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Original Research Article

Evaluating the Emergence Level of Semantic Values Hidden in the Historical Body of Sepah Street in Tehran*

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Abstract

Problem statement: The semantic values hidden in the architectural context of historical structures are investigated in this study. The research studies the interaction between form and meaning and investigates the complex links between the body, form, and spirit of architecture by focusing on the case of Sepah Street in Tehran.

Research objective: This study is based on the concept that architectural design has a deep capacity to convey meanings and these meanings are often deciphered through roles, expectations, and motivations.

Research method: The main question of the research revolves around understanding the inherent semantic structure of the historical bodies of Sepah Street and how these structures help to understand the place. The study assumes that the architectural semantic values of historical structures can be analyzed through 25 indicators grouped into five value levels. These levels include various aspects such as basic balance, functional compatibility, emotional attachment, cultural identity, and symbolic abstraction. The research method was historical content analysis and data were collected quantitatively.

Conclusion: The results show that Sepah Street has a dynamic balance between tradition and modernity. This architecture shows a remarkable ability to expand the organic form while maintaining its essential character. The proportion, connection, rhythm, and order components create a harmonious unity among building elements that enhance the place's sense. The historical context of the street seamlessly interacts with its surroundings and shows the importance of continuity and interaction. This study shows how the architectural configuration of Sepah Street communicates with its residents on emotional levels. The architectural simplicity of this place fosters a strong sense of belonging, while the intentional inclusion of ambiguity and harmony evokes an emotional depth that resonates with observers. In addition, this research shows how architectural design responds to cultural and symbolic values and shows identity, contrast, and harmony. The precise orchestration of these elements helps to form a coherent and meaningful architectural context. In short, the research analyzes the semantic values hidden in the historical context of Sepah Street in Tehran., It highlights the subtle interplay between architectural form and the evocation of meaning by exploring the instant, functional, emotional, cultural, and symbolic dimensions comprehensively. The findings emphasize the importance of architectural design not only in the physical dimension but also in the essence of place, culture, and identity.

Keywords: *Hidden Semantic Values, Framework of Historical Body, Sepah St., Tehran.*

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Introduction

The urban environment, a complex interaction of physical structures, cultural interpretations, and emotional experiences, is a dynamic arena where the meanings of places are constantly evolving (Haroun et al., 2013) (Haroon, Eisenhauer & Stedman, 2013). The importance of understanding and preserving the meanings attached to urban spaces becomes increasingly important with the changing shape of urbanization and the globalization of cities around the world. This research titled "Evaluation of the expression of semantic values hidden behind the historical body of Sepah Street in Tehran" focuses on the historical context of Sepah Street as a case study, and investigates the complex relationship between the meaning of places and their urban environment. This research tries to contribute to the broader discourse of urban redevelopment and preservation of cultural identities by exploring the multifaceted dimensions of attachment to place and hidden semantic values in this historical body.

Urban recreation initiatives are often carried out to revitalize and change spaces, trying to achieve economic, social, and environmental goals (Lai, Said & Kubota, 2013). However, in the recreation process, the meanings that people and societies attribute to places may sometimes wear out and lead to a disconnection between people and their surroundings (Cheshmehzangi & Mofid, 2012). The commodification of place and the homogenizing effects of globalization have led to the creation of standard urban landscapes that lack authentic links to local cultures and histories. This separation from cultural and historical contexts can lead to a sense of no place, a place where spaces lose their emotional tone and meaningful associations. As a result, not only the quality of public spaces is damaged, but the sense of identity and belonging of individuals and communities is also weakened (Stedman, 2003; Williams, 1995).

Architecture, like any other phenomenon, is formed of body, form, and soul, and the best way to reach the soul is to search for meaning and look deeply

at the form. A body is a constituent material that has no identity or name without a form. The form gives a special dignity to the raw material and sometimes it takes life. The intermediary between the body and the soul, and the meaning given by the raw material, is the form (Nadimi, 2007, 101). According to the elders of the world, there is a meaning hidden in everything, and the external complement of everything is the reality that forms its hidden and inner essence. It must be returned to its original to know the perfection of a thing. And this is possible with interpretation. Interpretation is a bridge between the external and the internal. Philosophy and prophetic knowledge are needed to achieve interpretation (Ardalan & Bakhtiar, 2001, 5). According to Norberg-Schultz (1980) meaning is the basic need of man and man is nothing but meanings available to him. Psychological maturity means that he is aware of meanings because every person is born within a meaning system that he understands through his symbolic manifestations. In this system, the man reveals meanings through "making". Any human product that can be considered a symbol or tool that serves the purpose of order. (Meaning) is to ignore certain proportions between man and his environment. Man does this through coding, and in this way, he raises his dignity and individual position and thus achieves a meaningful social life. Therefore, the purpose of architecture is to reveal meanings in the form of a system of places, passages, and fields, and if meanings emerge in architecture and become objective, then architecture can be defined as defining the existence of space. In fact, "form" and "meaning" are two inseparable categories and concepts. Although they belong to different regions and worlds of life, their existence cannot be separated and divided into a single phenomenon (Naghizadeh, 2000, 17). In addition, the form formation in a historical building or human activities can be done without the influence of meaning or spirituality (which, of course, depends on the context and the context on which it is built has different levels and values). This is not the case

and the expression of any meaning and spirituality requires a tool that plays a role in the form of form. Making every subject, concept, and activity meaningful, in other words, giving a spiritual dimension to anything (even) material, giving meaning to human life and freedom it from the abyss of one-dimensional materialism is also the result of another diffusion, namely expansion. And paying attention to the “meanings” is the “form” in the society, and in this regard, architecture can show the “truths” in the “facts” and functions and... the form of beauty and the truth of the “form” in the society (Fig. 1), (Taqvai, 2010, 76).

