

## SIGNIFICANT OF TERRITORY TO INCREASE SENSE OF PLACE IN BEHAVIOURAL SETTLEMENTS

*Hero Farkisch, Vahid Ahmadi, Adi Irfan, Mastor Surat, & M. Fauzi M. Zain*

### ABSTRACT

Cities have transformed collecting public places into private spaces. While in the past, public places as an urban place had a specific identity for themselves. Nowadays in nonexistence of connection between public and private life residents are forced to create their social life within their own control and are not entered to identity in public space. Urban spaces are made regardless to social needs of residents and their cultural origins. Formation of urban spaces impact to quality of its social and spatial and cannot be absorbed potential of environmental and social. For reproduction of social identity is required the behaviour-milieu this behaviour-milieu is a place for standing of pattern behaviour. In this way the role of neighborhood center as behavioural setting appears to be helping as to establish the distinctive identity of the place and create the conditions in which residents can develop their relationships and control. Behavioural complex also provide context of social partnership. Places can be considered as a physical form with their spatial territory which supports activity, ceremonies, and events and helps to sense of place formation. Feeling of neighborhood territory will exacerbate dependence and sense of place to it. The most important aspect of sense of place is attachment of people to their home or neighborhood sphere. Belonging to them make a territory feeling. Sense of place supports the cultural concept, social and culture relationship of society in the place and achieves to individual identity. This paper reviews recent research and literature review into the concept of sense of place and their assessment. The aim of this study was to evaluate the sense of place in the traditional urban to be carried out in the contemporary urban setting. The discussion presents the relationship between four groups of sense of place, territory, dependence, and finally provides a conceptual model as to show how these factors affect to sense of place. The result of this study indicates a model that mentions a relationship between dimensions of sense of place. This paper argues that territory in behavioural setting as the subset of place dependence is the best instrument to improve the sense of place.

**Keywords:** *Public place, Territory, Behavioural Settlement, Neighborhood Centers*

### INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, urban planners and architects have paid special attention to psychological knowledge of human behaviour because behaviours are intimately related with the environment. In this way have been established organizations around the world such as EDRA (Environmental Design Research Association) in the north of America, IAPS (International Association for the Study of People and their physical surroundings) in Europe, MERA (Man- Environment Research Association) in Japan, and PAPER (People and Physical Environment Research) in Australia and New Zealand.

Environmental psychology is the human relationship with the physical environment and these two effects on each other so that be considered his values, attitudes, and requirements. This knowledge engaged to describe the behaviour of people in the environment with subjects such as perception, cognition, and spatial behaviour. Therefore, perception is a purposeful process and dependence to culture, attitudes, and person's perception.

Awareness and appreciation of environmental perception and experience of 'place', is an essential dimension of urban design. Since the early 1960s an interdisciplinary field of environmental perception has developed, and there now exists a significant body of research on people's perception of their urban environment. Environmental perception has been reinforced by focusing on the experiential 'sense of place' and 'lived-in' experiences associated with urban environments (2003). Human perception of the environment is the most pivotal issues in environmental psychology. Environmental perception is a process through which human chooses the necessary data due to human need in environment. This process always is associated with knowledge of human about the environment.

## **IDEOLOGIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERCEPTION**

Different schools have tried to describe the human perception and behaviours of environment. Most important of these schools have a profound effect to an environmental theory and design includes:

- Gestalt`s theory is about psychological perspective exchange (Koffka): His theory has been interested to cognitive patterns, Homomorphy between forms, experiences of environmental perception with formation process in the human nervous system.
- Gibson`s theory is about ecological theory of perception (Gibson, 1966, 1979): He argued, perception of the environment is possible only when persons required moving it. Gibson`s theory in architecture and urban design has many impacts.

Although gestalt theory have studied in many years and architects and designers of the modern school were influenced by it, however Gibson`s theory and his ecological perspective has received appropriate position in the environmental review and research. Much research has been done in architecture and urban design based on other theory of environmental perception. Cullen (2003) pointed to continuous perception of urban spaces and meaning of serial vision. Bacon (1967) noted several examples that aesthetic is based on moving and serial vision in urban spaces. Movement in space creates a continuity of experiences that arose from the quality and forms in space that motion is located therein.

