

GEONIMY OF THE POLITICAL ADMINISTRATIVE EVOLUTION OF RIO DE JANEIRO STATE - BRAZIL

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1. INTRODUCTION

To give names to people s, places or to animals, like dogs, cats and horses, is an inherent human activity. It is practically impossible to establish the beginning of this activity for the humanity, however through it, people, pets and places, are identified and individualized relating one to the others. The relationship is unique between a place and a name, and, even with the (SANTOS, 2008) occurrence of repeated names, there will be a unique place or a nominated one, and each name will be always individualizing a single person or a place.

The place, through a geographical and humanist point of view, can be shown as a picture of a pragmatic reference of the world from where comes the conditions and the order, and where settles the spontaneity and the creativity, where a daily one exists shared among the most several people, firms and institutions (SANTOS, 1982). A second approach comes to present place as an occurrence in the terrestrial surface, that possessed life and own personality starting from an extensive anthropic existence in its environment (TUAN, 1944)

Attributing a name to a place can be characterized as its civil registration, identifying it and establishing it as unique. The humanity uses for this action, their faiths, existences and visions of a world, that are related directly to displacements, exodus, migrations, discoveries and fixation in places on the terrestrial surface. Each group, each people, each tribe, seeks to nominate places in agreement with their cultural values.

Even before the creation of Espírito Santo, San Tome and São Vicente hereditary captaincies, which originated the State of Rio de Janeiro, the process of nomination of geographical accidents and small settlement nuclei began, with several recognizing expeditions after the discovery by Pedro Alvares Cabral.

Relating to the settlements names, the Laboratory of Cartography of the Geography Department of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, develops a research on the toponymy of the state, through a space-time point of view, trying to analyze the several reasons, which could have influence in the places denomination. In that case, geographical, historical and cultural aspects, assume a great importance over the motivation of the created name.

Nowadays the state has 92 municipalities and 184 districts, existing yet about some hundreds of small towns, approximately 800 larger or smaller population nuclei, such as cities, towns and villages.

The research on geographical names of Rio de Janeiro State grows for geographical elements, tends for objective to simplify its acquisition. In this way the place names are studied as belonging to a single class of place names, at each time. Thus the division was structured in the three following elements: Population elements, treating cities, districts and population nuclei; hydrographic elements, treating rivers, streams, creeks, ponds, lakes, dams, beaches, islands, cables, swamps, among others and finally the althimetric elements, treating hills, mountains, and associated features.

The aspect to be presented in this work, they are the first results on the segment of the population elements, being then the main objective to present the toponymy study of the names of the cities headquarters of each municipal districts and their districts.

2 - EVOLUTION OF RIO DE JANEIRO STATE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

The evolution of the municipal districts of the state of Rio de Janeiro begins in 1565, with the foundation of Rio de Janeiro city of. In spite of news of existence of effective small settlement nuclei, they can't be taken into account, because indeed they didn't generate administrative elements.

The figures 1 and 2 show the municipal districts evolution.

