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TO THEORY OF MONTANISTIC TOURISM

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Abstract

In connection with the growth of interest in technical monuments, montanistic tourism, focusing on subjects related to the use of mineral resources, is earmarked as a specific type of tourism. The article analyses the legitimacy of treating the montanistic tourism as a separate transdisciplinary field of science with its own research subject and interested people, own theoretical basis and terminology, and methodology.

Keywords: montanistic tourism, definition, transdisciplinary features, methodology

1 INTRODUCTION

The hallmark of social development in recent decades is not only a growing interest in nature, but also in the history of humanity, cultural and technical monuments and their protection. The remarkably developed industrial tourism is aimed at exploring the technical and industrial monuments and familiarizing with the typical industrial environment.

Around the world, the interest in tours of mine workings and related treatment, metallurgical and machinery plants, old transport routes and the like significantly increased. In addition, a series of historical documents is issued illustrating the evolution of technology, natural science disciplines and specialized law, such as the Outlines of a History of Bohemian Mining by Count Kašpar Maria Sternberg, the Golden Book of Mining in Slovakia, the Ore and Uranium Mining in the Czech Republic, etc.

Mining landmarks include historical traces of mining activities from prehistory up to notable mining facilities at present. Mining objects have been presenting technically demanding works throughout all stages of human history. Therefore, they attract the attention of professionals and the general public [1, 2]. Mining and open-air museums formed in many countries. These are important not only as a source of information but also in terms of preserving often irreplaceable monuments.

Mining objects attract the attention of professionals and the general public. For the purposes of including internationally important coal mines on the World Heritage List, Hughes [3] propounded four types of objects, namely:

- significant buildings or groups of buildings adjacent to mines and mining settlements;
- large mining complexes and adjacent mining settlements;
- integrated industrial areas which include mines as important part of industrial landscape;
- mining landscape for the processing of ancillary products, buildings and institutions of labour settlements.

The principles for the inclusion of mining facilities on the list of world heritage are based on criteria I - IV set out in Section 24 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (WHC) [4]. They classify mines for inscription as: representing a unique achievement; a masterpiece of creative genius; exerting a great influence on developments of technological importance; being an outstanding example of a type of structure or feature which illustrates a significant stage of history, or being directly associated with economic or social developments of outstanding universal significance.

The unique and specific values of the historic mining buildings stressed the inclusion of some objects on the list of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. By 2015 the list included 27 localities focused on montanistic objects. It should be emphasized that the Czech Republic can boast top examples of protection of mining objects and especially the regeneration territories after mining activities in the North Bohemian brown coal basins in the Czech part of the Upper Silesian basin and in regions of the former mining of uranium deposits.

2 DEFINITION OF MONTANISTIC TOURISM

According to the Explanatory dictionary of tourism [5], in terms of tourism buildings, technical equipment and technical solutions unique or interesting in their design, relationship to surrounding constructions, size, historical or contemporary relevance and the like are considered technically attractive, and become targets

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for visitors. In a similar meaning, technical monuments – buildings, technical equipment and technical solutions no longer used, interesting in their design, placement, preservation or style are potential targets. This concept is based on the approach of UNESCO.

Starting from the above definitions, the montanistic tourism is a kind of industrial tourism, which is focused on exploring montanistic disciplines and their developments in the history of human society. It is connected with the care of mining historical and contemporary monuments, both movable and immovable. It also monitors the impact of mining and processing of raw materials on the development of landscape and the impact on the general level of society. Examples of linking both historical and contemporary mining to tourism are known from many countries [6-9].

Montanistic tourism represents, like the entire tourist industry, an open complex system of public and private entities that responds to external stimuli, and is constantly evolving. It creates products of services whose essential characteristics are immateriality, indivisibility, transience, and mutability which are associated with relevant attributes of the services involved. The system has a dynamic stochastic character that due to the nonlinear relationships between parameters can turn it in a chaotic condition [10]. It relies on multidisciplinary research. It is important that also the dichotomy between the monument protection and tourism is considered [9].

3 FEATURES OF MONTANISTIC TOURISM AS A SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE

Following the generally accepted approach, every branch of science considered to be independent must satisfy certain basic conditions. A discipline must have a specific research subject, its own theoretical basis and corresponding methods of work, own terminology, defined links with other disciplines, its own institutional base and private entities, i.e. professionals and lay people dedicated to addressing this issue.

Let us see how montanistic tourism meets the enumerated requirements. Undoubtedly, it has its own subject of research, which includes all of the artifacts associated with the exploitation of natural mineral resources, therefore all kinds of surface and underground mining works, transportation systems for extracted raw materials, processing plants and metallurgical enterprises. From the systemic point of view, it is necessary to monitor the entire supply chain of montanistic industry starting from resources to processors and consumers, including transport routes in order to be a saturated research subject to the full extent and in all contexts.

