

# Assessment of the Residential Satisfaction Role in Place Attachment with an Emphasis on Identity Elements in Traditional Neighborhoods; Case Study: Aghazaman Neighborhood, Sanandaj\*

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## ABSTRACT

Horizontal growth of cities, destruction of natural resources, reduction of population density in traditional neighborhoods of cities, construction of residential areas compatible with the lives of residents, and increasing the quality of life are among the most significant management challenges of Iranian cities. Although various studies identified the influential variables on the improvement of the place attachment or the results of improving this sense and emphasized the constructive role of improving this sense on the quality of life, the effectiveness of the physical elements of housing in the place attachment is not measured experimentally among the residents. Therefore, the current study tries to investigate the role of physical identity-making elements in the housing satisfaction of residents and evaluate the impact of these components on the attachment to the neighborhood among the residents. The current research is applied in terms of nature, and the research method is descriptive-survey. Data collection tools are also based on the questionnaire. The statistical population includes all the residents of the Aghazaman Neighborhood, and the statistical sample is 300 of the residents selected using a random sampling method. Research data were analyzed using Partial Least Square Modeling. The results show that the effectiveness of the identity elements on the satisfaction with the neighborhood is 0.58. Also, its effect on the neighborhood attachment is 0.15. The results confirm the research suggested model and indicate that the identity elements indirectly affect the neighborhood attachment through satisfaction with the neighborhood. Also, the results approve that the identity elements affect the place attachment by influencing the subjective and objective evaluations and improving the housing satisfaction of residents. According to the research findings, a positive understanding of the quality of the residential area has a significant correlation by increasing the level of neighborhood attachment that increases the persistence in the neighborhood.

**Keywords:** Place Attachment, Residential Satisfaction, Identity Elements, Sanandaj.

\* This paper is extracted from the Ph.D. thesis of the first author entitled "Explaining the Identity Elements of Architecture in the Process of Physical Identity Formation to Increase the Sense of Belonging to a Place in the Traditional Neighborhoods (case study: Aghazaman neighborhood, Sanandaj), conducted with the second author as the supervisor, and the third author as the advisor in the Islamic Azad University, Sari Branch.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Significant differences in the needs and expectations of residents with the experience of living in their residential environment, has become one of the main challenges in the process of improving neighborhood satisfaction. Reviewing the previous studies on housing satisfaction shows that the majority of the conducted studies took two approaches to the problem. In the first approach, residential satisfaction has been considered as one of the qualities of life criteria. In the first approach, the level of housing satisfaction is considered as one of the criteria for quality of life. In the second approach, housing satisfaction is considered as a predictor of various behaviors, including housing relocation and housing improvement. (Lee & Park, 2010, p. 44). Therefore, it can be deduced from these two approaches that the factors that lead to housing satisfaction and sense of attachment in residents also affect the quality of life. Living in favored residential neighborhoods has become a desire of many residents in developing countries. They were deprived of the experience of living in a desirable place due to various physical, social, cultural, and economic reasons. Lack of development policies in the housing increases the gap between the residents' desires and the reality of the housing by reducing the residential satisfaction. This issue has caused social challenges and problems, including urban migrations, extreme social class differences, and reduction in place attachment in most of the developing countries.

Given that neighborhood attachment and sense of belonging to it lead to increasing the motivation in residents and social participation, improving neighborhood attachment can accelerate the renovation and revival of the residential neighborhoods. Besides, while enhancing the realization of social and economic plans, it can improve the quality of living of the residents by increasing participation. Thus, identifying the influential factors on satisfaction and creating the place attachment in the neighborhoods are the most vital priorities of the planners and environmental designers. Numerous domestic and foreign studies have been conducted on housing satisfaction and place attachment, the majority of which has focused on the relationship between the family/ individual characteristics in the housing relocation. Also, according to the theories and conceptual models applied in the studies on housing satisfaction, all the studies tried to find information about the components of the house's environment. Thus, through these components, it could be identified that what perceptions and evaluations were made by residents to meet their current residential needs, expectations, and desires by using the house and after using it (Ibem & Aduwo, 2013, p. 70). Despite the previous studies, the current research studies the empirical evaluation of the effectiveness of the physical identity elements on

the sense of attachment to the neighborhood and the housing satisfaction of the residents of the study area. Given the research purpose, the current study is formed in two general parts methodologically. The first part includes the documentation studies, and the second part contains the field survey studies and analyzing the collected data.

