



Topological Transformation of Historic Areas in Istanbul: Taksim, Eminönü and Beyazıt

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Urban transformation process consists of several changes in space and time. Analyzing the changes in spatial structure helps to understand the spatial evolution of cities through the time. Analyzing spatial changes in the spatial organization through the space syntax method provides an opportunity to evaluate topological organization of space. Especially in the historical core of Istanbul changes in the transportation system has great effect on the spatial integration of historic areas.

In this research, three areas that cover the Taksim, Eminönü and Beyazıt squares and their close environments in 1kmx1km squares have been selected. Spatial integration analyses for three case areas have been calculated for the two periods of 1913 for Eminönü and Beyazıt and 1925 for Taksim and 2007 for all cases. The results show that changes in transportation system between two periods result in the great differentiation in the distribution of the spatial integration values. Especially the new arterials built after 1940s dramatically changed the existing structure by their highest integration values. Previous researches on the spatial integration and planning process shows that there is a high correlation between the integration values and the attractiveness use of space. This also means the highly integrated roads tend to be overloaded and should be supported other roads of which are the part of the transportation system. In addition, the comparative analysis of spatial integration shows the similar transformation process of three study areas located in the historical core of Istanbul. Widening the roads to create arterials changes not only built structure on their routes, but the whole spatial structure. The syntactic analysis of spatial organization has the great potential to simulate the possible effects of planning decisions on the urban structure.

KEY WORDS: Urban Spatial Transformation, Space Syntax, Taksim, Eminönü, Beyazıt.