

The background image shows a traditional Japanese shrine. In the foreground, a large white torii gate stands prominently. Behind it, a building with a red-tiled roof is visible. The scene is set outdoors with green trees and a clear blue sky.

Factors shaping social cohesion among local and immigrant residents in a Japanese remote island community

Aoi Sugimoto

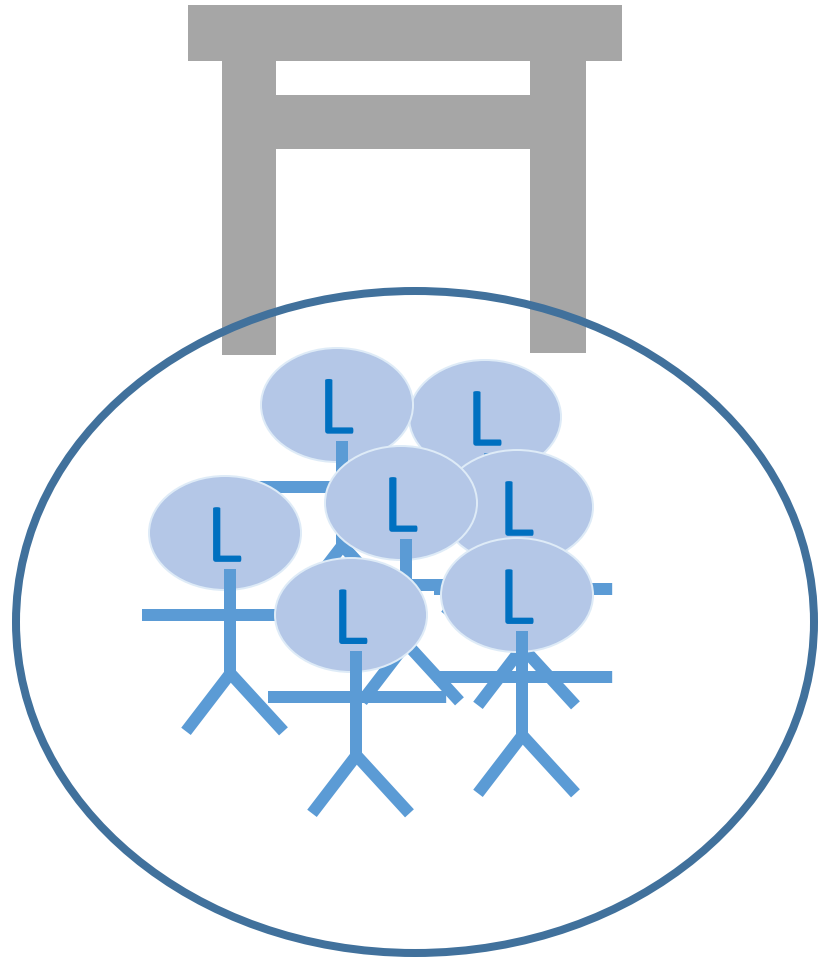
Japan Fisheries Research & Education Agency

Question:
What is 'community'
for local residents?



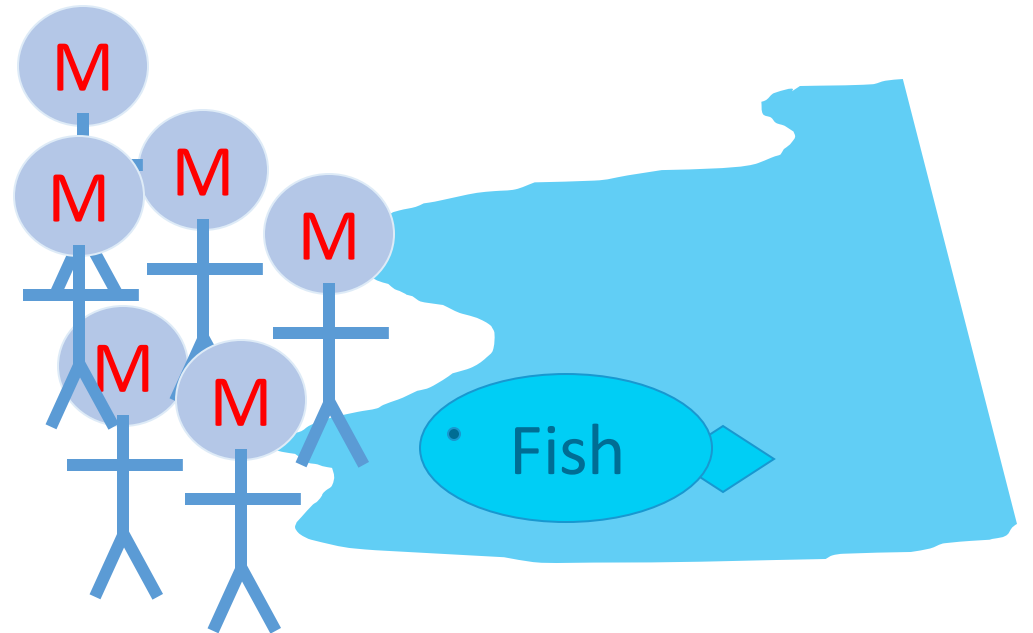
Utaki: Spiritual center of the Okinawan islands (仲松1990)

Residents who belong to utaki are only regarded as local, "real" villagers.