Therefore, it can be said that in any work of art, including architecture, the form must respond accurately and not deceptively to the meaning, and the more the architectural form responds to the semantic world and even the functional load, it will be more successful. The truth is that the form and meaning of architecture form a whole unit that has unity and it is not possible to imagine the form without paying attention to the content and meaning of a value structure (Heydari, 2018, 85). Therefore, what is important in the process of forming meaningful perception is the two-way view of man and the world, according to which, man cannot look at the subject without looking at the world in which he lives. Therefore, perception is a general structure, the basis of which is biological behavior, at the top of which are higher meanings and conceptual perception, which are both aspects of perception (Merleau-Ponty, 1988, 207-222) and are inseparable from it. Another issue is how to discover meanings and test them in the environment and know whether the meanings perceived by the individual exist in the

“environment” or the minds of the observers (Fig. 2). According to the researcher, the belief that meaning exists within the object or place or that people attribute it to the place is largely related to different levels of meaning. Because the meaning can be considered more dependent on the phenomenon at the initial levels and less influenced by culture and values, while at higher levels the meanings are often closer and more related to the related people and more dependent on the interpretation method and people attribute meanings to the said phenomenon. The semantic structure in the framework of the body means that a single understanding can be achieved in direct encounters with the body, or in other words, it can be read as a meaningful whole or as a text in Barth’s words. Semantic structure is the truth and delusion of the place nature (Rappaport, 2005, 23). Meanings that people decode and understand based on roles, expectations, motivations and other factors, and is the concept of place (Relph, 1976, 87). In fact, according to the two elements of body and function, in the form of place identity components, “meaning” is considered as another aspect or dimension of identity that acts in the direction of communication between the two mentioned components (Misirlisoy, 2016). Because of these meanings, the place is distinguished from a mere geographical location. In this approach, place refers to a place where humans interact with their surroundings. Therefore, it stimulates the human imagination and communicates with him. So, a major part of human communication with the surrounding environment takes place through visual and mental contact with the physical structures of that environment. A place is defined not only by its physical context but also by a set of

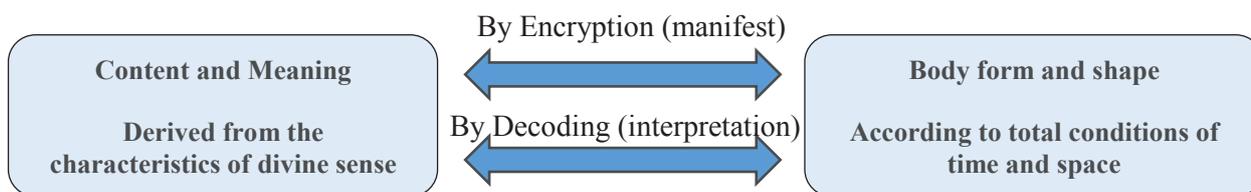


Fig. 1. The relationship between meaning and form in architecture. Source: Taqvai, 2010, 76.

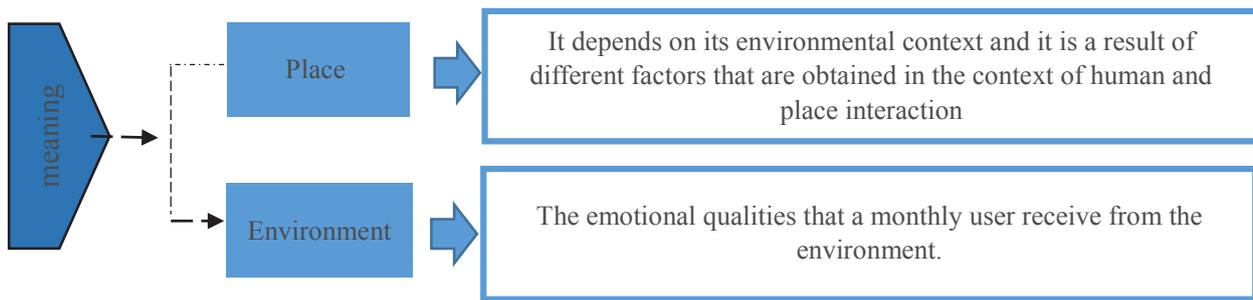


Fig. 2. The difference between the meaning of place and environment. Source: Authors.

social and psychological processes that take place in it and is full of symbolic meanings and emotional associations (Cuba & Houmon, 1993; Steman, 2003). The influence of the meaning component in the body formation process shows that any kind of place meaning can be defined through one of the perception dimensions and tools (formation and classification) and through the tools of perception (meanings) that lead to the formation of place concept. According to the mentioned documents, including “existing meanings” or “expression” based on a vulnerability in the physical dimension, “immediate primary meanings” and “meanings are in the human mind” or “implied” based on vulnerability according to personality dimensions and society includes “functional meanings, emotional senses, cultural value meanings, and symbolic sign meanings”. (Kalali & Modiri, 2012). Considering the complexities caused by urban recreation initiatives, the central question of this research is how the evaluation of semantic values hidden in the context of Sepeh Street in Tehran can provide insights into urban recreation efforts and cultural preservation. The main goal of this research is to analyze and decode hidden meaning dimensions that contribute to the historical and cultural importance of Sepeh Street in Tehran. The research purpose is to provide strategies that coordinate urban renovation with the preservation of cultural identity and historical authenticity by evaluating the relationship between these semantic values and the physical environment. The goal is to understand

the complex connections between physical form, cultural meanings, and emotional resonance in the historical urban environment. This research tries to reveal how semantic values are interwoven with architectural elements and spatial arrangements and ultimately help to vitality of public spaces and foster a sense of belonging in individuals and communities. this study seeks to develop a comprehensive understanding of the complex interplay between form and meaning in the urban context by adapting from diverse sources and theoretical frameworks, while also exploring potential implications for sustainable urban development and meaningful placement.

