CHAPTER III

FROM TEMPORARY SETTLEMENTS TO PERMANENT PURSUITS: USER-SPACE AND BEYOND

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INTRODUCTION

Today, the Earth is frequently facing with many natural, environmental and humanitarian problems on a global scale. These problems affect daily life in social, cultural, political, economic and many other areas, and their consequences are reflected in physical space. Scarce resources and environmental disasters lead to the creation of urban geographies where living conditions are adversely affected and even the possibilities for sustaining life are lost, leading to significant population movements and displacements. In the realization of today's mass migration movements, many internal or external, immediate or prospective factors such as the desire to escape from the current challenging conditions, the desire to improve the quality of life and/or the tendency not to be harmed by possible natural and artificial threats can be the triggering factor. Although these mass displacements are called "temporary", they have become one of today's socio-spatial problematics, whose minimum living conditions take many years to achieve and whose requirements cannot be fully met by purely physical interventions. This complex structure, which emerges in the context of both the moving person/community and the place of movement, has created a conceptual confusion for the spatial literature.

The study aims to compile the relational concepts used interchangeably in the literature on the two main components of the migration phenomenon, "user" and "space", and to subject these concepts to a conceptual analysis/disaggregation process through content analysis. On the other hand, the secondary objective of the study is to identify the situational differences between users for future studies and to draw attention to the description of the ideal space that meets the needs. In essence, it is thought that this work of analysis in theory can find a response in practice.

1.CONCEPT

Concepts are a general form of representation based on certain commonalities that exist in every situation where there is an object, event or idea, whether scientific or non-scientific. However, even if they have commonalities in terms of meaning or context, the interchangeable use of concepts that are essentially different from each other over time erodes their archetype. For this reason, conceptual parsing, or the process of separating a concept from another concept with which it is related, should be read as a process of revealing its unique and fundamental characteristic, rather than attributing new meanings to it. For the study, the process was implemented as shown in Figure 1.

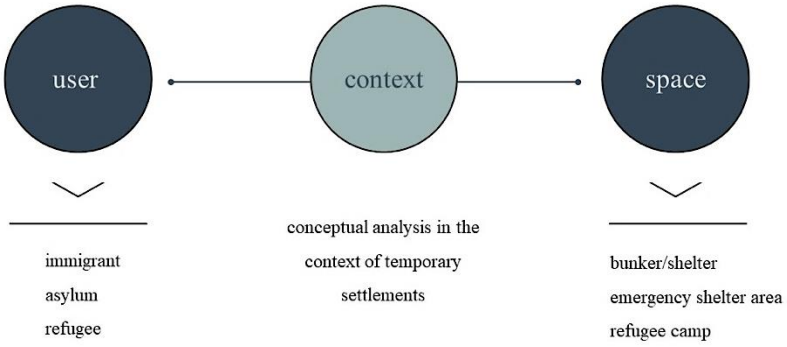


Figure 1 Conceptual Analysis Process
Reference: Orijinal, 2023.

1.1 User

As an umbrella concept, migration can be defined in its most general form as "the movement of individuals or communities to relocate". This movement can take place for economic, social, political (TDK, 2023) and climatic reasons independent of the individual (dictated to him/her) or for direct individual reasons such as changing jobs or family reunification (Glossary of Migration Terms, 2023). Therefore, the footprint of migration can extend across states and even continents, creating a border change, or it can occur at a more localized level, starting

and ending between two different points within the same settlement. On the other hand, not all individuals who move do not have the same status and are categorized according to the reason for migration, the type of migration, and the conditions of acceptance.

