

The main hydronyms in Pires do Rio County, Goiás State, and their motivation for designations / *Os principais hidrônimos da cidade de Pires do Rio-GO e suas motivações de nomeação*

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present research is to analyze and describe the main hydronyms in Pires do Rio County based on an etymological/morphological and semantical-motivational approach. It will be done by identifying the relationships between designations given to these places and their respective contextual, linguistic, cultural and environmental factors, which depend on the toponymic motivation. This study is part of our master's degree research in Language Studies, which was developed at Universidade Federal de Goiás (UFG), Catalão Region. Research methodology was based on onomasiology, which means the study about designations and aims at assessing the different names given to a concept. Historical aspects of toponymy are quite clarifying when it comes to names given to places. Toponymy is part of Linguistics fields. The theoretical basis supporting the present research comprises Andrade (2010), Dick (1990, 1996, 2004, 2006), Pereira (2009) Siqueira (2012, 2015), Silva (2017) and Sousa (2008). Relating language, culture and environment is essential, since language draws reality as it pleases; thus, Couto (2007, 2015), Coseriu (1982), Saussure (2008) and Sapir (1969, 1980) were the references to evidence these relationships. Dictionaries are specific instruments to analyze data and to fill out lexicographic-toponymic files; therefore, Cunha (2010), Sampaio (1901, 1928) and Tibiriça (1985) advocate for the analysis of the origin of hydronyms. Finally, motivation factors associated with hydronym-designation processes evidence nominators' influence over a place, which is named based on the identification of social, cultural and historical factors, as well as on other motivations of different nature, and on their association with language, culture and environment.

KEYWORDS: Toponymy; Language; Culture; Hydronyms; Pires do Rio County.

RESUMO

O objetivo desta pesquisa centra-se em analisar e descrever os principais hidrônimos de Pires do Rio de forma etimológica/morfológica e semântica-motivacional, identificando as relações entre esses designativos de lugares e respectivos fatores contextuais, língua, cultura e ambiente que subjazem a motivação toponímica. Esse estudo é parte de nossa pesquisa de mestrado na área de Estudos da Linguagem, Universidade Federal de Goiás (UFG), Regional Catalão. A metodologia da pesquisa pauta-se na onomasiologia, a qual se constitui do estudo das designações e tem como propósito analisar os diversos nomes atribuídos a um conceito. Em relação à toponímia, os aspectos históricos são reveladores do que subjaz à nomeação dos lugares. A toponímia constitui a área da Linguística e as bases teóricas que sustentam esta pesquisa são: Andrade (2010), Dick (1990, 1996, 2004, 2006), Pereira (2009) Siqueira (2012, 2015), Silva (2017) e Sousa (2008). Relacionar língua, cultura e ambiente é fundamental, pois a língua recorta a realidade a sua maneira, assim buscamos em Couto (2007, 2015), Coseriu (1982), Saussure (2008) e Sapir (1969, 1980) evidenciar essas relações. Os dicionários são específicos para a análise dos dados e preenchimento das fichas lexicográfico-toponímica, para tanto, Cunha (2010), Sampaio (1901, 1928) e Tibiriça (1985) sustentam a análise da origem dos hidrônimos. Por fim, os fatores motivacionais no processo de nomeação dos hidrônimos revelam a influência do denominar sobre o local nomeado por meio da identificação de fatos sociais, culturais, históricos, bem como outras motivações de diferentes naturezas e suas relações com a língua, cultura e ambiente.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Toponímia; Língua; Cultura; Hidrônimos; Pires do Rio.*

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1 Introduction

By naming living beings and objects, humans also categorizes them, since the act of designating gives things and individuals a sense of existence. The act of designating different extra-linguistic aspects can influence the nominator; this process can feature the motivation behind any linguistic signal in toponymic function.

Motivation, in its turn, reveals the countless aspects observed on the very basis of the language-culture-environment interrelation, since names given to a place as language factor identify and give an accurate meaning that results from physical and cultural aspects. Accordingly, the aim of the present study is to assess the names given to watercourses in Pires do Rio County, Goiás State, in order to describe the herein assessed language/culture/environment relationship. One can understand that rivers, streams or brooks are places that, once designated, carry countless memories of the place they belong to (SILVA, 2017).

