Comparing Furniture Preference of Housing Living Spaces of Housing Users from Different Socio-Economic Status

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ABSTRACT

In this study, furniture preference belonged to living spaces of housing user in different socio-economic status was examined. Aim of determining preference; in different socio-economic status the living spaces of two different housing group was examined. Furniture preference of users was measured with the help of a survey. Finally, it was determined that users in different socio-economic status have different furniture preference.

Keywords: Furniture preference, socio-economic status, housing living spaces, user preference.

1. INTRODUCTION

Furnitures constituting environment in housing, give a range of signs to us about their users. Beside functional and aesthetic values, they give idea about life style, liking, economic status of their users within society (Arslan, etl., 2009). While they are defining, forming and changing the environment, they provide to people for expressing their likings (Rapoport, 2004).

There are several factors for choosing furniture such like whole products. Numerous writers grouped these factors in different forms.

According to Burdurlu and his friends, economical factors (income level, general economical condition, financial structure), social factors (culture and sub-culture, social class, individuals are taken as an example, roles and family), psychological factors

(motivation, perception, learning and personality) and personal factors (demographic and situational) influence furniture preference of users (Burdurluvd. 2005).

According to Arslan and his friends, beside morphological properties such like form, colour, style and fabric of furniture; a range of abstract items such likepersonal characteristics, family, group relations, social class and culture are effective in preference of furniture (Arslan, vd., 2009).
According to Ozdemir, social habits, standards of judgements, socio-cultural structure are affective in preference of furniture (Ozdemir, 1988).

Reasonable factors constituted by According to Kurtuldu; physical properties, profit level and price of products, and behavioral factors constituted by elements such like culture, social values or standards of judgements, manners, beliefs, reference group, and family of person are effective in preference of furniture (Kurtuldu, 2008).

World perspective, daily life, economical condition, production and consumption possibilities, technological level, religious belief, family structure of publics and individuals form everything related to location and ware used in this location, and influences preference in this public (Bilgin, 1991; Gültekin and Özcan, 1997).

The furniture, which is the most effective determinant of space and is the most important item forming space, are influenced from many factors belonged to public and individual. From this point of this idea, it is thought that socio-economic status is the most important factor affecting individual preference and thus it is effective in furniture preference. In this study, it will be examined that whether there is difference between furniture preferred by users in different socio-economic statuson housing living spaces or not.

Within this study, furnitures which users preferred in theirs housing living spaces, was examined.

Space area was determined as housing users living in different socio-economic status, and furniture preference was examined according to these users. Primarily, it was confirmed that determined sample groups in study were different in terms of socio-economic status. Then, furnitures, which were used in housing living spaces by users from different socio-economic status, were determined with determination study.
In this study, determined assumptions for determining effects of different socio-economic status upon furniture preference are demonstrated below;

- Furniture preference can be different according to socio-economic status.
- Causes of changing furniture of users from different socio-economicstatus can change.
- History of rural or urban life affects furniture preference.

2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND HOUSING

Housing together with its design and outfits are spaces which represent socio-economic and socio-cultural status, beliefs, traditions, personality characteristics to across people (Bozkurt and Altınçekiç, 2013; Gürand Geçkin, 1996).

According to Lawrance (1987), housing is tangible expressions which are basis for constituting of cultural and social factors. For examples, forming sitting room by person and furniture used in there, are vital occurrence which gives information to coming person about social identity of housing users and makes familiar people to each other (Gür, 2000).