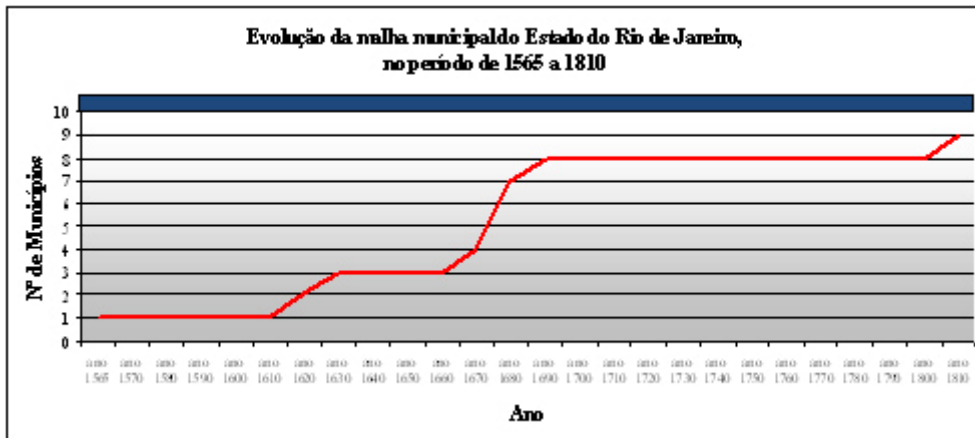


Figure 1 – Evolution of the municipal districts creation – 1565 -1810

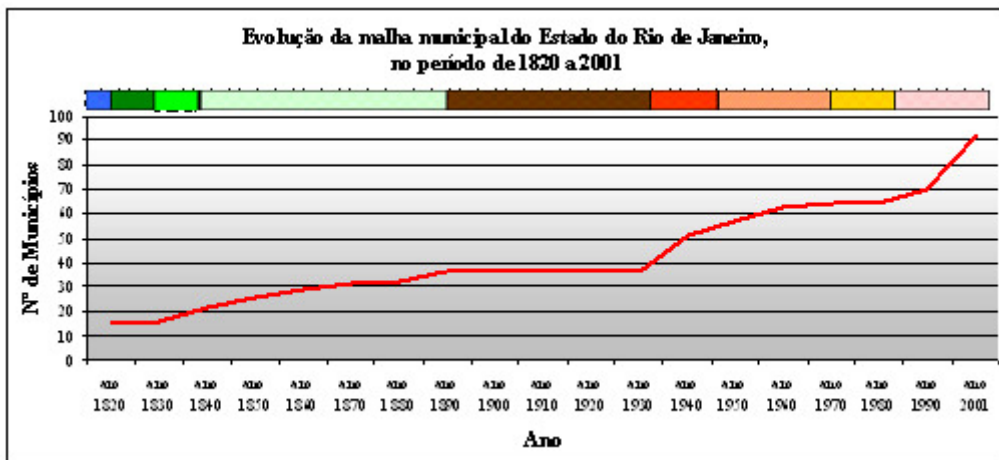


Figure 2 – Evolution of the municipal districts creation –1810 – 2001

- Colônia
- Reino Unido Portugal e Algarves
- 1st Reign - 1^o Reinado
- Regencies - Regências
- 2^o Reinado
- Old Republic - República Velha
- New State - Estado Novo
- New Republic - República Nova
- Militar Government - Regime Militar
- Republic New - Nova República

Legend to the figures

3. ACQUISITION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

First of all the acquisition was defined through the existent systematic cartography in 1:50 000 scale, several kinds of maps, cadastral cartographic documents and historical maps, seeking the feeding of a space-time database, which has the following objectives:

- Surveying the toponimy in the space-time context;
- Etymological, linguistics, social-cultural definition of the toponim attributed to the place;
- Checking of happened changes in the names along the time and definition of the change reasons and
- Study and definition of the original toponimic motivation, as well of the changed occurred.

The basic aspects of study are the following ones:

(A) Geocartographics aspects: element code, official (and variants) geographical name, geographical coordinates, geometry and classification of the cartographic element.

(B) Historical-geographical aspects and multimedia: history of territorial pertinence, cartographic evolution of the toponim, bibliography defined for the item B.

(C) Linguistic aspects: etymology, spelling, grammatical classification, dating, consulted bibliography.

The state of Rio de Janeiro is composed of 52 sheets of the 1: 50 000 scale chart of Brazil. The extracted place names integrate the whole set of themes studied by the research. In a first accomplished filter a total of 2340 names were selected.

4 - INFLUENCE FACTORS OF THE TOPONIMY

For the historical study of Rio de Janeiro state place names, the following factors were considered as main for the development of the in the state toponimy:

- The sesmarias system used.
- Existence of a hydrographic basin and network around the state and Guanabara bay.
- Outstanding presence of the Catholic Church in the Brazilian lands, since the first two centuries of colonization, mainly in the Rio de Janeiro state territory.
- Race to the precious stones and gold in the area of Minas Gerais, growing up starting from 1695.
- Arrival of the Portuguese royal family in 1808.

The analysis of the names raise for the historical essential characteristics of those factors and each one of them presents differentiated aspects on the names of each area of the State. It is already clear, for instance, that the great majority of the place names comes from a Portuguese origin, with strong indigenous (local languages) inserts. Other origins, such as African and other languages, has only a smaller participation, in all aspects.

