

## **Explain and Leveling Basic Dimensions of Border Studies**

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### **Abstract**

Borders are geo-spatial phenomena which including different dimensions. So, research and scientific work in the field of border studies for being accurate and acceptable should be done in such a way those different dimensions of border studies have considered. The problem is that only some dimensions have been considered and not others which would provide reduction of the credibility and effectiveness of the studies. The first step in the study of border can be considered basic dimensions of the border. So, this study has been completed by analytical and descriptive study and by using content analysis and data library with the aim of achieving basic dimensions of border studies. The results indicate that the dimensions discussed in border studies derived from theories, views and border articles are at least 55, which can be divided in the form of eight; geographical, political-sovereignty, defense-security, socio-cultural, economic, legal, geopolitical and technological. These dimensions and indexes by T-test have been evaluated and approved and their ranking is as follows; security- defense have the highest score and technological the lowest score. On the other hand it should be noted with regard to the nature of the bilateral border; these eight basic dimensions of border must be considered on both sides of the border and studied until scientific studies and researches have the necessary performance.

**Keywords:** Border, Boundary, Border Studies, Basic Dimensions.

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### **1. Introduction**

Developments that happen in global level caused relationship of country to each others to achieve national security and interest in common and international arena. This effect political border of countries and border area and provide trade exchange development among countries in legal and illegal form and increased considerable transition among countries by using this new situation and efficiency of this globalization process. Countries to achieve their interest in common and international arena need to open their borders to benefit from new opportunities and common interests in border, in the opposite direction, problems and challenges exist that affected countries in different ways and can provide problem for security and order inside the country. Also, it is clear that people live in a limited place for confidence of security and reaching independence so, we cannot imagine living in a land without outer border- even they are penetrated like a membrane. So, countries according the new situation want to legitimize their transition and exchanges with the other border in different ways and want to prevent illegal transition and smuggling goods and other insecurity to their countries. In this context it should be noted that changes has highlighted dimensions of bilateral border, on the other hand study of the border and consider the border line has changed in borders areas. On this basis, countries for controlling and management of its borders require study border areas in different ways and plan for them. Because, border areas has its conditions and characteristics that make them significantly different from the country's interior spaces and on the other hand these spaces are linked across borders.

So, the borders create a special form for country, and through which the country can contact with the other countries in the world; this special identity increases the importance of border and causes forming more attention to its management, because the borders are alive and so vulnerable to misusing. A country needs to have continuant communication and partnership with other countries for improvement. So, one can say the

borders have vital importance for country and society in establishing communication with other countries and societies (Blatter, 2005: 30). Taking the formed changes and more interdependency of countries and societies for exploiting opportunities ahead into consideration, the ground for entering disorders and insecurities into country is also provided (Janparvar & Others, 2014: 60). So that, border areas as a gateway to enter, the link with international spaces, etc. has high importance to achieve national interests and national security in their country. This paper is to review the areas of border and border lines effectively in these geographic spaces that should be considered in these studies extract and level, so that the maximum national interests and national security be provided.

## **2. Methodology**

Total method of this article is descriptive-analytical method and content analysis of data gathered from library, internet and questionnaire. The question of this article is: What is the basic dimension of border studies and how are ranking? The present study to achieve the answer at first step by examining theories, opinions and articles in the context of borders and border studies extracted 55 dimensions that they are appropriate to the nature of eight dimensions. In the next stage dimensions designed in the form of a questionnaire with 55 questions index and given to the experts and authorities of border studies and the results obtained by using SPSS software and T-test, evaluated and analyzed. Also question based on ranking of dimensions have done until rank base on that dimension. The statistical society consisted of 40 experts and executives in the field of border. In the present study due to the small number of experts in the field of border studies and border authorities also are restrictively active in the scientific field so, there is no need for sampling. The number of questionnaires that were completed and have capability analyzed includes 27 that evaluated also; reliability of the questionnaire was evaluated with SPSS software and Cronbach's Alpha test.

