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An Introduction to Privacy and Distances between Humans in Modern Architecture

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ABSTRACT

Currently, security, privacy and distances between humans have become a concern of modern human. Different people consider a certain form of privacy and distance between each other for their individual and collective life. This study compares and analyzes discussions on privacy and distances between humans. This study explains the concept of privacy and distance for better understanding and realization of these concepts in personal life. For this purpose, the subject of privacy and distance was extracted from all aspects including architecture, psychology, sociology, medicine and religion. Considering the significance of distance and privacy and its effect on life and social relationships between modern humans, this review used documentary studies and qualitative method to show that extent of distances can be influenced by cultural environment; moreover, extent of distances plays an important role in workspace and its effect on production efficiency and selection of commodities. There is no theoretical consensus and single definition for concepts of privacy and distance, because all environmental, psychological, cultural, social and religious factors should be considered for definition of these concepts. Therefore, the concept of privacy and distance is a relative, multilateral concept which is dependent on cultural environment.

Keywords: *Distance, Privacy, Modern architecture, Social relationships, Private space*

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INTRODUCTION

There are different definitions and approaches of privacy in law, society and culture. Privacy is a right which all people from all societies must be aware of, because awareness of privacy leads to compliance of citizenship rights; moreover, different cultural and social factors largely contribute to this compliance. Privacy is a territory or space which belongs to human as an extension of his body. Everyone has a certain territory which involves his surrounding area; as discovered by Edward T. Hall (1960), this territory encompasses the space around his body. However, social relations require this territory to be met; because, there are different types of territory. Territory varies based on type of relation and place (Edward hall, 1971). This study reviews theories available in literature on concepts of privacy and distances between humans. Currently, privacy has become a concern, because human requires a sense of security and peace. This is achievable when privacy is not disturbed. Privacy refers to ability to isolate and reveal information selectively. Therefore, there are two subjects in privacy: information definition and physical definition of privacy. Physical privacy can be defined as preventing an intruder from intruding privacy of other people. Information or data privacy (data protection) is a relationship between compilation and distribution of data, technology, public expectation of privacy and relevant legal and political problems. Concerns about privacy are manifested when compiling and storing data digitally or non-digitally (Thomson, 1997). Based on initial classification of privacy due to the fact that the subject has been addressed in architecture and environmental psychology, the selected studies are mostly related to physical definition of privacy. In general, the purpose of foreign literature review is to explain concepts of privacy and distance in architecture, because domestic literature lacks theories on privacy and distance in terms of cultural and architectural paradigms. Scientific and academic studies have not addressed this important subject widely.

Theoretical Background of Privacy and Distance

Each study has presented a certain definition of privacy and distance and difference interpretations based on background and research requirements. However, these studies are significantly similar and different in describing concept of privacy and distance. Primarily, privacy refers to distance and security of people. In general, privacy is defined in two ways: 1) private domain which is a untouchable area of life; 2) privacy right which is based on immunity to invasion. The term privacy refers to the same definition of privacy right involving personal security right, housing security, reputation and correspondence security. Privacy right refers to the right to have a protected, secure framework empty of strangers in which one lives as he wishes without intervention and pressure of others. One of the most important discussions regarding privacy right is related to recognition of its criteria. Moreover, the distance between people in public and private areas depends on culture, architecture and psychological elements of people (omer, 2011). Clearly, discussion on distances between people requires a comparative scale. In addition, concept of distance refers to fine differences in proximities of humans and focuses on theories and mutual concepts of proximity or people. Available definitions explain privacy and distance from sociology, psychology, medicine and more importantly architecture.