Most fishers are immigrants

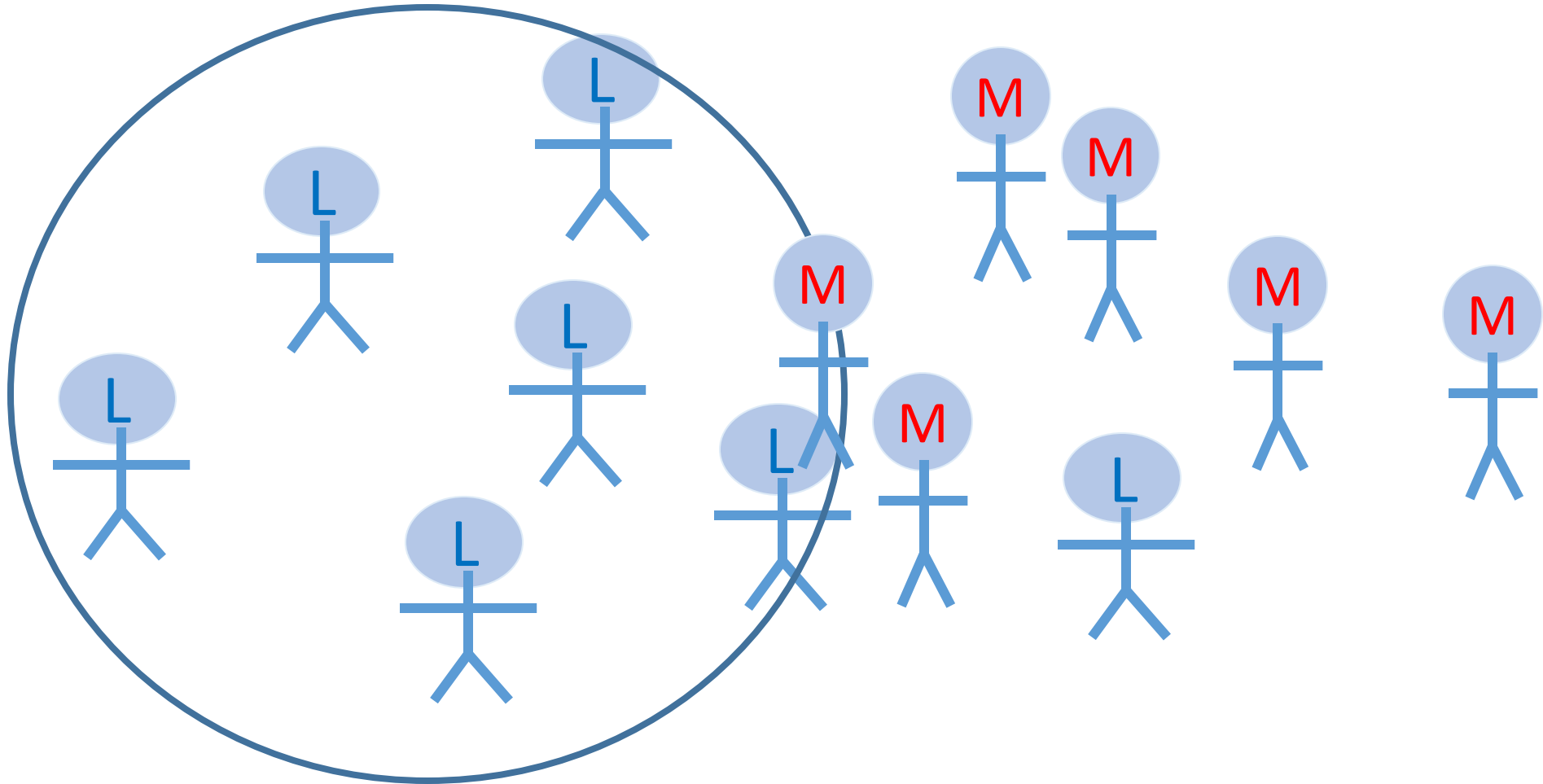
They are 'outsiders' without belonging to Utaki



In reality (daily lives),,,

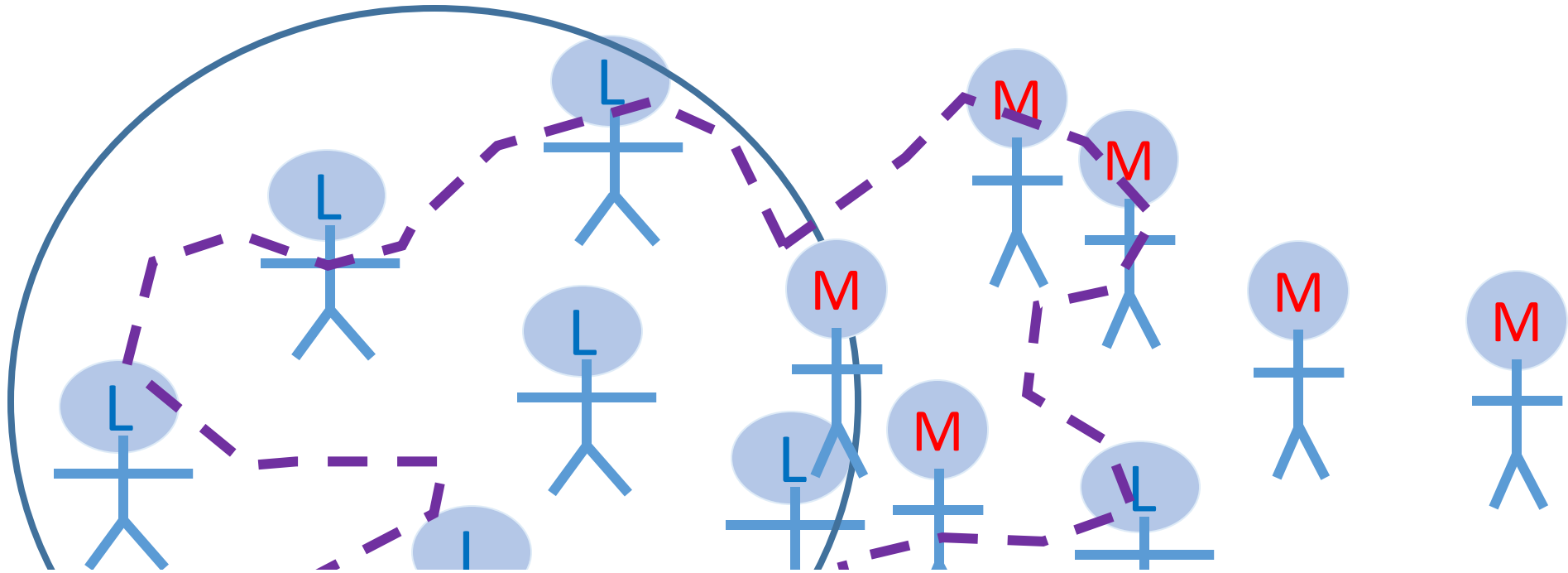
Some immigrants are accepted/regarded as “real” villagers

But, some locals are excluded from “real” villagers



In reality (daily lives),,,

Some immigrants are accepted/regarded as “real” villagers
But, some locals are excluded from “real” villagers



The boundary of ‘community’ is dynamic

Question:
What is 'community'
for local residents?