## 2. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

During the last decade, various studies have examined the satisfaction of people with their neighborhood. These studies determined the extent and manner of satisfaction formation in the neighborhood. However, some of them also described the mechanisms by which neighborhood characteristics affect neighborhood satisfaction and neighborhood migration. In his book entitled "Why families relocate?" Rossi (1980) introduced the residents' features, including social and economic status and the number of family members as the determining factors in the housing relocation. Its results were considered in later studies. Onibokun (1974) determined the assessment of residential satisfaction in four main components, including residents, residential units, neighborhood environment, and management methods, by presenting a systematic approach (Ibem, Ayo-Vaughan, Oluwunmi, & Alagbe, 2019, p. 7). Mohit et al. (2011) also used Maurice & Winter's Housing Deficit Theory in the studies of housing satisfaction. Housing Deficit Theory tries to explain that residents assess their housing status based on a set of institutionalized norms in the family, such as social, economic, psychological, and social norms that have a direct or indirect impact on their quality of life. Maurice & Winter (1975) argue that in the process of residential area evaluation, if the residents face any incompatibility between their residential conditions and family and social norms, therefore, there is a housing deficit. This conflict might lead to a lack of satisfaction with housing (Ibem & Amole, 2013, p. 564). That is to say, residential satisfaction can also be evaluated considering the residential conditions of the residents or their family and social norms. Also, other studies argued the satisfaction with housing in terms of different perspectives, including place identity, sense of community, and place attachment. Scannell & Gifford (2017) found out that imagining a place to which one feels attached can increase satisfaction with significant psychological needs such as self-esteem, belonging, and meaning (Cao, Wu, & Yuan, 2018, p. 421). Reviewing various studies on the satisfaction with housing indicates that satisfaction with residential units' characteristic, neighborhood environment, neighborhood service and facilities, and management components affect this satisfaction. Also, residential attachment can increase satisfaction with the residential area.

### 3. RESEARCH THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Housing satisfaction is known as a parameter to assess the satisfaction of residents with the house status. It also reflects the perceived gap between the needs and expectations of the respondents to the reality of the current housing environment. Factors that affect housing satisfaction and quality of life in residents are among the areas that are associated with quality of life. In a study conducted by Lee and Park in the US (2010) on the evaluation of the relationship between housing satisfaction and the quality of life, a model developed by Campbell et al. (1976) was the basis for the conceptual model of research. In this study, the characteristics of residents were considered as exogenous variables. Housing perception and housing satisfaction were considered as mediating variables. Also, the quality of life was considered as the dependent variable. The results showed that the residents' characteristics, housing satisfaction, and perception of housing and neighborhood have a direct relationship with the quality of life. Also, the perception of housing and neighborhood mediate the influence of the residents' characteristics on the quality of life. Furthermore, housing satisfaction mediates the effect of the residents' features, perception of housing, and neighborhood on the quality of life. Besides, the social and physical characteristics of the neighborhood have a considerable role in settlement satisfaction. Therefore, it seems that neighborhood satisfaction has a positive relationship with housing satisfaction (Lee & Park, 2010, p. 49).

On the other hand, housing, as the place of residence of individuals and the neighborhood environment, has the characteristics and characters of social, economic, and physical space that can affect residential houses and their residents. Caroa & Garcia (2007) and Russel & Pratt (1980) used the affective-cognitive model. They wanted to show that the meanings that residents attribute to their environment are the result of their attachment assessments. Also, it indicates the objective evaluation of different components of the residential environment, including the comparative analysis of what the residents have and what they desire to have (Mohit, Ibrahim, & Rashid, 2010; Jensen, 2013). The main principles of the affective-cognitive model and housing deficit theory are also related to the Actual-Aspirational-Gap Model developed by Galster (1987). This model states that people evaluate their living environment by comparing it to a set of institutionalized standards or reference characteristics that they wish to achieve. Therefore, housing satisfaction can be considered as measuring the level of compatibility between the actual residential conditions and the residential conditions desired by the residents. The concept of this model implies that housing satisfaction can be considered as the evaluation of the residents' place attachment. Also, this model indicates that to what extent the quality of

different economic, social, and physical components of the residents' living environment meets their desires of housing (Ibem & Aduwo, 2013, p. 71).

