



The evolution of Phenomenological approach to concepts of place and dwelling

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ABSTRACT

Following the crisis of modern thought in architecture and urbanism, achieving a comprehensive understanding of the place and the dwelling has always been the main points of departure for experts. The phenomenological approach in architecture based on the principles of the philosophy of phenomenology undoubtedly enjoyed growing popularity, and since the sixties decade (AD) onwards, numerous and diverse works by scholars and theorists in the field of architecture have been left. In this study, analysing the votes of three theorists of the mentioned approach, in addition to providing a brief description of the evolution of the phenomenological approach, by analytical approach, it is trying to a clarification of the division literature phenomenological discourse century, as the main point of departure for the study was ahead. Among the main findings of current research, fundamental compliance of Pallasmaa phenomenological method based on perception and construction of environment method to analyse place in comparison with Schultz environment-oriented methods and Relph human-centred approach can be mentioned.

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1. Introduction

In architecture, phenomenology approach is formed based on principles of phenomenology philosophy. There are differences in remained works due to different perceptions of the mentioned principles. To attain a comprehensive approach to analyse place phenomenology and recognizing a suitable selection method in each investigation, phenomenology is significant as a basic methodology to analyse descriptive-inferential results. Main concepts and common viewpoints of phenomenology experts formed based on philosophy of phenomenology are expressed in the first step in this investigation. Then, an analytical approach is presented pointing main differences in orientations and viewpoints of place phenomenology experts.

2. Phenomenological philosophy

2.1. Beginning of the phenomenology

Edmund Husserl as founder and father of phenomenology philosophy has based the principles based on epistemological status attitude. In this respect with a method such as suspension of the natural attitude (analysis process without

intermediate knowledge of scientific theories, rational and metaphysical beliefs) and reject and transcendental refer (excluding any unnecessary part of object recognition and trying to get closer the irreducible nature of things) tries to analyse awareness experience while going far from background works. Husserl attitude main principles were basic points in place phenomenology literature. The main orientation of Husserl is in contrast with the dualism subject (subject) and identification (object). It has been obvious since enlightenment period, especially ideas of René Descartes in all current philosophy currents.

This dualism of inner world and outer world, which led to two historical process as idealism in philosophy (with emphasis on the ideas and the world of mind as the origin of knowledge) and realism (realistic and accept the world outside the mind as the main theme of understanding) has been changed by the attitude and philosophy of Husserl. According to him, the thought topic is called as "noema" and thought work is called as "noesis". Directional ration between them is called intention. Hence, according to Husserl, noema is defined as what is considered and thought in modern philosophy in phenomenological philosophy (Table 1 and Fig. 1).

2.2. Heidegger: providing a suitable basis for place studies

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After Husserl, Heidegger revised his mind in obtaining awareness method in phenomenological attitude and considered ontology phenomenology. Based on real life put the actual experiences of human life as the basis for his philosophy, "meditative thinking" is introduced as a means of achieving phenomenological recognition. Heidegger

prioritizes active involvement with affairs than theoretical engagement with them which is main specification of all Husserl descriptions (Partovi, 2013). On the contrary to Husserl, by making hermeneutic phenomenology, Heidegger believes that interpretation is not possible without impact of pre-written things.

Table 1: Primary terms of Husserl phenomenology

1	The unity of subject and object as a whole unit and irreducible
2	Intentionality (a ration between noema and noesis)
3	Back to the things themselves and away from written works
4	Intuition as a means of phenomenological recognizing
5	Suspension of the natural attitude
6	Rejection and transcendental refer
7	paying attention to the biological world (as a relative thing) and avoid the sight of nowhere
8	subjective interaction

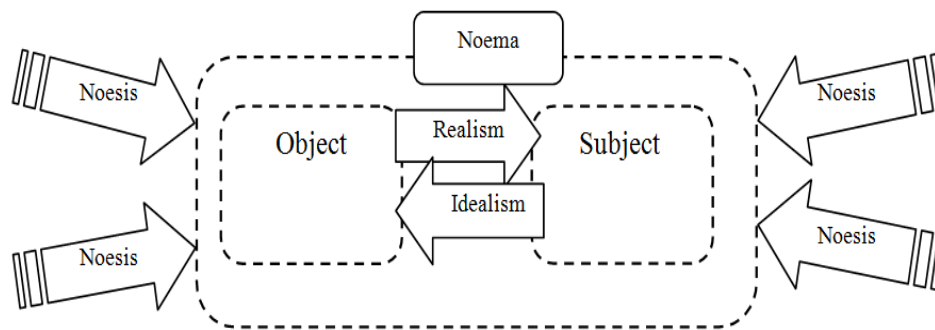


Fig. 1: Compares the process to obtain recognition in the classic attitude and the phenomenological attitude

