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## SPACE IN TOURISM, TOURISM IN SPACE: ON THE NEED FOR DEFINITION, DELIMITATION AND CLASSIFICATION

**Abstract:** Tourism space has been considered by most researchers to be the central object of tourism geography studies. The author defines tourism space, indicating the features which distinguish it within geographical space, as well as those which describe its character. He also presents a discussion on the need (or necessity) to make internal divisions and classifications, as well as on selected criteria and ways of classifying tourism space.

**Key words:** geographical space, tourism space, non-tourism space, definition, delimitation, classification, tourism ecumene, tourism activity, tourism infrastructure.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Geographical space, its components, processes and phenomena, as well as the people who inhabit it, are the central object of geographical research. Considering the statement that tourism space is a functionally distinctive part of general geographical space (LISZEWSKI 1995) to be a kind of axiom, we should assume *a priori* that it may be analysed and described in a similar way, treating the spheres presented in Fig. 1 and described in Table 1 as reference planes.

The discussion presented in the article is to demonstrate that tourism space, like geographical space, can be examined on all the cognitive planes mentioned above, and that defining and delimiting it precisely, as well as internally classifying will lead to a better understanding of the concept and of the activities observed in tourism space.

The cognitive planes of the research may be divided in yet another way (WŁODARCZYK 2011):

- 1) systemic plane – the most general (input and output elements are treated as information and tourism movements, elements of the system, relations among elements) (PREOBRAZENSKI, VEDENIN & ZORIN 1974, LEIPER 1979);
- 2) morphological plane – stressing the spatial structure and the relations resulting from the location of its constituents; this makes it possible to use research results for spatial modelling;

- 3) functional plane – identifying individual functions (cognitive, recreational, etc.), mainly by defining the character of tourism, and at the same time the character of the whole of tourism space;
- 4) metaphorical plane – largely referring to the intangible elements of space; it makes use of its symbolism, and refers to its perception through the books, paintings or films based on it (MC CANNEL 2002, URRY 2007);
- 5) landscape (literally – physiognomic) plane – it is a specific compilation of all the planes listed above, assuming that landscape is the result of the space forming elements, the relations among them and the symbols through which it is perceived (WŁODARCZYK 2009, 2011).

The complex structure of tourism space should be studied using two spheres which define its fundamental nature simultaneously. The first is a structural study (making use of the cognitive planes listed above), referring to tourism space constituents. We know of wide-ranging studies regarding tourism attractions and assets, tourism infrastructure and tourism itself, which make it possible to delimit it and define some of its features. However, only the study of the relations among the constituents makes it possible to fully define its character (the relational sphere).

Table 1. The cognitive spheres of geographical space, including tourism space

Sphere	Space in general terms – geographical space	Tourism space
<b>Geosphere</b>	Includes concentric layers of the Earth, of diversified chemical composition and state, e.g. lithosphere (Earth’s crust) hydrosphere (Earth’s waters), atmosphere (Earth’s volatile layer). A part of it is the <b>biosphere</b> , understood as space inhabited by living organisms, including humans	Natural tourism assets and attractions which are the basis for the development of many tourism activities
<b>Anthroposphere</b>	<b>Technosphere</b> The sphere of human interference with nature, involving the introduction of technical means into the natural environment (infrastructure, technologies). A part of it is the <b>infosphere</b> , i.e. the whole of registered, processed and stored information. The relations formed in this sphere among its elements are increasingly discussed ( <i>Actor Network Theory ANT-non-human sociology</i> )	At base, it is formed due to tourism development and accessibility by transport. The elements of tourism infosphere are distribution and reservation systems, which may enter non-sociological relations with the elements of development or accessibility by transport (ANT)
	<b>Sociosphere</b> The sphere of interpersonal relations, human psychosocial environment. These relations may be variously characterised (e.g. economic, political, cultural, etc.)	Describes the relational approach to tourism space and landscape. Similar to space in general, these relations may be variously characterised, but in most cases they concern the relations of people with other components of tourism space
	<b>Noosphere</b> The sphere of thought, human mental activity, usually without formal limits.	Includes perceptual-mental and metaphorical approaches to tourism space (virtual space, spiritual space, etc.)

Source: author’s compilation based on various sources.

