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# Levelling effective factors of maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf

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## ABSTRACT

This article explores effective factors of maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf, utilising a descriptive-analytical method. The paper identifies key factors relating to Iran's border management from theories and models that related to borders and applies a mathematical analytic hierarchy process (AHP) to scale and level the factors. Results showed that there are 25 factors that could be classified in five sections contributing to effective maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf. In terms of the significance of factors, the highest scale is related to political dimension and between the factors the foreign policy of Persian Gulf countries had the highest scale. At second level with less distance to first level, geographical, geopolitical and geostrategic facts have the highest scale and in this dimension the geostrategic position of Persian Gulf had the highest scale. At third, fourth and fifth level, more distance than the first levels, are located respectively players, structural factors and boundary factors. The paper concludes that effective management of borders in Persian Gulf should consider the scale and levels of a range of factors.

## 1. Introduction

Developments at a global level can affect the relationship of countries to each other as they seek to achieve national security in the international arena, while sharing interests in common. These relationships can affect the management of political borders of countries. Border areas provide opportunities for trade, exchange and development among countries in legal and illegal forms and increases links among countries. Border interactions are situated within broader globalisation processes. Countries that aspire to achieve interests in common within an international arena need to open their border to benefit from new opportunities and common interests. At the same time, and in the opposite direction, problems and challenges in border management exist that affect countries in different ways and can provide problem for security and order inside the country. Countries want to legitimise their interactions and exchanges with the other bordering states in different ways but also want to prevent illegal activities (such as smuggling goods) and other security issues. This is leading to new dimension in the evolution of borders that can be termed border management.

Borders by their border management can simultaneously open their country border for reaching maximum national security and benefit and close their border for preventing insecurity and illegality also, problems and challenges that exist in borders reduced. The first step is to identify effective factors in border management; it means that we can recognise the factors that affect management of the border space. The second step is recognising the importance and scale of each factor and then the effectiveness of each factor on border management. As a result border management can be improved and enhanced better.

In this way recognised and levelled the effective factor in maritime border management especially maritime border of Islamic Republic of Iran in Persian Gulf had high position according its geopolitics; geo- economics; different neighbours; vast trans-border common resources and ... .Because of the importance of country borders in this way each mistake can destroy national security and benefit. So in this article by investigating the effective factor in maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf and levelling the factor, we can provide border management in this section and maximum national security and benefit.

## 2. Methodology

Data used in this study was obtained by utilising a descriptive-analytical method. Data was gathered from library, internet and a questionnaire. The key research questions addressed in this article are: Which factor is effective in maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf? And how is the scale of these factors? In this article factors were identified by exploring theories and models that related to borders. The factors were analyzed in terms of identifying the scale of effective factor in maritime border management of Persian Gulf using an analytic hierarchy process (AHP) mathematical model. This model is a simple method on the basis of matrix that by producing effective hierarchy and step by step outcome and by making a comparative matrix in different levels, specific value of it counted and in final resultant coefficient scale, relative importance of each section appointed according its head headachy that is border management. For analyzing the data, questionnaire from 20 scientist and border managers were used and for scaling the factors used 'Expert Choice' by AHP method. It should be noted that inconsistency rate obtained in this comparison was equal to 0.33. So, the result of data showed that high inconsistency. In order to display the result better, Excel software 2010 were used.

## 3. Theoretical subjects

### 3.1. Border management

Border management is often directed at the methods and technologies that help people, nations and governments to address border problems, the transition individuals and goods across borders, and the beneficial use of common resources according to the laws and regulations of an individual country. Border management is related to national security of country more than border control that thought handle traffic of people, goods, and border resources (Heinesson 2009, 1). In the other way 'border management is a mechanism for national border security and regulation of legal movement along

the borders for achieving different needs of nation by linking cultural- social-economic that provided by borders' (Heinesson 2009, 1). Hence border management is a widespread term that determines the executive work of border including confidence of protective sanctity (Pratt 2001, 7). So, border management can be expressed as regulation lawful relationship that can open country border in different way for relationship, traffic of people, goods, information and ... in the other way close it to prevent illegal and insecurity happen in country and can reduce challenges and problems of border among border's countries and neighbours to achieve national security and benefit.