1.1.1 Immigrant

There is no general definition of migrant as defined by international law and the concept is defined in different ways by different organizations. While the Glossary of Migration Terms (hereinafter GTS) defines migrants as people who move to another country or region for personal reasons (such as to improve their financial and social conditions) without external challenging factors, the United Nations, contrary to this definition, considers any situation, whether voluntary or forced, regular or irregular, as a reason for migration and considers any individual who resides in a foreign country for more than one year as a migrant. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2023) (hereinafter UNHCR), one of the leading global organizations on the subject, migration is used to describe people who move across an international border based on personal preferences rather than fleeing challenging circumstances (conflict or persecution). According to another global organization, the International Organization for Migration (2023) (hereinafter IOM), the term migrant refers to people who are within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, for a variety of reasons. The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (2023) (hereinafter AFAD), on the other hand, defined the concept of migrant as a person who leaves his/her country of origin for direct economic reasons or for the purpose of improving his/her life financially and stated that migrant differs from refugee in terms of international status within the same definition. It is possible to say that the definitions examined predominantly associate the concept of migrant with reasons to improve personal and quality of life and

emphasize the condition that the migration movement takes place outside the borders of the country of origin.

1.1.2 Asylum

The concept of asylum seeker is often used in the literature to describe a temporary status to obtain certain rights to recognition, protection and social security. In Turkish law (according to Law No. 6458, Section 62 and the 1994 Regulation), the concept essentially refers to persons who, because of their membership of a particular social group or political opinion, experience a fear of being in their country of nationality and refuse to return to their country of origin. However, the broad definition includes the phrase "due to events occurring outside European countries...", which is noteworthy as it shows that geographical borders can also be effective in determining legal status and related procedures. The GSP defines an asylum-seeker as "a person seeking safety in a country other than his or her own, with a view to protection from persecution or serious harm, pending the outcome of an application for refugee status under relevant national or international instruments". According to the IOM, an asylum-seeker is an individual seeking international protection whose asylum claim has not yet been decided by the country of claim. Accordingly, not every asylum-seeker is a refugee and every recognized refugee is initially considered an asylum-seeker. In parallel with the previous definitions, AFAD uses the concept of asylum-seeker to describe "persons who have lost confidence in their state by feeling oppressed in their country because of their race, religion, social status, political opinion or national identity and therefore seek international protection as refugees but whose status has not yet been officially recognized". In conclusion, it can be said that there is a relatively more clear consensus on the concept of asylum seeker on a local and global scale compared to the concept of migrant.

1.1.3 Refugee

The concept of refugee has been regulated more than the concepts of migrant and asylum-seeker and has been tried to be regulated in international protocols and conventions. At this point, the Geneva Convention of 1951, the New York Protocol of 1967 and the Cartagena Declaration of 1984 are particularly referential. In essence, the relevant sources include within the scope of refugees those who are under the threat of security and freedom due to coercive external factors and who have left their country of origin for this reason. In addition, according to these official conventions, the definition of refugee is a declaration, and as soon as a person fulfills the conditions or criteria set by the conventions, he/she is recognized as a refugee by the UNHCR and the relevant state(s). Other local and global organizations (AFAD and IOM) also do not seem to have introduced a new definition of refugee status, but have taken into account existing legal regulations and definitions.

1.2 Space

The actual structure of temporary settlements in practice often exceeds the initially envisaged capacity and duration, becoming a part of the urban habitat over time. In theory, the "intertwining of similar concepts" mentioned under the heading of user also applies to the heading of place. Although there are temporary settlement concepts diversified by spatial theories and approaches such as informal space, anti-urban architecture, temporary architecture in the literature, definitions and classifications defined by national and international organizations are included in the study.

1.2.1 Bunker/Shelter

The content of the concept of the bunker may vary according to climate, war, adverse environmental and living conditions or the purpose of use. According to AFAD (2023), it is defined as a safe place built for the individual or collective protection of people from nuclear, biological

and chemical threats and disasters. In international platforms, the basic unit of temporary settlement is recognized as "shelter" and this unit is described as a whole with other spatial decisions. The Sphere Project (2018) defines shelter as living units that protect the user from adverse weather conditions, provide security, health, privacy, and are expected to contribute to both family and social life, and then includes these units in the hierarchy of planning, site selection decisions and living space standards. Similar to the Sphere Project's decision-making mechanism, UNHCR has addressed shelter in a cycle of planning, site selection, settlement level, implementation and evaluation. In the classification of temporary settlements into planned/designed settlements, host villages, areas without legal status, short-term accommodation areas and transit centers, different shelter solutions were proposed at the material level for each settlement level (UNHCR, 2023).