4.1. *Thoponimic Motivation*

The place names linguistic study, allows to classify them according to the lexicon-semantic content, in toponimic taxonomies of physical and anthro-cultures nature (DICK, 1990). The study of those taxonomic classes allows inferring conclusions on the anthropic occupation, defining tendencies of the several nominations, cultural aspects, anthropological, political times etc. The precise definition of the denomination time. When the name was done, under a temporary scale, is one of the main aspects in the study of toponimy of a place.

The taxonomy of physical nature joins the place names associated to phenomena eminently physical or natural, as for instance, big, small, long, names of plants, animals, colors, etc. The classification is established in astronomical (relative names to celestial bodies: Field of Mars – Campo de Marte), cardino (associates to numbers: Passa Tres), chrome (colors: Blue hill), dimensio (physical dimension: Rio Grande), phito (plants: Palmas), geomorfo (topographical forms: Rio do Vale), hydro (hydrographics accidents: Mountain of the Sea), lito (mineral: Diamantina), meteor (atmospheric phenomena: Cabo Frio), morpho (forms: Pão de Açucar) and zoo (animal: Serra das Araras, Bico do Papagaio).

The geographical names of anthro-cultural nature can present and to explain the domain tendencies, power, politics, religious and political homage, among others. Dick's (1990) classification, presents the following taxonomies: animo (psychic or spiritual characteristics: Cruz das Almas), anthro (proper names: Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas), axio (relative to titles: Conselheiro Lafaiete), choro (relative to names of places: Friburgo), crono (chronological characteristic: Nova Lima), dirrema (sentences: Varre e Sai; Serra do Deus me Livre), echo (relative to houses: Serra da Carioca), ergo (material Culture: Serra da Bigorna), ethno (ethnic elements: Tamoios), hiero (sacred names or faiths: Ilha do Diabo, Exu), hagio (saints and Catholic saints: São Paulo), myth (mythological entities: Tupã), histórico (historical characteristics: Vitória da Conquista), hodo (communication roads: Córrego Passo Fundo), number (numeral adjectives: Morro Dois Irmãos), polio (names of Towns), partner (professional activities) and somatho (metaphors with parts of the body human or animal).

It was still considered the simple and composed formation of the place name, when it contains two or more words, as well as the hybrid aspect, when the linguistic content comes from different ethnic origins.

An example, extracted from Santos (2006), on the name of the municipal district of Cachoeira de Macacú, can be analyzed in the following way

1644 - Santo Antonio de Casserebu or Casseribu.

Hybrid ethnic origin Portuguese - original language.

1697. Santo Antônio de Sá.

Composed hagio-anthropo toponim, Portuguese hybrid origin and original language of people of Brazil.

1868. Santíssima Trindade de Santana de Macacu.

Motivation hybrid hagio-zoo-toponim, origin Portuguese and original people.

1898. Santa'Ana de Japuiba.

Motivation hybrid hagio-phyto toponim. Origin Portuguese and original people.

Japuiba. yapú-yba, the tree of the japús.

1923. Cachoeiras

Hydro toponim, Portuguese origin.