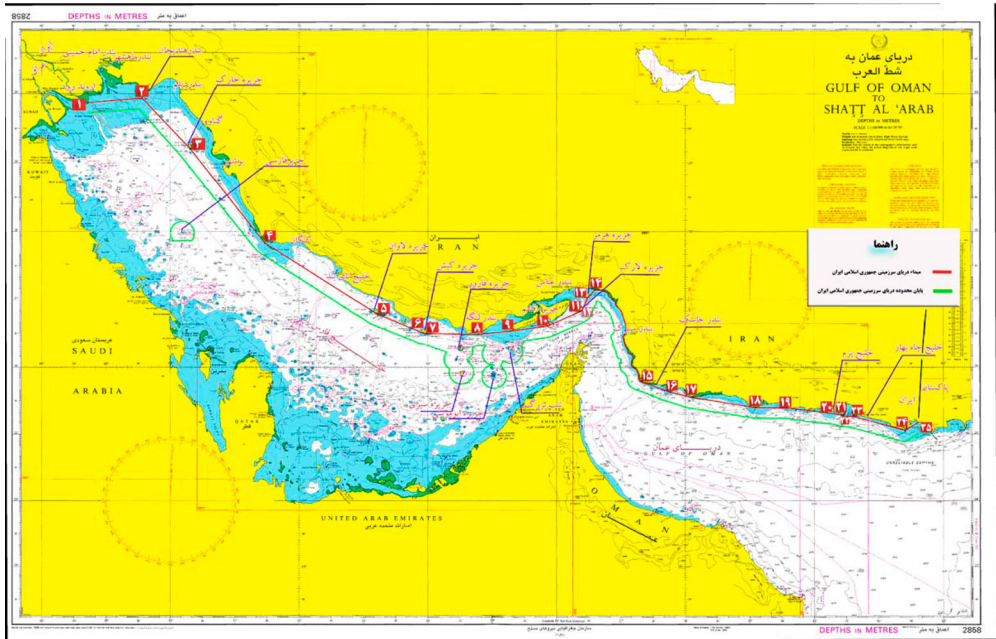
### **3.2. Maritime borders of Iran in Persian Gulf**

In fact, with the advent of oil in the Persian Gulf, frontier problem of maritime and soil border and governed of costal country and political contest and completion planed. Before that era, political borders of countries near Persian Gulf were ambiguous and sovereignty of them on the sea near of them not only according to the international law was done but also, according to power and politics of colonialism and foreigner. In fact, territory and state sovereignty of Sheikhs of Persian Gulf by drowning line of advisable border become ambiguous. In the other way the base of sovereignty in west meaning was ambiguous and the only statement of tribes was determining of borders, even the most traditional ruler of this zone were elusive from their borders and quoted that Ibn Saud was unhappy about the fixed boundaries. Simple and logical explanation of this objection was that some traditional rulers and chiefs were seen little benefit in this area in the vast desert and sand for dawning virtual lines. In that desert just well and spring and palm were considerably important. In contrast to the northern of Persian Gulf region border delimitation issue was more sophisticated. The political rule in west about Iran's sovereignty over the land and sea territory and islands has particular validity (Kazemi 1995, 3–2). So, before current southern countries of Persian Gulf appear on the world map, in north of Persian Gulf Iran, Turkey, India and the other powers determined their territory. But at southern coast of Persian Gulf foreign powers exist on it and govern it and delimitation of border was ambiguous. From the second half of the twentieth century gradually delimitation of political border becomes important and country of that region start to delimitation of their borders (Rabiee 2010, 103). (Figure 1).

