

An Analysis of Street Names in Relation to Architecture and Social Identity in Bana, Iran and Sulaymania, Iraq

In this study, I want to determine the intensity of the relation between architecture, and local, regional, national identity based on geographical distribution of cultural diversity in Bana region located in Northwest Iran. The main objective of this study is a comparison of street and square names in 10 different parts of Bana with 15 parts of Sulaymaniya which both are historically in close connection to each other. This research is mainly dealing with the analysis of urban and rural toponyms and their interpretation in a more fine-grained method. The topic is more interesting in the field of interdisciplinary studies, as I aim in the penetration of expertise in Architecture, Archeology, Social and Geographical studies. I will try to define the basic tendencies in the naming of streets and squares in these two cities first, then I focus on the thematic naming of the streets with their special architecture in both cities. Different types of data are used in this study such as previous literature, public and private archival data, archeological and architecture records of the cities in the previous decades and modern time. The study shows that street and square names are the indicators of the local and official views and the ideological assumptions on the political, social, historical and religious views. Both cities show similar ideologies with different architecture which represent two distinct cultures but at the same time with similar ideologies. The set of toponyms in this study show reflections of territory distinction between the two cultures which are culturally two distinct but ideologically and linguistically two close. Based on the current research, identity is expressed by both special naming of the streets and squares and a special way of design based on cultural background in two different countries. Finally the study shows different themes are represented by different names like local, personal, artistic, architectural, cultural and political names. Depending on the size of the city zones and their population different types of architecture are used with a special type of names.

Keywords: Street Names, Identity, Ideology, Architecture, Rural Toponyms, Urban Toponyms