Table 1: Reliability Statistics

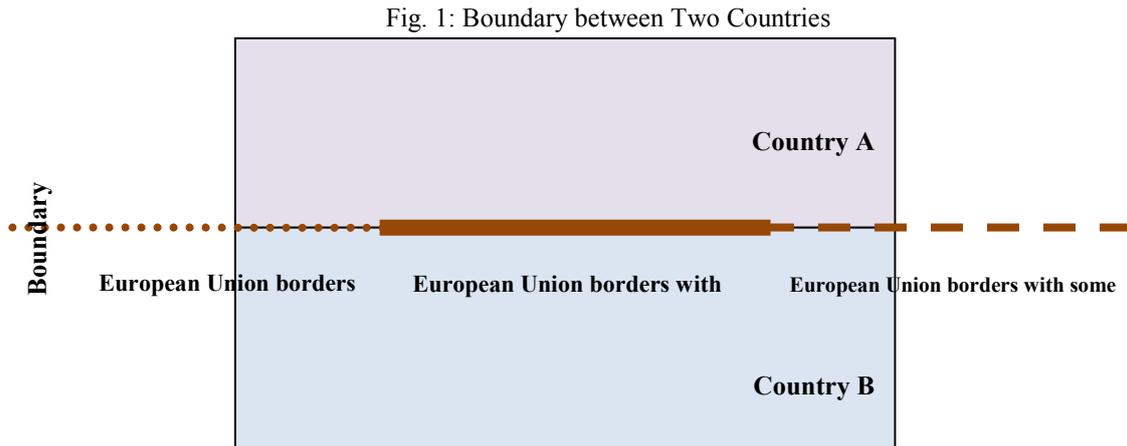
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.704	55

Cronbach's Alpha test results indicating the reliability of the questions is 0.704 that is more than 0.7 so, the questions result have enough reliability.

### **3. Theoretical concepts**

#### **3.1. Boundary**

Boundaries determine authority and possession one government or political system totally and distinct country and state from each other (Hafeznia, 2002: 299-300). Boundary is hypothetical line in space that separating tow nation, two governmental system, boundary settles at the end of legal territory of government (Mojtahedzadeh, 2006: classpamphlet) In fact boundary is not a line but is a surface a vertical surface that is cut soil and underground of nation of neighbor by space this surface is like a line on ground (Glassner 1992: 72). In total, it must be said that borders are imaginary lines dividing territory that indicate sovereignty ranges, ownership and absolute competence between them to deep wedge into the ground and will continue to the upper atmosphere of countries. It should be noted that the borders can only be a simple lines on the ground that have jurisdiction in legal dimensions and property and no type of work is defined as the current borders between countries in the Europe Union, borders can according to their circumstances have legal dimensions of ownership, jurisdiction for several special functions and depending on the type and amount of performing these functions can be used by the holder countries divided to completely closed like Europe union with the African countries and relatively closed borders like Europe Union countries with other countries in continental Europe (Figure.1).