## **4. Results**

### **4.1. Effective factors in maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf**

To achieve effective factors in maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf at first step related theories and models with border management should be investigated. Studies showed that there are no specific theory and model in border management and theories that related to border management could not express all factors of border management to estimate scale of factor in maritime border management. In this way researcher from this theories and models extract 25 factors to attend the border management factor (Table 1). These factors according their similarity to their topics classify in five section including geographical, geopolitical and geostrategic facts; policies; players; structural factors; border factors (Figure 8). In classifying these factors we can say that these



**Figure 1.** Border of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Persian Gulf.

factors affect each other and don't pose of them in the other part, don't show that they do not affect each other and this classifying according their similarity was done.

#### **4.2. The scale of effective factors in maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf**

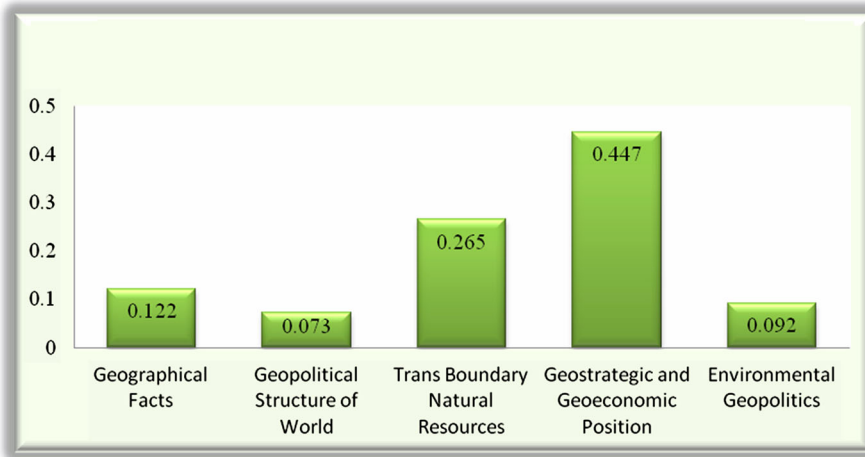
##### **4.2.1. First section: geographical, geopolitical and geostrategic facts**

First section of effective factors in maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf is related to geographical, geopolitical and geostrategic factors scale and importance of these factors is: between factors of this section, geostrategic position of Persian Gulf have high importance and scale and is effective and important factor in maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf. Because border region that have high geostrategic importance, attention of other country to them become high and each opponent try to handle that border region and control sovereignty of that region can increase its scale in exchange of this region. Geostrategic importance of Persian Gulf caused each reaction from neighbour country or other power in Persian Gulf participant with reaction of Islamic Republic of Iran or vice versa. Other factors in this section effect maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf in further situation and their scale are in **Figure 2.**

##### **4.2.2. Second section: policy**

Between second section factors, foreign policy of country in Persian Gulf has high effect on border management and high scale. The main reason of that is foreign policy of country designed according their national benefit and security at international level, so inevitably





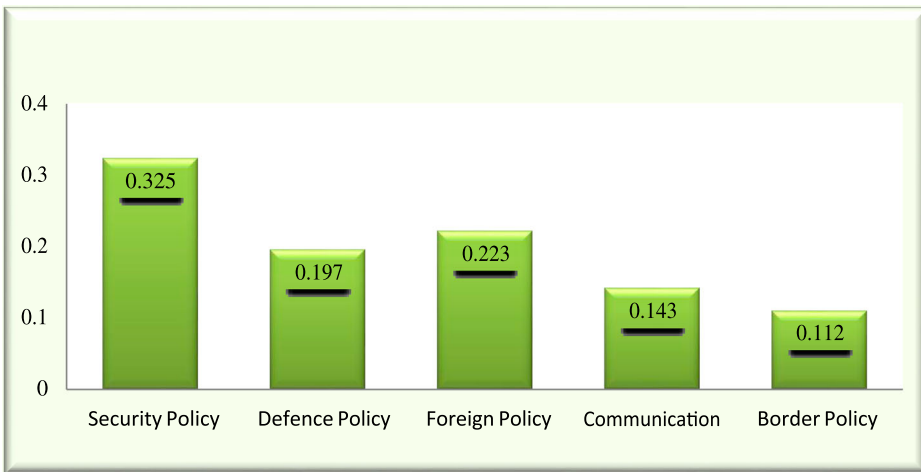
**Figure 2.** Geographical, Geopolitical and Geostrategic Factors scale that effected maritime border management in Persian Gulf.

