Original Contribution

THE IMPORTANCE OF CITY IMAGE ELEMENTS THROUGH RECOGNAZING AND INTRODUCING OF CITIES: EDİRNE EXAMPLE

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ABSTRACT

The relationship between people and their environment is eventuated by perception. People living in cities, recognize and adopt the city by percepting it. Perception occurs by retention of important or attractive elements, and it causes an image related to the environment or to the city. City image takes place in people's mind with the image elements of that city and it differs according to people thus it is a term that is considered generally. Cities are mostly percept visually and they are known and remembered with the impressions of its image elements on people.

In this study the city image elements are examined in the sample of Edirne city and the importance of these elements are emphasized in order to recognize, remember and introduce the cities. It is thought that this study may become a data for obtaining sustainability of city images for the cities that are in development period.

Key Words: city image elements, development period

INTRODUCTION

People recognize and adopt the city they live in by perception. Perception causes and shapes image with the way people keep attractive or important elements in their minds Image depends on perception, so it differs from person to person. The city image of people living in a city is composed by generalization and a set of image elements. So here, these image elements have a specific importance. The cities percepted visually are known and remembered by the impressions of image elements over people.

City Image and Its Elements

Every component of city has a role in city

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image. City image is a sensual and spiritual remain of city life over people. People can shape their environment in definable and visible way. Percepting city experience over and over in symbolic way and giving a new form to the city by using this experience is called "the city image" (Gölhan, 1997).

Lynch commentates the city structure as a part of city image while he describes the elements of city structure and determines morphological elements through image concept. According to this, he examines the city structure with five components; regions, borders, paths, vital points and landmarks.

Regions: Being the greatest component of the city, regions include all city characteristics and other city structural elements. Regions differ and become clear from the other parts of the city and settlements with their characteristics such as extent, pattern, material, building and elements and with these characteristics they can be recognized and distinguished easily.

Borders: Borders have visual effects between

areas. They separate regions in a sharp way and provide relation between them neither damaging visual relation nor being distinctive barriers. Borders can be classified in two kinds as natural and artificial borders (Kıyak, 1997).

Paths: Paths are streets, transit ways, pedestrian roads or railways where observers can move through. According to Kıyak (1997) paths are linear city gaps which connect buildings and other structures. People observe and perceive the city while moving through these paths and this interaction plays a role in city image.

Vital points: These are the places where the paths, junctions and some features become dense including observers. Vital points may become a symbol of a region because of being dense activity center and using a specific physical character.

Landmarks: Landmarks are physical elements which attract attention with their characteristics such as scale, pattern, form and material. They become a qualified image and reference element with functional and symbolical properties, size, and contrast form

and construction period. They can be seen from several region of the city. The number of landmarks depends on the description ability of the observer.