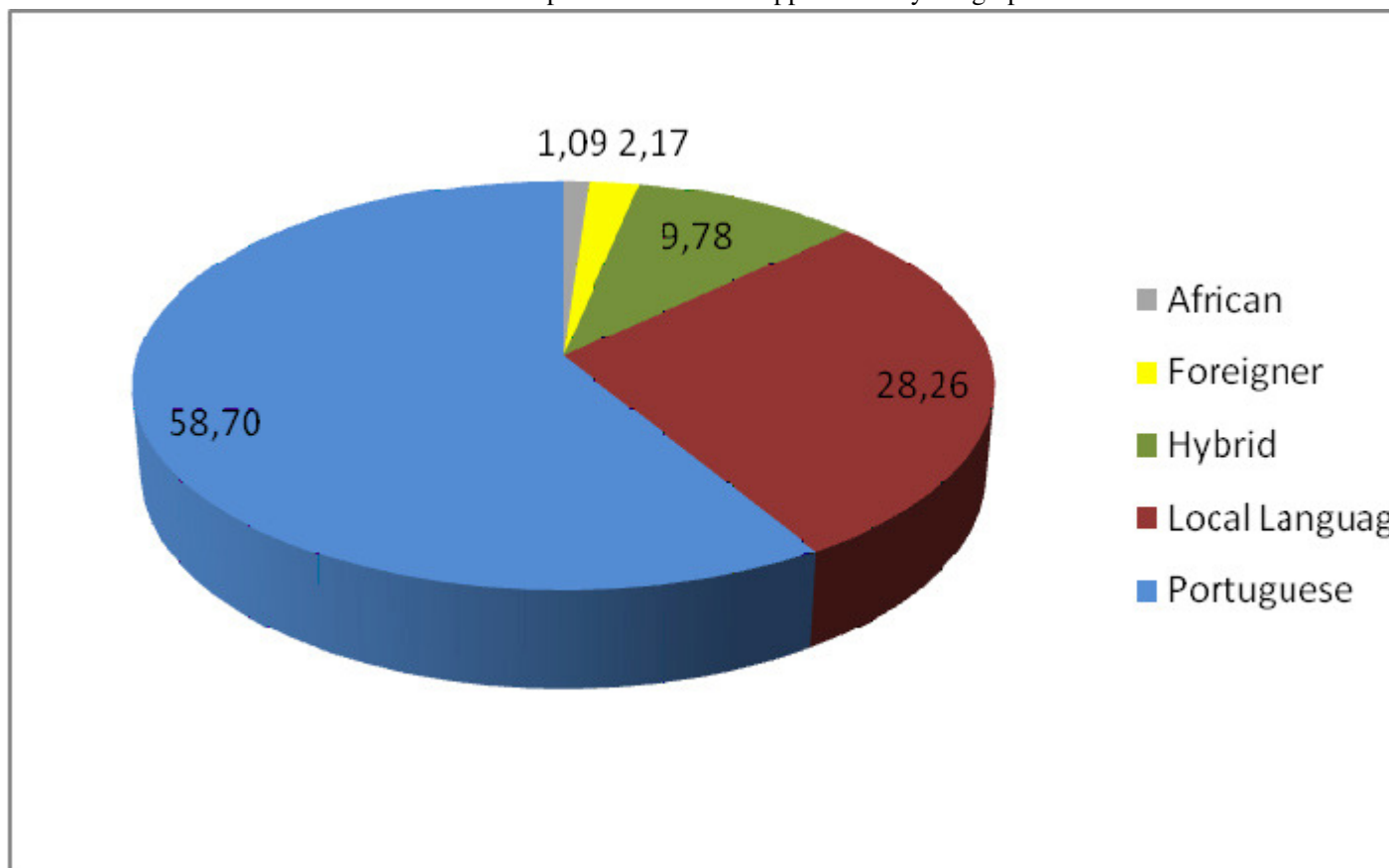
1943. Cachoeiras de Macacu.

Motivation hydro-zoo toponim.

Ethnic origin composite: Portuguese and original people.