provided friction and encounter among country especially neighbour country. Therefore, having common benefit and relationship among country for providing security caused country for achieving this importance less their encounter and with flexible foreign policy increase their communication. In Persian Gulf because of common benefit that exist between Iran and other country near Persian Gulf their national security cover each other there is not right attitude for achieving this benefits by countries and each country according their national benefit following their foreign policy that affect by intervention forces and their ideology. This has led to cooperation between Iran and neighbouring countries in the Persian Gulf and other policy and maritime border management in Persian Gulf becomes less problematic. Other factors in this section effect maritime border management of Persian Gulf in Iran in further situation and their scale are in [Figure 3](#).

#### 4.2.3. Third section: players

Between factors of this section, border forcers have high scale more than the other scales and effect maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf. However, the differences that exist in this section are close and the scale of border forces, institution and organisation that related to border and components have no difference. Border forces manage border directly. The more knowledge, treatment with their duty, culture of border habitant, border diplomacy and ... the better management happen in maritime border management of Persian Gulf.

In another way related organisation with border inside the country have high position for management of border according to its relation to 20 organisation and manager of border. If these organisations know their duty better do it better and management of border happen better. Also, direct regulation and law between organisations that separate the duty of these organisations can help management of maritime border management in Persian Gulf. In second step existence and playing of components in Persian Gulf is important. As an example, USA is an important player in Persian Gulf that for achieving its aims

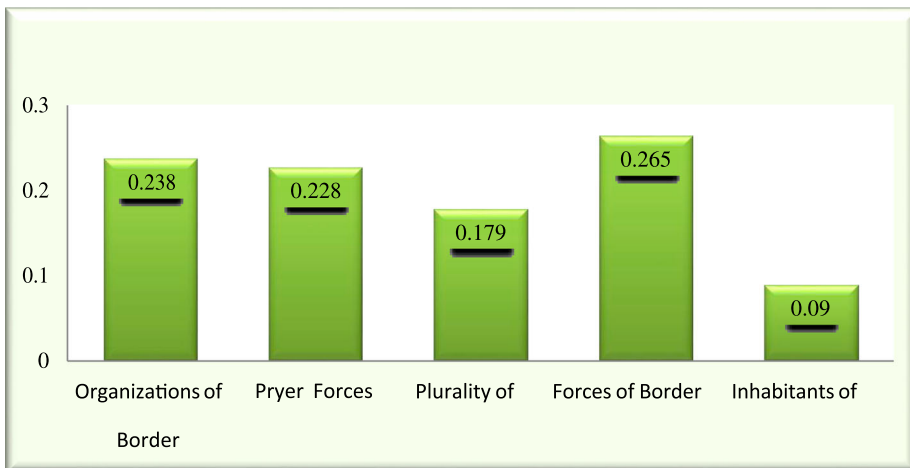


**Figure 3.** Political factors scale that effected maritime border management.

and benefits and providing its existence by high geostrategic and geo-economic in that region try to make schism between country in Persian Gulf and Iran by showing Iran as an enemy that affect relationship between Iran and other country in Persian Gulf and provide challenges. The other players, border habitants and the number of neighbours have the next position in border management and their scale is presented in Figure 4.