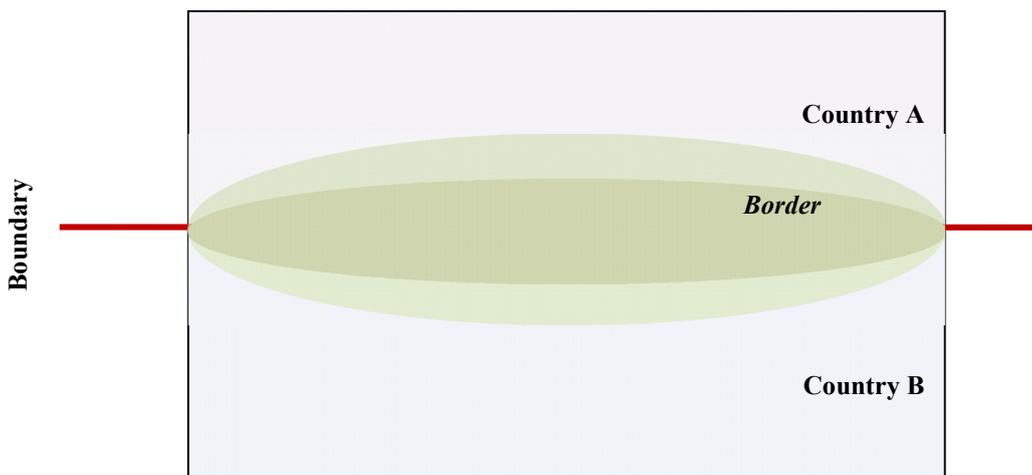
### 3.2. Border

Border meaning that used in the border study is one of the newest concepts in this field of study and due to its new concept there is no consensus among experts in the field to explain it. This problem exists even in English languages countries (though they have agreement how they use this word had and to some extent systematically apply it) but there is agreement among experts of border studies in English language that border and border terms have different meanings. In general, it is said that in this context, border has been pointed an area or region on both sides along border between one country and the other country, and border is a dividing line between one and the other countries by a government or a regime is created for determining the spatial extent of it that linked by nationality, identity and sense of belonging and protection of foreign threatened (Virkkunen, 2002: 15) Victor Prescott is one of the most important geographers in the field of border research says: Boundary word is a line, while border included zones with different dimensions. In this context it should be noted that the border and borderland are synonymous. They are areas with clear width at the furthest part of a country that on the opposite side by boundaries are

restricted (Prescott and Triggs, 2008, 11-12).

Border, is a region with a different areas beyond the boundary line, and on the other hand, this concept due to the recent developments in the formation of cyberspace and other changes resulting from globalization and ... better can show not destroy of borders in new form. Border is new concept and based on the research that I have done, yet full agreement among experts have not been made in particular in the context of difference with boundary. But based on my impressions of past and present studies, the concept of border is said to the regional interaction and transition between two independent political entities with uncertain width. In the shape (figure, 2) border has been shown.

Fig 2: Border between Two Countries



#### 4. Findings

##### 4.1. The nature of double-side or multi-side of borders

The 21st century along globalization phenomenon and exchanges in different levels from goods to information, from near places to far countries, starts new round of communications between countries. The level of economic relations has considerably improved, and the number and type of economical agents has increased and differed. This provides the ground for

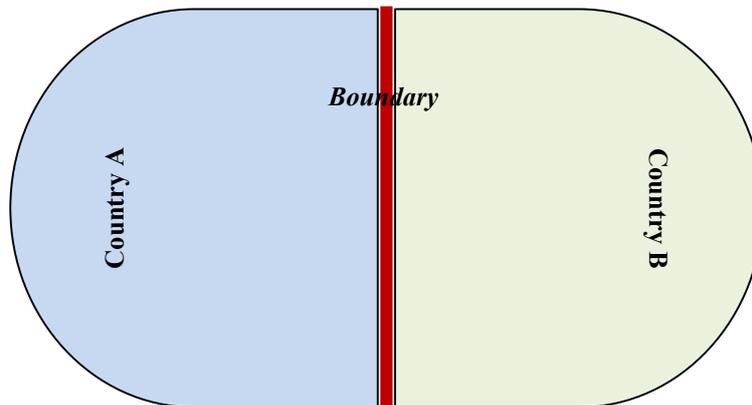
presence of people, groups and different institutes indifferent grounds of objective space, cyberspace and identical. On the other hand, the process of globalization increases the ground of improvement in relations between countries, the penetrability of political borders against economical, informational and cultural flows. The intervening and interdependency reach to the point in global range that there is no possibility to adopt seclusion policy and the decision for retreating from economic, cultural and informational widespread networks has been so hard, costly and even impossible. This matter has affected on political borders between countries and border zones and has provided the improvement ground of economic, cultural and informational exchanges in global level between countries whether in legal exchanges or in illegal forms, whether in useful form or in harmful form for countries (Janparvar & Others, 2014: 63). On the other hand it should be noted, the concept of border is not saying the side or the other sides. This means that the nature of the borders with the other side or sides formed and without the other sides, there is no need to form. Since the nature of borders meaning by the opposite side, considering the other side of the border is essential in the development process. So, to achieve borders development to find optimal management of borders should be try to consider the other side or sides and play them as one of the actors to find optimal management of the border. Because border management and control of this side of the border linked with issues and problems of the other side and border management discussion related to cooperation and communication between two sides (Afshordi & others, 2014: 11).

