Constitution of Tourism Geography in Function of Essential Tourism Processes

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Abstract

Tourism is a phenomenon that arouses interest among different scientific disciplines. One of the disciplines in this regard, which has an outstanding importance, is tourism geography. Tourism - geographical studies are among those who begin to pave the road of scientific interest in this matter. However, in the tourism - geographical literature the treatment of the subject of study is different. It is therefore necessary to indicate the constitution of this scientific discipline and on that basis to determine its place and role in the system of scientific study of this area. Investigation of the constitution allows not only determining the historical context of scientific research, but also to clearly establishing the importance of development of tourism geography in the discovery of the laws and regularities between tourism and the geographical environment. Without constitutional considerations it is not possible in a sustained way to expose the problems that arise from these relationships. Through the constitution it is possible to establish the place and importance of tourism geography in the system of sciences.

*Keywords: tourism, geography, constitution, development, research.*

**Introduction**

Tourism is one of the most remarkable phenomena in human historical development. It occurs and develops in certain conditions. The main feature is its complexity. This means that it is necessary to study scientifically these peculiarities. In this context a special place occupies the spatial dimension. The tourism need arises in certain premises, and to satisfy it, it is necessary to overcome a certain space. It is fulfilled in a specific geographical environment in which there are tourism values ​​as its constituent elements.

Given that geography is the most complex science of space on the earth's surface, and that the geographical environment can be most comprehensively studied by geography, it is called upon to solve scientific problems in this sphere.

Spatial dimension of tourism is most remarkable. Because of this, geography first began dealing with the tourism phenomenon.

Hence, a specific aspect of the study of tourism that should be marked as spatial is differentiated. This aspect together with other aspects allows resolving the issues that determine the complexity.

Tourism development is simply not possible unless previously a geographical study of space is made. Based on these studies, forecasts of developments in the field of tourism arise. They are closely related to determining the tourism value of the elements located in the geographical environment. Thus, it establishes an axiological concept in the tourist-geographical study of the space in which tourism need arises to the space in which it is satisfied.

The geographic space is highly heterogeneous. On that basis specific spatial units can be differentiated that will be used for tourism development. It is simply not possible any geographical environment to be conducive to tourism development. Only certain spatial units with attractive motivational values ​​can be put in this function.

The elements of geographical areas in which there is no attractive-motivational basis are in a position to encourage tourists and potential tourists to engage in this activity. Also, certain elements of the geographical environment make it possible to overcome the space as a necessary component of tourism (Marinoski, 2006).

Investigation of the constitution of tourist-geographical research is in the context of these professional and scientific issues.

**Methods and data**

Investigation of the constitution requires following the development of tourism and development of tourism geography. It involves historical research context which refers to the functional character and does not treat the problem on historical basis. This means using the *historical method* as a method that allows the events and relationships to be viewed in a developmental sense.

The constitution of the tourism - geographical researches involves comparative approach of previous treatments of the subject of scientific interest in this area and it is therefore necessary to put the problems in these relationships. The *comparative method* allows corrective terms of treatment and optimal location of the problems dealt with this scientific discipline.

Based on the indicators of research it is provided collating and sorting the constituent content in the tourism - geographical studies, so that a *systematic method* is of crucial importance.

Modern method in this regard is the *method of spatial relations and distances* which provides the functionality of the findings for the constitution of the relations between tourism and the geographical environment.

**Structure and development of tourism and geographical studies**

Tourist-geographical studies are based on theoretical and methodological approach that allows discovery of scientific truth. This means that this approach provides a precise domain of scientific interest, and also includes the study of rationality and scientific design (Gareth, Williams, 2002). The development of each scientific discipline consists of levels of development. Thus tourist-geographical studies are contained within this context. Tourism geography as a scientific discipline has its own roots and development characteristics. The appearance and development of scientific research have its own stages in which the scientific knowledge is developed. In this sense we can point out the following stages:

* Travelogue;
* Migration;
* Destination;
* Integrated.

