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URBANIZATION CONCEPTION OF SYNTHETIC GEOGRAPHICAL INTERPRETATION OF INTRAURBAN STRUCTURES

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Abstract: In this article, we deal with the possibilities of synthetic interpretation of the spatial structure of the city. We call attention to the possibility of the application of the conceptual framework of urbanization in this exploratory context. We deal with the spatial organization of the urban territory. We suggest the possibility of integration of the urbanization conception and the conception of quality of life at the complex explorations of intraurban structures.

Key words: urbanization, spatial structure of the city, intraurban structures, urban geography, spatial patterns

1. INTRODUCTION

We understand the spatial structure of the city as a superstructure formed by mutually conditioned partial intraurban structures - physiographical, morphological, functional, and social-demographical. These intraurban structures are complementary dimensions of the whole superstructure therefore it is necessary to pay appropriate attention to them at the complex study of the spatial structure of the city. The spatial structure (superstructure) of the city is a momentary demonstration of a certain stage of its development. It includes the elements of the old structures and, on the contrary, creates presuppositions for the new structures origination, which results in the need for the time - spatial approach to its study (see Matlovič, R., 1998).

The cardinal methodology problem of the synthetic interpretation of the intraurban structures is to find an integrating conceptual framework, which would fulfil mainly these conditions:

- it would logically include and interweave all relevant aspects of the inner differentiation of the urban space,
- it would enable an explanation of the urban space arrangements and factors, by which it is conditioned,
- it would allow to carry out comparative researches in various time and spatial contexts,
- it would reflect the existing development of the theoretical base of urban geography.

In the so far published works it is possible to meet a manifold variety of attempts aiming at solving the problems of the spatial structure of the city (see Matlovič, R., 1998, 1999). They mostly bear on a multicriterion evaluation carried out by the means of some of the multivariate statistical methods. A relatively numerous group is formed by the works which in the selection of input variables did not consider any integrating concept. The interpretation, explanation, and comparison of their results is then very problematic (e.g. the work by H. Andersson, 1983). Although this approach enables a complex description of the spatial structure of an individual city, it does not prepare conditions for the study of mechanisms forming the spatial structure of the city and doing comparative researches. Therefore, it cannot be considered as exploratory productive.

On the other hand in literature there are conceptions which seem to be considerably more productive because they take into account the above given conditions. They are the conceptual framework of quality of life, or life conditions, and urbanization conceptual framework (respectively urbanity, municipality as understood by M. Dulla, et al., 1988). Both these concepts require the application of the multicriterion evaluation of the urban territory, divided into observation regional units. The synthesis can at the same time bear on the application of some of the methods of regional taxonomy (see Bezák, A., 1993). In this article we will concentrate on brief introduction of the latter of the above mentioned conceptual frameworks.

2. THE SPATIAL STRUCTURE OF THE CITY IN THE URBANIZATION CONCEPTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The process of urbanization is the most general process forming urban elements of settlement network. Like in the macro and mesoregional scales, the course of urbanization processes is also unequal in the microregional measuring scale. As a result of this, individual city's areas are in different stages of urbanization and they also have a different degree of urbanization. The level of urbanization thus seems to be an appropriate and representative indicator of the inner differentiation of the city space.

Urbanization is a complex, multielement process demonstrating itself in many aspects and forms. It is characterized by multilayering of factors, which it is conditioned by. So far, urbanization has only been considered in mesoregional and macroregional measuring scales. B.T. Robson (1969) called attention to the possibility of studying