**4.2.4. Fourth section: structural factors**

In this section, attitude of people and government to border has high scale more that other factors because government and people of two countries attitude to border has high position in border management between two countries. Government’s attitude to borders as solidarity, identity and legitimating factor and ... cause challenges between two countries. Therefore when governments look border as an instrument for solidarity, identity and legitimating, management of them become harder. And if people attitude



**Figure 4.** Players scale that effected maritime border management in.



to border be positive and accept it, border management become easier and if people attitude to border be negative and don't accept it, border management become harder. This factor in Persian Gulf is like in both side especially south countries of Persian Gulf because of not forming nation base government score border as a protective factor from inside industry opposite goods, and providing security. So, each side according their attitude to border tries to use their capacity and potential for achieving their goals. The attitude of Iran's government and neighbour's country of Persian Gulf to border increase challenges between two sides and cause difficulty for border management. In the other aspect, attitude of people to border between two countries in management of border is so important, this aspect has less important than government attitude. Other factor in this section has less importance in maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf that their scale is presented in Figure 5.

#### 4.2.5. Section fifth: border factor

In this section territorial and boundary dispute have high scale and affect maritime border management of Persian Gulf in Iran. Because territorial and boundary dispute between two countries is caused by challenges between two countries that have same border. Overall if two countries with the same border couldn't solve their problem could not step for achieving their problem. This factor in maritime border of Persian Gulf according to no maritime delimitation of Iran-Iraq, Iran-Kuwait, Iran- united Arab Emirate and claim of united Arab Emirate to Iranian Island during last decades have high position. The importance of these disputes according to the geopolitical, geo-economical and geostrategic importance of Persian Gulf is more. Other factors in this section that effect maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf in further situation and their scale are presented in Figure 6.

#### 4.2.6. Scale of sections

By identifying each factors scale and each section scale that effect maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf, the most important section is policy with 0.355 so, we can

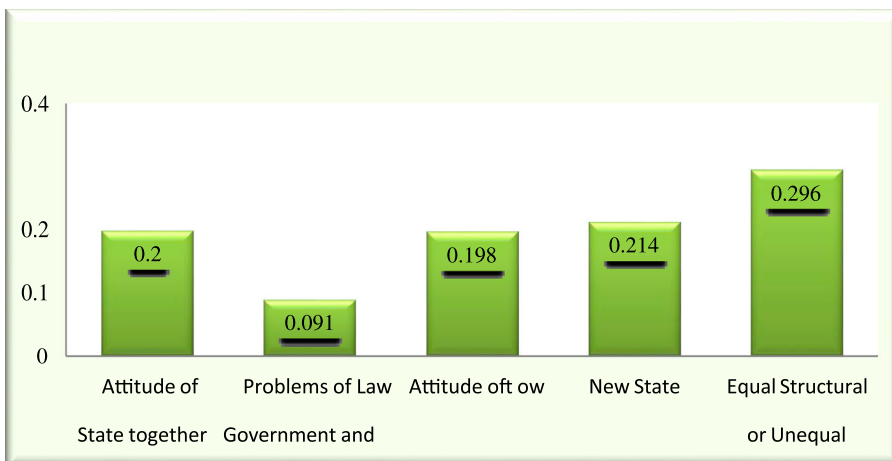


Figure 5. Structural factors scale that effected maritime border.

