

The Meaning of Home in Perception of Elderly

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ABSTRACT

An inclusive city is a city that protects minority groups. Inclusive is an important issue now. Elderly is one of the minority groups that need to be considered because their physical abilities are declining and have not been a concern in the completion of the design either in the city or in the smallest scope, namely the home. This research is a literature study that aims to explore the meaning of home in the perception of elderly. The conclusion of this study shows that the meaning of a home for elderly is a place to rest, maintain health conditions, activities freely and comfortably, a place to feel calm and interact with family and surrounding communities. The principles of home design for elderly include: simple space circulation, not too broad and efficient and easily understood with the support of furniture that is easy to use. In the context of architectural research this is useful in completing home designs for the elderly who have special attention in meeting the needs physical and psychological.

Keywords: *inclusive, meaning, perception, home, elderly*

1. INTRODUCTION

Habitat III New Urban Agenda 2016 states that inclusive sustainable urban development ensures people to live peacefully side by side in heterogeneity and protect minority groups including gender, children, parents, persons with disabilities, old age and community groups Based on race, religion, ethnicity and socioeconomic status [1]. This relates to the right to have the freedom to interpret his life and daily activities in his home and environment. The elderly minority group is a group that needs to be protected and cared for by the government, institutions and society itself. This is because the elderly group is a group experiencing the process of physical impairment due to both natural factors and due to disease. In Indonesia, the concern for this group has not been realized in meeting the needs of the elderly.

According to the act number 13 1998 concerning elderly welfare, mean by elderly is resident who have reached age 60 years and above. Worldwide Elderly people (ages 60+) are growing rapidly. According to WHO World Health Organization's prediction from the Central Bureau of Statistics, that the elderly population in Indonesia in 2020 will reach 11.34% or 28.8 million people, 6.9% live, which causes the largest elderly population in the world [2].

Based on the Habitat III NU Agenda 2016 statement on the protection of elderly and the increasing of the elderly population, which needs attention in its old life with the decreasing of body function so that the house is a very important and meaningful residence. Therefore, the discussion of the meaning of the house based on the perception of elderly is very important to learn. The purpose

of this study is to examine the literature related to the importance of understanding the meaning of the house through the perception of elderly.

In Arias, Studer explains that in the discourse of psychology, meaning has characteristics as it is intended to be achieved or delivered or communicated; An act or symbolic object refers or (denotatively or connotatively) that signifies conventionally or emotionally agreed, raises a person or group, affects or defines. From this statement explains that meaning can mean as a communication object to be conveyed in a denotative and connotative [3].

Roske [4] states that humans have a difference in realizing the value and needs of the house. The meaning of the home as a means to establish togetherness, as a personal identity, as a refuge, as a survival and personal expression. The house is a manifestation of personal taste that becomes an important aspect in achieving satisfaction with the home. This is clarified by Maslow in Lang [5], that in the hierarchy of human motivation in two parts: basic needs and advanced needs. Basic needs include survival needs, safety and security needs, affiliation needs, esteem needs. While included in the advanced needs is self-actualization needs, cognitive needs, aesthetic needs, and self-transcendence needs. Maslow's statement makes clear that the meaning of a house along with the level of motivation of human needs. Rapoport states the embodiment of a house is also influenced by the values applicable and understood by humans or a group of humans in a particular area [6]. The home as a form of cultural phenomenon and its setting is strongly influenced by the environmental culture in which the house is built. Homes and settlements are expressions that show the different aspects of life and the diversity of ways of a reality. Altman, explains that home is the embodiment of environmental factors, technological factors and cultural factors. Environmental factors including climate, temperature and land; Technological factors are resources and technological expertise. While cultural

factors are insight, environmental cognition and perception, privacy, religion and values, social culture and family structure [7]. The Rapoport and Altman statements assert that the house is a reflection of the cultural and resource factors of both natural resources and technology from a group of people in a particular environment.

Turner, states that homes will always evolve along with the increasing socio-economic occupants. In addition, the selection of a house is based on the consideration of the proximity of the location of the house to the location of the work and the ease of accessibilities [8]. In Turner asserted that in the procurement of a house not a one-time job but a process that goes on in the stages of home development. This stage of home development is related to the procurement process of a home that undergoes a cycle that keeps turning from (context 1 / initial state) to state (context 2 / state 2 and so on) through the process (who, what, what). Who is the owner of the house / institution, means of exchange and norms; Doing includes land, work and materials. What is a container or a house, a pattern or boundary and an infrastructure network that becomes an integral part of the settlement [9].