Table 1. review of concepts of privacy and distances between people

Author	Year	Objectives and theories
Edward Hall	1990	There is four types of distance and privacy: 1) intimate space as the most private space; 2) privacy as distances with friends and coworkers; 3) social space which is more personal than two previous spaces; 4) public space with the highest space
Patricia	1994	A systemic model of privacy among adults. There is no consensus about definition of privacy. Privacy is useful and must be maintained.
Irwin Altman	1997	It is possible to present a general definition of privacy. Privacy is defined in a dynamic and dialectical framework. Privacy should not be defined in isolation but in relationship and conflict.
Montlo	1997	Tow the fixed influence privacy and distance such as physical properties of building as door and window and variable factor like furniture, chair and At the and the variable properties and design type is defend on how people understand privacy.
Demir bus	2000	the writers in this project in share with Adam moor research, believes that privacy is s synthetic definition, but in this research unlike Adam moor , they believe that peoples privacy is depend personal types, culture scopes, sex, economical , educational and social scores. At the end, the result showed that with respect a different aspect , there is a different definition for everyone.
Kislev and Jonson	2001	physical proximity of people leads to mutual supervision preventing norm-breaking and at the end leads to public order and increasing productivity in occupational environment
leniv kilpy	2001	privacy have interpreted medical sciences in this article. Privacy haven't global and single definition. In medical literature, it should considered privacy concept in hospitals and medical building Also definition of medical science in privacy framework means physical distance in medical environment security and safty of people.
Lagarshi	2005	Relationship between people, personal type, cultural norms , age , sex and situational elements have effect on distance among people and privacy by them.
Adam moor	2005	privacy is a synthetic concept that contains legal, normative, descriptive, control and ethical concepts and in moor opinion, prominent from of this synthetic definition , is legal and control property that says privacy should determine by people and it should not determine by public organization.
Mary Alpoor	2010	privacy in this article refers to a place can haunt with out restuiction of others. Reason of this definition is that in Turkish society, privacy means disagreeable activities should visited by either people.
Jingsoo	2011	In selecting product by people , distance between them is effective by negative and positive mental action.
Agnoo	2012	keeping privacy and distance reduction from others is an inherent matter and space study and physical distances and also proximity palys the important in social, cultural and economical development of world.
Mahd Rezli	2013	space definition in NCC include: friendly distance welcome (15 cm) personal distance for interactions among friends or family (46-120cm)- social distance on interaction amonge relative (1-3 meter). General distance in public places (3-7 meter).



Figure 1. theoretical model for explanation of privacy and distance

Comparative Review of Theories

The common feature of all theories about privacy and distance is that there is no fixed definition and theory of these two concepts. They should be defined and studied with regard to cultural context of any society. As expressed in all studies, concept of privacy is very complex and involves many different perspectives and dimensions; there is no single global definition of privacy. In definition of privacy, environmental and cultural conditions have been influential in determining distances. To define these concepts, there have been many theoretical and empirical studies; each of these definitions was based on results of the same studies. A weakness that can be found in most of the articles is that each author has tried to present a one-dimensional definition regardless of other disciplines. The Islamic approaches compared to the Western secular approaches arise separation of sexes and importance of gender segregation, while Western approaches have noted privacy as relationships with family and distance from others (regardless of gender) (Noorul huda, 2013). Existing approaches to privacy are deductive and inductive; some research came from observation to theory and some other used theories to explain their observations. It has been made clear that the concept of privacy and distance is an unsupported debate; sciences or authors intend to define and present it in a single theory, while all aspects must be noted in a study using a combined debate. Moreover, Islamic approaches can be considered for traditional and religious societies such as Iran. Leino-Kilpi and Patricia discuss about mental and physical health; they assert that lack of privacy damages physical and mental health. Edward T. Hall addresses the relationship between people and effectiveness of environment on these relationships. The main theoretical focus of this study is perception of surroundings for communication, individual needs, mental condition and individual differences. In general, three factors influence proximity and communication of people: 1) environment; 2) mental stimulus; 3) physical condition. Among people, there are four levels of interactive relationships which are effective on the relationships and distances between people (Edward hall, 1971). In contrast, Edward T. Hall notes that physical proximity is effective in increasing or decreasing purchase of various products. When consumers are voluntarily close, this means that they want to influence the decision made by another respondent. Often one chooses a product which is desirable for others. However, some people feel that their privacy and individual identity is violated in closer distances to other people; they tend to use goods which cannot be afforded by other people. Close proximity of people in crowded places and very close distances between humans undermines their individual identity. In crowded places where there is little distance between humans, they want to pick products which distinguish them. Psychologically, people who feel positive about their close distance to others pick goods and products which are similar to other people. According to a case study, people who feel limited in physical proximity with others (for example, in an elevator with the others) want to eliminate this limitation and increase the distance to other people (Jing Xo, 2011). One of the theories extracted inductively notes that close proximity leads to higher collaboration and efficiency in group activities. People in close proximity in working groups or group activities exhibit higher ability (Leino – Kilpi, 2001). In theoretical and experimental arrangements in the field of distance and privacy, there is a special relativity based on positive and negative approaches to privacy and distance. Some theories emphasize

constructiveness of close distances and some others emphasize destructiveness of close distances in lives of people and violation of their privacy.