urbanization in the city subspaces. A Polish sociologist B. Jałowiecki (1972) suggested exploration of urbanization processes on hierarchical levels of a family (flat), local community (habitation), and habitation ensemble (settlement network). M. Dulla et al. (1988) also presented an interesting conception. At the synthetic interpretation of the cities' characters and their spatial structures, he suggested to apply a concept of urbanity. Urbanity is a set of environmental characters typical for a city. It is the opposite of villageness (rurality) and naturality. At the same time it is a quality spatially differentiated on the city territory. It is formed by four main attributes - intensity, centrality, differentiation, and mixing. These ideas led us to the attempt to adapt the existing theoretical-methodological conceptions, formed at the study of urbanization in macro and mesoregional scales, for the research needs in microregional scale. Many indicators are used to measure the individual attributes (Rajman, J., 1970, Smailes, A.E., 1975, Slavík, V., 1986). Most of them can serve as a characteristic of a partial intraurban structure at the microregional scale of the research therefore the key urbanization attributes in our case will be morphological, functional, and social-demographical. Then in our conceptional framework it is possible to understand the spatial structure of the city as *a multivariate and multilayer superstructure formed by mutually conditioning intraurban structures (physiographical, morphological, functional, and social-demographical), which is a momentary reflection of spatially differentiated urbanization processes on the city territory, with the appearance of a spatial pattern of areas with a different degree of urbanization.* The theoretical support for such an understanding can be found in the conception of urban - rural continuum (see Sokołowski, D., 1996) which substitutes the dichotomous division of habitation formations by the idea of a continuum including a whole range of habitations of a transitive type. In the conditions of intraurban space, it is analogically possible to expect the occurrence of a whole range of areas differing by the level of urban and rural occurrence. Terminal points of this scale are completely urbanized areas on the one hand and non-urbanized areas on the other one. The extreme pole of the continuum in intraurban conditions on the non-urbanized side of the spectrum can be not only a rural habitation area but also a natural (uninhabited) area. The continuum can also be understood as an evolutionary process of habitation units moving on the axis city - rural area, but in such a case not every village consequently changes to a city staying on at some of the current evolutionary stages (Sokołowski, D., 1998). Applying this concept to the intraurban areas it is possible to expect their development on the axis non-urbanized area - urbanized area although not each of them has to gain the level of the complete urbanization. This can explain the existence of areas on the less urbanized city territories. The development of urban areas in the context of urbanization processes can also be perceived through different stage conceptions. Because of the unequal development of the urbanization processes, certain parts of the city are in a more advanced evolutionary stage than other parts of the city. Urbanization processes lead to the changes of the spatial structure of the city, which are in most cases accompanied by the increasing of the urbanization level. It does not mean, however, that it is a one - side and irreversible process. It is also possible to admit some changes leading toward the decreasing of urbanization level. When discussing this problem it is possible, to a certain extent, to refer to the stage theory of growth of the city presented by E.M. Hoover and R. Vernon (1959) and later on also by D. L. Birch (1971), to Conzen S