**Travelogue literature as essential tourism stage-geographic research**

Tourism geography has its beginnings in travelogue literature. Firstly, just some phenomena have been described. Beautiful and attractive areas have been subject to observation and description. This means that this stage provides the spatial distribution of elements of the local environment. Travelogue literature allows gaining not only the knowledge about the basic environmental characteristics but also about specific phenomena and relationships that may be of interest to readers and visitors. Specific description of interesting regions includes a recommendation for those who are willing to travel. Travelogues attract those people who have not visited the regions which are described with them (Vasović, 1985).

The use of travelogues did not stop even when the tourist-geographical science was in an advanced stage of development. That is why the treatment of travelogues in this sense is of great importance for the development of scientific thought of tourism geography.

Observational-descriptive stadiums in the development of tourist-geographical research, is characterized by the identification of certain phenomena contrasted with phenomena belonging to related scientific fields which this study is correlated with. That is why it represents a favorable platform for the analysis of tourist phenomenon in spatial terms.

**Migration stage**

When the descriptive study is determined, the stadium for research of the tourist phenomenon as a migration occurrence follows. Increase in the number of participants in the tourism activities that are moving in a given period of time, shows the problem of overcoming space. Tourism represents a very dynamic phenomenon in the geographic space, which is why mastering of space represents an undeniable component of its definition. Tourists, who are mastering space, are practically migrating. This is the most essential characteristic of the tourist phenomenon. This feature, which is a part of the tourism complexity, actually represents a tourist migration.

***Tourist migration*** is a spatially-geographic based phenomenon that is different from other types of migration phenomena. This originates from the fact that tourism is quite different from similar phenomena in the society and not just in the modern surrounding but also in the context of genetic evolution. Differences are observed both in qualitative as in quantitative terms. Permanent migration, such as resettlement and colonization, are caused by force, or to find better working and living conditions. Exoduses are characteristic during war, natural disasters and cataclysms or during epidemics and disasters. People leave permanently their place of residence because of such emergencies. Permanent emigration is usual in economically devastated areas, where there are simply no conditions to live and work. Also, due to marriage or employment, people decide to settle permanently in areas which are located away from their places of birth.

Because of professional obligations, like military service or education, people undertake ***temporary migration movements***. Such are economic migrations. These include migrations for earnings and seasonal grazing of cattle, known as rancher migration. In these cases evident changes are made in the environment for existential needs (Jovicic, 1981).

Tourist travel is such a migration that meets the recreational and cultural needs. This means that it has essential meaning with dominant secondary needs. Tourist migrations are migrations which include "adventure" for ***pleasure*** or traveling by the participants’ own wish. These characteristics also possess only the religious migrations. However, given that religion is an integral part of the culture it can be included into the migrations that include satisfying these kinds of cultural needs. On this basis, traveling from places of residence to the pilgrimage places, represent tourist migrations, because they are spiritual pleasures. Contemporary religious movements have an organizational and tourism consumption meaning. Tour operators show a great interest in this type of tourism trends for possible profitability. That is why they are different from related religious trips with historical context.

It can be concluded that the tourist migrations are the only migrations for pleasure and not by force.

Tourism at this stage of knowledge is treated as a tourist migration with organizational and time restricted characteristics, which reflects its qualitative dimension.

Quantitative characteristic of this migration is its massiveness. It is believed that due to the number of participants in the tourism movements in the world, it can be seen as the largest temporary migration form not only in the present time, but in historic terms as well. Mastering space for recreational and cultural satisfaction represents a civilized form of obsession in most parts of the world. It is estimated that around 4 billion or about 2/3 of the worlds’ population are included in domestic and international tourism movements.

Based on these characteristics, at this development stage tourist geography is consisted as a science of tourism movements.

**Destination stage**

The destination stage of development of tourist-geographical studies is a stage in which elements of the geographical environment have prevailing meaning. Scientific interests for attractive geographical areas represent advanced forms of tourist-geographical studies because they deal with detection of reasons for overcoming space. Tourist-geographical studies at this stage of development include valorization components. This establishes a special relationship in the study of the tourism phenomenon. It relates to the treatment of natural and anthropogenic components as values to which tourism activities are directed (Hall, Page, 2006).