Accordingly, since the borders have two or more sides and neighboring countries have common interests with each other along their borders, governments for effectively and efficiently management and control of their borders and spent lower cost and less border challenges need to shape a common border organizations between them that can use it for effectively management and control border and spread areas of cooperation and good

relations among residents of border areas and in this way achieve stable security in border areas (Figure. 3). The most important factors linking countries together across borders are as follows:

- Border cooperation (ration water and hydroelectric power (dam's administration)
- Control the flow of bilateral projects, health care, environmental protection, housing and urban development, etc.
- Cooperation on border crossing issues including formal and informal traffic, including people, goods, medicine, crime, drugs, terrorism, criminal and so forth.
- Common security;
- Linked development and underdevelopment two sides of the border;
- Cross-border economic ties with each other;
- Cultural and social ties with each other on both sides of the border.

Fig. 3: The nature of borders



#### 4.2. Extraction of basic dimensions of border

In this study, to extract the basic dimensions of border studies, we acted in two ways. In the first step has examined theories, views and models in the



To achieve the desired dimensions in this study based on the above table, for each dimension is considered at least five indexes, and based on them eight dimensions have been considered. These factors are not listed in the table above, due to the high number and in this section we explain them.

#### **- Geographical Dimension**

With the rapid rise of globalization and the information era, contrary to the assumption of the loss and fade geography and geographic issues and death of geography partly had predicted by some experts. But over the time importance of the geography and geographic issues renew. In the meantime, one of the main dimensions of the geography is border that have influenced by geographic factors variously and case studies of similar species in border locations has happened that their identity not with the kind of natural border with their position or prospects will be determined (Dikshit, 1995: 76). It should also be noted that borders divide land and geographical space variously between two countries and may be along divided geographic space exists mining and source. The sources called Trans boundary natural resources (Mirabbassi & Jehani, 2011: 92). In general we can say that geographical dimension of border study includes 8 factors such as: Distance from the center, length of border; geographical location of border; trans-boundary resources; the number of neighbors; geographical breakdown (natural or human) with the center; the border shape, the topography of the border area.

#### **- Political- Sovereign Dimension**

Border and border changes are the main topics of political geography. In fact, the importance of the border in political geography is that " borders reveal the relationship between geography and politic and the interaction of them well, because countries to determine their scope, need to determine the border."Also, each country is separated by the border from another country "(Mir Haydar, 2000: 24) Borders and establish territory are two sides of the

same coin, that make the range of spatial identity again and they and there, in front of U.S form here (Paasi, 1996: 28-27). Somehow, borders are restrictive spatial sovereignty and their movement on both sides, the most important tool for governments to harmonize and similar cultural, economic, political citizens. So, governments to create or strengthen national identity, do high decision-making. Lower effective opposition of some governments to non-selective arrival of waves (radio, TV, or satellite), is because of confrontation with those seeking to participate in this task with governments (Karimipour, 1997: 135). This reflects the main function of border to show allocation of land to government (Braneli, 2004). So, border management is necessary in relation to military threads, illegal transferring, and the presence of smugglers for smuggling goods, radical parties against central government, gangsters, under development spaces and geographical habitats, contact point with other countries and governments. In such a way that stopping these crises needs special contrivances and management on the behalf of central government and the negligence on the borders of country can encounter keeping territorial entirety in the first step, and the psychological, social, economic and even political conditions

In the next step with challenge (Ahmadipour and et al, 2007: 29). The political governance is one of the dimensions of the border, which includes 9 factors such as: the government's attitude to the borders, foreign policy, communication policy, border policy; homogeneous or heterogeneous structures on both sides of the border; Identity; legitimacy of government; political participation; interaction with other countries.

#### **- Economic Dimension**

Economic issues and factors are the most important factors which are different in shape, development and acquisition character of geographic areas, especially border areas. The border areas due to the marginal position that have in the national economy often known as underdeveloped areas and the border between two countries forms the context of imbalanced