4.2. Classification of the Municipal Districts and Districts

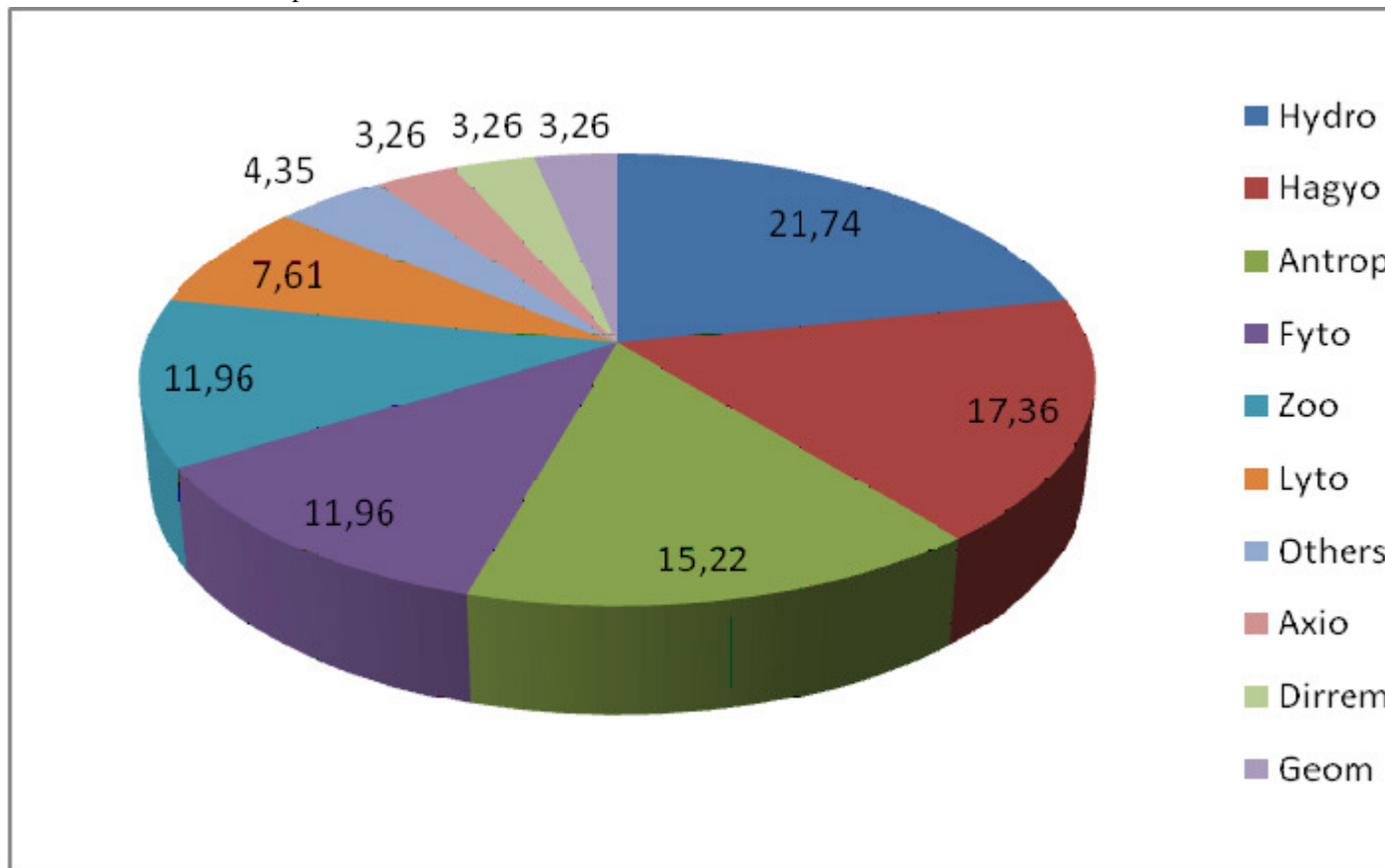
As much the municipal districts as the districts were analyzed and classified, according to the aspects of the original language creation, as well as its motivation. The linguistic aspects were due to the Portuguese, the local language, hybrid aspects and other influences, including names of African origin and other countries. The result for the names of the municipal districts can be appreciated by the graph 1:



Graph 1 – Language distribution of the 92 municipalities

From the 92 municipal districts 58,7% of them possess names of Portuguese origin, 28,26 % have in local language, that in the case it is derived of the indigenous language tamoio, 9,78% are hybrid words, many times created, as may be seen in the name Italva, coming of the tamoio ITA (stone) and of the ALVA