A set of physical characteristics significantly contributes to forming cohesive communities socially. Since two identified aspects of the place attachment are social bonding and physical roots, therefore, neighborhood attachment is related to the physical and social relationships between the people and their residential environment. Neighborhood is physically referred to as a residential area while it is a place with social interactions socially. Socio-economic and physical characteristics are identified as the influential factors in the neighborhood attachment.

Neighborhood attachment as one of the aspects of place attachment is concentrated in urban environments. It is measurable in terms of quantity and plays a significant role in the level of social interaction in urban neighborhoods. At the same time, the bonds formed in the neighborhood are the best influential factor in neighborhood attachment (Lewicka, 2010, p. 40). According to the abovementioned, the relationship between the influential components in the formation of the place attachment and housing satisfaction were extracted from different studies based on which the theoretical framework is formed (Fig. 1). Given the importance of the relationship between the physical identity components and neighborhood attachment in the formation of the positive consequences, including health and participation in the community, the current research tries to collect and extract all the influential aspects and components. In this regard, the connectivity of the human-made environment in the neighborhood satisfaction is focused on two groups of descriptive variables: objective characteristics, subjective characteristics of the neighborhood, and different factors including activity space, social environment, neighborhood solidarity, and people's bonding to their living environment. Understanding the objective characteristics among the residents is different due to the various conditions of the personal experiences of the residents. The difference in perceptions, personal characteristics, and internal standards lead to various evaluations from the neighborhood characteristics. Accordingly, the same objective features in a neighborhood can distinctively affect different people. These effects are a result of subjective perceptions and evaluations of the people. A conceptual model similar to the Theory of Housing Adjustment Developed is proposed by Maurice and Winter. This model has considered the neighborhood as the components of the housing characteristics. This theory states that housing satisfaction depends on the alignment between house conditions and cultural norms that replace the internal standards in Campbell's model. If the families notice the incompatibility between the house conditions and cultural norms, Winter and Maurice call it "housing deficit", then the housing satisfaction reduces. Reduction in satisfaction might lead to the regulatory

behaviors of the residents, such as relocation. All of the above theories focus on how objective characteristics affect neighborhood satisfaction and how mental perceptions and evaluations of these characteristics affect adaptive behavior. These theories show that neighborhood satisfaction is an intricate mechanism. Lack of this recognition can potentially lead to different problems. Two of the common issues are as follows: 1. The studies might present insignificant results regarding objective characteristics. Thus, their effects

on neighborhood satisfaction are underestimated. 2. The similar features in the neighborhood might have a different level of impact on neighborhood satisfaction in different environments because there are various personal characteristics and internal standards in the residents of the neighborhood. This issue justifies why the residents who live in poverty might be satisfied with their living environment (Cao, Wu, & Yuan, 2018, p. 421).

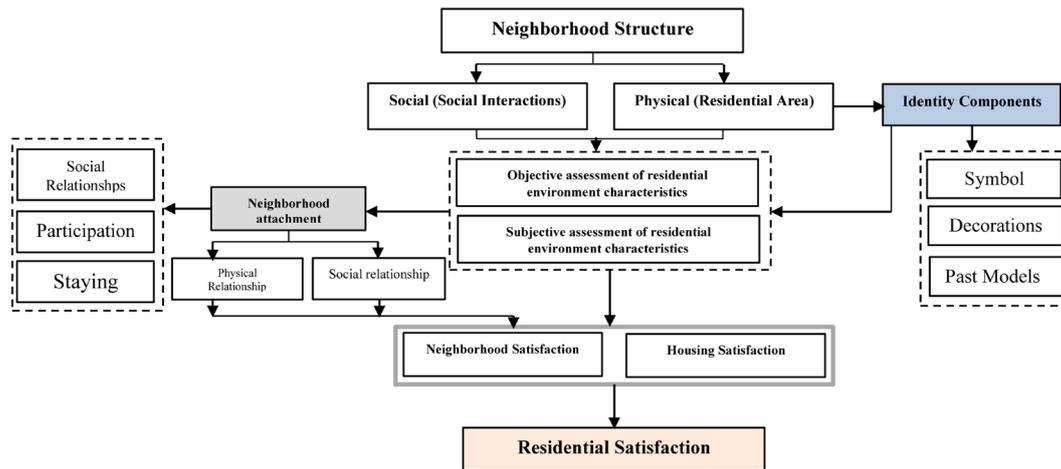


Fig. 1. Research Theoretical Framework

#### 4. RESEARCH METHOD

The current research is applied in terms of purpose. The research method is descriptive-survey. The statistical population of the study is all the adult residents of the Aghazaman Neighborhood of Sanandaj City in the first half-year of 2018. The research used the questionnaire and direct observation as the initial information and data collection tools in addition to the secondary data obtained from the journals, books, official reports of executive institutes, organizations, and policy-making. According to the official statistics, the number of residents of this neighborhood is 4270. The statistical sample of research includes 300 adult residents of this neighborhood. The sampling parameter is quantitative, and the sampling unit is the individual. The random method has been used to fill the questionnaire. Also, data analysis has been done using SPSS 24 and AMOS22 statistical software.