Semantic Structure in the Framework of the Historical Context Bodies

The semantic structure in the framework of the bodies means that it is possible to achieve a unified understanding in the direct encounter with the body, or in other words, to read it as a meaningful whole, or as Barth says, as a text. The semantic structure is the truth and the nature of the place. Meanings that people decode and understand based on roles, expectations, motivations, and other factors (Rappaport, 2005, 23). Based on this view, the perception and judgment that is formed based on the decoding of the mentioned meanings in the mind of the person leads to the creation of the place concept. (Relf, 1976, 87) Therefore, based on the research, the model of semantic value indicators of historical bodies architecture was explained with 25 indicators

and in 5 value levels in three metropolitan cities of Tehran (each value level with 5 indicators related to it). Accordingly, the value levels are:

• **The instant-elementary value level**

balance: the facade parts in the body are compatible and adapt to the other that is in its vicinity, thus, the parts are adjusted and reach balance in closing together (Mofid, 1995, 41-48). \ Proportion: in the design of a facade, the ratio of the components' size to each other and the ratio of their size to the whole facade as a small whole is important. In the set of facades (larger whole), the series of connections between the parts of a body, as well as many other elements that surround the observer, are important (Tavasoli, 1999). \ connection (correlation and connection): The parts of the body have a connected and continuous character in their existence and levels, which are present in each facade in a different way. City facades are looking for connection with each other "every facade is looking to connect to other facades" (Habibi, 1998, 52). \ Rhythm: is the regular or coordinated repetition of similar elements, lines, shapes, forms, or colors together to induce a sense of movement and is considered as a device for organizing forms in bodies (Mornement, 2007). Order: In historical bodies, the order can be followed through the repetition of an assumed factor in monographs. This means that, if a certain composition is repeated multiple times in the facades of adjacent buildings, this assumed factor will automatically order the whole body.

• **Level of functional-instrumental value**

Continuity: the body is created by connecting buildings, volumes, and shapes, and it finds another meaning in space and time with social and cultural behaviors (Tabatabai, 2017). \ Adaptability: Adaptability refers to the base of the body's adaptation to environmental conditions. In the historical context, adaptability is formed by taking into account the appropriate materials and, the details of the implementation and the way of implementing the new building with the historical body, maintaining the proportion and integrity between the

parts and elements of the body. \ Interaction: the parts in the body trade and communicate with each other. In relation to historical bodies, the interaction takes place when the architecture is in harmony with the background and context. \ Flexibility: flexibility in a body is dependent on the relationship between part and whole" in relation to its multiple components. a body is an expanded collection of a component growth and its transformation into a whole that includes components (Groter, 2009). Hierarchy: It establishes a systematic relationship between the components of the facade system, which themselves constitute the body (Naghizadeh, 1996).

• **Level of emotional-sensorial value**

Belonging: In historical bodies, due to the existence of a complex combination of meanings, symbols, and environmental qualities that a person or group consciously or unconsciously perceives from a place then there is a sense of belonging (Javan Foruzandeh & Motalebi, 2011). Ambiguity: In the body, the feeling of spiritual greatness has been considered in complete simplicity and purity in the formation and composition of the parts of the historical body, and the combinations' simplicity of this basic but rich geometry has led to the emergence of a body which message can be received with special sensory understanding. \ Harmony: It is beautiful harmony and balance between the body parts. This happens when all the components are in the same proportion. \ Simplicity: The simplicity of the form in general and except in the design of a historical body is created by comparison and elimination of minor details and unimportant details (Diba, 2000, 103). \ Complexity: In complex design, the number of forms, details, and distinct, unexpected, and surprising elements should be used (Tabatabai, 2017).

• **Level of Value-Cultural Value**

Identity: Historical structures emerge in the embrace of traditional perspectives and cultural norms, which are shaped by the interplay of climatic and technological constraints. This mixture of coexistence accompanies them with a distinct unity and identity which is a symbol of their historical

journey (Hojjat, 2015, 59). Harmonious diversity: Historical buildings not only display a set of elements and components, but it is the harmonious interaction between this diversity and their harmonious integration with neighboring aspects that gives them freedom from monotony and the gap of identity. Cultural Alignment: The manifestation of architectural attempts, whether in form, technique, or materials, graciously reflects the language and ethos of the surrounding environment, fostering a seamless dialogue between human creation and the context in which it lives. Human proportions: scale, a symphony of sizes and proportions, is very important in the urban landscape. Human scale intricately links the height of individuals with the spatial extent of the urban landscape, creating a link that resonates with human sensibilities (Hedman & Yazowski, 2014). Dynamic Contrast: The intentional or unintentional contrast that historical bodies share with their surroundings accelerates the dialogue between old and new. This interplay brings life into urban landscapes, challenges conventional boundaries, and forms a narrative of change and continuity.

- Level of sign - symbolic value

Abstraction: the body has an abstract state in the use of natural (urban space) and quasi-natural elements (interior space of buildings). Unity: In historical bodies, unity is possible through the combination, coordination, and proximity of various views so that they can be understood in the form of a whole. Difference and similarity: Full use of architectural patterns, physical structures, materials, and execution methods as a tool for maximum harmony between the new and the old and the continuity of the body in the old space. ambiguity: a shell that contains as many meanings as the number of contacts. Geometry: Geometry in the framework of the elements of historical bodies establishes solidarity in the main structure of the historical body and is drawn in the form of lines and proportions, but the spiritual truth is hidden in the hint and secret of it (Masaeli, 2017).

According to the mentioned materials, it can be said that in the design adjacent to the historical building, it is important to avoid neglecting the surrounding context in terms of the values of the historical building and also the context's beauty. It is necessary to carry out a detailed and scientific study of each item before any action for design, along with valuable materials, and evaluate all the features and aspects of history, concept, aesthetics, architecture, and the texture of the building. The levels of cultural, emotional, sensory values, and finally symbolic meanings are a suitable platform for understanding the culture and civilization of any historical land. In the same way, it is clear that the designer, in addition to considering the unique aspects of the building and texture, is obliged to comply with regionally approved standards for cities and historical buildings or internationally approved standards. The mentioned elements are identified in Fig. 3. The methods presented in the continuation of this research are the proposed solutions that can be used in new designs in urban contexts.

