

# MEANING OF STREETS PERCEIVED BY USERS IN URBAN CENTRE

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# Abstract

Increasingly, scholars suggest thinking of the street as a social space, rather than just a channel for movement. Studies that address the relationships between social behavior and environmental quality of the street tend to separate the study of physical features from land uses and hence do not address the interrelationships between behavioral patterns and physical features of the street and its sociability. This study is an empirical examination of behavioral responses of people to the environmental quality of streets and the meaning and role of streets in their city life. Semi structured observations and questionnaire are used to study social interaction, commercial and economic, physical elements on Jonker Street in Melaka, Malaysia. Physical characteristics of the streets such as shape and form, buildings, furniture and so on, are identified based on the literature review and observations. These are measured and tested to understand which characteristics support social interactions and which kind of physical elements and activities provoke people to come and be in a street more than others. The findings reveal that people are equally concerned with the social, land use, and physical aspects of the street. Businesses that are community places, personalized street fronts, historical shops and streets, sidewalk width particularly and other physical elements and city furniture contribute to stationary and social activities on streets.

# Abstrak

Semakin hari, para sarjana mengemukakan pandangan bahawa jalan sebagai ruang untuk bersosial, daripada saluran untuk pergerakan. Penyelidikan mengemukakan bahawa hubungan antara kelakuan social dengan kualiti alam sekeliling di jalan mencenderungkan untuk mengasingkan penyelidikan ciri-ciri fizikal daripada penggunaan tanah maka tidak menyentuh tentang hubungan antara corak kelakuan dan ciri-ciri fizikal jalan. Penyelidikan ini adalah pemeriksaan empirikal terhadap kelakuan tindak balas orang terhadap kualiti alam sekeliling jalan dan erti dan peranan jalan dalam kehidupan bandar. Pemerhatian semi berstruktur dan borang soal selidik digunakan untuk menyelidik interaksi social, komersial dan ekonomi, elemen-elemen fizikal di Jalan Jonker di Melaka, Malaysia. Ciri-ciri fizikal jalan seperti rupa dan bentuk, bangunan, perabot dan lain-lain, dikenalpasti berdasarkan penyelidikan literatur dan pemerhatian. Ini diukur dan diuji untuk memahami ciri-ciri yang menyokong interaksi social dan elemen fizikal dan aktiviti yang menyebabkan orang pergi dan berada di jalan. Penyelidikan ini menunjukkan orang mengambil berat terhadap sosial, penggunaan tanah dan aspek fizikal jalan. Perniagaan merupakan tempat masyarakat, muka jalan yang individu, kedai dan jalan yang bersejarah, kaki lima dan elemen fizikal yang lain dan perabot bandar yang menyumbangkan kepada aktiviti sosial di jalan.