

A Study on Recycling and Remodeling of Old Things by College Students

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Abstract: With the development of modern society, the demand for college students' goods is increasing, and the replacement of goods is also accelerating gradually. This situation has led to a common dilemma of how to handle old items with sentimental value that cannot be preserved. Therefore, recycling, remodeling, and preservation of these old items become the central theme of this study. The paper describes the recycling of old objects, categorizing them by their uses, shapes, and materials, and designing trendy toys that match the original properties of the original items. The paper also talks about actively developing and utilizing the waste resources in life.

Keywords: Recycling of old things; Trendy toys; Secondary utilization; Environmental protection

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1. Research background and objective

With the improvement of living standards in modern society, items owned by college students are frequently renewed and replaced. This situation has led to a common dilemma of how to handle old items with sentimental value that cannot be preserved. Therefore, recycling, remodeling, and preservation of these old items become the central theme of this study.

This study delves into not just recycling, remodeling, and preserving old items, but also uncovering the unique significance behind them and revitalizing them. Additionally, this study aims to actively explore and utilize waste resources in daily life. Through the lens of "old things", recycling extends the lifespan of these items and maximizes their value by fully utilizing them. Looking at it from a personal perspective, the paper addresses the issue of low utilization of old items among college students, ensuring that everything is put to good use.

2. The specific process of remodeling old things

Repurposing old items is both an environmental act and a creative lifestyle choice. By creatively transforming discarded items, college students can craft new items or decorations, breathing new life into old possessions. This not only revitalizes the items but also imbues college students with a sense of artistry and personalized style.

2.1. Preliminary research

This research primarily centers on the status of unused items among college students, their disposal practices, and their inclination toward remodeling. Multiple rounds of sampling questionnaires were conducted to gauge these aspects. The survey revealed that among college students, a significant portion either choose to discard, sell, or donate their unused items, resulting in an abundance of idle goods. However, a majority of college students express a willingness to engage in remodeling, with only a minority showing reluctance towards it ^[1].

2.2. Recycling method

This study aims to recycle old items through a blend of online and offline approaches. For the online approach, the study utilized various network platforms tailored for recycling foreign college students' belongings, such as "Poshmark Inc", "Zhuan Zhuan", "Ai Hui Shou", and others. These platforms offer a convenient avenue for recycling a diverse range of old items. Meanwhile, offline initiatives involve campus-wide publicity campaigns to collect old items from university students directly.

2.3. Classification

It is necessary to classify the items before remodeling them. The ideas for remodeling can be developed based on their characteristics, potential uses, materials, shapes, and functions ^[2]. For example, diaries (**Figure 1**), old clothes (**Figure 2**), and broken jewelry (**Figure 3**) were divided based on their use, shape, and material.



Figure 1. Diaries



Figure 2. Old clothes



Figure 3. Broken jewelry

2.4. Principles of remodeling

When remodeling old items, it is crucial to maintain relevance, ensuring that the transformed trendy toys remain connected or similar to the original items for overall consistency. Secondly, the remodeling process should consider structure. When designing trendy toys based on old objects, it is important to consider the structural integrity of the originals to ensure the stability of the remodeled toys. Additionally, factors like aesthetics and creativity play a vital role in transforming old items into trendy toys. Lastly, the transformed toys can be enhanced through beautification and decoration, utilizing materials like paint, stickers, and fabrics to add a

personalized and fashionable touch. Additionally, incorporating sound effects and lights can elevate the fun and appeal of the toys even further.

3. Significance of remodeling old items

Remodeling of old items is an art itself, and the combination of idle goods and creative remodeling is the re-creation of art. Today, there is a growing emphasis on the fusion of aesthetic appeal and utility, and what sets these items apart is the depth of their ideas and originality. Remodeling carries inherent artistic value, as objects with unique character can embody both historical charm and modern innovation post-redesign. Redesigning old items can spark creative thinking among college students, transforming creative processing into a pursuit imbued with historical and artistic significance. These redesigned pieces become one-of-a-kind works of art, driving aesthetic appreciation among students. By integrating design into their daily lives, art becomes ingrained in the habits of college students, breathing new life into unused items and making them meaningful once again ^[1].

4. Artistic principles of trendy toys

4.1. Ornamental

Trendy toys are enriched by the essence of their surroundings, offering a visually captivating experience that enhances the aesthetic appeal of people's living spaces. Beauty is a fundamental aspect of trendy toys, as they evoke a sense of pleasure and delight in their environment. Old items, having endured the test of time, possess a unique texture and craftsmanship reflective of their era. Their distinct characteristics, imbued with the essence of past craftsmanship, evoke a sense of nostalgia and emotional resonance. Each old item carries its own story and memories, imbuing it with a unique language and enriching its beauty. Through the process of repurposing and redesigning old items, their inherent expressive power naturally emerges, creating a sense of nostalgia and eliciting emotional connections from people. These items serve not only as decorative elements but also as carriers of past memories and emotions, adding depth and richness to our surroundings ^[3].

4.2. Utility

The primary role of trendy toys is to enhance enjoyment and elevate the ambiance of living spaces. By incorporating both aesthetic appeal and practical functionality, trendy toys serve as decorative elements while also fulfilling practical needs, thereby optimizing space and cost. This dual-purpose approach naturally endears trendy toys to people, allowing them to enjoy their value over time. While trendy toys may have artistic limitations, integrating additional features can spark new perspectives and unlock greater possibilities. For instance, old T-shirts and sweaters can be repurposed by cutting them into pieces and creatively stitching them together to form trendy cushions. This fusion of old items with functional design not only showcases the designer's ingenuity but also fosters a cozy atmosphere in the living space ^[3].

4.3. Uniqueness

Each trendy toy undergoes the test of time, with uniquely designed pieces enduring the passage of years. To achieve a successful transformation of old items, it is essential to break free from their inherent limitations and innovate upon their existing features. Merely replicating the original design ideas and structure amounts to mere

imitation; true transformation requires the infusion of new ideas and materials, sparking artistic inspiration and giving trendy toys a distinctive flavor. In today's era, individuality holds increasing significance, with more people seeking trendy toys that reflect their personality and creativity. Meeting this demand entails not just remodeling old items but also innovating to showcase uniqueness ^[3].

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5. Summary

This era witnesses rapid material advancement alongside significant resource waste. This waste abundance propels the swift development of old item remodeling as an environmental protection strategy. The fact that college students integrate old item remodeling into their daily lives reflects their appreciation for contemporary art and their commitment to environmental conservation through creativity ^[5]. Nowadays, students perceive the unique significance of old items, engaging with them personally to discover their artistic value and historical context. By combining these discoveries with their own creative needs, they transform old items into unique works of art and innovative products, seamlessly integrating environmental preservation into daily life. Through this process, the artistic and historical value of repurposed items is recognized and respected by a broader audience, promoting harmony between environmental consciousness and creative practice. This integration inspires individuals to adopt a proactive stance towards environmental protection, influencing their attitudes and lifestyle habits to contribute to the greater cause ^[6].

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