

Amalia Beckett
Compare and Contrast
October 12, 2016
Lib 2205

Compare and Contrast Edensor and Lynch

After reading “The Image of the City” by Kevin Lynch and “Performing Tourism, Staging Tourism” by Tim Edensor, it is clear there are some similarities and differences. Lynch spoke primarily about the way we perceive the city and how we subconsciously find our way through out the city using mental mapping. Lynch states, “A clear mental map of the urban environment is needed to counter the always looming fear of disorientation.” Legibility was a definition that was stated because it means the clarity of the city or the extent of which the city can be interpreted and perceived. Also, in order for people to get through the city incorporating legibility, they are constantly using 5 elements. The 5 elements he discussed were paths, edges, districts, nodes and landmarks. This reading broke down how people don’t just find their way using physical characteristics but moreover how people perceive and maneuver through out the city using mental images.

Edensor spoke about tourism and how the image of tourism can be viewed as staged and performed. Edensor states “Tourist performance is socially and spatially regulated to varying extents” This means the tourist can be portrayed as performance anywhere, from a park, to a mountain to a theme park. Wherever the setting of the tourist may be, that can be considered the stage. He also states, “These settings are distinguished by boundedness, whether physical or symbolic, and are often organized – or stage-managed” Meaning the setting is a stage. It is meant to be viewed as something worth looking at.

The similarity between Edensor and Lynch is the value of perception. In Lynch, perception was of subject because he made it a point that people don't just use physical characteristics to map their way through the city, but instead use other perceptions to support mental mapping such as paths, edges, districts, nodes and landmarks to make their way through out the city. Edensor utilized perception because he insinuated that tourism was perceived as staged and performed because the setting of which the tourist is in, can be considered a stage - and they themselves are the performance. Therefore, whoever is the spectator of the tourist has the perception of performance and staging. Another similarity between Lynch and Edensor is tourism. Lynch used tourism because, if tourists come to a new city and don't have a GPS or a map, they are left to rely mental mapping. Edensor used tourism because he stated, "Tourist performance is socially and spatially regulated to varying extents" This could be a park, a beach or a mountain. Wherever the space is that tourist is using, can be considered the stage to carry out tourist performance.

The differences between Lynch and Edensor was the fact that one discussed primarily mental mapping and legibility of a city while the other discussed tourism and how it serves at a platform for performance and staging. After finishing these two readings, I now understand each author's purpose of writing. Each author had incredibly valuable work.