Research Method

In this research, the expression of semantic values hidden in the body of Sepah Street in Tehran has been evaluated. The research method includes the analysis and evaluation of researched samples based on predetermined indicators and main factors. The study begins with the knowledge of historical figures and their elements and indicators through the library method, which includes the examination of specialized writings related to the figure and the semantic values hidden in it. This information is organized in a conceptual matrix and the degree of manifestation of these values in the architecture of the historical context is examined. Results and analyses are presented separately in each section. The following steps are involved in the implementation, acquisition, and analysis of the conceptual framework:

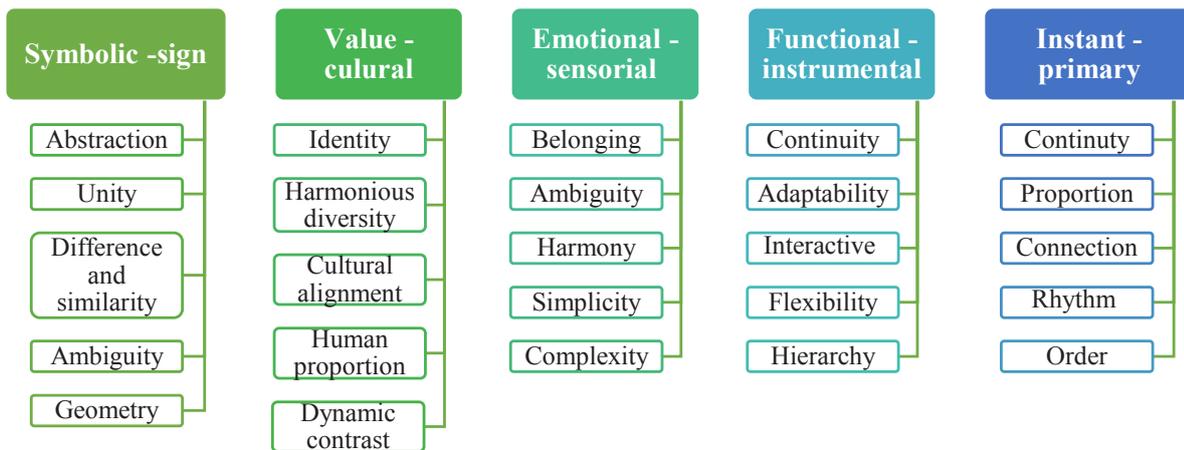


Fig. 3. Semantic value scheme on the investigation of historical buildings. Source: Authors.

• **Implementation steps and stages**

- Collecting documents and sufficient samples of historical replicas of Sepah Street in Tehran,
 - Understanding body elements through document review, field observation, and conversation with residents,
 - Creating detailed definitions and functions for each body element,
 - Implementing indicators of semantic values in place and mind, organized in five categories in the conceptual framework and defining their relationships with matrix concepts,
 - Identifying suitable samples and compiling documentation for each element of the body.
- Data collection procedure,
- Completing the matrix based on documents (maps), observations, and existing background and talking to the residents,
 - Drawing the meaning coordinates in the place of each historical body’s element,
 - Drawing the meanings coordinates in the mind of each of the historical bodies’ elements,
 - Obtaining the frequency of each concept in the bodies of historical context (Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz),
 - Summing up and calculating the frequency of each category,
 - Drawing diagrams for each category,
 - The way to collect information and statistical population,
- We must consider the scope and focus of the study

- to determine the statistical population. Since the research specifically evaluates the semantic values expressed in the historical body of Sepah Street in Tehran, the statistical population consists of people who have a direct connection or experience with the street and its historical context. In this research, it used the purposeful sampling method. The statistical population includes the following groups (Table 1):
- Current residents of Sepah Street: These individuals provided insights into their perceptions and experiences of the historic body daily. Interviews with a sample of 20 current residents of Sepah Street provide valuable insight into their perceptions and experiences of the historic body.
 - Previous residents of Sepah Street: This group can provide valuable historical insights and knowledge about the street and its changes over time. Interviews with a sample of 10 previous residents connected to Sepah Street, provide historical perspectives and knowledge on the street’s changes over time.
 - Architecture and urban planning experts: experts in this field can provide expert opinions and analyses regarding the semantic values expressed in the historical corpus of Sepah Street. An interview with a sample of 5 experts in this field can provide professional opinions and analyses regarding the semantic values expressed through the historical body of Sepah Street.
 - Neighbors and local community members: People who live in the neighborhood of Sepah Street may

Table 1. Composition of interviewees. Source: Authors.

Position	Number of Interviews
Current residents of Sepah Street	20
Previous residents of Sepah Street	10
Architecture and urban planning experts	5
Neighbors and local community members	15
Total	50

have observations and experiences related to the street’s historical significance. Interviews with a sample of 15 people from the local community and neighboring regions can show their observations and experiences about the historical significance of the street.

• **The reason for interviewing residents and research**

- Gathering local knowledge: Interviews with residents allow a comprehensive understanding of the historical body of Sepah Street. Their views and experiences can clarify the cultural, social, and historical importance of the street and its architecture.

- Record historical changes: Previous residents can provide valuable information about the evolution of Sepah Street and its historical context. Their memories and reports can help identify any significant changes and understand the impact on the semantic values expressed through the body.

- Subjective perception and experience: Residents’ perceptions and experiences are very important to attain the subjective aspects of the historical body. Interviews can reveal the feelings, memories, and personal connections that people associate with the street and contribute to a deeper understanding of its semantic values.

- Community and Stakeholder Engagement: The research can actively engage with stakeholders who have a direct interest in the preservation and development of Sepah Street, by interviewing residents and local community members. Their information can help us shape recommendations and strategies to preserve and enhance the semantic values of the historic body.

