

Konstruktivismus, Wahrnehmung und Gedächtnis – Plädoyer für einen konstruktivistischen Landschaftsdiskurs

Abstract:

In trying to study the idea of landscape (*fūkei*) in Japanese *waka*-poetry, one may find oneself confronted with a great variety of concepts. All these share commonalities in that they are not at all defined, that their meanings depend on personal usage (at the level of the producer, as well as of the researcher who often speaks the same language), and that they can be understood on a wide spectrum between the two extreme positions marked by fiction and reality (without, of course, any scientific concept about what fiction and reality might be). Although European traditions are coping with the concept of landscape in an aesthetical and philosophical way, there is no such comparable tradition in traditional Japanese literary history (*kokubungaku*). Because of this there is no satisfactory way to conceptually understand *waka*-landscape, since the very basic key-term itself is not mutually accessible. European and Japanese concepts of landscape may not, therefore, be able to be brought together. To have an international scientific discussion on landscape (found in every culture historically and up to the present), it is necessary to develop a concept of landscape, which is not only an issue of arts, aesthetics or philosophy, but also the subject of anthropological approaches and cultural studies. In this paper, I attempt to develop a concept of landscape, which is based on constructivism and the psychology of perception and memory. I will also show how constructivist thought has gained great popularity in German social and cultural studies.