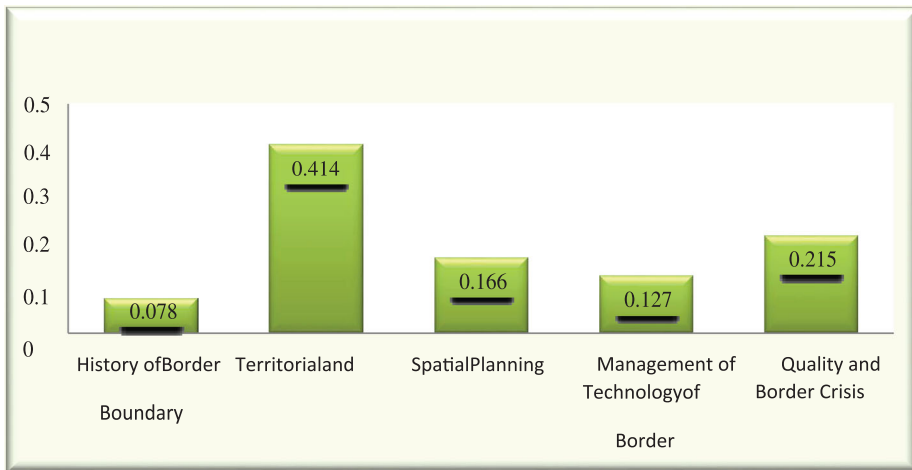


Figure 6. Border factors scale that effected maritime border management.

say that maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf is affected by selective policy from countries. In second step and with less distance to first, geographical, geopolitical and geostrategic facts is with 0.274. The other sections are with more distance to first and second. Third section, players, are with 0.144, forth section, structural factor, 0.116 and fifth section, border factor, with 0.111 are presented in Figure 7.

### 5. Analysis and discussion

Border management due to recent development has found high importance in border studies. These new studies of border help countries to open their border by border management to achieve their common benefits and opportunity and close their border that prevent to encounter insecurity and challenges of border and trans-boundary, national

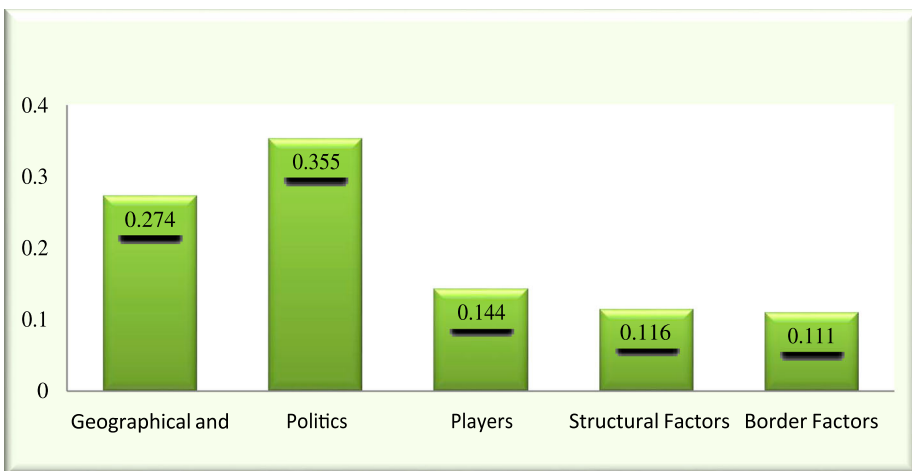
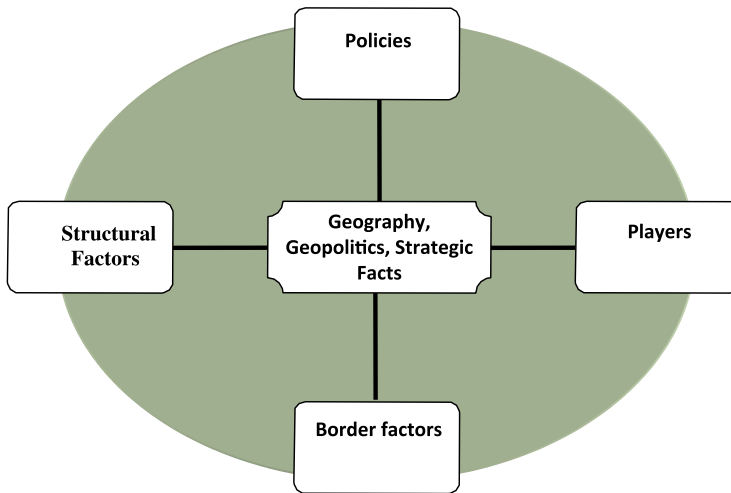
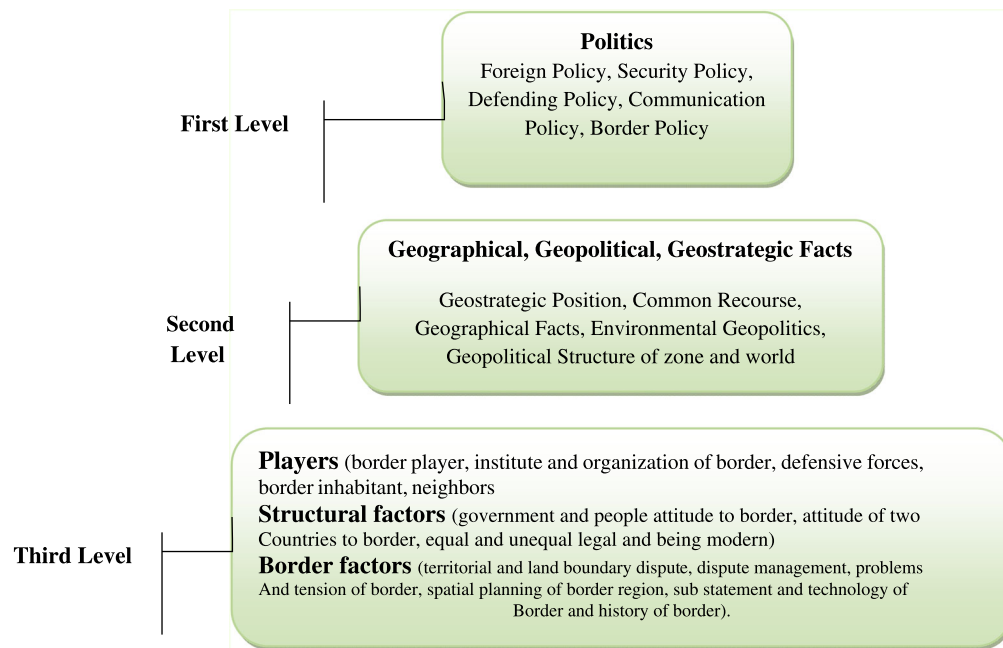