Thus, this perspective opens new windows to the interrelation of human knowledge fields. This process establishes some epistemological bonds and provides a new sight over an object that was previously described and analyzed by other knowledge fields such as Geography; however, they were limited to a single level of linguistic analysis. Based on this statement, it is essential taking into consideration the language aspects within an interdisciplinary view, which can bring, among so many contributions, the possibility of understanding them as whole - in a network of relationships. In other words, these aspects provide the possibility of analyzing linguistic factors in a holistic way, once factors involved in this interaction process must be conceived as a 'whole' formed by components related to each other.

Toponymic studies are based on Linguistics and they aim at analyzing the bonds between name and the designated thing, i.e., motivational factors whose toponyms become motivated. Nominators are responsible for the lexicalization process (designation), they will only give features that are, somehow, close to their current context.

Three hydronyms were analyzed, namely: Corumbá, Piracanjuba and Peixe rivers, which are the most important watercourses in Pires do Rio County, Goiás State, despite their relevance for the labor activities performed in its rural and urban zone. The

onomasiological approach focuses the study of designations in order to assess different names given to a concept. The toponym carries historical and cultural facts bond to a certain community; besides, it can reveal the language-culture-environment interrelation.

The analysis of hydronyms in Pires do Rio County showed that these watercourses are featured by language, cultural and environmental relationships that highlight considerable aspects of the local toponymy; the one who named the hydronyms has also designated them.

2 Toponyms' designation and categorization through language and culture

Names are factors featuring the existence of something or someone; without a name, the object or person is not identified. Actually, there are many situations wherein the name was designated, i.e., nominators can only perceive the world through things whose name they know.

The name is part of all spheres of human development; it is the constitutive part of the individuals themselves, who see themselves based on the names they carry. The name breaks individuals' anonymity and, somehow, gives an identity to them.

According to Silva (2000), the name differentiates humans from objects in the world. Identity and differences happen simultaneously as product from the same process, namely: identification. It is possible stating that, after being named, the object is identified through its differences from what it is not, i.e., it is differentiated from the other elements in the extra-linguistic world, fact that gives this object the sense of existing. Having a name means existing, the object gets known and acknowledged as an important cultural element for the continuity of a population and for the thousands of features that characterize it; therefore, “the designation process is the way through which society turns its members into its image”¹ (CABRAL, 2007, p. 85).

The act of designating is a significant activity for humans; designation is composed of an action that completes the way certain populations understand the medium where they live, because

¹ Tradução nossa. “o processo de nomeação é uma forma pela qual a sociedade cria os seus membros à sua imagem”.

Apprehension/comprehension, and transmission/participation of any data about human beings act in the same and complex relational evidence – the act of communicating – which embodies, in its expression, a set of language-social-psychological situations. This act of communicating expresses, even if in an implicit way, the register through which the ‘assimilation of the world’ is concretized by means of language codes experienced by a certain linguistic community (DICK, 1990, p. 29).

Based on the aforementioned, it is not wrong stating that designation embodies what a certain community assimilated about its medium by means of relationships established through language. These relationships allow the representation of what was evidenced, as well as the socio-psychological impressions resulting from objects of the world, which become clear to the eyes of the one who nominates. Thus, everything that, somehow, becomes a cultural item gets a name, whether it is a physical-natural accident (river, botanic species) or a culturally created item. All societies reference names and, consequently, they reference the act of designating. Often times, this human activity is covered by myths and rituals that give the ‘name’ to some magical or superhuman powers. Categorization and motivation in Onomastic Studies within the designation process, mainly in the Toponymic Field (the theme of our research), cannot separate language from culture. According to Sapir-Whorf (1969-1971), language depicts the world and the social reality around it, which is expressed by lexical categories such as the toponymic ones.