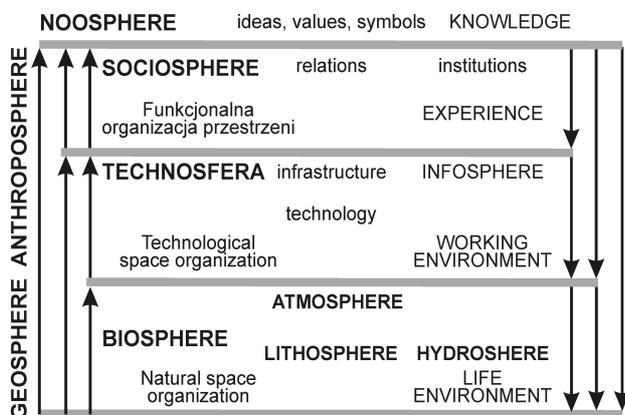


Fig. 1. Cognitive space planes in terms of interdisciplinary research  
Key: arrows show correlations between spheres  
Source: author’s compilation based on various sources

Regardless of which path is chosen in the analytical process, all divisions and classifications of tourism space should be preceded by defining the concept and delimiting its boundaries, i.e. defining its range (Fig. 2).

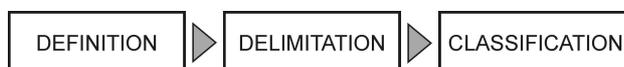


Fig. 2. Basic stages in tourism space analysis  
Source: author’s compilation

It is important to maintain the suggested order, as only in this way it is possible to avoid certain casualness or intuitiveness of classification. Further in the article, the author will identify the stages and present examples of applications which result from adopting certain definitions, delimitations and classification criteria.

## 2. DEFINITIONS OF TOURISM SPACE

One of the major problems in most disciplines is the precise application of terms to facilitate identical or similar understanding of processes and phenomena. While this problem has been solved in the majority of sciences, the geographical literature contains multiple definitions to name and define the same concept or phenomenon. The problem is less acute in physical geography, and more in socio-economic geography, including tourism geography.

Despite the fact that the term ‘tourism space’ is widely used in the literature, as can be seen in the bibliography, its understanding is usually intuitive and few authors have attempted to formalize issues by constructing definitions. In this article, the author assumes, after *Słownik języka polskiego PWN* (2007), that a definition is a concise explanation of the meaning of a concept, specifying its content in order to

use it properly. It is an unambiguous description of a phenomenon or concept, presenting its characteristic features which identify and distinguish it from others

Such a description suggests that a definition should contain statements which will allow us not only to understand the concept, but also delimit it, which in the case of sciences dealing with space is extremely important.

Let us look more closely then at the definitions of tourism space most commonly quoted in the Polish literature, and answer the question: what is tourism space in the light of these definitions?

One of the earliest general definitions of tourism space was proposed by J. WARSZYŃSKA & A. JACKOWSKI (1978) in *Podstawy geografii turystyki*. They assumed that tourism space is:

a part of geographical and socio-economic space in which tourism phenomena occur.

Its modification from 1986 makes the concept slightly more precise, defining it as:

a part of geographical space (physical and socio-economic) in which tourism phenomena occur (WARSZYŃSKA 1986).

Regrettably, the authors did not define precisely what they understood by the quite general concept of 'tourism phenomena', leaving interpretation to the reader.

In 1995, in the *Turystyka* journal, S. Liszewski's definition was published:

Tourism space is a functionally distinctive subspace of geographical space, understood in a broad sense as space consisting of natural elements (natural environment), the permanent effects of human activity in this environment (cultural and economic environment), as well as human environment in the social sense (LISZEWSKI 1995).

This is the functional definition most commonly used in the Polish literature on the subject. Its universal character allows it to be widely used not only in geographical research, but also in economic, sociological and other disciplines. The necessary condition is that the permanent effects of human activity should at least partly result from tourism. However, the definition does not point to any clear-cut features (criteria), which would make it possible to delimit space defined in this way.

One of the latest definitions has been proposed by B. WŁODARCZYK (2009):

Tourism space is the part of geographical space where tourism is observed.

The objective attribute of this definition and delimitation is the statement that it is a part of geographical space, as generally understood, while the subjective attribute is the fact that the tourist,

a participant in tourism, must appear in this space. Not only does he/she make it possible its delimitation (the tourism space of an area), but also forms his/her own individual space of tourism activity by taking certain decisions and becomes the most important element (the subject) of this space.

