Degree Level of Publicness Through Meaning of Public Sphere In Bandung City, West Java, Indonesia

Case Study: Alun-alun Square, Bandung City, West Java, Indonesia

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Abstract. Bandung city public area at this time is experiencing a rapid growth due to economic growth and the influence of globalization. The development of public spaces that tend to be limited to the people who live in them, makes it difficult for the public to enter the area of its public sphere. Public sphere are formed based on the economic, political, cultural, developmental, and changes that occur in the area of today's public sphere, making it limited and inaccessible to the public at large. This is caused by the hierarchy of public space formed by the changes of the functions, forms, and meanings. This study focused on the relationship between form, function, and meaning of public sphere to the degree level of public spaces of the city of Bandung.

The purpose of this study is to reveal all the relationships that exist between the concepts of public space and its influence on the degree level of publicness in the space of the city of Bandung in the context of its change.

This research is descriptive-analytical and interpretive based on structuralist approach and empirical evidence obtained from study cases. This approach is used to read public sphere in Bandung’s urban spaces to get a reference to the interpretation of relationships from an empirical condition. The degree level and its meaning in Alun-alun Bandung Square with surrounding buildings has been changed and has blocked the accessibility to some buildings and their facades.

Keywords: form, function meaning relationship, public sphere, degree level of publicness
1. Introduction

Public spaces in the city of Bandung have been much developed and carried out improvements to infrastructure facilities and the structure of the city, but in the management of the city, private parties are more involved which limits the accessibility to these public places. One barometer of a city's quality of life is the public sphere. Public sphere as a public space that brings together the community of a city's citizens. The public sphere is considered to be a fuser of all interests, citizens, rulers, and the entrepreneurs (1). In the development of life public sphere can include various access areas used together in the forms of roads, parks, shopping, campus, hospitals, public transportation facilities, museums, and so on (2). The development of tourism places in Bandung city and shopping centers (mall), which also increases by providing public space as one element in the design, provides an alternative public sphere in the city of Bandung as a whole. Public sphere in Bandung city region that used to be part of the current political and cultural activities, shifted into a framed of interaction space without any relationships of functions and form around it.

The public sphere as a container of social interaction has changed the meaning and value of space that is more concerned with the interests of individuals and certain groups, and only to gain consumer satisfaction of urban people (3). Public sphere is no longer as a means of communication to shape the process of human social civilization, but only for the needs of urban people who want to seek self-satisfaction. In general, the development of public space, from time to time, has a function as a space of social interaction for the community, the space of people's economic activity and space of cultural appreciation. Public needs in public space always change, in line with the times and the influence of needs, from 4 (four) aspects: 1. Social culture: The human need expresses itself to fellow human beings and to their Lord; 2. Politics: The need for a symbol of city, state, power, government, or people's power; 3. Economy: the need to gather people in a space will encourage the emergence of economic activities, such as markets and so on (4). Bandung as a creative city of the world (UNESCO) provides a political policy on the development of public spaces in several areas in the city of Bandung.

Privatization of public space in Bandung has hampered the public in using the public sphere maximally. Information about public sphere and community activity pattern of Bandung city have not been obtained by city society, but it is related to society need for social interaction, economic activity, and space of cultural appreciation. The most ideal public sphere is the space that everyone can access, without discrimination. Basically, a commercial space is not addressed as a public space because in the commercial space there are imposed conditions that make the space more private. Public space co-opted by power are public spaces dominated by user actors; Actors who do not grow from the public but appear in public and occupy the public sphere. Private parties from large-scale economic and business sectors and dominant government organizations that can take over the public sphere formally (5).

In fact, public sphere is not absolutely social or public (open) that anyone can enter into the interaction activities freely. There is a limit to use a public space wherein there are individual and group interaction activities. The degree of perceived publicness in a public sphere can affect how the activities that occur in there, and whether the public space in there, is open for the public or for a particular group (6). Akkar M (2005) states that the degree of publicity in a public space can be identified through three things: Accessibility, Actors, and Activities. Based on these three factors, the degree of publicity (extent of publicness) depends on three indicators such as the following. Accessibility affects how freely the public space can be accessed by the public (community). Actors include the public who are in the space, to what extent are managed and controlled by public actors and used by the public. The last one is the extent to which it can serve the public interest (7). The focus in this study is on the degree of publicness in a different public sphere, depending on the use and ownership of space, whether owned by the government or owned by a particular institution. The degree of publicness of a space also depends on accessibility, who it carries and how far it can serve the public interest. The higher is the mix of different types of individual societies, the higher is the
degree of publicness. Pattern and form of public space also determine the degree of publicness, the criteria are public space in the building or become part of the city space covered by the building. Markus Zahnd said that the concept of cities in Asia tends to make the city space as a result of the building mass (8). This research will be conducted on the public spaces of Bandung city, especially at Alun-alun Square Bandung, which will identify the form, function, and meaning of public sphere to degree level of publicness. This research is focused on the relationship among function, form, and meaning of public space to the degree level of publicness in Alun-alun Square, Bandung city region.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Study Case