- “community” concept: neither obvious nor simple (Hillery 1955; Agrawal 1999)
- Globalization -> economic/social/cultural change of communities
- Urged to capture the empirical figure of ‘community’ from residents’ perspective in order to promote the community-based public goods management e.g., coastal resources

This work aims to...

capture the notion of 'community'
from the local residents' perspective,

and propose factors shaping social
cohesion among locals and
immigrants

Case study site: Shiraho village, Okinawa, Japan



Okinawa,
Japan

Halifax,
Canada

Okinawa islands, Japan



- Subtropical climate, ecosystem
- Lower economic status
- Tourism destination consumed as 'tropical paradise' of Japan
- Complicated history, geo-political circumstances



Okinawa islands, Japan

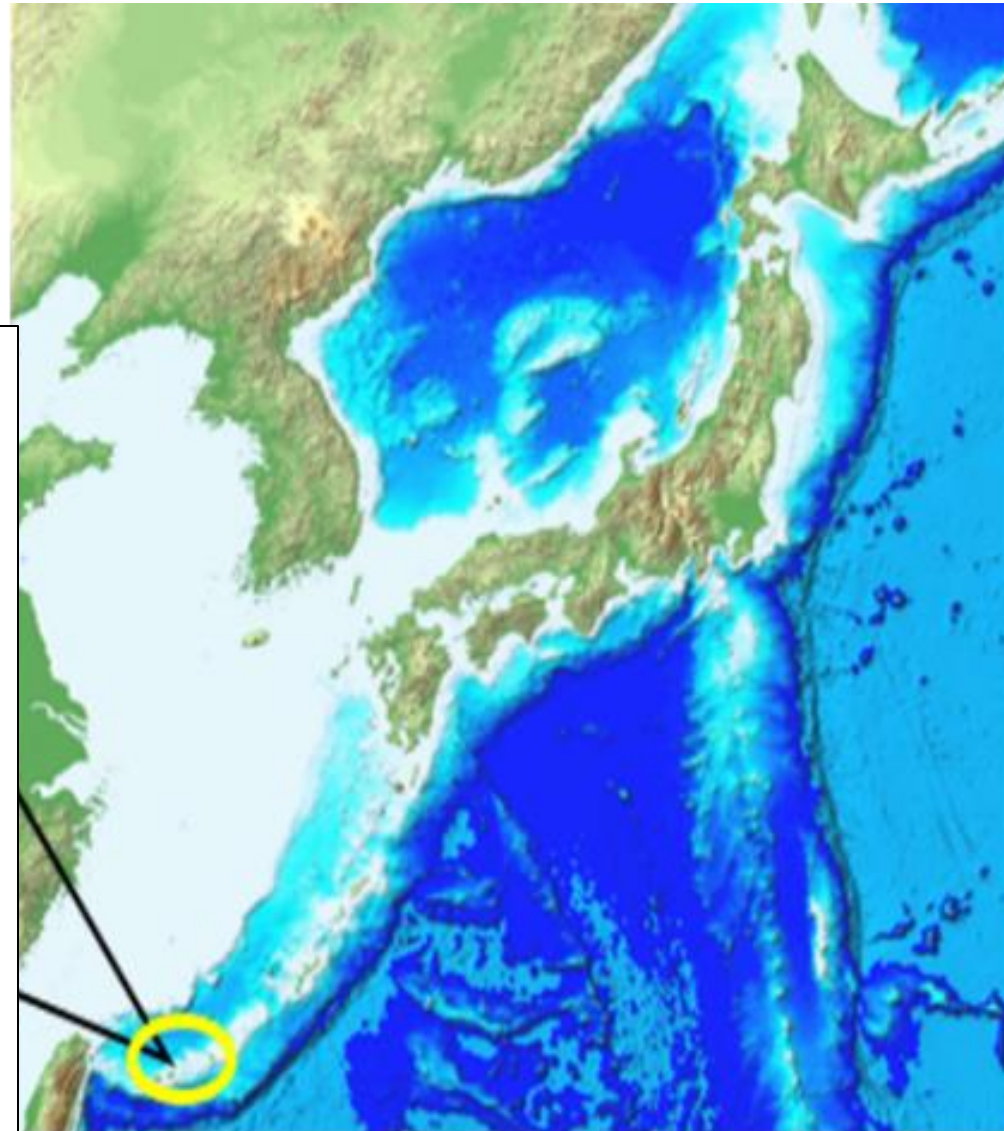
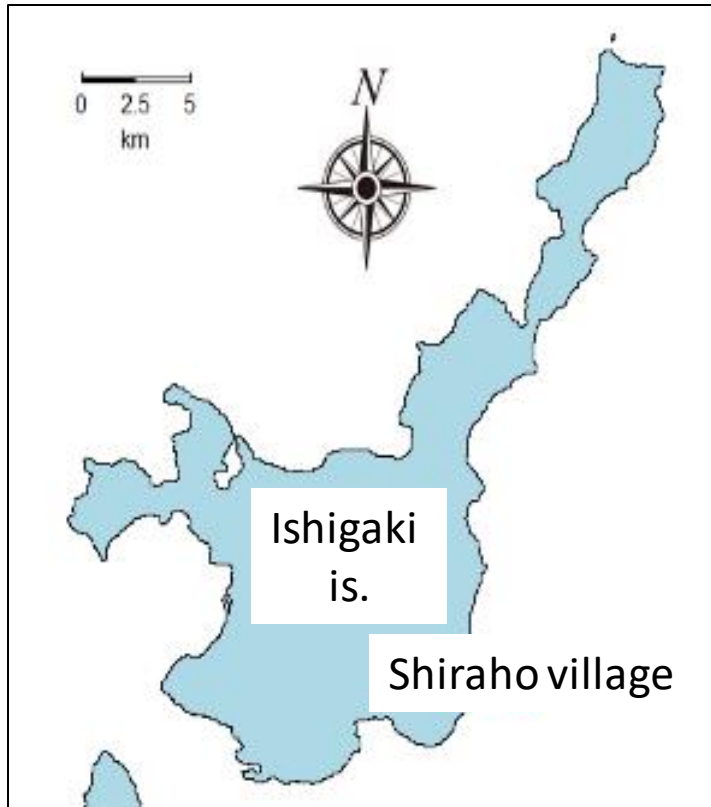
- Subtropical climate, ecosystem
- Lower economic status
- Tourism destination consumed Japan

1) There are increasing immigrants who dreamed of living in a 'tropical paradise',
2) But in reality, there are always conflicts between local islanders and immigrants



Case study site: Shiraho village, Okinawa, Japan

population : 1618
household : 674



Locals
(60%)

== Define as "Locals" for people under the protection of the local place of worship ('Real Shiraho villagers')

Immigrants
(40%)

== Define as "immigrants" for other residents

- immigrants from other Okinawan islands(30%)
- immigrants from other pref.s (10%)

Method

Structured free-answer questionnaire designed with the time axis

Q1. Do you think Shiraho village became better place than the past (for example 10 years ago)? Please circle (○) the number that represents how you think.