Also, this stage includes scientific interest that is related to receptive and capacity factors and their association with attractive amenities. Tourist-geographical studies are focused on the study of spatial entities such as sites and places, regions and national territories.Tourist space is determined by whether it holds possibilities for the formation of tourist offer and whether the space is recognizable by tourist characteristics.

**Integrated stage**

From the analysis of the previous stage, it can be concluded that tourist-geographical studies permanently develop. Description of spatial entities can not lead to scientific exactness although they have contributed in defining the problem of interest.

Also, tourism can not be reduced only to the movement, although it is undeniable that mastering space is the basic component of tourist activities.

Tourism can not be reduced to an attractive-receptive sphere of the geographical space. It takes place in a broader geographical area. There is an evident relationship between the appearance of tourist needs and geographical environment, such as the movement is in interaction with the geographic characteristics of the region.

According to this, the tourist-geographical study can not be superficial and one-sided but complex and essential.

Contemporary development levels of tourist-geographical studies imply deeper penetration into the tourism and space phenomenon for the purpose of discovery of their essential characteristics. Geographical environment represents a complex relationship and interdependence of elements of organic and inorganic origin. They appear as factors that influence the tourism phenomenon.Based on the characteristics of elements of the geographical environment that is related to the tourism phenomenon is determined by its essential character and forms through which it manifests (Marinoski, 2002).

Tourism is becoming an integral part of the geographic environment. It is therefore important to ascertain that the tourist-geographical studies are in a role that allows defining and differentiation of these connections and relations, and discovering their characteristics, such as in terms of interactivity, as well as connection to other phenomena. Based on this composition and development of the scientific thought, tourist and geographical theories are established, which in practice show great justification for their applicability.

**Tourism geography in the system of sciences**

Constitution of tourism geography as a scientific discipline, in addition to determining the theoretical and methodological framework of study, includes the refinement of its place in science. In this context it is necessary to consider the following conclusions (Marinoski, 2006):

* relation between tourism geography and other disciplines;
* tourist geography as tourism and geographical discipline;
* division of tourism geography.

**Relations between tourism geography and other science disciplines**

Tourism geography is related to many scientific disciplines. These relations impose a multidisciplinary approach of tourism study in a certain space. Simply said, modern science does not recognize isolation and exclusiveness. Tourism geography requires knowledge of other scientific disciplines, as it helps other sciences. That’s the only way it can reach the scientific truth. The relation of tourism geography with other scientific disciplines should be examined through two spheres. The first sphere is a combination of sciences which focus of interest are issues that are related to tourism and the other is a sphere of geographical knowledge or interest focused on issues and problems of the geographical environment and its elements (Such cooperation tourist geography derives from the unity between tourism and spatial values).

**Relations between tourism geography and other disciplines with a subject matter related to tourism**

Given the complexity of the problems of spatial elements of geographical environment and tourism of the scientific discipline whose subject matter touches on tourism, a special place have taken the following:

* Economics;
* Sociology;
* Psychology;
* Medicine;
* History;
* Ethnography and Ethnology;
* Archaeology;
* Number of Arts;
* Informatics;
* Ecology.

*Economics* are among the group of sciences that have made a great contribution of enlightening characteristics of this phenomenon. Studying the economic impact of tourism mobility, character of tourist traffic, achieved economic results of tourism expenditure, tourism’s impact on other economic and other activities and characteristics of tourism in the context of overall economic development are just a few fields that allow the detection of the relationship between the geographical environment and tourism. Based on these findings there is space for judging the distribution factors, elements and impacts of tourism in the area which is of basic importance for the geographical treatment interaction.

