

To Evaluate the Value of Traditional Village Landscape Elements in Influencing the Huizhou Character of the UNESCO World Heritage Site: A Case Study of Huizhou, Anhui, China

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Abstract

Social classes, areas of residence, environmental factors, and customs all influence a society's cultural values. These factors typically work together to help in creating the values of the traditional cultural landscape of any society. The traditional village landscape's significance as a cultural heritage is closely linked to the existence of cultural norms and the cultural environment, which together include all of the cultural values. As a result of this, maintaining these elements is essential to ensuring the permanence of history and culture. To assess the significance of traditional village landscape components in shaping the Huizhou identity of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, a case study of Huizhou, Anhui in China was considered. This research employs a systematic literature review (SLR) methodology to explore the value of the traditional village landscape in influencing Huizhou's identity. The research also examines the heritage value of the traditional village landscape on the Huizhou identity of the UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS). The results of the study revealed that traditional village landscape elements have greatly influenced the Huizhou identity of UNESCO's WHS. The findings also demonstrated that traditional village landscapes have valuable recreational, artistic, production, and ecological purposes. This presents justification for the pressing need for the preservation and protection of traditional village landscapes, which requires prioritizing safeguarding the historical aspects of these settlements as well as the overall traditional settlement space and environment.

Keywords: *Traditional Village Landscape, Value, Heritage, Artistic Purpose, Production Purposes, Ecological Purposes, Huizhou Village.*

INTRODUCTION

It goes without saying that the cultural values of a society are shaped by its customs, socioeconomic circumstances, residential locations, and environmental conditions, which collectively form the current cultural landscape values (Zhang, 2017). The presence of cultural norms and the cultural environment—which together make up cultural values collectively—are directly related to the significance of a rural landscape as cultural heritage, and their preservation is necessary to guarantee historical and cultural sustainability. In light of this, Lokocz et al. (2011) expressed that, across the world, traditional village landscapes are witnessing profound shifts in society, economy, culture, and demographics. As a result, traditional village landscapes serve very important recreational, artistic, production, and ecological purposes. Since the rural revitalization strategy was put into practice, more people are becoming aware of traditional villages (Gao & Wu, 2017). This has triggered a growing sense of attachment and longing for traditional villages, and an increasing number of visitors and tourists are being drawn to these villages because of their realism, naturalness, locality, and unique experiences (Hu et al., 2019).

However, as tourism has grown, traditional villages' environments have also altered to accommodate the various purposes in order to meet the variety of needs. Huang et al. (2022) stated that redevelopment, renovation, and

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landscape design have been implemented in certain traditional villages, resulting in large-scale, cohesive, and profitable projects. As a result, traditional villages are gradually losing their distinctive regional features and cultural diversity. Numerous studies have also demonstrated that because socioeconomic development is necessary, the preservation of rural landscapes is in danger since some formerly traditional village landscapes have transformed into urban landscapes (Lin, 2016). In these circumstances, it is imperative that the characteristics of the traditional village landscape be thoroughly acknowledged and comprehended in order to foster the realization of its value in terms of recreational, artistic, production, and ecological purposes. There is mounting evidence that traditional village landscapes are no longer equivalent to agricultural land (Lin, 2016). For instance, conventionally village landscape elements incorporate both natural landscape features like forests and streams as well as cultural landscapes.

According to Zhang (2015), traditional village landscapes are remnants of past social progresses. In China, the living conditions of ancient villages are dilapidated, and traditional villages are facing significant challenges. Thus, it is now crucial to conduct scientific protection and address the connection between the growth of tourism and the preservation of cultural heritage. In China, the desire for rural tourism experiences, like weekend farms and traditional villages, has grown among Chinese in recent times. This is linked to the goal of promoting tourism around traditional culture, while another goal is to use traditional culture as one of the value themes rather than the major theme (Su et al., 2022). These values are upheld by both traditional villages that have a policy of resource conservation due to their designation as cultural properties and by those that do not.

Fu et al. (2021) opined that in contrast with other cultural assets, traditional village landscapes have intrinsic historical value, and the everyday lives of the villagers contribute to the values that need to be conserved. Thus, in addition to protecting the environment, the objective of maintaining traditional village landscapes should be raising the standard of living for locals (Kang et al., 2011). To achieve this, it makes sense to evaluate and comprehend the value of traditional village landscape elements as well as figure out how to use the village's traditional cultural resources to preserve its traditional culture.

The traditional Chinese village landscapes comprises of the residential zones, agricultural land, and surrounding natural surroundings. Furthermore, residential areas are separated into three groups: divine or holy, individual, and communal (Bian et al., 2022; Su et al., 2022). A village of this type is defined by its boundary, which is formed by the ridges of mountains and its entrance, which is marked by a pavilion or a sacred tree. Ritual activities (such as *ji*-ancestral rites, *hun*-wedding; *guan* (initiation), and *sang* - funeral) take place in the spiritual realm (Fu et al., 2021). The inhabited areas of the village are used for a variety of activities that fall into two categories. The first are regular practices, and the second are unique circumstances, like holidays and religious rituals. Long-term repetition of these behaviors determines how the space is used, leading to the development of ritualization. Over time, the village's cultural landscape is shaped as a result of this ritualization gaining historical, value and cultural significance (Xu & Wang, 2021). As a result, the village's cultural landscape is a crucial component, and the village itself is a cultural landscape. However, this review seeks to assess the value of traditional village landscape elements and the impact it has in affecting the Huizhou character of the UNESCO WHS.

The study purpose of this investigation is to fill this knowledge gap by employing a systematic literature review methodology to assess the significance of traditional village landscape components in shaping the UNESCO World Heritage Site's Huizhou character. The primary objective is to determine and understand the ways in which traditional village landscape elements contribute to the Huizhou character of UNESCO's WHS. This is attributed to the fact that the traditional village landscape serves recreational, artistic, religious, production, and ecological functions and maintaining traditional village landscapes should be raising the standard of living for locals. These elements make up the core values of traditional village landscapes, which are defined as the interaction of cultures that support the functions of production, recreation, the arts, religion, and ecology (Bian et al., 2022; Su et al., 2022). Given the review, the study attempts to answer the following three fundamental research questions:

What the important values and TVL (traditional village landscape) elements of UNESCO WHS by the local community?

