The Lexical Contribution of Geographical Names

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INTRODUCTION

There are words which only the topographic mapping will present to the society in general, by means of the geographical names which take part in it as one of the layers of the cartographic information. However, although most geographical names are assigned by the locals of a certain geographical area, many of these names are not found in dictionaries, encyclopedias or other types of references, but by no means are not recognized and respected.

A topographic mapping has official status, so the place names in it need to be standardized, undergo special treatment, a review so that it can be written according to the orthographic rules of the Portuguese language and the tradition of collective use, which are the basic principles for the standardization of geographical names according to the guidelines provided by the UN. In this sense, the Centro de Referência em Nomes Geográficos (CRNG) of the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) has as its main function to review and to correct geographical names. A considerable number of such names often have an eccentric or



REFERÊNCIA E IDENTIDADE

peculiar feature in its spelling and do not have an accreditation in literature. These names are then standardized respecting the culture, history and traditions, according to anthropological criteria considered in the survey of names of cartographic features.

OBJECTIVE

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The aim of this work is to build a toponymic dictionary drawing from information gathered in field surveys aiming at obtaining the meaning of geographical names which are present in the Brazilian official mapping but to which there are no other bibliographic references. The surveys also seek to establish the part of speech to which they are assigned.



APPROACH AND METHODS

Geographical names have several aspects, among which we highlight here the historical, cultural and linguistic. This paper focuses in the semantic aspects, on grasping the meaning of geographical names whose spelling is not in common use and do not have lexical bibliographic reference.

We have been working for a long time on the standardization of geographical names and often the lack of knowledge on the meaning and/or motivation of the "baptism" of a particular geographic feature brings great difficult to standardization.

In Brazil, geographical names are collected mostly during the reambulação, which is a field survey for the collection of information of various natures about cartographic elements. This collection follows the anthropological method, that is to say, the names are acquired through interviews with the local inhabitants, according to the way these names are known and used by population. Therefore, surveyors (reambuladores) are being instructed to collect the meaning and toponymic motivation of names in the interviews carried out in the field. An example of toponymic motivation: Rio Lava-Pé (Rio = River, and Lava-Pé is a plant which motivated the naming of the river. Thus, Rio Lava-Pé is a phyto-toponym).

GEOGRAPHICAL NAME

It is understood as the georeferenced toponym, inserted in a temporal context, from which we can trace aspects of the cultural and / or historical backgrounds of the geographic feature and /or community that named t.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAME	CATEGORY	
Brejo do Chiquitique	Vegetation	
Curuanha	Locality	
Lagoa <i>do Buburum</i>	Hydrography	
Riacho da Varjada	Hydrography	
Taicica	Locality	





BIBL	IOGRA	PHIC	REFEF	RENCES

2	2		Morro do Jacadigo	MS	DESTAQUE RELEVO	
	Num	GeoCod	Nome Oficial	UF	Classe	
	1		Rio Maratoã	PI	CURSO DE ÁGUA	
Ī	Num	GeoCod	Nome Oficial	UF	Classe	
	1		Sunil	MA	OUTRAS LOCALIDADES	

RESULTS

A toponymic dictionary will not only contribute to complement the lexicon of our language as well as inform the process of standardization of geographical names and populate Geographic Names Database of Brazil (BNGB) in its linguistic and historical aspects.

Standardized geographical names are a key to the quality of statistical and cartographic information. The activity of treating the names which are acquired in the field survey (reambulação) contributes to the quality control of this information, which will be made available to the Brazilian society, in the form of products.

CONCLUSIONS

The toponymic universe goes far beyond bibliographic references, because geographical names fit in the area of knowledge of the humanities, and the capacity of the speaker-listener to create names is infinite, and significant. Since every act of nomination has a toponymic motivation which reflects historical, cultural and/or social aspects, the incorporation of these names to the lexicon of Portuguese and their consequent dictionarization is of great importance.

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Divisão da Língua Portuguesa Países Membros Acordo Ortográfico Decisões Documentos Fórum 📻

A importância da Língua Portuguesa sempre foi, é e ainda será, muito considerada no contexto mundial em 🔺 várias vertentes, destacando-se o ambiente literário. É considerada a "língua de Camões".

No entanto, no que diz respeito aos nomes geográficos, o Grupo de Especialistas em Nomes Geográficos da ONU, pertencente à Divisão de Estatística, na sequência da 24º sessão dos especialistas da UNGEGN realizada a 20 de Agosto de 2007, referendou a proposta de criação da Divisão dos Países de Língua Portuguesa em Nomes Geográficos (DPLP). A idéia em âmbito geral para a implantação desta DPLP, é a de padronizar os nomes geográficos em cada país componente da Divisão.

Em concomitância, e independente do fato acima exposto, houve o reconhecimento da Organização das ções Unidas – ONU, ao Português como língua aceita de forma oficial nesta instituição internacional.

Observe-se ainda, que não é contemporânea a idéia da padronização da lingua portuguesa no que se refere aos nomes geográficos. Houve anteriormente várias tentativas parecidas, mas nenhuma possibilitou a criação de uma Divisão da Língua Portuguesa, como ocorreu em 2007.

É considerável o número de países, no nosso planeta, que formam a Comunidade de Países de Língua Portuguesa. Além das comunidades de Macau (China) e Goa (Índia), são os seguintes oito países falantes do português no mundo: Angola, Brasil, Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau, Moçambique, Portugal, São Tomé e Príncipe e Timor-

Isto nos remete a um total de falantes no mundo que assoma o valor de 215 milhões de falantes nativos, sendo a quinta língua mais falada no mundo, e a terceira mais falada no mundo cóidental. O quadro de falantes de língua portuguesa aqui apresentado, poderá servir de núcleo tanto para uma Deservetimento: BGZ - DUCOADS/CESIG

