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The space utilization by street vendors based on the location characteristics in the education area of Tembalang, Semarang

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Abstract

Street vendors are often regarded as an 'element out of place' against their location, activity, physical appearance, even structure and pattern of urban design.

They have rapidly grown in a functional area in Semarang, that is, the education area of Tembalang. Their problem basically arises due to the absence of reference in determining location that is not listed in City Spatial Plan and it has happened only based on their number. They have located on the streets of Prof. Sudarto, SH, Sirojudin, and Banjarsari. Space utilization not based on location characteristics will lead to conflict and consequently regarded as 'element out of place'.

The purpose of this paper is to examine their space utilization based on the location characteristics that discuss their strategic location, accessibility, main activity, comfort, and characteristics referring their activity. The writer applied quantitative descriptive method and obtained data by conducting surveys and questionnaires.

Finally the writer concludes that the space utilization based on their location characteristics is strategic location, main activities, accessibility and comfort.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The development of a city is a natural thing, not something to be avoided. However, it needs direction so that these developments can be controlled considering the various patterns of social, cultural, economic, and physical environment, including dualistic condition of the city.

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Therefore, the city is an accumulation of various interests that lead to conflict and uncertainty, including the problem of informal sector in the city. Problems often arising from informal activities in the city are in trade sectors, street vendors' activities. Their presence is very easy to find in the city, such as in the town square and near downtown and they generally sell on the sidewalks, and at the edges of the stores (Yustika, 2000). It means that in order to perform their activities they use or can be said to be "stuck" in public spaces and even private spaces, such as proposed by Manning and Noor Effendi (1985). In fact, the presence of street vendors can support formal activities at the site, but the fact, they tend to be marginalized both in terms of location and space, as well as regulation / legal arrangement.

Meanwhile street vendors' activities grow and develop in the urban space due to the influence of the main region activities where they are located (McGee and Yeung, 1977). Their presence in the public space is one of the activities that can be categorized as "activity support", street vendors' activities together with other activities strengthen the function of urban public space (Shirvani, 1985). However, if the activities and space arrangement are not regulated, they will always lead to conflict. Besides that street vendors' existence as activities in the urban space is regarded as a nuisance element or unplanned element or element out of place, and it often causes a lack of harmony in physical order and environmental visual aesthetics (Hough, 1990; Creswell, 1996; Yatmo, 2008). However, street vendors can be seen as "in place element" by understanding the context of their presence in a location, and considering the potential vendors as local identity, so it is important to recognize the context of their presence in urban planning, which can be a consideration in the determination of planning policies, demolition and eviction of street vendors. (Yatmo, 2008).

Up to present, the handling of street vendors' problem in urban areas can still be said to be not aspirational and has not changed from the old pattern since it is merely evictions in sake of cleanliness, safety, and comfort of the city. Street vendors tend to be forcibly evicted and relocated to another location. Surprisingly, the street vendors hold merchandise again after the officers left the location (www.metrotvnews.com, accessed on June 6, 2006). This is because the new location for street vendors is less strategic and less potential for them, practically street vendors is more likely to return to their original location. Finally, what happens here is like a 'cat and mouse' between street vendors and the authorities.

The more metropolitan a city is, the more street vendors also grow rapidly as happened in the cities in Indonesia, as well as in Semarang, the capital of Province Central Java, in which the activities of street vendors have also mushroomed. In general, street vendors in Semarang are growing rapidly in every functional urban area, one of which is the education area of Tembalang. The development of education area encouraging southern area of Semarang becomes a fast growing area, by giving some multiple effects to changes in various activities in the surrounding area. Therefore, the possibility of a dualistic city activity in this area is very high, besides the formal sector, the most significant sector is in the informal sector (for example, the provision of boarding house, photocopying, computer rental, food stalls, as well as street vendors). At this period, the development of street vendors in the education area of Tembalang is rapidly rising, they locate near the centers of residence's activities. The center of residence's activities becomes attractiveness for street vendors because there are a great number of people and it has a high mobility, and it consequently has the potential consumers and lead to street vendors take advantage of the activity centers to perform their activities there.

Growth and development of street vendors in the education area of Tembalang has not been integrated with spatial policy (RDTRK) that considers and accommodates their activities. Meanwhile, based on a policy of the Decree of the Mayor of Semarang (SK Walikota Semarang) No.511.3/16 of 2001, just specify the locations for street vendors, without being equipped with rules of provision of space activities especially in the education area of Tembalang that is set the location of street vendors in the segments of Jl. Prof. Sudarto, SH, Jl. Sirojudin, and Jl. Banjarsari. Determination of their location is done since there are many street vendors who were on those streets. But in fact, street vendors has also expanded beyond the locations that have been established such as in Jl. Tirta Agung and Jl. Jatimulyo. Determining the location of which is not based on their location characteristics will eventually lead to various problems. Street vendors are often regarded as an element out of place and cause conflicts of space utilization at each location.

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