What values do the local community place on the TVL that influence the character of the WHS?

How do local community evaluations impact the value of TVL elements in influencing the character of WHS?

Based on these research questions, the review will be able to clarify how the traditional village landscape elements might affect the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as the need for a deeper comprehension of their significance in order to support the different functions that these traditional village landscapes fulfill. In light of this, the review will be able to fulfill the following research objectives.

To identify the important value and TVL elements of UNESCO WHS by the local community

To determine the value of TVL elements in influencing the character of WHS by the local community

To develop an effective model that predicts the local community evaluation that have an impact on the value of TVL elements in influencing the character of WHS.

Overview of Huizhou Traditional Village

The study focuses on the Huizhou traditional village landscape. Huizhou Ancient Village lies near the Xin'an River and at the base of Huangshan Mountain in Anhui Province's southern region of. See Figure 1 below:

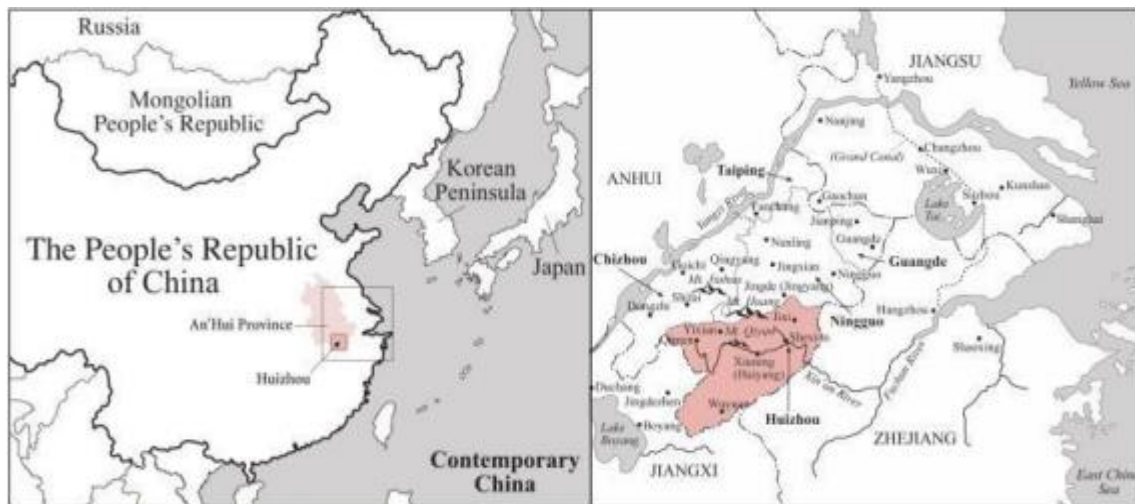


Figure 1: A modern map showing the locations of Huizhou Area in Anhui Province

Ancient Huizhou, now in Jiangxi Province, is in charge of six counties — Xiuning, Wuyuan, Shexian, Qimen, Huizhou, and Jixi. The place names of Huizhou have been the subject of differing opinions over the years. Geographical factors are limited to two: one is attributed to the location's name, and the other is a result of the surrounding mountains and rivers (Figure 2). It is evident that all of Huizhou's names are either place names or references to mountains, rocks, or waterways. Although it is not comparable to Anhui culture, Huizhou culture is the culmination of the material and spiritual civilizations of one prefecture and six counties in ancient Huizhou. The four cultural circles that make up Anhui culture are Wanjiang, Luzhou, Huizhou, and Huaihe cultures. Indeed, Huizhou Village is the usual kind of village case study for such a research because of its strong cultural landscape continuity.



Figure 2: Typical village landscape of Huizhou Ancient Village

LITERATURE REVIEW

Chinese Practical Context

Based on the definition that was jointly released by the Ministry of Culture, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, traditional villages are characterized as such with respect to their early formation, relative preservation, rich cultural heritage, customs, and access to natural resources (Bian et al., 2022; Wang & Zhu, 2022). The significance of these villages lies in their ability to preserve China's rich cultural legacy, both material and immaterial, and their profound significance for history, science, art, society, and economy (Zhang et al., 2021). The Chinese government, in 2012, published the initial set of national traditional village lists. Thereafter, the cause of preserving traditional villages has gained national prominence and legal standing. By 2019, among China's 600,000 villages currently in existence, approximately 6800 national traditional villages have been selected and assigned according to groups of 5 (Bian et al., 2022). China has been rapidly industrializing and urbanizing since the reform and opening up (Gao & Wu, 2017), but traditional villages that depend on agriculture is in danger of declining or disappearing. Liu & Xu (2021) established the growing hollowing out of traditional villages as a result of rural residents moving to cities in search of well-paying employment. Furthermore, extraordinary development has resulted in a number of other inevitable issues for traditional villages, such as environmental dilapidation, waste of land resources, and constructive devastation (Chen et al., 2020). Consequently, the preservation of the traditional villages and their ecological expansion are severely hampered by these issues.

Few researches have analyzed the traditional village landscapes' features and values exclusively. For instance, Xu et al. (2021) employed the analysis of kernel density, the Gini coefficient, the index of geographic centralization, closest neighbor index, and Lorenz curve to ascertain the value and distributional traits of 323 traditional villages located within Shanxi Province. Similarly, Zheng et al. (2021) examined the value structure and distribution of traditional villages in Southwest China using the minimum cumulative resistance model, analysis of kernel density, and closest neighbor index. Wu et al. (2020) also utilized the standard deviation ellipse, hotspot analysis, and the Gini coefficient to sensibly classify the value, evolutionary traits, and spatial patterns of traditional villages at different levels of organizational division.

