Architecture and Language Heritage: Beirut, the Cradle of Culture of the Middle East

Mimarlık ve Dil Mirası: Ortadoğu'nun Kültür Beşiği Beyrut

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ABSTRACT

People strive to maintain their lives and existence and live together with other people. This way of living together creates the concept of society. Society, on the other hand, contributed to the emergence of a concept such as culture. It is deeply related to the concepts of culture, language and space. In places where social dynamics are dominant, both language and place have become a part of cultural richness. Architecture is also a field that affects the formation of culture through the concept of space. Beirut is the capital of Lebanon and a multicultural city where many languages are spoken. Blending the culture of the Middle East and the Mediterranean, Beirut reflects the most concrete examples of intercultural transition with its nearly 5000-year-old history and later established modern and cosmopolitan structures. Traces of a city's language and culture can be understood through the architecture of that city. Beirut's architectural heritage can also have an impact on the language; because architecture provides clues to the society about the history, cultural values and identity of a society. Beirut's different architectural styles, historical structures and modern buildings reflect the city's history and cultural identity, also creating an impact on the language. Architecture and language help preserve and transmit a society's history, traditions and beliefs to future generations and play a key role in the formation of cultural identity. From this point of view, the study reveals this cultural influence of the city of Beirut and the reflections of this influence.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Architecture, Beirut, City, Culture, Language.

ÖZ

İnsanlar hayatlarını ve varlıklarını sürdürmek, diğer insanlarla birlikte yaşamak için çaba gösterirler. Bu birlikte yaşama biçimi toplum kavramını yaratır. Toplum ise kültür gibi bir kavramın ortaya çıkmasına katkıda bulunmuştur. Kültür, dil ve mekân kavramlarıyla derinden ilişkilidir. Toplumsal dinamiklerin hâkim olduğu yerlerde hem dil hem de mekân kültürel zenginliğin bir parçası haline gelmiştir. Mimarlık aynı zamanda mekân kavramı üzerinden kültürün oluşumuna da etki eden bir alandır. Beyrut, Lübnan'ın başkenti ve birçok dilin konuşulduğu çok kültürlü bir şehirdir. Ortadoğu ve Akdeniz kültürünü harmanlayan Beyrut, 5000 yıla yaklaşan tarihi ve sonrasında kurulan modern ve kozmopolit yapılarıyla kültürlerarası geçişin en somut örneklerini yansıtıyor. Bir şehrin dilinin ve kültürünün izleri o şehrin mimarisinden anlaşılabilir. Beyrut'un mimari mirasının da dil üzerinde etkisi olabilir; çünkü mimarlık, bir toplumun tarihine, kültürel değerlerine ve kimliğine dair topluma ipuçları verir. Beyrut'un farklı mimari tarzları, tarihi yapıları ve modern binaları şehrin tarihini ve kültürel kimliğini yansıtırken, dilde de etki yaratıyor. Mimarlık ve dil, bir toplumun tarihini, geleneklerini ve inançlarını koruyarak gelecek nesillere aktarmaya yardımcı olur ve kültürel kimliğin oluşmasında kilit rol oynar. Buradan hareketle çalışma Beyrut şehrinin bu kültürel etkisini ve bu etkinin yansımalarını ortaya koymaktadır.

Keywords: Beyrut, Dil, Kent, Kültür, Mimarlık.

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INTRODUCTION:

Beirut is one of the important port cities of the Eastern Mediterranean. There is trade, transportation, cultural and financial centers in the region. Its people consist of various sectarian groups and Arabic, French and English are among the most spoken languages.

The history of Beirut dates back to B.C. It dates back to 2000. During the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods, the name of the city was used as Berytos or Berytus (Jidejian, p. 20-28). Beirut name; It has survived to the present day as "be'erot" or "beroe" in the Canaanite languages of the Semitic language family. The word means "source" in Semitic languages (Darkot, 1979, p. 587). The city has a multinational, multi-religious and cosmopolitan identity as a product of the migrations it has received throughout history and the different states it has hosted (Çelik, 2010; Orha, 2017; Beyazıdoğlu, 2010).