development of border areas (Jones & Wild, 1994: 259) which in turn can be help convergence or divergence toward the center, terrorist groups and influence the security and insecurity in the border areas. On the other hand it should be noted, prosperity and decline border areas, depends border line created new role or disrupt natural areas for them (Mirhaydar, 2001: 42). For example, until 1939, when wages in France was higher than the neighboring countries, many Belgium residents trying to find work in the factories of France and many France factories were closer to the border lines. This creates urbanization in the border areas of the two countries; cities such as Turku and Armentieres because of it created. It should also be noted that the borders are used as an economic barrier while economic programs of neighboring countries to prevent interference, monitoring and provide government control over the borders to import and export goods. In some countries, governments to win the competition with other producer countries, entry of foreign goods, deduct customs duties (Zarghani, 2007: 103). With the formation of the changes caused by globalization and enter the information age in recent decades, while increasing the flow of goods and people across the border, background for spaces of consciousness and influence each other greatly enhanced, that position of economic agents has increased to a considerable extent. In general, it can be said that border factors are the most important factors affecting the border areas. So, the economic dimension is one of the dimensions of the border, which includes 5 factors such as: having a marginal position in the economy; development and non-development of the border area; standard of living in the border region; differences in living standards between the border with internal border regions, differences in living standards between the two border regions on both sides of the border.

#### **- Defence - Security Dimension**

Due to the changes in recent decades, border threats is not purely military and be included various aspects of political, economic, cultural,

environmental, technology etc threats (Fisher, 1993: 5). Obviously, border security is a bankroll to human security in various dimensions within the country and any insecurity at the border could disrupt the economic, cultural, political, social, military and domestic of country and enables the optimal security at the domestic level allocated a significant proportion (Etemad Soltan, 1996: 56). Because the countries with insecurity in border areas, have found the most important issues related to their insecurity, caused by underdevelopment (socioeconomic) and the consequences. In other words, situations of poverty in these areas can provide insecurity and stimulating environment for enemies to the exploitation of the bridges in these areas. In fact underdeveloped border areas have direct relationship with the imbalance between the center and border areas of the country. Also, the spread of insecurity and underdevelopment in the border regions, the results directly transferred to the whole country (Andalib, 2001, 2-3). Accordingly, providing security is the most important and fundamental factor to achieve the development of the border areas. In such a case security is settlement of activities and construction of settlements due to their location advantage. Switching the location of industries, facilities and development schemes need safe spaces and (Hafeznia, 2002: 56). Border security always has been one of the major issues in political geography that not only has lost its importance over time but also, the criteria and new issues have been added to it. The internal security of a country can be considered as a set of concentric circles influenced by outside security issues. In this regard, the continuation of the country security in different ways begins from near and far efforts of abroad. In fact, what is today all about it are unanimous is: having secure borders in the policy of good neighborliness and the exercise of government authority in any country have a leading role and have the range of applications and the complexity of border issues in the current era show attention to various aspects of it especially security (Janparvar, 2016:

classpamphlet). So, security-defense dimensions of the border

include 8 factors: country's defense policy, security policy, defense and security agreements with neighbors; congestion of threatening ; the existence of stable or unstable neighbors, location and spatial distribution of military bases and outposts in the border region, the country's power and neighboring countries, approaches and attitudes of the two countries border to each other.

#### **- Social-Cultural Dimension**

It is clear that an innate need of people to ensure a sense of security and gain independence live in a confined space. Accordingly, we cannot live in a land without external borders - even if they are porous, like a shell (Remley & Minghi, 1991: 44-45). On the other hand, one of the major roles of border between the two political systems, the government, two cultures and two peoples is separation (Hafeznia, 2000: 191). Basically borders are human creations. People understand the differences and established boundaries (Remley & Minghi, 1991: 44). Therefore the French Jacques Ansel reminded that "there is no border issue and the nation is the problem"(Mojtahedzadeh & Asgari, 2005: 18). Also, it should be noted the existence of ethnic groups in the border areas of the country, particularly in two areas provide tension and insecurity across the border. This has a direct impact on the process and its development plans and security in that region. The main theme of convergence and divergence ethno-cultural of these social residing groups in border regions is with the central government. Iran's border regions have ethno-cultural differences. If these differences within the entire system and territorial integrity of mother culture not be solved and subcultures of border areas as components of Islamic culture not be accepted, political, economical and security problems in the border areas are created (Andalib, 2001, 209). In summary, the introduction of the border as a line of defense threats and as a wall and legal metaphor that separates the opposite cultures, not allow U.S to focus the complexities of border

areas and everyday life of experience.

On this basis, it should be said dimensions of the socio-cultural of border include 8 factors: The number of borders population; border population quality; border population culture; religious links between the two sides of the border; related links on both sides of the border; the level of culture in the border areas; link cultural gap between frontier regions and central regions, cross-border approach to border residents.