It is worth recalling some concepts that highlight the social character of language, which meets the epistemological cut made by Saussure (2008, p. 17):

But what are languages? In our opinion, they do not get mixed with language; they are just a certain part of it, although undoubtedly essential. They are, at the same time, a social product from the faculty of language and a set of necessary conventions adopted by the social body to allow the exercise of this faculty by individuals. Understood in their whole, languages are multiform and heteroclitite; the knights of different domains, at the same time physical, physiological and psychological; besides, they belong to the individual domain and to the social domain; they cannot be classified in any category of human facts, since humans do not know how to infer their unity.

Languages, in the socio-historical-cultural context, are not more than the result of a historical process, a product that reveals the culture of a certain community (CÂMARA JR, 1955). Based on that, interrelating language and culture means

justifying that they are intrinsically interrelated, because languages reveal a view of the world and are also the manifestation of a culture that supports languages that, in their turn, support culture itself.

Paula (2007) mentions that languages are metasystems, they “are not just an object; they are - in the most socially diverse relationships - an instrument of distinct investigation that helps fulfilling other social systems”² (PAULA, 2007, p. 90). Accordingly, it is possible evidencing that languages are reedited and reconfigured as cultural practices of a certain community.

Sapir (1980) points out the close link between language and culture by stating that:

All languages have a core. The people that speak them belong to a race (or to a certain number of races), i.e., to a group of men that stand out from other groups due to physical attributes. On the other hand, languages do not exist in separate from a culture, in other words, from a set of socially inherited practices and beliefs that determine the web of our lives” (SAPIR, 1980, p. 165).

Accordingly, we restate that languages are different from language, but they are entangled or part of each other. Languages are identity factors of different peoples; therefore, they do not exist isolated from culture, and it justifies the fact that languages are the object of studies about the socio-historical-cultural factors of different communities.

Sapir (1969, p. 33) highlights that “all languages are built in such a way that, in face of what all speakers want to communicate - as original or bizarre as their idea or fantasy can be -, they must have the right conditions to satisfy the speakers”³. Languages must satisfy speakers, and the community they belong to, in order be the means of social interaction and to reveal the culture. Languages must be in agreement with time and capable of transmitting information from generation to generation through linguistic acts and cultural manifestations. It is worth highlighting that

² Tradução nossa. “não é só objeto; ela é, nas relações sociais mais diversamente possíveis, também instrumento de investigação distinto que ajuda a entender os outros sistemas sociais”.

³ Tradução nossa. “toda língua está de tal modo construída, que diante de tudo que um falante deseja comunicar, por mais original ou bizarra que seja a sua ideia ou a sua fantasia, a língua está em condições de satisfazê-lo”.

everything that, so far, we proved to be true about languages evidence that they are the most remarkable and colossal construction the human spirit ever achieved: nothing less than a complete form of expression for all communicable experiences. This form can be used through countless ways by the individual, without losing its distinctive profiles; it is constantly remodeled, just as it happens with all forms of art. Languages are the widest and most massive art mankind can face, the anonymous accumulation of the unconscious work of generations (SAPIR, 1980, p. 172).

According to Câmara Jr. (1955), language is part of culture, but it cannot be assessed based on its relationship with culture, or without taking into account such interrelation. Based on his opinion, and on the aforementioned perspective, linguists stand out as anthropologists. Why can linguistic studies demand the evaluation of the language/culture interrelation? In other words, is it possible assessing languages in their immanence, or the relationship languages have to other fields of human knowledge?

Bosi (1995) defines culture as ‘cult’ and ‘colonization’ (based on linguistics), these terms come from the Latin verb *colo* (meaning: I occupy Earth). In other words, culture is understood as the transmission of values and knowledge to the next generations.

By taking into account the language/culture interrelation, culture manifests itself in linguistic ways - be it part of popular or classical culture manifestations:

Overall, culture is thought based on a polarizing view, such as popular culture or classical culture. It is worth saying, however, that both are different forms and contents to express a given social and historical reality. Therefore, they shall not be seen like opposites or excluding, but as specific ways to see, sense and express reality according to situations lived by their actors during power production and circulation (PAULA, 2007, p. 75).

