

THE STORY OF A CHANGE IN VENUE: GAZIANTEP
Cigdem Buyrukcu¹, Deniz Erdem²

Abstract

Cities are born, growing, changing and living spaces. Within these development, change and transformation some cities can maintain their physical and social structure. On the other hand some of them may lose their identification, texture and characteristics in this period of change. Especially in developing countries like Turkey, this change emerges faster and multi-sided. This conversion sometimes comes up as replace of functions by itself to meet the increasing demand, but mostly citizens and especially administrators lead to this change and transformation in cities. As one of the most important cities in Turkey, Gaziantep has made a remarkable progress in the last decades and its proportion of national economy has increased rapidly. Having a historical foundation Gaziantep has experienced significant changes in its development process. Especially since 1980s, the city has become attraction center of major investors and this situation is the main leading factor of dramatic change. Depending on increasing industrial employment, rising population and housing pressure, some open areas had been fallen into ruin. Besides this, changing in location of traditional housing, industry and retail facilities has caused existing of lacking quality areas. However, investments for protection and renovation projects have prevented these areas from being without qualification. These investments and restoration projects has made a contribution for economical development with tourism sector. In this study, changes and transformations of Gaziantep in historical period are investigated with positive and negative effects within the frame of existing planning approaches at that time.

Keywords: “urban transformation”, “urban development”, “Gaziantep”

¹ Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey - cigdembuyrukcu@gmail.com

² Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey – deniz.erdem@gmail.com

Cities are born, growing, changing and living spaces. The ongoing socio-economic behaviors are effective in the cities for their spatial variations rather than physical interventions. Physical changes and transformations are results of these behaviors and interventions. The disappearance of borders in concrete terms with the concept of globalization and continuation the system with relational networks has led to appear both countries' national, regional and urban policies and their impact on space in very different ways. It is possible to say that countries which are affected by global trends in the spatial are generally less developed and developing countries.

As a developing country, Turkey is in a process of change in social and spatial issues for years. Since the Ottoman Empire, this change which began with "westernization" movements, named as "modernization" with the Republican Era and "globalization" nowadays. This process Based on social and cultural change is reflected in the cities as spatial. The current phenomenon of globalization continues to influence and differentiate cities and communities in economic, social, cultural and physical sense. Turkey lives in a very fast and versatile urban change and transform with its problems and potentials.

After 1980, adopted liberal economic policies and the industrial perspective have changed in Turkey, and understanding of the importer has taken place of import-substitution manufacturing. Increasing interest in the production of manufacturing industry has made inadequate industrial cities, so the state had to determine the new focuses and to develop them in a short time. 12 provinces which identified as new industrial centers, recorded a significant growth in the industrial sector as soon as possible with the incentive policies applied. Afyon, Bilecik, Çorum, Denizli, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Kayseri, Konya, Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, Uşak and Karaman are provinces defined as new industrial centers. Each one of the major provinces in its region, and they provide a significant contribution to national economy in terms of export volume. Study on the city of Gaziantep is the most important difference between the foci of other new industries is that the trade center with past and present (Dinler, 2008). This feature prepared the ground for subsequent years for the development of the city in the tourism sector. Nowadays, Gaziantep is recognized with not only industry but also its historical and cultural values, and its recognition is increasing every day. The problems resulting in some parts of the city because of migration and population pressure that comes with fast-growing industry began to eliminate with conservation and renovation projects which were developed with the vision of culture and tourism. In this study, changes and transformations of Gaziantep in historical period are investigated with positive and negative effects within the frame of existing planning approaches at that time.