- Expert opinions and analysis: The participation of

experts in architecture and urban planning provides a professional perspective on the semantic values expressed through the historical body. Their insights and analysis help to evaluate and understand more comprehensively the importance of architecture.

In general, interviewing residents and researchers with a diverse range of people allows a multifaceted exploration of the semantic values hidden in the historical body of Sepah Street. This study can provide a comprehensive assessment and make meaningful recommendations for preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the street by combining different perspectives and experiences.

Research Procedure

The next step involves determining the indicators of semantic values in the architecture of the historical body to evaluate case examples. These indicators are derived from the levels of meanings in place and mind and are categorized into five instant and elementary, functional-instrumental, emotional-sensorial, cultural value, and symbolic parts. Various research techniques are used according to the variety of case examples, including interviews, objective and behavioral observations, review of writings and documents, map analysis, and other experimental techniques. Observation-based methods rely on expert observations to objectively measure semantic indicators. Observations focus on physical and functional dimensions, to uncover hidden meanings and discover people’s experiences in the environment. Interviews are conducted with experts, previous and current residents, and neighbors, using open and sometimes semi-structured formats. These interviews evaluate respondents’ thoughts to extract

explicit and implicit content related to the indicators. The goal is to discover the internal relationships within the data components and elements, to identify the real intentions of the interviewees, to identify the relevant conditions and environments, and finally to present realistic results in line with the research objectives. As a result, the data obtained from interviews are analyzed with an interpretative approach. The conceptual diagram of the research process is shown in Fig. 4.

- Finalizing the conceptual matrix,
- Obtaining the frequency of each concept in the architecture of the historical context bodies of Sepah Street in Tehran,
- Obtaining the frequency percentage of each concept in the historical fabric bodies of Sepah Street of Tehran,
- Drawing diagrams and charts related to each concept,
- Analyzing the qualitative contents of the conceptual matrix in the context of historical bodies' architecture of Sepah Street in Tehran.

Analysis of Research Findings

In this section, the analysis of research findings regarding the evaluation of the semantic values' expression hidden behind the historical body of Sepah Street in Tehran is presented. Research findings have been merged through a comprehensive exploration of qualitative data collected from

document review, field observations, and in-depth interviews with stakeholders and experts near Sepah Street.

The analysis shows a multifaceted range of semantic dimensions that contribute to the historical significance and cultural identity of Sepah Street. Distinct categories of semantic values have emerged through the phenomenological analysis of participants' experiences and the content analysis of historical documents:

- Historical continuity: the historical body of Sepah Street is a combination of time layers, each of which conveys the past narratives. Participants' descriptions of architectural elements, street layouts, and historical events emphasize the street's role as a living repository of history.
- Cultural significance: semantic values related to cultural heritage are revealed through preserved architectural styles, traditional motifs, and spatial arrangements. Residents and experts emphasize the value of Sepah Street as a concrete link with the historical identity of Tehran.
- Emotional attachments: The street evokes a range of emotions, from nostalgia to belonging. Personal stories shared during the interviews highlight people's emotional resonance with the street and reinforce its place in their memories.
- Functional dynamics: The design and layout of Sepah Street have evolved over time to meet changing needs. The interplay between functional

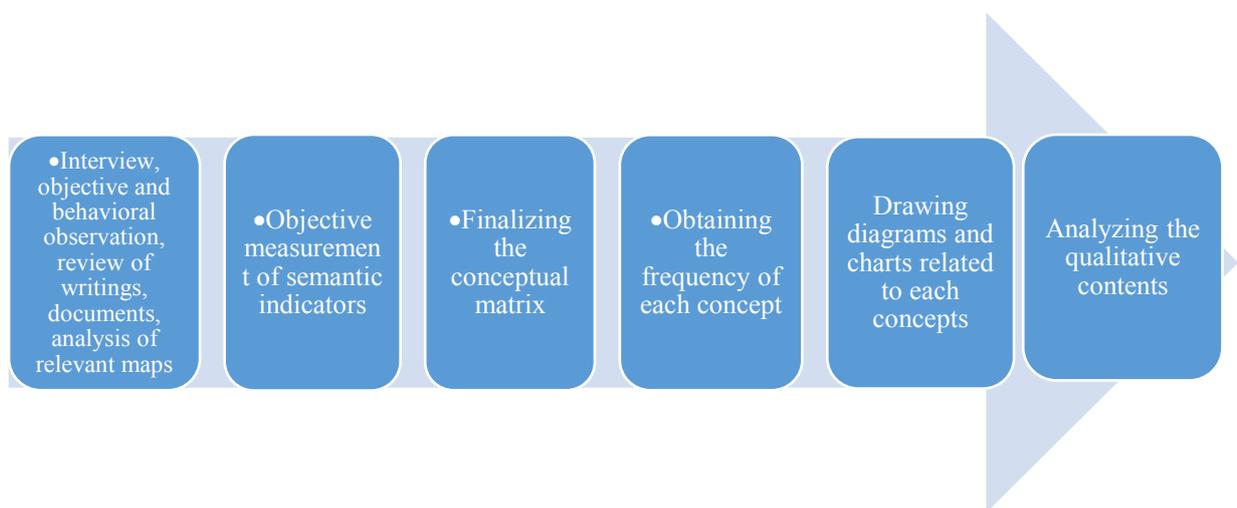


Fig 4. Analyzing the qualitative contents of the conceptual matrix in the context of historical bodies' architecture of Sepah Street in Tehran. Source: Authors.

elements and spatial arrangements is critical in shaping the utility of the street while preserving its historic essence.

In this way, the pillars, features, elements, and components of historical bodies (Tehran) were recognized. In the next step, the detailed knowledge of these elements and their role and function in understanding the concepts hidden behind the frameworks of these historical bodies of these megacities was discussed, then completing the conceptual framework for all the elements of the bodies of those big cities was discussed using the expertise of the researcher, studying and asking the experts and residents in these historical contexts.