conception of the cyclical development of additive morphological processes (Conzen, M.R.G., 1962) or the most general conception by L. H. Klaassen and J.H. Paelinck (1979), distinguishing the evolutionary stages of urbanization, suburbanization, disurbanization, and reurbanization. Using the ideas of these conceptions it is possible to infer that the individual urban areas can be in the following development stages of urbanization processes: initial stage, underdeveloped stage, culmination stage, and recession stage. In an extreme case, the recessive stage can terminate in a total loss of the attributes of urbanity in a given area. The first stage can be connected with urbanization, the second and third ones can be connected both with urbanization and reurbanization, the fourth and fifth stages are necessary to be connected with disurbanization. This theoretical construction also allows us to express a hypothesis that an urban area can gradually get over more of the above indicated cycles in order, mainly in the case of the dominance of evolutionary development of the urban organism which is characterized by the supremacy of additive morphological processes. It is mostly the morphological processes that play an important role within the framework of urbanization processes because they bring about the most permanent changes in the spatial structure of the city and they are often the confirmation of the previous changes in the functional and social-demographical intraurban structure. These are the reasons why we consider the division into morphological units, as the optimal inner division of the city for the needs of exploration of its spatial structure. They are not only characterized by the highest permanence but on the contrary to the census, administrative, and geometric units, they objectively exist in the urban space. Besides the morphological processes, also other processes share in the changes of the spatial structure of the city. Rustification can be mentioned as an example of such a process. It correlates with the flow of country people to cities and owing to it, a temporary decrease of the level of urbanization can start (Ziółkowski, J., 1965). Most people in towns do not have more than three generations of city ancestors. That is why it is not excluded that city life-style also includes some residues of the rural culture and mentality (often not noticed at first sight). It is possible to observe this asynchronism in the development of morphological-functional and social-demographical attributes in some new residential quarters of Slovak cities. The intensity of the process of rustification is, however, weaker than the intensity of urbanization and its effects are less permanent (Ziółkowski, J., 1965). Another processes that can temporarily lead to the decrease of the level of urbanization are morphological processes occurring in the phase of curing (recessionary phase) of the morphological cycle of the additive processes. As a consequence of the maximum covering of the disposable space with buildings in the previous culmination phase inappropriate hygienic conditions are created. A further development of the area is impossible without removing the already existing buildings. They are partially or completely removed in the recessionary phase and the new development can start. In this connection, it is possible to look for correlation between the disurbanization phase and realizing the ecological limits of urbanization. In the further development, it is possible to expect such an expansion of the area that, even at a very high stage of urbanization, will consider the aspects of permanently maintained life. Disurbanization processes can also be conditioned by other factors.

The influences of economic recession, demonstrating itself differently on the city territory, affect of various institutional factors (e.g. building restriction because of

prepared investment action, etc.) can appear. The given ideas indicate a possibility to form a hypothesis that the development of the urbanization processes on the territory of cities generally leads to the increasing of the level of intraurban space urbanization. Disurbanization tendencies connected with the influence of economic, ecological, institutional and other factors can, however, temporarily appear in some parts of the city. Thus the disurbanization processes only seem to be symptoms of a permanent urbanization process, which was in fact already confirmed by J. Buursink (1986, p. 207) in connection with the specifics of urbanization processes in macroregional measuring scale.

Our present empirical researches carried out on a model territory of Prešov (Matlovič, R., 1998) confirmed the assumption about the inner differentiation of the city territory from the point of view of the urbanization level. They also pointed out at the mutual conditioning of the partial intraurban structures and at the tendency to create concentric zone spatial organization of the spatial structure of the city in general. Under the influence of local factors characters of the sector arrangement emerged in details. The above mentioned suppositions can be confirmed or respectively refuted by comparative empirical studies of different cities, respectively one city, in more time sections.

3. INTRAURBAN SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

The above given empirical results led us to consider the shape of the urban spatial arrangement and the factors which condition and form this shape. We used three classical ecological city models - Burgess's model of concentric zones, Hoyt's sector model and Harris-Ullman's polycentric model as comparison etalons (Matlovič, R., 1999). Based on the existing research it is possible to suppose that in the context of urbanization concentric zone model will become a dominating tendency in the intraurban territorial organization. We were led to these assumptions by theoretical conceptions the validity of which can be adapted for the conditions of the urban space. The common feature of the above mentioned conceptions is the acknowledgement of the important role of the distance from the city centre at forming the spatial urban arrangement in the conditions of monocentric development.

The first of them is a core-periphery model firstly formulated in spatial economics. Cities were built on the principle of concentration and were created as centres of settlement. The central positions were genetically originated as central function localities and they are characterized by a high level of urbanity (urbanity stage) in a relatively homogeneous environment, which is in the first place formed by residential buildings. The centres form gravitational areas in their surroundings by which they structure the city. The core (centre) and periphery of the city form a closed spatial system within which, periphery is subordinate to the core and dependent on it. Two hypotheses were formulated about the development of core - periphery relations. The first one assumes further deepening of dependence and the growth of development

