Urban Environment as a Result of the Interaction of Social Groups (on the Example of Vernacular Districts of the City of Khabarovsk)

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Abstract. In the course of the study, an analysis of preferences of Khabarovsk regarding living, working, leisure activities in different parts of the city of Khabarovsk was carried out. Two methods of delimiting urban space have been used - the division into administrative urban areas with clear boundaries and the separation from the urban space of vernacular (mental) districts with conditional boundaries. On the basis of empirical data obtained during a sociological survey of residents of the city of Khabarovsk, revealed the peculiarities of the concentration of the population in the administrative urban areas. Vernacular regionalization as an element of the research allowed to form a map-scheme of Khabarovsk locations and to draw up a graph of preferences of Khabarovsk citizens regarding the most semiotic urban locations.

1. Introduction
All spheres of public life over the past decades are cities, in particular, the number of urban population in Russia and the Far East is increasing. This trend is confirmed by the results of the All-Russian Population Census 2002, 2010, the trial population census 2018.

At the same time, cities differ from other types of spatial organization not only by their large population, but also by their special environment, which includes a number of social, natural, spatial, cultural, and ethnic qualities [1].

To describe a city as a multidimensional system and to study its features, knowledge from a number of scientific fields covering one of these factors is often integrated. This leads to the fact that the city is studied “narrowly disciplinary, in the context of a specific scientific direction” [2, p. 112]. The authors believe that an important research and practical task is to study a specific urban space using an integrated interdisciplinary approach. At the same time, various natural, town-planning,
three-dimensional, sociological and cultural factors are taken into account, which ultimately form the spatial organization of urban space.

The aim of the study is to identify the preferences of various groups of the population regarding the quality of the urban environment in certain areas of the city of Khabarovsk.

2. Sociological survey of Khabarovsk residents: sampling, survey features, portrait of the respondent

To obtain primary empirical information about the subject under study, the most common method of sociological research was chosen - a sample survey conducted by interviewers personally during the period from December 22, 2018 to January 20, 2019. In the administrative boundaries of the city of Khabarovsk. Accordingly, the total number of sociological surveys is equal to the urban population and is 589,596 people. With a confidence interval of 5 (five), reliability (confidence level) of 99.00% is provided by a sample of 665 people.

The survey was conducted in all five administrative districts of the city, the number of respondents in each of which is directly proportional to the number of residents (Fig. 1).

![Figure 1. Distribution of the population of Khabarovsk by intracity areas.](image)

The maximum number of inhabitants according to statistics in the Industrial and Railway regions. The third by population is the Central District, the fourth - Krasnoflotsky. At the same time, the number differs slightly, and the population density of the Central exceeds the population density of the Krasnoflotsky district more than 4 times due to the significant difference in the areas of these intracity areas, as well as the peculiarities of the historical concentration of the city’s life in its central part.

Among the respondents the young population prevails (the first 3 positions: up to 19, 30-39, 20-29 years old), a slight predominance of the number of men under the age of 39, women over 40 (Fig. 2). This is due to natural demographic processes and the characteristics of contact with interviewers: women older than 40-50 years are more likely to talk with them than men of the same age category.

The diagram clearly shows the natural tendency of a decrease in population with increasing age. There is a “failure” of values for a group of 20-29 years due to the peculiarities of demographic processes and a sharp drop in the birth rate in Russia as a whole and, in particular, in the region and the city. early 1990s.

Almost half (47.92%) of the respondents are unmarried. If we subtract 20.98% of respondents under the age of 19 who did not create a family because of their young age, we will get more than a quarter of the respondents (27%). The reason is a change in social orientations: the traditional large family is replaced by the nuclear one (and often the free form of relations), the influence of public opinion on the decision-making by a person is weakened.

A quarter of the respondents raise children under the age of 18. Accordingly, in the criteria for their comfortable life in the city, there is the availability of infrastructure for recreation, development, education and safety of the young generation.
The main part (37.8%) lived in Khabarovsk for more than 25 years - respectively, they are witnesses and participants in the formation of urban spaces, they know the characteristics of the city, they have opinions about the processes taking place in the city. 27% - less than 5 years (including internal and external migrants, students from small settlements of the region and neighboring regions).

Interestingly, the statistics differ from the data on the workload of intracity districts obtained during the sociological survey (Fig. 2). Respondents were asked the question: “In which area of the city do you live / work / rest?” The answers to which allow you to make a rating of the city that is different from the above. Krasnoflotsky district is nominated for 4 positions. The number of inhabitants in it is 211 respondents. In addition, only 89 citizens were interviewed in public areas of the district for the sample.

Such a phenomenon can be explained only by the increased mobility of the inhabitants of this particular area, since, judging by the selective data and Fig. 6, some of the respondents, most likely in the Industrial and Zheleznodorozhny districts, turned out to be residents of the Krasnolotsky District.

The district is also the most popular for work and rest of Khabarovsk citizens according to their answers. Moreover, at the time of the survey, many respondents voiced the assumption that the majority of citizens work in the Central District and choose the most frequent place for recreation, while they themselves answered in favor of another district.