According to Heidegger, "being in the world" is introduced as the main index of human kind. According to him, human and universe are considered simultaneously by phenomenology. It is not possible to analyse it separately at all. In this regard, using his four interpretations, land, sky, mortals and the spiritual world, he has tried to reflect hermeneutic attitude, reflect of thoughts in each other, role of thinking and heart meditation in recognition process and analysis of Dasein. His viewpoints are very significant as he was the first person who discussed about place and dwelling in phenomenology philosophy. According to Heidegger, dwelling is a process when human has changed being place to house, and establish harmony by four main resources i.e. God, self, sky, and land (Yar

Ahmadi, 1999). Actually, Heidegger's hermeneutic ontology perspective provides a way toward analysis and obtaining phenomenology philosophy around place and dwelling. In phenomenology study of place, existential phenomenology (ontology) and hermeneutics view, generally is better than other phenomenology viewpoints, because the realm of human experience and real events is basis of their descriptive generalization (Partovi, 2013). Based on linguistic arguments, Heidegger distinguishes between "dwelling", and "staying". According to Heidegger, dwelling means "protection" and "exclusion phenomenon" (Sharr, 2006). Main expressions of Heidegger usual in phenomenology philosophy are as follows briefly (Table 2).

Table 2: Heidegger's phenomenology philosophy expressions especially in place phenomenology

1	hermeneutic phenomenology relying on the interpretation
2	Existential phenomenology and tends to ontology approach
3	Paying attention to Dasein or existence in universe as main index of existence of human kind
4	Thinking and heart meditation tool of obtaining phenomenology recognition
5	Reaction engagement with affairs and emphasize on aspects based on practice
6	Distinguish between dwelling and staying based on linguistics logics
7	Applying 4 elements in expressing thing as collecting based on linguistics arguments
8	Emphasize on "dwelling" concept under "protection" title and leaving a person on it based on linguistics arguments

Phenomenology attitude evolution trend synthesizes with German-Austria thinking method toward French thinking in viewpoint of some philosophers such as Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Gaston Bachelard in psychology science. In

particular, role of human senses and philosophy of Merleau-Ponty on the one hand, and role of the Foundation archetypes and "collective unconscious" of Jung was reflected in phenomenology on the other

hand, clearly is visible and evident in the literature of the phenomenology.

2.3. Relph vote, Norberg-Schulz and plasma in phenomenology of place

Phenomenology approach has been changed significantly in dwelling and place phenomenon in its development process. Sometimes, it is psychological aspect evidently in In contrast to the ideas of its founder. Origin of the most evident differences in architecture field is in prioritizing difference of architectures scholars in perceiving “Noema” and selection method of thinking in this field. This difference in viewpoints and their relationship in phenomenology approach of current century is analysed to explain and analysing three main approaches in selecting base point in analysing place phenomenon, by describing how main principles of phenomenology are selected by three of the most effective people of place phenomenology literature.

2.4. Relph Subjective and Schultz objective analysis

Relph has introduced places as important centres of our immediate experiences of world (Relph, 1976). In addition, he believes that main specification of place is its ability in regulation and concentration on aims, experiences, and human behaviours spatially (Seamon, 1996). According to him, some human behaviour is reason of making non- places contemporary, including extreme attention to performance and technique and undisputed acceptance of common and splendid values. According to him, places were formed by frequent facing with it and complex associate in minds and our effects (Partovi, 2013). According to Relph, “inwardness” experience is the most important factor in create belonging to a place and the recognition and identification with places. There is share meaning between it and “genius luci” factor in authentication, as Schultz’s analysis of the cognitive stance of place. Relph with the seven categories of the dialectic method of internal and external areas that had been mentioned in Table 3 has confirmed the value of the "human behaviour" as the basis for phenomenological understanding the place.

Table 3: Categories of the dialectic method of internal and external fields

Feeling of the subject in the face of place	Descriptions
Sense of innerness	sense of belonging and comfort sense of place The most profound experience of place
sense of Otherness	sense of alienation and loneliness no real sense of place
purposeful sense of underlines	scientific approach to place measured and fair view of the place and separation of the site as a separate object
The implicit sense of Otherness	place as a background and outlook interface for activities such as transition to another place
Inner sense of behaviour	Situation, in which people place special attention to identify routes, signs and placed.
Inner sense of otherness with empathy vicarious underlines the sense	Situation in which the site is considered by outside observer honestly and sincerely. Understanding the secondary place by the pictures, drawings, stories and ...