Beirut, which has hosted many states in history, came under Ottoman protection as a result of Yavuz Sultan Selim's Egyptian expedition in 1516 (Ivanov, 2013, p. 33). In this way, these lands remained under Ottoman rule for 400 years. Beirut, which was not an independent province in previous years, continued its existence sometimes under the province of Sidon and sometimes under the province of Damascus. It became an independent state in the late 19th century. Beirut, which was almost a village at the beginning of the century, became one of the leading port cities of the empire by the end of the century, standing out among the coastal cities competing with each other to become the trade port of the region (Masters, 2017, p. 176).

Kavalalı Mehmet Pasha, who was the governor of Egypt between 1831 and 1841, took Beirut under his control. Ibrahim Pasha, who was at war with the Ottoman Empire, did his best to recapture the city; That's why the city was devastated. Due to these conflicts of interest, Beirut has gone through a chaotic period. Many people were massacred, especially in the Druze-Maronite conflicts (Gökbilgin, 1946, pp. 641-691).

Described as the Paris of the Middle East, Beirut has great historical and cultural importance. The city has a history of thousands of years; It has hosted many civilizations. We can classify some points that emphasize the historical and cultural importance of Beirut as follows:

♦ Historical Richness: Beirut has been an important Mediterranean port from ancient times to the present day. Many civilizations such as the Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders and Ottomans have ruled in Beirut. This makes the city rich in history.

♦ Cultural Diversity: Beirut has hosted different religions, languages and cultures in the past. This has turned the city into a very rich cultural mosaic. Different cultural interactions create Beirut's unique identity.

♦ Architectural heritage: There are many works from Beirut's past periods. These works date from the Ancient Roman period to the Ottoman period. These works, belonging to various styles, emphasize the historical and cultural importance of the city.

♦ Literature and Art: Beirut is one of the important centers in the fields of literature, art, cinema and music. Many famous writers, poets, musicians and artists were inspired by Beirut and produced their works here.

The cultural and historical importance of Beirut has great value not only for the society living in the city, but also for world culture. For this reason, it is very important to protect these values and transfer them to future generations.

The aim of the research is to emphasize the contributions of Beirut's history, architectural heritage and linguistic structure to cultural diversity and the interaction between these issues will be examined.

The city of Beirut has a unique identity and cultural richness. This study aims to discuss the architectural and linguistic evolution of Beirut from the past to the present and to emphasize how these feed the historical fabric of the city. In this context, it will be important to provide a more comprehensive perspective on Beirut's historical and cultural heritage, to reveal the connection of architectural and linguistic heritage with the city's identity and cultural richness, and to raise awareness for the preservation of this heritage and its transfer to future generations.

The method of the research is formed by literature research, on-site investigation and interpretation of data obtained from observation.

1. Beirut's Architectural Heritage

1.1. Architectural elements dating from ancient Roman times to the present day

We can classify the architectural elements of Beirut, dating from the Ancient Roman period to the present day, as follows:

a. Ancient Roman Ruins: Beirut was part of the ancient Roman Empire and is home to many Roman-era ruins. These include the Roman theatre, ancient columns, temples and baths. B.C. in the city of Byblos, located a short distance from Beirut city center. There is a Roman theater dating back to 2-3 thousand years.

- Roman theatre: Theater ruins from the ancient Roman period are located in Beirut.

- Ancient columns: Columns, which are features of ancient Roman architecture, can be seen in some areas of the city.

For example, the Roman bath - considered an open-air museum - is a ruin located between Bank Street and Capuchin Street in the center of Beirut (Figure 1). Another example, the Ancient City of Baalbek, where Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans lived, is located a short distance from the center of Beirut (Figure-2).