Cultural processes built through linguistic acts express the identity of a given community, which expresses itself by means of social relationships to conduct and manifest itself before other communities - be them regional, national or international. Culture is the miscegenation of other cultures.

Nevertheless, perceiving the act of designating means acknowledging that a toponym is the embodied language/culture/environment interrelation. As time goes by, this process brings along the socio-historical-cultural factors of a given society.

3 Method and context, ways to make the toponymic research concrete

Onomasiology results from the most significant trends in linguistic evaluations during the XIX-XX century transition, when centralities in investigations went from sound (Phonetics) to word (Lexicology). Its triumph was part of developments in Linguistic Geography, due to the raise of countless regional terms collected by linguistic inquires, which opened room for the need of creating a new method to help dialectologists better understand the ‘regional man’ and its amplitude through language.

After the linguistic atlas was published, onomasiology started to be used in different studies, since its use makes it possible featuring the activities performed in a region, as well as position such activities in a timeline. According to Couto (2012, p. 186), “onomasiology concerns the reference issue – to use a semiotic term –; it starts from the object and goes towards the name given to it”⁴. Thus, “the onomasiological method allows seeing the culture of a people whose language is assessed, its customs, occupations, instruments, beliefs, creeds and housing; after all, its worldliness. It allows sensing a living language by translating the cultural experience of a people”⁵ (BASSETO, 2001, p. 77).

The *Wörter und Sachen* method (words and things), according to Campbell (2004), regards historical-cultural inferences that can be revealed through investigations about words based on their *analyzability*. Campbell (2004) assumes that words analyzed in transparent parts (several morphemes) can be the most recently created ones (in the language) in comparison to words that do not present this morphemic transparency.

The herein proposed research methodology can be of documental and bibliographic nature and of qualitative approach for data collection, since the constitution (sub-region, limits and frontiers) of “places” is recorded in public documents and in historical-geographic data collections. Procedures consist in the systematization of documental and bibliographic readings bond to induction processes and in following the ethnolinguistic methods.

⁴ Tradução nossa. “a onomasiologia vê a questão da referência, para usar um termo semiótico, partindo da coisa e indo na direção do nome que ela recebe”.

⁵ Tradução nossa. “o método onomasiológico permite ver a cultura do povo cuja língua se estuda, costumes, ocupações, instrumental, crenças e credences, moradia, enfim sua mundividência. Permite sentir a linguagem viva traduzindo a vivência cultural do povo”.

The present research was conducted in Pires do Rio County-GO, which is located in Southeastern Goiano Micro-region, Southern Goiano Mesoregion - the micro-region known as 'Estrada de Ferro'. The county is located in the border of the following 'goiano' counties: Orizona, Vianópolis, Urutaí, Caldas Novas, São Miguel do Passa Quatro, Santa Cruz de Goiás, Palmelo, Cristianópolis and Ipameri. The area of the territory covers 1,073.361 Km² at mean altitude 758.86m.

According to Dias (2008), the main watercourses in Pires do Rio County-GO, are Corumbá River, which is located in the Southeastern part; Piracanjuba River, in the Northeastern part; and Peixe River, in the Southern part of the county. These rivers run towards Paranaíba River (one of the four watersheds of Goiás State), at South. Peixe and Piracanjuba rivers flow into Corumbá River; so, they are borderlines between counties. Besides these rivers, the water network in the region is formed by several streams and brooks.

According to Silva (2017), hydronyms assessed in their research and the toponymic lexicon, bring along the historical, social, cultural, political and religious expression marks of a certain community and are representative of the nominator and of its group. Thus, if a certain place or object gets different designations throughout time, it means that each nominator observed new features capable of classifying or referencing the toponym in an accurate and motivated way.

As for Dick (1990), the various significant profiles that highlight the name of a place, as well as the countless information that can be linked to it, would become a material for great data storage and for large-scale cultural factors. Therefore, notice that

Toponymic studies, within the multidisciplinary scope of their object of study, are a possible way for knowing the *modus vivendi* of linguistic communities that occupy, or that have occupied, a certain space. When an individual or linguistic community designates a human or physical accident, it reveals its social, political, religious and cultural trends (ANDRADE, 2010, p. 103).