### **a) Sense of Place Component**

Place can be understood as a unit of 'environmental experience' a convergence of cognitions, affect and behaviours of the people who are experiencing them (Canter, 1991). Place also includes that which influence the meaning occupants give to it through personal, social, and cultural processes (Altman & Low, 1992). Hence a place can be described in terms of many multi dimensional physical and psychological environmental attributes.

Relph (1976) in his book Place and placelessness mentioned to phenomenology, psychological and experiential sense of place. He argued that, we feel or know space however space is amorphous and intangible. It is typically associated with a concept of place. For Relph, places were essentially centers of meaning constructed out of lived-experience. By putting them with meaning, individuals, groups or societies change spaces into places.

Sense of place was defined as a multidimensional construct comprising: beliefs about the relationship between self and place, feelings toward the place, and the behavioural exclusivity of the place in relation to alternatives. This general evaluative dimension was more explanatory of observed responses than were the three univariate dimensions having

interpretations consistent with place identity, place attachment, and place dependence (Relph, 1976).

Jorgensen and Stedman (2001) suggested that place attachment is a distinct component of a broader and more encompassing concept called "sense of place." They drew on attitude theory to defend a tripartite conceptualization of the construct consisting of affective, cognitive and cognitive components, and they emphasize that sense of place was defined as multidimensional construct. Gustafson (1997) argued that place attachment implies an individualistic perspective, concerned with an individual's emotional and behavioural commitment, or bonding, to place.

Place identity involves those dimensions of self who defined the individual's personal identity in its relation with the physical environment. Place identity develops from acts of locating oneself with environmental contexts throughout daily routines as well as during exceptional circumstances. Place dependence is defined as an occupant's perceived strength of association between him/herself and special places (Stokols, 1996). In fact, Shamai (1991) has argued that these place concepts and others can be included under the umbrella term 'sense of place'. Factors that we mentioned at above are dimensions of sense of place.

#### **b) Significant of Territory in Sense of Place**

Mental territory is the deepest realm of private. Body territory is a space that related to the body and available to others and makes behaviour territory. Behaviour territory is interactive social communication. Every person at every level of hierarchy has the sense of territory, a degree of ownership, and control to physical spaces in his self. Sense of territory is composed of sense of dependence and belonging with the place.

Territory created through continuous control over a particular part of physical space by an individual or a group. Territoriality, as closely associated with this process, has been defined by environmental psychologists as 'a set of behaviours and cognitions a person or group exhibits, based on perceived ownership of physical space' (Bell, Greene, Fisher, & Baum, 2005). Territory is considered to be used as an 'organizer of activities, by allowing us to anticipate the types of people and forms of behaviour in different places, and so plan accordingly for our daily lives (Madanipour, 2003).

According to Altman (Altman & Low, 1992), these are four forms of territory:

1. Depending on the duration of occupancy
2. The cognitive impacts on the occupant and the others in generating a sense of ownership
3. The amount of personalization
4. The likelihood of defence when violated.

In public a level amount of control over the environment is low, and is a little opportunity to defend it. Even so, residents have control over their neighborhood center. Territory therein improved a sense of attachment, dependence, and sense of place.

#### **c) Analysis of Neighborhood Center as Behavioral Setting**

People in urban environments, are show the various behaviours according to their goal. According to Brail and Chapin (1973) individual activity in space is dependence to spatial pattern of owned activity system. Indeed activity system is flow of activity during the specific

time. In 1965, Chombart has expressed that person in city has activity in two general areas: home area and sphere of influence home.

Barker (1968) argued that behavioural setting is space that has a connection with two elements such as: psychological elements and non-psychological elements. Psychological elements refer specific form of behaviour and non-psychological elements include the physical components which facilitate appearance of specific behaviour. In the process of planning and design of new town, supplying of behavioural setting is very important to respond the behavioural needs of different groups.

Urban spaces in historic areas are based on the hierarchical movement from macro to micro. In this hierarchical system, the most important urban spaces are the covered semi private spaces between houses and the central square of the neighborhood (neighborhood center). It is as collective space for social meetings and staying in all hours of the day. Hence it can recreate the social relationships by its dimension that effected to dwelling like physical features, place dimensions, and meaning. However, has more depth and social meaning because of simultaneous access to several spaces, and creates the space experience by continuous motion (Madanipour, 2003).