The theoretical basis of montanistic tourism seems to be the most problematic. It generally applies to tourism as such. The reason is that it is a complicated transdisciplinary field of science that uses geoscience disciplines, mining engineering disciplines, and socio-economic disciplines (Fig.1).

The necessity of montanistic disciplines as part of the theoretical basis of the field is obvious. Because the accumulations of raw materials result from the processes of formation of earth's crust components, part of the definition must be a study of geoscience disciplines that could decrypt the incidences of the possible objects of mining activities as well as the development of landscape morphology where the mining activities are undertaken. Therefore, it is necessary to evaluate the spatial distribution of montanistic and geoscientific objects at topical and choric levels [11].

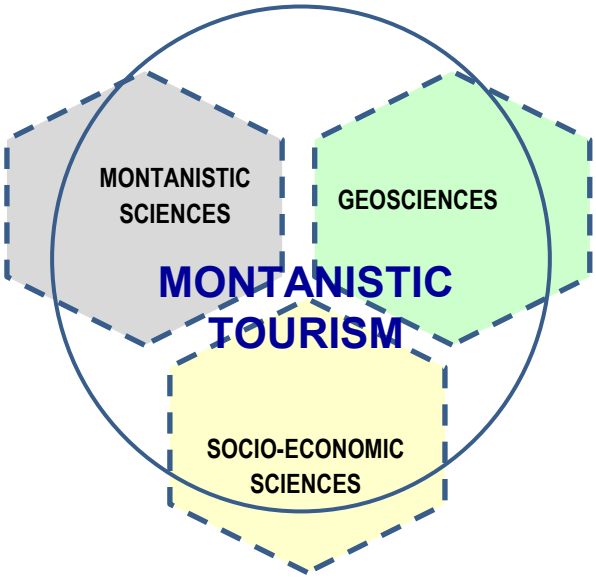


Figure 1: Montanistic tourism as transdisciplinar science

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Besides the principles described in the Charter and the General Code of Ethics for Tourism (issued by the International Council ICOMOS) [12] and basic economic branches, the group of socio-economic disciplines which help create the theoretical basis of montanistic tourism, involves, of course, system disciplines, logistics, and applied informatics. Systems theory is an indispensable means of analysing the structure of tourism industry, from tourist offices to national and international organizations. Logistics procedures are applied to the activities of tour operators, collaborating transportation and accommodation firms, tourist destinations, etc.

Every branch of science is characterized by certain methodology that incorporates both the development and needs of the science and was brought in from the outside of the general theories. Such methods include observation, analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, comparison, etc.

The methodology of montanistic tourism lies in the critical analysis of technical attributes of montanistic and natural objects in order to identify those attributes that affect the usability of objects for this specialized tourism. Such attributes include, for example, accessibility, object size, uniqueness, age, and preservation of objects, etc. Important attributes include also the stability of objects and the safety of visitors, especially for underground structures and historic buildings. Experience is often cited as an important attribute of both workers and participants in montanistic tourism. The term itself is rather vague and may include very different experience of physiological, mental, and emotional type. Therefore, it is necessary to treat their evaluation judiciously. The methodology of montanistic tourism is therefore also transdisciplinary in nature.

The terminology of montanistic tourism, thus "language", is composed of "dialects" of montanistic, geoscience, and socio-economic disciplines, transformed for its needs. The relations to disciplines that form neighborhood of montanistic tourism are analogous to the case of the whole tourist sector defining generally known relationships.

It is reported that the scientific discipline should have its own study programs developed by the universities. This criterion for the discipline is met because the Geoscience and Montane Tourism study programme exists at the Faculty of Mining and Geology of the VSB – Technical University of Ostrava (Czech Republic) for years. A similar field is developed at the Faculty BERG Technical University of Košice (Slovak Republic).

4 CONCLUSION

The definition of montanistic tourism and subsequent analysis of its attributes indicate the need to deal with this type of industrial tourism also from a theoretical point of view and its position within the tourism industry. The suggested approach requires an additional and more detailed analysis, particularly in the search for the theoretical basis of montanistic tourism. I believe that the definition of this type of tourism as an independent discipline is eligible.

It is certainly remarkable that the reduction of mining activities in any region gave the tourism oriented to this area greater importance and popularity. This is true not only in the countries with a long and rich mining activities, but generally throughout the world. That is why it is necessary to deal with the problems mentioned above.

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