In this Turner concept explains that the house always experiences a continuous process based on the development or improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the inhabitants. Bourne states that the definition of a home is strongly influenced by differences in socioeconomic conditions of society. Houses as economic goods, social goods (shared goods) and the fulfillment of the needs of a large community [10]. The home meaning for Bourne is more asserted as the denotative meaning of a house

Moore states that home is important and very meaningful as a place for people of all age groups and cultures, especially for the elderly [11]. The house has several meanings and psychological values. Canter in Arias states that the meaning of a home is to determine a range that is acceptable to the user and this meaning is the embodiment of the house itself by the activities it contains. The interplay between cognitive and emotional reactions on the house, on the one hand and activities supported by socio-physical settings on the other. Interplaying this is an acceptable source of systematic analysis and home design [12]. The meaning of home grows from various things and the history of human activities that have a place for dwelling. Therefore, although the visual aspect of the house brings clues to this is to be covered with other traditions and social processes that are supported by significance for various physical forms. This is the complexity, above all, which has been drawn from the study of domestic meaning that has long been developed. There is a direct one by one relationship between certain aspects of physical form and certain meanings that are very difficult to know.

Altman, states that the house is a hindrance to human life whether it will be permanent or temporary, located in one place or moved from one place to another, owned or rented, planned community or illegal settlements. In some closed-door houses with cultural cosmology and worldviews, religious and sacred and related to other societies, relate to God and the supernatural, ancestors past and present, and to the world and the world around [13]. The quality of the home is not universal, and there is enormous variation between culture and throughout history in the form, use,

importance, and role of the home in community life. Regardless of their variation in cross-cultural, however, there cannot escape the fact that homes are among the main sources of the physical setting of human life.

Nassar, in his research on the connotative meaning of people's judgments on different styles of homes that have similarities and different meanings. Assessment of six (6) house styles including another farm house, the Tudor house, the Saltbox house, the Colonial and the Mediterranean houses, are conducted by cross-cultural and regional groups and by the architects of the aspect of desire, intimacy, and status. The adult communities of Columbia and LA have the same pattern of connotative responses that the Farm house and Tudor house is a very desirable home, while the Mediterranean house and Saltbox house are the fewest. Farm is very friendly / familiar, while Colonial is not familiar. Colonial and Tudor are the highest in status while the Saltbox and Mediterranean are the lowest of the status. Some differences in meaning arise from various socio-cultural groups and architect responses [14]. From the above research there are six styles of homes that have a different display form. The connotative meaning of the house from the look of the house style is judged not by the residents based on the aspect of the wishes of the community, the familiar impression embodied by the look of the house and the value of home status. Public perceptions of the appearance of the house resulted in the assessment of the house

Dunn states that home is an important site in the daily life of most individuals for the distribution of wealth, control over living conditions, access to social resources, important factors in the process of social identity formation, and social relations maintenance [15]. Alitajer and Nojourni stated that in a modern home, privacy is not a concern. This change in the value of privacy occurs because of modern lifestyles and new technologies, the consideration of the physical and spiritual needs of human beings [16].

Based on the explanation of the literatures above, it can be concluded that the meaning of the house can be viewed from a variety of context and understandings. This is seen from the needs, interests and evaluation of the house. The meaning of the house can also be viewed from the denotative and connotative. Denotative meaning is the meaning in terms of physical needs in accordance with the function of the house itself. Every human being can have the same assessment of a house. Connotative meaning is the meaning in terms of human assessment and perception in interpreting a house. Every human being has a different meaning about home

2. METHOD

This study is a study of literature on the various meanings of home through the perception of elderly. In this study will be discussed, first about the study of theories related to the meaning of home and perception in general. Second, the review will then discuss the research that has been done previously associated with the meaning of home and home perception according to elderly.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Neisser in Lang explained that perception is the process of obtaining information from and about the environment. It is active, meaningful [5]. This perception defines and finds real conditions. Down and Stea in Altman stated in the process of environmental perception and cognition defining as a process of composing a series of psychological transformations by individually understanding, codes, memories, reading codes of information about related locations and attributes- Attributes, of phenomena in the spatial environment of everyday man [7].