The study case is Alun-alun Bandung Square in Bandung City, West Java Province, Indonesia. The criteria for the selection of the study case are 1) The object of study represents the public sphere with the degree level of publicness in the space of Bandung city. Study Objects are buildings and open spaces, run by private and government; 2) The object of study represents the development of public sphere in Bandung city based on certain periods. Periodization will show the relationships and values of patterns that have been established and survived from the past until now, although research studies will be focused on current conditions with synchronic approaches.

Figures 1. a. Indonesia Map, b. Bandung City Map, c. Alun-alun Square Map

2.2. Method

The steps taken in this study are as follows: firstly, based on the criteria that have been set in the beginning, the physical boundaries of Alun-alun Bandung city area are determined (9); secondly, the elements that formed the area of Alun-alun Bandung are identified and classified based on the concepts of Nodes, Paths, Landmarks, Districts, and Edges by Kevin Lynch (10); thirdly, recording and identifying the physical condition of the public sphere and the degree level of publicness, as well as activities and the surrounding activities, are used to describe the pattern of changes occurring in function and form of the public sphere by architectural ordering principle theory (11), and to relate them to the theoretical elaboration of public space and the degree level of publicness (12). Fourthly, undertaking the study of the meanings that result from the pattern of changes that occur on the meaning of form and function of public sphere to the degree level of publicness; (13). Interpret the results and findings that arose, as well as drawing conclusions obtained through the process of analysis of the relation of form, function and meaning of public space to the degree level of publicness.
3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Determination of Area In Alun-alun Bandung Square

The determination of the physical boundaries refers to the concept of Tipho-Morphology approach, which represents the development of public sphere in Bandung city based on certain periods. Periodization will show the relationships and values of patterns that have been established and survived from the past until now.

[Figures 2. Tipho-Morphology Analysis in Alun-alun Bandung Square Area]

When it was first built, Alun-Alun Bandung was the front yard of the governmental building as keresiden Bandung in 1889. Then Alun-alun Bandung became an open space used for gatherings and football games. In 1970, Alun-Alun Bandung was a public sphere that could be visited at all times by all people and also it was an access path to The Great Mosque of Bandung through the stairway that fly over Jalan Dewi Sartika. In 1980, Alun-Alun became the front yard/garden for The Great Mosque of Bandung and was surrounded by fences (14). Alun-alun Bandung Square was renovated several times until 2014. Then on December 31, 2014, Alun-alun Bandung Square was inaugurated by the Mayor of Bandung, Ridwan Kamil, with many new facilities. The 1,200-square-meter park stands on the roof of a parking lot and is covered with synthetic green grass. The square feature amenities such as a children's playground, library, and WiFi network. At the north of the square, there is a bus stop long enough to complete the facilities in this downtown park.

3.2. Elements of Urban Form That Identify in the Study Case

The elements that formed the area of Alun-alun Bandung are identified and classified based on the concepts of Nodes, Paths, Landmarks, Districts, and Edges by Kevin Lynch (1966).
3.3. Physical Condition and Activities in Study Case

Zoning Analysis show the activities that occur therein and whether the public sphere has an open nature for the public or for a particular group.
Based on the results of the analysis in step two, Alun-alun square was recording and identifying the physical conditions (Form) and the surrounding activities, to describe the pattern of changes occurring in function and form of the public sphere by architectural ordering principle theory.

Figures 5. Zoning Analysis in Alun-Alun Bandung Square

Figures 6. Architectural Ordering Principle, Salura (2018)
Table 1. Change of Function and Form in Alun-alun Bandung Square

| ELEMENTS URBAN FORM | CHANGE IN FUNCTION | CHANGE IN FORM |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
|                     | PARTS- WHOLE       | HIERARCHY     | COMPOSITION   | PROPERTY                                           |
| LANDMARK ELEMENT    | Element Functions are the main activities in Alun-alun Bandung Square. | The initial function of the Element has never changed, Element has a function as a generator activity of the area. | The position for the element is on the west side of the Alun-alun square. | Elements with arabic style and the modern buildings are repeated by the surrounding buildings. |
| MASJID AGUNG        |                     |               |               |                                                   |
| MAIN NODE ELEMENT   | Element Functions are the main activities in Alun-alun Bandung Square | Primary Element Functions as Regional Activity Center, and in the beginning functions as the front yard of the governmental building, and became the front yard/garden for The Great Mosque of Bandung. | Element as the center of Building Orientation | Primary element has a symmetry shape with the main street and shows a path which connects 4 supporting nodes. Elements are surrounded by buildings with various functions. |
| ALUN-ALUN BANDUNG SQUARE | Element was part of the Dewi Sartika Street which consisted commercial and office activities. and became a apart of Masjid Raya Building. | Element is part of Masjid Raya Jawa Barat Extention Building, and has no access activity | The street corridor was formed by Path-Node elements which consisted of 2 nodes that had corner buildings, and now the Path-Node element is no longer a corridor/street element. | Corner building as district identity, and part of supporting nodes with various buiding styles, Art Decos, and Modern Styles. |
| PATH-NODE ELEMENT   |                     |               |               |                                                   |
| DEWI SARTIKA STREET |                     |               |               |                                                   |

