

## Climate Stories; an Approach to Understanding the Architecture of Regional Homes Based on the Critical Regional Theory (Case Study: Tehran)

### **Abstract**

Today, one of the architectural concerns in Tehran is the formation of houses without regional identity, the unification of the physical environment and the disappearance of the architectural identity and appearance of the houses. However, the concept of housing in Iran is tied to the culture and climate of each region, and this can be studied in stories and particularly climate literature and perceiving the views of authors that are taken from the layers of people's lives. The issue that can be raised here is the recognition of the role of climate stories in the awareness of architectural elements and features in the past. The research method of this research is descriptive with the method of comparative studies and the research approach is qualitative. The type of research is fundamental in terms of purpose, and considering that its output is supposed to be methodical, then it is explanatory in terms of the type of results and in terms of the technique of literary criticism analysis. The process of data collection is library research and since the foundation of this research is the use of climatic literature, literary criticism and content analysis were used. Findings indicate that through the principles of critical regionalism, one can get acquainted with the characteristics of climatic fiction. The application of semantic critique method with narrative, lexical (formalistic), technical, structural, social and aesthetic semiotics approaches is effective in understanding the architecture of old houses through climatic stories.

### **Research aims:**

1. A study of the architectural features of the old houses of Tehran based on climatic stories.
2. Explaining the application of the theory of critical regionalism in recognizing the architecture of old houses in Tehran.

### **Research questions:**

1. How can climate stories be used to recognize the architectural features of old houses in Tehran?
2. What is the use of the theory of critical regionalism in understanding the architecture of old houses in Tehran?

**Keywords:** Climatic Story, Regional Architecture, Old Houses of Tehran, Critical Regionalism

## Introduction

Today, the crisis of place identity, which has led to a low quality of life for citizens, is one of the most significant issues related to cities. Lack of attention to the spatial identity of the region's architecture and the subsequent formation of unidentified buildings has led to the severance of human connection with the place. The disappearance of the architectural identity of the appearance of "houses" in cities has caused the disappearance of the spatial identity of cities in Iran. The uniqueness of different cities and regions, which is a consequence of modern architecture and pure rationalism, despite the fact that each region has its own story and architecture, has instigated citizens to enter the city only as a solution to their needs and as a user. While creating a rich environment and reviving regional and indigenous features can improve this relationship, paying attention to regional, cultural and social values and the search for identity in different regions of Iran is essential for the preservation and survival of the cultural identity and indigenous architecture of each region. The creation of architectural spaces according to the principles of "regionalism" and "regionalist architecture" in parallel with the use of modern facilities and up-to-date architecture leads to maintaining the identity and architectural values of different regions of Iran while benefiting from the global benefits of modern architecture. "Critical regionalism" can lead to the creation of architecture with the identity of a region with a modern appearance, so with the anesthesia of houses in Tehran and the weakening of the sense of belonging in these spaces, as well as the disconnection of people from the culture and architecture of the past, this is accomplished by by reading "Climate Stories of the Tehran Basin", which is one of the best sources for extracting the cultural and natural criteria of each region. Climatic stories often reflect the common physical and non-physical features and elements such as architecture and related elements, culture, tradition, customs, etc. of a geographical area. Authors of this type of literature, which are often realistic, have great skill in referring to details. As a result, stories narrated by native and realist writers of each region can be one of the best sources through which the axes related to the architecture of a region can be read. Therefore, in this research, with the help of climatic fiction literature texts of Tehran region, which are the carriers of the past culture, space and architecture of this city, the architecture and space construction of old houses in Tehran have been studied. On the other hand, regionalist architecture is a style of architecture that will help us improve this situation, and it is also a flexible and fluid approach with an analytical and critical perspective that emphasizes the preservation of specific features and characteristics of the place.

Regarding the background of the present study, it should be said that no independent research has been conducted with this title so far, but there are several literary works in the history of Iranian and world literature that contain important information about the architecture of the same period. These include the seven-volume book *In Search of Lost Time* by Marcel Proust (1927-1927) and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Also, in national sources, Dibaj (2003) in his book "Poetry and our house" has studied architecture in contemporary literature. The book "Story of the city (Tehran, the symbol of the modern Iranian city 1299-1332)" written by Mohsen Habibi (2010) is a narrative based on the knowledge of the components of the story of Tehran based on novels by writers such as Bozorg Alavi, Sadegh Hedayat, Mohammad Massoud, Mushfeq Kazemi, etc, written between the years 1299 to 1332 and the author seeks to analyze them in the context of the city by defining the components of the story such as plot, theme, character, angle of view, staging, space, etc., because urban places and spaces they appear in modern fiction and are included in written stories (Habibi: 1389). The book "The City and the Experience of Persian Modernity" written by Narges Khaledi Moghadam covers how Tehran is represented in the Persian novel (Khaledi Moghadam: 2013). The article "Representation of the Concepts and Literary Structure of the Qur'an in Islamic Architecture" written by Mehdi Saadvandi et al., aims to show the effect of the Qur'an on Islamic architecture through its literary elements by using an unbalanced comparative method (Saadvandi et al.: 2013). In the article "Archaeological Approach to Recognizing the Practical and Spiritual Concepts of