The majority of research employed statistical analysis to thoroughly examine the traits and influencing factors of the traditional village landscapes. For example, a statistical analysis, global spatial autocorrelation, kernel density analysis, and closest neighbor index was used by Jin & Yan (2020) to look into the factors that determine the value of traditional village landscapes in Gansu and how they vary. Bohua et al. (2016) investigated the geographic distribution and contributing variables of Hunan's traditional villages using statistical analysis, the index of geographic centralization, the closest neighbor index, and the imbalance index. Tang et al. (2019) and Yihong et al. (2022) used the same techniques to investigate the value factors and distribution traits of traditional villages in the cumulative 5 groups in Guizhou and the preceding 4 groups in Hunan. The ArcGIS and Geoda

was used by Ma & Tong (2022) to look into the distribution features and value factors of about 1700 traditional villages in Guizhou, Sichuan, and Yunnan. The effects of traditional village landscape factors have only been measured by a small number of researchers. For instance, Bian et al. (2022) utilized a range of analytical methods, including the index of geographic centralization, closest neighbor index, imbalance index, and Pearson's correlation analysis in order to look into how traditional villages have spread over time and how they have an impact. Using ArcGIS and Geodetector, Gao et al (2023) also investigated the traits and important variables of the traditional village landscape in the Yellow River watershed.

With regard to the research that has already been done on the value attributes and determining elements of the traditional village landscape, while certain outcomes have been attained, the value impact of traditional village landscapes has not been well evaluated. This is because the majority of earlier spatially scaled research has focused on administrative units which lessened the impact of the traditional village landscapes to some degree, compromise the integrity of natural environments, ignore how traditional villages are similar in terms of their geographic settings and cultural practices and produces some interference with the findings of the research. However, the number of studies that use value-characterized geographic environmental units as the research unit is still relatively small. Additionally, the majority of research endeavors have not attempted to measure the influence or effect of the traditional village landscapes.

For farmers, traditional village landscapes are among the most vital sources of income and subsistence (Lokocz et al., 2011). These complexes serve multiple purposes, including social security, asset function, agricultural and nonagricultural production, and living function (Holmes, 2008). Gao et al. (2022) added that the social economy, folk culture, interpersonal relationships, and the relationship between people and land in rural areas are all fundamentally influenced by and coupled with traditional village landscapes. Traditional village landscapes not only support structures like homes and auxiliary buildings, but they also hold unquestionably significant values like social security, rural culture, and clan-blood ties (Han et al., 2023). The Cultural Relics Protection Law's framework of "ancient, social, cultural, scientific, and artistic values" primarily defines the traditional village value, as can be seen by examining the value types and value carriers in the pertinent national legislation, policies, and guidelines. Research on the value of traditional villages currently shows two trends. One is to broaden the scope of value types in order to assess the historical, social, cultural, artistic, and other aspects of traditional villages' worth (Fang & Li, 2022).

The other approach involves categorizing the traditional villages' tangible and intangible carriers and determining their respective worth using the quantitative scoring method. Regarding the first kind, Qin & Leung, (2021) investigated the significance of traditional villages from the perspectives of history, social ecology, science, technology, and culture among others. According to Lu & Ahmad (2023), the value of traditional village landscapes is found in their agricultural output, ecological significance, life and cultural heritage, and enlightenment (Fang & Li, 2022; Xu & Wang, 2021). It is evident that traditional villages are now valued more according to their modern use than their traditional value. In contrast to these qualitative value assessment studies, Nie et al. (2015) developed the value evaluation system using three categories and twenty subcategories derived from traditional village architecture, village layout and composition, as well as the intangible cultural legacy that villages preserve. On the other hand, research methods on the value of cultural landscapes in other nations primarily focus on how various groups perceive the landscape and how humans interact with it to determine its worth (Barber, 2013). Once historical, scientific, and aesthetic values are established, the trends in traditional village values' cognitive standards is progressively integrated into social and cultural values. But there is insufficient focus on the value of humans and the environment, and value identification lacks a comprehensive viewpoint that unifies disparate objectives and encourages sustainable development.

Depending on its type, land value can be classified as labor, income, utility, market, nonmarket, or ethical value. It is primarily determined by the level of demand for land among humans and the usefulness of the various uses that land can fulfill for human society (Zou et al., 2020). Traditional rural landscapes have various utility values for farmers from the standpoint of utility value, including real estate/property appreciation, agricultural and non-agricultural production, and its value as a form of social security. Aside from its multipurpose nature, the traditional village landscape's human-land relationship, rights relationship, and other features are highly complicated and dynamic, and a number of influential variables must be taken into account in full when

determining its value (Gao et al., 2022). Nonetheless, the majority of the current research assesses the significance of traditional village landscape features in shaping the Huizhou character of UNESCO's WHS, with particular in terms of commercial service communities and vacation or tourist landscapes. In light of this, the value of traditional village landscape elements in influencing the Huizhou character of UNESCO's WHS can be determined and evaluated.

In this review, a methodology for assessing village landscape value holistically is presented, along with its implications for the Huizhou character of UNESCO's WHS. To perform an in-depth review, the case of Huizhou village in southwest China is used. The findings of a study on the significance of traditional village landscape elements in shaping the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage Site are favorable to the long-term growth of ecological diversity of cultures. The aim of the research is to evaluate and demonstrate the value and significance of the traditional village landscape and its consequences for the UNESCO World Heritage Site's Huizhou identity. By doing this, a comprehensive understanding of the traditional village's value as well as the direction and safeguards for its protection and use can be made.

Theoretical Context

The Cultural Landscape Theory

According to Smith (2013), the cultural landscape theory is based on a historically noteworthy feature that demonstrates signs of human interaction with the natural world. Gibson (2016) expressed that a cultural community shapes the cultural landscape from the natural environment. The natural environment serves as the medium, culture acts as the agent, and the outcome is the cultural landscape. In light of this, cultural landscape is described as the effects of human actions and behavior on the earth's surface. It is an area where distinct cultural artifacts from the past can still be found and located. The phrase "cultural landscape" implies a general understanding of how humans have shaped most of earth's natural landscapes. In light of this, it is believed that these names were primarily influenced by geographical factors or word meanings. This led to the naming of the six counties in the Huizhou ancient village (Myga-Piatek, 2011). For instance, Yixian County, which has to do with mountains, was established during the Qin Shihuang period and got its name from Huangshan, a well-known mountain in Anhui.