### 3. TOURISM SPACE DELIMITATION

Further discussion is based on the idea that while we can imagine geographical space without humans, the delimitation of tourism space without people is impossible. Therefore, the only condition of delimitation is the tourist. However, such an approach does not answer the question asked at the beginning of Chapter 2 either, because in the light of the definitions presented, tourism space is secondary to such concepts as 'tourism' or 'tourist'. The delimitation of tourism space will depend on what definitions of these concepts will be adopted and who will be considered the tourist (LISZEWSKI 2013). According to *Słownik języka polskiego PWN* (2007), delimitation means defining and marking the boundaries of what is being delimited [and earlier defined – author's comment]. On the basis of a review of the literature, it can be said that, as well as the criteria and conditions of tourism space, the most frequent supplementations of delimitation assume that:

- the necessary condition sufficient to classify a part of geographical space as tourism space is tourism, regardless of its intensity or character (WŁODARCZYK 2009, 2011);
- the most important components of this space are tourism assets, which make it possible to undertake certain tourism activities (KOWALCZYK 2013);
- one of the features which make delimitation possible is the presence of tourism infrastructure, whose scale and character allow us to define the type of tourism space, as well as contribute to the development of certain tourism activities (WŁODARCZYK 2009, KOWALCZYK & DEREK 2010, KOWALCZYK 2011);
- the preferred (observed) forms of tourism or recreational activity (tourist behaviours) in this space make it possible to delimit and classify it (WŁODARCZYK 2009, STASIAK 2011);

All the assumptions presented above support the process of delimiting tourism space, which is sometimes very difficult to 'dissect' from general geographical space due to, for instance, the subjectivity of tourism valorization, seasonality of tourism, or lack of tourism infrastructure.

Table 2. Selected criteria for identifying tourism space in general geographical space

Delimitation based on	Categories of tourism subspace
The possibility of being used for tourism purposes	non-tourism space, potential tourism space, <b>tourism space</b>
The period of being used for tourism purposes	<b>tourism ecumene</b> , <b>tourism sub-ecumene</b> , tourism non-ecumene
Development stages	pre-tourism space, <b>new tourism space</b> , <b>mature tourism space</b> , <b>old tourism space</b> , <b>post-tourism space</b>
Free time management	recreation space, <b>tourism space</b> , space of activities which are unrelated to free time

Source: author's compilation based on B. WŁODARCZYK (2009).

With leisure time behaviour as a criterion, geographical space may be divided into three basic subspaces, one of which is tourism space (Fig. 3). It seems justifiable then to call the sum of these partial spaces **leisure time space**, an important and easily identifiable part of general geographical space. We may assume then that leisure time space is the part of geographical space where all activities related to free time management (consumption) take place, with the exception of 'home' space, i.e. the place of permanent residence (an address).

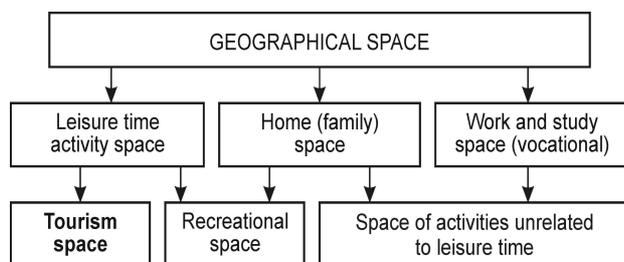


Fig. 3. Relation between geographical space, leisure time space and space unrelated to leisure time  
Source: B. WŁODARCZYK (2009)

Assuming that tourism space is the part of geographical space used for tourism purposes, general geographical space may be divided according to the possibilities of undertaking various tourism activities (Fig. 4).