*Sociological studies*provide knowledge about social relations in tourism in the geographic environment. Tourism geography, based on this knowledge, can make conclusions about socialcharacteristics and different units. Social relations in tourism have very important influence on the geographic environment. On the other side, tourism affects the social processes in the geographic environment so it is necessary to have a mutual corporation between tourism geography and social disciplines.

*Psychology* is a scientific discipline that examines the motivations and behaviors of tourists. Based on their wishes and needs, tourism geography can perform an evaluation of the spatial elements that can enable an appropriate choice by tourists. The tourism-geographical studies should provide comprehensive tourist offer based on demand which occupy an important place for tourists’ affinities, which are the subject of study of psychology and specifically the psychology of tourism.

*Medical studies* are very useful in detecting the laws arising from the relationship between tourism and the geographical environment. Such are the studies concerning the impact of the elements of geographical environment on the health of tourists and on the potential tourists. Fatigue, exhaustion and absence of recreational opportunities are the reasons that tourists visit a particular environment. Also, medical studies are focused on the qualities of the geographical environment for recreational, health-tourism purposes. The medical science provides answers to the questions to what altitudes respond to the treatment of illnesses, how the climate impacts on the health status of people, what are the effects of the flora, what is the health significance of water and so on. This knowledge of the tourist geography allows indicating the benefits of tourism development in a particular environment. Medical science gives optimal parameters for the development of health and recreational activities in geographical space.

*History* allows realization of certain events and personalities that have meaning for people. Historical events attract tourists, and they are related to space. The geographical environment that has a comprehensive history represents an environment that is convenient for tourism development. Tourism geography uses this knowledge to make it possible to perform the evaluation of anthropogenic tourism values ​​in a particular environment. Of particular importance is the cultural history, because cultural and historical values ​​are often the basis of tourism development, and tourism geography is interested in their spatial distribution.

*Ethnographic and ethnological studies* are in close relation with tourism geography. Namely, they are such studies through which scientific knowledge is obtained for the overall creation in a particular geographical environment. The folklore is a special tourism value that deserves tourism activation. Tourism geography is able to identify opportunities for using these values ​​in tourism through the prism of their spatial distribution and functionality.

*Archaeological studies*occupy a similar place in the scientific interest of the tourism geography. Archaeological artefacts and sites are attractive tourism values. Therefore, tourism geography, using the knowledge of this science, performs appropriate tourism valorization. Through the tourism valorization it is possible to activate the archaeological values.

Tourism geography uses *artistic creation* as an integral part of the tourism area. Numerous buildings, sculptures, fountains, paintings, theatrical and musical performances are important for tourism development. Their value and spatial distribution can not remain outside the domain of tourism and geographical interest.

Tourism geography is also related to modern sciences such as the *computer sciences*. Through information technology it establishes the GIS process. It has significant application in the interpretation of the tourism phenomena, since it enables virtual presentation of the elements of tourism within the geographical environment.

*Ecology* is one of the most modern sciences. It is a science that studies the relationships between the elements of the environment. Because of the fact that the nature of the environment determines the emitting of the tourism activity and that without preserved and enhanced environment it is not possible to develop tourism, ecology occupies a special place in these studies. Due to the symbiosis of the elements of organic and non-organic origin that have affected the dominant existence of tourism in the geographical environment, ecology and tourism geography are in an unbreakable bond.

**Relations between tourism geographical disciplines and geography disciplines**

Tourist geography is showing relations with natural geographic, socio-geographical and general geographic disciplines.

From the ***natural-geographical***disciplines tourism geography achieves a special relationship with the following disciplines:

* physical geography;
* geomorphology;
* climatology;
* hydrology and hydrography and
* biogeography.

*Physical geography* is also a science that in the geographical environment interprets the effects of endogenous and exogenous forces. Most of these have appeared attractive tourist-motivational properties. Tourism geography is able to evaluate these values ​​from a tourism point of view, so it is referred to the cooperation with the geographical discipline.