After completing the table, a detailed definition was given for each element with its source and reference. On the other hand, for each of them, a witness, a well-documented example, or a document including a photo, drawing, or map, specifying that element, was brought. In the end, with the completion of the table in this research, 25 indicators in 5 different value levels in 10 Body parts were read. In the following, after completing the table for historical texture architecture, its results were compiled and the total results were collected. The way of working is that the frequency of each of the concepts in place and mind used in the architecture of Tehran city (Sepah street) in 5 value levels 1. immediate and elementary, 2. functional and instrumental, 3. valuable and cultural, 4. emotional and sensorial, and 5. symbolic, measured, and then analyzed the qualitative content of the results obtained about the way of crystallization of concepts hidden behind the framework of historical bodies (Tehran), and interesting and new results were obtained in this connection, which will be mentioned in the following.

• Presenting the architectural conceptual matrix of the historical body of Tehran metropolis

This conceptual matrix has studied and researched all the elements of the valuable historical walls in the historical fabric body of Sepah Street in Tehran (Fig. 5), and has expressed the role of each element in the value levels. (Summary of street walls, which constitute the



Fig. 5. Examples of selected walls in Sepah Street of Tehran. Source: Authors.

body of the street, final analysis is done) which can be read and checked by researchers in the following (Table 2).

• Presenting a conceptual matrix in the historical body of Tehran (Sepah Street)

This conceptual matrix has studied the method of intermediate building construction in the body of the historical context of Sepah Street in Tehran and has determined the method of each new building construction in this context, which can be studied and analyzed by researchers in the following pages of the thesis.

• Obtaining the results of drawing diagrams and analyzing the qualitative content of Sepah Street in Tehran

Now, after presenting the conceptual matrix in the context of the historical body architecture of Sepah Street in Tehran, as described in the steps, summarizing the obtained results and drawing diagrams for each section, as well as analyzing the content of the obtained results and expressing the determination of the concepts hidden behind the body framework with the indicators considered in this research in the historical context of Tehran will be paid from the views of five immediate and elementary value levels, functional-instrumental, emotional-sensorial, -cultural value-symbolic and in two parts the meanings existing in the place and the mind.

• Evaluating the emergence of semantic values hidden in the historical body of Sepah Street in Tehran from the meanings' view available in the place (immediate-primary)

As it seems from Fig. 6, the highest semantic value

Table 2. The emergence of hidden meanings in the architecture of the historical body of Tehran metropolis. Source: Authors.

Case study metropolises	Value levels	Indexes	Indexes' scores	Elements and components of facade and body										Witness the example	
				Skyline	Landline	Full and empty surfaces	entrance	Balcony	Vertical elements	Horizontal elements	shape	decorations	Opaque and transparent areas		Shape
Tehran Sepah St.'s body	Semantic concepts hidden in place (instant-primary, surface value 1)	continuity	9	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		proportion	9	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		connection	9	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		rhythm	8	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		order	9	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		Body elements' scores	44	5	5	5	5	0	5	4	5	5	5		
	Semantic concepts hidden in the mind (functional-instrumental, surface value 2)	continuity	6	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓		
		Adaptability	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		Interactive	9	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		Flexibility	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
		Hierarchy	8	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		
		Body elements' scores	40	5	5	5	5	2	4	2	4	3	5		
	Semantic concepts hidden in the mind (emotional-sensorial, surface value 3)	belonging	5		✓		✓		✓			✓	✓		
		Ambiguity	9	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		Harmony	5		✓		✓		✓			✓	✓		
		Simplicity	4		✓		✓					✓	✓		
		Complexity	7	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
		Body elements' scores	30	2	3	2	4	2	4	2	3	4	4		
	Semantic concepts hidden in the mind (value-cultural, surface value 4)	Identity	8	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		Harmonious diversity	4				✓		✓	✓		✓			
Cultural alignment		10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Human proportion		9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Dynamic contrast		1									✓				
Body elements' scores		32	3	3	3	3	2	4	4	3	4	3			
Semantic concepts hidden in the mind (symbolic sign, surface value 5)	abstraction	5			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
	Unity	8	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Difference and similarity	5	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓			
	Ambiguity	7			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
	geometry	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Body elements' scores	35	3	3	3	4	3	5	3	3	4	4			

belonged to the indexes of proportionality, connection\ continuity, and order and balance, this shows that the series of connections between the body parts of Sepah Street in Tehran and also the order between the body parts gives an appropriate size and creates adaptation and harmony between them. Align or equalize a visual weight in the body to achieve relaxation in the body. The common thinking about Sepah Street in Tehran is that the historical bodies are combined in a continuous and continuous fabric and each facade is connected to the other facades. According to the results obtained from the research, the lowest semantic index belongs to rhythm. This means that the entire body of Sepah Street in Tehran is composed of parts that are repeated accordingly. As it is clear in the historical body of Sepah Street in Tehran according to Table 3, the construction of intermediate buildings on this street has been done using the zero-degree method, which has caused the inconsistency of the building in the historical context and has given an inappropriate and alien appearance to the city.

• **Evaluating the emergence of the semantic concepts hidden in the historical body of Sepah Street in Tehran from the meanings’ view in the mind (functional-instrumental)**

As the results of Fig. 7 show the body of Sepah Street in Tehran is based on simple and basic shapes and sizes and can develop by adding parts to it, which is done through the application of flexibility and adaptability concept. The body balances between what it wants and what the new conditions in society have created for it so that it can

survive, which has the most meaningful value. It is the index of flexibility that shows this issue. From another aspect, it can be said that the body of Sepah Street is like a curtain between the interior space (closed space) and the exterior space (open space) of the buildings, which creates an “interactive area” between different systems and phenomena in the body architecture. Finally, even though the fixed and semi-fixed parts and elements of the space are usually ignored, studies show that as much as half of the semantic values in the body belong to the continuity index, and this is created through the connection of buildings, volumes, and shapes, and in space and time find another meaning with social and cultural behaviors.

