



Recognition of Main Elements of Cityscape (Image of City) Through Kevin Lynch's Approach: Pool of Lahijan City as a Case Study of Urban Landmark

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Abstract. Path, edge, node, district and landmark are the basic elements developed by Kevin Lynch in his approach. These basic elements contribute to description and introduction of the factors establishing the structure of cityscape and developing a new approach to considering one's surrounding together with coherently identifying it. At first, in order to make changes, Lynch shifted attention from two dimensional phenomena to third ones and tried to investigate and analyze the existing landmarks in order to promote legibility. Here, having recognized Lynch's approach, we will consider its importance while also regarding the critiques against it. Therefore, we intend to answer the question whether these five elements could suffice to build cityscape or not. A descriptive analytical research method is used with field studies. To do so, the library sources and related journals have been used as information sources. Here, the research is intended to identify the main elements of cityscape and their effects on legibility creation. The results indicated that with observing urban landscape, the quality of civilians' mental maps will be boosted while also contributing to urban economic growth. Finally, the pool at Lahijan city will be considered as a case of urban landmark.

Keywords: Cityscape, Kevin Lynch, mental map, legibility, desirability

1. INTRODUCTION

The environment includes not only such terrains as trees, hills and plains, but it also involves the terrains made by the human beings which are known as man-made environment (Mozayeni, 2010). One of the scholars who significantly considered the issue and carried out many investigations on cityscape and environmental planning is Kevin Lynch. He studied urban planning at Massachusetts institute of technology (MIT) on various fields. He studied architecture under Frank Lloyd Wright. Next, he continued his studies on psychology and anthropology through which he managed to develop a new method on Leader city (Choay, 2005). Understanding environment and having a comprehensive perspective on it requires establishment of new principles developed by Lynch in his book "image of city".

Probably, the book plays the same role played by studies of Vitruvius and Viollet-Le-Duc in definition of architecture principles (Mozayeni, 2010).

Lack of knowledge on environment contributes to disorientation. This leads to reduced level of wellbeing and attachment to environment. The current research intends to identify the elements which help us to understand cityscape. Also, it aims to show us how cityscape could be made as having these factors.

Due to its historical and geographical features, Lahijan city is one of the important cities in Gilan province. Also, with its urban Land mark (pool), the city is a good case for generalizing Kevin

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lynch's approach. The principles and constructing factors considered by Lynch have been used in this research to group the existing elements.

1.1. Importance of the subject

Today, big cities across the world compete on attracting innovative human capital and forces, new investigations hawed that, in the competition, urban design has been regarded as an effective device (Golkar, 2006). Public places like streets, squares and nodes are given valuable positions in urban planning design in the modern world.

Reduction of quality indices in urban public places is one of the problems many cities face today. Since the urban spaces represent higher levels of location of urban life and civilians' participation, mutual effects of reduced quality of urban space on reduced level of urban life quality and its aspects could be clearly outlined.

The current research is important because identifying in factors influencing on space can be effective in analyzing current situation, future decisions in order to promote quality of urban public spaces and to avoid repeating failures in building urban spaces and places. In addition, Lahijan city could be considered as a case study of urban landmark exemplified for other cities.

1.2. Important questions

The research aims to answer the following questions:

- Do the major elements of cityscape, as Lynch defined, suffice for urban design and reaching a desirable cityscape?
- What are the advantages and effects of observing factors of urban landscape?
- Does a desirable cityscape influence on capital attraction and economy of city?

1.3. Objectives

- Identification of major elements of cityscape within Kevin Lynch's approach
- Consideration of importance and values of Lynch's approach in city.
- Relationship between cityscape urban economic growths.
- Case study for better understanding through Lynch's approach city.

1.4. Research method

The current research has been formulated by a descriptive- analytical method based on library sources and related journals. First, Lynch's approach was explored by using the existing books and documents.

Next, the importance and position of his approach was studied by analyzing and evaluating the respective articles.

Finally, the Factors related his approach was studied by using Field studies and SWOT table. Lahijan city was evaluated as a case study.

2. THEOROTICAL BASICS AND RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Psychology is of no more than five or six decades of age. The researchers managed to reach variable results on environmental design and its effects on human behavior.

