

## Place Identity and its Perception with a Geosystem Approach

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### Extended Abstract

#### 1- Introduction

Identity is an index of superior quality that appears the nature of a phenomenon. It is obvious that a subject, in the ratio of its needs and desires, determines the objectivity of a phenomenon. Place identity is a kind of human epistemology about surrounded environmental patterns. It has helped him/her to choose suitable place as habitant during the history. Thus, with evolution of his/her experiences has been selected the best suitable places. Place identity, indeed, is a part of substructures of individual identity of human being, and it is also, as the result of general knowledge of men about the physical world that he/she live in it. Geosystems present patterns according to spatial components relationship. Therefore,

they could act as a guide for human activities.

In this study, we used geography phenomenological approach and geosystem analysis to understand the nature of genesis and historical evolution of place, as bases of social and historical identity. Therefore, perception subjectivity of place has replaced with objectivity perception of the same place. For the purpose of accessing to the goal, we have defined identity, place identity, geosystems and their general characters. Then, on the base of these definitions, we have studied place identity according to geosystems approach to recognize them for description civil and social identity. Understanding the nature of place in the context of geomorphic systems for land use planning, especially habitants are the final goal of the research.

Research results shows that every place, in geosystem approach, has a unique identity that it's structure and function perception can determine land use planning. Therefore, every place has a spatial legislations, and capability. Following the legislations

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and capability is caused sustainability development.

## **2- Identity concept**

Here, the concept of identity has been used to describe indexes and characters of being a phenomenon in time, and in relation to another places. Thus, it explains the conditions of formation, spatial and body evolutions of place as patterns duration time.

## **3- Identity concept of place**

Place identity, in this research, expresses place behavioral patterns as a geosystem that has distinct structure and boundary. Place identity is created by interaction between human and physical environment. Everything is a part of a whole. Therefore, we are a part of environment, and the physical and human worlds are a part of a continuum.

## **4- The necessity of epistemology of place identity**

Existing of stable references for continuum and survival of human being are necessity. Place with having definite and distinct area has the same characters. In other words, it identifies social identities. We used place identity to pay attention to physical environment as an important factor or a context for human identities. Anyway, it emphasizes on influences of physical environment on different human identities, and their dependence to place.

## **5- Geosystems**

Geosystems or Geomorphic systems include a structure with interactions between processes and landforms inside it, which changes in relations to changes in its components. Geomorphic system, in fact, is a surrounded place with a definite

boundary that includes components which depend and have common structures- functions to each other. Therefore, every change in each part of system, changes the totality of system, too. Geosystems have some legislation that we have pointed in the article, for example; they have unity structure and function with a definite boundary. They have a definite trend which makes recognizable patterns include order or chaos; equilibrium or disequilibrium and so on, which mean in the patterns in different periods. These characters are caused that we estimate and evaluate their next behavior.

## **6- Place and its identity with a geosystem approach**

Place with the Geomorphic systems approach has a "Gestalt" totality, where the components make a whole together. As, the Gestalt totality determines final behavior. In the geosystems, there are patterns that have unique genesis and historical evolutions, the patterns those definite behavioral characters of place. Knowing these characters is necessary for sustainable development. For examples, a hill by esker genesis is different of another hill by a glacier or erosion origin. Thus, we can just estimate the behavior of a hill according to its nature and identity. In other words, these characters are created by geology historical evolutions, and determine next behaviors.

Place in a geosystem approach is subjective and perceptible from points of view components, special structure, function, and also its totality. Thus, we can recognize differences between places exactly.

## 7- Conclusions

Geosystems make the identity of place of human being comprehensible as definite realms in small or big scales, because they have definite spatial scales. At a small scale, small villages have been made inside it, and in big scales they cause to be created big cities. One of the most important characters of geosystems identity is recognizing and comprehension of their structures and functions which Human being conducts his behaviors, needs, and desires according to it. In this trend, he/she chooses best places to settle, and he/she feels unity and identity with his surrounded environment.

In geosystem approach to place identity, we pay attention to the ways of environmental response to climatic changes, tectonic events, and understanding the historical patterns the replies for settle of human being with a native identity. Besides, forecasting of anomalies and chaos in geosystem is important. Such a straight perception is companion with the evolution of experience of human generation; in addition, compatibility with such patterns is done natively. Therefore, the best places are chosen for settlement and human being feels identity to his/her environment. In other words, not to understanding of place identity lead to environmental crisis.

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