Following that assumption, individual elements of geographical space in the context of being used for tourism purposes can be described in the following way:

- **real tourism space** is the part of geographical space where tourism takes place (WARSZYŃSKA & JACKOWSKI 1978), tourism activity develops

(WŁODARCZYK 2009), and tourism infrastructure of varying intensity can be found (KOWALCZYK 2011);

- **potential tourism space** is the part of geographical space which meets the requirements of tourism attractiveness as broadly understood, but is not currently used for tourism activity purposes, e.g. due to the lack of tourism infrastructure or accessibility. However, it has the potential which may be revealed in certain conditions (geographical, political, economic, technological, etc.), or by doing suitable activities.
- **non-tourism space** is the part of geographical space which does not interest tourists (lack of tourism), due to complete tourism inaccessibility; they are usually areas which remain in the same state or maintain their functions, and for some formal and informal reasons cannot be areas of tourism activity (e.g. military practice fields and other military areas, premises of some industrial plants, contaminated land, landfills, etc.).

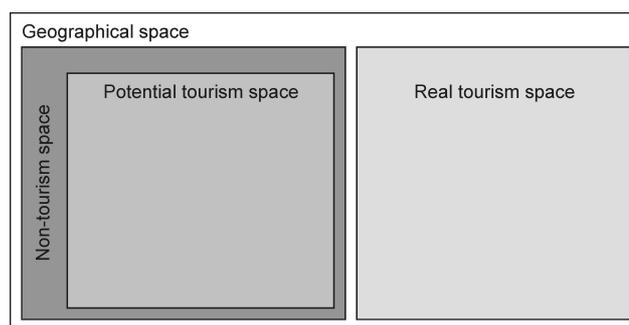


Fig. 4. Division of geographical space according to its possible use for tourism purposes

Source: author's compilation based on B. Włodarczyk

While real tourism space is constantly expanding by occupying new areas for tourism purposes, mainly those showing suitable potential, non-tourism space is shrinking, because tourists are becoming interested in sites and areas which until recently had not been treated as even potentially suitable for tourism (TANAŚ 2013).

As in the case of geographical space, we may identify three basic types of space related to human tourism activity:

- **tourism ecumene** – the part of geographical (tourism) space which is used for tourism purposes throughout the year; its characteristic feature is the continuity of tourism ;
- **tourism sub-ecumene** – the part of geographical (tourism) space which, due to the nature of its assets or tourism infrastructure,

is used for tourism purposes seasonally or incidentally (tourism exploration); its characteristic features are seasonality, lack of continuity or occasional tourism;

- **tourism non-ecumene** – the part of geographical space which is not used for tourism purposes (non-tourism space); its characteristic feature is the lack of infrastructure and tourism.

One way of defining and delimiting tourism space is to point to its distinctive features or attributes.

A. KOWALCZYK (2011) lists the following as the attributes of tourism which define its character and delimit it: location, range, coherence, as well as variability and stability.

#### 4. CLASSIFICATIONS OF TOURISM SPACE

The next stage in space analysis is its classification, the aim of which is not only to produce those of intrinsic value, but also, or perhaps most of all, to obtain a more precise description and to demonstrate the structure or stages of its development. A well prepared classification should be a systematic categorization in regard to a certain point of reference. Logical categorization involves the identification of the elements, which is divided in such a way that the sum of the identified elements gives the undivided whole, and their ranges are mutually exclusive. It is essential that classification criteria are defined; they should precisely express the features and rules of the categorization which the classification is based on.

The aim of the majority of classifications is to sort out (systematize) items. Depending on the adopted criteria, this involves putting elements in a given order (e.g. logical, hierarchical, chronological, etc.). The results may include:

- **typology**, which involves sorting and logical ordering of the elements of a given set, by comparing their features with the features of elements considered to be types (real or theoretical);
- **taxonomy**, which means sorting according to the adopted criteria and strict rules applied in systematics for description and terminology;
- **periodization**, which is a division into consecutive periods, phases, epochs or stages, often separated by important events which are the milestones in their development.

The selected criteria of tourism space classification presented in Table 3 are usually a part of the first or third type because taxonomy, which requires defining very particular rules and procedures, is more typical of biology than geography.

Table 3. Selected criteria of tourism space classification in general geographical space

Classification by	Categories of tourism subspaces
Subject of discussion (analytical approach)	Human tourism space (individual, group), tourism space of an area (site, region, country, continent, the globe)
Kinds / ways of perception	real perceptive-mental virtual spiritual
Stages of becoming interested in a given space	action space activity space
Stages of space recognition	exploration penetration segregation specialisation
Occupation of space, development and use	<b>Tourism activity space:</b> exploration penetration colonization urbanization assimilation
Landscape zone	<b>Tourism space</b> coastal lake lowland upland mountain other
Settlement character	urban urban/ rural rural other
Function and predominant character of tourism	<b>Tourism space:</b> recreational cognitive active cultural business other
Dominating sector of tourism economy	formal tourism space informal tourism space

Source: author's compilation based on H. ALDSKOGIUS (1977), OPPERMANN (1993), S. LISZEWSKI (1995), A. KOWALCZYK (2000), B. WŁODARCZYK (2009).