The human being is a product of environment, biology and their interaction. Various physical factors including noise, weather, enclosed spaces permanently influence on human beings. The

human being makes more changes to the environment as compared to other beings. Also, he or she can make his or her surrounding more convenient by using such principles of designing including aesthetics, engineering and matching with environmental needs (Namazian, 2003).

The city is a big home for living in. As a home should be clean and beautiful to reside and live, a city should also be convenient with friendly and enjoyable places (Mozayeni, 2010). Kevin Lynch is one of the first individuals who studied urban planning and concept of city. Lynch could be regarded as one of the scholars leading using meaning of city in his approach.

2.1. Conceptualization on city in Lynch's approach

Lynch provided basic participation on urban planning based on experimental research about how orientation and personal perception of space could be offered.

His books seek presence of time and history in urban setting. The manner urban setting can influence on children and how the human beings perceive the physical structure of the cities and regions have been used as the basis of perception for good urban design. Lynch published seven books during his lifetime. His most well-known work, "image of city" (1980), represents his five years contributions together with introducing the important elements in general structure of city.

The main theme of this book is the concentration it attaches to the environment made by the human being. And the paths passed by in order to sublime and improve it are retold. Not only he defines the Factors, but he also provides the ways by which a city's image could be made. The book concentrates on image, of the city and its impotence. One of the main themes of the book is that what could be seen, could be memorized can make us happy. Creating a new form and image for a city is considered as a new and special subject in urban planning.

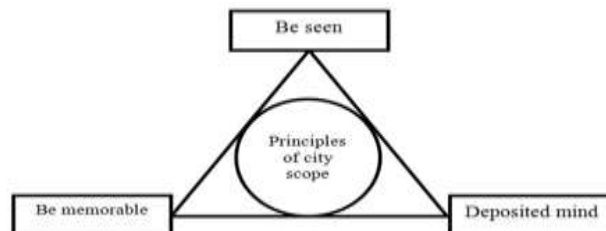


Figure 1. Principles of city scope in Lynch's approach.

One of the immolations provided by Lynch is "place Legibility" which the civilians perceive general from of the city.

A cording to this idea, Lynch was able to separate a city's perceived features. Also, he found what could make the civilians happy and alive. First, the civilians make a mental map in order to perceive general shape of the city. The mental maps represent what a city contains and it is shaped based on personal imaginations of the civilians. These representations determine the Factors influencing on mental perception of city scope.

2.2. Main Factors of cityscape

The cityscape could be viewed as based on five factors including path, edge, district, node and landmark. The path is a Factor by which a potential act is performed. The paths include streets, pedestrians, channels, railways, etc. Lynch believed that other elements are either dependent on it or organized within it. Edge is a linear Factor which is different from path as viewed by an observer. The edges include coasts, edge of construction, walls and borders of environment. The

districts are parts of a city which are in medium or large size. They have to have two dimensions so that they could be seen by the observer. Also, they should have common parts. The nodes are sensitive points in city which the observer can enter into it. The node is the center of concentration in a general pattern like, junction, aquaria. The Landmark is a Factor for indemnifying different parts of a city. The difference is that the observer cannot enter into it. Usually, element with certain appearance like buildings, Land marks, mountains and etc.

The relative power and richness of these five spatial elements give excellent consistency and attributes to the city. In spite of deficiency and distractions, the cities with strong and powerful elements might be attractive places to live in. (Hagget, 2000) the five elements mentioned above should only be regarded as experimental Factors. These Factors can help the urban designer, to some extents. That they could be used as units in city structure. With dominance on features of these Factors. He or she can design a set with serial elements which could be understood together with beside other elements. If he or she is to design ten landmarks should have images differing from the landmark image at the heart of the city.

Lynch concluded that creating setting with clear legibility or clarity of urban landscape. Should be significantly regarded. Therefore, the cities with having these five elements as clear objects provided more visual line, Feeling secure and concentration of human experiences (Madanipour, 2005).

Lynch spent his energy on spatial performance of the five elements. In consequence he provide us with an imperfect perception of residence (Yarahmadi, 1999). Other investigations (Golege, 1978) showed that the individuals recognize locations at First, relationship. Between them, next (Madanipour, 2005).

In conclusion, the concept of residence is one of the issues not perfectly considered in Lynch's approach.

Lynch discussed on defects in his investigations. He noted that "we derived a static mental image, moment ego while development and evolution not being embedded" (Lynch, 2002). Also, Lynch didn't comprehensibly regarded the differences of observers.

