

A review on the Literature of Belonging and Place Sense

Masoumeh Darijani¹; Mansour Nikpour²

1: MSc student; Architecture, Islamic Azad University, Bam branch. Iran

2: Assistant prof. of architecture collage, Islamic Azad university, Bam branch, Bam, Iran

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ABSTRACT

The place is the main element of residents identity and the feeling of place is the factor that results in converting to person with special sensational and behavioral properties. Belonging feeling is one of important factors to evaluate the relation of human and environment and creating high quality humanistic media that are considered by designers. With this feeling, the humans with differentiation and stability and security gain necessary relief to life. Hence with regard to the importance of place feeling and belonging in raising the quality of designed space, the present paper tries to study these two concept by descriptive-analytical strategy. Finally, it mentions some strategies to achieve the feeling of belonging to place in designing.

KEYWORDS: place, Sense of place, belonging, belonging and Sense of place

1: INTRODUCTION

The place crisis is one of the most common problems of present urban planning. the crisis in creating the urban space lacks the identity unfortunately, the most of urban spaces present in today cities lack the sense of place and identification, whereas the humans a part from the historical, social, technologic and geographical positions always need the place, because having the place and identifying it is considered as a part of human the place have different scales [1-5]. The place to where we have higher sense of belonging may be our room, our house, our apartment, locality, city or our country. By developing human societies and changing life method, the architects and planners have increased Their attention to the quality of built spaces and environments, and the role of designing as the tool to from the life environment and responsibility to the expectations and many researches have been performed about the mutual effect of environment or built space on the human attitude and behavior 's the humans create the humans create the places which don, t depend on human have no meaning .the people acquire positive or negative things from environment or give them back to the environment . Different theoretical views consider place as combined to the human nature and the organisms, and mention that the place effects on their experiences, because the places are the centers of human experiences, and notice, that are considered as that centers full of human life [4, 5]. Beside the material dimension, it also contains the mental dimension and creates some feeling init is inhabitants through which a kind of belonging to the place is created in the human, leading to forming place identification one of important meaning in raising the quality of human environments is the sense of belonging to the place [5-8]. This sense that is an important factor in forming the communication bases of users and environment finally leads to creating the environments with high quality but lack an exact and clear definition of this sense in designing field cause some kinds and use the designing factors the increasing growth of city settlement and formation of new scale of city growth during recent decades resulted in the urban planning being faced with new challenges such as fading the identification and social belonging sense, developing the environmental and social ecological problems, the huge socio – economic inequalities and decreasing life quality.

2: METHODOLOGY

The method of this research is field and library and it is performed by using note – taking, and data was analyzed by using some papers, books and searching in internet.

3: The importance of research:

The prerequisite of progress and persistence of a place is that the place can adapt itself to the present conditions so that protect the identity of it is referee. unfortunately, the spaces of contemporary lack of identification, and the society has last it's validation. It's evidence is found in contemporary urban planning that rapid and unreliable

efforts have been performed in urban planning with development of cities during which the other dimensions such as security, relief, identity, belonging sense and nostalgia are ignored here the necessity of reviewing these principles in urban design .

4: sense of belonging:

4-1: Definition of place: The place is the main element of identity of it is residents .by recognizing the place, the human can identify himself. The in place, we have a complete perception of ourselves. The human have different pictures from different place in his mind. His feeling can effect on his perception of environment .These mind pictures give identification to environment. In addition to it, the people memories are effective on giving identification to the place. The place crisis is among the most common problems of present urban planning.

4-2: sense of place:

The term " sense of place " is composed of two words : " sense " and "place " .The word "sense " in oxford dictionary has three main meaning : firstly , one of five senses, secondly feeling and The perception of mind picture in psychology , it means That The judgments created in the person after perception of object meaning can be good bad or attractive. Thirdly, the ability to judge about an abstract subject such as the meaning of place sense in finding direction finally the sense means the complete and absolute recognition of object by human. But the word "sense " in the term " place sense" means the love , judgment and experience of place or it is ability to create special feeling or belonging sense in the people .place sense is a factor that causes the conversion of a space to the place with special be behavioral properties to special people. Culturally, place belonging reflects main components of socio – cultural life [9-12]. In addition, the environment includes the messages, meanings and codes that people decode it based on the roles, expectations and motivations and other factors, and judge about it. This total sense that is created after judgment related to a special environment is called place sense .place sense is an important factor that is coordinated by the person and environment, and results in exploiting the environment and satisfaction of users.

4-3: space, place and identification sense:

sociologists, specially anthropologists often insist on this point that the place and location is very important to the people, because they have high ability to make identification .sense of belonging to place means being stable and special and belonging to place means being stable and special and belonging to a group [2] the place and space are the best factors that meet these identification needs. In other words limiting the place makes it possible for humans to gain relief and security. The sense of differentiation from others requires stable borders. The clearer these borders and differences based on them, the better is confirmed the need to become differentiated from others. Since the plotting these borders and keeping them is easier, the place is used to make identification [2].

