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**Current theoretical-methodological trends of tourism
in terms of development of geography of tourism
in Slovakia**

Introduction

Geography of tourism is one of the youngest geographical, scientific disciplines from the point of view of geography. The very first scientific works and articles related to this field of study appeared in the beginning of the 20th century, influenced by the development of mass tourism, for example by Stradner (1905), Sputz (1919) etc. (cit. in Warszyńska, Jackowski 1978). The first geographical essays were issued in Poland and France in the 30s and 40s of the 20th century by Blanchard (1924), Borrel (1933) (cit. in Warszyńska, Jackowski 1978) and Leszczycki (1937, 1939). The scholastic schools of geography of tourism were then established in Germany, Czech Republic, USA and France in the post-war period, especially since the fifties of the last century. Their most famous representatives included Bernecker (1962), Benthien, Opaschowski, Šprincová, Gardavský (1977), Havrlant (1974), Mc Murry, Clawson (cit. in Kowalczyk 1997), Mitchell, Defert (1969), Barbier (1969) etc. (cit. in Kowalczyk 1997).

In Slovakia, Peter Mariot (1969) became the leading academic representative with the over-regional influence. His theoretical-methodological model of geography of tourism (1983) prefers a functional-chorological approach. Some authors preferred the regional approach with the emphasis on natural resources (Baran 1969), or on the material-technical facilities (Otrubová 1989). The functional-chorological approach determined the works of Mariot's contemporaries such as Mišúnová (1977),

Škvarčková (1979) and the works of his scholars such as Krogman (2005).

The post-war period of the development of geography of tourism can be described as a shift from the quantitative paradigm to the individualistic, positivistic and humanistic methodological approaches that were developed mostly in Western Europe and USA.

The Central European geographical schools joined this trend after 1989. The latter approaches of development models, the models of tourist product as well as the behavioral aspects that reflected the paradigms conceived by Polish and Saxondom geography appeared also in works of Matlovič, Matlovičová (1997) and Čuka (2007, 2008).

The aim of this contribution is to verify the actual position of geography of tourism in Slovakia, to identify the possibilities of inter-discipline cooperation with the secondary, auxiliary sciences and other related disciplines, to determine the eventual domains of theoretical-methodological bases and to suggest the role of a geographer.

The essential methods include historical analysis from the personal point of view, and from the point of view of theory and methodology development as well as the heuristic method.

Position of Slovak geography of tourism and its bases

The actual position of Slovak geographical school of tourism is conditioned by the following main factors:

1. The low number of scholars. In Slovakia, there are only three docent lecturers (Ema Mišúnová – UK Bratislava, Alfred Krogman – UKf Nitra, Peter Čuka – UP Prešov) and one PhD lecturer (Kvetoslava Matlovičová – UP Prešov) that deal with this kind of issue.

2. Relatively good interconnection between geography of tourism and disciplines related to it. The cooperation with economic scientific disciplines is mainly observed. Doc. Mišúnová is the member of EF UK. The author of the article was the member of the commission for PhD. degrees at EF UMB in Banská Bystrica and is currently the lecturing professor at the College of Tourism and Hotel Industry in Łódź and the lecturing professor in the field of tourism at the University of Łódź in Tomaszów Mazowiecki.

3. The interchange of scientific ideas and products is not in terms of scientific geographical symposiums. Slovakia lacks team concepts and scientifically oriented press.

4. The standard of acceptance within geographical community is low. However, it does not refer to geographers en block.

The best example of the development of world trends in the theory of tourism, including geography, is Poland. The main theoretical-methodological streams, according to Kurek (2007, p. 30), are:

- model of the actor of tourism according to Jafari,
- concept of tourism in terms of meetings,
- model of peripheries according to Christaller,
- diffusion of innovation theory,
- model of Butler's development cycle of tourism,
- concept of formation of the recreational areas,
- concept of tourist functions,
- concept of recreational functions of tourism,
- concept of formation of the recreational centres of tourism,
- concept of territorial, recreational systems,
- concept of perception of recreational space,
- concept of recreational urbanization,
- concept of conflict of tourism.

These main streams are also supplemented with the following:

- concept of tour-guiding (Matlovič, Kandráčová, Michaeli 1998),
- concept of formation of the tourist products (Čuka, Zimmermann 1995),
- concept of religious tourism (Čuka 1998),
- environmental concept and the concept of alternative tourism (Kostrowicka 1997),
- cartographic concept and GIS applications.

Geography as a science is characterized by holistic approach. Generally, particular concepts include secondary, auxiliary sciences. The most important among them are sociologic, economic, psychological, philosophic, statistic and demographic disciplines.

The inter-disciplinary matrix schematically describes the interconnection of methodical approaches and the position of geography in the research of tourism (Fig. 1).

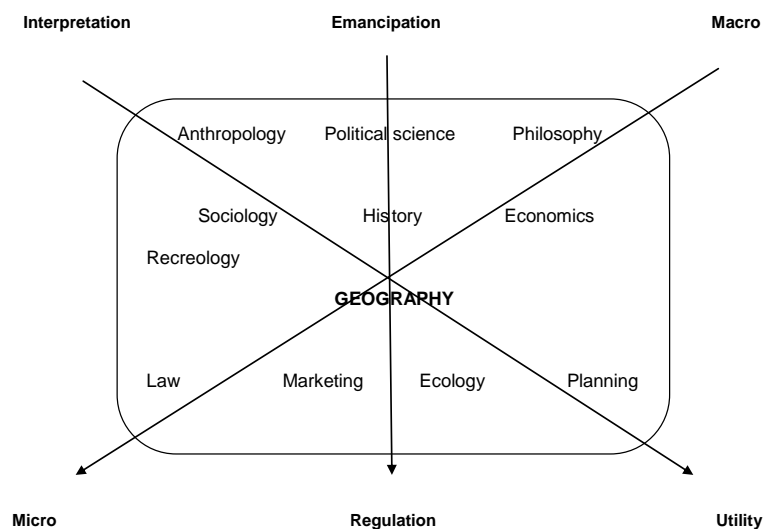


Fig. 1. Interdisciplinary matrix of the tourism research (Winiarski 2008)

