

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF BOTH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND TOURISTS' PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEMATIC PARKS IN A CITY SETTING

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Abstract: Though a city may have tourism potentials that attract tourists, its success may be enhanced and or affected by its socio-economic status, norms and culture of the people. Basing on such aspects, the concept of urban tourism development needs to be carefully planned and re-considered. Massive development of city structures and infrastructures based on specific party interests should be avoided. To prevent this from happening, the city authorities should have political will to develop city structure and infrastructure for the public, which can also be accessed by tourists. One way to the realization of this concept is the development of thematic city parks. This study aims to discover and analyze public and tourists' perceptions concerning the existence of thematic city parks in Bandung and Surabaya, as well as the differences of perceptions of both groups. This research is a comparative descriptive study. The statistical tool used in this study is the Mann Whitney U-Test. The findings of this study reveal that the people of Bandung city hold a view that the overall existence of thematic parks in the city is a good thing. Meanwhile, the people of Surabaya view thematic parks in their city as a very good thing. The hypothesis tested shows that there are differences of perceptions between the local people and the tourists concerning the existence of thematic parks in both Bandung and Surabaya.

Keywords: Thematic parks, city development, tourism, and tourism destination.

INTRODUCTION

A city may have tourism potentials that can attract tourists to come to the city. The development of a city as a tourism destination is supported and affected by the city's status as a government, economy, social, and cultural centers of its society. Complete infrastructure and transportation systems to support the economy will enable the city to be a comfortable place for public mobility, including for tourism.

The development of urban tourism is influenced by several factors, including historical attraction, cultural attraction, the city's aesthetics, topography, climate, good structures and infrastructures, and other unique aspects of the city.

The city's structures and infrastructures are originally developed for local society, although it can also be used for tourism purposes. Local people and tourists can use the facilities of the city to enjoy it, both as a residence and as a tourism destination. If the city facilities are used harmoniously by local residents and tourists, interactions that can enrich tourism experience of the tourists will occur. Such experiences will make the tourists feel comfortable with, and will also love, the city; which will result in their revisiting the city. When this happens, the local

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society and community will reap positive benefits from tourism activities, such as the improvement of economic activity to satisfy the needs of tourists, social and cultural development, and other advantages. As an illustration, the city of Paris, France, is visited by tourists in a number greater than its residents. As a consequence, the tax load of the people of Paris is covered by the tourists visiting the city. Moreover, the tourists' contribution in the city's economy is quite great.

Therefore, the concept of urban tourism development needs to be carefully planned and considered. Massive development of city structures and infrastructures for the interest of one party has to be avoided. For example, if the city structures and infrastructures are developed for the interest of tourists, the people of the city might have no access to them, or vice versa; this kind of thing should always be avoided. Focusing on developing only facilities for tourists, or 'tourists ghetto' (a tourists-exclusive location), is one of the negative effects of urban tourism development which may turn into social jealousy among the people of the city.

To avoid this, the city government must have political will to develop facilities and infrastructures for the people of the city; facilities that are accessible to the tourists. One realization of this concept is the development of thematic city parks.

City parks are open public facilities that are accessible and enjoyable by the tourists. City parks can be important attraction of the city. In Indonesia, there are two cities, i.e. Bandung and Surabaya that have started developing thematic parks as places of recreation and pleasure for the local people and tourists coming to the city.

Although currently the thematic parks only attract the domestic tourists, it is not impossible that they will also attract foreign tourists. Therefore, the comfort of a city and the good condition of the city parks contribute to the development of urban tourism. The thematic parks in Surabaya and Bandung not only provide open space for public, but also offer free WiFi, free sport equipments, and other facilities. And every day, more people visit the parks, not only the local community, but also tourists from other cities.

Considering all these, it is important to conduct a "Comparative Study on Local People's and Tourists' Perception Concerning the Development of Thematic Parks in Bandung and Surabaya." Based on the background of the study, the following problems are formulated:

- How is the local people's perception on the existence of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya?
- How is the tourists' perception on the existence of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya?
- Is there any difference of perception between the local people and the tourists concerning the existence of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya?

The Concept of Urban Tourism

The definition of urban tourism is "...the trips and visits with a focus on town and city destinations, also known as city tourism," (Çiraci et al., 2008). A good city is supported by good structures and infrastructures so that people's mobility in that city will be swift and smooth. This fact, according to Sharpley (2006) will increase the number of tourists visiting the city.

Popescu and Corbos (2010: 3) explain that urban tourism is one of the main factors of economic improvement in a city. The main reasons that attract tourists to visit a city includes a place of activities, cultural facilities (museum and art gallery, theater and cinema, business center), other attraction (indoor and outdoor sport facilities, entertainment, shows, festivals), and a place to spend free time (visiting and enjoying cultural heritages, historical buildings, monuments, parks and green areas) (Delitheou, Vinieratou, and Touri, 2010).

Pearce in Kerimoglu and Ciraci (2008: 3) stated that urban tourism is something to do with knowing what the visitors want to experience in the cities they visit. Each city has various and different unique things to offer, and they have various functions which will allow tourists to do various unique activities like what the local people do.

Aksoz and Bac (2012: 2) note that cities have become a focus of tourism activities, providing accommodations, entertainments, and other facilities for the visitors. However, although most of the world's tourism activities happen in the areas of big cities, like Paris and London, that have beach resorts, the urban tourism have been identified as a significant sector of city tourism. Sharpley (2006) identifies two main reasons of the significance of urban tourism. First, since early 1980s, there are potentials that tourism contributes to the city's regeneration; and tourism becomes an element in most city regeneration policies. Second, transformation in the demand of traveling and tourism is increasing, particularly affected by cheap transportations. The aviation industry has made a lot of cities accessible to the tourists, which significantly increase the competition in urban tourism.

