Observation at the Empire State Building

Assignment 1

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**Overview**

This observation took place September 24th ,2016 at 12:20 PM in New York City. It a beautiful day in the city, the sun just came out after a rainy morning, the temperature is about 70 degrees. I am sitting on a bench that is exactly in the corner of 34th Street and Fifth avenue, from my bench, I can see one of the most famous landmarks in the world, the Empire State Building. I am sitting on a steel modern looking bench which I am sharing with a man in his 40s. The man was there prior to my arrival, he is looking up enjoying the view of the Empire State Building and the sun. To my right, was a gorgeous pot of beautiful flowers, two steps from my bench, there were three MTA vending machines. Across the street from my bench is Chase Bank and across the street from Chase Bank was Hartland Brewery and Rotisserie.

The streets were busy, people were going up and down, some walked fast and looked in a rush to get to their destination, while others would stop for few minutes to take pictures, enjoy the views and disappear with the crowd. Every time the traffic light signals switched from green to red, a new vague of people appeared and so did the cars, taxi cabs and buses. Below are my observational notes:

**Observational Notes**

* it is warm and comfortable; the sun is shining.
* Two young woman age between 25 and 30 years old, dressed casually, passed by. They were talking and walking a dog.
* A young man and young girl in their twenties stopped to take pictures. First, the girl stood steps away from my bench, the boy took a picture of her then she too took a picture of the boy who was standing in the corner of the street to make sure he gets the Empire State Building in the picture, then they continued walking up towards Park avenue.
* A young woman late 30’s passed pushing a double stroller, she was walking fast and did not stop to look at the Empire State Building. She stood for few minutes waiting for the traffic light to turn green, she crossed the street and went down towards Sixth Avenue.
* A young couple mid 30s pushing a stroller, wearing casual clothing walking down 34th Street.
* A man and a woman, their ages were between ages 55 and 60, stood across from the Empire State Building and looked up to the tip of the Empire State Building. The man was holding a professional camera, he took pictures. They both paused for few minutes looking around and continued walking.
* Another man and a woman in their mid-50s, stood for few minutes. they took pictures then head up towards Madison Avenue.
* One man in his mid-40s was pushing a suitcase and heading towards Sixth Avenue
* Eight New York Sightseeing buses with visitors passed two to three minutes apart, made a right on 34th Street. the buses were moving slowly and there was traffic going toward the Empire State Building. People on the buses were looking up and pointing to the Empire State Building and taking pictures. The buses did stop for a minute then continued with the tour heading towards 33rd Street and Fifth Avenue.
* One man walking down towards 33rd Street was in a hurry and pushing a suit case.
* Few minutes later, two young women in their mid-twenties were pushing a suit case and heading towards 6th Street. They looking in a rush and were not looking towards to the Empire State Building.
* One out of three the people walking in the street was on the phone either listening to music or talking on the phone while walking.
* One man bought an MTA ticket from the MTA machine.
* A man and a woman standing by the bus stop were waiting for about five mins for the city bus. Bus M34 passed at 12: 40 pm dropped off four people and picked up the man and the woman.
* Ten yellow taxi cars passed up and down 34th street. Only one stooped to drop off a young woman in her mid-30s with a boy about ten years old. The boy was pushing a medium size suitcase. They both crossed the street towards Sixth Avenue.
* Three motorcycles passed, the motorcyclists were wearing black leather jackets, they drove up going towards Madison Avenue.
* A man and woman on their bicycles riding down 34th Street.
* A young couple and an older woman walking up towards Madison avenue, the mother was holding a baby in a baby carrier and the older woman pushing a stroller where a kid about four years old was sitting.
* Three young woman in their mid-twenties took pictures of the empire state building and walked up then down 34th Street.
* Three young couples one after the other in their mid-twenties, took quick pictures with their cell phones while walking. They walked up 34th street towards Madison Avenue.

**Analytic Section**

The Empire State Building is an American icon, it represents the cultural and architectural greatness of the United States of America. The Empire State building has been named as one of the seven wonders of the modern world by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The 102-story skyscraper is located on Fifth avenue between west 33rd and 34th Streets. This American landmark is on the short list of many visitors which justify the presence of tourists. From my observational notes, it is obvious that more visitors take the New York Sightseeing buses to tour the Empire State Building than walking or driving to it. Eight City Sightseeing buses made a right turn on 34th street and Fifth avenue which where the Empire State Building was located. The buses were packed with people who were taking pictures and enjoying the 360 views.

The majority of the people that were walking up and down Fifth Avenue and 34th Street were mostly people that were passing by the Empire State Building to get to their destination. The people that stopped for pictures where the older couples that were clearly tourists, they were holding cameras and took time to look up and were enjoying the view of the Empire State Building. However, some people did look up for a minute while walking, took a quick picture and continued walking. The people that were walking down 34th street from Fifth Avenue to Sixth Avenue with suit cases where clearly traveling from New York City. It is worth mentioning that Penn Station is located between 33rd and 31st Streets on Seventh Avenue, which is a block down from where I was sitting. Penn station is considered the biggest intercity railroad station in New York City and serves thousands of commuters a day.

New York City is one of the busiest cities in the world. Within my twenty minutes’ observation, more than a hundred people walked up and down the streets. From the data analysis of this observation, I can state that 34th Street and Fifth Avenue is a busy intersection, many people walk or drive through this corner. These people include tourists, workers, visitors and locals that live there. People who live in New York City were the ones that were walking their dog or biking. While people that were taking pictures and enjoying the views are eithers tourists or visitors. People that work in New York City were in a rush to get to their destinations as are travelers who are carrying suit cases.

References

Empire State Building. (2016, October 1). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 22:30,

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