##### 4.1. Research Objectives and Hypothesis

The principal purpose of the current research is to study the role of physical identity components in the creation of the housing satisfaction of residents and evaluate the impact of these components on the neighborhood attachment among the residents. First of all, the current research requires to study and examine the influential indicators in the creation of neighborhood satisfaction and attachment of the residents. This study must answer

three questions to achieve the research purpose. In this regard, the effects of the physical identity components on the neighborhood attachment of the residents will be examined in the first question. In the second question, the research will try to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of the physical identity components on the level of residents' satisfaction. The verification of the relationship between the neighborhood satisfaction and neighborhood attachment of the residents will be examined in the last question.

Therefore, the research process continued with three hypotheses. In the first hypothesis, the research assumed the effectiveness of the identity components on the increase in the neighborhood attachment. In the second hypothesis, the current research assumed that the physical identity components of the neighborhood could improve satisfaction with the residential area by having a positive impact. Finally, in the third hypothesis, this research assumed the increase in the neighborhood satisfaction of residents as the reason for the neighborhood attachment improvement.

##### 4.2. Research Variables and Data Measurement Tools

As previously mentioned, the current research tries to examine the effect of the physical identity components on the neighborhood attachment and housing satisfaction of the residents of the Aghazaman neighborhood. In this regard, parameters and influential

factors on the formation of the place attachment and improvement of the housing satisfaction of the

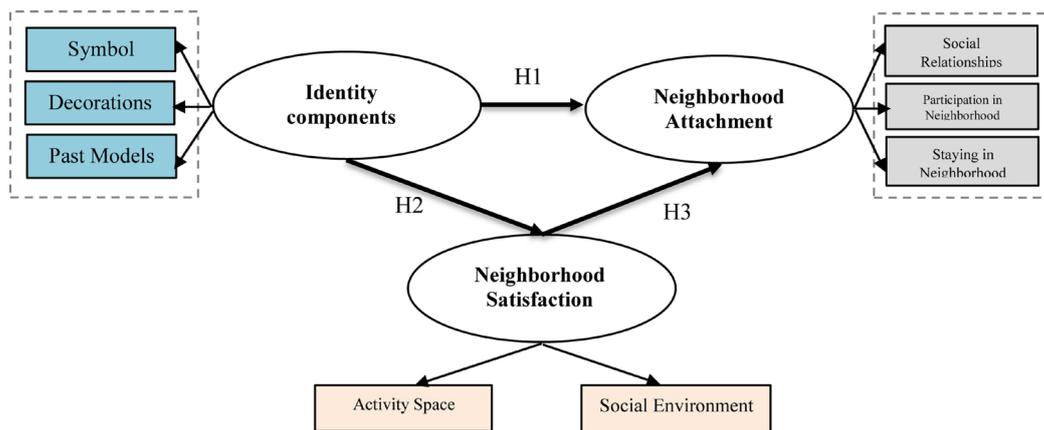
residents are explained in the research theoretical framework and research background.

**Table 1. Influential Factors on the Satisfaction and Improvement of the Sense of Attachment**

Variable	Indicator	Reference
Identity Components	Symbol	(Bemania, 2010; Kholami Rostam & Rahmatpanah, 2010)
	Decorations	
	Past Models	
Neighborhood Satisfaction	Social Environment	(Anton & Lawrence, 2014)
	Activity Space	(Lewicka, 2010; Liu, Wu, & Liu, 2017; Shumaker & Taylor, 1983)
Neighborhood Attachment	Social Relationships	(Lewicka, 2010; Bonaiuto, Fornara, & Bonnes, 2003)
	Participation in Neighborhood	(Anton & Lawrence, 2014; Mesch & Manor, 1998)
	Staying in Neighborhood	(Clark, Duque-Clavache, & Palomares-Linares, 2017; Mesch & Manor, 1998)

Hence, Figure 2 shows the collected influential factors on the attachment in three components of identity components (independent variable), neighborhood satisfaction (dependent variable), and neighborhood attachment (dependent variable). According to the research conceptual model, the research hypotheses are as follows:

- H<sub>1</sub>: identity components affect the neighborhood attachment.
- H<sub>2</sub>: identity components affect the neighborhood satisfaction.
- H<sub>3</sub>: neighborhood satisfaction affects the neighborhood attachment.