Ashworth in Ismail, Tom and Kokranikkal (2005) argue that urban tourism is the conditions in which the concepts of city and tourism join together, which suggests the complexity of relationship between the city function and the tourism function in creating the urban tourism. The relationship is described as follow: (1) the intrinsic characteristic of a city as a residential place is an instrument in shaping the tourism or recreational activities that give birth to urban tourism. On the other hand, (2) the tourism or recreational functions are also instruments in developing the important parts of the city.

City Parks as Green Open Spaces for the Public

A city's green open spaces are part of the city's planning that serve as protected areas. Green areas of a city include the city parks, the city's green forests, the city's green recreational areas, the green sport facilities, and residential green areas. Green open spaces are classified based on the status of the area, not based on the shape and structure of the vegetations (Fandely, 2004).

Based on the physical condition, city parks are open spaces used by public to do activities all the time. The definition of a city park is a park located in a wide-scale of a city which can anticipate the effects of that city's development. The city parks are accessible to everyone without having to pay (Abdillah, Junaidy, 2005).

The benefits of open space and green structure systems as set in the Decree of Public Development Ministry No: 06/PRT/M/2007 about the General Guidance of Building and Environment Development Planning are:

- To improve the quality of life in the city through the creation of safe, comfortable, healthy, interesting, and ecology-centered environment.
- To promote the creation of public activities to achieve the integration of social spaces among the users of open spaces.
- To create aesthetics, character, and visual orientation of an environment.
- To create a micro-climate of an environment oriented to the interests of pedestrians.
- To create a comfortable, humane, and ongoing environment.

Parks, as part of a city's Green Open Space (GOS), offer a lot of advantages for the urban society. The existence of parks plays a part in maintaining the balance and harmony of the city's ecosystem, in realizing the balance of natural and artificial environment in a city, in preserving lands as water-absorption areas, in creating ecological environment in urban areas to ensure the clear water and air supply for the society, and in facilitating the social interaction of urban society (Purnomohadi, 2006).

City parks are important part of the complex ecosystem network of urban area. They offer significant services to the ecosystem. These services will provide benefit for human, both directly and indirectly, through the functions of the green open spaces in the ecosystem. For instance, city parks can absorb the carbon dioxide emissions and produce oxygen, improve the quality of the water and air, regulate the micro climate, reduce noise, protect land and water, preserve natural diversity, and provide recreational, cultural, and social values. To put it simply, city parks provides environmental, aesthetic, recreational, psychological, social, and economic benefits (Loures, et al, 2007).

City parks become even more meaningful when the urban people no longer have yards in their homes or spaces to play and have fun. They use city parks as a

place to let their children and family to have some fresh air and to play in a more open space. Parks become an important component of the urban life as public spaces to refresh the people from their routines and to meet and interact with more people (Atmojo, 2007: 52).

The benefits of city parks, as noted in *The Benefits of Parks and Green Spaces* (Paul, 2003) are:

- *Environment*: Parks protect and conserve biodiversity. They play a vital role in keeping our air and water clean, counteracting the damaging effects of pollution. Parks offer refuges for threatened species and buffers against the impacts of climate change.
- *Economy*: Neighbourhood, city and regional economies benefit significantly from parks. They stimulate the recreation and tourism industries, and are significant sources of employment for local communities with a range of associated economic benefits.
- *Health*: Parks are inspiring and pleasant places to exercise and improve physical and mental well-being for today's sedentary society that is more vulnerable to stress, mental health issues, and obesity than ever before.
- *People and Communities*: Parks are places to meet and celebrate with family and friends. They are inclusive and accessible. They are venues for community festivals, events and sporting activities. Parks are the scene of excitement, refreshment, relaxation and solitude.

Based on the descriptions above, the benefits of city parks include the benefit for the environment, the economy, the health of the people, and the society. For the environment, parks become a place for reforestation and for protecting biodiversity to produce more oxygen and prevent the climate change. For the economy of the city, the existence of parks becomes an attraction for local community and tourists as places to do various activities from just hanging out to exercise. For health purposes, parks provide the benefits by becoming open spaces to do various activities to reduce stress. For the people and communities of the city, the parks are venues for meetings and developing the communities' talents and interests.

The Concept of Thematic Parks

International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) defines thematic park as an attraction-themed amusement park; the attraction may be food and beverages, costumes, entertainment, retail shops, and/or rides. Theme is a main part of the visitors' experience chosen when the park is being planned to provide focus for the design, development, and operation of the park. Therefore, the choosing of the theme is of high importance for the parks' operations. Ho, Ap, and Tse (2009: 38) suggest that theme in every thematic park is a factor that influence visitors' preference to visit the thematic park.

Kemperman (2000) in Aroyo, (2007: 37) outlines that theme park as an example of tourism destination is based on high development, intensive capital, and is adjusted to human needs. Kemperman (2000) adds that amusement parks attempt to offer a situation of different time and place, and usually focus on the main theme in their surroundings.

Research Method

This study was conducted for 8 months from March – October 2014. The sites for the study are the urban tourism destinations of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya city. The study is of comparative descriptive nature. Sugiyono (2008: 11) states that a descriptive research is a study conducted to discover the value of one or more independent variables, and that a comparative study is a study that compares variables. In this study, the aim is to test the hypothesis of whether or not there are perception differences between the local people and the tourists concerning the existence of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya cities.