In Fact, the individuals who live in neighborhood provide their life limits as separate social network products while not offering various clear perception (Yarahmadi, 1999). One of other criticism against "image of the city" was its small sample size. Also, the Field and book interview techniques were not sufficiently necessary for deriving mental images.

These are clear criticisms on Lynch which have been abridged regarded in this research.

Doctor Mohammad Saleh Shokouhi, a researcher of urban planning, criticized comprehensively on these criticisms. It is recommended to study them in other to perfectly understand them.

3. IMPORTANCE AND VALUES OF LYNCH'S APPROACH ON CITY

As a good and valuable environment is not just limited to performance relationship, the most successful cities, in terms of economic relationship, might be disgusting. What makes life and give livelihood to environment should have qualities which Lynch considered. Lynch identified these qualities and defined them in an organized manner (Lynch, 2011). The new generation is entangled with a design and building for which it didn't intervene. The Facilities and equipment don't suffice and don't possess desirable quality. The public and private arenas of living- as Chermayov and Alexander contended were not separated and none of them didn't get their own privacy and respect (Mozayeni, 2010).

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The cities with desirable landscape provide Facilities for promoting mental image by extending their experiences on aesthetics and with subliming urban mental image at national and international levels so that the city's competitiveness could be boosted for attracting more capital and creativity.

The management of urban planning and architecture reputed the investigations on definitions and indices related to quality of environment in terms of physical structure.

In fact, urban space is comprised of three intertwined aspects including performance, structure and perception. Therefore, five criteria might be introduced for measuring quality of environment:

- Having appropriate structure and form
- Variety of Functions and performances
- Livelihood and attraction in space
- Having identity and uniqueness
- Visual Fitness and sensual richness

These criteria will be considered within the Following proposed case. Each of the qualities will be evaluated using SWOT table.

4. CASE STUDY: GENERALIZING LYNCH'S APPROACH ON LAHIJAN CITY

Today, the public places are give valuable position in urban planning and design this is influenced by the spaces on social and cultural aspects of cities and, in consequence, production of social capital. Due to their unique nature, the squares are considered as the most influential spaces on a city's physical and spatial structure and reproducing meaning of public place. The public places satisfy the civilian's needs in terms of establishment of social relationship and creation of face to face relationship in society and physical structure of city. The squares play a significant role in shaping mental image and giving subjective meaning to city and, in practice, represent city's appearance. Therefore, evaluation of experience and perception of this space can be developed as one of the most important criteria for measuring achieving of objectives and evaluation of success or Failure. Generally speaking, the squares have open spaces and they are applied in terms of social communication and interaction. Therefore, creating desirable spaces for all social groups is part of tasks of urban management in urban planning.

As mentioned above, Lahijan is one of the cities having Influential Square. This square was burl around a pool which could be viewed as an effective case of urban management. First, a short description of Lahijan's historical and geographical location will be given. Then, the Factors influencing on this case will be analyzed.

1.4. Geographical location of Lahijan

Lahijan city is located 40 km far a way from the central city (Rasht) of Gilan province. In terms of geography, and historical features, it is one of the important cities of the province. It was the central city of Bieh pish distract dor long time. It is a region limited to Caspian sea From North, Langrond city from East, Deylaman city from south.

Siakal city from south western and Astaneh Ashrafieh city from west.

It is located at 50 and 0' eastern and 37 and 11' or tern Latitudes. This county accounts for almost 4 percents of area of Gilan province and 0/35 percents of the area of Iran.

The city is geographically located beside mountains with ever green tea bushes in organized order. The weather is humid and temperate with cold in mountains.



Figure 2. Geographical location of Gilan province in Iran.



Figure 3. Location of Lahijan city in Gilan province.

2.4. History of development of Lahijan city and its pool

As the his farcical evidence shows, Lahijan is one of Iranian ancient cities, According to narrations, the city was built by Lahijan Ben Sam Ben Noa. Lahijan was known as Darolerrareh and then was renamed as Lahijan olmobarak. Now, it is called Lahijan.

Lahijan is a big region which was home of the original Iranian tribes more than three years ago. County of Lahijan was the central city of government of Biehpish which covered an area from sefidroud to chalous.