**Fig. 2. Research Conceptual Model**

As previously mentioned, a questionnaire was used to assess the research model and hypotheses. The theoretical and empirical background related to the research subject was first studied to prepare the questionnaire. Then, the questionnaire was distributed among a group of residents based on the Likert Scale. The questions were scaled from totally agree to totally disagree, and the answers were valued numerically. The questionnaire includes three groups of questions related

to the variables of identity components, neighborhood satisfaction, and attachment, and the residents were asked. The questions were modeled based on the valid studies on housing satisfaction, physical identity, and place attachment (Bonaiuto, Fornara, & Bonnes, 2003; Chen, 2018; Clark, Duque-Calvache, & Palomares-Linares, 2017). Also, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to determine the questionnaire reliability, the results of which are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2. Cronbach's Alpha Coefficients of the Questionnaire**

Title	Number of Questions	Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient
Identity Components	9	0.841
Neighborhood Satisfaction	6	0.784
Neighborhood Attachment	9	0.734

The alpha coefficients presented in Table 2 show that all the sub-scales of the research questionnaire enjoy acceptable reliability. Their alpha value is higher than the minimum acceptable value of 0.70.

**Table 3. Classification of the Questions Related to the Questionnaire Variables**

<p><b>Identity Components (Symbol)</b>            Ahmadzaeh House is as a symbol, and one of the main landmarks of this neighborhood.            Old Houses such as Ahmadzadeh House and alike can be used to give address to others as a landmark in this neighborhood.            Ahmadzadeh House is one of the landmarks and symbol of this neighborhood.</p>
<p><b>Identity Components (Decorations)</b>            The old buildings of this neighborhood have details that distinguish it from other neighborhoods.            I enjoy seeing the decorations on the body of the old buildings.            I know the building architectural decorations (brickwork, portals) of this neighborhood.</p>
<p><b>Identity Components (Past Models)</b>            The use of façade characteristics of the old buildings in the new buildings increases the architectural value of this neighborhood.            I like the application of the façade characteristics of the old buildings in the new buildings.            I enjoy seeing the facade of the old buildings of this neighborhood.</p>
<p><b>Place Attachment (Social Relationships)</b>            My friends and family will be upset if I leave Aghazaman Neighborhood.            If I leave this neighborhood, I will lose contact with my friends.            Most of my friends and family prefer Aghazaman Neighborhood to other neighborhoods of the city.</p>
<p><b>Place Attachment (Participation in the Neighborhood)</b>            I like to participate in the religious celebrations of our neighborhood.            If the lighting is broken in our neighborhood, I will quickly follow up to fix the problem.            Neighbors help each other if necessary.</p>
<p><b>Place Attachment (Staying in Neighborhood)</b>            I will never leave my neighborhood.            I would like to leave my neighborhood if there is a chance.            I will never leave this neighborhood because of my great interest in this neighborhood.</p>
<p><b>Neighborhood Satisfaction (Social Environment)</b>            I am satisfied with living in Aghazaman Neighborhood.            I am satisfied with this neighborhood because of its good neighbors.            I am satisfied with the security of this neighborhood.</p>
<p><b>Neighborhood Satisfaction (Activity Space)</b>            I am satisfied with living in this neighborhood because of its adjacency to the Bazaar.            The service provided in this neighborhood (bakery, school, bazaar, etc.) is satisfactory and made me like this neighborhood.            The proximity to my working and living places is the reason for my interest in this neighborhood.</p>

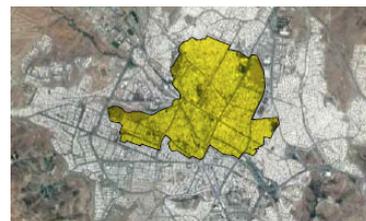
### 4.3. Study Area

The study area is the Aghazaman Neighborhood of Sanandaj city, presented in Figure 3. Aghazaman Neighborhood is one of the significant and minority neighborhoods of this city. It is located in the center of the historical texture. This neighborhood is of great significance due to the short distance to the Bazaar. Also, it had been the residence of the merchants and traders. Therefore, the buildings' architecture of this neighborhood is considerable and preserved due to



**Fig. 3. Location of Old Texture of Sanandaj**

the financial affordability of its residents. The texture of this neighborhood includes narrow and spider web (Radio-concentric) alleys. Its texture is composed of two parts. The first part contains the historical buildings of the Qajar era, the number of which is considerable. Also, they have been registered in the list of national works of Iran. However, they are currently abandoned. 50% of the texture of the second part is residential. The exquisite houses of this neighborhood are a part of the valuable architecture and art history of this city and have been less studied.