Figure-1 Berytus Bath

Figure-2 Baalbek Ancient City

b. Byzantine Period Artifacts: Beirut was also under the influence of the Byzantine Empire. Basilicas, churches and mosaics from this period enrich the historical texture of the city.

   - Churches: Beirut hosted many churches during the Byzantine period. Some of these churches are still standing and can be visited.

- Mosaics: Mosaics from the Byzantine period can be seen in some churches and archaeological sites.

c. Buildings of the Ottoman Empire: During the Ottoman period, Beirut was equipped with various architectural works. Bazaars, inns, mosques and mansions from this period bear the traces of Ottoman architecture in the city. (Figure 3-Figure 4)

- Bazaars and inns: Bazaars and inns built during the Ottoman period constitute the old trade centers of Beirut.

- Ottoman mosques: these works reflect the characteristic features of the Ottoman Empire. For this reason, it adds a different atmosphere to the texture of the city.

Figure-3 Clock Tower (Kocaer, Kocaer, 2023)

Figure- 4 Martyrs Monument (Kocaer, Kocaer, 2023)

d. Buildings of the French Mandate Period: Beirut, 20th century. It was under the French Mandate in the beginning of 1960s. Works from this period can still be seen in the city. These works bear the characteristics of European style and neoclassical architecture.

- Neoclassical buildings: these structures can be seen in the center of Beirut.

- Art-Deco buildings: These buildings show the architectural diversity of the city.

e. Modern and Post-modern Architecture: Today, Beirut also hosts modern and postmodern architecture. While new buildings, skyscrapers, shopping malls and residences shape the city's silhouette, they continue to coexist with ancient and historical buildings (Figure 5).

Figure- 5 Mineral Museum

Figure-6 Muhammed el-Emîn Mosque (Kocaer, Kocaer, 2023)

Figure-7 Modern Buildings (Kocaer, Kocaer, 2023)

Figure-8 Modern Buildings (Kocaer, Kocaer, 2023)

Beirut's historical and cultural heritage shows that the city has a rich and diverse architectural heritage with its various architectural elements from different periods. These buildings, dating back to recent times, have added a different color to the city (Figure-7, Figure-8).

These various architectural styles and structures of Beirut from different periods reflect the richness and diversity of the city's historical and cultural heritage. These structures reveal Beirut's architectural evolution and diversity from past to present.

1.2. Architectural evolution of the city and the reasons for this evolution

Beirut has appeared in different forms in terms of both architecture and language due to the political, social, cultural and economic changes experienced in various periods throughout history. We can list the reasons for this change as follows:

- Geographical Location: Beirut has a strategic location on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. This situation attracted the attention of different civilizations and affected the architecture of the city.

- Presence of Different Civilizations: Beirut has hosted many civilizations throughout its history. It has hosted and been influenced by many different cultures such as Arabs, Romans, Crusaders and Ottomans. This has led to the architectural and cultural diversity of the city.

- Political and Economic Changes: Beirut was affected by these changes. For example, the styles of the structures that emerged under the rule of the Arabs were different, and the styles of the buildings were quite different when under the rule of the Ottoman Empire.

- Modernization and Urbanization: Beirut started to enter the modernization process in the 20th century. At this stage, the silhouette of the city has changed with structures such as shopping malls and skyscrapers.

- Natural Disasters and Wars: It has been exposed to wars and natural disasters throughout history. For this reason, buildings in the city were damaged and rebuilt. Especially due to the civil war that occurred between 1975 and 1990, the architectural structure of my city has changed greatly.

Beirut's architectural evolution is an extremely important issue, not only from an aesthetic perspective, but also from a historical, cultural and socio-economic perspective. While this evolution creates the city's rich and diverse architectural heritage from past to present, it is also an important element that determines the city's identity and character.