Stylistic variety was observed in housing spaces with effect of various factors such like environment structure, manufacturing types, family structure, manners and customs, income distribution, property concept and population growth from past to present(Eruzun, 1989). For examples, stylistic changes and Westernization movements started with Imperial Edict of Gulhane in Turkish society, echoed to spatial changes over time. These spatial changes appeared in super class in the beginning, started to appear in middle class together with expansion of Westernization and modernization movements to whole society in Republican period (Bozdogan, 2001; Sahil, 1995). Movable furnitures entered Turkish housing with effects of socio-cultural changes occurred with Westernization movements, differentiated spaces setup by affecting plan type and frontispiece order. Also, action of sitting in a cross-legged position changed as sitting action, action of eating on the ground changed as action of eating on table and main room concept changed as armchair belonged to father on salon over time (Gür, 2000; Karaman and Erman, 2007; Uluengin, 1995). Since Imperial Edict of Gulhane, consumer variety occurred as a result of increment income level of part of free market economy and started to become different the liking between groups (Bali, 2009).
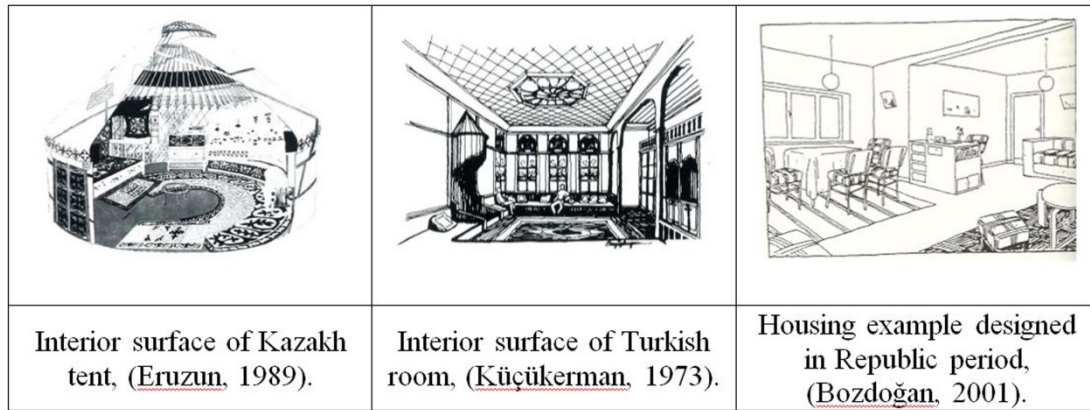
| Interior surface of Kazakh tent, (Eruzun, 1989). | Interior surface of Turkish room, (Küçükerman, 1973). | Housing example designed in Republic period, (Bozdoğan, 2001). |

Figure 1.Reflection of changes on Turkish housing culture upon living spaces.

Socio-economical changes occurred on society, affects society preferences. Therefore, factors such like family structure, manner of customs, income distribution between user groups, caused differentiation upon furniture preference used in housing living space.

Socio-economic status groups evaluated within this study were constituted, predicating on income level, educational level and public type (history of rural and urban). Dealing with more different groups is not possible due to limit of time and scale. Surveys are performed in different hometown predicted as two different socio-economicalstatus.

3. STUDY METHOD

In this study, survey study was made to determine socio-economic status of user groups, and site detection was made to determine furniture preference.

Survey study constituted with open and closed ended questions, was made in users residences accepted joining to study, performing one on one interview method.

In site detection study, furnitures used in residence living spaces were determined.

Data gained from survey study, was recorded to SPSS programme (Statistical Packages for the Social Sciences) with proper codification and analyzes with this programme. In this study, Chi-squared independency test and Likelihood Ratio test were used.

3.1 Preparing of survey form

The survey prepared with open and closed ended questions is main methods used for determining of socio-economic status of users, and are known as the most effective data collecting method.

"Educational Background" and "Income Level" were predicated on determining socio-economical status of respondents and understanding the relation between furniture preference and socio-economical structure.

Also, with the aim of determination furniture preference within living spaces of users, detection study was made, giving place to questions related to which furniture used in living spaces.

3.2 Choosing of study area

According to Arslanoğlu, the study was performed in Trabzon due to having different income groups and society types in different region of Trabzon and being easy accessible of this city for researcher, since regional stratification can be observed in not only between cities, but also in different regions of city with effects of globalization (Aslanoğlu, 2000).

Individuals living in same hometown and apartment resembles to each others in terms of income level, educational level and social stratum (Ayata and Ayata, 1996). Also, it is appeared that residence reflects numerous characteristic futures of users such like life style, preference, it was designed and furnished for this aim, and something affected to people influences the residence (Rapoport, 2004).

