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## **Abstract**

The Brazilian contemporary society is tributary of efficiency utility of the standardization geographical names, to conduct and to communicate accurately manner. Unboubtedly, that the implantation about national schedule to standardization the brazilian geographical names, saving financial resources and time, when to increase several operations at several government levels. The process of geographical names standartization will remove the duplication tasks. From the search with the names of the municipalities no standardization, the aim is that all brazilian institutions will exploit only one unique data base, to utilize geograhical names with more correct and consistent manner.

The objective of this paper, Geonimy at Brazil: The standard of geographical names on the focus on the municipalities of Rio de Janeiro State, that based in the increase of the studies about outstanding aspects that geonimy (geographical names), special on the territorial boundary of the State of Rio de Janeiro, since the primordial of the formation of the territorial structure of this portion of the Brazilian territory in the century XVI till the current days. With regard that outstanding aspects of geographical names, this study set the focus at the next meaning themes: the evolution of this science of the world; to play how legitimize the power that the territory; the feeling of the people on relation of the places, the topofily; how historical signs through the cartography; how cultural aspects of the places; the economics aspects sign by geographical indications.

To think about the standard of the place names to look to foreign names (exonimes) too, and of the point of view of Brazilian geonimy, to search of the controversies that to exist in the territory of the Rio de Janeiro State meaning at the municipal aspects, and secondary manner, to focus at the deconstruction of the territory of the State of Rio de Janeiro keeps in addendum, the research and analyses of cartographic historical documentation, so it supports the search of all legal structure, that protects its formation.

The analisis of the evolution of municipalities in Rio de Janeiro state pointed five mean factors that determinade the geographical names studied in that search. The five mean factors are: the first factor was the sesmaria system which established the beginning of colony settlement. The other one was the existence of several rivers basin that flowed towards “Baía da Guanabara” making it easier for the primary settlement of people originating the current towns foundation.

The third factor was the presence of Catholic Church in brazilian lands since the first centuries of colonization. Another factor was tha search for gold and precious stones in the region of the Minas Gerais state. The last factor was the arrival of the Portugal Royal Family in Brazil which flew from Napoleon’s attack in Europe. They will also be a matter of controversy in Rio de Janeiro’s geografical names.

At last, but not least, we want the attention to the importance to the effective working of the National Commission of Names Geographical in Brazil, which will normalize and protect the national geonimy, and finally, also to point the futures tasks of important sector of this human knowledge.

## INTRODUCTION

The geographical names are constituted by a layer of data of peerless importance to the resolution of fundiary and territorial lawsuits as well as to the grant of hydro resources. Hence, the geographical names contained in the cartographic representation have a fundamental role in the level of reliability of the geographic information.

According to the information which can be obtained on the site of *Network for Promotion of cross boarder dialogue and exchange of best practices on Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI's) throughout Europe* (eSDI-net), the geographical names are one of the three main components when considering those ones composing the information about territorial reference. This way, they become one of the most common means of utilization to the users in general, once it interacts as the main entrance in the recovering of information through the site of INDE Spatial Data – Infraestrutur Nacional de Dados Espaciais that at present is being implanted in Brazil.

There are two principal areas related to the nomination of places, in which the community as a whole is interested. They are:

- To assure the capacity of identification, without ambiguity, and localization of geographic entities and places as a system of essential reference to services, infrastructure and public administration.
- To assure that the valuable collection of geographical names of a country, with its variety of sources and reflecting unique standards of settlement, may be preserved and accessible.

Due to these goals of public interest the governments of many countries have created their national authority to geographical names whose central role is to certificate (to authorize) names of places for official finalities and also to create the guide-lines to the standard use, writing and speaking of that names.

The primordial role of the government in the standardization and register is to promote the efficiency and usefulness of geographical names to provide unmistakable localization. Although this seems to be obvious, there are many ways through which the clear identification and unmistakable use are compromised as follows:

- Many places have more than a name.
- Many names are repeated, even in a same place.
- Names may be written in more than a form.
- Local names may be different of the ones widely known abroad.
- Names may, in some countries, be written in a non-roman alphabet.

In Brazil, the geographical names of several cities and small towns reveal lots of controversies when they are written, what generates a series of hitches to the divulgation of those names, once there is not a rule to the regularization of their spelling. This may, and normally do, cause problems for the spreading of information that requires the spelling of that names. Then the undesirable occurs: more than one written form of the name of the administrative unit, reflecting mainly in the divulgation of statistics, cartographic, and geographic works, as well as works of legal nature. Uncountable other similar cases exist in the national territory; perhaps thousands of them.

