Mental cognition of scattered farms in the Great Plain

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I) Problematics and goal of the research

Cognition about farms are uneven among the whole population. All has knowledge about the farms, Hungarian and Serbian population, because they are present as a very special settlement type located in the Great Plain. (Alfold, puszta landscape). The scattered farms is worth to examine in the global–local context when the sustainability of the Earth is more and more important, and this type of settlement is near to the nature since the early history of the two countries. The aim of this research is underlie the differences of mental cognition of scattered farms by the inhabitants and by the whole population.

1) We suppose that with the function changes of the farms the cognition about new functions of farms of the whole population has not appeared.

2) We suppose that with the function changes of the farms the cognition about new functions of farms of the concerned population has appeared.

3) We suppose that the concerned population recognize more details about the farms.

II) Scattered farms in the Great Plain

2.1 Geographical situation of the Great Plain (Pannonian Basin) lies in Hungary, in Serbia and in Roumania (from the research point of view)
2.2 Brief History of Scattered farms

Historically a type of isolated settlement in rural zone belonging or not to a village center or a little town, the inhabitants working in agriculture in the same territory around the farm. The farms (tanya-s) are the centers of the agricultural management.

Different types of farms identified on their morphology (scattered, farms-szort tanya, farms in line, (-sortanya), farms in a form of arbuscle (tanyabokrok); but not only the morphological typology exists.

After the 2nd World War collectivization all farms

Between 1950-86 destruction of farms during the socialism, survival of certain farms due to the agribusiness organized by the government, not by the free market.

After 1990 reprivatisation of arable land, changing of land use, on certain territory renewal of farms and on certain territory high number of abandoned or ruined non-residential buildings.

2.3 Functions changes of farms (tanya) during the last century till today

Originally: residential and economic function related to the agriculture

Today several variants

a) residential and halfly working function in agriculture around, halfly in the town nearby
b) residential and touristical functions at the same time (accommodation services and other possibilities f.ex. animals, events, traditional goods fabrications for tourists)
c) residential and social service function
d) not residential, only stocking in the

e) use as a second home (only in the summer season for recreational purposes for the owner)

III) Theory about Mental maps and Place perception cognition

IV) Methodes

- field work and interviews:
  in Hungary in Csongrád county: Ásotthalom, Kiszombor and Mórahalom,
  in Serbia in Voivodine - Backa county, in Backa Topola, Mali Idos, Becej, Ada, Coka, Senta

- mental maps drawing by different populations (people living on farms -20 persons, agriculture related students- 60 persons , and not related people such a control group 150 persons
V) Results:

Comparison of mental maps of different populations (people living on farms, agriculture related students, and not related people)

The differences of cognition can be observed on the drawings (elaboration, number of objects, their relative location); and we offer a typology based on spatial statistical analysis.

Analysis

- about elaboration
- number of objects on a mental map
- what objects are on the mental map (farm -house, buildings, garden, plants, animals, peoples, tractors, tools, special object or phenomena) and whats theirs relative location on the map

- The average number of objects appearing on the mental maps of people living on farms is: 6,9
- The average number of objects appearing on the mental maps of agriculture related students 5,8
- The average number of objects appearing on the mental maps of the controll: 5,1