2. Beirut's Linguistic Heritage

2.1 Diversity and origins of languages spoken in Beirut

Since Beirut is the capital and largest city of Lebanon, it has a multilingual structure where different languages and cultures coexist. The diversity and origins of the languages spoken in Beirut are as follows:

Arabic: The official language of Lebanon is Arabic, and it is also widely spoken in Beirut. Arabic is a language widely used in the Middle East and North Africa and is an important component of Arab culture. Especially the elderly population uses Arabic more. English and French are among the languages used by the young population.

French: Beirut was under French Mandate during the Ottoman Empire and felt the French influence to the fullest. Therefore, French is used as a second official language in Beirut. French also plays an important role in education, business and culture in Beirut.

English: English is also one of the widely spoken languages in Beirut. English is an important communication tool, especially in the fields of tourism, business and international relations. It has become one of the most spoken languages of the city, especially due to tourism and trade.

Armenian: Beirut is an important center for the Armenian diaspora and Armenian is one of the languages spoken in the city. Armenian plays an important role in maintaining the cultural and religious ties of the Armenian community in Beirut.

Other Languages: Apart from these languages, different languages are also spoken in Beirut. For example, people from various parts of Beirut can speak different Arabic dialects. Additionally, languages such as Turkish, German, Italian and Russian can also be heard in the city.

There are many Armenians who know and speak Turkish in the neighborhoods where Armenians live in Beirut. Even though their accents are different from Turks, we can say that they speak Turkish well. This situation is a reflection of the diversity of languages spoken in Beirut and the historical, cultural and social structure of the city. This multilingual structure adds richness to the city and encourages communication and interaction between different cultures.

2.2 Cultural effects of linguistic diversity in the city

Linguistic diversity in Beirut is an important element that enriches the cultural fabric of the city and encourages interaction between various cultures. Cultural effects of this linguistic diversity include:

Cultural Diversity: There is more than one language spoken in the city of Beirut. These languages reflect the cultural diversity of the city. Interaction between people speaking different languages increases cultural understanding and promotes tolerance.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage: The languages spoken in Beirut help preserve the knowledge and values of different cultural heritages. For example, languages such as Armenian or French help cultural communities keep their identity and heritage alive. Communities that lived in various periods left many architectural works. This paved the way for cultural diversity.

Cultural Interaction and Creativity: An environment where different languages are spoken encourages cultural interaction and increases creativity. Interaction between different languages can

contribute to the emergence of new ideas and perspectives. Interaction in Beirut often arose out of necessity. The emergence of civil wars; The rule of various states has led to this necessity.

Tourism and International Relations: The different languages spoken in Beirut play an important role in tourism and international relations. Language diversity provides a great advantage for tourists to communicate in different languages and to develop international relations. Since it is also a commercial port city, these relations have led to linguistic diversity.

Education and Job Opportunities: Speaking different languages in Beirut can increase education and job opportunities. Knowing internationally recognized languages, especially English and French, offers people a wider range of education and job opportunities. However, recent sad events have pushed this situation into the background.

Linguistic diversity in Beirut supports the cultural vitality and dynamism of the city, while strengthening social harmony by increasing understanding between different cultures. While this multilingual environment shapes the identity and character of the city, it also offers a rich cultural and social experience, especially to tourists.

2.3 The role of different languages in the linguistic structure of Beirut

The most effective and important element of gaining national identity is language. Language is a tool that shows the genetic characteristics of a culture and the codes of the society to which it belongs. Language is an important factor in the formation of national unity. Among the features that distinguish a nation from other nations, all cultural values and their transfer to the other party are important.

Language strengthens the identity of a group (Bates, 2013, p. 77). The stronger language is constantly developing and diversifying. The cultural existence of a society manifests itself through language. Language is a cultural transmitter and the most important tool that ensures its continuity (Akarsu, 1998, p. 36). Language and culture are complementary elements. Speaking and understanding more than one language in society provides cultural diversity and paves the way for establishing strong relationships with people from different cultures. Whatever is in a society is reflected in this language. The development of culture enables the development of language, and the development of language enables the development of culture. There is a mutual and functional relationship between language and culture (Güvenç, 2004, p. 48).