Since this study is conducted in less than a year period, the method used is the cross sectional method. The cross sectional method examine an object in a certain period of time, not continuously in a long period of time (Husein Umar, 2002: 45).

The variables in this study include the local people's and the tourists' perceptions on the existence of thematic parks in the cities. The subjects of this study are the people living around thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya and the tourists visiting those parks. The sample of this study is limited to 200 respondents, consisting of the local people visiting thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya; 50 people for each city, and the tourists visiting those parks. The limitation is implemented merely for the considerations of time and cost of the study. The number of this sample certainly does not represent the whole population, therefore this study uses a non-probability sampling technique of accidental sampling. One of the characteristics of accidental sampling is that the sample does not represent the whole population (Nasution, et al., 2005).

The instrument used in this study is questionnaires to discover the local people's and tourists' perceptions on the existence of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya, with a direct measurement of attitude using Likert Scale (Sugiono, 2011).

The secondary data is obtained by compiling and examining other research findings, i.e. the study of Indonesia Tourism Office, websites, academic journal, newspaper and magazine articles, and other relevant sources. The hypotheses of this study are:

- H_0 : There is no difference in local people's and tourists' perceptions concerning the existence of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya.
- H_1 : There are differences in local people's and tourists' perceptions concerning the existence of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya.

The testing criteria is: H_0 is not accepted if the Sig. value $\leq 0,05$ (2-tailed test).

The hypotheses are tested using Mann Whitney U-Test. The Mann Whitney U-Test is used in a comparative analysis to test two independent samples with ordinal data. The hypothesis mean rank is 5%. If the obtained significance Z score is less than 5%, it means that there are significant differences; meanwhile, if the significance Z score is more than 5%, it means that there is no significant difference between the two groups, i.e. the local people and the tourists in the thematic parks of Bandung and Surabaya (Siregar, 2013: 389).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

City Parks in Bandung and Surabaya

The existence of parks as green public open spaces serves the function of recreational destination for the people of the city and the tourists visiting the city. There are several thematic parks in Bandung city, including *Taman Lansia* (Senior Citizens' Park), *Taman Fotografi* (Photography Park), *Taman Jomblo* (Single People's Park), and *Taman Musik* (Music Park).

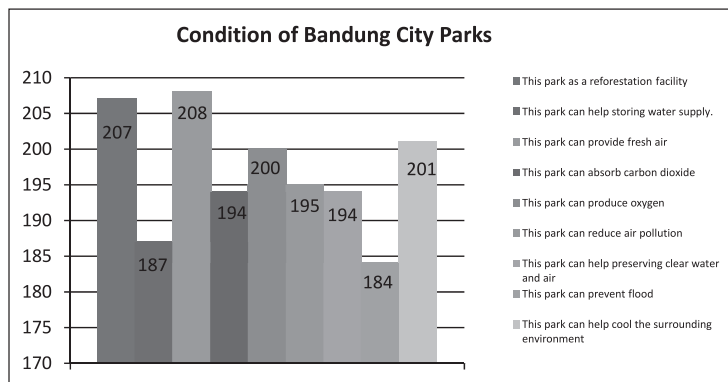
Surabaya City also has many city parks. These parks offer interesting facilities for visitors to do various activities, including to hang-out, to exercise, to have a recreation, or just to sit around.

1. Local People's Perception on the Existence of Thematic Parks

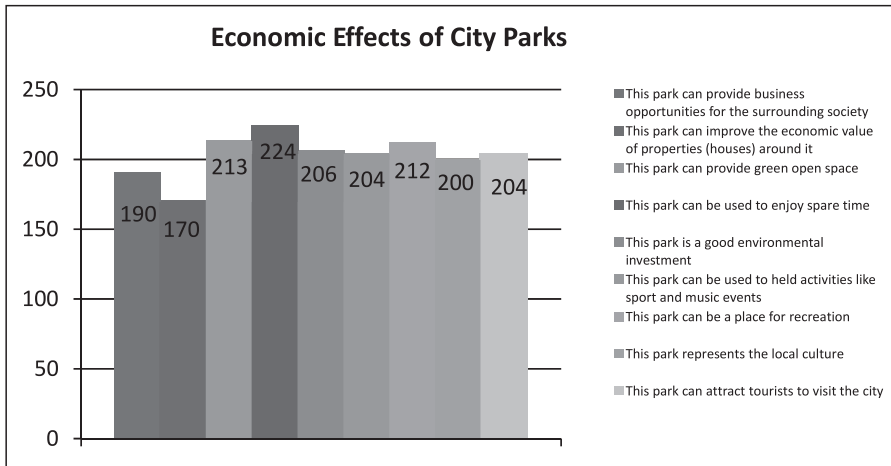
Local people's perceptions on the existence of thematic parks are measured based on the situation (condition) of the parks' environment, the economic benefit of the parks, the health benefit of the parks, and the use of the parks for local society and community.