Gaziantep is the biggest province in South Eastern Anatolian Region and the 6th biggest province in Turkey. It has significant social, cultural and economical potential as not only regional but also national scale. The history of the city reaches to 1300s and it is one of the first settlements in Anatolia. So it has a broad cultural range from the Hittites to Ottoman Empire. As the geographic location of the historic Silk Road route in each period, the city has continued to cultural and commercial center. However, from the beginning of 20th century, city has gained a new

dimension with pursued economic policies. Especially, after 1980 depending on liberalizing Turkey's economy with the globalization movement, new focal points have emerged in Anatolia, and the city has become an important attraction center for investors. While new industrial institutions had taken the workforce to the city with the industrialization movements, investments of tourism sector had prepared the ground for new development dynamics in city. With these improvements in Gaziantep, a rapid change in both economic and spatial sense, and began the process of transformation. The change process in the residential, commercial, industrial and recreational functions of city were reflected in both spatial and functional. While the rapid developing industrial restructuring leads to degradation of urban structure and emerging of lacking quality areas in many cities, Gaziantep has been able to maintained its original character with its urban vision. Administrators and citizens combined historical and cultural potential of the city with the vision of tourism. Also, they managed to make the city more livable by evaluating the new industrial investments in the sustainable growth and development perspective. In the comprehension of this paper, the change story of Gaziantep was discussed and investment decisions affecting the city of change and transformation projects evaluated in this framework.

One of the most important dynamics of the change process in Gaziantep is population. The city's population began to increase, especially after 1960, increased more rapidly after 1975. After these years, migrations from other provinces have begun to increasingly as well as natural population growth. Place of birth data shows that the number of people who was not born in Gaziantep is more than the number of natives since these years. Between 1940-2000 years, during 60 years, while the population of Turkey had increased to 4 doubles; Gaziantep province's population has increased by slightly more than 4 doubles. Furthermore, in this period, as the urban population of Turkey had risen to 13 doubles, the urban population of Gaziantep had grown to 10 doubles. While the city was 13th rank in 2000, it became 9th rank in 2011. According to the percentage of urban and rural population, urban population increased from 65% to 89%, on the other hand rural population had a remarkable decrease from %35 to %11 between 2000-2011 years. This situation proves that being high the speed of urbanization in Gaziantep province (Statistical Institution of Turkey-TUIK).

It is known that there are large industrial investments on the basis of rapid population increase especially since 1980s. Industrial investments creating employment has made the city an attraction center and resulted in rising of population with migration in a short time. There are many structuring refreshing not only regional but also national economy and they created remarkable employment opportunities in the region. Growing industrial sector, primarily led to the establishment of organized industrial zone in Gaziantep. The first organized industrial zone has installed in 1969 had comprised production fields for both region and nation. Therefore it contributed to recognition of the city in terms of economical potential. Depending on changing of economical structure after 1980s, production activities increased and local products began to be imported. Following these developments, the capacity of organized industrial zone remained insufficient and second, third and fourth organized

industrial zones established in 1986, 1994 and 1998 respectively. Thus, Gaziantep has become a major city with a big portion of employment in industry sector.

In addition to organized industrial zones, existing of free trade zone in Gaziantep is a notable component in the context of economical development aspect. There was an important growth in the volume of trade in the Gaziantep Free Zone. It went into action in 1999 and total trade volume increased by 89% from 2002 and to 2003 years. This rise implies that the increase in the share of imports in the region. Besides the macro scale industrial and commercial structures, small scale industries, small retailers and artisans activities contribute to urban economy in Gaziantep.

Population growth along with developments in industry and trade sectors impacts in different ways on the land use format of the city. Development trends of the Gaziantep began to be orientated as planned by a development plan from Professor H. Jansen in 1935. In this plan, Jansen approved that the city will improve in each direction of the settlement. So the planner led to the usages of southern slopes as residential and northern slopes as administration areas. Also, existing green spaces were retained and applications in new settlement areas planned suitable with features of the traditional urban configurations in this development plan. In 1950, a new development plan was prepared by Professor Kemal Ahmet Aru. Opening more lands for usage of urban facilities in development plan is an important indication of the growth rate of Gaziantep. This is also similar to the previous plan which was made by Professor H. Jansen in terms of preserving of traditional pattern of the city.