The criteria presented in Table 3 probably do not show the whole range of possibilities, as the author's intention was to present only those which are most frequently cited in the Polish literature on the subject. Further in the article, the author will present selected divisions and classifications, and their usefulness as regards better understanding of the essence of tourism space.

Tourism space is not a homogenous concept which has been noticed by many authors (MEYER 2004, LISZEWSKI & BACHVAROV 1998, LISZEWSKI 1995, 2005, STACHOWSKI 1993, OPPERMANN 1993, MIOSSEC 1976 *et al*). Generally, tourism space can be studied taking one of two basic approaches:

Firstly, space can be analysed and described in terms of the perception and psychology inherently related to the tourism. Choosing this way of reasoning, however, leads to a subjective picture, burdened with inaccuracies as regards the number of partial spaces. It is also impossible to overview the phenomenon in full, because when studying selected representatives of a given population, we cannot assume by generalization that the sum of the studied and described individual spaces is a complete representation of the whole space.

Secondly, when studying tourism space, we may treat it in terms of a site – an area – where tourism phenomena take place (tourism activity, activities for tourism). This approach is mostly objective, as an analysis of space understood in this way may be conducted and its description provided by an external observer (e.g. LATOSIŃSKA 1998, 2006, WŁODARCZYK 2009, KOWALCZYK 2011).

- **tourism space of an area** – a set of sites (areas) and processes, where various tourism activities are observed (including the tourism space of a region, city, etc.).

We may divide tourism space into:

- space used individually (objective, describable empirically);
- space perceived individually (subjective, a specific representation based on earlier experience).

Research shows that the individual tourism space (the subjective aspect) can be discussed with reference to an individual or to a group (e.g. social, vocational, informal), differentiated on the basis of various criteria depending on the aim of research. This is confirmed by studies conducted in Poland (e.g. LATOSIŃSKA 1998, KOWALCZYK-ANIOŁ 2007). Such classification does not refer only to the way tourism space is understood, but also defines the two basic research approaches.

The concepts presented above enable us to define the fundamental planes of understanding tourism space (spaces?), and its types (Fig. 7). The terminology and factual range of the main cognitive categories of tourism space were adopted following Liszewski (2006), but the types of space identified in them may be classified slightly differently.

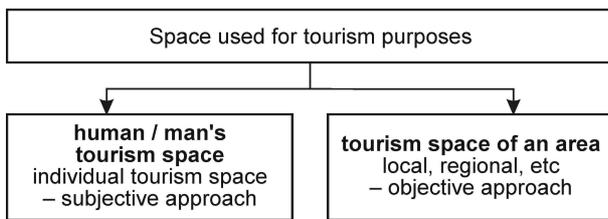


Fig. 5. One space, two aspects: research approaches to tourism space  
Source: author

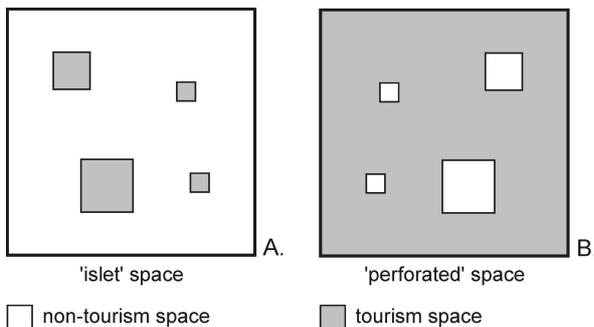


Fig. 6. Space character depending on the research approach  
A - 'islet' structure, typical of individual tourism space  
B - 'perforated' structure, typical of the tourism space of an area  
Source: author's compilation

One of the basic classifications of tourism space found in the literature (Figs 5 & 6) is its division into:

- **human tourism space** – individual tourism space, the total of places/areas visited by a given tourist (or group of tourists); apart from containing transit corridors, this space often comes in the form of 'islets', as it is usually a set of dispersed sites/areas;

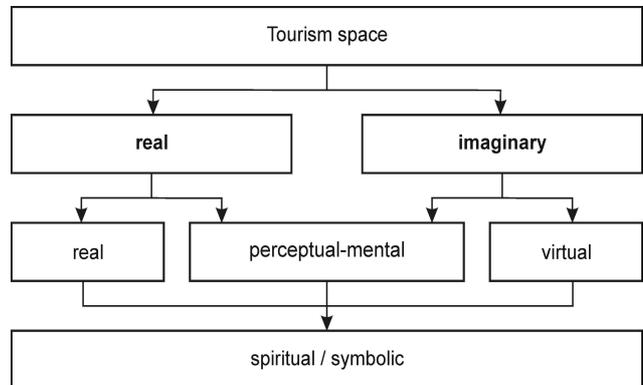


Fig. 7. Cognitive categories of tourism space according to S. LISZEWSKI (2006) and B. WŁODARCZYK (2009)

The author distinguishes the following levels of understanding (dimensions, types) of the term 'tourism space' (WŁODARCZYK 2009):

- **real** – tangible, experienced space – a set of sites/areas visited by the tourist (or group of tourists). Space defined in this way is usually discontinuous (islets), and its size and character are determined by the tourist's preferences and possibilities;
- **perceptual-mental** – conscious, experienced, remembered, internalized space. In comparison with real space, it is an incomplete set (due to

the presence of rejected, unremembered space), usually hierarchical as regards its significance (significant – less significant – insignificant) and value (useful – less useful – useless). It is also deformed after passing through a variety of perception filters (notions, expectations, preferred system of values, etc.). It is a set of notions based on previous experience;

- **virtual** – space which is unreal but can theoretically exist or already exists, though not at a given site or time with regard to the subject (in this case the tourist). It is a set of expectations regarding areas of potential tourism activity, based on secondary, external sources which are not the tourist's direct experience (e.g. guidebooks, the internet, tourism maps, etc.), often falsified as a result of dishonest marketing practices;
- **spiritual** – a creation of the mind, thoughts, feelings, referring to the tourist's inner life. It is a derivative of real, perceptual and virtual space, but devoid of formal limits. It is an expression of the system of preferred values related to tourism activity (in philosophical terms). In this case we may be dealing with a symbolic perception of tourism space (associating specific spaces with specific symbols), e.g. the Karkonosze (Sudety) Mountains – Śnieżka, Krakow – the Wawel, the Tatra Mountains – Giewont, Kasprowy Wierch – Zakopane. Spiritual space defined in this way does not have to be identified with sacred space understood in religious terms.

As mentioned earlier, the choice of tourism activity, and simultaneously the way of creating individual tourism space, is determined by many factors, including the socio-economic features/qualities of an individual and the family, history of place of residence, preferences concerning tourism activity, as well as individual perceptions of the destination based on the information available (ALDSKOGIOUS 1977). At the moment of taking a decision concerning preferred tourism activities, potential tourism space is limited to the **action space**. It is delimited by a set of potential sites/areas, in which it is possible to do the chosen (preferred) activity.

The choice of destination (sites, areas, territories), i.e. **activity space**, determines its accessibility to an individual, their family or social group. This accessibility is understood not only literally, i.e. in the sense of the physical distance from the place of residence (access to various means of transport), but also as accessibility in time (depending on the amount of free time), as well as economic (depending on the tourist's financial means), and perceptual-psychological accessibility.

Analysis of the literature on the subject enables us to make space classifications which are based on its changeability over time. A. KOWALCZYK (2000) gives an example of such a classification, based on the stages of tourism space recognition (Fig. 8).