Bandung City

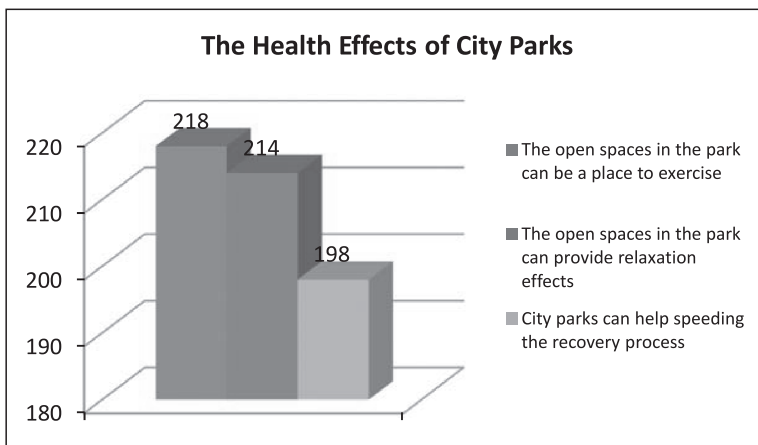
The followings are the overviews of the Bandung people's perception on the existence of parks in their city:



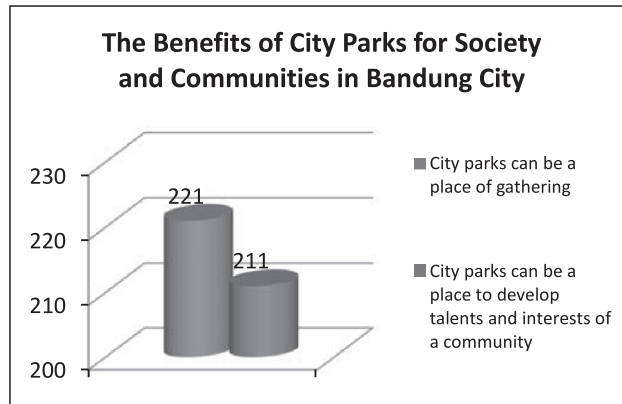
Based on the data on the condition of Bandung City Parks, the people give the highest value to the ‘this park can provide fresh air’ item, and the lowest value to the ‘this park can prevent flood’ item.



Concerning the economic benefit of the parks, the people of Bandung give the highest value to ‘this park can be used to enjoy spare time’ item. To use the park for this purpose can also mean inviting enterprises or home businesses to provide the needs for food and beverage in and around the park. Meanwhile, the lowest value is given for the ‘this park can improve the economic value of properties (houses) around it’ item. The respondents do not feel that this indicator to be true because they are yet to experience how the city parks improve the value of the surrounding properties.



The highest response of the respondents concerning the health effects of city parks is for the ‘the open spaces in the park can be a place to exercise’ item, while the lowest is for the ‘city parks can help speeding the recovery process’ item.



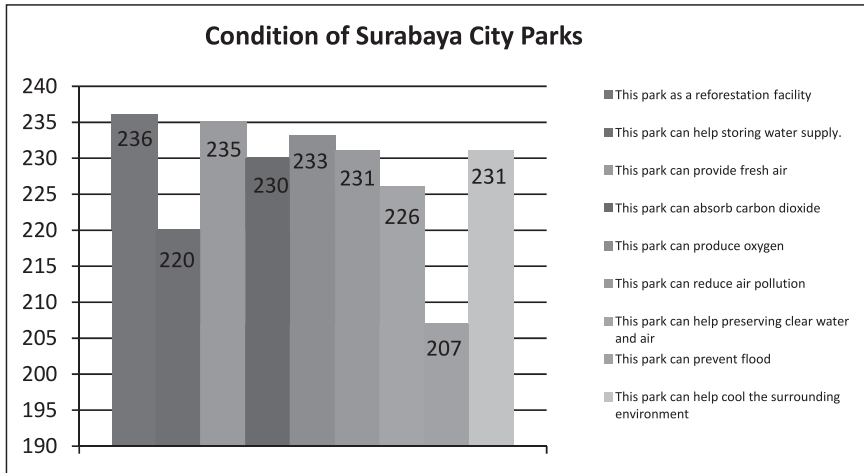
The table shows that the indicator of ‘city parks can be a place of gathering’ receives higher score of 221 than the indicator of ‘city parks can be a place to develop talents and interests of a community’.

No.	Public Perception on the Existence of Thematic Parks in Bandung City	Total Score	Mean Score	%
1	Situation (condition) of city parks’ environments	1770	196.67	23.96
2	Economic Benefit of city parks	1823	202.56	24.68
3	Health Benefit of city parks	630	210.00	25.59
4	The use of city parks for local society and communities	432	211.50	25.77
Total Public Responses on the Existence of Thematic Parks		4646		100

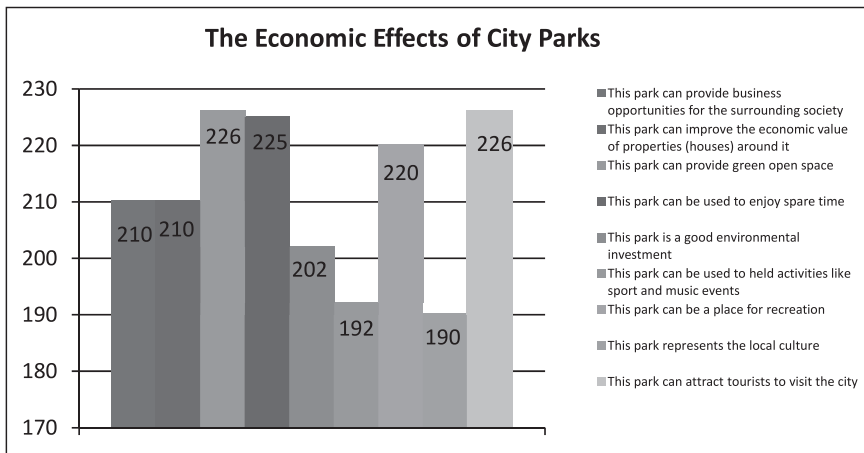
The recapitulation of responses on the existence of thematic parks in Bandung city shows that the highest score is for the use of city parks for local society and communities with mean score of 211.50 or 25.77%. The response of Bandung People on the existence of thematic parks is $(4646 : 5750) \times 100 = 80.80\%$.