According to Relph, space is a part of daily experiences of human in world. Hence, experiences and behaviours of human is first point in its phenomenological investigations. Natural environment is base of Schultz’s investigations. Recognizing environment is the first step in cognizant in the field of “being in the world”. He pointed out that Dasein expression implies on “where” and “how” (being- IN- the world), (Norberg – Schulz, 1984). Hence, following describing space and three-dimensional organizing method by creating “internal and external fields”, “border and fence”, and “centralization” as morphologic factors, and also explaining concept of “orientation” by creating “domain”, “path” and “center”, as topologic factors points to another topologic factor under title of “Genius Luci”, (Norberg – Schulz, 1980) which is in semantic relationship to “sense of place” concept.

Although, Schulz has endorsed this type of determining position and identifying in different situations has weak and strong points , it is possible one force catch on the other one (Norberg – Schulz, 1985). However, works of Schulz represent a reality

as he considered resolution of natural and environmental factors as basis of “spatial analysis” and “determining situation”. Even in his classification of place characters as identifying factor, significant role of natural characters is obviously recognizable (Norberg – Schulz, 1974). On the other hand, in addition to the cognitive and localization analysis, Schultz has involved typological architecture analysis with living dwelling styles. He believes that “natural dwelling” is first point of dwelling which was the first form of dwelling.

According to Fig. 1, and the mentioned investigations, it is claimed although Relph and Schulz accepted the totality of subject and object under cover of phenomenological approach, and know human and its environment as irreducible entity to components; each one has considered one of them as basis of his investigations and analysed subject and object as a unique thing. Johannes Pallasmaa style of work is considerable, who is Finnish architect, in selecting basis and start point of investigations, which is discussed briefly in next topic.

2.5. Johani Pallasmaa position facing subject and object

Philosophically, Plasma thought benefited of Husserl, Heidegger, Bachelard and Merleau-Ponty. Plasma believes that thoughts of Heidegger is very conservative, so he has benefited his thoughts less than believes of others. On the contrary, Plasma benefited of Merleau-Ponty very much. "Share senses in the process of perception", "centrality of the human body in the process of receiving" are the most important investigation issues of Pallasmaa. Criticising western-oriented thinking, visual control, extreme convergence standard, radical avant-garde, virtual Gray, formal and philosophical postmodernism unfounded and hard on the one hand, and emphasize on multisensory perception,

living space, perception of physical, verbal and motor experience, memory and imagination, timing, feeling of being, home and silence on the other hand, are the most important Plasma concerns form the common discourse of architecture phenomenology (Shirazi, 2012). His emphasis on moment man faces the subject and the environment as an object, in the "construction" processes and "perception" environment suggests his focusing on the world of the mind symmetrically and the position is in consistent with the noblest positions of phenomenological philosophy. Therefore, according to Husserl, consciousness is not subjective and not objective, but is intersection point of subject and object (Partovi, 2013). Based on it, Fig. 1 is presented as Fig. 2 in architecture area based on the mentioned analysis.

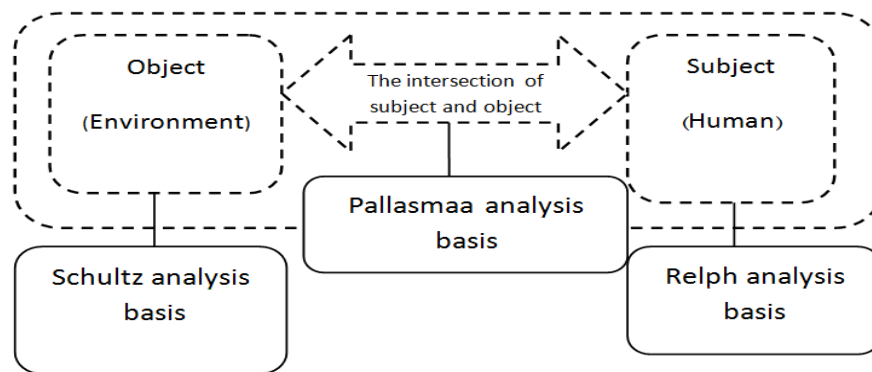


Fig. 2: Comparison on the attainment of knowledge in phenomenological attitude of Schultz, Relph and Pallasmaa

3. Conclusion

What is important in contemporary literature of phenomenological research in the field of architecture represents type of attitude, analysis method, common expressions, and work method of phenomenology architects. Its root is in primary rules of phenomenology and thoughts of philosophers such as Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Bachelard. In this regard, regardless of fundamental developments of the philosophical thought and mixing it with a part of psychology science in votes of philosophers, place phenomenology category is formed based on different priorities during its development trend following different work methods of authors. Rolf humanistic position, Schultz axis position and the Pallasmaa interstitial position are mentioned. Its conformity with Pallasmaa position and the fundamental principles of the phenomenology philosophy are perceivable. The main result of this study suggests that in order to achieve a comprehensive analysis of place and avoid reductionism, paying attention to the intersection of the attitude of the environment, human-centered attitude and perception of the environment as the intersection of subject and object, seems essential.

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