Cole Nielsen

LA 1201

Exercise 3

TA: Rachel Kerber

1. An issue I found interesting in both of my exercises’ observations was that almost no one was at the west river flats on weekdays. This observation came from three of my observation sessions that occurred on weekdays, where I saw a couple of people during each session. That observation was in stark contrast to the one weekend observation session I did, where I saw several dozen people in one sitting, and that lead me to believe no one goes to the flats on weekdays. The absence of people in the west river flats on weekdays brings up one major question to me, and that is why people don’t go to the west river flats on weekdays.
2. If I were to interview someone to get more information on my question, the first kind of person I would ask would be anybody at all I see in the park. In particular, I would try to interview the people who work at the river cruise company in the park who were there in several of my weekday observations. I would interview them because I presume they see what goes on in the park during weekdays and would have a good idea why and how many people visit the flats on weekdays because they seem to be there all the time. I think they would really be the best group of people who I could interview because they see so much of the park during the weekdays.
3. Based on my reading I would try to perform an interview using the interview guide approach. The main reason I would use this approach is I wouldn’t expect to do many interviews in the flats, so it doesn’t make a whole lot of sense to do a highly structures interview as they are done to try to encourage consistency between many interviews. Also, I couldn’t really think of many strict questions to ask them to help me answer my question, so that lead me to think that performing a more open-ended interview that is focused around my question would lead to better data as the interviewees could really talk about whatever they think and expose things I didn’t think about before. An advantage of this approach is it gives more freedom in the interview, which can help data that otherwise may not have been collected to come about. A disadvantage is that it is pretty unguided, so it may be difficult to get usable data if not handled well.
4. My preamble to the interview would probably be me explaining that I’ve noticed that there really isn’t many people at the flats on weekdays and that I saw the worker people there on multiple occasions, so I thought it would make sense to ask them their thoughts on the matter. As my interview would be an interview guide type one, I would try to talk about the absence of people in the park and ask them why they think that is and then let them talk and the let the conversation progress as it does naturally, only steering back on topic if it veers off topic. I would also try to ask/sway the conversation to pose the question of how many people are usually there during weekdays and around what time.
5. I think I would find out the workers opinions on why people don’t go the park on weekdays, as well as how many people go there and at around what time. If they answered honestly, I still don’t think I would truly know the answer to my question because the answer I would receive from my interviewees would be an opinion, which isn’t really data that can be taken as truth.