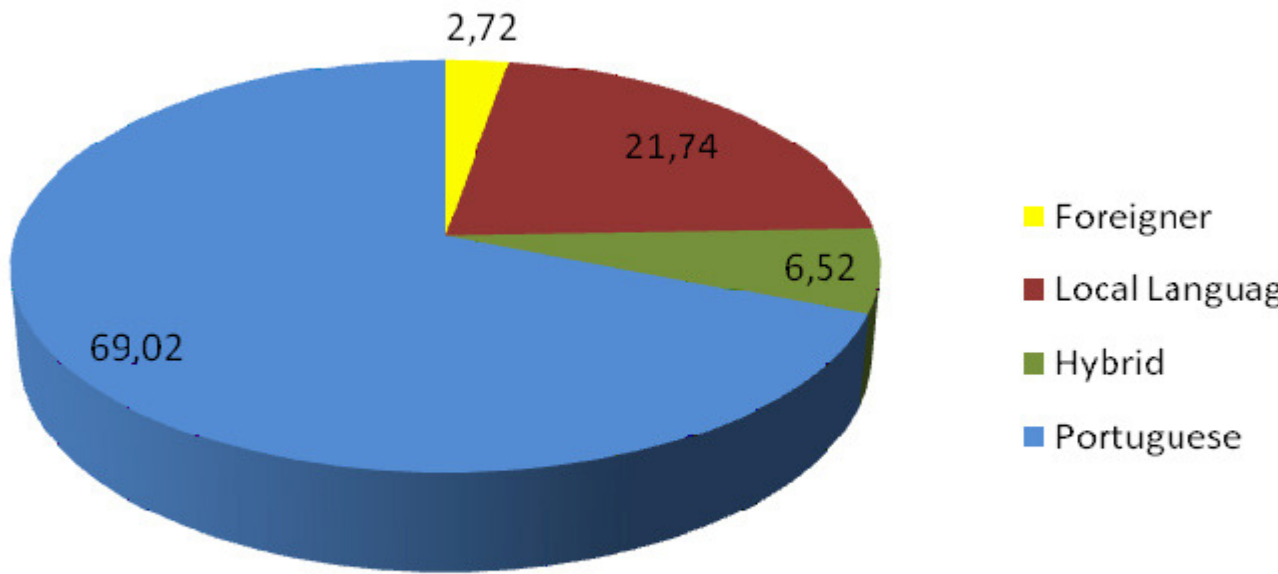
(white) Portuguese; 2,17% of them are of foreign origin. The graph 2 shows the distribution of the motivations of the municipal districts.



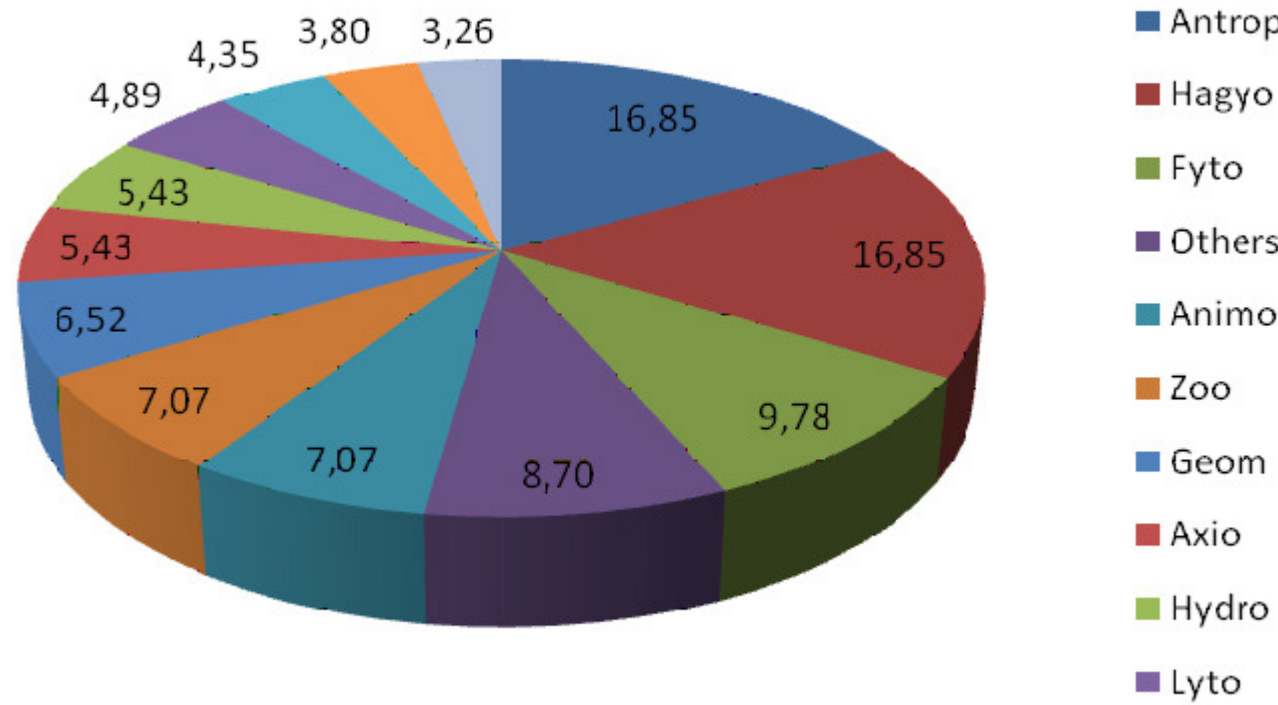
Graph 2 – Toponymic motivation distribution of the 92 municipalities