#### **- Legal Dimension**

One of the important dimensions in border study is legal dimensions of border. This matters at the time of the delimitation and later link in the interaction between the two countries and issues arising from the entry and exit of goods and movement of people. For example, differences in the legal crossing of border including legal disputes. The control imposed on border crossings vary from country to country and often reflects the political relations changing between countries. Passengers waiting too, hard and tedious formalities, unnecessary stop or detain goods are conventional techniques to punish citizens of neighboring state. Unfortunately, many countries in the Middle East and North Africa in this field are not fame and thus prevent the interaction between border regions in neighboring countries (Draysdl & Blake, 1995: 122). In general it can be said, legal dimensions of the border, including 5 factors such as: legal issues of delimitation and demarcation of borders; the rights of citizens in border areas, the legal issues of cross-border traffic; legal issues entry and exit of goods from border areas; legal issues dealing with pedestrians authorized and unauthorized of border areas.

#### **- Geopolitical Dimension**

Geopolitical factors and issues such as the different factors affect the borders and border spaces. Time with the rapid spread of information and communication and the globalization of trade and the free market economy

and the global economic system and at with increasing the grouping of regional and global, aspirations for independence based on national identity separate and distinct from the others spreads quickly. This development is a natural reaction of inherent property of human groups for separate and apart from others in the face of accelerating economic integration and information of geopolitical world. These changes once again prove the view of political geographers in the field of not integrated political world and disruptive of global system (Mojtahedzade, 2000: 130). On the other hand it should be noted that geopolitical structures in different global and regional level affected on the border areas that should be considered in border studies. How interactive countries with the ruling and top powers in their geopolitical structure of regional and global directly linked with the borders space of country. So that, if the country engagement with the major powers more and closer in geopolitical structure of regional and global cooperation, security, economic, technological, with more countries has happened and countries in dealing with the challenges, issues, conflicts with neighbors, insecurity, etc especially in regional and global maritime boundaries have more geopolitical weight. On the other hand, if the country has isolation and aggressive against the superior power in geopolitical structure of regional and global, not only the country's economic growth and technology limited and dependent to different countries but also in dealing with the challenges, issues, conflicts with neighbors, especially if the country's deteriorating security situation and issues to be allied with major powers, will not be able to fight for achieving national security and national resource in border areas of the country (Afshordi & Janparvar, 2013: 107). In general we can say, geopolitical dimensions of borders include 7 factors such as: geopolitical and geo- strategically position in border area; regional geopolitical structure, structure of global geopolitics, geopolitical environment; geopolitical competition in the border region, geopolitical affiliation and interests.

**- Technological Dimension**

Good infrastructure and advanced technology in every area helps to perform better and more efficient it. Management of the border is no exception and the existence of infrastructure and advanced technology and up to date help the proper functioning and optimal management of borders. Existence of infrastructure and advanced technology variously can help border management. This results in lower costs, better performance of border, border efficiency and achieve optimal management (Doyle, 2007: 15-21). On the other hand, the use of new technologies to support and enhance border security is one of government's goals in the current era. New technologies to enhance the skills of countries to monitor and maintain the security of the citizens and ... is very important. In this regard, the existence of infrastructure and advanced technology and perfect in every area help it to do better and more effective (Janparvar, 2012: 110). In general it can be said, technological dimensions of the border including 5 factors such as: technology of delimitation and demarcation of borders; military technology control and border management; technologies for mapping the borders and border areas; optical technologies, sensors etc. to control and border management; information technology and communications.

**4.3. Approve or reject dimensions and studies of border**

For evaluation all factors of each dimension that extracted from theory, views and articles, questionnaire was designed consisted of 55 questions in each dimension and given to experts and border officials. Collected questionnaires that were completed including 27 then were evaluated by SPSS and T-Test. Because each dimension has numerous factors so they become confuse in pc. The results are as follows:

Table 3: One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Geographical	25	3.5150	.23474	.04695
Political Sovereign	21	3.6032	.31734	.06925
Economic	24	3.6000	.49344	.10072
Defense Security	23	3.7228	.34534	.07201
Social Cultural	25	3.5600	.23968	.04794
Legal	24	3.6083	.36584	.07468
Geopolitical	25	3.7029	.33987	.06797
Technological	25	3.7920	.43004	.08601