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

Q2. Why do you think like the above? Please explain your thought.

Q3. What do you think is important for Shiraho village to become further better place than present in the future (for example 10 years later)? Please explain your thought freely.

Data collection & analysis

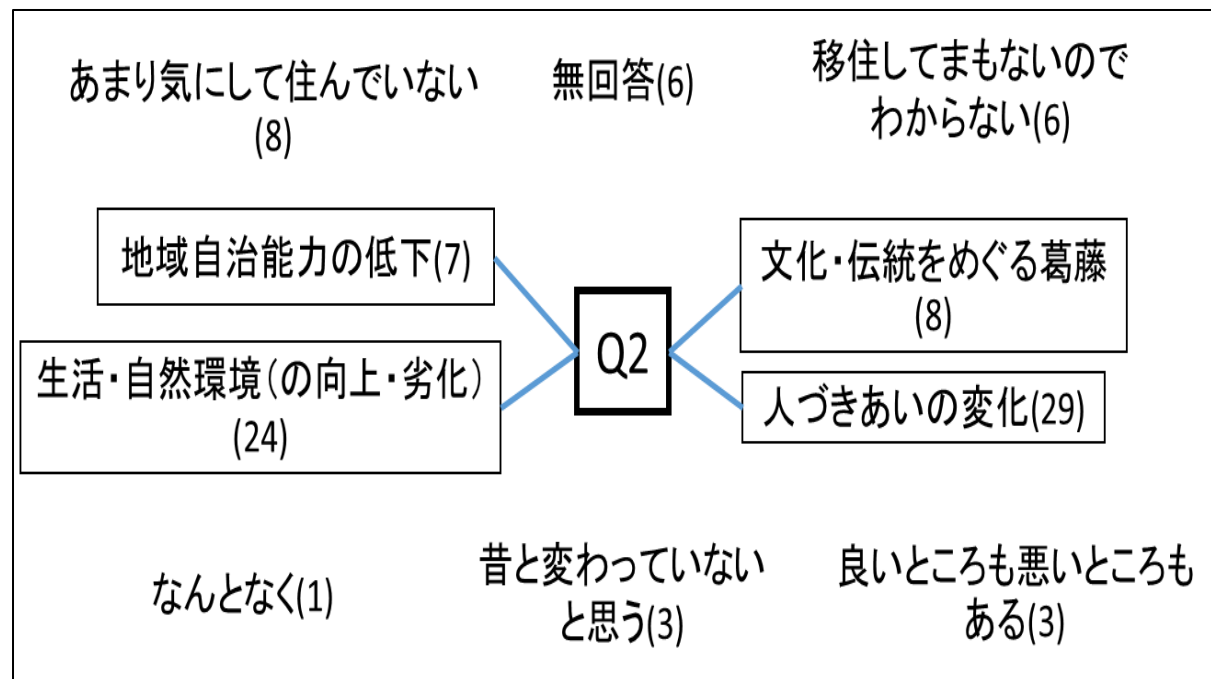
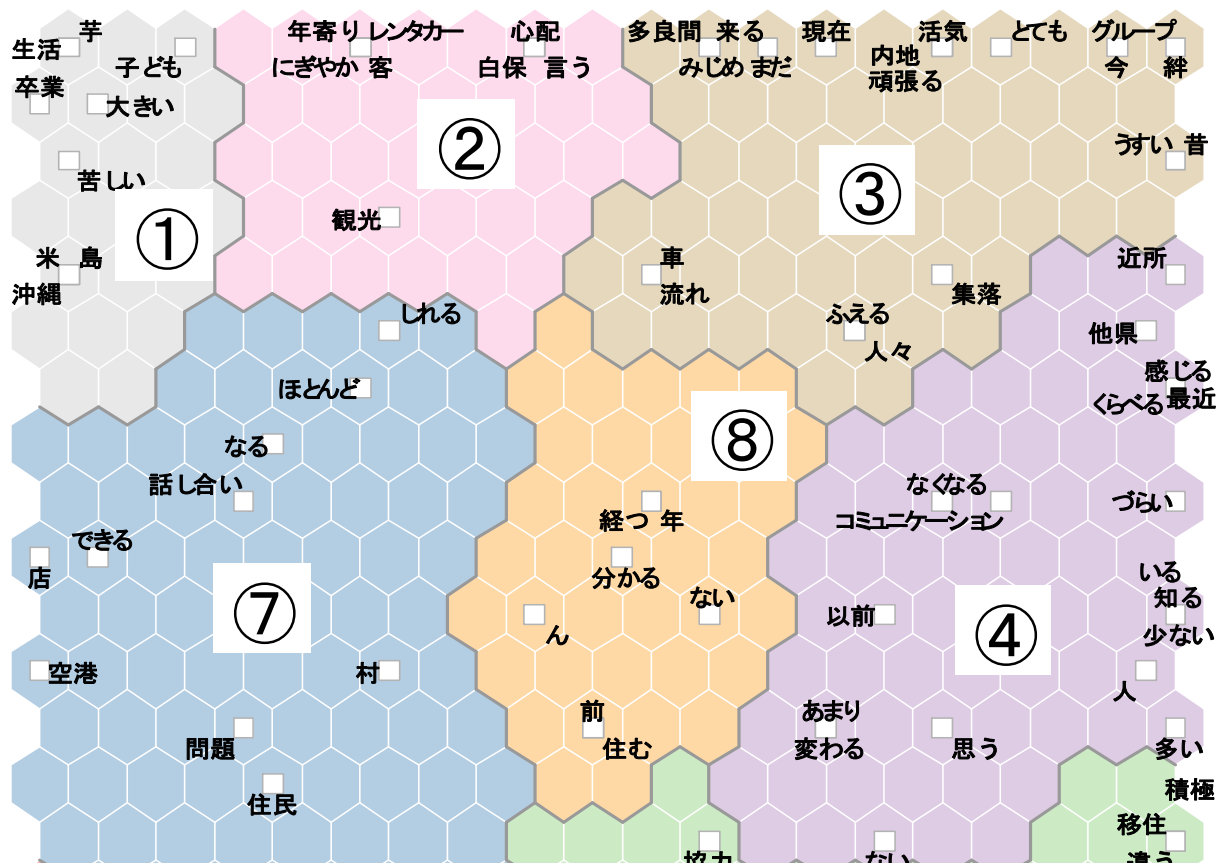
- Data collection: structured free-answer questionnaire designed with time axis
- Text content was analyzed quantitatively & qualitatively (self-organized map & affinity diagram)
- Survey Period: 12th Feb. ~ 24th Feb. 2016
- Informants: 57 residents selected by stratified sampling