4-4: hierarchy of place sense:

Shamai determines three main step to place sense: belonging to place, depending on place and commitment to place with seven levels [13].

- 1: Indifference to place: in the literature, the place sense isn't considered but in assaying the place sense is used
- 2: being aware of placing in the place: the person knows that he or she lives in a differentiated environment and recognizes the symbols of that place but there is no feeling connecting it the place.
- 3: belonging to the place: in this level, the person not only is aware of the name and symbols of place but also he has common feeling with the place. In this case the symbols of the place are important to the person.
- 4: Depending on the place: in this level, the person has complex relation to the place the place has meaning to him and the place is the center of individual .in this case, the place uniqueness and it's difference to other place is focused.

5: incorporating to place objectives:

This level reflects the dependence of person on place need.

6: Attending in the place: this level refers to the active role of person in the society, this level is understood from the actual behaviors of the person.

7: Devotion to the place: this is the highest level of place sense and the person has the deepest commitment to the place and exhibits many devotions toward the values, freedoms and welfare in different positions [13].

4-5: the factors forming place sense:

regarding to the concept place feeling in different views and it's different levels, the factors forming place sense can be divided in to two groups:

- 1: cognitive perceptual factors
- 2: structural factors

The cognitive perceptual factors:

The place sense is a complex combination of meanings, symbols and the qualities that the person perceives consciously or unconsciously the special space or region the meanings and concepts that are decoded by the person after place perception are among the factors creating place sense.

Structural factors:

According to Fritze Steel [10, 11] the most important structural factors effective on perception of place sense are: Place personality, place size, limiting degree, conflict human scale, distance, tissue, color, smell, noise and visual variety [11].

5: place identity:

The place as a set have the potential to help the approach in which the people develop the sense of belonging, place and position and keep them. The place is in the center of social world. The places are formed when establishing in interaction of human to environment. The place are recognized by a range of psychological and social processes and activities that are performed within them [5]. The place doesn't only include the special physical places but it's full of symbolic, meanings and feelings the people have about a set [6].

The place identity is considered as one of the ways to maintain relations between human and place that is related to mental needs rather than physical ones. The place identity results from individual and group values, and it changes with time [8].

6: The factors effective on forming the place identity and place, sense:

Physical factors, activities and meanings are three main factors forming place identity. Two first elements can be easily understood, but the meaning factor is very difficult to understand.

Physical properties:

The field, the facilities and services, the position of place in urban field and the way of communicating to surrounding and many other characteristics are among the cases that are referred in structural studies [9].

The feelings and meanings including memories, experiences – and relations and abstract concepts can be derived from the form and activity present in time [7].

The activities performed in the place.

Social interactions related to the place are considered as a sub – criterion of activities [12]. One of the most effective properties of place that causes raise of place sense is the activities and interactions between human – place and human – human [8].

7: Place sense and the possibility to create coordination of space and person:

This discussion involves two parts that are in fact complementary to each other:

Independence and space recognition by human

The familiarity of person with space:

If a space motivates the memories of it it addresses and creates attitudes to them, it will have important effect on it. By observing the space, the person may remind the positive or negative memory. The person issues his or her judgments about the new space. The coordination process is the comparative process between data in the mind. While an external independent organism, each space is converted into a mind phenomenon in perception process. In this process, we exploit our mind. Also security and mind dominance resulting from this process causes relief in mind. The habit resulting from repetition of an action in using a space can cause this process. As the human follows coordination, he is very curious. The human always seeks new things and the success in perceiving it is favorable to him. On the other hand, each phenomenon is considered as an independent thing to be understandable to addressee as in a mutual process and the person tries to recognize it is content and form. According to Queen Linch, in order to have a pleasant mind picture, that object should be firstly differentiated from other objects and its independence should be felt from others [4].

8: the sense of belonging to place:

The set of stories and individual narrations occur along with the place and are effective on creating social belongings to the place [15]. This sense leads to the binding of person to place so that the human considers himself or herself as a part of the place, and based on his or her experiences of meanings and functions, he or she imagines a role of place in his or her mind. Consequently, this role is unique and different. Then the place becomes important and respectable to him. A place forms the sense of belonging and dependence because of the possibility of occurring a social relation and common experience among the people [4].

9: practical strategies to achieve the sense of belonging to the place in designing:

9-1: Identity:

The identity means that a person can have belonging feeling to a place, compared to other places [1]. Identity means that a place can be differentiated from other places and identified, so that it has unique character and personality.

9-2: ownership:

The belonging is a feeling that is formed with time and requires long stay in the locality. At past periods the people lived throughout their life in the place in where they were born. Long term residence is possible in the conditions that the house is owned by the family resident in it. Then the ownership can be effective [16].