• **Evaluating the emergence level of the semantic concepts hidden in the historical body of Sepah Street of Tehran from the meanings’ view in the mind (value-cultural)**

As can be seen in Fig. 8, the semantic value hidden in the framework of the historical body of Sepah Street of Tehran, from a value-cultural view, is mostly focused on the contrast index, with the aim of the heterogeneity of elements and components, and at the same time, its melodiousness is related to other main elements and components, which frees the historical body from monotony and the gap of identity. The issue of contrast is another relatively important issue in the historical context of Sepah Street in Tehran because the architect in designing a relatively new structure (Art Deco building), built on maximum contrast and with a completely different or contrasting spirit, tried

Table 3. The way to build intermediate buildings in the historical context of the historical body of the metropolis Tehran. Source: Authors.

Case study metropolises	Methods of construction of infill buildings in historical context								Witness the example
Tehran Sepah St.’s body	Façade maintaining school	Zero degree	consolidation	Contrast and comparison	Mocking and unstable	Comparison and similarity	invisible	Multiplex	

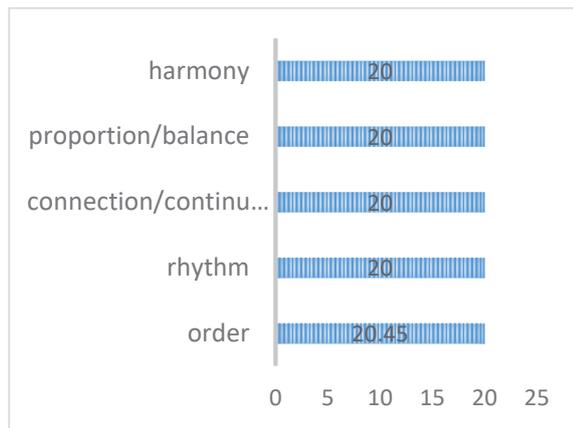


Fig. 6. The emergence of latent concepts in the historical body of Sepah Street of Tehran based on the meanings in the minds (instant -primary). Source: Authors.

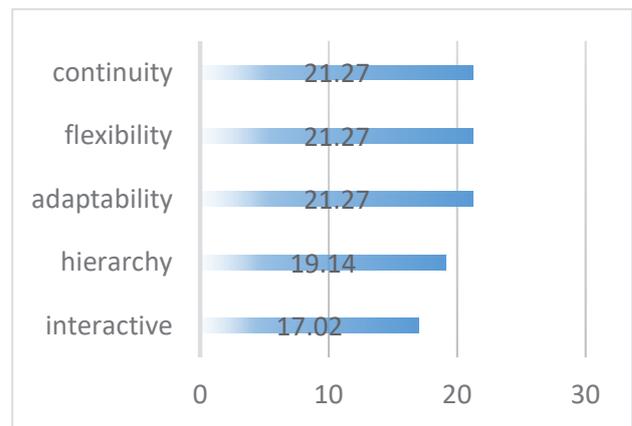


Fig. 7. The emergence of latent concepts in the historical body of Sepah Street of Tehran based on the meanings in the minds (functional-instrumental). Source: Authors.

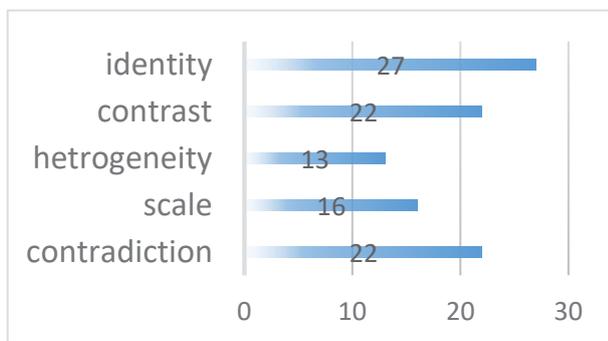


Fig. 8. The emergence of latent concepts in the historical body of Sepah Street in Tehran based on the meanings in the minds (value-cultural). Source: Authors.

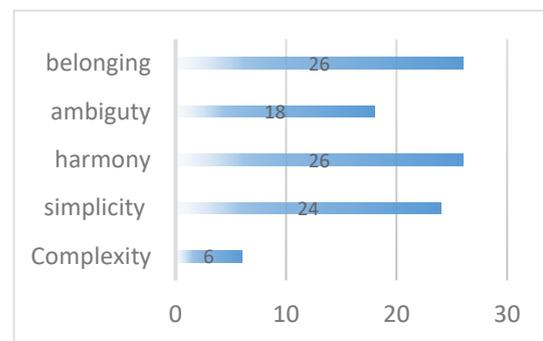


Fig. 9. The emergence of latent concepts behind the historical body of Sepah Street of Tehran based on the meanings in the minds (emotional-sensorial). Source: Authors.

to create the greatest amount of contrast between the new and old ones. Consistency and identity are important because they cause the feeling of belonging to a material and spiritual collection. And the body, by creating harmony with the environment, has made more communication between man and urban place. On the other hand, due to the structure of the Art Deco building in the historical context, the scale has the least importance because the sizes and proportions of the wall elements are disturbed with each other and with respect to the human scale.

• **Evaluating the emergence level of semantic concepts hidden behind the framework of the historical body of Sepah Street of Tehran based on the meanings in the minds (emotional-sensorial)**

As it seems from Fig 9, the highest semantic value belongs to harmony and simplicity indicators, which

can be the reason that all the components in the body of the historical fabric of Sepah Street in Tehran are proportional, which causes the simplicity of the shape in general and detailed in the historical body. On the other hand, the historical body of Sepah Street, due to the existence of a complex combination of meanings, symbols, and environmental qualities that people consciously or unconsciously perceive about the place, causes a sense of belonging, which is one of the most valuable meanings in the mind. On the other hand, it can be said that less than half of the semantic value in Sepah Street belongs to the ambiguity, because the space has never been clearly defined in the historical body, and the ambiguity of its complex combinations is due to the richness of the scenery, which cannot be expressed in a limited and completed form. The lowest meaning value belongs to the complexity index, which means that the historical bodies have simplicity and purity.