Due to Huangshan's dark and densely packed rocks and trees, people referred to it as Zhanshan both prior to and following the Qin Dynasty and afterwards, it was established by Qin Shihuang. Zhan County was the name given to it southward. Zhan Yi became Yi upon the arrival of Sun Wu (of the 3 Kingdoms), and Qin Dynasty's Ziran Mountain became Yishan. The place where the modern-day Lianjiang River and Xin'an River converge is She County, which derives its name from the term "Xi," which was initially the merging of water flow. Since Huixi and Huiling are located in Jixi County, "Shanshui theory" was named Huizhou. In Xin'an Zhi of Luoyuan during the Southern Song Dynasty, this name is mentioned. Regardless of how history evolved in subsequent times, this ancient cultural landscape theory has been applied consistently.

Theory of Cultural Change

According to Head (2010), cultural ecology serves as the foundation for the conceptual model of traditional village heritage value, and it centers on the human being and encompasses not only the analysis of the interaction between culture and environment, but also the investigation of culture and environments (both social and natural) in which humans exist (Suo, 2014). Varnum & Grossmann (2017) added that ecological techniques should be used in cultural ecology to investigate how culture and the environment interact.

METHODOLOGY

Systematic Review Literature (SLR) Strategy

To successfully address the two highlighted research questions and effectively accomplish the aim of this review, the researcher adopted and implemented a systematic review literature (SLR) procedure. Xiao & Watson (2019) described systematic literature review (SLR) as a process that uses predetermined procedures to collect, filter,

and evaluate large amounts of data. In research, SLR is an essential part of evidence-based practice that is used to inform decisions about particular actions or events. In support of this, Tong et al. (2016) articulated that systematic reviews are one of the essential components of evidence-based research. In the context of this review, the main goal of this SLR was to facilitate the use of data that has undergone extensive analysis to explore the value of traditional village landscape factors in impacting the Huizhou character of UNESCO's WHS. This is explained by the fact that the SLR integrates primary research findings through strict and explicit procedures to provide reliable answers to the specified research questions (Cooper et al., 2019).

Therefore, prior to review, methods for reasoning, conjecture, and data collection are developed and used as tools to traverse the loop in order to reduce bias. Similar to a typical literature review, its goal is to find, evaluate, and summarize recent studies on present research subject. Research results that seem inconsistent or random can be examined through a systematic literature review, which can also reveal issues that require more research. SLRs are particularly helpful because they can also analyze the generalizability and consistency of data in relation to coherent, well-reasoned questions. This approach primarily concentrates on in-depth observational studies and is particularly helpful for merging data from study collections investigating related phenomena.

The Systematic Literature Review Process

The practice of conducting a systematic literature review makes it possible to gather relevant data on a particular subject that satisfies the predefined eligibility requirements in order to respond to the research questions that have been posed (Xiao and Watson, 2019). Therefore, the SLR process involves the following six steps in order to be considered scientifically rigorous

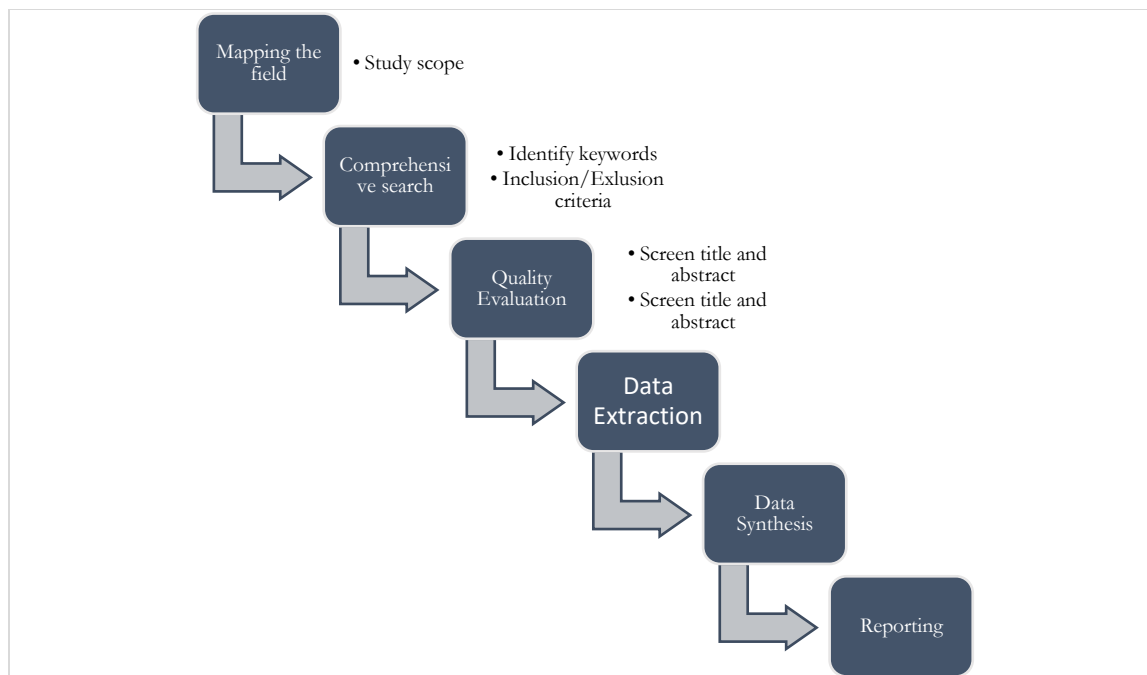


Figure 3: The SLR Process

Mapping the Field

The systematic literature review process begins with mapping the field, in which the researcher describes the study's scope and removes any uncertainty by clearly stating the evaluation question (Purssell & McCrae, 2020). Therefore, the researcher considered different viewpoints and methodologies from the various streams of literature covering traditional village landscape and cultural heritage in order to fully understand the phenomenon.