One of the main manifestations of socio-economic and cultural patterns of differentiation is the urban neighborhood, where social groups, ethnic and cultural groups and other subsections of the society tend to find a particular place of their own while the political, economic and aesthetic processes find an outlet to be expressed (Madanipour, 2003). It shows how identity and difference find a spatial shape. Neighborhood is expected to become its residents' cultural creation, and at the same time a means for the preservation of the cultural continuity of the city. (Lefebvre) believes that space is as social production; experience the historical memory and experience in our daily lives.

Behavioural setting is a small social unit that comes to stable integration of an activity and a place. It provides essential functions of the environment behaviour. According to Barker (1968), Elements of behavioural territory (setting) are:

1. Continued and stable activities in a place standing patterns of behaviour
2. Milieu or three-dimensional environment of behaviour-milieu. (Barker called the "behaviour-milieu interface" as the Synomorph. Synomorphy means that the forming a stable behaviour-milieu is not possible without relation between milieu and behaviour of human)
3. Structure of a place
4. Time period.

Physical environments as behavioural setting that is deterrent and facilitator of people behaviour, but they are not determinative of behaviour, because motivation and human needs are determinant of people behaviour (Lang, 1987). These can be concluded that, public space is a place for concentration of standing patterns of behaviour in the form of behavioural hierarchy. Behavioural territory (setting) is a small social unit that will make by combining of activity and place for provide essential functions of behavioural territory. Neighborhood center as a behavioural setting provide social network and interaction between people with a place. In fact it acts as sphere of influence outdoor home because of its hierarchy and being in semi private or semi public territory.

## **PROBLEMS**

Sennett (1976) believes that the modern period has witnessed a decline of public life, which is rooted in the formation of a new capitalist, secular urban culture. Rather than taking pleasure in the cosmopolitan city, which is the world of strangers, people today see public life as a matter of dry formal obligations. He argued, was not leading to a richer life, as ‘the more privatized the psyche, the less it is stimulated, and the more difficult it is for us to feel or to express feeling’. This decline also in public life has been expressed in the urban space of our time. The streets and squares as social centers have been replaced by suburban living rooms and the public spaces of the city are abandoned, to become only places ‘to move through, not to be in’.

Modernization in Islamic countries has been a serious issue of urban development, which this part has dealt with it, specifically. In second half of 20th century the contrast between modernity and cultural values came to be a very important aspect in social life of modern Islamic cities. The contradiction between the traditional and nowadays way of life had the most negative effect on historic parts of traditional cities. Lose of social identity and spiritless modern development came to be their main characteristics. The historical parts of cities are losing their traditional identity and are disconnected from present urban developments.

In spite of what some want us to believe that the advent of telecommunications has made a physical co-presence irrelevant. Indeed, as the cities around the world have grown to house the majority of world's population and globalization finds a faster speed. Personal exchange, whether rational and instrumental or expressive and meaningful, becomes ever more important. Carr (1992) believed that promotion of the public space has been seen as one of the vehicles of confronting this fragmentation and managing this anxiety. Promotion of some form of togetherness can be seen through various definitions of public space. For example, public space is seen as, the common ground where people carry out the functional and ritual activities that bind a community. By creating areas in which different people intermingle, it is hoped that they can be brought together and a degree of tolerance be promoted (Madanipour, 2003).

## **SYSTEMATIC REVIEW**

In recent years, have been done many researches in environmental psychology for understanding how people perceive the environment. Sense of place is a complex combination of meaning, elements, and qualities that person as a self-conscious or unconscious is understanding of a particular space or environment. Meaning and concepts after perception of space are decoded by an individual person. This perception is a factor of sense of place. In this concept sense is not feeling before perception but is affection after cognition. In this case, space is become to a place for individuals.