• **Evaluating the level of representation of the semantic concepts hidden in the historical body of Sepah Street in Tehran based on the meanings in the minds (symbolic sign)**

In the analysis of the symbolic-sign semantic values matrix, it can be said that, as seen in Fig. 10, the highest value belongs to geometry, which indicates that the architecture of Sepah Street in Tehran, by geometry in the obvious structure of historical body drawn in the form of lines and proportions, but the spiritual truth is hidden in the hint and code, and the body is a means of establishing the overall correlation between the elements and parts of the views. The second rank of value level belongs to the unity that causes the combination, harmony, and proximity of various views in such a way that they can be made in the form of a whole. The issue of ambiguity is another relatively important issue in the historical context of this street, which has as many meanings as its audience. Historical bodies all have symbolic meaning elements that are revealed through interpretation. One-third of the semantic values of the historical body of Sepah Street between two open and closed spaces is dedicated to the abstract index and the full use of architectural patterns and physical structures and even materials and execution methods as a tool was compared to maximum harmony between the new and the old and the continuity of the body and the old space.

Conclusion

In the matrix analysis of semantic values in place and mind, as can be seen from Fig. 11, the semantic values indicators of the architectural body of the historical fabric of Sepah Street in Tehran have the highest score and average at the “instant-primary” value levels, which represents the explicit meaning of recognizing the body in the interpretation of the visual work perception at the first moment of encountering the body, without being affected by all the internal senses; the second priority of the value level belongs to the functional-instrumental level, which is related to the function. At this

stage, where the body plays the role of mutual communication between the parts and causes the expansion of a whole, it is called interaction and flexibility. The third priority introduces the level of symbolic-sign value, which means that the historical body of Sepah Street in Tehran is defined not only through its physical context but also through a range of social-psychological processes that occur in it. The fourth priority specifies that the levels of emotional-sensorial values prove that the historical body of Sepah Street represents the establishment of a meaningful connection between humans and the assumed historical context. This connection has come from trying to find an identity, that is, to feel a sense of belonging. The feeling that gives peace to a human. The value-cultural level is less important than other levels. This analysis shows that when the physical components and meanings are organized in an organized manner and systematic interaction with each other and with humans as users and observers occurs, this interaction can affect the mental and spiritual states of a person and combine with his mentality.

At the end of this research, after recognizing the semantic values hidden in the historical bodies of Tehran and implementing them in the conceptual matrix and qualitative content analysis, it was achieved how these meanings appear in the architecture of the historical bodies of the big cities, and its analysis was carried out scientifically. In this regard, to summarize this chapter, the following points can be briefly mentioned:

The results of this section show that the indexes of architectural semantic values of the historical context bodies of Tehran have the highest score and average at the “instant-primary” value levels, which indicates that the explicit meaning means the almost instant recognition of the body visually, which is hard to fit on human memory; most of them have individual and private meaning and it is not something that can be taken in common by all people. The functional-instrumental value level in the bodies of the historical fabric of Tehran is very

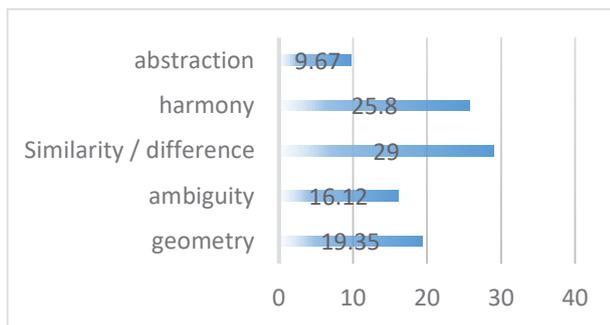


Fig. 10. The emergence of latent concepts in the historical body of Sepah Street of Tehran based on the meanings in the minds (symbolic sign). Source: Authors.

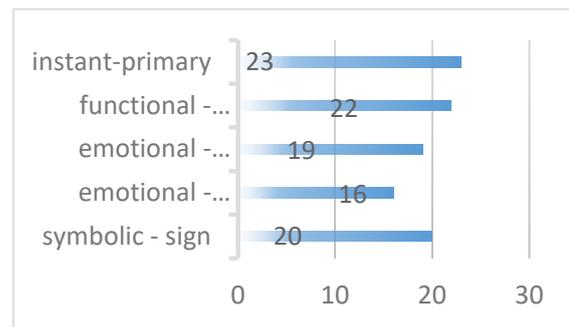


Fig. 11. The appearing way of hidden concepts behind the framework of the historical body of Sepah Street of Tehran, from the meanings' view in the place and mind. Source: Author.

important, which has a lot of relation with the mental people patterns; and it is a good expression of their inner content and performance, which harmonizes the reality of the body with the meaning evoked in the viewer's mind. The body plays the role of mutual connection between the parts and causes the expansion of a whole, it is called interaction and flexibility.

So, it can be finally said that the body of Sepah Street in Tehran is based on simple and basic shapes and sizes and can develop by adding parts to it, which is done through the application of flexibility and adaptability concepts, so the body balances between what it wants and what the new conditions in the society have created for him, to survive human. The architecture of Sepah Street in Tehran is drawn in the form of lines and proportions by resorting to geometry in the structure of the historical body, but in the hint and secret of it is a hidden spiritual truth, which has as many meanings as its audience.

Endnotes

1. Amos Rapoport in English: Amos Rapoport (born March 28, 1929, Warsaw) is an architect and one of the founders of Environmental-Behavioral Studies (EBS). He is a professor of architecture at University College London and has completed his architecture at Rice University and urban planning at Melbourne University.
2. Ralph Erskine English Ralph Erskine February 24, 1914 - March 16, 2005 was a British architect. In 1984, he won the Wolf Prize in Art.

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