Comprehensive Search

This in-depth search was conducted on appropriate data sources and databases, according to the inclusion/exclusion criteria as well as using the defined search strings and keywords in order to guarantee that the objectivity, transparency, and reproducibility of the SLR process were upheld. At this stage, the researcher utilized a combination of subject heading and keywords to guarantee the retrieval of as much research as possible. Using combine searches enabled the researcher to create of stronger search strings. In light of the in-depth search strategy, the reader is able to evaluate the caliber of the search and, consequently, the caliber of the review. The review's quality may be impacted by biased results from insufficient searches or mistakes in search tactics.

Quality Evaluation

At this stage, the researcher assessed the quality of studies included in terms of relevance, appropriateness and suitability to the present review. This procedure entails assessing, determining, and recording any possible bias risks. It involves checking the caliber and applicability of each study's methodology that is part of the review as well as what kind and how much of the evidence overall comes from the studies that are part of the review (Shepherd, 2009). In this case, the caliber and diversity of the included studies have a major effect on the value of the SR. Hence, having a clear and detailed methodology that prioritizes reproducibility and generalizability is essential to increasing the likelihood of acceptance and inclusion.

Data Extraction

Data extraction in systematic reviews is the process of obtaining important study features in an organized and standardized format from data found in reports and journal articles. This is the procedure through which the researcher gathers or gets different kinds of data from the included studies based on specific elements such as author, title, year, objective, methodology, findings from which the researcher makes the synthesis remarks. A connection between the data and study questions was made possible by separating and documenting the quantitative and qualitative content under different headings, which also enabled thematic analysis. In this case, the extraction practice included the Author and Year; Article or journal title; context/industry; sample size; data collection process; study design; findings and conclusion. In the context of the current study, the goal of SLR was to find all studies that were pertinent to their research questions and to compile information about the studies' designs and outcomes. Table 2 below shows the data extraction of the included studies:

Table 1: Data Extraction of the included studies

Author and Year	Article/journal title	Context	Study design, Sample size and data collection	Conclusions
Fang & Li, (2022)	Cultural ecology cognition and heritage value of Huizhou traditional villages	Huizhou village, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzes heritage value using three-dimensional matrix model and cluster analysis Develops a conceptual model and an indicator system of traditional village heritage value based on cultural ecology. Data was gathered through field surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The findings indicate that Huizhou traditional villages have significant heritage value. The highest value among diversity, continuity, and integrity is integrity, is demonstrated by the caliber of heritage ontologies and the interactions it has with the environment.
Xu & Wang, (2021)	Recognition of values of traditional villages in southwest China for sustainable development: A case study of Liufang Village	Liufang Village, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilizes a case study approach to examine how humans and nature have interacted over time as the basis for understanding the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study combines object value and subject perception in an innovative attempt to determine the value of traditional villages, which is more consistent with

			<p>significance of cultural landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data was gathered by interviewing local residents 	<p>the way scientific approaches are developed for both the preservation of traditional villages and the sustainable growth of tourism.</p>
Zhang, (2015)	Study on value characteristics of traditional village and its protection strategy	Ancient villages in China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses case studies reference to elucidate the fundamental traits and values of traditional villages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The paper presents that the fundamental traits and value composition of traditional villages
Bian et al. (2022)	Spatial distribution characteristics and influencing factors of traditional villages in China	China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To analyze the features of these villages, the study used geographical analysis using mathematical statistics and a geographic information system. Global Change Scientific Research Data Publishing System was the source of the traditional village data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results showed that traditional villages maintain the important elements of traditional culture, which is necessary for rural regions to be revitalized. Traditional village landscapes were found to positively correlate with human history, population, and economic development levels.
Fu et al. (2021)	Heritage values of ancient vernacular residences in traditional villages in Western Hunan, China: Spatial patterns and influencing factors	Western Hunan, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The authors surveyed the seven traditional villages they had chosen, and using the power of GIS, RS, and GPS techniques, they created a spatial database of these villages. They then used an architectural evaluation method to assess each traditional home's exterior quality. In order to systematically demonstrate how indicators affect the value of traditional villages, the study developed an evaluation indicator system and scored each one's value using the entropy weight approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The result revealed that the traditional homes in these villages are valued differently, depending on a variety of cultural and environmental variables. The study also showed that because they are essential to the preservation of their distinctive architectural forms, traditional village homes are valuable primarily because of their authenticity in terms of both architectural form and building material.
Gao & Wu, (2017)	Revitalizing traditional villages through rural tourism: A case study of Yuanjia Village, Shaanxi Province, China	Yuanjia Village, Shaanxi Province, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The research conducted a thorough literature analysis to offers a sustainable and integrated strategy for traditional village rehabilitation based on rural tourism in order to better comprehend the 	<p>The results show that the three levels of the model—material, social, and spiritual—are useful avenues for prosperous village rejuvenation.</p>