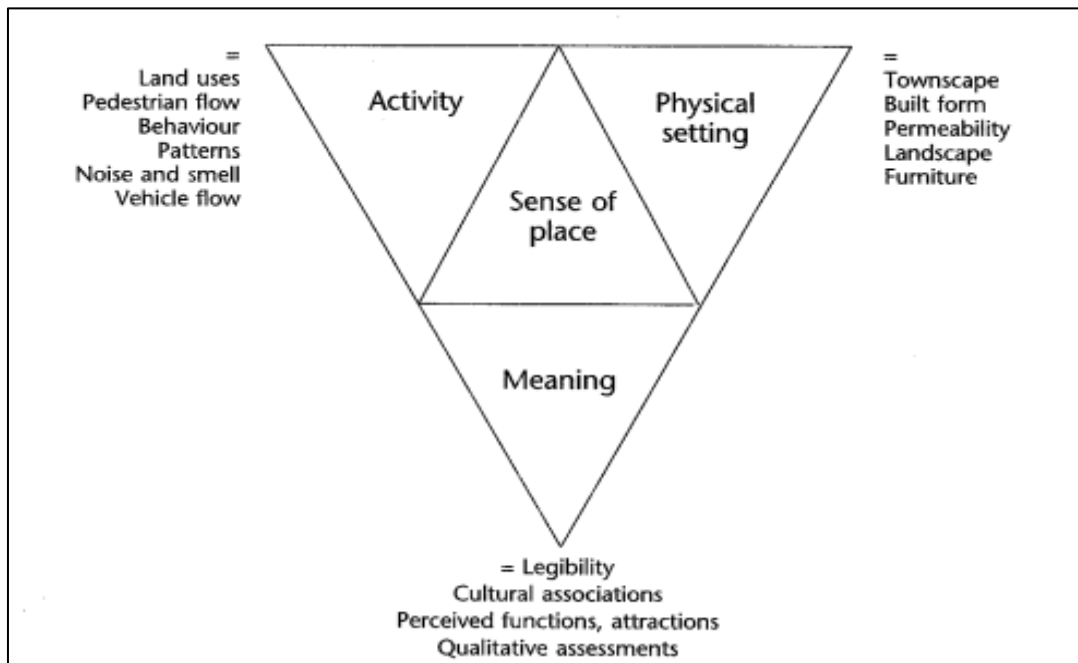
In (1981)Steel , demonstrated that sense to place of any environment depends on how the human communicated with the environment. His comments are summarized in three parts:

1. Relationship between man and space is interactive
2. Image of place is not only physical rather is interactive and mental
3. Some spaces have so strong spirit of place that for different people has same effects.

Relph (1976) argues that physical setting, activities, and meanings constitute the three basic elements of the identity of places. Drawing on Relph's work, Canter saw places as functions of 'activities' plus 'physical attributes' plus 'conceptions'. Canter (1976) suggested three factors of sense of place: the physical locale, activities linked to this locale, the subject's conceptual meaning linked to this locale. Building on Relph and Canter's ideas, Punter (1991) and Montgomery (1998) located the components of a sense of place within urban design thought (Figure 1). These diagrams illustrate how urban design actions can contribute to and enhance sense of place (Carmona, 2003).

In this part, we summarized scholar's point of view about physical factors: Steel argued more important factor of physical elements that affective to perception and sense of place are size of the place, contrast, symmetry, human scale, texture, smell, sound, scale, distance, color, and visual variety. In 1995, (Xu) pointed, structures semantic space and environment affected for creating some special quality and sense of place. He has chosen three variables of sense of place include legibility, perception of visual environment, and behavioural settings coordination with the visual environment.

Lynch (1960) argued sense of place is a factor that makes the relation between human and place and unity. He points that space should be having understandable identity and memorable, visible, and identifiable for make sense of place. This sense can carry a sense of dependence. Furthermore, in his books "The image of the city and a theory of good city form" pointed to physical factors that are including diversity, hierarchy, accessibility, legibility, transparency, continuity.