Based on this argument, two different apartment group, which socio-economic stratification could be observed between each other, were evaluated within this study. Study was performed upon living spaces. These living spaces where is used as multi-purpose, all individual of family socialized, is opened for common use and is a window of residence opening to outside.

Factors determining socio-economic status of societies and individuals could be collected under different titles such like educational level, income level. A basis could not selected to determine sample group and educational level was accepted as criterion on choosing

of study area, since there were not any data on the basis of hometown in terms of income level in TSI (Turkish Statistical Institute). Also, it is confirmed that sample groups are within different socio-economic status, analyzing sample groups in terms of income level.

In choosing of study area, Besirli Neighbourhood with no 1 and Cumhuriyet Neighbourhood, where were different in terms of educational level, were determined as areas, where survey study was performed, in the light of data from TSI stating educational level belonged to central district of Trabzon province. Then this study wasrestricted with these two neighbourhoods. Yeşil Park Sitesi has the most expensive residence price and Afet Evleri in Cumhuriyet Neighbourhood are collective settlements. And these two places were included to sample area (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Place of study area and sample group in map.

According to data of TSI, is it determined that 8203 people lived in Besirli Neighbourhood with no 1 and 4531 people lived in Cumhuriyet Neighbourhood. Sample size was calculated according to these data;
* If number of person is known,
$$n = Nt^2pq/[d^2(N-1) + t^2pq] \quad (1)$$

To represent groundmass (N = 8203 and N = 4531) determined within study; sample size was found as 67 for Besirli Neighbourhood with no 1 and as 67 for Cumhuriyet

Neighbourhood, with value of %90 degree of reliability (t = 1,64) and is %10 error margin (d = 0,1)

Residence is generally within effect of woman. While the family is forming his appearance and ordering the location, woman has pretty many effects (Ayata, 2012).

Woman has more effective role upon both making choice belonged to residence order, and looking after and growing of family members. Therefore, this study was performed upon woman users.

4. FINDINGS OF STUDY

In this study examined effects of socio-economic status upon furniture preference, examinations were made about chosen houses and findings related demographic properties of users and furniture preferences were determined and conveyed to tables. Findings were evaluated under 2 titles. These titles;

1. Findings related socio-economic status of users,
2. Findings related site detection.

4.1 Findings related socio-economic status of users

Within this study, in classification for determining groups, which could be reached in sample area and could be provided distinction of respondents,

Difference between residence groups in terms of subculture groups resulted from; AfetEvleri users have revenue less than 1000 TL or between 1000-2000 TL and do not know to read and write or are literate or primary school graduate, grew in village; Yeşil Park Sitesi users have revenue between 3000-4000 TL or more than 4000-2000 TL, are university graduate and grew in city center (Table 1).

Table 1. Relation between sample groups in terms of socio-economic status (Aras, 2015)

Socio-economic status		Sample Group	%	Adj. Res.	X²	LR	df	p	Cause of Difference
Income level	Less than 1000TL	AfetEvleri	**15,7**	5,0	-	155,266	4	0,000	It result from that AfetEvleri users belong to low income group and Yeşil Park Sitesiusers belong to high income group.
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	0,0	-5,0					
	Between 1000-2000TL	AfetEvleri	**32,1**	7,3					
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	2,2	-7,3					
	Between 2001-3000TL	AfetEvleri	2,2	0,0					
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	2,2	0,0					
	Between 3001-4000TL	AfetEvleri	0,0	-3,6					
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	**9,0**	3,6					
	More than 4000TL	AfetEvleri	0,0	-8,8					
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	**36,6**	8,8					
Educational background	Illiterate	AfetEvleri	**6,0**	2,9	-	130,585	5	0,000	It resulted from that Yeşil Park Sitesiusers have revenue more than AfetEvleri users.
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	0,0	-2,9					
	Literate/primary school	AfetEvleri	**27,6**	7,1					
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	0,0	-7,1					
	Secondary school	AfetEvleri	8,2	1,3					
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	4,5	-1,3					
	High school	AfetEvleri	8,2	-0,5					
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	9,7	0,5					

Society types	University	AfetEvleri	0,0	-7,4					
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	**29,1**	7,4					
	Postgraduate	AfetEvleri	0,0	-3,1					
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	**6,7**	3,1					
	Village	AfetEvleri	**41,8**	7,4					It resulted from that AfetEvleri users live in villages and Yeşil Park Sitesiusers live in city center.
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	9,7	-7,4	55,243	-	1	0,000	
	City center	AfetEvleri	8,2	-7,4					
		Yeşil Park Sitesi	**40,3**	7,4					

As a result, in titles of income level, educational level and society type evaluated in terms of socio-economic status, difference was determined between users living both house group and this difference was confirmed in terms of statistical.