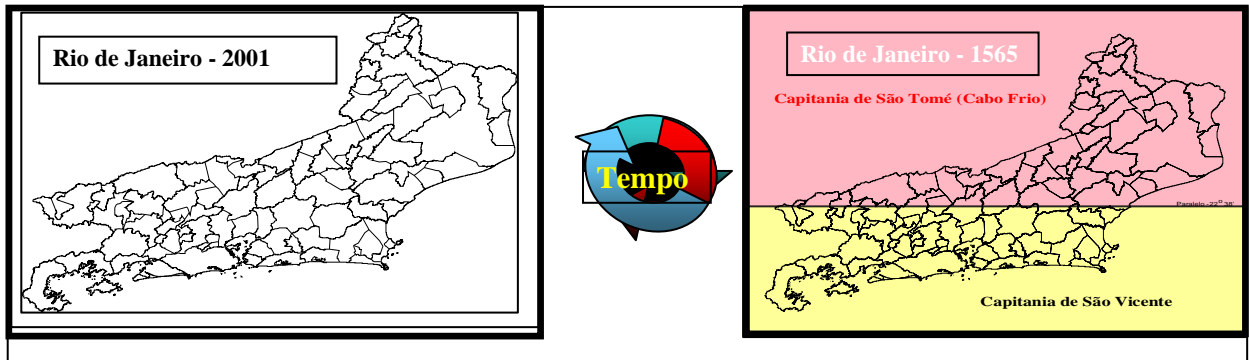
This work intends to explicit the research made in the context of the geographical names that identify the municipalities found in Rio de Janeiro State, southeast region of Brazil, signing to the future need of standardization of all the geonimy present in the national territory.

## 1. THE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES OF THE MUNICIPALITIES IN RIO DE JANEIRO STATE

Rio de Janeiro State currently has 92 (ninety-two) settled municipalities and 188 districts or small towns distributed among these municipalities. The beginning of the partition of the fluminense territory has its origins, however, in the 16th century with the hereditary capitanies of São Tomé (or Cabo Frio) and São Vicente, and the first area of these original capitanies of the territory to be parted was Rio de Janeiro, which became thus the first autonomous unit of that territory. Observe the pictures 6.1 and 6.2 as follows:



Picture 6.1 – The Brazilian hereditary capitanies among them São Tomé and São Vicente, both originate from the current Rio de Janeiro State. Source: Menezes (2001)



Picture 6.2 – A comparison between the fluminense administrative division and the trace of the original capitancies. Source: Menezes (2001).

The first administrative unit that appeared in the fluminense territory was Rio de Janeiro, settled in 1567 by Estácio de Sá. With the foundation of the city, it also appears the capitania of Rio de Janeiro. However, it was necessary previously to face violent combats to the initial expelling of the French and their native allied, the *Tamoios* Indians. The first of these combats was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, when Portuguese troops, commanded straightly by the general-governor Mem de Sá had the first dispute against the French settled in the current Villegaignon Island. By this time Villegaignon was absent, once he had gone to France after disagreements with the French Calvinists who had been brought by Villegaignon himself in order to colonize the utopist France Antarctica. Villeigagnon transferred then the command to his nephew, Bois Lê Comte. Less than fourty-eight hours later, Mem de Sá had the disputed territory under control.

## 2. SOME CONTROVERSIES DUE TO THE NON-STANDARDIZATION

Once the divergences of the geonimic spelling are raised in the names of the fluminense municipalities and verified in absolute terms, it is possible to underestimate the complexity of the standardization thematic, because six divergences were found. However, when a projection is made in relation to more than five thousand six hundred Brazilian municipalities the numbers become preoccupant, for over three hundred of these names may be not standardized. And at this point, only the names of the municipalities are being discussed, not included districts, settlements, local names, river names, mountains names, mounts, valleys, all sorts of means of communication, as well as all the other geographic features passive of nomination. The consequences of every non-standardized name may be serious and non-trivial, according to the analysis that follows, about the cases of geonimy in the Rio de Janeiro State.

