is famous for beautiful, top quality textile production. In the Nishijin tradition, the process of Nishijin weaving consists of many intermediate steps, each of which is undertaken by experienced specialists. So there have been lots of small production sites according to each steps located in the area, instead of big factories. However, following the decline of the textile industry, since the 1990s the spatial identity of the area is becoming lost, transformed into mostly residential uses. Thus, Nishijin’s areal characters are related to industry, some are visible, some are invisible.

So, we should communicate deeply with inhabitants to figure the values of the area and the city, which we call ‘Inhabitant’s Evaluating Sphere’. With the figured spheres we could describe the possible and desirable future scenarios of this historic transforming area.

Here, I have developed the original method of DIALOGUE for Inhabitant’s Evaluating Sphere, and practiced experimentally in Nishijin.

‘How to DIALOGUE (to one inhabitant at a time)

1. Preparation. Organizing the group of about 10 persons for executing DIALOGUE and shared the essential information of history and urban environment for this area. They play as approacher to notions of the inhabitants through DIALOGUE execution.

2. DIALOGUE. DIALOGUE proceeds from talking about individual life history in the city to talking about what he is evaluating in his own surroundings. At the same time, the approachers make ‘hand-drawing sketches’ of DIALOGUE contents to visualize the notions, share, and confirm (Fig.1).

3. Feedback. Then, organizing the executer’s meeting and describe his evaluating sphere by re-examining the sketches.

In this practice, we made DIALOGUE with seven inhabitants (Pic). All DIALOGUE takes about 3 hours, and sketches were drawn about 30—40 sheets per one person. Then we described the perceptions of a variety of Nishijin on the map (Fig.3).

These results suggest that we can get various views of urban space by this approach. Also it is meaningful information for others, and it can be applied to find essential questions to be evolved in future scenario in Nishijin.