The first settlements has begun the around of historical castle in Gaziantep. Until 1950s the city did not show urban sprawl intensely and kept its borders generally. Population impression increasing with migration movements caused the insufficiency of city core in the aspect of housing and trade functions and new residential areas including public open spaces were planned on the north and south part of the conventional settlement. Since 1950s rapid population growth in the city was a reason for transformation of public spaces to housing areas and increasing urban density. Residential areas expanded towards new lands which were used for agricultural production before to satisfy housing needs of incoming people. Immigrants who have low income located in the new settlements which beginning from the southern part, while high income people preferred to settle in the west part of the city. Broadening of city center to south and west direction resulted in the segregation of main urban functions as spatial. In this process, to fulfill emerging needs of commercial area, a new central business district occurred between the residential and traditional commercial zone. The direction of new extension areas have shaped by the site selections of industry mainly in the period after 1970. Some mass housing areas were constituted close by new established industry sites to supply with housing need of workers.

Depending on development of industrial employment, unhealthy constructions appeared in some areas of the city, with increasing the pressure of population and housing. In addition, changing in selection of spatial location of

main functions such as traditional residential, commercial and industrial sites led to some worn areas in the city. About this deterioration of urban, the city's characteristics, social, cultural and economic indicators had been effective. However, investments in conservation and renovation partially prevented to become the depression area for those parts of the city. These investments and renovation projects have contributed to development of the city by uncovering the city's tourism potential.

Gaziantep Castle, the city's one of the most important assets, has a history of thousands of years, has hosted many civilizations. Its restoration project was the first step in tourism investments. The castle, the city bore the nature of a focal point of the development process; then it has indicated a landmark identity (Ugur, 2004). Beside this, with increasing about the awareness of preserving historical and cultural heritage for future generations, increased protection and restoration activities throughout the city accelerated the tourism investments. History of Copper Bazaar renovation Project is one of the major developments mentioned above. Under this project, eight streets and 300 shops were renewed, and Gaziantep province won the Grand Prize for Union of Historical Cities with this project in 2007. This award is increased the recognition of the region, especially in terms of cultural tourism. In addition to these restoration projects, the conversion and renovation activities were started in parts of the city had become depressed and giving trade and tourism function to these places allowed to increase in tourism activities. For instance, 120 houses were renovated in Bey District with conservation activities, and inclusion in the scope of renovation of the Atatürk House located in the region, was an important step in increasing recognition of the region. It is observed in the area, corrected the deficiencies in infrastructure and commercial activities caused an increase to boutique hotels, restaurants and entertainment spots (Strategic Plan of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, 2007-2011). There are 974 archeological site and immovable cultural property including 113 monumental structures, 681 civil architectures, 180 archeological sites in the province. The ancient city of Zeugma, the ancient city of Dülük, Chain ruins, mound Tilmen, Sakçağözü (shepherd) mound, Cıncıklı ruins, tombs Dolman are among the important tourism potential. In addition to all of these, the cultural structures such as Archaeological Museum, Hasan Süzer Ethnography Museum reinforces the tourism potential in the city (Gaziantep Governorship).

To summarize the change of physical space in Gaziantep, it is said that the structure of traditional forms of restoration efforts largely preserved places in the city for the figure ground properties, connections, and preservation of the original structure. Furthermore, a growing number of recent protection projects have important contribution to local economic development.

In conclusion, before 1980s, Gaziantep was an agricultural city. Beginning from 1980s, it has a big development based on industrial growing. There are many reason of rapid growing of Gaziantep and some of these reasons are related with local projects such as conservation and renovation projects in historical city centre. Thanks

to encouragement of industry by the state, Gaziantep has a rapid development in a short time. To parallel with the provocation of state, possibility of investment increased in this region. Therefore, population increased depending on immigration and urbanization became too faster. From 1980s to nowadays Gaziantep has a big development with not only industrial growing but also conservation of physical, social and cultural structure. It can be said that easily this conservative approaches and economical movements made Gaziantep one of the most important cities in Southeast Anatolian Region and Turkey.

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