From the results of observations and analysis, it was found that changes of Function, Form, and Meanings (15) in Alun-alun Bandung Square have been identified in 1 main node, in Alun-alun Square, which is the center of regional activities, and 4 supporting nodes surrounded by buildings with various styles and activities. Changes occur in Alun-alun Bandung Square supporting node that has significant shift from Main Acces in Dewi Sartika Street to the Access in Asia Africa Street. Street corridor that used to be part of Dewi Sartika Street is replaced with the Masjid Raya Jawa Barat Extention Building.

This significant shift has been changed the orientation of the buildings surrounding of Alun-alun Bandung Square. Front elevation of Swarha building and its main entrance are not accessible as they were used to. Function and form of Alun-alun Square have been significantly changed, the function is not accessible to every side of the square, the form is changed from the single square that clearly boundary with the main streets, to the attached square, that have blocked acces and façade of the buildings.
3.4. Degree Level of Publicness in the Study Case

The degree level of public space can affect the way the activities occur therein and whether the public sphere has an open nature for the public or for a particular group. Related to this, Sorkin (1992 in Carmona, 2003, p.111) distinguishes public space in three categories: 1. External public space, is accessible to all and is a real sense of public space. Usually a land located in a private property. Such as square, street, park, parking area, beach, forest, lake, etc; 2. Internal public space, have more limited access. Examples can be the public institutions such as libraries, museums, town hall, and others include public transport facilities such as trains, bus terminals, airports, etc; 3. External and Internal quasi-public space, is a public space with limited access, in the sense that even if it is 'public', the owner or manager of the space has the right to manage the access time and the user's behavior within. The space is open and there are physical and psychological constraints and this public space is owned by non-governmental parties, ie. private or specific communities. And the example can be restaurants, cinemas, or malls, etc.

Table 2. Degree Level of Publicness and Meanings in Alun-alun Bandung Square

| ELEMENTS URBAN FORM | DEGREE LEVEL OF PUBLICNESS                                                                 | CHANGE OF MEANINGS IN ALUN-ALUN BANDUNG SQUARE                                             |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LANDMARK ELEMENT    |                                                                                           |                                            |
| MASJID RAYA BANDUNG | **External and Internal quasi-public space.** Element has a function as worship activities, a public space with limited access, in the sense that even if it is 'public', the owner or manager of the space has the right to manage access time in several private zones, and the user's behavior within. | Domination in Function = Domination in Form ► Meaning of Social & Cultural Ideology          |
| MAIN NODE ELEMENT   |                                                                                           |                                            |
| ALUN-ALUN BANDUNG SQUARE | **External Public Space,** Element is accessible to all, though the function is not accessible from every side of the square, the form is changed from the single square that clearly has boundaries with the main streets, to the attached square, that have blocked acces and façade of the buildings. | Domination in Function ► Domination in Form ► Meaning of Social & Cultural Activity          |
there is a hierarchy of meaning from Simbolyc Ideology, Social and Cultural Activity to Physical condition meaning (16). These meanings are related to the degree level of publicness of each conditions in the study case. Alun-alun Bandung Square as the main node with the meaning of Social and Cultural Ideology, has degree level category as External Public Space, that has full access, eventhough there is a change in accessing the surroundings of Alun-alun Bandung Square that blocked the accessibility to some buildings and their facades.

4. Conclusion

This study concluded that firstly, the degree level and its meaning in the public sphere in the Bandung City, Alun-Alun Bandung square’s meaning has shifted from the political ideology to the social-cultural ideology meaning. The meaning of shared spaces is shifted from the political-social value frame and the joint gathering function celebrates togetherness into only a field-framed interactions spaces. Secondly, the hierarchy of meaning, from Simbolyc Ideology, Social and Cultural Ideology to Physical condition meaning are related to the degree level of publicness of each conditions of public spaces in the study case. Thirdly, the results of the study confirm that the method used in the study to interpret the meaning of degree level of public space can be used as an alternative for reading the accessibility in urban city areas.

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