Considering these criticisms, existing approaches tend to interpret the concept of privacy by preset templates. These templates which grab a piece of privacy and try to monopolize it include legal, environmental deterministic, medical, Islamic, Western secular, cultural, social and pressure approaches. However, each of these theories could explain a part of reality of privacy; combined with each other, these approaches can address privacy better and more clearly. However, this combined feature is revealed in theory of Irwin Altman which is finally limited to control and legal characteristics of privacy.

Methodology of the Studies on Privacy and Distance

The studies reviewed were separated in an overall framework in terms of deductive and inductive methodologies and divided into documentary, survey and case studies. In general, coordination and coherence have been more in empirical (inductive) studies than theoretical studies. Empirical studies tend to find a reasonable definition of the terms privacy and distance. Results of empirical studies were more coherent, because certainty and generalizability of results were associated with valid arguments and empirical evidence. However, empirical studies have provided more coherent results.

Table 2. methodology

Author	Year	Method	Methodology
Edward Hall	1990	Comparative	Documentary
Patricia	1994	Deductive	Survey
Irwin Altman	1997	Comparative	Documentary
Montlo	1997	Deductive	Case study
Osman Dmyrbash	2000	Deductive	Case study
Leniu clipi	2001	Comparative	Documentary
Kisler and Johnson	2001	Comparative	Documentary and survey
Lagarshi	2005	Comparative	Survey
Adam Moore	2008	Comparative	Documentary
Mari alpур	2010	Deductive	Survey
Jing so	2011	Comparative	Documentary
Mahd Rzly	2013	Comparative, deductive	Documentary, survey
Oded Vista	2013	Comparative	Survey
Amoka	2013	Comparative	Documentary

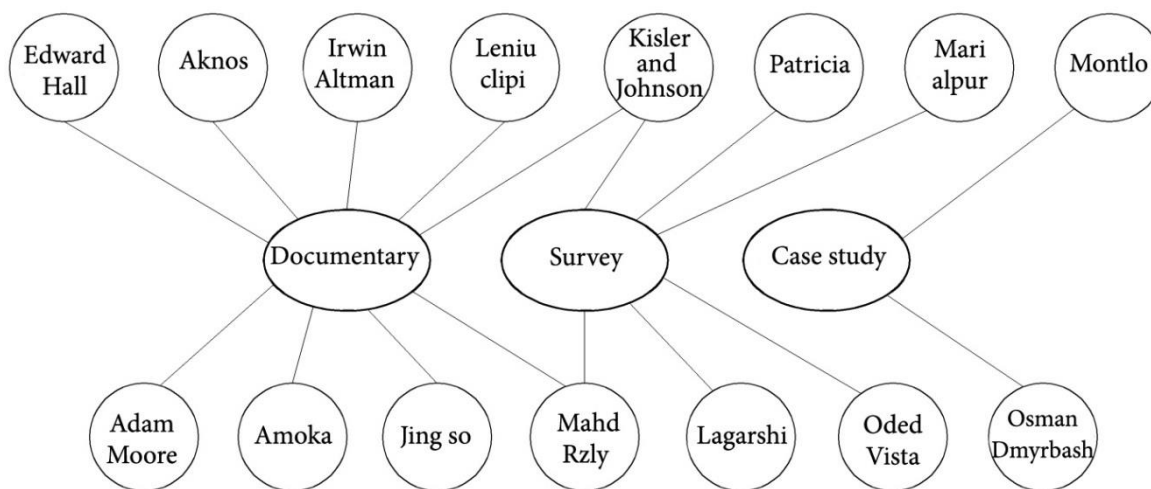


Figure 2. Summary of methodologies

CONCLUSIONS

In terms of environmental psychology, authors draw debatable conclusions. Through an empirical study, Patricia concluded that adults whose privacy is violated feel stress and mental pressure and finally their health is endangered (Patricia, 1994). Irwin Altman concluded that privacy should not be defined in isolation but in relationship, conflict and dialectical conditions in any certain culture separately (Irwin Altman, 1997). In contrast, Osman Demirbas concludes that privacy depends on personalities, cultural contexts, gender, age, economic conditions, education and social contexts. Moreover, definition of privacy is different for any person (Demirbas, 2000). Attitude of others determines definition of privacy, while Osman Demirbas showed that