**Fig. 4. Location of Aghazaman Neighborhood**

## 5. RESEARCH FINDINGS

In a survey conducted on 300 residents of the Aghazaman neighborhood, 59% of the respondents were male, and 41% of the respondents were female. Also, 63% of the respondents were married, and 37% of the respondents were single. According to the information obtained from the questionnaire, 14% of the respondents were illiterate, 3.31% had a diploma, 19% had Bachelor's, and 8% had a master's degree. Most of the neighborhood members were self-employed (approximately 47%), and 17% were employees. Also, 26% of the sample members were unemployed. Given the conducted studies on the characteristics of the residents' lifestyle in this neighborhood, it was

indicated that most of the neighborhood's members have old houses in the Aghazaman neighborhood. 21% of the member who has new houses has recently started living in this neighborhood. However, 48% of the residents live in new houses and have lived in this neighborhood before.

### 5.1. Examining the Indicators of Three Components of the Symbol, Decorations and Past Models

Based on the obtained results, the average score of the past models is slightly higher than the symbol and decorations.

**Table 4. Descriptive Indicators of Three Components of Symbol, Decorations, and Past Models**

Variable	Number	Average	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Symbol	300	3.79	0.80	-0.64	0.19
Decorations	300	3.63	0.73	-0.43	0.34
Past Models	300	3.87	0.92	-0.87	0.50

### 5.2. Descriptive Indicators of Components Related to the Neighborhood Attachment Structure

Based on the data presented in Table 5, participation in the neighborhood is 3.92, indicating the high participation in the neighborhood.

**Table 5. Descriptive Indicators of the Components Related to the Neighborhood Attachment Structure**

Variable	Number	Average	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Social Relationships	292	2.98	0.96	0.04	-0.47
Participation in Neighborhood	292	3.92	0.83	-0.63	-0.10
Staying in Neighborhood	292	3.15	0.81	0.28	-0.09

### 5.3. Descriptive Indicators of the Neighborhood Satisfaction Structure

According to the data, the average of activity space is higher than the social environment.

**Table 6. Descriptive Indicators of the Neighborhood Satisfaction Structure**

Variable	Number	Average	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Social Relationships	292	3.40	0.93	-0.42	-0.17
Activity Space	292	3.92	0.83	-0.63	-0.10
Total Score	300	3.66	0.75	-0.58	-0.17

## 6. INFERENTIAL FINDINGS

Main hypothesis: the research structural model includes the physical identity components (independent or main exogenous variable), the neighborhood attachment (dependent or main endogenous variable), and the neighborhood satisfaction (mediating variables). The structural equation modeling with the maximum likelihood method was used to test the research model.

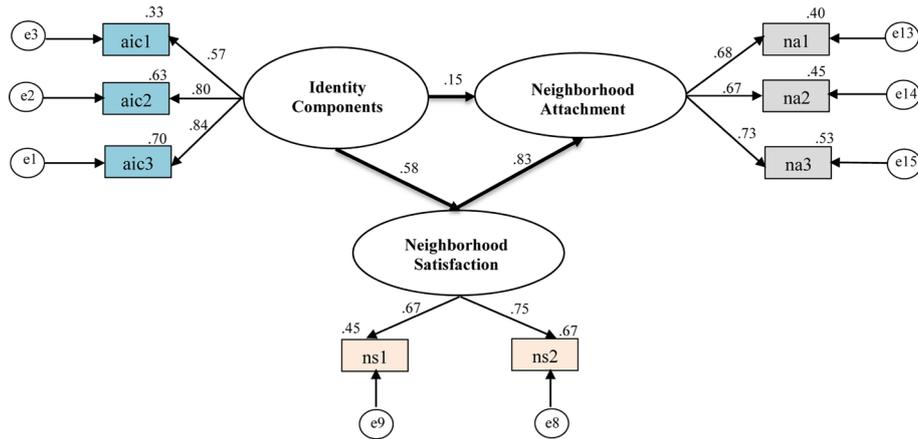


Fig. 5. Research Structural Model

The significance of the coefficients between the latent structure of identity and its associated marker variables is presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Coefficients Significance of the Measurement Models