4.2 Findings related site detection

In this part of study, furnitures used in housing living spaces were determined.
Actions, which were performed in living spaces within the scope of study, were determined as;

- Resting-talking-sitting,
- Listening to music- watching TV,
- Hobby (reading book, trying handicraft),
- Eating.

While these determined actions of users in different socio-economic status were performing, it was determined that their using furnitures were different. Using furnitures of users in different socio-economic structure were dealt in following part.

Findings Belonged to Furniture Choices of Users from Different Socio-Economic Status
Furniture type in both two residence groups;
It is in form of sofa bed, corner sofa, TV unit, TV stand, nesting table, dinner table, chair, console, sideboard, cabinet, writing table, centre table, corner table, pouffe, floor dining table, floor cushion. Findings about which user group prefers these furnitures are below.

When furnitures in Afet Evleri were examined; %32,1 is standard sofa bed in market, that was determined that %3,0 had corner sofa, %42,5 had TV stand, %3,7 had sideboard, %7,5 had writing table, %33,6 had floor dining table, %11,9 had floor cushion. Also that was determined that %7,5 did not have armchair, %48,5 did not haveTV unit, %20,1 did not have nesting table, %38,8 did not have dinner table, %39,6 did not have armchair, %47,0 did not have console, %44,0 did not have cabinet, %44,8 did not have centre table, %23,9 did not have corner table and %49,3 did not have pouffe.

When furnitures used in Yeşil Park Sitesiwere examined, that was determined that; there were armchair, dinner table, chair in whole, %26,9 had TV unit, %39,6 had nesting table, %48,5 had console, %26,9 had cabinet, %46,3 centre table, %44 had corner table, %13,4 had pouffe. Also there was not any corner sofa, sideboard, writing table, floor dining table and floor cushion. It was determined that %47,8 did not have sofa bed and %36,6 did not have TVstand (Table 2).

Table 2.Conditions of furnitures used by users from different socio-economic status at housing living spaces (Aras, 2015).

Furnitures in living spaces		Sample Group					
		AfetEvleri		Yeşil Park Sitesi		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Sofa bed	Available	43	**32,1**	3	2,2	46	34,3
	Unavailable	24	17,9	64	**47,8**	88	65,7
Armchair	Available	57	42,5	67	**50,0**	124	92,5
	Unavailable	10	**7,5**	0	0,0	10	7,5
Corner sofa	Available	4	**3,0**	0	0,0	4	3,0
	Unavailable	63	47,0	67	**50,0**	130	97,0
TV unit	Available	2	1,5	36	**26,9**	38	28,4
	Unavailable	65	**48,5**	31	23,1	96	71,6
TV stand	Available	57	**42,5**	18	13,4	75	56,0
	Unavailable	10	7,5	49	**36,6**	59	44,0
Nesting table	Available	40	29,9	53	**39,6**	93	69,4
	Unavailable	27	**20,1**	14	10,4	41	30,6