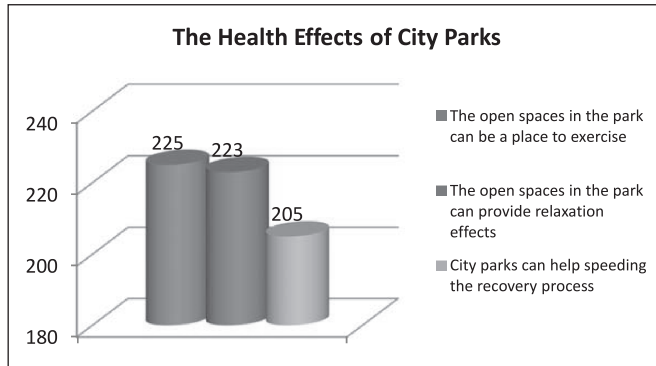
Based on the continuum, it can be concluded that the overall response (perception) of Bandung people on the existence of thematic parks in their city is in the Good category.

Surabaya City

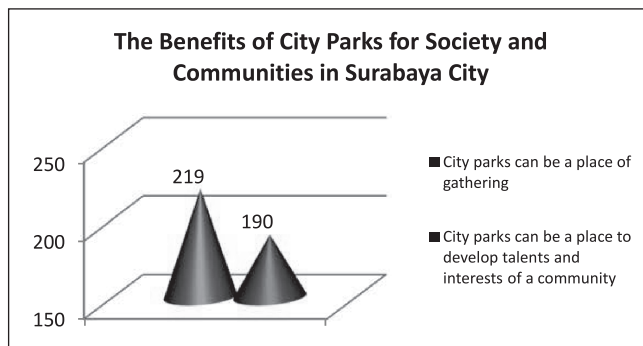
Based on the public responses chart above, the highest response score is for the indicator of city parks as reforestation facilities and the lowest response score is for the indicator of city parks can prevent flood.



Based on the chart, it can be seen that the highest score of city parks' economic benefit is given to the items 'this park can provide green open space' and 'this park can attract tourists to visit the city'; each with 226 score. By providing green open space and attracting tourists to visit the city, city parks can offer business opportunities for those who are willing to satisfy the visitors' needs like foods and beverages. The lowest score is given to the item 'this park represents local culture' with 190 points.



The highest score for city parks’ health benefit is given to the item ‘the open spaces in the park can be a place to exercise’ with 225 points, which indicates that the city parks can promote the health of the surrounding society. Meanwhile, the lowest score is given to the ‘city parks can help speeding the recovery process’ item with 205 points.



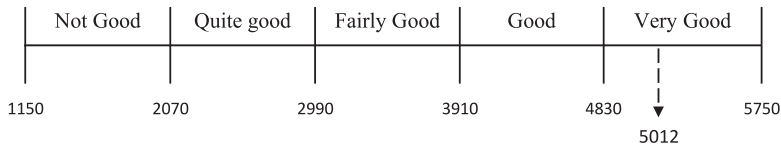
The chart above shows that Surabaya people views the city parks as places of gathering as the higher benefit, with a score of 219 points, compared with the view of city parks a places to community’s talents and interests which only earns 190 points.

The following is the recapitulation of Surabaya People Responses on the Existence of Thematic Parks in their city.

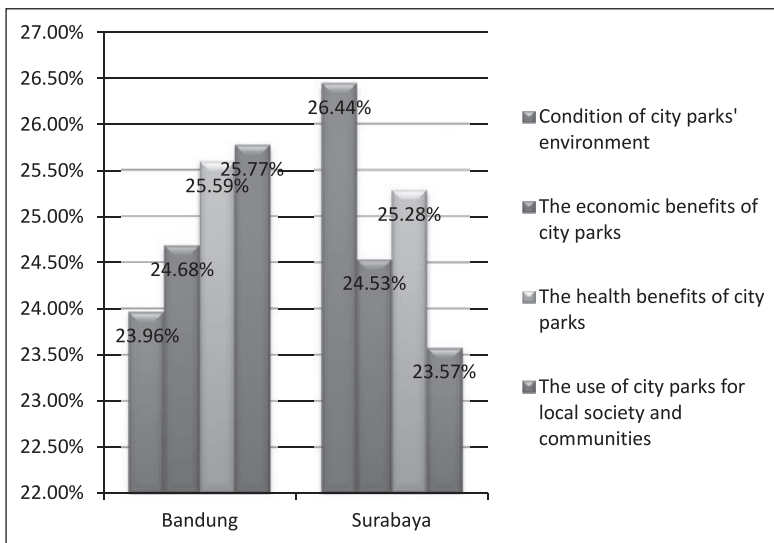
No.	Public Perception on the Existence of Thematic Parks in Surabaya City	Total Score	Mean Score	%
1	Situation (condition) of city parks’ environments	2049	227.67	26.44
2	Economic Benefit of city parks	1901	211.22	24.53
3	Health Benefit of city parks	653	217.67	25.28
4	The use of city parks for local society and communities	409	204.50	23.75
	Total Public Responses on the Existence of Thematic Parks	5012		100

Source: Data Processing, 2014

Based on the table, it can be seen that the responses of 50 respondents concerning the existence of thematic parks in Surabaya City scores 5012 points. The highest score is for the condition of the city parks' environment, with average score of 227.67 or 26.44%. The responses/perceptions of Surabaya people on the existence of thematic parks in their city is $(5012 : 5270) \times 100 = 87.17\%$. The following continuum shows that the responses or perception of Surabaya people on the existence of thematic parks belong to the Very Good category.