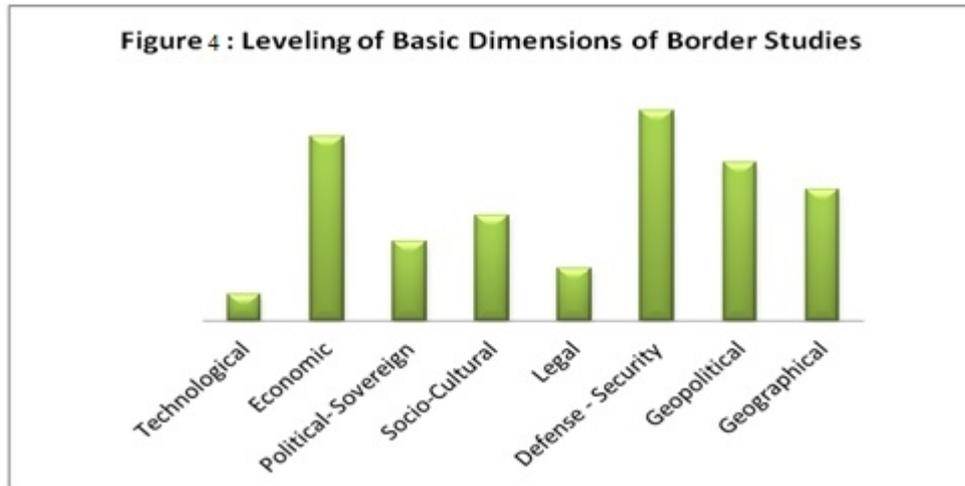
Table 4: One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 3					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Geographical	10.969	24	.000	.51500	.4181	.6119
Political Sovereign	8.710	20	.000	.60317	.4587	.7476
Economic	5.957	23	.000	.60000	.3916	.8084
Defense Security	10.038	22	.000	.72283	.5735	.8722
Social Cultural	11.682	24	.000	.56000	.4611	.6589
Legal	8.146	23	.000	.60833	.4539	.7628
Geopolitical	10.340	24	.000	.70286	.5626	.8431
Technological	9.208	24	.000	.79200	.6145	.9695

The results of T-Test indicate that the variance obtained in all dimensions was less than 0.05, so all dimensions have been approved by experts.

#### 4.4. Rating the Basic Dimensions of Border

To level the basic dimensions of border study and sort those by importance and position in border studies, in the questionnaire were asked the experts to rank their dimensions from one to eight. In this ranking, the eight was highest score and 1 the lowest. The results of this ranking are as follows; Defense- Security was first and technological was in last place (Figure 4).



## 5. Analysis

The process of accomplished changes through recent decades, such as globalization and entering into information era and etc in different ways provided enhancement ties and proximity between geographical spaces to some extent. This close link with different ways while increasing the impact on each other sides of border provided increasing importance of cross-border spaces instead of the border line. On the other hand it should be noted geo-spatial phenomena, both natural phenomena and human phenomena have many sizes and to study that phenomena should consider full various dimensions and based on the dimensions of the phenomenon plan and policy analysis on them. The borders are not only exception as geographic spatial phenomena but also have more and more complex unities that carefully study and work on them need different cognitive dimensions. Unfortunately, a look at the studies that have done in the country about borders show each of the studies base on expertise and interest of their research one dimension or two have considered and no attention the other dimension of border. This one-dimensional or two-dimensional look at a phenomenon like border that have different dimensions, not only cannot

provide a full understanding of them for readers but also, can provide formation of the failure of policies and programs and proposed strategies from academic and administrative areas across borders. On the other hand, researchers and students should note that although the borders can be shortened and discuss in the scientific-theoretical form, but they are lines through which the real world and human landscapes separate and control and significantly affect the lives of millions of people around the world. It should also be noted that in today's globalized world intertwining and merging provide affiliation and broad movements etc which has added a new dimension to the phenomenon of border. Therefore, it should be noted if we want the studies, policies, programs and strategies have done good in the field of border should be considered different dimensions of the phenomenon and act according to these dimensions. The results of the present study are based on theories, views and papers indicate the most important dimensions should be discussed in border studies include: the defense and security, economic, geopolitical, geographical, socio-cultural, political governance, legal, and technological. These dimensions by using T-TEST have been approved by experts and administrators and in the other way these dimensions are classified level as follows:

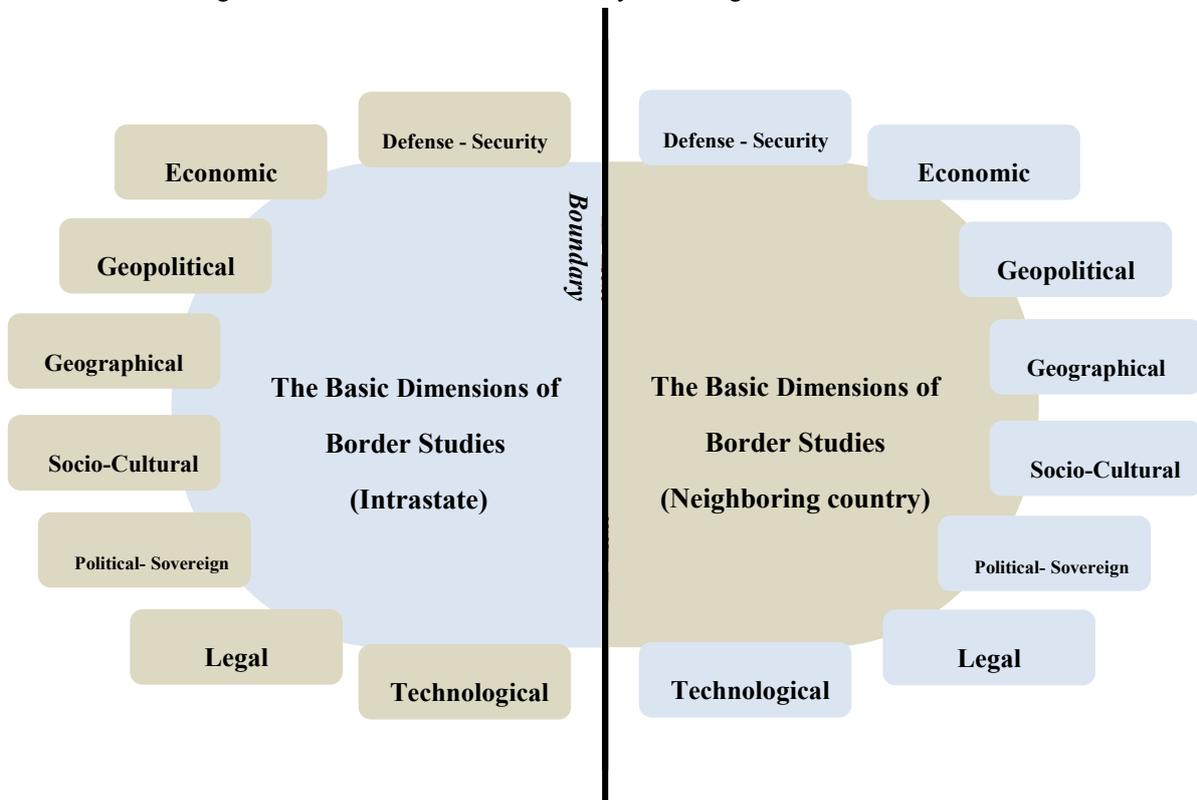
First level: security and defense; second: the economy; third: the geopolitical; fourth: the geographical, fifth: socio-cultural, sixth: governance- political, seventh: legal and final level is technological.

In total, on the basis of border studies must be said any study on borders and border areas could have consider these basic dimensions as much as possible. Ignoring these dimensions in border studies variously provide not achieving the objectives of the goals for planning the national interest for countries. On the other hand, as mentioned in the section above, recent developments, the impact of border areas on both sides of the border has increased over each other considerably. Therefore, when we study the basic dimensions of the border in the border areas of the country as a whole

should be considered the same dimensions at opposite sides of the border, So that we can have better plan in the border areas. Otherwise, any plan regardless these dimensions the ability to achieve national interests and national security has not have fully.

The basic dimensions of border study can be showed in shaped(Figure.5).

Fig. 5: Basic dimensions of border study according its bilateral nature of borders



## 6. Acknowledgement

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