### 2.1 – Paraty or Parati ?

In relation to the spelling of Parati municipality there is a controversy concerning to the correct way to write this geographical name. On the web address of the official tourism organ of Parati's prefecture there is the following statement:

*'However in 1943 when there was a reform in the orthography, eliminating the y of the vocabulary, among others, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) started to write the name of the city with i, although in the instructions to the Organization of the Portuguese Ortographic Vocabulary of the Brazilian Academy of Letters (Academia Brasileira de*

*Letras*), (ABL) considers that 'the toponims of secular historic tradition do not suffer any alterations in their spelling, as it happens with Bahia. Although the spelling Parati is accepted, Paraty is the correct form.'

At this point, a polemic rises: how to write the name of the municipality correctly? Parati or Paraty? Would IBGE have made a mistake writing *Parati*?

Actually, the statement of the tourism organ of Parati is mistaken, once IBGE does not take any reform in the orthography as a fundament for writing the names of the municipalities. In fact IBGE fundamentals itself in the current state laws, which, among others actions, rules the settlement of the municipality, defines its borders etc. The argument of the existence of a historic tradition recommending at best the spelling *Paraty* is understandable. Yet in the current state law of that municipality, dated from January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1944, the name is *Parati*. This is the spelling that IBGE obeys, once it is always based on the current laws for the settlement of municipalities.

To alter the spelling to *Paraty*, it is necessary that managements intervene together with the Legislative Assembly of Rio de Janeiro State to change the current state legislation, in order to write Paraty, in connection with the legal support. Those managements, from the point of view of this work, must be leaded by the legislative representatives of the local community, the main interested in the regularization of this fact. In this case, IBGE would alter its database, adapting itself to the recommendation of the new law to come, a law that would extinguish definitely the spelling of this geonim.

However it is important to highlight that believing this action would solve the polemic is a bit naïve. There is still a significant divergence, once Parat(i)y's community will be kept under the influence of a recognized historic tradition that leads to the spelling *Paraty*. On the other hand, under the auspices of a legislation view, IBGE will not alter its database and will maintain the writing Parati forcing in a certain way that this is the official spelling of the referred municipality.

## **2.2 Pati de Alferes or Paty de Alferes ?**

There is an argument that reinforces the legalist character of the way IBGE faces the question of standardization. We are here referring to Paty de Alferes municipality, created in 1987 under the name Pati de Alferes, perfectly in accordance to the orthographic rule recommended for the case. Anyway through the State Law number 1906 published on 23 August 1989, the Executive Power State homologated the municipal law that alters the name of the municipality to *Paty de Alferes*, a spelling not recommended by ABL yet with a probable historic tradition endorsed by the local representatives. Since then IBGE considers *Paty de Alferes* as the official name, going against ABL's orthographic law and in agreement with the State Law that homologated the alteration.

## **3. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Occurrences and doubts like these will be repeated permanently while Brazil has not a National Commission to Geographical Names which certainly would not allow the subsistence of those questions. It would regulate the official spelling form of a local

place, yet permitting other manners of writing such as alternative names, cognomens, gentilics etc, fulfilling then a preventive role and avoiding polemics.

A short term solution to the questions related to the different forms of writing geographical names might be – in front of the non existence of a National Commission to Geographical Names – a more incisive control of the government official Institution – IBGE – which might assume some of the attributions of the referred Commission, mainly in what concerns to the standardization of the spelling of domestic geonims.

In Rio de Janeiro State the following divergences were found, in addition to the ones quoted before: Magé x Majé; Levy Gasparyan x Levi Gasparian; Campos dos Goytacazes x Campos dos Goitacases ; Quissamã x Quiçamã x Quissama.

From onwards of the ranking of divergences in the spelling of fluminense municipalities it is possible to deduce that at least **300** names of municipalities may be not standardized in Brazil, excepting in this case, those of districts, settlements, local names, river names, mountains names, mounts, valleys, all sorts of means of communication, as well as all the other geographic features passive of cartographic representation. Whether they are counted, it is possible to conclude that **202.500** geographical names may be not standardized in Brazil.

Be reinforced that this sort of occurrence is common in all the Brazilian Federative Units.

As an attempt to solve these happenings a Committee of Geographical Names was created into the scope of National Commission of Cartography in Brazil (CONCAR). It is expected to be the embryo of the future National Commission to Geographical Names in Brazil, for this congregates several governmental institutions of federative, state and municipal instances, and also universities.

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