Structure of participants

		Samples	Mother pop.
Gender (M : F, %)	Age	59.65 : 40.35	49.96 : 50.04
Population (%)	20-29	5.4	9.0
	30-39	33.9	14.7
	40-49	23.2	13.0
	50-59	17.9	14.4
	60-69	12.5	12.1
	70-	7.1	13.7
Birth origins (%)	Locals	50.9	60.0
	Migrants from other islands of Okinawa	29.8	30.0
	Migrants from other pref.s	19.3	10.0

Results & Discussion

Self-organized map & affinity diagram of Q2 answer



residents' inner conflict between economic development & rapid socio-cultural change in the community

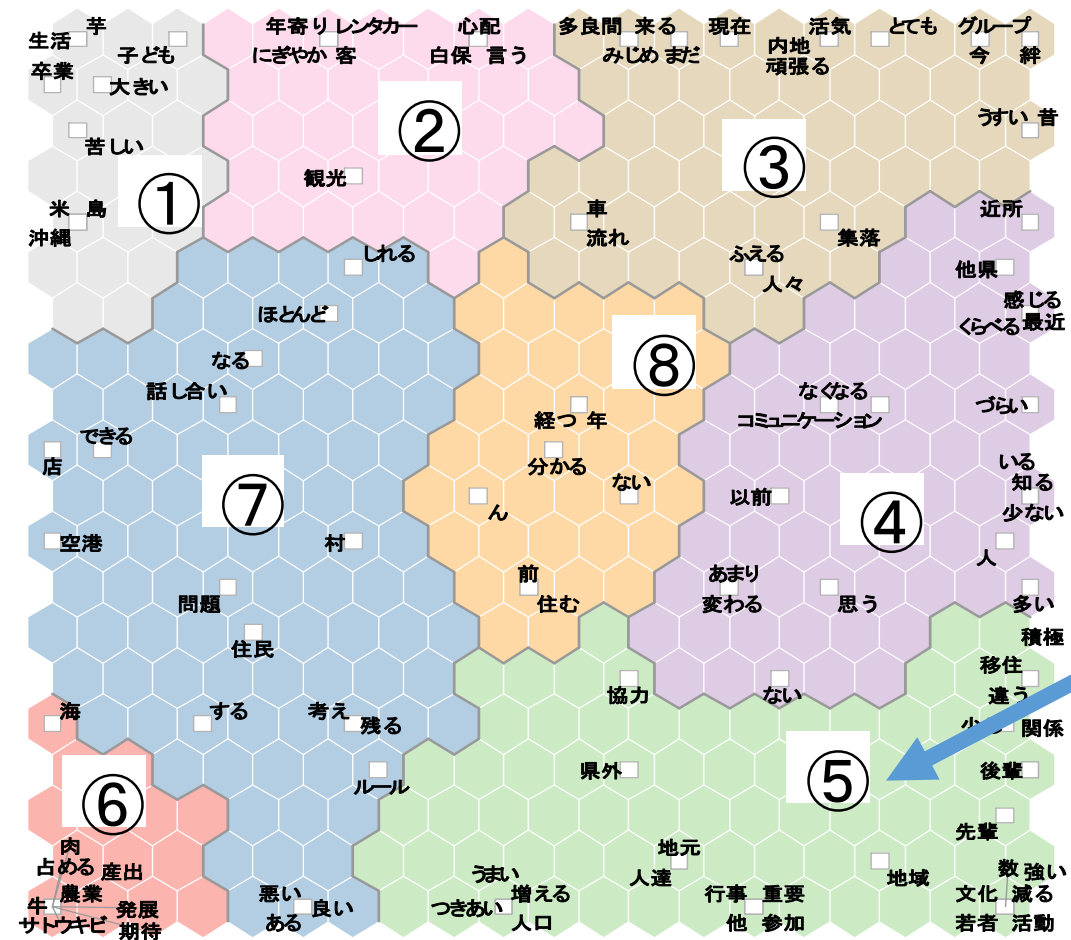
Words included

- Community
- Immigrate
- Outsiders
- Locals
- Young people
- Old people
- Number
- Population
- Decrease
- Increase
- Relationship
- Culture
- Rituals
- Important
- Activity
- Slightly
- Different