The following development of theory and methodology, as well as the development of regionally valuable applied studies, are in the hands of geographers. We suppose that the most important role of a geographer of tourism lies in the following tasks:

1. From the point of view of geography, the secondary, auxiliary disciplines cannot be regarded as competitive. A geographer should cooperate in the field of inter-disciplinary communication mainly with sociologists, economists, philosophers, cartographers (GIS scientists) and others. The cooperation should result in an attractive product that would be accepted also by other disciplines.
2. Apart from their didactic activities, geographers should publish in foreign, specialized and reputable periodicals, based on the actual theoretical-methodological streams and due to the wider acceptance of Slovak geography of tourism.
3. A geographer, as a representative of the holistic scientific discipline, should arrange the unification of the terminology of sciences related to tourism. Some geographers have already predicted the unification of sciences in the field of tourism and the formation of "tourismology" (Liszewski 1994).
4. A geographer should become an important part of the team, solving the regional and over-regional issues of tourism development.

Although economics is a dominative force in the present world, the phenomenon of tourism is related to countries and people alike. Therefore, it is necessary to draw the attention to all levels of the research (empirical, applicative, and theoretical-methodological) to humanistic ways of research and their sub-disciplines. This is even more urgent due to the fact that these sub-disciplines have not been fully taken into account by Slovakian geographers.

Geography of tourism also reflects some well-known study results of philosophy of tourism, history of tourism, anthropology of tourism, sociology of tourism, psychology of tourism, pedagogy of tourism, theology of tourism and semiotics of tourism.

Philosophy of tourism deals with ontology, epistemology, axiology, typology and existentialism of tourism. Ontology draws attention to basic elements of tourism, their origin and their mutual relations. Epistemology, as a science about knowledge and knowing the phenomena, emphasizes deep recognition and sense-perception of tourism, i.e. empiricism. Axiology focuses on quality classifications in tourism. Philosophic typology is related to standard division of tourism into types and forms. Existential, philosophical view searches for the motives of recognition of the country, society and nature. These motives provocatively include not only the recreational activities, health tourism, cultural and foreign tourism, but also some other controversial forms of tourism, such as "business-tourism", "interruption-tourism", "sex-tourism", "conference tourism", "shopping tourism" etc.

The history of tourism consists of individual (elite) period of tourism and the period of mass tourism. It can be also seen at chorological level as well as the level related to the particular areas, regions or countries (national history). History, as a typical representative of humanistic disciplines, is very subjective. To be really objective, we need some time lapse as well as the comparison of sources. For instance, A. Kowalczyk (2001, p. 60) in his monograph *Geografia hotelarstwa* claimed that the first hotels in the world were built in the ancient Olympia in the 7th c. BC. Milewska and Włodarczyk (2005, p. 9) introduce the theory that there were so called "tour hotels" established in ancient Greece in the 4th c. BC. Čuka (2007, p. 31) claims that the very first real hotel in Europe was the Dieu Hotel in Paris established in the 7th c. AC. The studies of Gúčík, Patúš (2005, p. 5) show that the actual hotels appeared just recently at the turn of the 18th and 19th c.

Anthropological studies of tourism deal mainly with human beings. According to anthropology, the main influence of tourism lies in the change of the target destination (indigenous) cultures that are penetrated by the (allochthonous) actors of tourism. Podemski (2008, p. 48) introduces human rituals related to their moving and travelling activities in three phases: a “separation” phase – when they are separated from their natural state and environment, a “liminar” phase – boundary which they cross, when they accept new environment that was previously perceived from the outside and a “reincorporational” phase – in which they accept a dual social status. The first is the structural status while the second is the community status. In accordance with geographic terminology, the anthropology also differentiates between the tourism from the point of view of recreation and relaxation.

According to Przeclawski (1996), sociology of tourism examines broader or tighter social links, not only between the indigenous people and actors of tourism, but also the relations in micro-links, typologies of tourists and functions as well as malfunctions of tourism. Przeclawski emphasizes the educational functions of tourism and the questions of tourism ethics.

Psychology of tourism deals with the motives of tourism, psychological consequences of tourists` participation, but also with psychological aspects of services.

Pedagogy of tourism focuses on theory and education of tourist operators and employees in service industry. In a broader sense, it also relates to the education and special preparation of hotel managers, trainers, masseurs, animators etc.

Theology of tourism aims at the spiritual character of pilgrimage activities. It perceives a human being as a spiritually developed personality in terms of “homo viator” philosophy. The attractiveness of visited country goes beyond the boundaries of natural environment and secular world far into the spiritual world, the so-called “sacrum” (Jackowski 2003).

Semiotics deals with theory about the system of signs and their social linkages as well as symbols important in the thinking of an individual. Tourism is symbolic to a large extent, for instance in creating “holy” cities, in perception and valorization of world monuments etc. A perfect example of incorporation of biology and behavioralism into the semiotics is the approach presented by D. Morris (1997).

All of the mentioned sub-disciplinary examples can be used in modern

theory and methodology of tourism. Slovakia lacks the objective, complex and innovated theoretical-methodological approach. In Poland, this idea is represented by monographs of A. Matczak (1994) and T. Chudoba (2008). It is the task for current Slovak geographers and it is based on the idea of the issue 3 presented in the article.

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