2. The Comparison of Public Perceptions on the Existence of Thematic Parks in Bandung and Surabaya



This figure indicates that there are differences in public perceptions concerning the existence of city parks in Bandung and Surabaya. The highest score for city parks in Bandung is 25.77%, for 'the use of city parks for local society and communities' item, and the lowest is 23.96% for 'the condition of city parks' environments' item. The items of 'health benefits of city parks' and 'economic benefits of city parks' receive 25.59% and 23.96% points, respectively.

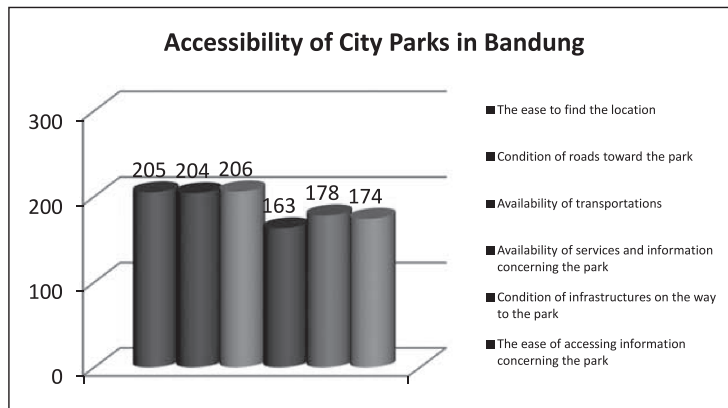
Meanwhile, the highest response for the existence of city parks in Surabaya is 26.44% for the 'condition of city parks' environments' item and the lowest is 23.75% for 'the use of city parks for local society and communities' item. The

items of 'health benefits of city parks' and 'economic benefits of city parks' receive 25.28% and 24.53% points, respectively.

3. Tourists' Perception on the Existence of Thematic Parks

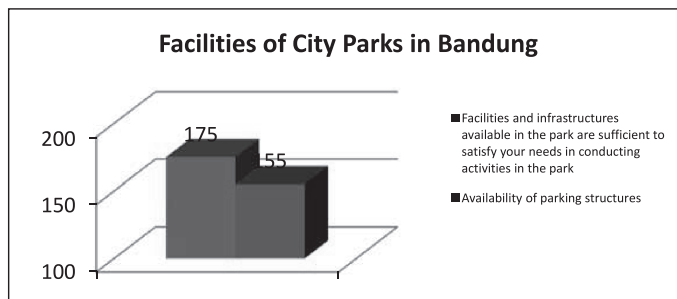
The tourists' perception on the existence of thematic parks is measured based on the accessibility of city parks, the facilities of city parks, the attractiveness of city parks, and the activities to be done in city parks.

Bandung City



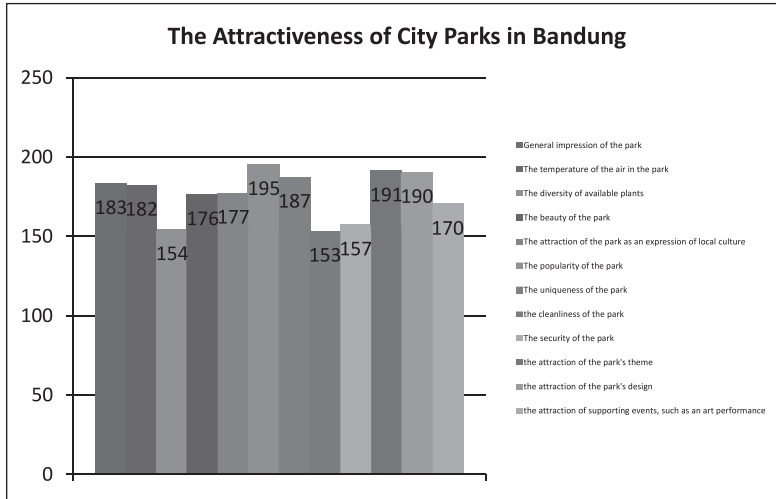
Based on the responses of tourists visiting city parks in Bandung, the highest indicator of accessibility is the availability of transportation, with 206 points, and the lowest indicator of accessibility is the availability of services and information concerning the park, with 163 points.

The following figure shows the comparison of facilities indicators for the accessibility of city parks in Bandung.

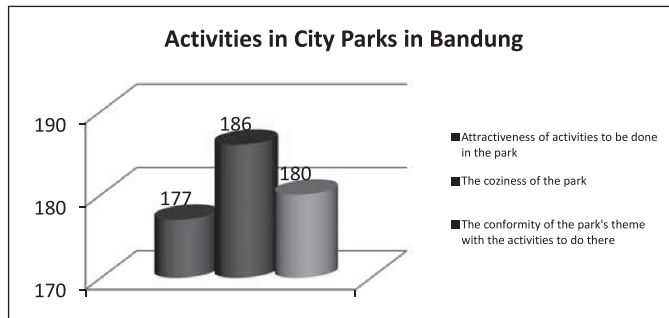


The indicator of 'facilities and infrastructures available in the park are sufficient to satisfy tourists needs' in conducting activities in the park' receives higher score

of 17 points, compared to the indicator of ‘availability of parking structures’ which only receive 155 points.