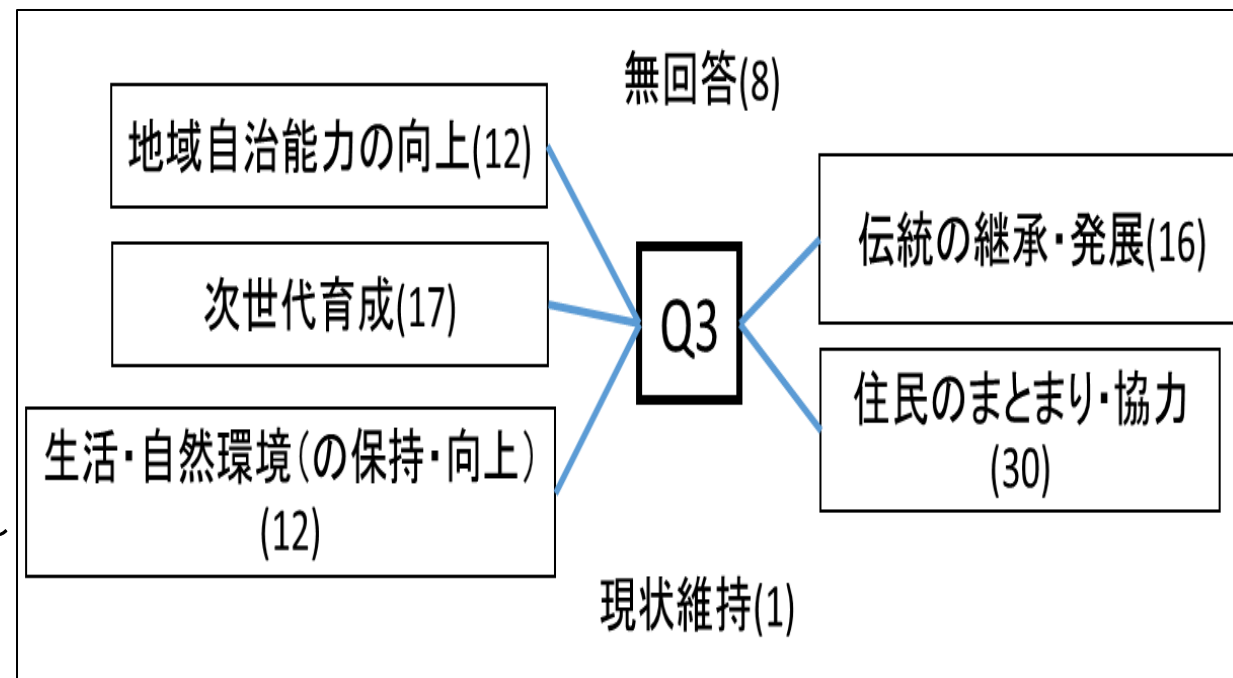
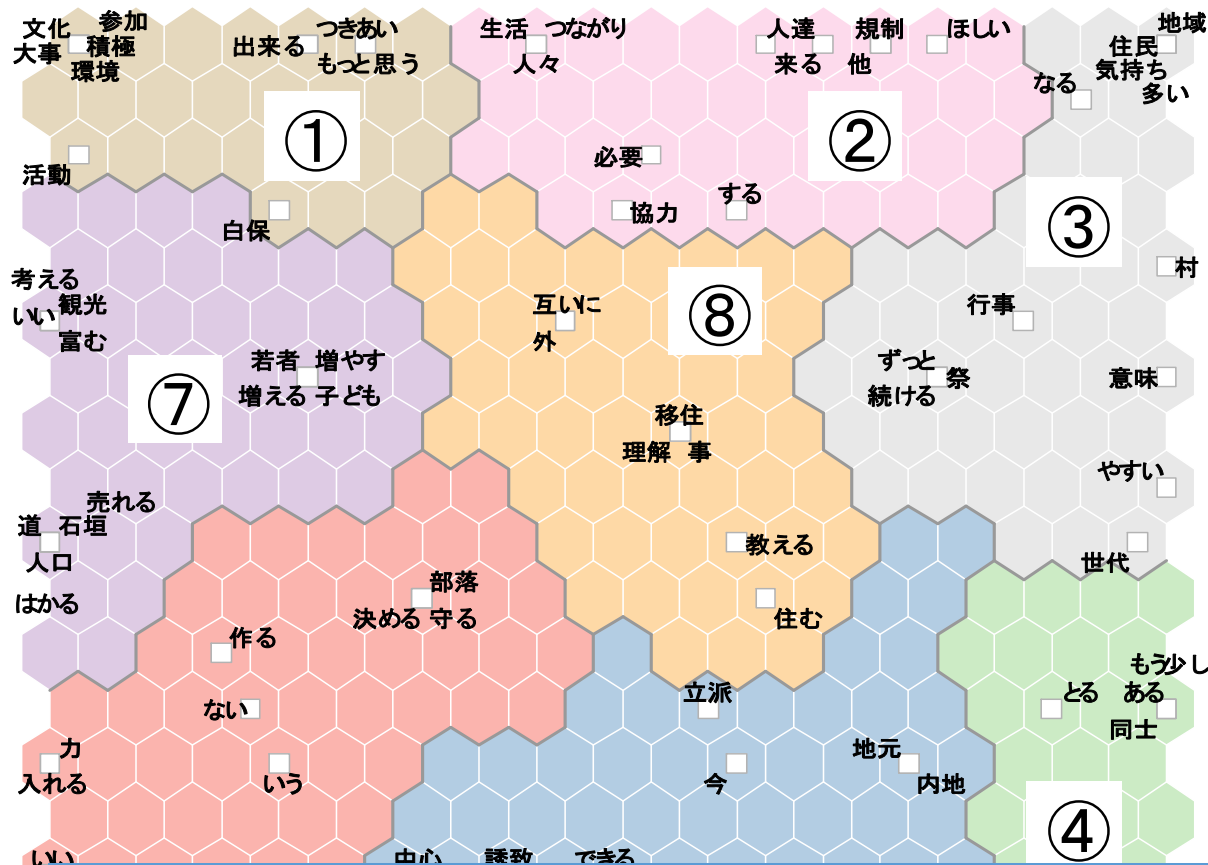
Locals and immigrants