disproportion between the centre and periphery (Myrdal, G., 1957). The second one supposes a gradual decline of dependence and development disproportion between the centre and periphery (Hirschmann, A., 1958). In our research context, the second hypothesis is inspiring because it is possible to expect gradual wiping of the differences between the centre and periphery of an urban territory. This wiping of differences can be documented by the partial process on the territories of our cities, which contributes to the changes of urbanization level in individual urban areas. It deals with the spatial redistribution of the population demonstrating itself by gradual balancing of the population density between the city centre and periphery (Berry, B.J.L., Simmons, J.W., Tennant, R.J., 1963, Newling, B.E., 1969). The activity between the city core and periphery is also dealt with in the Colby's conception of counteracting centripetal and centrifugal forces influencing the transformation of the spatial structure of the city. With the activity of centripetal forces is connected concentration processes, and with the effect of centrifugal forces, the processes of deconcentration (Colby, CH., 1933). K Dziewoński (1987, p. 60) commented on them saying that they often act together but the same phenomenon or process under some circumstances has a tendency to concentrate, under other circumstances to deconcentrate. Besides the dominant position of one of the forces, there also exist balanced positions. A very important factor forming the core - periphery relations is a spatial differentiation of land rent on the city territory. It was already J. G. Kohl (1841) and M. Hurd (1903) that called attention to the increase of land prices in the direction from the periphery towards the centre. This conception was later on more deeply dealt with by W. Alonso (1964). According to him the position of an area in the city space is determined by three decisive factors - the amount of the position rent, transport accessibility and area. The utility of every area can be expressed quantitatively by the means of bid-rent curve. The curve corresponds with the rent value or price for a square metre of the area which is a given entity (household, firm) willing to pay in a certain distance from the city centre with preserving the constant level of their contentment. The amount of bid rent decreases with the increasing distance from the city centre. The shape of the curve is specific for the individual income groups of population as well as for the single activities because each of them requires different optimal combination of the three decisive factors. The high economic attractivity of the city centre brought about considerable growth of the intensity of its utilization. Observing the dynamics of the amount of bid rent connected with the transport development, it was found out that in the period of the railway transport development the differences between the city centre and periphery became more significant because the accessibility of the centre improved more quickly than the accessibility of the other parts of the city. On the contrary, in the era of the development of the automobile transport the accessibility developed more evenly on the whole territory of the city, which resulted in the decline of the differences in bid rent between the centre and periphery (Korcelli, P., 1974). This can also be one of the factors of the gradual decreasing of the differences in the level of urbanization between the city core and periphery.

Another inspiration conception in our speculation is Hägerstrand's conception of the spatial diffusion of innovation and its application at the research of urbanization processes. According to L. A. Brown (1968), we can speak about two types of diffusion: the diffusion of relocation type (spatial movements at a certain time), and the diffusion

of expansion type (the expansion of territory). The processes of the urban development and urbanization are characterized as expansion - relocation processes (Korcelli, P. 1974). The urbanized territory therefore spreads at the expense of the non-urbanized surroundings of the city. On the other hand, the spatial structure of the city changes as a result of the spatial move of the effects of urbanization processes within the urban territory. P. Korcelli (1974) integrating the knowledge of the development of the spatial structure of the city considers as important diffusion - successive processes, advancing from the centre towards periphery. These processes rest in general on the substitution of less intensive forms of settling by more intensive ones. Analogically, we could claim that they substitute the higher degree of urbanization for the lower degree of urbanization. Korcelli claims that the diffusion - succession processes progress cyclically and they consist of more phases, which are characterized by a different degree of the intensity of the progressing changes.

Besides the concentric zone features of the spatial pattern also the features of the sector model can be found in the city. They often correlate with the influence of the local specific factors. Local physical-geographical conditions (relief, river network configuration, and aquatory allocation) and the configuration of the transport infrastructure are of the greatest importance of all of them. Concerning the multiple nuclei urban structures it is possible to expect the occurrence of the multiple nuclei models which can consist of more concentric zone models. The multiple nuclei model can be applied mainly in such a case when the urban organism is being developed from more incipient pre-urban nucleuses. In details (on the level of partial intraurban structures or their more subtle aspects) it is necessary to admit that any of the presented three basic comparative models can be predominant. It is well documented by the researches of the basic dimensions of the social-demographical intraurban structure (social-economic status, family status, ethnical status) each of which is characterized by a specific spatial arrangement. The more complex the research is, the probability of an exclusive implementation of the concentric zone model will increase.