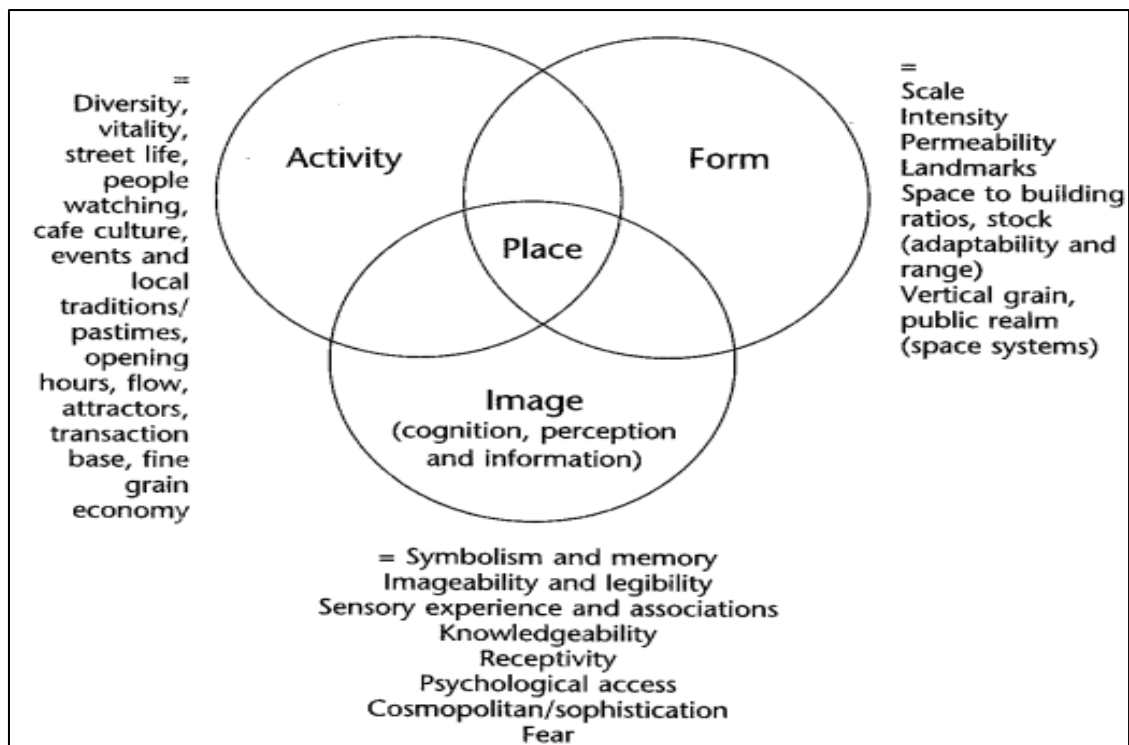


Figure 1. Punter and Montgomery's points of view (Carmona, 2003)

As a result, researches show that physical factors of environment with make meaning, elements, and signs provide daily activities has a main role to create a sense of place. In finally a model we describe a connection between all these factors together. A number of researches who have done about place and behavioural factors: Studies who have used the concept of sense of place to describe human attachments to settings often include subjects with an extensive history related to a specific area. Human-place bond in terms of two components; place identity and place dependence (Williams, Patterson, Roggenbuck, & Watson, 1992).

Altman and Low present six symbolic relationship between human and environment (Altman & Low, 1992):

1. Ancestry identification relation: this communication between human and environment occurs through identify historical locations, family, and society. In this relation time of communication between residents and their environment is important
2. Relation due to loss of land: place belonging is caused through loss of place and recollection by a recreation process with this place
3. Economic relation: This relation occurs through ownership or heritage
4. Cognitive universe relation: In this relation place belonging occurs through match between the myths and symbols by religious relations and spiritual
5. Pilgrimage relation: Pilgrimage of a place means a willingness to meet others and participate in ceremonies. Durability of sense of place is because of the importance of religious, spiritual, and social although in the pilgrimage place, experience of place is temporary
6. Narrative relation: a person through myth, stories, and naming the place is familiar with the space then after the passage of time makes sense of belonging to the Land.

Sense of place is experiencing such exciting and tranquility in a spatial behaviour setting. This spirit of place or space character makes particular feelings (Steel, 1981). Shamai (1991) also for sense of place has chosen three main stages, including place identity, place dependence, and place attachment with seven levels. These levels show the process used to sense of place:

1. Insignificance to the place
2. Knowledge of being located in a place when people know that they live in a distinguishable place, but they do not have any feeling about the place
3. Belonging to a place makes feeling about togetherness
4. Attachment to place, in this stage emotional attachment is a higher level
5. Identifying with the place goal means people do devotion, allegiance, and loyalty to place
6. Involvement in place: it makes a commitment to a place
7. Sacrifice for a place makes the deepest commitment to a place.