*Geomorphology* is the science which studies the landscape. The landscape however, is a very important element of the geographical environment. Geomorphology provides information about the appearance and distribution of relief and relief forms and for its genesis and evolution. These findings are very important in the process of tourist valorization. Relief in the tourism development has a dual meaning. It alone represents an attractive-motivational factor, also affects other elements of the geographical environment. It is therefore an extremely important relationship that exists between geomorphology and tourism geography.

*Climatological studies*have multidimensional significance in interpreting the relationship between the geographical environment and tourism. Climatic conditions are the basis of tourism development. The values ​​indicate the climate of health and recreational assumptions. Geography tourism uses the climate studies in the evaluation process not only to determine the value of the climate globally, but also to determine the characteristics of individual climatic factors and elements for the purpose of tourism development in the geographic environment. According to the climatological research tourism geography is able to determine the optimal values ​​for development of tourist activities and to determine the spatial distribution of geographical units suitable for tourism development.

*Hydrological and hydrographical studies* have similar meaning for the tourism geography. Qualities of aquatoriums and their spatial distribution allow the tourism geography to perform evaluation that will guide to the optimal tourism activities. Studies of the waters allows for tourism geography to designate the most suitable geographical areas for tourist development. Water as a tourist value is observed through the prism of attractive-motivational factor, but as an element of geographical environment which is closely related to its other components. The water is the basis for the development and survival of tourism in the geographic environment.

*Bio-geographical studies* are necessary to determine the values ​​of flora and fauna as a factor for tourism development. Based on the characteristics of specific bio-geographical factors and elements and their spatial distribution, tourism geography can perform tourism valorization. Hence the tourist geography and biogeography are made ​​on mutual cooperation.

*Demography and geography of the population* are closely related to tourism geography. Their relationship is more dimensional. Tourism geography use information on the scope and structure of the population in the emitting area to determine the spatial distribution of segments of tourism demand. With this, an opportunity is arising for guiding tourists to the appropriate geographical environments. Also, studies of demographic characteristics of receiving population are of great importance for tourism geography. Based on these findings, the assessment of the acceptability of tourism in the receptive geographical environment and future development are closely related. Tourism, among other components that it possesses also represents a specific migration. Demographic studies are related to the geography of tourism in the area of the scope, frequency and types of tourism operations, also through the impact of tourism on the receiving population in the geographic environment.

*Urban geography* is a scientific discipline that examines the characteristics of urban areas and nuclei and their spatial distribution. These areas have a double significance for tourism. These are geographical areas from which they are recruiting tourism customers and may be environments with its cultural and historical values ​​and trade opportunities to attract tourists. Therefore, tourism geography and urban geography have mutual cooperation in the domain of relations between tourism and urban-emitting geographic area, so in the receptive tourism environment.

*Rural* and tourism geography cooperate in the field of interpretation of the relationship between tourism and rural agrarian area. Rural environment is increasingly attractive for tourists, so the findings for the structural elements are necessary to the geography of tourism in the tourism valorization. Also notable is the interest of rural tourism development as a basis for cooperation between these disciplines.

*Traffic* and tourism geography find mutual interest for cooperation in the knowledge of the degree of relatedness between the space where tourism need is created and the space in which this need is met. Traffic geography points to the manner and means of managing space as well as their distribution in the geographical environment. These findings provide the tourism geography to determine the spatial units for developing tourism.

*Economic geography* is a scientific discipline that examines the economic processes in the geographical environment. Cooperation with tourism geography is accomplished in the area of ​​influence economic resources located in the geographical environment, have on tourism. The economic geography knowledge, the tourism geography uses in the process of evaluation and planning for tourism development as well as in studies related to the spatial functionality and determining the direction in the performance on the tourism market.

*Political* and tourism geography spots are noticeable. This stems from the fact that the nature of political relationships largely depends on the level of tourism development in a specific geographical environment and population mobility. Political geography sheds light on relations between states and political associations and provides information on the translocation of the states in this context. It assists the tourism geography to pinpoint geographic national-territorial units which are suitable for guiding tourism offer. Furthermore, these findings suggest opportunities for tourism development linked with the political stability.