The IOM categorizes settlement interventions into four interrelated categories, ranging from shelter design to improving existing shelter and environmental conditions. These are: interventions that ensure access to appropriate shelter and settlements, interventions that provide immediate and medium/long-term safe living conditions, interventions that support the performance of daily tasks in and around the living unit, and interventions that support sustainable settlements by providing appropriate access to basic services, infrastructure and livelihoods (IOM, 2023).

1.2.2 Emergency Shelter Area

Emergency shelters are one of the temporary solutions during and shortly after a disaster and are differentiated from holding centers. They aim to determine the status of asylum-seekers and migrants in an irregular situation, to enable disaster-affected persons to resume their lives and to quickly address their most basic shelter needs. Therefore, its users can be not only asylum-seekers or refugees but also disaster victims, homeless people and people displaced due to unforeseen

circumstances (Ohcdphila, 2023). Areas such as sports halls, collective accommodation areas such as dormitories, tents, etc. (AFAD, 2023) that have not been damaged/damaged by the disaster are used to meet this need. Emergency shelter is defined by UNHCR (2023) as an enclosed living space that provides privacy, physical and emotional safety and healthy shelter conditions, and these spaces are preferred to shared accommodation spaces to help protect and develop the family unit. In addition, UNHCR has set the basic standards for these spaces to be user-oriented and user-constructible, to use environmentally friendly and sustainable materials in their construction, and to offer flexibility in both urban and rural environments. At this point, it is possible to say that different approaches have been adopted by national and international organizations in defining emergency shelter areas and providing spatial solutions.

1.2.3 Refugee Camp

According to Petti (2015), refugee camps, which are seen as the fastest organized accommodation solution for refugees, are usually designed close to the borders of countries and contain mostly tents and/or containers. They are also not built permanently as they are seen as a short-term solution. AFAD, in line with the previous definition (emergency shelter area), defines refugee camps as a collective settlement consisting of temporary shelter units such as tents and containers to provide emergency shelter for disaster victims and where many basic needs are provided until the solution of the permanent shelter problem (AFAD Dictionary of Explained Disaster Management Terms, 2023).

At the international organization level, there are different definitions and approaches on refugee camps. UNHCR (2023) defines camps as temporary facilities established to provide emergency protection and assistance to people forced to flee their homes due to war, persecution or violence. Accordingly, while camps are not intended to

provide permanent solutions, during emergencies they provide the most basic needs such as food, water, shelter, medical assistance, and other basic services, and in cases of protracted displacement, the services provided in camps can even be expanded to include education and livelihood opportunities. In addition, host communities can also benefit from these services. The Sphere Project, in its Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standarts in Humanitarian Response Handbook, does not directly define refugee camps, but outlines a set of spatial principles for such spaces. These include location and layout planning, living space, household goods, technical assistance, security and environmental sustainability (Sphere, 2018).

2.CONTEXT

In this study, where the two main components of the phenomenon of temporary settlement, the user and the space, are discussed separately, it is not incorrect to say that the user represents the temporary part of the phenomenon and the space represents the settlement part of the phenomenon. The context is designed to reveal the current situation of the user-space relationship with its sub-relational parts (concepts) within the upper title of temporary settlement, which is one of the expected results of the phenomenon of migration.

It is seen that the concept of migrant, which is the first concept addressed at the user section, has different expansions in the literature. The differentiation is that while the condition of being a migrant is based on voluntariness by local authorities, international authorities consider any individual who resides outside the country of origin for more than one year as a migrant, regardless of whether it is voluntary or compulsory. It is possible to say that there is a relatively more clear consensus on the concept of asylum seeker on a local and global scale compared to the concept of migrant. According to the general acceptance, asylum-seeker represents a temporary pre-refugee status that demands protection and certain rights outside the borders of the country

of origin for various reasons. The concept of refugee, on the other hand, seems to encompass the previous two concepts (with the exception of acting on the basis of personal choice) in terms of the privileged rights brought by its legal status. This has also led to the fact that the concept of refugee has more input into space than the concepts of migrant and asylum-seeker.