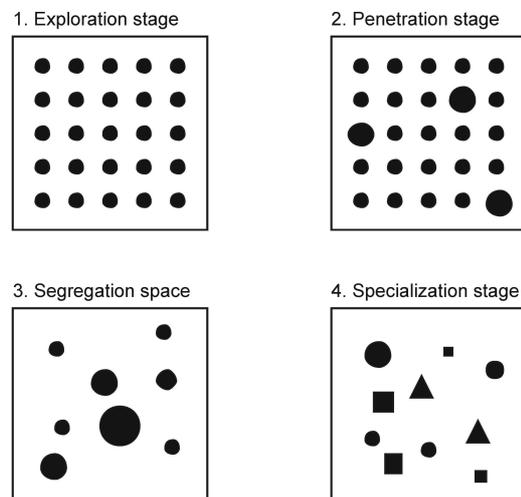


Fig. 8. Graphic illustration of tourism space recognition stages by A. KOWALCZYK (2000)

An extended and detailed typological classification was proposed by S. LISZEWSKI (1995), who claims that various kinds of tourism activity may lead to the formation of five types of tourism space. The character of tourism activity and the extent of geographical space transformed by it may be the basis for distinguishing the following space (sub)types:

- 1) **tourism exploration space** – the part of geographical space which is used in full coexistence of the tourist as the discoverer (small scale tourism) and the natural environment, the forms of tourism activity do not result in permanent tourism infrastructure;
- 2) **tourism penetration space** – the part of geographical space which the tourist (groups of tourists) visits mainly for cognitive or (rarely) recreational purposes. This particular subspace, both as regards its natural and cultural sphere, is developed touristically only to the extent which enables the tourism to obtain information or stay for a short period;
- 3) **tourism assimilation space** – formed by rural settlement areas, where recreation takes place in suitably adjusted or adapted farmsteads, and the tourists come into direct contact with the local community. It is the part of space where tourism activity adapts to the local environment the most, not creating new forms of tourism infrastructure, and very often adding to its cultural value. They are usually rural areas in

Table 4. Types of tourism space according to S. LISZEWSKI (1995)

Space type	Characteristic features			
	tourism intensity	tourism infrastructure	main tourism function	impact of tourism activity on natural environment
Exploration	minimal	none	cognitive	harmless
Penetration	ranging from small to massive	small	cognitive-recreational	burdensome
Assimilation	medium	medium	recreational-cognitive	neutral
Colonization	high	large	recreational	transformative (harmful)
Urbanization	medium	large	residential	degrading

Source: author.

the form of summer holiday or agritourism villages;

- 4) **tourism colonization space** – the part of geographical space with permanent tourism infrastructure, mainly in the form of ‘second homes’ and holiday recreation centres. It is usually a space of a different landscape and organization in comparison to the geographical regions where it is formed, and due to its scale it is usually ‘aggressive’ to surrounding areas. In the case of tourism colonization, we distinguish between that ‘by the tourists’ and that ‘for the tourists’;
- 5) **tourism urbanization space** – the part of geographical space, which starts to take shape in the final phase of tourism colonization; the city inhabitants, who formerly used it for tourism purposes, are now settling down permanently.

The space types presented above (with the exception of assimilation subspace) may be hierarchical with respect to the level of tourism infrastructure and the processes taking place in them, as a result of which they may occur consecutively, one after another (Table 4). Apart from assimilation space, the tourism space types distinguished may be treated as stages in its development (WŁODARCZYK 2009), referring to other periodization conceptions, such as the life cycle of the tourism area by R.W. BUTLER (1980) or A. KOWALCZYK’S (2000) stages of tourism area recognition.

Further analysis will be based on an attempt to define the mutual relations among the types of tourism space, which may be described on two planes. Considering only the degree/ level of space organization, whose element may be, for instance, the intensity of tourism infrastructure or the functions performed by the area, it can be assumed that the whole tourism space or a part may be divided and include all or some of its subtypes. Territories delimited in this way, usually cover different areas, they may border on

each other or form dispersed enclaves in general geographical space. One of the problems which may occur during delimitation is the impossibility of establishing clear borders between individual types of space.

That tourism space is not homogenous has been noticed by many authors (COHEN 1984, LISZEWSKI 1995, OPPERMANN 1993, KOWALCZYK 2011 *et al.*). In the functional-economic conception by the German geographer M. OPPERMANN (1993), tourism space was divided into two parts: **formal** – including all institutionalized elements of tourism infrastructure and symptoms of activity for the benefit of tourism; and **informal** – including all non-institutional (network, corporation, etc.) activities and forms of infrastructure. M. OPPERMANN (1993) believes that a change in the nature of these spaces (sectors), resulting from the changing tourism economy, may be dynamic and take the form of spatial development phases.