The highest response of tourists concerning the attractiveness of city parks in Bandung is for the popularity of the parks (195 points). The popularity of the parks will attract tourists to visit the city and the parks. Meanwhile, the lowest response is given to the cleanliness of the parks with 153 points.



The responses from the 50 respondents show that the highest indicator in this category is the coziness of doing activities or being in the park, with 186 points. The indicator of the conformity of the park’s theme with activities to do there scores 180 points, and the indicator of the attractiveness of the activities to do in the park scores lowest with 177 points.

The following is a table showing the recapitulation of tourists’ responses on the existence of thematic parks in Bandung, with the indicators of accessibility, facilities, attractiveness, and activities.

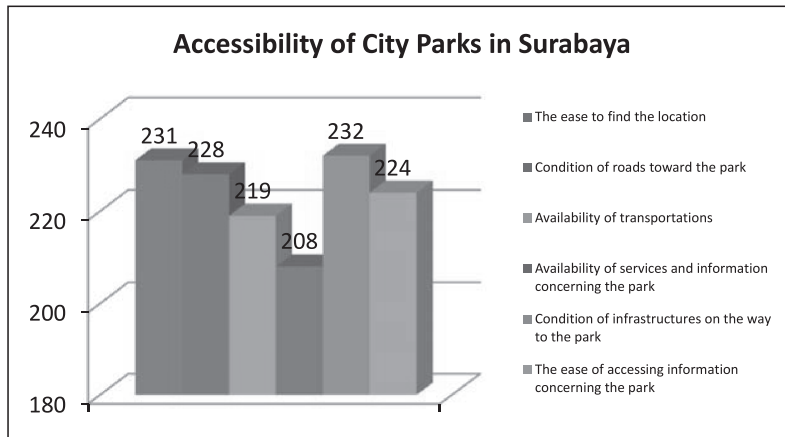
No.	Tourists' Responses on the Existence of Thematic Parks in Bandung City	Total Score	Mean Score	%
1	Accessibilities of city parks in Bandung	1130	188.33	26.50
2	Facilities of city parks in Bandung	330	165.00	23.22
3	Attractiveness of city parks in Bandung	2115	176.25	24.80
4	Activities to do in city parks in Bandung	543	181.00	25.47
Total Tourists' Responses on the Existence of Thematic Parks		4118		100

Based on the table, it can be seen that the total score of tourists' responses of the 50 respondents is 4118. The highest score is given for the accessibility of city parks with the average score of 188.33 or 26.50%. The responses/perceptions of tourists visiting Bandung on the existence of thematic parks in the city is $(4118 : 5750) \times 100 = 71.62\%$. The following continuum depicts the tourists' perceptions in categories:

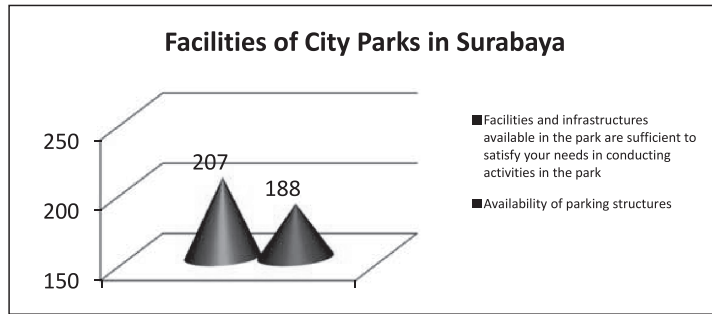


Based on the continuum, it can be concluded that the responses of tourists visiting Bandung on the existence of thematic park belong to the Good category.

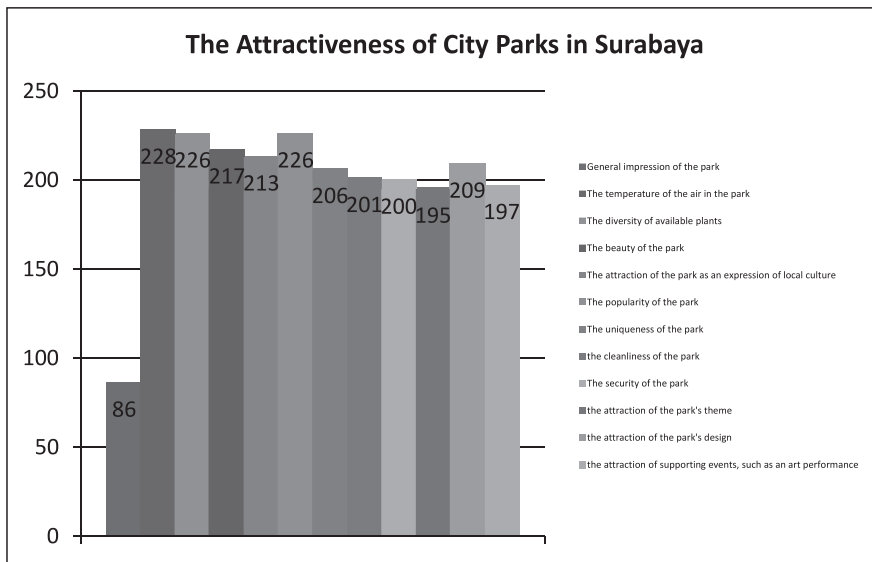
Surabaya City



The highest response is for the easiness to find the location, with 231 points, and the lowest response is for the availability of services and information concerning the park with 208 points.