Before 1966, an area covering Astaneh Ashrafieh to chaboksar was under its observatory area. It was governed by a governor. Before the Islamic revolution, Roudsar and Langroud districts tarred into independent counties. After the Islamic Revolution, such districts as Astaneh Ashrafieh and siahkal turned into independent counties. Before Islamic Revolution, it was considered as general governor's area like cities including Ilam, semnan, and Hamedan. However, Lahijan was omitted from the list of general governor's area. Ilam, semnan and Hamedan were promoted to province position after the Revolution, but Lahijan remained as county.

The general governor's areas were omitted after the Revolution. Also, Lahijan's Higher School of Management was put off.

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Figure 4. Location of pool against Lahijan's location.

3.4. History of the pool

It is well known that the pool was built as king Abbas ordered. Mckenzie an English Persian speaking researcher described it in his log. He determined its length with 700 paces and its wideness with 200 paces. An island known as “main poshteh” is located at its center and as “Global history of Abbasi” has written, King Abbas Safavid built a big palace there in order to reside in his leisure times.

But, thing remained of the building (Adib Abbasi, 2003).

4.4. Evaluation and analysis of Lahijan's pool with respect to Lynch'd Factors

As the studies indicated, we obtained criteria for measuring quality of environment we have used SWOT table to study them so that we can compare appropriateness of our case study with factors of quality. The criteria include:

- good structure and form
- variety of function and performance
- attractiveness of space
- uniqueness
- visual fitness
- accessibilities
- neighboring
- distance to center of city


At eastern part of Lahijan, there is a pool full of water with a wide area of more than 17 acres and deepness of almost 4 meters with a series of boulevard and grass works. Today the pool is recognized as the symbol of tourism industry in Lahijan.

As Lynch defined landmark in his approach, the landmarks are factors for recognizing different parts of a city. They are usually objects with certain approach; the landmarks are factors for recognizing different parts of a city.

They are usually objects with certain appended (Lynch, 2010). Lahijan's pool is an index space with respect to its area with the total area of the city. Its appropriate form and structure are its strengths. This space plays the role of a square. Also, good recreational services are provided near the pool. Given the fact that the pool is close to a green peak with a waterfall within it, the pool with full of water and the green mountain provided an attractive view for the viewers. This

attraction in space is one of other quality features of the environment which is clearly represented in the city.

Table 1. Evaluation and analysis of Lahijan’s pool.

Images	Factors	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
	good structure and form	–			
	variety of function and performance		–		
	attractiveness of space	–			
	uniqueness	–			
	visual fitness	–			
	accessibilities			–	
	neighboring			–	
	distance to center of city				–

The characteristics of landmark should be in a manner that could be seen among other factors. This feature is seen in this case study because of the open space with an area of 17 km which is attractive. One of the other good opportunities of this landmark is its good accessibilities. As Lynch contended, a landmark should be in a manner it could be used in all aspects. This Feature is seen in this square due to openness of all of its directions.

A landmark should guide the people of the city. One weakness of, This Landmark is its distance to city center. In fact, a civilian in Lahijan may not observe this urban landmark in their daily life. This is because of the fact that the pool is located at recreation district of the city. It will make memorable times for the tourists who visit the landmark.

One of the functions of Landmark provided by Lynch is that a landmark should be a unique factor and create memory. It might be understood that pool of Lahijan city is a recreational landmark. The civilians use it as a place for gathering, walking in the miming and a gathering for hiking because it is close to the neighboring mountains and other facts due to climatic conditions and natural landscape which create memorable times.

5- CONCLUSION

The importance of landmark and identifying it is to the extent that some of the western theorists think the real thinking is possible under the shadow of landmarks (Zamiran, 2004). This manner of thinking turned landmark into an influential and important factor among the observes which leads to clear and quick understanding of the meanings and turning them into legible imaginations.

Today, uniqueness makes the economy grows and helps attracting active forces. As the research indicated, the modern developing cities compact more on attracting creative forces and capital. This means that urban design and landscape play a significant role in this case.

The results of this research showed the importance and position of urban landscape which needs to be regarded in all cities so that cityscape could be shaped, in an appropriate manner. Lynch’s

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approach can help us reach a desirable cityscape. Here, the current research was intended to identify the main elements of cityscape and the manner they are applied in urban landscape.

However, the current research has limited opportunity to cover all of the influential factors in urban landscape. Therefore, another opportunity is demanded to go further to explore more.

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