In fact, the number of enterprises and, accordingly, jobs is seen as the largest in the Central District. In Krasnolotsky district, this impression is not created because of the larger area and dispersal of urban development, but there are a number of organizations that provide a large number of jobs for citizens: City Clinical Hospital No. 10, Eye Microsurgery. ac S.N. Fedorova, Pacific University, University of Economics and Law, Technical College, Road Technical School, Engineering Technical School, Banking College, Palace of Children's and Youth Creativity, Children's Sanatorium and others.

As for almost half (46.90%) of respondents who prefer to relax in the Krasnolotsky district, the authors of the study attribute this to the construction of the Severny park. In addition, many citizens call the Krasnolotsky District the most “eco-friendly”, “clean”. Such public opinion also contributes to its choice as a place to rest.

Answers of respondents to questions about their place of residence, work, and recreation in other inner-city districts correspond to the data in fig. 1. In particular, the number of actually living in the Central region of the city, taking into account the error, coincides with the statistical value (16.04 and 16.40%, respectively).
3. Analysis of the preferences of citizens in relation to urban locations

The attitude of the individual to the urban environment, developing in the process of interaction with it, depends largely on the level of his personal well-being. Answers of respondents about such, for the most part, come down to an assessment of material well-being. More than 80% of respondents spend from 30% of monthly income on services and goods of daily demand, more than 34% - more than half of income. They note a systematic lack of funds and a special high cost of goods and services in Khabarovsk.

Despite the fact that the majority of respondents say that mandatory spending is essential for them and, in general, they are not satisfied with their financial situation, however, they rate living and working conditions in Khabarovsk as “Rather comfortable” (33.9%) and “Absolutely comfortable” (17.7%). While less than 16% of citizens are “rather uncomfortable” and less than 5% “absolutely uncomfortable” to live and work in Khabarovsk (Fig. 3).

![Figure 3](image-url)

Figure 3. Distribution of respondents' answers to the question “Please rate how comfortable it is for you to live and work in Khabarovsk?”.

Since the system of administrative districts of Khabarovsk only partly reflects the spatial organization of urban space, its use for the full analysis of the urban environment and the interaction with its citizens is difficult.

Moreover, for some citizens it is difficult to determine the boundaries of administrative districts. In communication, unofficial names of well-known urban places are often used - “fifth platform”, “CAF base”, “aviation town”, etc. In order to improve the quality and reliability of the obtained data, the most contrasting and semiotically filled locations of the Khabarovsk city — the vernacular or mental districts - are highlighted [3, 4, 5, 6, 7]. The layout of their placement in the city is presented below (Fig. 4), as well as on paper by the interviewers for presentation to the respondents during face-to-face communication.

During the survey, conversations were held with citizens about their attitude to the designated places, including the question about their desire to live in one or another vernacular area (Fig. 5). The majority of respondents were easily determined with the answer regarding most of the points. The answer “does not matter” followed, as a rule, if the respondent doubts, leaning toward a negative answer, does not want to voice a negative review, while giving his attitude non-verbally. Thus, such an answer is more likely to be attributed to the indicators “rather not”.

In general, the answers “rather no” and “no” prevail in comparison with positive answers, which testifies to the general attitude of citizens towards urban vernacular regions, which is close to rejection. The exceptions are the Northern district and the central part of the city. More than half (57%) of the respondents noted the last location as positive for living.
Figure 4. Map-scheme of Khabarovsk vernacular regions.

Figure 5. Distribution of respondents' answers to the question “Would you like to live in one of the listed places in the city of Khabarovsk?”.

Based on the distribution of the respondents' opinions regarding their desire to live in a particular area, among those given, a schedule of their preferences was drawn up.
Fractures of the yellow and blue lines of the graph (in the direction of increasing the number of positive responses and reducing the number of negative ones) confirm the respondents' special positive attitude towards the central part of the city, as well as towards the Northern microdistrict. The reason in the first case is stereotypes regarding the concentration of public, cultural, and economic spheres in the historical city center, in the second one - an improvement in the quality of the environment due to the construction of the Severny park, a stable opinion about the “greenness” of the location.

Residents of Khabarovsk consider the central part of the city and the Northern microdistrict the most favorable for living, the GUPRovsky town (bordering the Central part of the city), the Red River, the First microdistrict and Khabarovsk-2 are unfavorable.

4. Conclusion

A necessary element of the study of public preferences regarding the quality of the environment is the use of various methods for delimiting urban space. In the context of this study, such is the vernacular zoning. And, although the authors, in their study, for technical reasons, rather than a technical one, do not represent the zoning of the entire urban territory of Khabarovsk, the results of a sociological survey of the population suggest that the interaction of citizens with the environment of large inner-city districts and with the environment of specific vernacular districts. Moreover, even in the case of the actual location of the vernacular districts within the boundaries of the inner-city administrative (for example, Rabochiy Gorodok and the Central District of the city of Khabarovsk).

Thus, the study confirms the authors' assumption that in order to obtain empirical information about the opinion of citizens regarding the urban environment, the urban space is effectively divided into vernacular areas. Subsequently, it is necessary to perform a complete zoning of the territory of Khabarovsk using the above delimitation method in order to compile a holistic picture of the social-spatial interaction in the city. It is proposed to use the experience of the vernacular districts in the design of urban buildings, as well as to study similarly other cities.

References

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