Some authors such as Altman and Low (Altman & Low, 1992) have dealt with this question meaning that places are repositories and contexts within which interpersonal, community and cultural relationships occur, and it is to those social relationships, not just to place qua place, to which people are attached. They used the term “place attachment” to refer to the phenomena of human–place bonding. While they stressed that “affect emotion and feeling are central to the concept”, they also indicated these emotional elements “are often accompanied by cognition (thought, knowledge and belief) and practice (action and behaviour)”.

Jorgensen and Stedman (Jorgensen & Stedman, 2001) emphasized that sense of place was defined as multidimensional construct comprising: beliefs about the relationships self and place, feeling toward the place, and behavioural exclusivity of the place in relation to alternatives (Figure 2).

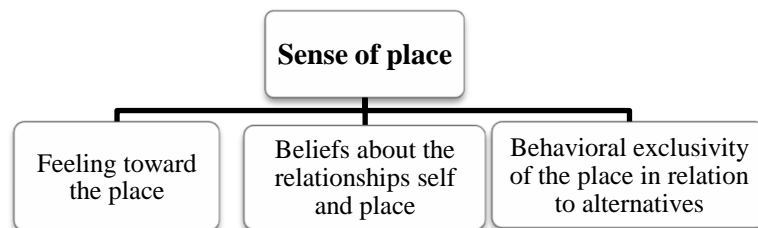


Figure 2: Jorgensen and Stedman's point of view about sense of place (Author)

Historical neighborhood center has given a specific identity to that city. The existing elements in a neighborhood center create effective sustainability factors in fixing the city image in people’s memories. According to Kyle and Chick (2007) the meanings tied to place were ground in memory, experience and social relations (Figure 3).

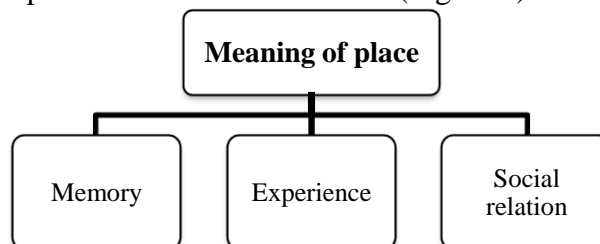


Figure 3: Kyle and Chick's point of view about meaning of place (Author)



Overview of definitions shows that sense of place is resulted of human communication with the environment, environmental perception, activates, social relation with others, and emotion about this place. In this review paper important finding was that environmental control and emotional bonding are the sense of place subset because people who feel belonging import the sense of control or territoriality. In addition physical characteristics of places with influence to activities and social reaction, place enrichment meanings and concepts effect to people`s sense of place. Neighborhood center with special physical characters for perception needs to social-cultural context.