Case Study: Edirne

Edirne has been a witness to several civilizations and different socio-cultured societies, as settlement center from the ancient times. The first settlement pattern was dated to A.C.2nd century; surrounded by city walls as a Roman military encampment and grid planned. Later on, the city was dominated by Byzantium and existed inside the castle. The settlement areas out of the castle developed with Ottoman domination and shaped in organic form (Sirel, Çakır, 2005). It continued to develop up today including new regions with regulations of Turkish Republic after 1923. It is aimed to make a consideration of today's Edirne, related to Lynch's acceptation for image elements in this study (Map 1).
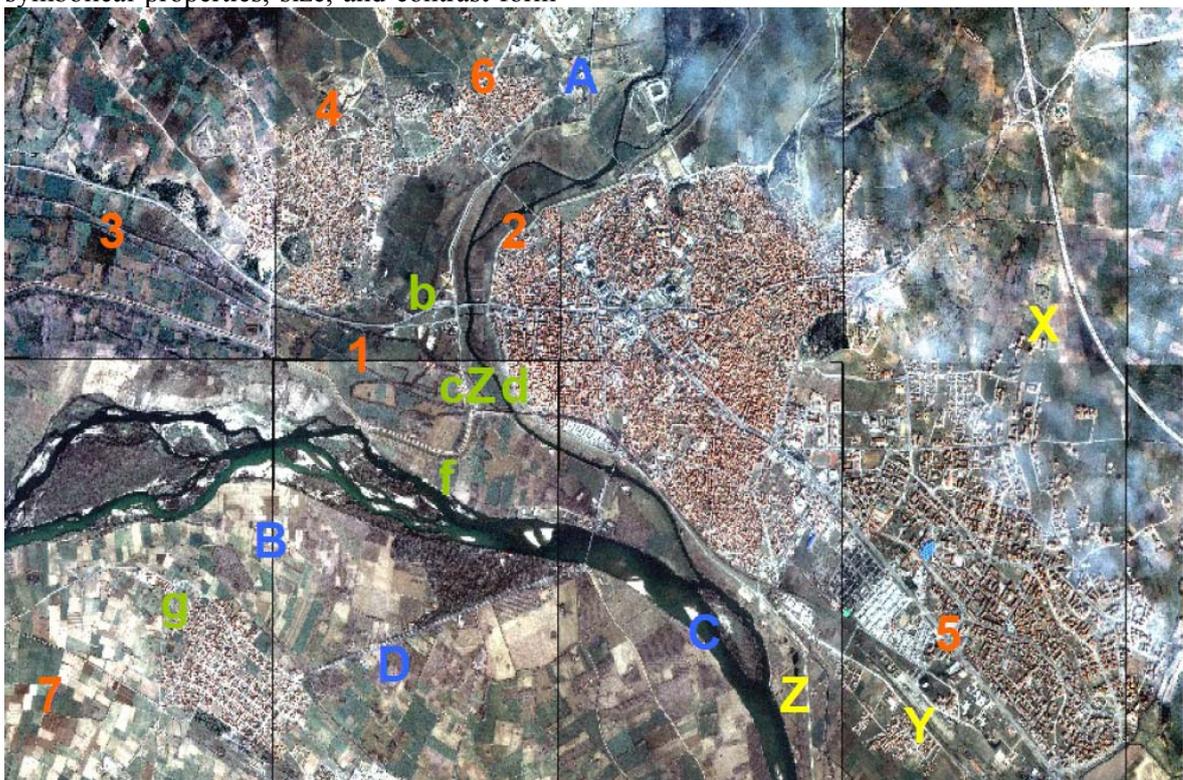
Map 1. *City Image Elements in Edirne*

Regions	Borders	Paths	Vital Points
1. Kaleiçi	A. Tunca River	X. Tem (E-80)	a. Atatürk Statue
2. Kale Dışı	B. Meriç River	Y. E-5 (D-100)	b. Hürriyet Square
3. Yeni İmaret	C. Seawalls	Z. Railway	c. Saraçlar Streer
4. Yıldırım	D. Green		d. Eski İstanbul Street
5. New Settlement			e. Balıkpazarı Street
6. Sarayiçi			f. Social Facility Areas
7. Karaağaç			g. Recreational Areas

Regions: The city has are several regions in terms of image. Kaleiçi region the first and historical center of Edirne exists at the south-west part of the city and between Talatpaşa road, Saraçlar Street and Tunca River. It has a grid-plan system while the outer side of the castle has an organic plan system. Outside of the castle, there exists Muradiye district, the first Ottoman settlement of Edirne, Karanfiloğlu district behind Selimiye Mosque, Kıyık district at the north and Ayşekadın district at the south. The other regions are Yıldırım and Yeni İmaret districts which also belong to Ottoman period. In these districts, agricultural houses and large parcels exist. According to house necessity new regions began to shape nearby E-5 road shaft, different from traditional pattern as multi storied houses. This region is still developing. Another region is Sarayiçi; it is a cultural place where remains of Edirne castle exist and traditional wrestling games are held on. The last region is Karaağaç, one of 24 districts of Edirne and 5 km away. Karaağaç has a grid plan system too and planned regularly in Ottoman time.