4. CONCLUSION

At the conclusion, it is possible to indicate some methodological bases for the further complex researches of the spatial structure of the city. At this place, we remind that besides the conceptual framework of urbanization we have earlier already mentioned also the conceptual framework of life quality, which seems to be productive in our exploratory concept. It is the concept supported by welfare approach, which was formed in the 1970s in the field of political - economic orientation of urban geography. It concentrated on exploring of the spatial differentiation of the quality of life (Knox, J.G., 1975, Smith, D.M., 1977) and socially more just allocation of sources in the urban space. S. Liszewski (1995) connects these researches with more distinctive application of qualitative indicators, which aim at enlightening production as well as consumption sphere. It concerns mainly the study of effects of the spatial division of the national

product. S. Liszewski (1995) distinguished three main notions in this respect: life conditions, a life standard, and a consumption sphere. Under the life conditions, he understands the state of needs satisfaction in which, an inhabitant of a given territory lives and works. The measuring scale of these conditions is the life standard, which is their standard in certain space-time. The quality of life expresses the degree of satisfaction one can get from his life conditions. This category is individualized and it can be quantified by an indirect way (Liszewski, S., 1995). Geographical research of the spatial differentiation of life standard in cities can according to S. Liszewski (1995) concern five spheres of one's life. It is the analysis of habitation conditions, analysis of life needs satisfaction, analysis of relaxation and recreation conditions, analysis of social comfort, and analysis of working conditions. Besides these analyses, S. Liszewski (1995) can see certain possibilities of the exploration of life quality also by the explorations of urban space perception. The program stated like this can also be perceived as the next step towards the complex theory of the spatial structure of the urban areas (Liszewski, S. 1995).

In these circumstances, there is a possibility of integrating both conceptual frameworks at the research of the spatial structure of the city. Besides, it also results from the ideas of M. Dulla et al. (1988) about the following factors, such as intensity, centrality, differentiation and mixture, which are considered to be the main attributes of urbanity. Intensity is the first-rate component of urbanity. Density is an elementary intensity. As the amount of individual components in the considered space, it is the most often used urban indicator and the most often followed characteristics of intraurban structures. The growth of intensities (occupancy, covering with buildings, concentration of social-economic activities) brings about the growth of the urbanity level (urbanization). To a certain extent, however, ecological limit of environment enters into the linear direct and increasing dependence between the variables of intensity and urbanity. With the growing intensity of utilization, negative phenomena, which can under certain circumstances work against the positives of higher urbanity, cumulate in the surroundings. The limit of ecological bearings is different at different types of intensity. Likewise as at intensity, also at the next three attributes of urbanity, a quantitative limit appears which has impacts that are more negative on the surroundings and which can extremely lead to the oversaturation. It is mainly at realization of the ecological limits of the growth of the urbanization level that the exploratory productivity of the latter indicated conceptual framework of the complex researches of the spatial structure of the city appears because it can reveal those aspects, factors and mechanisms that cannot be covered within the conceptual framework of the urbanization in spite of its high degree of complexity.

At the conclusion it is necessary to emphasise that a lot of ideas we outlined in our paper have a character of hypotheses and starting points and they will require verification in numerous empirical studies. Only the realization of sufficiently numerous comparative researches, in time and spatial sense, can confirm them, make them more precise, respectively, refute them. We suppose, however, that collateral application of the conceptual urbanization framework, together with considering of some ideas of the conceptual framework of the life quality can bring about a whole series of theoretical knowledge. It can become a significant step in the algorithm of approaching the general theory of the spatial structure of the city in a certain space-time.