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			connection between the two.	
Gao et al. (2023)	Spatial characteristics and influencing factors of Chinese traditional villages in eight provinces the Yellow River flows through	China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify any notable regional differences in the general pattern and specific distribution characteristics within each province, spatial analysis techniques such as kernel density and nearest neighbor index are used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the examination and disclosure of the internal and external drivers, motivations, and factors that influence renewal and evolution, as well as the wisdom and cultural significance of the physical locations, the study can improve understanding of traditional villages, aid traditional society in integrating more successfully into contemporary society, and be a resource for rural area development and rejuvenation.
Huang et al. (2022)	Traditional Village Landscape Identification and Remodeling Strategy: Taking the Radish Village as an Example	Radish Village, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By classifying pertinent research publications, the impact of digital technology and self-media platforms on landscape renovation, as well as the village's unique landscape character, are examined and deliberated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The findings showed that traditional Chinese villages are significant cultural relics with significant cultural worth. The study also discovered that the activity areas with local, regional cultural features and the residents' spiritual feelings determine how traditional villages define their landscape identities.
Liu & Xu, (2021)	Characteristics and Influencing Factors on the Hollowing of Traditional Villages—Taking 2645 Villages from the Chinese Traditional Village Catalogue	China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study examined 2645 villages from the Chinese traditional village catalogue (Batch 5) and assessed various village characteristics, such as site, the size of traditional structures, residence registration, enduring population, historically significant structures, cultural artifacts, and non-heritage representative schemes. The study developed an assessment index system and quantitatively evaluated the features and affecting variables of hollowing across traditional Chinese villages using the entropy weight technique, complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The result indicated that it is necessary to analyze the hollowing and formation process of traditional villages in terms of their evolutionary stage, taking various historical and cultural characteristics into account. To gain a deeper understanding of the development of village hollowing, pertinent influencing variables must be broken down into their component driving forces, which include the social economy, policy system, resources, and environment. Encouraging the sustainable growth of traditional villages' economies, societies, and cultures requires careful planning and management.

			evaluation method, and correlation analysis method.	
Lu & Ahmad, (2023)	Heritage protection perspective of sustainable development of traditional villages in Guangxi, China	Guangxi, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant information from six sample traditional villages was gathered by questionnaire surveys, in-depth interviews, and field surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The findings indicate that Guangxi's traditional villages must balance their level of sustainable development, and that the degree of development in each village's living and working regions varies depending on the distribution area of the various geomorphic types. • Eventually, with the goal of encouraging the sustainable development of local heritage places and bridging the development gap between villages, the research makes recommendations for appropriate development and preservation plans for historical sites based on the extraction of historical value, distinctive industry development, distribution of environmental factors, and geographical resources.

Data Synthesis

At this stage of systematic literature review process, the researcher analyzes and combines the data that has been extracted from individual studies. It is this synthesis that determines the outcome of the review. The goal of data synthesis is to compile and synthesize the results of several studies on a particular subject or issue. Assessing the potential for bias in individual studies and synthesizing their results are prerequisites that must be met.

Reporting

This involves the practice of discussing the findings of the synthesis process relative to the defined review questions. In order to accurately and concisely describe the (often) large amount of data, it is best to write up a systematic review in a clearly structured manner. In the context of the current review, the report included a summary of the main findings, a comprehensive analysis of the results for every research question as well as the review's conclusions.

SLR Procedure

Search Strategy

Therefore, numerous papers were looked up and analyzed in order to completely answer the defined research questions and accomplish the study aim. In light of this the search strategy employed entailed First, the search phrases that are related to the value of traditional village landscape elements in influencing the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage. The researcher originally created search strings or phrases such as: "value of traditional village landscape" AND "elements in influencing the Huizhou character" OR "the value of village landscape elements in influencing the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage." The search proceeded in an iterative manner based on the search results, and the search terms were changed (Kuckertz & Block, 2021).

Criteria for Including and Excluding Academic Articles

The clear selection criteria for determining whether research is relevant to answering the review questions ensure a transparent process (Boell & Cecez-Kecmanovic, 2015). The search was restricted to full-text, peer-reviewed, scholarly journals with available references in order to improve academic rigor and guarantee article quality. The publication dates were restricted to 2010 and later in order to highlight recent occurrences related to traditional village landscape elements influencing the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage. Similarly, only the articles done in English-language were for inclusion. Table 1 below summarizes the inclusion and exclusion criteria used:

Table 2: The Inclusion and Exclusion criteria of the articles

No.	Characteristic	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
1	Article language	English	Any other Language
2	Publication date	2010 onwards	Pre-2012
3	Article type	Academic journals, Government policy documents, studies and conference proceedings	Books, working papers, Magazine, and newspaper articles
4	Relevance	Full text, peer reviewed articles, both published and unpublished literature that are relevant to the research study	Journals and academic papers that do not belong to the scope of the research.

Academic article generation

The search process was conducted on ProQuest and Google Scholar databases. The selection of these databases was based on their substantial academic literature content, which decreases the likelihood of missing pertinent articles when searching through them all. About 325 articles were found in the search results based on the search phrases. However, 310 papers were determined to be extremely irrelevant and inappropriate for the current review study after applying a variety of inclusion and exclusion criteria. This indicated that 15 relevant papers were judged to be extremely relevant and suitable for inclusion in the current review. Therefore, the 15 resulting articles made up the final sample, which was subsequently thoroughly inspected. Figure 3 below illustrates the search process, result screening (exclusion criteria) and inclusion for data extraction:

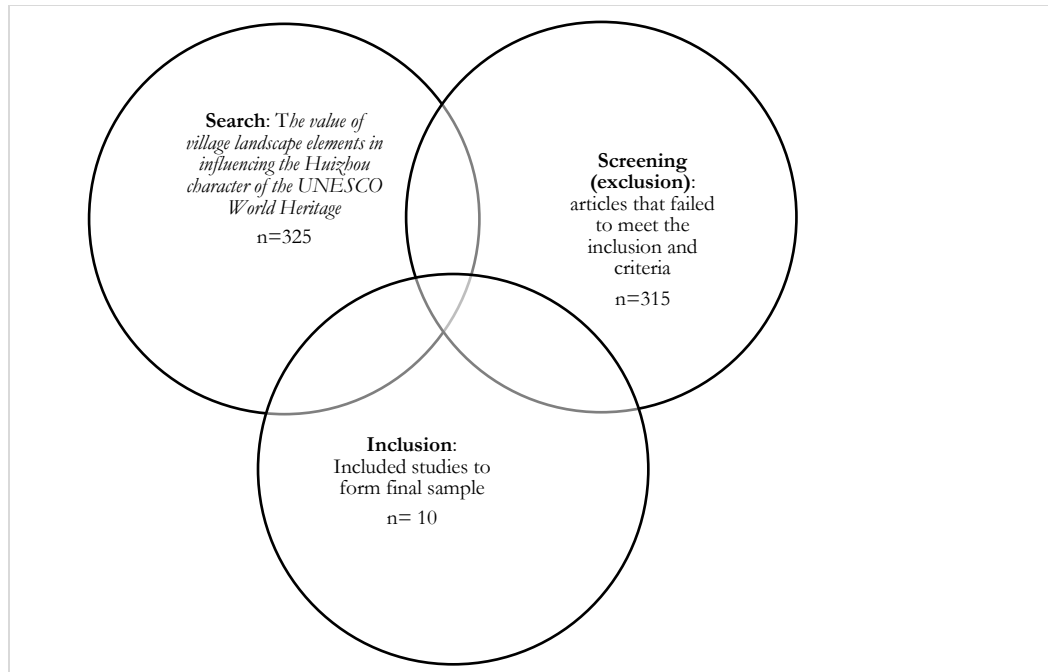


Figure 3: Search, screening and Inclusion process

The approaches used to view the relevant literature that was considered for this review are examined. This presents the approaches used to critically evaluate the literature that is part of the study, as well as frameworks and methods for doing so, and how to analyze the results.

The Analysis Process

To successfully answer the highlighted research question, the data extracted from the included articles was examined and combined to create meaningful themes associated with current topic of interest. The aim of the synthesis was to arrive at a more precise and narrowly focused outcome than what was discovered through individual studies. Therefore, it was crucial to evaluate the scope, direction, caliber, and coherence of the evidence across studies. This allowed the researcher to determine the characteristics that all of the included studies had in common, which allowed them to address the two research questions.

In light of this, thematic analysis was utilized to develop themes and patterns that provide answers to research questions as well as ensure that study aim was realized. With this method, the researcher was able to analysis the data by carefully going through the data set, searching for patterns as well as determining themes and crafting conclusions.

Review Findings

The primary results that are pertinent to addressing the research questions are presented in this section of the review. The findings reveal that traditional village landscapes are a historical byproduct of social growth and cultural heritage. Similarly, the study findings acknowledge heritage value of traditional village landscape based on cultural ecology. From a thematic perspective, the findings are as follows;

Theme 1: The Value of Traditional Village Landscape

The review findings reveal that traditional village landscapes have basic qualities. For instance, it is evident that they are comparatively autonomous local communities where social interactions and relationships take place. Traditional village landscapes are the outcome of interactions between the natural setting and human activity. As a result, they capture the social, political, and cultural aspects of that historical period.

The findings have also highlighted the different elements of these basic qualities of traditional village landscapes. For example, natural environment is the first element that comprises of mountains, water, land, climate, geology, biology, and other elements. Regarding the locations of the ancient villages and their spatial environmental features, the review expose that in general traditional village landscapes have very specific tastes when it comes to natural adaptations. This is due to the belief that humans are a part of nature and their high regard for the village's location. Indeed, Huizhou is well known for its peculiar landscapes, and its distinct national environment of cave dwellings in the northwest, however, reflects the characteristics of the surrounding terrain. The second element exhibited in the findings is that humanistic environment. This recognizes the crucial role played by geographical and ethnic knowledge in the development of distinctive traditional village landscapes. The humanistic setting of the historic villages is made up of structures, roadways, amenities, and other elements. Additionally, the architectural design embodies the spirit of the traditional village landscape and serves as a typical symbol of the ancient village culture. The third element presented through the findings is the social context. The social environment is made up of various factors such as religion, folk culture, and the economy. The vast majority of Chinese villages (such as Huizhou) are considered cultural heritage and are spread out over isolated areas with good natural scenery that promote socioeconomic development.

Moreover, the findings have indicated the value constituents of traditional village landscapes. Thus, the value of traditional village landscapes, as significant assets of cultural tourism, is primarily represented in cultural heritage, which encompasses values related to science, architecture, art, custom or manners, society, history, and spirituality. Scientific value offers offer the scientific foundation for the sustainable development of the traditional villages by building upon the foundation established by these communities, which includes the natural environment, geography, and climate, and fully accounting for the benefits of these resources. The architectural value means that ecological, cultural, and landscape characteristics are typical of traditional villages and history and culture are best transmitted through local architectural culture. Traditional village homes and monuments are highly valuable architecturally. The aesthetic value describes the creative inspiration of life is the fundamental component of a traditional settlement and is frequently reflected in the architecture, customs, etc. The traditional village's artistic meaning is a form of straightforward communication. The value of manners or customs of traditional villages have a complicated hierarchical structure that represents the influence of manners on daily settlement life, taking into account site selection, arrangement, and construction of settlements. The society values reveal that traditional villages resemble more of a closed community. In other words, while residential dwellings are private spaces, communities also require common areas to promote interaction among residents. The historic and heritage value shows that traditional village landscapes have a distinct historical and cultural legacy. The spiritual value of traditional villages is evident in the people's feeling of self and community, which combines to create a potent spiritual feeling.

Based on these value compositions, it is clear that tourists look for the center of the historic village by experiencing and releasing their emotions. In general, the historical significance of traditional villages lies in their landscape tourism value, economic value, emotional value, and artistic value, which encompass the beauty of nature, people, architecture, and the fluctuations of life. In the context of this study, it is evident that traditional village settings incorporate aspects that enhance the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage Site along with a rich and distinct past.

Theme 2: Traditional Village Heritage Values

The review findings discovered that the legacy of traditional village landscape is both a cultural phenomenon and the materialization of culture. In light of this, the influence of contemporary society on traditional village heritage has given rise to a growing awareness of the cultural-ecological relationship, which consists of a human-culture-natural ecosystem. As a barrier separating the village space, the environmental ecology of the village reflects the importance of cultural ecology, the natural and unplanned expansion of the village's spatial ecology and the village's humane ecosystem, which is transmitted from one generation to the next. The review expressed that the establishment of a comprehensive analysis of the cultural ecology is the fundamental component of

traditional village cultural ecology. As a result, the review suggests that a comprehensive understanding of the cultural ecosystem of the traditional village heritage value from the standpoint of cultural ecology.