From Structure to Component	Estimation	Error	Critical Value
Identity → Symbol	0.600	0.069	8.746
Identity → Decorations	0.758	0.077	9.875
Identity → Past Models	1	-	-
Neighborhood Satisfaction → Social Environment	3.923	0.049	80.517
Neighborhood Satisfaction → Activity Space	3.400	0.055	62.240
Neighborhood Attachment → Social Relationships	1	-	-
Neighborhood Attachment → Participation in Neighborhood	0.638	0.103	8.133
Neighborhood Attachment → Staying in the Neighborhood	0.915	0.113	8.076

According to Table 7, three manifest variables identified for the neighborhood attachment structure are significant. Therefore, they are the desired markers

for the attachment structure. The significance of the path coefficients between the present structures in the model is presented in Table 8.

Table 8. The Significance of the Direct Non-Standard Coefficients between the Model Variables

From Variable	To Variable	B Value	Standard Error	Critical Ratio	Significance Level P
Identity components	→ Neighborhood attachment	0.15	0.05	2.94	0.01
Identity components	→ Neighborhood satisfaction	0.58	0.08	6.61	***
Neighborhood satisfaction	→ Neighborhood attachment	0.83	0.13	6.25	***

\*\*\*p<0.001

According to the data presented in Table 8, the standard path coefficients between the model structures are significant. The direct, indirect, and total standard

coefficients between all the structures are presented in Table 9.

Table 9. Total, Direct, and Indirect Standard Effects of the Research Main Variables

From Variable	To Structure	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Total Effect	R <sup>2</sup> (Coefficient of Determination)
Identity Components	→ -	0.15	0.56	0.71	-
Identity Components	→ Neighborhood Attachment	0.77	-	0.77	0.89
Neighborhood Satisfaction	→ Neighborhood Satisfaction	0.60	-	0.60	0.36

\*\*\*p<0.001

According to the data presented in Table 9, there is only one indirect coefficient between the structure of the identity components and neighborhood attachment

through the physical identity structures and the neighborhood satisfaction.

**Table 10. Correlation Coefficient of the Variables**

	Identity Components	Neighborhood Satisfaction	Neighborhood Attachment
Identity Components	1	-	-
Neighborhood Satisfaction	0.406**	1	-
Place Attachment	0.456**	0.630**	1

\*\* Correlation Coefficient is Significant at the Level of 0.01

According to Table 10, the Pearson correlation coefficient between the place attachment and the neighborhood satisfaction is higher than other two variables.

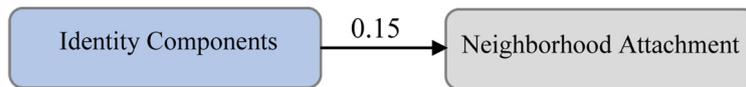
## 7. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The research conceptual model consists of three main indicators of identity components, neighborhood attachment, and neighborhood satisfaction. In the analysis based on the structural equation modeling, it was indicated that there is a significant relationship between the latent structures and marker variables (Tables 4-6). The most significant influential factors in the neighborhood attachment and identity components are as follows, respectively: using the past models,

decorations, and symbols. Social relationships and participation in the neighborhood are obtained as the influential factors in the Aghazaman neighborhood in relation to the neighborhood attachment and staying in the neighborhood. Also, in relation to the neighborhood attachment, the average score of the activity space is higher than the average score of the social environment. Table 7 shows that all the relationships in the paths between latent variables are significant. Besides, the place attachment- neighborhood satisfaction correlation coefficient is the highest.

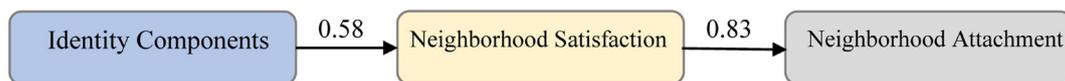
Two cumulative paths can be studied based on the research model.

First path: neighborhood attachment- identity components.



Second path: identity components-neighborhood satisfaction- neighborhood attachment. This path

indicates a more effectiveness than the first path.



