

Bridges' effect on the place-making of San Jiadian historic and cultural village in Beijing

Zhang baoxiu Cheng zhifen

(Beijing Union University)

Abstract: Place-making is seen as a historical process whereby social, cultural and economic factors interact with each other. Bridges are important landscapes and elements for places. They play important roles in the process of place making. And they also reflect the interaction of the local social, economic and cultural elements. This paper adopts the method of structuralism geography, takes San Jiadian historic and cultural village in Men Tougou area in Beijing as a case study area. We take the bridges around San Jiadian (Jing'men Railway Bridge, the Yong'ding River Bridge) as the main units of analysis in this study. The paper discusses the influence of the bridges' development on San Jiadian village's local cultural change during different historical periods. The research's conclusions have certain guiding significances for the bridges and the famous historical and cultural village's preservation. From studying the changing landscapes, we draw three main conclusions. First, in historical periods, the unique geographical location of San Jiadian was critical in enabling it to emerge as an important commercial center in and around Beijing. And it made the village developed unique local cultures (such as the unique architectural structures, architectural styles, etc.). Second, Bridges physically and symbolically connected places, communities and cultures, and they also improved the traffic conditions of the surrounding areas. However, they led to the village gradually lose the status of business center, led to the capital flows reduce. Third, the development of the bridges prompted the village embedded in a much larger scale of space, and make the function of the village has changed. But the village needs to preserve its own local characteristics.

Keywords: place-making; bridges; effect; historic and cultural village; Beijing