According to Lang, there are two basic theories of perception. The first base focuses on the acceptance of sensory experiences, focusing on trying to explain how data from the sense, the units expected from perception, lie together in the brain. The second basis is the sense of active and system relationships. Perception is the active process of obtaining information from the surrounding environment through a perceptual system [5]. From the above statements can be explained that perception is the process of acceptance of conditions captured through the senses and felt then assessed or concluded through the feelings and thoughts that work the nervous system work. Every human being has different perceptions in perceiving the same thing. Orientation of home user perceptions of home furnishings. Enjoyment, the hedonistic experience followed by the possible actualization of non-dependence such as self-esteem and protection of family safety is the priority focus of a home. The creator of values as aspects of quality that include variations of expectations, from aspects of function such as breadth, efficiency and pleasant environment in psychological aspects of human needs are aesthetic, comfortable, privacy and family integrity [17].

Research on the meaning of the home for the elderly has been done by Saunders states that the meaning of the home for young adult group is the point of a career path, while for the elderly, the home is the end point of life journey [18]. Research conducted by Oswald & Wahl [19]; Chaudhury & Rowles [20]; Dahlin-Ivanoff, Haak, Fange, & Iwarsson [21]; Haak, Ivanoff, Fange, Sixsmith, & Iwarsson [22], about the meaning of home for the elderly as a place to live to spend time, establish social relationships and as a place to maintain health conditions and mobility difficulties. The above studies on the meaning of homes for elderly groups both as a fulfillment of physical needs and psychic needs.

Research conducted by Oswald and Wahl on the meaning of the home contributes to the functional relationship associated with behavioral adaptation as in the sense associated with identity [23]. The meaning of the house in function is a denotative meaning but when associated with behavioral adaptation then connotative meaning. Similarly, the meaning associated with identity which is connotative meaning. Assessment of meaning in this research is done by the occupants and perceived by the residents. In this study shows that the function of the house is not only judged from the aspect of the container or place alone but the function can be judged as behavioral adaptation.

Research conducted by Rubenstein [24] concerning the fulfillment of the home needs of security, control, freedom, protection, self-care. This study examines the meaning of home based on physical needs. This meaning is revealed

from the assessment that is felt physically by the inhabitants. Physical fulfillment can be interpreted as a denotative meaning. In this case denotative meanings tend to be manifested in the physical fulfillment of houses of their robustness (structure) and function (container and activity). Assessment of this meaning is perceived by the inhabitants of the house who can feel safe, free of activity, protection, and can care for themselves in the house.

Research conducted by Flositz on the design of multi housing for the elderly group in addressing the problem of increasing the needs of homes and facilities for elderly and nurses. The fundamental thing in this design study will change the perception of elderly home facilities. Care and efficiency are very important. The second is social independence and multigenerational interaction as a driver for design and development. The elderly community needs to hold an interesting identity for different uses and for people of different ages. By improving the design process it will be possible to introduce a sense of place and home that is lacking in today's senior housing development [25].

Research conducted by Iwarsson, Horstmann, & Slaug [26] and Oswald et al. [27] on the perception of the elderly to the home is affected by the satisfaction of life, health, freedom of daily activity and the happiness of each elderly. Haak et al., examined the relationship of perception of homes to the age group of elderly 67- 70 years [28]. Paiva, examines perceptions of the parental environment (collective housing). Perceptions of spatial qualities and identifying the positive and negative aspects of physical space, desire and expectation of the home [29]. Zhang examined the relationship between perceptions of the environment and subjectivity measured by four parameters of life satisfaction, meaning of life, positive and negative influences on old Chinese society [30]. The above studies concerning the perception of the home and the environment for the elderly are either individual houses or collective houses (social institutions).

A home can be meaningful because of the result of the perception process of the inhabitants of the house or society that assesses such a study undertaken by Nassar [14]. But in this sense the meaning will have a deeper value if the meaning is judged from the inhabitants of the house especially connotative meaning. This is because the inhabitants of the house are people who feel staying at home for a short time. Especially for the elderly who already inhabit his house in a very long time. This period of occupancy may begin as a child or as an adult or since marriage. The study of elderly perceptions of the home has been done by Iwarsson, Horstmann, & Slaug [26]; Oswald et al. [27] about the perception of the elderly to the house is affected by the satisfaction of life, health, freedom of activity every day and the happiness of every elderly. This study reveals that the elderly perception of the home is influenced by the fulfillment of the home in meeting physical and psychological needs. This perception is derived from the achievement of the value of satisfaction, health, freedom of activity and happiness felt during occupying the house.