The role of different languages in Beirut's linguistic structure reflects the cultural diversity in the city and can facilitate communication between different communities. As we mentioned in the previous section, there is more than one language in Beirut, reflecting the multilingual and multicultural atmosphere in the city. These languages show the interactions, migration, and different cultural currents in Beirut's history.

3. Interaction Between Architecture and Language

3.1 The effects of Beirut's architectural heritage on language

Traces of a city's language and culture can be understood through the architecture of that city. No matter how much the language of the city changes and how different societies are influenced by it, as long as it is viewed from an architectural perspective, it will show the traces of that culture to the society. Because this situation is a part of the experiences.

Beirut's architectural heritage can also have an impact on the language; because architecture provides clues to the society about the history, cultural values and identity of a society. Beirut's different architectural styles, historical structures and modern buildings can also have an impact on the language, reflecting the history and cultural identity of the city. This architectural heritage plays a role in shaping the language use, forms of expression and cultural identities of people in the city.

3.2 Reflections of language on architectural structures.

The reflections of the languages used in Beirut on architectural structures can reflect the cultural and historical complexity of the city. For example, under the influence of languages such as French, the architecture and style of the French mandate can be reflected in the buildings in the city. Likewise, due to the influence of Arabic, traditional Arabic architecture can be evident in the design of some buildings. The interaction of these different languages and cultures can create the architectural diversity and character of Beirut, thus creating an image in the city where architectural styles from different periods coexist. This shows Beirut's linguistic and cultural diversity through architectural structures.

3.3 The role of architecture and language in cultural diversity.

The most effective and important element of gaining national identity is language. Language is a tool that shows the codes of a culture's genetic characteristics belonging to the society it belongs to. Language is an important factor in the formation of national unity. Among the features that distinguish a nation from other nations, all cultural values and their transfer to the other party are important.

Language strengthens the identity of a group (Bates, 2013, p. 77). The strengthened language is constantly developing and diversifying. The cultural existence of a society shows itself through language. Language is a cultural transmitter and the most important tool that ensures its continuity (Akarsu, 1998, p. 36). Language and culture are complementary elements. Speaking and understanding more than one language in a society provides cultural diversity and paves the way for establishing strong relationships with people from different cultures. Whatever is in a society is reflected in this language. The development of culture enables language, and the development of language enables the development of culture. There is a mutual and functional relationship between language and culture (Güvenç, 2004, p. 48).

The role of different languages in the linguistic structure of Beirut reflects the cultural diversity in the city and can facilitate communication between different communities. As mentioned in the previous section, there is more than one language in Beirut, which reflects the multilingual and multicultural atmosphere in the city. These languages show the interactions, migration and different cultural trends in the history of Beirut.

4. Interaction between Architecture and Language

4.1. The effects of Beirut's architectural heritage on language.

The traces of a city's language and culture are understood through the architecture of that city. No matter how much the city's language changes or how much it is influenced by different societies, it will show traces of that culture to society as long as it is viewed from an architectural perspective. Because this is a part of experiences.

Beirut's architectural heritage can also have an effect on language; because architecture provides clues to society about a society's past, cultural values and identity. Beirut's different architectural styles, historical structures and modern buildings can also have an effect on language by reflecting the city's history and cultural identity. This architectural heritage plays a role in shaping the language use, forms of expression and cultural identities of the people in the city.

4.2. Reflections of language on architectural structures.

The reflections of the languages used in Beirut on architectural structures can reflect the city's cultural and historical complexity. For example, with the influence of languages such as French, the architecture and style of the French mandate can be reflected in the buildings in the city. Similarly, with the influence of Arabic, traditional Arabic architecture can be evident in the design of some buildings. The interaction of these different languages and cultures can create the architectural diversity and character of Beirut, thus creating an image of the city where architectural styles from different periods coexist. This shows the linguistic and cultural diversity of Beirut through architectural structures.