The toponym motivation lives in these features and it reveals stories and the culture of a given community. Hence, toponymic studies are of extreme relevance, not just to the study field (language/linguistics), but also to other knowledge fields, since toponym has multiple meanings and multidisciplinary coverage.

Therefore, it is possible evidencing that toponymic studies are a guiding axis used to verify the socio-historical-cultural relationships of a people, because the toponym is intimately bond to the culture of a nation; thus, to its history. Accordingly, the lexicographic-toponymic files below and the taxonomy found in the hydronyms of Pires do Rio County-GO were analyzed.

4 Zootoponyms and the taxonomy of hydronyms of Pires do Rio County-GO

The toponyms are inserted in two categories - one of physical origin and an anthropo-cultural one - divided into 27 taxa. With respect to the present research, the origin has physical and taxonomic nature, of animal and zootoponymic core. The lexicographic-toponymic files below highlight their descriptions and help proceeding with the toponymic analysis of designatives.

1 Lexicographic-toponymic file

Order n.: 01	
Toponym: Corumbá River	Location: Pires do Rio
Taxonomy: Zootoponym	Nature: Physical
Origin/Etymology: county Mato Grosso do Sul State; Corumbá, Turtle. (p.44). Origin Tupi.	
Morphological structure: Simple name (Male Noun)	
Encyclopedic information: River, river spring close to Pirineus, it crosses Santa Luzia County, flows into a short area in Bonfim border. It divides Ipameri from Corumbaíba, on one side, and Campo Formoso, Pires do Rio, Caldas Novas and Buriti Alegre, on the other side, until it flows into Paranaíba River at the right side (Corumbá County).	
References: Tibiriçá (1985), IBGE (1957).	
Collect day: Aug./2015 to Jul./2016.	
Researcher: Cleber Cezar da Silva.	
Reviewer: PhD Prof. Kênia Mara de Freitas Siqueira.	

2- Lexicographic-toponymic file

Order n.: 02	
Toponym: Peixe River	Location: Pires do Rio
Taxonomy: Zootoponym	Nature: Physical
<p>Origin/Etymology: pei-xe (fish) Sm (<i>Zool</i>) 1 specimen belonging to the animal class ‘vertebrates’, animal who is born and lives in the water, breathes through gills and moves by means of fins. (p.1048).</p> <p>sm ‘(Zool.) chordate animal, gummed, aquatic, with flippers, and with skin often covered with scales, who breathes through gills’ XIII. From lat. <i>piscis -is</i> peixADA XX (Fish dish) peixARIA XX (fish shop) peixeiro (fish seller) \ <i>peyxero</i> XIII Cp. pescar, piscatório (fishing). (p.485).</p>	
Morphological structure: Simple name (Male Noun).	
Encyclopedic information: Rio (do), its spring stays in Western-Southern region of the county, it separates Campo Formoso from Pires do Rio - between the territory of Caldas Novas - and flows into Corumbá River at the right riverside (Bonfim County).	
References: Borba (2004), Cunha (2010), (IBGE (1957)).	
Collection day: Aug./2015 to Jul./2016.	
Researcher: Cleber Cezar da Silva.	
Reviewer: PhD Prof. Kênia Mara de Freitas Siqueira.	

3- Lexicographic-toponymic file

Order n.: 11	
Toponym: Piracanjuba River	Location: Pires do Rio
Taxonomy: Zootoponym	Nature: Physical
<p>Origin/Etymology: county of Goiás; piracanjuba, a variety of river fish; etym. pirá-acã-juba, yellow head fish. (p.97). Origin Tupi.</p> <p>pirá sm. ‘generic designation for fish in tupi’ piracanjuba sf. ‘a golden fish species’ 1792. From tupi <i>pirakan̄ ʼjūya</i> (p.498).</p>	
Morphological structure: Simple name (Male noun).	
Encyclopedic information: (Piracanjuba or Paracanjuba) – River, its springs is located in Passa Quatro Mountain and the river crosses the county, as well as Pouso Alto County. Few kilometers ahead, it separates Caldas Novas de Morrinhos from Buriti Alegre, and flows into Corumbá River at the right riverside. (Bela Vista County).	