On the basic unit of temporary settlements in terms of space, there are different views on definitions and approaches at local and international scales. Both the Glossary of Migration Terms and the AFAD Glossary of Disaster Management Terms include the concept of bunker as the smallest part of temporary settlements related to space. In essence, the concept refers to places organized for protection from natural and man-made threats. However, the design principles of these places, minimum production standards and a methodology on how they will be included in the settlement fiction have not been revealed in the local literature. On the other hand, the concept of shelter stands out as the smallest spatial unit of temporary settlements on an international scale. While the concept is essentially defined as a living space that provides basic humanitarian conditions (physical and social), it is also integrated into upper-scale planning and design studies. In addition, this holistic approach has been declared through formats such as design guidelines, emergency handbooks and reports that are updated periodically. Another concept is emergency shelter areas, which differ from other types of temporary settlements in terms of user profile and period of use. In addition to asylum seekers and refugees, these areas can host all kinds of disaster victims and displaced persons and focus on meeting the urgent need for shelter that arises during/after a disaster. In the local context, potential open and enclosed gathering areas that have not been damaged by the disaster are used as emergency shelter areas, while on a global scale, family-oriented discrete units that can be applied in both urban and rural environments and can be produced by the user

are used as emergency shelter areas. Finally, refugee camps encompass the previous settlement types (shelter/shelter and emergency shelter) in terms of their content and scale. These camps, whose main module is described as tent and/or container units in both local and global literature, prioritize providing all kinds of basic services to their users until the shelter problem is permanently solved. In addition, since many refugee camps have turned into permanent settlements for various reasons (ongoing crisis, economic reasons, political strategies, etc.), in addition to the basic services available in these camps, initiatives to create permanent job opportunities are also implemented. Briefly, the concept of temporary settlement refers to the situational structure of refugee camps, while container/tent city formations correspond to the spatial structure of refugee camps.

3.CONCLUSION

Temporary settlements, one of the actual expansions of the migration phenomenon, constituted the scope of the study. The data set of the study, which was limited in terms of the concepts of user and space, the two main components of these settlements, was obtained from the latest studies of active emergency organizations compiled in the local-global distinction (Table 1).

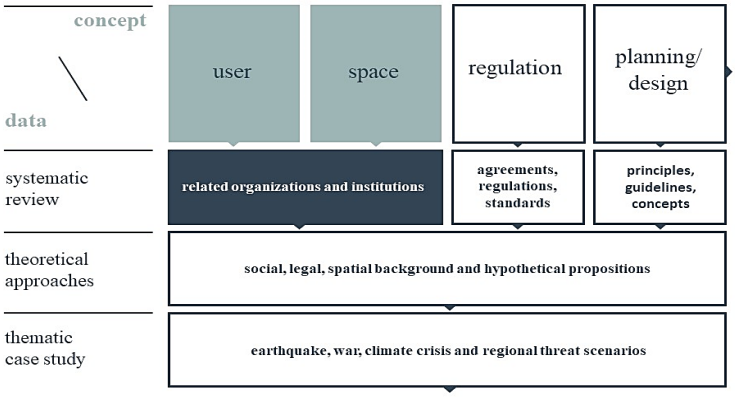


Table 1 Current Situation and Potential Studies
Reference: Orijinal, 2023.

The current situation shows that there is no terminological consensus on both user and space on the local-global axis. It is possible to interpret this situation as one of the reasons why user-oriented spaces (needs and demands) cannot be produced. On the other hand, although it is acceptable for local organizations to apply the definitions and standards set by international agreements and conventions one-to-one (unchanged), it is thought-provoking that there is still (despite know-how) no holistic strategy for space at the local level.

The phenomenon of temporary settlement, which is examined in terms of the concept of user and space, is of course open to development and change due to its multidimensional structure. Conceptually, the study can expand on the legislative axis referring to the social structure or on the spatial planning-design axis referring to the physical structure. In addition, these alternative situations can be fed from meta-analyses, theoretical-hypothetical approaches or field-theme-based studies as data sources.

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