Figure 7. Scale of five section that effected maritime border management.



**Figure 8.** Maritime border management aspects (Janparvar 2012, 56).

benefit and security. This topic in maritime border especially maritime border of Islamic Republic of Iran in Persian Gulf according its high geopolitical, geostrategic and geo-economic importance, vast common trans-boundary resources, dependence of national benefit and security between countries and ... have high position. Achieving this importance mean maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf when possible that at first step know the effective factors in border management of country in Persian Gulf and in second step recognise the scale and importance of each factor to attention the factors that have high scale in maritime border management of Persian Gulf. Results of this study showed that effective factors in maritime border management of Persian Gulf are 25 factors that for their topic similarity and for better understanding of reader classify in five sections include: geographical, geopolitical, geostrategic facts (geostrategic position, common resource, geographical facts, environmental geopolitics and geopolitical structure of zone and world); policy (foreign policy, security policy, defending policy, communication policy, border policy); players (border player, institute and organisation of border, defensive forces, border inhabitant, neighbours); structural factor (government and people attitude to border, attitude of two countries to border, equal and unequal legal and being modern) and border factor (territorial and land boundary dispute, dispute management, problems and tension of border, spatial planning of border region, sub statement and technology of border and history of border). The result of comparison of factors through AHP method showed that we can show effective factor in maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf in three levels (Figure 9). First level is for policy, second level is geographical, geopolitical and geostrategic facts and three, four and five level is for players, structural factors and border factors respectively. Therefore for management of maritime border management of Islamic Republic of Iran in Persian Gulf in effective way we should pay attention effective factor in border management and scale and importance of them. Because do not pay attention each factor or not knowing each scale not only can make problem for management of border but also resolving base problem in border management can be difficult (Figures 8 and 9).



**Figure 9.** Levelling effective factors in maritime border management of Iran in Persian Gulf.

## Disclosure statement

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