

## Sense of place and its components in the context of informal environmental management practices

The analysis of environmental management practices in their informal aspect inherently includes the characterization of the relationship of environmental management agents to the environment. One concept that can describe the variability of these relationships is a sense of place. Definitions of the sense of place can be based on the categories of connection (Hidalgo & Hernandez, 2001) and relationship (Zherdeva, 2015) with place, the value of place (Tuan, (1977)). Place, unlike space, is personified, has value.

The concept of a sense of place in its most updated presentation combines three components: place attachment, place identity, and place dependence (Jorgensen and Stedman, 2001; Reznichenko 2014). This list may also include place satisfaction (Erfani, 2022).

An empirical case for solving the problem is the Karakansky pine wood, located within the borders of the Novosibirsk Region and the Altai Territory. This case provides a wide range of research opportunities because it contains environmental management agents, to varying degrees rooted in the area of pine wood and rural settlements located on its territory. Those agents are residents of rural settlements, summer residents and spontaneous tourists who have mastered the coastal territory of the Ob reservoir. The information base was made up of materials of observation, conversations and interviews with the inhabitants of the pine wood, collected during the implementation of the project 'Informal Practices of the Use of Karakansky Pine Wood: Social Appropriation vs. Social Cooperation'<sup>1</sup>. Sociological expeditions within the ethnographic case-study were realized in July-September 2021, February 2022, July 2022.

Environmental perspective is mentioned here intentionally because it focuses on the whole of the agent's relationship with his environment, is an «integrative approach, involving the interaction of everything with everything» (Ecological archive of O. N. Yanitsky, 2014, p. 9). The consideration of a large natural object, the Karakansky pine wood, inevitably involves a bioregional approach as well, because the biophysical characteristics of the landscape along with sociocultural factors form the relationship to the place (Stedman, 2003).

Place attachment as an emotional component is associated with both recreational opportunities that are in the pine wood space (water, air, aesthetic visual perception of the landscape) and with the experience of the place, i.e.. a set of place practices, length of stay.

In the case of place attachment we are talking not only about the inhabitants of rural settlements, but even about the city tourists, discovering their recreational presence in the coastal area of the Karakansky pine wood for a long time (several decades). In this regard, their experience is close to the experience of rural residents, which is expressed in the formulation of their attitude in very close semantic categories:

*“We cherish this place. Here the children grew up. So many memories”* (tourists-old-timers on the banks of the Ob reservoir, more than 30 years of experience)

*“We lived here, we were born here, you know? We grew up and it [pine wood] is a part of us”* (indigenous villagers).

Place experience, rootedness is also relevant for the formation of place identity. But relations of kinship and origin are more significant, and accumulated social capital becomes valuable in this perspective. It is not a question of inclusion in the local community, but of identifying oneself as local. Therefore, for city-dwellers using houses in rural villages in the regime of dacha, almost the most important subjective pass to the local community is generational connection, inheritance of the household. The same relationship can also involve place dependence, i.e. the time and cost of maintaining a serviceable household.

---

1 The project is supported by the Foundation of social studies Khamovniki, <http://khamovniky.ru/proekt-neformalnye-praktiki-prirodopolzovaniya-karakanskogo-bora-mezhdu-socialnym-prisvoeniem-i-socialnoj-kooperaciej/>

Place dependence is most clearly illustrated through the gathering practices of rural residents, which provide substantial additional income. Lexically it is expressed in the appeal to the semantic category «to live with pine wood», the category of the natural language of its inhabitants.

The continuity in the definition of this inclusion is noteworthy. “Lived with the pine wood” indigenous inhabitants of rural settlements in the middle - the second half of the XX century:

*“We lived with this forest. Literally lived. Mushrooms were - there was no place to step, berries - nobody chose them. ... And because of this we dressed, and put on shoes due to this”*, a native resident of the village.

“Live with the pine wood” and now their territorial successors:

*“If a person has nothing to live - he prepares and sells it all in the summer, and for the winter... as if... provides for himself»*, villager.

The differences are in the level of consumption and sale of forest products and the share of additional income generated in household budgets.

The place as a social construct in each case has a specific physical localization: the territory of a rural settlement, developed coastal space, symbolically assigned places for gathering wild plants (“own places” in the forest), the pine forest as a whole, etc. Thus, it is possible to talk about the sense of place on a scale from the almost private space of tourist camp to the territory and social space of a rural settlement and the Karakansky pine wood as a holistic natural object.

## References

Ecological archive of O. N. Yanitsky [Electronic resource] / Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Yanitsky O. N. // Official website of the IS RAS - 2014. 3233 p. URL: <http://www.isras.ru/publ.html?id=2983>

Erfani G. Reconceptualising Sense of Place: Towards a Conceptual Framework for Investigating Individual-Community-Place Interrelationships. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 2022 № 37(3), p. 452–466.

Hidalgo, M. C., & Hernandez, B. Place attachment: Conceptual and empirical questions. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 2001, № 21(3), p. 273–281.

Jorgensen, B., Stedman R. Sense of Place as an attitude: Lakeshore owners attitudes toward their properties. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 2001, № 21, p. 233-248.

Reznichenko S.I. Attachment to place and sense of place: models and phenomena. *Social Psychology and Society*, 5(3): 15–27.

Stedman R.C. Is it really just a social construction?: The contribution of the physical environment to sense of place. *Society & Natural Resources*, 2003, № 16, p. 671–685.

Tuan, Y. F. *Space and place: The perspective of experience*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977.

Zherdeva Yu. A. Sense of place as a category of social memory// *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2015, No. 2 (19), p. 5-11.