Therefore, the findings extracted from the statistical analysis show the relationship of the identity components in the creation of the neighborhood attachment through creating more satisfaction in the Aghazaman Neighborhood. This result highlights the value of using the identity components in creating neighborhood attachment in the historical textures. In this regard, and given the past theoretical and empirical studies, the research findings are of importance. Although none of the past research addressed the role of the identity components in the place attachment, some of the current research results on the effectiveness of the personal characteristics of residents on housing satisfaction are in line with the findings of the empirical studies of other countries, including Mohit and Nazyddah (2011) and Ibem and Aduwo (2013), and Scannell and Gifford (2017). This finding is significant because the social structure and cultural contexts in the human communities play an irreplaceable role in the values, norms, and social actions of the individuals. Despite the difference in

the geography of the previous studies and current research and evident social differences in satisfaction and identity, the results are in line. Also, the results of the current study are in line with the results of the other research and have the same and united concept. Decent housing improves life satisfaction in Iran and other nations. In this regard, Cheshmehzangi (2015) stated that the place structure has always changed, modified, and transformed over time and, the physical characteristics of a place are of importance to reveal the behavioral, social, and perceptual values of its residents. The results of the present study confirm the findings of the research conducted by Cheshmehzangi and approve that there is a significant relationship between the physical characteristics of the Aghazman residential neighborhood and the behavior, actions, and reactions of users in that neighborhood. On the other hand, as previously mentioned, Nasr and Majedi (2013) confirm that the sense of place, identity, and quality that lead to the uniqueness of every city, are the characteristics that must be considered in the

renovation of the urban textures. Nasr and Majedi (2013) refer to some of the results of spatial identity authentication such as “space identity”, sense of place, and sense of memory. The current research findings are in line with the results of the study conducted by Nasr and Majedi (2013). The results of both studies point out the direct effect of the identification on the increase in the place attachment. Besides the mentioned studies, the results of the studies conducted by Scannell and Gifford (2017) also emphasize the effect of spatial features on neighborhood satisfaction and attachment through social aspects. This relationship is in line with the results of the current study. Also, in the area of theoretical research, the results of the current research are in line with the studies conducted based on the Housing Adjustment Developed Theory developed by Maurice and Winter. Accordingly, it can be claimed that although the various standards of the human communities are not considered as a variable in the Housing Adjustment Developed Theory, the current results are in line with the results of the studies conducted based on this theory despite the identification variable in the residents’ perspective. However, in the current and previous studies, the cultural differences that are in a direct relationship with the identity did not make any difference. Therefore, future research can consider it.

## 8. CONCLUSION

Studying the relationship between physical identity components and neighborhood attachment and satisfaction is significant because creating place attachment to the house or an environment that leads to residential satisfaction is associated with many positive consequences such as health and participation in the community. Physical organization of the neighborhood is the factors that provide the creation of identity and sense of place in its context and improve place attachment. Considering the identity components in the

body of the neighborhoods and studying the influential factors and their interaction indicates that the quality of life will be improved if the effect of these criteria is considered in the formation of the neighborhoods. Hence, the residents will be satisfied with living in these places. The results of this research show that the identity components have a direct effect on neighborhood satisfaction as the dependent variable. As a dependent variable, neighborhood satisfaction affects the neighborhood attachment directly. The positive relationship between housing satisfaction and place attachment is significant for various reasons. First of all, it indicates that the use of past models and the favorable social environment has the most impact on the creation of neighborhood satisfaction. Secondly, it showed that neighborhood satisfaction has a direct effect on neighborhood attachment and creating persistence in the neighborhood. Consequently, this presents that neighborhood satisfaction has an intricate mechanism and is multidimensional. Also, since the texture of the traditional neighborhood is of aesthetic features, continuity of the collective memory, and identification of the cities, the lack of knowledge on these neighborhoods can potentially lead to various problems such as urban migrations, severe class differences, lack of sense of belonging, and can accelerate the process of the texture worn out. Therefore, advisors and officials of the renovation of these textures can use the results of this study. Hence, the sustainability of these projects will be increased and succeed. It is recommended to pay attention to issues such as individual and group attachments to neighborhoods, providing the desired environmental quality, emphasizing the role of identity elements in residential buildings, and emphasizing the role of culture in neighborhoods to achieve the objectives of this study. Future research in this field can explore the role of symbols in the design of residential buildings to promote attachment to traditional neighborhoods, which is out of the focus of this discussion.

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