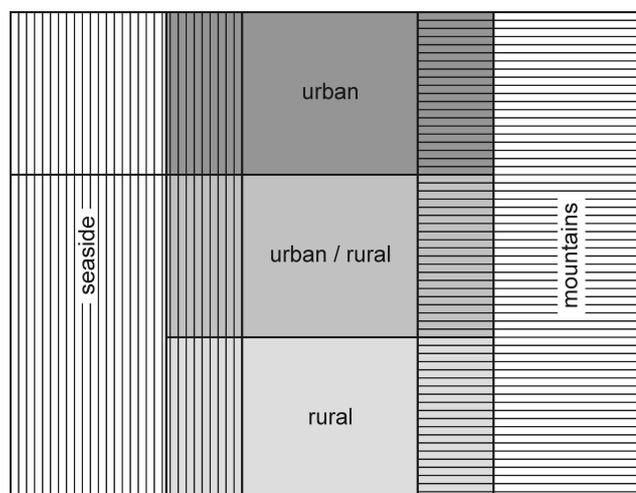


Fig. 9. Graphic illustration of tourism space classification with respect to the location (landscape zone) and character, according to J.M. DEVAILLY & E. FLAMENT (2000)

The examples quoted above were of a single-feature classification, but classifications taking into account two or more features are also possible. Such classifications (typologies) usually lead to a larger number of sets containing a smaller number of elements, and the borders between them may be blurred. An example here is the model presented by J.M. DEVAILLY & E. FLAMENT (2000), who simply divide a recreational (tourism) space, as broadly understood, according to clear criteria, connected on the one hand with the location of a given area, and on the other with the character of settlement units (Fig. 9). Due to its clarity, this classification (incomplete, as it does not include landscape zones other than seaside or mountains), distinguishing six different types of space, is of considerable didactic value and may be the basis for further classification. In the case of a larger number of landscape zones included in the classification, it is possible to obtain a respectively larger number of types.

		TOURISM SPACE		non-tourism space (pre-tourism or post-tourism)
		old	new	
TOURISM ACTIVITY (form of tourism)	new	old spaces, 'discovered' or 'revived' through new forms of tourism, or a new form within an old space	new spaces, 'discovered' through new forms of tourism or a new form in a new space	↓
	traditional	traditional, 'classical' tourism spaces or a traditional form in an old space	new spaces, 'discovered' through traditional forms of tourism or a traditional form within a new space	
	none	→		<i>Terra incognita turistica</i> spaces unknown to tourism (undiscovered for tourism), tourism non-ecumene

Fig. 10. Including two features in the classification of tourism space (a combined criterion) according to A. STASIAK (2011) – altered and supplemented

Another example is the use of dynamic (periodizing) features and forms of tourism activity, or possibly forms of tourism (or their absence) (Fig. 10). With such a combination of features as the basis for classification, we obtain an original category of spaces unknown to tourism or undiscovered for tourism (*terra incognita turistica*). Depending on particular needs, it is possible to create many such classifications considering two or more features. It must be remembered, however, that the more detailed the classification criteria are, the more thorough description the distinguished types will require.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the discussion was not to suggest a single suitable definition of tourism space, but to point to the need to define it precisely, because only then is it possible to accurately delimit and, later, make a detailed division and classification, as well as provide an appropriate description. The author believes the discussion gives grounds for the following conclusions:

- tourism space as a functionally distinctive part of geographical space should be researched on all cognitive planes;
- depending on the specific research problem, it is possible to accept different definitions simultaneously, on the condition that they preserve the essence of tourism space, which the authors believe to be tourism activity;
- definitions, delimitations, as well as divisions and classifications should not only be theoretical deliberations, but also contribute to a better understanding of the essence of the concept and a better management of tourism space;
- in most cases, the advantage of divisions and classification is their ordering quality;
- the multitude of features describing tourism space enables us to apply simple classification criteria, which will give us a sum of separable elements, as well as produce complex, typological, multi-feature classifications.

Taking into consideration the subjective aspect of tourism space delimitation (the necessary and sufficient condition for delimitation is the tourist), we may assume that divisions and classifications are not indispensable. However, in a detailed analysis, depending on need, definition and delimitation 'operationalization' is advisable, entailing divisions (classifications) which will lead to a better understanding of the whole of the tourism space concept.

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