Tourism geography is related to ***general-geographical*** disciplines such as:

* Cartography and
* Geography.

*Cartographic* approaches are explained as a necessary methodological framework in tourism-geographical studies. Hence, the tourist geography and cartography have a wide space for mutual cooperation.

*Regional-geographical studies* are of complex nature. They cover all elements of individualized spatial unit. Because many of the elements of this complex contain an attractive tourist motivational value, they are part of tourism interest in geographical science. Tourism and regional geography base their allegiance to the numerous relationships within the geographical space as a whole.

**Division of tourism geography**

Tourism geography as a scientific discipline with its own structure is permanently evolving. That is one of the reasons for its sustained position in the scientific system. New contents and a broadened field of interest lead to new levels of tourism geography studies. In contemporary conditions, based on this development, a certain division of tourism geography is recognized. Due to such a division special disciplines within the science have been created.

Having in mind the range and character of the scientific interest, tourism geography can be divided into the following:

* General;
* Regional;
* Applied.

**General Tourism Geography**

General tourism geography studies the theoretical and methodological issues about status categories, definitions and differentiations, as well as typological and functional relations. It is a science which studies the basis of global geographical relocation of tourism and its interaction with the geographical environment as a general basis of development and the practical development issues on a global level. Hence, general tourism geography is characterized with a distinct fundamentalism in its study.

**Regional Tourism Geography**

Regional tourism geography reveals scientific laws which are drawn from the relationship between tourism and the geographical environment in separate parts of space. This discipline has a destination approach in investigating tourism. It studies tourism in certain regional frames: sites, places, regions, state territories, continents or the Earth as a whole.

**Applied Tourism Geography**

Applied tourism geography is a scientific discipline which aims to provide knowledge of the contents in specific elements of the geographical environment.When locating beach areas, trim trails, amusement parks, etc., it is necessary to apply tourism and geographical knowledge. These findings are necessary to provide spatial and urban planning in certain tourist-geographical environment. Therefore, it is an approach for application in research of the relationship between tourism and the geographical environment.Thus, this approach in studying the relationship between tourism and a determined geographical environment is applicative.

**Conclusion**

Given that tourism geography examines the relationship between tourism and the geographical environment, it appears that its place belongs to the system of tourism and geographical sciences.ListenRead phonetically

Tourism geography belongs to the sciences in the field of tourism because it reveals the fundamental laws of the tourism phenomenon in space. The study of tourism belongs to several disciplines. They are: sociology of tourism, tourism economics, psychology of tourism, tourism law and other disciplines. Their common research interest is tourism. Each of these disciplines studies this phenomenon from their point of view. Tourism geography in the system of tourism science is located parallel to these disciplines, and its aspect of the study is the spatial.

Unlike the clearly defined place of tourist geography in the field of science to tourism, its place in the system of geographical sciences is treated differently by these theorists. These approaches depend on the treatment of the tourism phenomenon. Geographers that observe tourism in terms of its determination of the natural environment, locate tourism geography in the natural-geographical disciplines. On the other hand, treatment of tourism as a social phenomenon suggests that it is a socio-geographical discipline. But it should be noted that tourism geography examines the complex relationship between the geographical environment and tourism. They contain intertwining of natural and social phenomena. So it should not be treated either as a purely geographical or socio-natural-geographical discipline.

Treatment of tourism as a tourist migration suggests that tourism geography should belong to the geography or demography of the population. However, this approach is unilateral because tourism can not only be reduced to movement and to nominate it as a tourist movement. It is evident in this case its subjectivity outside this framework.

Some authors treat the tourism phenomenon as an economic activity. From this view, they determine the tourism geography as part of the economic geography.

But it is clear that tourism is not just an economic activity, although it is not excluded. It is a phenomenon with considerable social, psychological, legal content and spatial characteristics. Accordingly, this shows that its place within the economic geography is disputed.

According to other authors, tourism geography is a branch from general geography. In their researches they tend to detect universal and special characteristics between tourism and geographical environment which are of very heterogeneous nature.

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