



World Heritage / Patrimoine Mondial

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Nationality of author: Japanese

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Title of thesis: The Impact of World Heritage Site Designation
on Local Communities – A Comparative Study of Ogimachi
(Japan) and Saltaire (UK)

Type of thesis: PhD

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Please provide a 500 words abstract outlining your thesis; you may wish to attach a table of contents or any other relevant material:

The research aims to examine economic, socio-cultural, physical and attitudinal changes in two local communities, one in Japan and the other in the UK, since World Heritage Site (WHS) designation from their point of view, to investigate interrelationships between these views of the changes, to determine similarities and dissimilarities between the two sites, and to explore the background of the dissimilarities.

In tourism studies generally, the economic, socio-cultural and physical changes, and the changes occurring in local people's minds (attitudinal changes) resulting from tourism have often been examined; however, most studies look at the sites in developing countries, focus more on the actual changes rather than local communities' views of the changes and do not focus specifically on WHSs and their designation. Some studies look at cultural WHSs; however, they mainly investigate the management of WHSs or economic and/or physical changes after WHS listing. However, true satisfaction for local communities depends more on their views of the changes rather than on the changes themselves resulting from tourism and/or WHS designation.

WHS Ogimachi, Japan and WHS Saltaire, UK were chosen as the objects of the research, because these two countries are both highly developed but have differing approaches to heritage management, and these two WHSs have common points in their past industrial and architectural resources. As the changes after WHS designation are considered not to be confined within the WHSs, their surrounding areas are also investigated in this research.

The research adopts a positivist approach and was carried out by the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. Data collection methods are questionnaire surveys to local people and interviews with local specialists who are very familiar with tourism, heritage and/or community issues. This multilateral approach overcame the methodological weakness in many tourism studies and enabled the researcher to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the local communities' views of the changes.

The research identified similarities and dissimilarities between the two sites. An increase in the level of local people's pride in their living area was identified as

the most prominent change after WHS designation, which is common to both sites. Local communities in/near Ogimachi have suffered from a split between WHS and other areas, whilst those in/near Saltaire have strengthened their togetherness.

In conclusion, this research is highly meaningful for academic purposes: it is innovative in terms of not only its research objects, themes and aims but also its methodological approach, and has made a significant contribution to WHS and tourism studies. The research is also useful for practical purposes such as the improvement in the local tourism development plan.