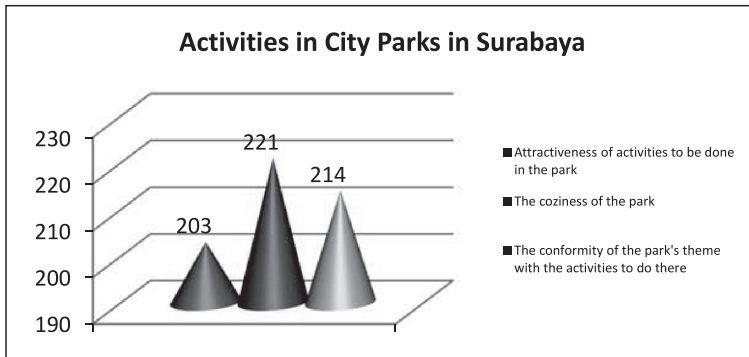


The table shows that the indicator of ‘facilities and infrastructures available in the park are sufficient to satisfy the tourists’ needs in conducting activities in the park’ receives the higher response of 207 points, compared with the indicator of ‘availability of parking structures’ with 188 points.



The table reveals that the responses of tourists visiting Surabaya scores the highest for the indicator of ‘the temperature of the air in the park’, with 228 points, and scores the lowest for the indicator of ‘general impression of the park’ with 86 points.

The indicator of ‘the coziness of the park’ receives the highest score of 221 points, the indicator of ‘the conformity of the park’s theme with the activities to do there’ scores 214 points, and the indicator of ‘the attractiveness of activities to be done in the park’ scores the lowest with 203 points.



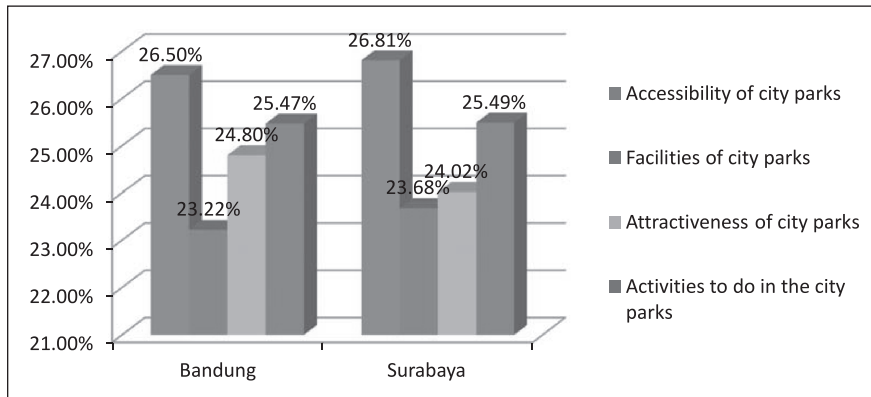
The following table lists the recapitulation of responses of tourists visiting Surabaya concerning the existence of thematic park in the city. The responses are for the categories of accessibility, facilities, attractiveness, and activities to do in the park.

No.	Tourists' Responses on the Existence of Thematic Parks in Surabaya City	Total Score	Mean Score	%
1	Accessibilities of city parks in Surabaya	1342	223.67	26.81
2	Facilities of city parks in Surabaya	395	197.50	23.68
3	Attractiveness of city parks in Surabaya	2404	200.33	24.02
4	Activities to do in city parks in Surabaya	638	212.67	25.49
	Total Tourists' Responses on the Existence of Thematic Parks	4779		100

The table shows that the total score of tourists' responses of the 50 respondents concerning the existence of thematic parks in Surabaya is 4779. The highest score is given for the accessibility of city parks with average score of 223.67 or 26.81%. The response/perception of tourists visiting Surabaya is $(4779: 5750) \times 100 = 83.11\%$. The following continuum indicates that the responses of tourists visiting Surabaya concerning the existence of thematic parks in the city are on the Good category:



The Comparison of Tourists' Perceptions on the Existence of Thematic Parks in Bandung and Surabaya



The figure depicts the responses/perception of tourists on the existence of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya. The highest scores concerning the city parks are for the accessibility of the city parks, with 26.50% for Bandung and 26.81% for Surabaya, and the lowest scores are for the facilities of the city parks, with 23.22% for Bandung and 23.68% for Surabaya.

The Differences of Tourists' Perceptions on the Existence of Thematic Parks in Bandung and Surabaya

		Ranks		
	Group	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
Score	Bandung Tourists	50	33.14	1657.00
	Surabaya Tourists	50	67.86	3393.00
	Total	100		

Test Statistics ^a	
	Score
Mann-Whitney U	382.000
Wilcoxon W	1657.000
Z	-5.989
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000

a. Grouping Variable: group

Since the significance value is 0.000 (<0.05), the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. This means that there are differences of tourists' perceptions on the existence of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya.

CONCLUSION

The public perceptions in Bandung and Surabaya concerning the existence of thematic parks in their cities are a little different. Generally, Bandung people consider the existence of thematic parks in their city to be in Good category, while Surabaya people views the existence of thematic parks in their city to be in the Very Good category. The highest score in Bandung is given for the use of city parks for local society and communities, and the lowest is given for the condition of the city parks' environment. The highest score in Surabaya is given for the condition of the city parks' environments and the lowest is given for the use of city parks for local society and communities. The tourists' perceptions in Bandung and Surabaya are similar, in that the tourists consider the existence of thematic parks in both cities to be in the Good category. The highest score is for the accessibility of the city parks and the lowest is for the facilities of the city parks. The hypothesis testing reveals sig. z-value of <0.05 which indicates that there are differences of perceptions among the public and among the tourists of both cities concerning the existence of thematic parks in Bandung and Surabaya.

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