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Resume

Urbanizačná koncepcia syntetickej geografickej interpretácie intraurbánnych štruktúr

Urbanizačná koncepcia syntetickej interpretácie intraurbánnych štruktúr vychádza z predpokladu, že najvšeobecnejším procesom formujúcim sídla mestského typu je proces urbanizácie. Podobne ako v makro a amezoregionálnej mierke, aj v mikroregionálnej mierke je priebeh urbanizačných procesov nerovnomerný. V dôsledku toho sa jednotlivé areály v meste nachádzajú v odlišných štádiách urbanizácie a majú rozličný stupeň urbanizácie. Miera urbanizácie sa takto javí ako vhodný a reprezentatívny indikátor vnútornej diferenciácie mestského priestoru. Jednotlivé znaky urbanizácie sa v mikroregionálnej mierke výskumu javia ako črty parciálnych intraurbánnych štruktúr. Priestorovú štruktúru mesta potom chápeme ako mnohorozmernú a mnohovrstevnú superštruktúru, tvorenú vzájomne sa podmieňujúcimi intraurbánnymi štruktúrami (fyziografickou, morfologickou, funkčnou a sociálno-demografickou), ktorá je okamihovým odrazom priestorovo diferencovaných urbanizačných procesov na území mesta, majúcim podobu priestorovej mozaiky areálov s rozličným stupňom urbanizácie. Teoretickú oporu pre takéto ponímanie môže poskytnúť koncepcia mestsko-vidieckeho kontinua. Vývojové tendencie priestorovej štruktúry mesta možno sledovať v kontexte štadiálnych koncepcií rastu miest. Priebeh urbanizačných procesov na teritóriu miest vo všeobecnosti vedie k zvyšovaniu miery urbanizácie vnútromestského priestoru. Dočasne sa však môžu v niektorých častiach mesta prejaviť dezurbanizačné tendencie, spojené s pôsobením ekonomických, ekologických, inštitucionálnych a iných faktorov. Tieto dezurbanizačné procesy sú však len symptómami nepretržitého urbanizačného procesu. V usporiadaní priestorovej mozaiky rozlične urbanizovaných areálov bude s veľkou pravdepodobnosťou dominovať tendencia ku koncetricko-zonálnemu usporiadaniu. Teoretickú bázu tu okrem Burgessovho modelu môže poskytnúť model jadro-periféria, Colbyho koncepcia dostredivých a odstredivých síl a koncepcia priestorového rastu mesta ako procesu difúzie-relokácie. Popri črtách koncentricko-zonálneho usporiadania môžu v meste vystupovať aj črty sektorového usporiadania. Tie často súvisia s pôsobením miestnych špecifických faktorov Polycentrický model sa uplatní najmä v prípade ak sa mestský organizmus vyvíja z viacerých zárodočných predmestských jadier osídlenia. V detailoch (na úrovni parciálnych intraurbánnych štruktúr alebo ich jemnejších aspektov) je potrebné pripustiť, že prevahu môže mať ktorýkoľvek z troch klasických porovnávacích modelov. Dobre to dokumentujú výskumy základných dimenzií sociálno-demografickej intraurbánnej štruktúry (sociálno-ekonomický status, rodinný status, etnický status), z ktorých každá sa vyznačuje svojským priestorovým usporiadaním. Čím však bude výskum komplexnejší, tým stúpa pravdepodobnosť výlučného uplatnenia sa koncentricko-zonálneho modelu.

Pri uvedomení si ekologických limitov rastu miery urbanizácie sa ukazuje bádateľská produktívnosť konceptuálneho rámca kvality života pri komplexných výskumoch priestorovej štruktúry mesta. Môže odhaliť tie aspekty, faktory a mechanizmy, na ktoré použitie konceptuálneho rámca urbanizácie, aj napriek svojmu vysokému stupňu komplexnosti, nepostačuje.