4.3. The role of architecture and language in cultural diversity.

Jakobson (1960) describes the functions of language in creating communication and analyzing meanings; divides it into five different categories: expression, aesthetics, indicator, metalanguage and warning functions. These categories represent different aspects and purposes of the language and can be examined in terms of architecture as follows (Mendilcioğlu, 2023, p. 129).

Jakobson's communication model is used as an alternative to Umberto Eco's semiotics-based method in the analysis of architectural components by researchers who examine the relationship between architecture and culture, since architecture is a means of communication. However, it emerges as a research subject not only in architecture but also in disciplines such as art, advertising, cinema, psychology, sociology and literature (Mendilcioğlu, 2023).

Eco's efforts to make sense of architecture continued in the 1970s with Christian Norberg-Schultz's research on language system - architecture and Preziosi's research on establishing the relationship between perception and space. In his book "Logic der Baukunst", Norberg-Schultz examined architecture with the basic philosophy of the language approach, and associated architectural components with the phenomena of language and syntax. "However, such attempts were limited to the reuse of clichés and did not have the chance to create a more complex syntax" (Fischer, 2005).

Architecture and language play important roles in cultural diversity. While architecture creates structures that reflect the values, identity and history of a society, language enables people to communicate with each other and contributes to the transfer of cultural heritage. These two fields work together to preserve, promote and enrich cultural diversity. Architecture and language help preserve and transmit a society's history, traditions and beliefs to future generations and play a key role in the formation of cultural identity.

CONCLUSİON

1. The social and cultural significance of Beirut's architectural and linguistic heritage

Beirut's architectural and linguistic heritage has great social and cultural significance. Because these cultural heritages can bring people together by reflecting the social identity and history in the city. These heritages bear the traces of the past and emphasize the cultural richness of the city. Beirut's historical structures and different languages play an important role in strengthening the commitment of people in the city to their past, origins and cultural identity. In addition, this situation is important in terms of architectural and linguistic heritage tourism, therefore these elements can offer a cultural experience to those who visit the city and reveal the unique structure of the city. For these reasons, Beirut's architectural and linguistic heritage has great social and cultural importance.

The Roman bath, Baalbek ancient city, Clock tower, Martyrs' monument, Mineral museum, Muhammed-El Emin mosque and modern structures built in the new period, which are shown as architectural heritage, are also shown as examples of historical and intercultural transition. These places are the tangible cultural heritage of Beirut from past to present. Modern buildings are developing more and more, while historical buildings preserve their original state.

The languages in Beirut are classified as Arabic, French, English, Armenian and other languages. Every language carries traces of its own society. These traces contribute to cultural heritage. The most concrete example of language and culture interaction lives here. Beirut, which has hosted a deep-rooted past throughout history, reveals this in the most beautiful way.

2. The need to protect this heritage and emphasize its value in the future

Preserving Beirut's architectural and linguistic heritage and emphasizing its value is a great necessity in the future. While these legacies form the identity and character of the city, they should be passed on to future generations, carrying the traces of the past. Efforts to protect and highlight these heritages prevent damage while reminding society of the importance and value of cultural heritage. Steps such as restoration of historical buildings, preservation of language and cultural expressions, education and awareness activities ensure that Beirut's heritage is transferred to future generations and the cultural richness of the city is maintained. It is therefore important that continued efforts are made to preserve and highlight the value of Beirut's architectural and linguistic heritage.

Architectural structures and different languages reflect Beirut's history, identity and cultural background, creating the unique character of the city. Protecting these heritages and emphasizing their value reveals an important cultural heritage that should be passed on to future generations. Beirut's architectural and linguistic heritage are elements that add depth to the cultural richness of the city, and the preservation of these legacies emphasizes the importance of transferring the city's cultural diversity and history to future generations.

Compliance with Ethical Standard

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