References: Tibiriçá (1985), Cunha (2010), IBGE (1957.)
Collection day: Aug./2015 to Jul./2016.
Researcher: Cleber Cezar da Silva.
Reviewer: PhD Prof. Kênia Mara de Freitas Siqueira.

The animal-origin designation (zootoponyms) in the current study referred to the assessed items - *Corumbá*, *Peixe* and *Piracanjuba* rivers. The motivating factor influencing the nominator in two toponyms were animals; fish (*Piracanjuba* and *Peixe*) in two toponyms and a turtle (*Corumbá*) in one. Fishing and hunting were the survival means of primitive communities and fish was an element found in Christianity. Therefore, it is likely that the community living in the herein referred locations was influenced by some of these reasons, so its members named the rivers with the assessed hydronyms.

By observing the toponyms of animal origin, one can disagree with Dauzat (1922, apud DICK, 1990), who recorded lower frequency of zootoponyms in comparison to other categories in the French toponyms, as well as with the perspective by Backheuser (1952, apud DICK, 1990), who stated that names of animals are less frequent in Brazilian toponym.

Relations between the toponymic designation of each region can be different from each other; thus, motivation relationships are strictly linked to the nominator, because each of them attributes features inherent to the location to be referenced.

According to Dias (2008), *Corumbá* River is the largest watercourse in the county, the local population extracts sand from it and its islands and riversides shelter small properties, including, locations for recreation and tourism. *Peixe* River is one of the three largest watercourses in the Southern region and the borderline among Pires do Rio, Cristianópolis, Vianópolis and São Miguel do Passa Quatro counties. Its main tributary is Brumado stream, which is the most important tributary of *Corumbá* River. *Piracanjuba* River is also among the main ones in the county, which lays on the border of Pires do Rio, Orizona, Urutaí and Ipameri counties. Its greater relevance was observed in the 1950s, because it hosted a power plant that supplied Pires do Rio County-GO.

The zootonymic analysis in the assessed location highlighted local-fauna valorization, since it used names of animals to designate some locations, such as rivers. Names of animals have their origin in Tupi (Piracanjuba and Corumbá) and Latin (Peixe). These animals motivated the designation of geographic elements and, somehow, are bond to the nominator's life, fact that establishes an extra-linguistic relationship with the assessed toponyms. According to Theodoro Sampaio (1914 *apud* DICK, 1990), the name of the animal would be hardly unlinked from its existence in the location.

The element of physical nature in the motivation over the assessed toponyms had animal origin (fish and turtle). Nominators were influenced by local features when they designated the referred toponym.

Final Conclusions

The act of designating encouraged the proposal of studying the hydronyms in Pires do Rio County-GO. Such act can be observed in the completeness when power distribution is assessed, since designating means instituting. By baptizing the toponym, the individual implements and reveals the connections between environment and mankind, and/or between humans and the environment around them. The introduced considerations concern toponymic studies related to the local context in the present research; however, there is much yet to be assessed in the study site about toponymy in Goiás State.

The incidence of taxonomies of physical nature assessed in the current research evidenced the tendency to designate places by using the names of physical elements in the surrounding environment. It allows inferring that the environment has great influence on humans, and it also reflects on the process to designate places.

The toponymic signal enables the recognition of factors bond to the choice made for certain names as motivating character. This process allowed listing socio-historical, cultural and environmental factors necessary to the linguistic analysis of hydronyms as an index that sets a close relationship among language, environment and culture.

Based on the assessed taxa, environment and context are the basis of motivations concerning the selected toponyms. Accordingly, rivers, streams or brooks are places

that, as long as they are designated, start carrying the countless memories about the designated place.

Toponyms, besides working as spatial indicators, reflect physical and social features of a certain society; therefore, they keep a close relationship with customs of this society. The relationships between languages and environment are measured by the population at the time it baptizes a hydronym. This observation helps understanding the influence of extra-linguistic and contextual factors revealed by the language and by the culture of this population.

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