Borders: Tunca and Meriç Rivers are the specific border elements and they surround the city. The seawalls avoiding overflows of these rivers can also be considered as border. Especially Kazanova and Kirişhane seawalls separate two regions sharply. The green pattern around the rivers in Karaağaç region is the other important border of Edirne.

Paths: Paths are not the dominant elements of city image in Edirne. They generally orientate people, and avoid the feeling of being lost. There is a hierarchy between paths. We can determine E-80 (TEM) highway that connects different cities as the first grade path. The second grade path is E-5 (D-100) road accesses through historical center. The third grade paths are the main roads in the city and they give access to E-5 road. The fourth grade paths can be considered as the all streets of the city. A railway connecting to Europe can also be mentioned.

Vital Points: Vital points of Edirne are mainly consist of paths, junctions, squares and historically important places. Especially the square surrounded by Eski Mosque, Selimiye Mosque, Üç Şerefeli Mosque and Bedesten Bazaar, is a dense circulation space in city life. Hürriyet Square between Alipaşa Bazaar and Macedonian Tower; Saraçlar Street, Eski İstanbul Street, Balıkpazarı Street, recreational areas between two rivers and social facilities are the most important vital points of Edirne.

Landmarks: Selimiye Mosque is the most important and attractive landmark in Edirne while considering the city image. It can be seen from every region of the city. We can also determine the other landmarks as following:

Ayşekadın District;

1. **Ayşekadın Mosque**

2. **Ekmekçioğlu Ahmet Paşa Caravansaray**

3. **Kadı Bedrettin Mosque**

4. **Eski İstanbul Street**

5. **Buçuktepe (Hill)**

6. **Şükrüpaşa Statue**

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Sarayiçi Region;

1. **Adalet Tower**

2. **Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge**

3. **Balkan Cemetery**

4. **Kırkpınar Square**

Kaleiçi Region;

1. **Synagogue**
2. **Italian Church**
3. **Maarif Water Tower**

Yıldırım Region;

1. **Yıldırım Beyazıt Mosque**

2. **Yıldırım Beyazıt Bridge**

3. **Hıdırbaba Hill**

Karaağaç Region;

1. **Rectoship Building**
2. **Lozan Statue**
3. **Tunca Bridge**
4. **Cafe**
5. **Meriç Bridge**

City Center;

1. Selimiye Mosque
2. Architect Sinan Statue
3. Üç Şerefeli Mosque
4. Karanfiloğlu Street
5. Muradiye Mosque
6. Sokollu Bath
7. Taşhan (Inn)
8. Deveci Inn
9. Eski Mosque
10. Bedesten Bazaar
11. Rüstempaşa Caravansaray
12. Municipality Building
13. Division Building
14. Macedonian Tower
15. Saraçlar Street
16. Çilingirler Street
17. Alipaşa Bazaar
18. Atatürk Statue
19. Post Office
20. Darül Eytam Bazaar
21. Balıkpazarı Street

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Yeni İmaret Region;

1. II. Beyazıt Complex
2. Bademlik Water Tower

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CONCLUSION

Through the city image analysis in Edirne city center and around which are historical and in protected area, it is determined once more that, Edirne has several important historical buildings and regions to be conserved. These values are our cultural heritage and they must be considered as a redirector for developing and growing of the city. Restoration, conservation and renovation are important while dealing with building scale, at the same time sustainability of city identity has vital importance while dealing with the entire city. Although Edirne is growing away from the city center, these values must be kept visual and accessible in order to protect the perception and clarity of city. For example today, the visual perception of Selimiye Mosque from the city entrance is not clear as it was before.

All cities are a structural compose. It is both necessary to decompose them into their elements and to analyze the relationships between these elements while combining them together. Thereby the city will be sustainable and perceptible. Rising the notice to the symbolic values of cities has importance in order to consider and protect them for sustainable development of cities. Edirne, as one of these historical and valuable cities, needs to be considered in these ways and pass on its cultural heritage over the next generations.

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