research with the main focuses of discussion are the people as a subject of the living environment including their past's life.

2. APPROACH TO THE CURRENT STUDY

2.1. Previous research on recalling the past

The findings of studies on theme of recalling the past or reminiscence shows that the activity of reminiscence or recalling the past mostly brings benefits to the people who reminisce, such as reducing the present stress which is stated by Lewis (1971)\(^1\), bringing pleasure and enjoyment (Havighurst & Glasser, 1972)\(^2\), improving the self esteem (Perschbacher, 1984)\(^3\), creating a sense of continuity in the lives of older adults (Parker, 1999)\(^4\). These studies suggested positive outcomes of the reminiscence process that are limited in the range within the mind, feeling and self of the people (Parker 1999), while the others show the outcomes related to social interaction between the reminiscer and his/her surrounding's people (Romaniuk & Romaniuk 1981; Wallace 1992)\(^5,6\). How the reminiscence activity can bring a significant influence to the living environment, especially to the physical element, still remains unclear. There are some studies focused on the past experiences inside the home. However, these studies emphasized more in the psychological side of the people who experienced the interaction with their home (Chawla, 1993; Marcus, 1995)\(^7,8\). As what Werner and Alhman (2000)\(^9\) suggested that the transactional view emphasizes the dynamic unity between people and setting, it is necessary to give attention to the recollected memories which are not mere focusing on psychological side of the respondent him/herself, but also dealing with physical elements of living environment.

2.2. A link of the result of research on recalling the past to the sustainability of old house and living environment

Regarding the old house, since it had been existed from the past to the present time, there are old family stories, history of house, memories and experiences during the life that are attached to or associated with old house. Similarly, an old living environment has its own memories scattered throughout the area. Memories are based on lived experience and are things that reach out to us from the past. Since old living environment and its houses exist along a continuum from the past to the present, the discussion on their continuance as well as the maintenance should include the interaction between residents and houses and the house surrounding. Is the present interaction between old living environment and its inhabitants influenced by the past remembrance, becomes one inquiry. It also emerges as another question whether the past experience is able to influence the people behavior related to the maintenance of the old house or not. These inquiries above emerge in order to clarify the possibility of the recalling activity in supporting the sustainability of old living environment.

2.3. Aim of study

The aim of this study is discern the influence of resident's memories in the present interaction between the residents and their house and its surrounding and to clarify the role of memory evoking in supporting a sustainable living environment.

2.4. Description of the area of study

The field observation was done in Kotagede area, an old traditional-historical area located at the southeast part of Yogyakarta, Central Java, Indonesia, at about 113 m above the sea level. With its history as a former old capital city of Yogyakarta region, Kotagede area exists as the oldest part of Yogyakarta urban life. Historically, Kotagede has an important role as the former capital of the ancient Javanese kingdom called Mataram Kingdom during the years from 1586 to 1613. In 1614 the capital of Mataram Kingdom has been moved from Kotagede to several places until finally located in the area that now is the center of Yogyakarta City. As one of the Javanese town with its long history, especially its history of former

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