Architectural Elements of the Islamic Era of Iran Based on the Poetry Divan of Hafez Shirazi" written by Mousavi Haji et al., For the first time, using the theoretical foundations of modern schools of archeology and other related sciences, practical and spiritual concepts of the architectural elements of the Islamic period of Iran in Hafez's poems should be examined (Mousavi Haji: 2012). In the article "Recovery of the element of place in Sadegh Hedayat's blind owl based on the historical geography of Rey and Tehran" written by Kavous Hasnoli, in parts of Hedayat's blind owl novel, some places are explicitly mentioned. In this article, relying on in-text signs their effect and adaptation to the historical geographical details of Rey and Tehran the narrator's route map is recognized in a real and objective place (Hassan Lee: 1396). A review of the available researches shows that so far, no research and examination such as the title of this research has been done with emphasis on "Climate story and indigenous-regional architecture" and this is the difference between this research and other similar studies.

The present study is an interdisciplinary analysis in the field of comparative studies (adaptation of indigenous-regional architecture to climatic literature). The research method of this research is interpretivism with the method of comparative studies and the research approach is qualitative. The type of research is fundamental in terms of purpose, and considering that its output is supposed to be methodical, then it is explanatory in terms of the type of results and in terms of the method of literary criticism analysis. The method of data collection is library and since the foundation of this research is the use of climatic literature, literary criticism and content analysis should be accomplished. In this study, eight novels by eight prominent writers in the field of fiction in Tehran with the letters "Blind Heart" by Ismail Fassih, "Bitter Sugar" by Jafar Shahri, "His Eyes" by Alavi, "Qaltshan Divan" by Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh, "Entertainment "Night" by Mohammad Massoud, "Yadegar One Night" by Morteza Mushfeq Kazemi, "Beautiful" by Mohammad Hejazi and "Blind Owl" by Sadegh Hedayat, all of which are specific to old Tehran in the contemporary era, have been read and studied. Using the content analysis technique in fictional literature on interpretive approach and also using the method of semantic critique with approaches to narratology, structural semiotics, social critique, lexical critique (aesthetic), aesthetic critique and technical critique, extracting elements and architectural features of Tehran houses are studied based on a regionalist view.

## **Conclusion**

There are various research approaches to extract regional architecture and related elements. The proposed approach of this research is the methods of literary criticism of climate stories. In this approach, various methods of narratology, structuralist and post-structuralist semiotics and social critique are used. In this study, because the content and theme of literary works (climatic stories) have been studied, the method of content (semantic) critique has been used and among its various approaches, according to the purpose of the research, which is to extract the principles of Frampton critical regionalism. Through climate stories, the following approaches were used. In the process of story critique in the proposed method, the first step is its structuralist critique, which includes narratology. In the second step, the text of the story is examined with a formal look at the lexical (formalistic) and technical critique method. Then, in the final step, through the results of the previous two steps and with a deeper critique, the content is looked at the story and analyzed by post-structuralist semiotic critique methods (social, cultural and discourse semiotics) and aesthetic critique of the hidden layers of the text. In principle, with each of the methods of literary criticism, a part of the characteristics of architectural and urban areas can be extracted, which are: 1. Narrative: in general, each story has a narrative and each architecture has its own narrative. Therefore, first of all, the rules governing the story (type, features and main elements) should be examined and analyzed to understand the overall structure of the story. 2. Lexical Critique: by this method, words related to architecture and related spaces that are related to the form, body and types of architecture in the region in climate stories

and indigenous forms in the principles of critical regionalism are extracted. Keywords that refer directly to architecture and are themselves divided into general vocabulary and specialized vocabulary that are specific to a particular time or place. 3. Semiotics: it has been used to extract the more hidden layers of the story text. Using structural semiotics, concepts such as the contrast between tradition and modernity have been analyzed in the dual contrasts section and through poststructuralist semiotic approaches, especially cultural and social semiotics. With the existing beliefs in the region, social issues such as "myths and realities of the region" have been extracted from the principles of critical regionalism. These concepts are referred to in climatic stories as customs and include "signs of identity" and "signs of etiquette". Also, features related to space and place, such as "sense of place" and "sense of belonging to place", which have been read by semiotic studies of place signs. 4. Aesthetics and technology: extracting materials related to linguistic aesthetics that describe the space and places and indigenous areas, as well as the description of nature and topography, which is directly related to the feelings and artistic taste of the author and thereby metaphors in the text has been analyzed.

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