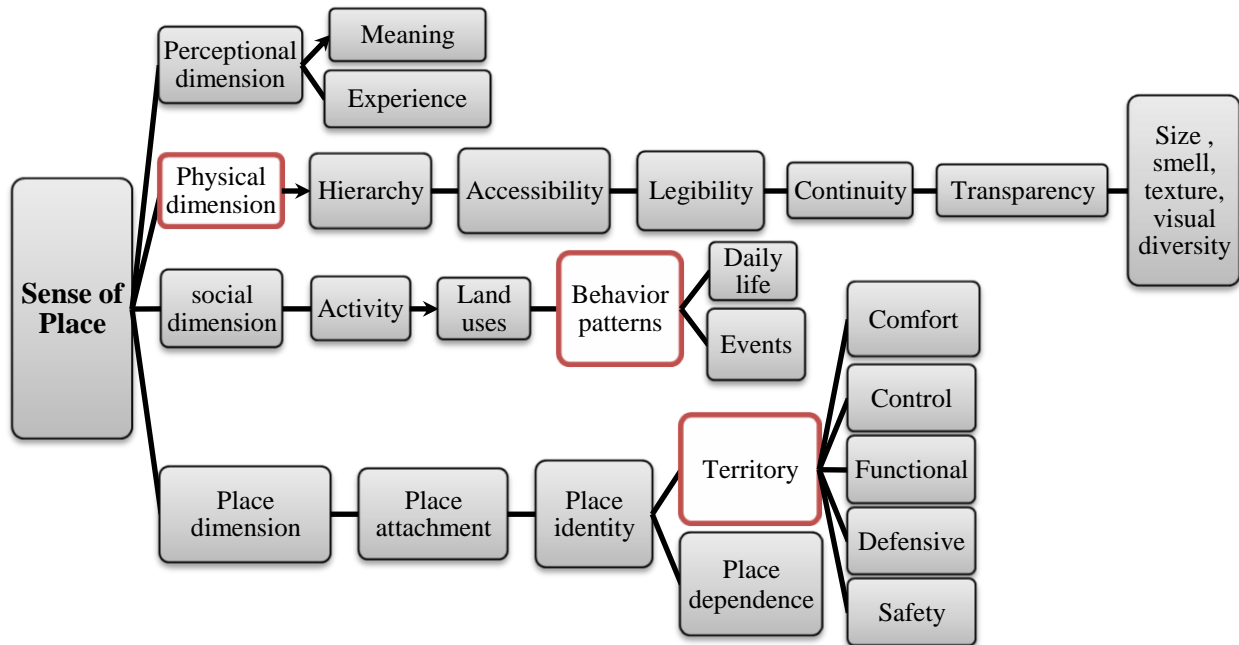


Figure 4: Affective components of sense of place in behavioural setting (Author)

Finally, for determine the factors' connection that mentioned the following model is suggested (Figure 4). This model for understanding more sense to place agents recommended that provided series of integrated communications between place, environment and human. It moreover, consists four sections with its subset including dimensions of place, perception, social, and physical. Analysis of each of these sections shows that relations among sub-criteria and the importance of these sub-criteria compared to other criteria grouped and the non-group. Their measurement is impossible without communication with each other. Briefly, this figure provided series of integrated communications between place, environment and human that they are important factors to fulfilment of this evaluation.

## DISCUSSION

Aforementioned investigation has clarified that for sense of place measurement, it is necessary to notice four dimensions in a sense of place groups (perception, place, behavioural, and physical group). Although a socio-cultural background, social behaviour in place and sense of territory is important factors to fulfilment of this evaluation and achieve to sustainable cities. Feeling of Neighborhood territory will exacerbate dependence to it and long life in that has a positive impact to this dependence and territory.

The public spaces of the local neighborhoods, therefore, become one of their means of identification and distinctiveness. The role of public space appears to be helping to establish the distinctive identity of the place and create the conditions in which the dwellings can develop their relationships.

In this paper, discussion considers distinguishing the role of sense of place and dependence to feel safety, control, and territory as ways to explore the belonging of community in everyday life. The role of public space appears to be helping to establish the sense of place and create the conditions in which residents can develop their relationships. A strong relationship between territory and place dependence has been reported as a component of sense of place. This paper was a review about different view of sense of place through scholars and researches. Knowledge to environmental psychology will help urban planning and architecture to create an appropriate place to people who improves the dependence and identity in urban spaces.

## **CONCLUSION**

The role of public space in the creation of this sense of cohesion is the most forms of neighborhood design that hoping to be achieved. By creating lively public spaces in their centers, designers hope to put in place the necessary framework for sociability (Madanipour, 2003). The role of public space appears to be help as to establish the distinctive identity of the place and create the conditions in which residents can develop their relationships.

People should feel that some part of the environment belongs to them, individually and collectively, some part for which they care and are responsible, whether they own it or not. At the urban level, the environment should be such that it encourages people to express themselves and to become involved. Only when understanding our place, we may be able to participate creatively and contribute to its history.

This paper argues that neighborhood center act as sphere of influence home because of its hierarchy and being in semi private or semi public territory. It could be a behavioural setting which will appear the specific behaviour of its residents. Territorial behaviour in urban place happens through architectural details, which make specific perception of human.

That is the best instrument to have territory, social relation, and sense of place in our cities. Hence promotion of some form of togetherness can be seen through various definitions of public space. The objective of this work would assist to find a best way to evaluate conditions for belonging of community in everyday life, especially for nowadays cities that should respect social needs, cultural values, place attachment, and place dependence. In this way, we draw a figure 4 as a guideline to achieve a way to recreating identity in public areas, positive urban spaces, and relationship between space and society through public spaces.

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Hero Farkisch, Vahid Ahmadi, Dr. Adi Irfan, Ar. Mastor Surat, & Prof. M. Fauzi M. Zain  
National University of Malaysia (UKM),  
Selangor, Malaysia  
Email: farkisch@eng.ukm.my