Increase & decrease of population

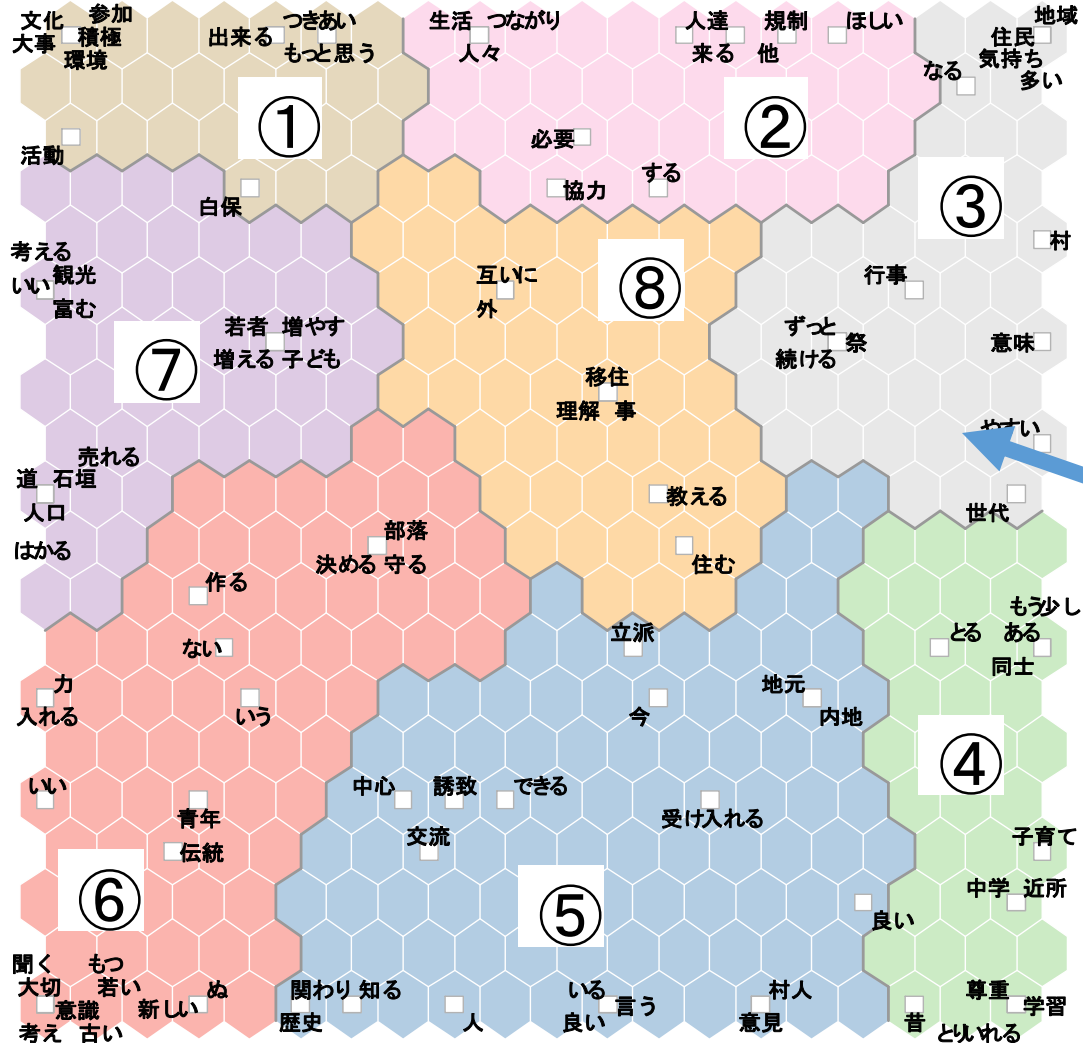
inner conflict toward changing culture & social relationships



Self-organized map & affinity diagram of Q3 answer



residents' ideal image of community which overcome the inner conflict shown in Q2 answers



Words included

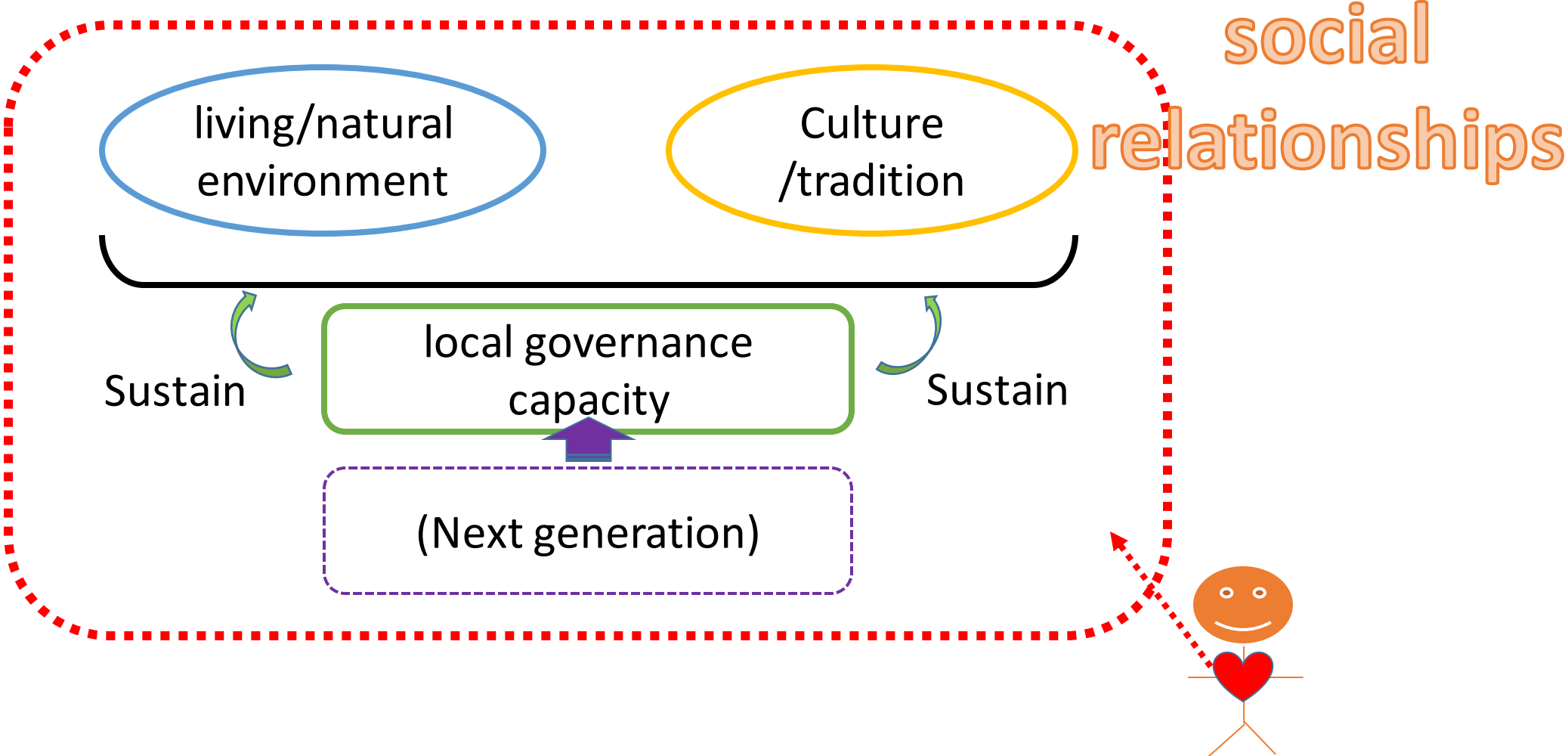
- Community
- residents
- feeling
- ritual
- culture
- continue
- forever
- meaning
- generation