9-3: reminding the memories:

The memory is considered as a part of past life that is involved in the present life. So if the space is so organized that separate us from all thing that we see and connect us to other time, we will find that space pleasant. And keeping these memories increase the sense of belonging to the space [4]. The walls and passages are the place of our collective memories rather than a physical object and it's the place that our culture and our current customs are accumulated [15].

9-4: security and safety:

According to John Leng, the security as the main human need can pave the way to other needs such as belonging, respect and glory. To make urban spaces safe and secure, this space should be so designed that involves a wide range of society in various activities.

sin environment, the security can be supplied by different methods. For example, a clear picture of the environment gives person a kind of security feeling. It means that the sweet feeling of the person about his city and house is not only because of familiarity with it but also it's because of the clear picture of that place present in his or her mind (Linch, 1997).

9-5: residential satisfaction and welfare:

According to Pakzad [4], the feeling of satisfaction and tendency to permanency is considered an important index for the residents not to lose their belonging and loyalty.

Suitable exploitation of sun radiation, the optimal use of wind blowing, suppressing the problems related to precipitation, facing with the problems related to temperature variations and modifying weather humidity are among the conditions to supply the welfare. The human comfort and relief in facing with natural effects of earth and regulating slop according to human ability and using ramps and comfortable stairs seems necessary in the urban spaces

10: Dwelling and it is role in mental health and creating place sense:

The studies showed that there is strong relation between the locality in where the person lives, the qualitative position of dwelling and his or her health. There are some evidences relating to the relation between insufficient space in the house and mental and behavioral diseases, on the other hand, the availability to a place to live is effective on the health.

11: psychological safety:

Having place sense geographically and socially in the society and studying the security and safety needs of human is attributed to psychological knowledge, the most important of which is place sense and the ability to find directions is the space and time.

To have security feeling, many people need to know where they are geographically placed to keep a picture of spatial organization of total environment in their mind. If we know our position, we will have higher security feeling.

12: Urban landscape safety:

Safety feeling through place sense is an aspect of accountability to safety and security need. The person should have cognitive control on the world around himself or herself. Having place sense and relation to geographical environment and person role in the society are an important part of belonging sense that at the same time promote the sense of environmental control. For example, the elements and tools for respond to strong urban design against earthquake to create psychological safety and having place sense in the environment, especially in emergency conditions and events of disasters and crises.

13: Individual differences in gaining effect from environment by personality:

The environment factor is among the important and effective factors on personality properties of the people. The experiences that the person gains from environment, his relation and interaction to environment and the feedbacks received from environments effects on the growth of his personality. Whereas the humans are born with a series of genetic traits, the environment and it is different aspects have significant effect on expressing these properties. The different researches show that even in the same conditions, the natural or social environments will have different effects on different people. This is the result of interaction and relation of environmental and

inheritance factors. For example, consider the effect of warm climate on the people living in high population areas. It's clear that such as condition increases hostile actions. But it doesn't mean that everyone living in such an environment will have hostile behavior. On the other hand the individual differences in the functions of people in this climate and conditions can be attributed to the result of interaction of environment and inheritance. In the regions with high crime, while the number of people with tendency to crime is high, it doesn't include all people because there are also the environmental factors that effect on the personality traits preventing the person from committing the crime.

14: Conclusion:

One of important meanings in raising the quality of human environments is the sense of belonging to a place. This sense that is the main factor forming the relations of users and environment finally leads to creating the environment with high quality.

In conclusion, the level of sense of belonging to a place depends on the factors such as others' perception of place, background, the level of residence of that person in that place, having common experiences and memories, touching the space, attending in the space and it is experience all are effective and their prerequisite is time experience. The considered inheritance is the appearance and structure of our culture. This culture is the basis of society and protect it is life. In the present conditions that our urban environments face with the lack of place sense and belonging of citizens to urban places, only considering the structure isn't enough to create place sense, because this criterion merely plays role in forming the primary levels of place sense and activity component also has mediating role. But more attention to meaning component with focusing on it is social and personal dimensions and the meanings present in human mind (including symbolic, value and functional meaning) that pave the way to corporate in the place and accept the meaning and lead to a being sense can result in forming deeper levels in place sense.

16: the strategies to achieve the sense of belonging to environment in urban places:

1: the new localities in the city should be connected to the past and present of city and imagine it is properties with itself. In this case, Rob Krir believes that old spaces should be discovered again. This goal is achieved when it is functions are firstly valued and then it's planned in the total design of city Urban planners always considers time characteristics in their works.

2: recognizing people activities with regard to the space and function of human and built structure: the clearance of visual form of space causes a correct perception of it and consequently the proper relation to people is created, finally leading to social importance of space. When the function is according to spatial goals, the space will have two concepts: the human is a part of space and giver meaning to this space by the values. The pattern of social relations isn't constant and by substituting special social relations, each space assumes a different appearance.

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