formation of privacy is a personal discussion rather than a relational subject. Leino-Kilpi addresses privacy from perspective of health. Like Adam Moor and Irwin Altman, Leino-Kilpi believes that no fixed and integrated definition of privacy can exist and privacy is a complex discussion (Adam moore, 2008). Leino-Kilpi notes that medicine or nursing is the only science which can address privacy correctly (Leino – Kilpi, 2001). The only difference is that Leino-Kilpi is concerned with physical health and Patricia considered mental health. Adam Moor notes inconsistency in definition of privacy and concludes that any attempt to define privacy right independently is justification of a theory which is likely to be incomplete. Distances between humans are recognized as one of the most important subjects in people's lives. For this purpose, studies explain and describe distances between humans. In this regard, Edward Hall concludes that the type of relationship between people and their intimacy is a factor in determining distances between humans. Hall notes four types of distances as personal, intimate, social and public distances (Edward Hall, 1971). Patricia notes that close proximity of people in crowded places and very close distances between humans undermines their individual identity. In crowded places where there is little distance between humans, they want to pick products which distinguish them. The boundary between privacy and ethics, property rights, freedom, and ownership is not always clear and distinct. Mari Ito-Alpturer concludes that cultural conditions are important factor in formation and construction of privacy; however, Osman Demirbas addresses privacy multi-dimensionally, while Mari Ito-Alpturer focuses cultural conditions (Ito-Alpturer, 2010). Odd-Inge Vista notes cultural relativity in privacy and believes that managerial and legal task forces should be used in dual discussion on privacy of residents and public places for tourists (Odd Vistad, 2013). Mohd Razali concludes that religious beliefs, cultural norms, lifestyle, social interactions and behavioral norms of people are important elements in privacy of families. Therefore, religious beliefs will lead to higher quality of life. Mohd Razali addresses privacy from a religious perspective, while other studies adopt scientific approaches. In general, privacy is a dynamic operation and process which is constantly adjusted in approaching others. Privacy is influenced by several factors such as interpersonal relationships, personality, cultural norms, age, gender and position elements. In general, it is theoretically and practically mistake to consider privacy and distance from one dimension. Instead, it is essential to consider factors which are effective on privacy and distance.

Table 3: summary of results

Author	Year	Research finding
Edvard Hall	1990	Relation type between people and their intimacy is a factor in determining the distances between people.
Patrisia	1994	%81/5 of individuals are enferiecing stress when their privacy is violated.
Irwin Altman	1997	The formation of the privacy of individuals in conflict and communicate with others.
Demirbas	2000	According the definition of personality types and environmental properties is relative.
Leniv kilpi	2001	being exclusive of studying private in medical sciences, the complexity of the concept of privacy and instability in the definition, lack of empirical studies in this field, studying privacy in hospital.
Jonson	2001	close distances between people are prevented from norm-breakings.
Lagarshi	2005	Privacy is an operation and dynamic process that is constantly adjusted in approaching and away from others.
Adom moor	2008	the lack of consistent definition of privacy, lack of clear ethical boundaries a maintain privacy and solitude in the existing research literature
Mary Alpor	2010	the impact of cultural pressure on the significance of privacy, privacy means that being away from the view about activity or specific actions.
Jingsoo	2011	the intervals between humans is effective in choose the products.
Mahd Razli	2013	religious beliefs, cultural norms, life style , daily interactions of social life and norms of behaviour as an important pillar in regulating privacy of families
Odd Vistad	2013	Managerial and legal options in tourism place can be used to resolve dispuetey between residents and strangers sensitivity to keep privacy.
Amoka	2013	many people are not conscious of their cultural norms automatically act them.

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