Relating to the toponymic motivation the results were the following ones: 21,74% come from linked names to the hydrography, 17,36% were linked to religious catholic church, 15,22% were to people's names, 11,96 for each one, linked to the vegetable and animal elements and 7,61% linked to a motivation of terrestrial elements. The other motivations add a small percentage.

Relating to the districts, the two analyses were accomplished, and they can be appreciated in the graphs 3 and 4.



Graph 3 – Language distribution of the 184 Districts



Graph 4 – Toponymic motivation distribution of the 184 districts

It can be verified, relating to language, that the percentile ones are lightly similar, having however an increase of the Portuguese origin and decrease of all others. The one of Portuguese origin start to take about 70% of all of the analyzed place names.

Regarding to the motivation, the hydro motivation fall for eighth place, while the anthro motivation that were in third, arise for first place. The religious motivation stays with a percentile very close to the other one. All other motivations stay with close values.

On the other hand, it is verified that practically place names of African origin don't exist, just one in this analyzed universe, as well as any close motivation to the African rites, in those two analyzed administrative levels.

In a certain way this can be explained due to the fact that when Rio de Janeiro began to receive slaves of African origin, most of the territory was already explored and the population nuclei had implanted. The first phase shows clearly the influence of the hydro motivation, once the expeditions entered through the hydrographic network.

On the other hand, verifying the creation, foundation and installation date of the municipal districts and districts, the increase happens starting from the independence, when it increases from 16 to 38 and after the New State, in the Republic (1930), when it arrives to the current numbers.

In this period due to the domain of territories, under direct influence of families and people linked to the royalty, political and financial power, and it's possible to explain the increase of the anthro motivation. No longer have more existed explorations, because the whole territory is plenty known. However the religious devotion continues to influence plenty the motivation.

The little influence of African origin names, in spite of the state had received a quite high number of slaves, was no fixation in very big nuclei, being dispersed in the cities and others states. Some news show the existence, at least, of 15 quilombolas communities in the State of Rio de Janeiro. Half of them approximately are located in the coast of the State, in the municipal districts of Búzios, Cabo Frio, São Pedro da Aldeia, Rio de Janeiro, Mangaratiba, Angra dos Reis and Paraty. The other communities are located in the interior in the State, in the municipal districts of Quissamã, Vassouras, Valença, Quatis and Rio Claro. However inside of this research, it was not yet found a link to the African origins, most of the time, nor the motivation is linked to the African rites, even Rio de Janeiro being an area, where the African origin rites, such as the umbanda, quimbanda, macumba and others are quite spread.

5 - FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

In the present moment about 700 linked to population nuclei place names are in analysis and were incorporate others 14000 place names, coming from of field works and connections with the city halls of the municipal districts of the state an cadastral surveying.

It's intends to show until the date of presentation of ICC, a toponimic map of the Rio de Janeiro State, as well as of their motivations, until the districts level.

This is inside of a larger project, which will incorporate in a space-time database, the toponimy not only from the population nuclei, but also belonging to the hydrographic network and from the orography, showing the evolution on time and in the space, of each place and areas that included or they include now.

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