Feeling of residents

Continue culture & tradition over the generation

Q2	Fre q.	Q3		Fr eq.	Integrated components
Change of social relationships	29	Social cohesion, cooperation		30	Social relationships
Conflict over culture and tradition	8	Succeed and development of culture/tradition		16	culture/tradition
Conflict over living/natural environment	24	Retaining and improvement of living/natural environment		12	living/natural environment
Decrease of local governance capacity	7	Development of local governance capacity	Improvement of local governance capacity of present generation	12	local governance capacity
			Capacity development of next generation	17	

4 components of "community" among Shiraho residents



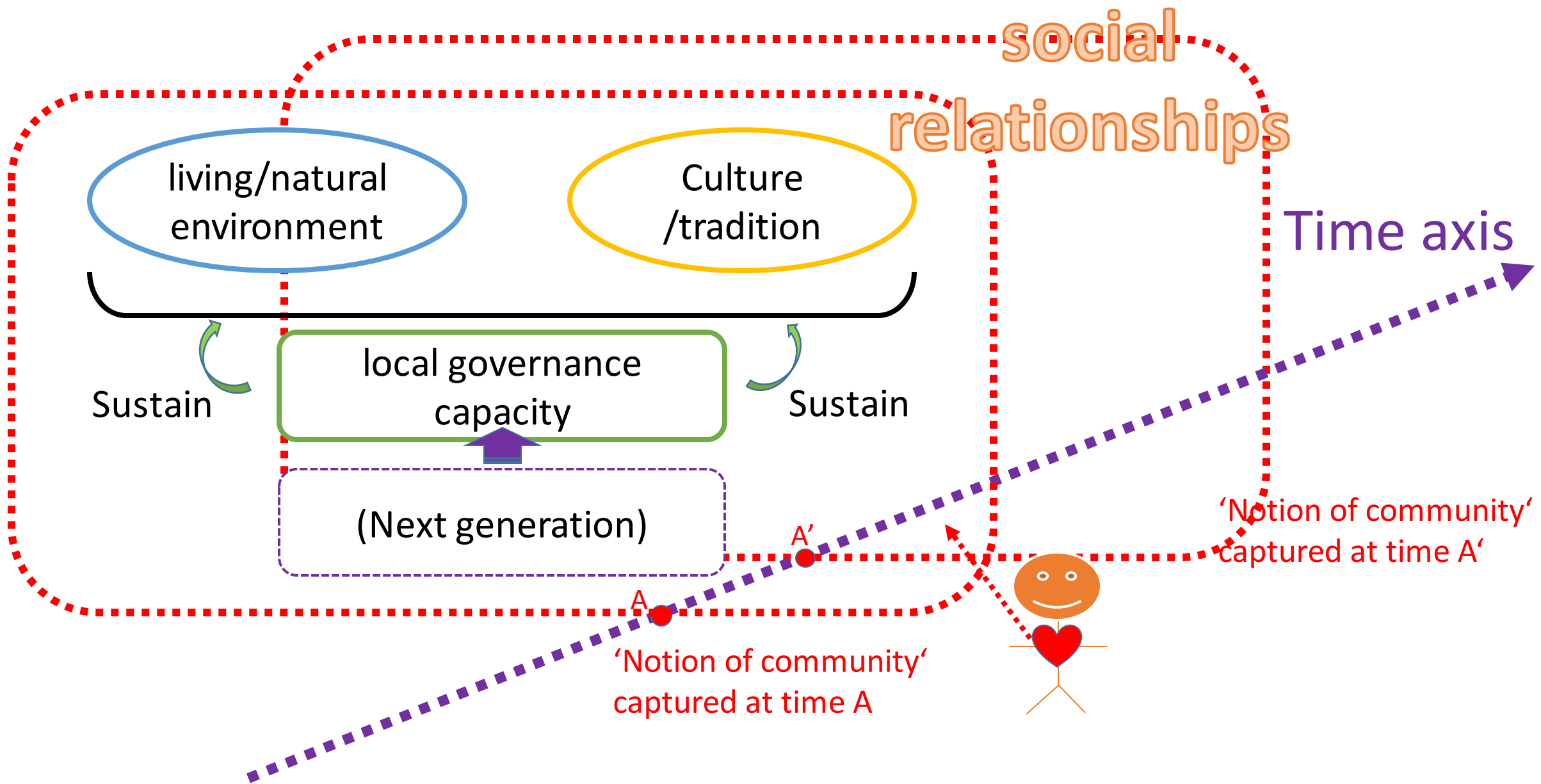
4 components of "community" among Shiraho residents

social

For Shiraho residents, the ideal community is a device to keep developing the "living/natural environment" and "culture/tradition", being well supported by the "local governance capacity" and "social relationships"



Important key for locals & immigrants to build social cohesion is to practice something beneficial for developing "living/natural environment" and "culture/tradition" of the community



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**culture/tradition component increase the importance
for building social cohesion among residents**

**governance
capacity**

governance
capacity

generation
Capacity
development of
next generation

17

capacity

Island communities generally have strong cultural identity and sense of community, which could exclude immigrants,


but could also be useful for building social cohesion among locals and immigrants

-> indeed used as a conservation tool in the community

Not for conserving coral reef itself, but conserving 'coral reef culture'



importance of culture/tradition component for building social cohesion among residents, and also for promoting conservation/resource management activities



Thanks for listening 😊
ありがとうございました