The meaning of meeting the needs of the home for the elderly is very different from the meaning of meeting the needs of the home for adults and children. The elderly is a period of decline of all the organs of the body. So, there is

a decline in health, decreased ability in mobility, hearing, sight, memory and activity. Therefore, the fulfillment of the home needs for the elderly is a home that can provide convenience for mobility, a healthy home, a home that can be a place of rest and a home that can provide an opportunity for the elderly to interact with other people and families. This has been investigated by Oswald & Wahl [19]; Chaudhury & Rowles [20]; Dahlin-Ivanoff et. al. [21]; Haak et. al. [22]; Swenson, [31].

Research on the meaning of the home for the elderly as a place to live, as a place to spend old age, a place to establish social relations and as a place to maintain physical condition and a place to ensure ease of mobility. The meaning of this house is a perception produced by old age in the form of connotative meaning and denotative meaning. The denotative meaning is expressed through the meaning of the home as a dwelling, maintaining the physical condition and the ease of mobility. While connotative meaning is expressed through the meaning of the house as a place to spend old age and social relationships.

4. CONCLUSION

The house can have a denotative meaning and connotative meaning. The meaning that can be felt physically has a denotative meaning whereas the sense that is felt psychically or sense of an implied value has connotative meaning. The meaning of the house in a denotative is the physical intangible meaning that can be felt, visible and palpable. While connotative meaning is the meaning of tangible values that are felt to be carried away in thoughts and feelings. Perception of the home is the process of assessing the condition of the house through the stages in a long time.

This process is largely determined by the experience felt by the inhabitants of the house during the residential period. The process of perception of a home in old age can last long, since children, or since adulthood or since marriage. Occupancy since children with children from adulthood or since marriage will result in different perceptions. This perception will produce the meaning of a house. So, the perception and meaning of the house is the result of a non-short residential process.

This study is a study of literature that is useful for research on the meaning and perception of the house both in general and old age. This research will be very useful for settlement of residential design for elderly people. Furthermore, this study of elderly will be useful for the study of the elderly needs of the home and the environment. From the studies that have been done above shows that the elderly is a group of people who need attention and have a very different character from adults. These studies are very useful for the development of psychological science and architecture.

In the context of architecture, these studies will be useful as a reference for architects in designing a decent home for elderly people. As for the developers will be a reference to provide homes that can be occupied by the elderly or at the same time can be used for adults. A good home design from an architect does not specify that the house will have meaning that is more meaningful for residents (elderly). This is because the home for the elderly is something that

has belonged to a lifetime and has a deep meaning for its inhabitants.

Many experiences from various events or events occurred in the house. Many memories that cannot be lost in the minds of residents (elderly) that occurred in the house. But a good home design is a form of concern for architects and developers in providing a decent home for the elderly. This is a development and home choice that can be used for the elderly. Many of the studies conducted above show that people of old age are groups of people who need attention and have very different characters from adults. These studies are very useful for the development of psychological science and architecture. In the architectural context, research is useful as a reference for architects in designing a descent home for the elderly. While the developer will be a reference for providing homes that can be inhabited by old people or at the same time can be used for adults.

The elderly is a period of decline in all physical and nervous abilities. So that the meaning of home for elderly will be different with the meaning of home for the adult age. Home for the elderly is the fulfillment of physical and psychological needs are very main. The home is a place of rest, a place to maintain a health condition, a place to activity freely, comfortable and in accordance with physical conditions, a place to give happiness, tranquility, and a place to interact with family and community in the environment. Home for elderly people is very meaningful because with the declining physical condition of the elderly people desperately need a place for a quiet rest and can perform their daily activities without pressure and comfort. Therefore, the design of a house for the elderly is different from the design house for adults whose physical condition is still healthy.

The design of the house is simple and easy for the elderly. Achievements between spaces are not far apart and are on the same floor. Similarly, for interior design for each room is simple and easy to use and does not require a great power to achieve it or get it. In the sense that the attainment or acquisition of storage is not high, the material is smooth and easy to open or use. In addition, along the walls of the room there are handrails (railing) which is useful for grip while walking. In each room there should be a chair that is used for sitting or resting in when the elderly is exhausted during activity or after walking. Material furniture is soft and soft, not much elbow is required for every space. The bright color of the room is no contrast, which can give the impression of cool and calm. Design homes for the elderly is indeed very necessary because the housing designs usually meet the needs of adults more.

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