Dinner table	Available	15	11,2	67	**50,0**	82	61,2
	Unavailable	52	**38,8**	0	0,0	52	38,8
Chair	Available	14	10,4	67	**50,0**	81	60,4
	Unavailable	53	**39,6**	0	0,0	53	39,6
Console	Available	4	3,0	65	**48,5**	69	51,5
	Unavailable	63	**47,0**	2	1,5	65	48,5
Sideboard	Available	5	**3,7**	0	0,0	5	3,7
	Unavailable	62	46,3	67	**50,0**	129	96,3
Cabinet	Available	8	6,0	36	**26,9**	44	32,8
	Unavailable	59	**44,0**	31	23,1	90	67,2
Writing table	Available	10	**7,5**	0	0,0	9	7,5
	Unavailable	57	42,5	67	**50,0**	125	92,5
Centre table	Available	7	5,2	62	**46,3**	69	51,5
	Unavailable	60	**44,8**	5	3,7	65	48,5
Corner table	Available	35	26,1	59	**44,0**	94	70,1
	Unavailable	32	**23,9**	8	6,0	40	29,9
Pouffe	Available	1	0,7	18	**13,4**	19	14,2
	Unavailable	66	**49,3**	49	36,6	115	85,8
Floor dining table	Available	45	**33,6**	0	0,0	45	33,6
	Unavailable	22	16,4	67	**50,0**	89	66,4
Floor cushion	Available	16	**11,9**	0	0,0	16	11,9
	Unavailable	51	38,1	67	**50,0**	118	88,1

Also, causes of changing furniture of users had different socio-economic status were examined.

It was observed that Afet Evleri users did not change their furnitures either their economic structure, or not to be affected from fashion and Yeşil Park Sitesiusers needed to change their furnitures due to economic structure and following to fashion andnew trends. Also, Afet Evleri users changed their furnitures due to indispensable reasons such like becoming old and natural catastrophe. Yeşil Park Sitesi users changed their furnitures due to nonessential reasons such like transportation and obsolescence. These two reasons make difference between these two user groups (Table 3).

Table 3. Result of likelihood ratio and crass tab belongs to relation between changing reasons of residence group and living spaces furniture (Aras, 2015).

Changing reasons of living spaces furniture	Sample Group			
	AfetEvleri		Yeşil Park Sitesi	
	%	Adj. Res.	%	Adj. Res.
Being insufficient of furnitures	7,0	1,3	4,2	-1,3
Being old	**26,8**	2,3	22,5	-2,3
Colours	1,4	1,2	0,0	-1,2
Natural catastrophe	**4,2**	2,1	0,0	-2,1
Transportation	1,4	-3,0	**19,7**	3,0
Being not to proper to fashion	0,0	-2,7	**12,7**	2,7
LR	29,837			
df	5			
p	0,000			

As a result, that was determined that Afet Evleri users consisted of users who were from low income group generally, low education level, majority grown in villages. That was determined that Yeşil Park Sitesi users consisted of users who from high income group generally, generally university graduate, grown in city center.

When furnitures used by users from different socio-economic status were examined; users from low socio-economic status used sofa bed, corner sofa, TV stand, sideboard, writing table, floor dining table and floor cushion, and users from high socio-economic status used TV unit, nesting table, dinner table, chair, console, cabinet, center table, corner table and pouffe. Two user groupsresembleseach others about using armchair.

5. RESULTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Living spaces providing communication of housing with outside are the primary housing space where people could be reflect their liking. These spaces are accepted as way for housing owner to express to persons coming from outside. Housing owner conveys every symbolic and figurative expression to coming person in this housing willingly or involuntary. While doing this, he/she is benefits from furnitures which are used unawares and carried symbolic expressions. In the beginning of study, it was asserted users from different socio-economic status had different furniture preference and this assumption was confirmed as a result. Also, other assumptions suggested within this study were evaluated by stating below.

It was observed that changing reasons of furniture of users from different socio-economic status were different. While users from low socio-economic status are changing their furniture due to due to indispensable reasons such like becoming old and natural catastrophe, users from high socio-economic status are changing their furniture due to fashion rather than necessity.

It was determined how history of rural and urban life affected the furniture preference. It is observed that users coming from rural life depend on their families life mostly, continue their life according to this life and thus chose their furniture according to these habits. Users grown in city centre are open to changes and innovation of modern life with habits from their families; and while they are designing their living spaces, they prefer proper furniture proper fort his modern life according to these changes and life habits.

That was determined that differentness in socio-economic status of society echoed to housing living spaces with furniture preference.

It is thought that the study achieved its goal in line with data gained within study.

Based on this study, when housing living spaces design and furniture are choosing for users group from different socio-economic status, that was determined that socio-economic status must be paid attention. Also while interior architects, architects and designers are designing living spaces, they must be approach to user requests.

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