The review findings further indicate that the cultural community established the hierarchical structure of the "cultural pyramid" by dividing culture into three systems: cultural artifacts, organizational culture, and conceptual culture. This means that traditional villages have developed into a distinct cultural system that constitutes the "traditional village culture," which is made up of material, behavioral, and spiritual cultures. The review uncovered that material culture offers the basis made up of a variety of observable and tangible components and it is the most natural and vibrant representation of traditional village landscapes. This includes a range of conventional building styles (such as custom homes, halls of ancestry, sanctuaries and institutions of classical education); customary roadway layouts and historical environmental features (historic rivers, historic docklands, historic trees, historic wells, historic monument arches, historic towers, historic pagodas, historic auditoriums, military facilities, farmland facilities, etc.). Secondly, institutionalizing culture and standardizing behavior combine to create behavioral culture. This relates to the creation of living systems and cultural norms (such as customary traditions, conventional abilities, traditional literature, music and dance, customary artwork, customary treatment, customary farming, etc.). Finally, the review uncovered that the spiritual culture includes concepts, beliefs, knowledge, etc. For instance, people's thoughts and value decisions are influenced by spiritual behaviors like religion, folk belief, patriarchal clan, ethics, and values, which have an impact on behavioral culture and heritage material space.

According to the review findings, there exist four distinct components that encompass the traditional village heritage and the integrity of the cultural ecosystem that upholds its values. The first is the "human," who possesses subjective initiative, values consciousness, and the capacity to change and adapt to their surroundings. The ecological nucleus refers to this circle, which includes humans as both the creators and users of culture. The second component is the ecological base, which is defined as the external manifestation of individual initiative and value awareness in society, technology, and thought. The third component is the ecological pool, which keeps traditional village landscapes vibrant and culturally rich. This describes the outward manifestation and preserver of traditional village heritage culture, encompassing the behavioral, material, and spiritual cultural components that make up the traditional village cultural heritage. The fourth component is the ecosystem that supports the traditional village's external environment. It supplies the materials and energy required for the system to function as a whole and continuously exchanges materials and energy with the traditional village heritage area.

The review further established that the components of the traditional village heritage cultural ecosystem are linked to one another and engage in symbiotic interactions based on a particular logic. Its fundamental component is the flow of materials and energy between the environmental pool and its supporting ecosystem, which serves as the outward manifestation of traditional village heritage. Based on this, the findings indicate that the three facets of its wholeness—integrity, diversity, and continuity—all work together to preserve the steady and robust functioning of the traditional village cultural ecosystem.

In conclusion, the findings demonstrate that a comprehensive understanding of the cultural ecosystem is at the heart of the heritage value of traditional village landscapes, indicating that the external manifestation and space carrier of the customary village heritage interchange materials and energy with the surrounding external setting to form the entire system. To put it another way, the aspects of the heritage's material, behavioral, and spiritual cultures are intertwined with the surroundings, creating a cultural ecosystem that incorporates values of continuity, integrity, and diversity.

CONCLUSION

Based on thematic findings presented above, the review has shown that traditional village landscape elements have a significant influence on the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage in China. The review has also established that the significance of village landscape components in shaping the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Huizhou. These inferences are attributed to the study findings, which have demonstrated the value characteristics of the traditional village landscape elements that influence the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as identifying the heritage value of traditional village landscape to the

Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. As a result, the review presented the following conclusions.

The study concluded that a traditional village is a particular kind of cultural environment that is a collaborative product of long-term human-nature interaction and a crucial kind of cultural landscape made possible by human activity. It depicts the coexisting human and natural lifestyles and preserves valuable historical and cultural data as well as traditional culture. Because traditional villages are a particular type of cultural landscape, it makes perfect sense to explore the contribution to the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. It offers a fresh viewpoint on how traditional village landscapes influence the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Examining the relevance of the village cultural landscape through the long-term relationship between humans and nature has deep enlightening and guiding implications. The process of change and development preserves some of the features that make traditional villages valuable. The review aids in placing traditional village landscapes in the context of history in order to investigate their significance and focus on the connection between traditional villages and people's recollections, feelings, cultural beliefs, etc. Every facet of society is influencing the values of traditional village landscapes while they are being formed. Put another way, traditional culture is still growing and enhancing the traditional villages' inherent values.

Furthermore, the review found that the cultural landscape theory deviates from the conventional method of valuing world heritage by providing a thorough assessment of the worth of both culture and environment. It shifts from emphasizing a single cultural component to a holistic component made up of both natural and cultural elements. As a result, the traditional village value cognition is guided by cultural landscape theory's full knowledge of historic value. The worth of traditional villages, as a typical cultural landscape, is found in the portions that are continually changing but are always conserved, particularly when it comes to incorporating different cultural shocks into their development, including possible historical and contemporary value. Therefore, a comprehensive approach to value discrimination that emphasizes the historical significance of traditional villages is to comprehend the worth of villages from the perspective of the cultural environment. Locals' understanding of their own cultural values is based on the background value and values that flow from it. This is emphasized as the value of tourist development. This aligns with the value trend discussed in earlier research (Nie et al., 2015), which emphasizes the importance of social benefits, economic value, and usage value derived from traditional village landscape. When compared to earlier research on minority settlements 9 such as Huizhou) in the southwest (Bian et al., 2022; Chen et al., 2020), the majority of cases concentrated on the development, evolution, patterns, and traits of the cultural landscape and infrequently addressed value interpretation. Research on the social, economic, and cultural interpretation of the traditional village landscape—particularly on "people"—has been neglected in favor of describing the physical aspects of the environment, and local social stakeholders have received less attention. The assessment of the traditional village landscape's value has established a solid basis for the following phase of rational and scientific village planning for both the growth and preservation of tourism in the context of the Huizhou character of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The main problem of this research is that the review's credibility and dependability are in doubt because the study only uses secondary data, which is less reliable for research purposes. Consequently, to increase the validity and trustworthiness of future research, it is necessary to carry out the same study utilizing primary data.

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