

Impact of On-Line Mobile Devices to Personal Space: An Addition to Edward T. Hall's Personal Space Theory

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses about how the virtual network, which becomes more accessible by the advance of mobile technology, gives impact to the size of people's personal space in Bandung. How much it has changed from according to the general distance of personal space, which is forty-six centimeters, to one point two meters (Edward Hall, 1966). And moreover, how does it affect the spatial sensibility for this certain group.

As social interactions become more and more advanced through technology, it has already become a consideration that space and time dimensions remain faded. There are no more boundaries to interact in the world, which is known as the virtual world. The distance has already burst. We are all in the same space, in the time that is almost zero to be waited as well as to be considered. The virtual type of interaction, which is social network, has become a celebration of people of various types of ages, profession, backgrounds, and status. However, even if various types of people face and celebrate the same phenomenon, the nature of interaction and its impact to physical interaction in the real world are doubtly said to be the same.

This paper begins with the nature of interaction in the virtual world. It is followed by questions: what people in this certain group usually do, how they interact, what matter would be the discussion at their own page, and how they maintain that page? The style of interaction will become a hint for conclusion of what is public and private for this group. Does the separation of private and public still exists at this virtual interaction or what actually it is shifting into will be the next inquiry to be discussed. Finally, how this virtual interaction impact appears on our physical interaction, are moreover, how personal space theory becomes irrelevant will be our conclusion to draw.

Keywords: *virtual interaction, spatial sensibility, personal space, virtual public space*