

Placenames of indigenous origin in Acre-Brazil: fauna, flora and hydrography in geographic features

Toponímia indígena no Acre: a fauna, a flora e as águas em nomes de espaços geográficos

Rozangela de Melo Martins da COSTA*
Alexandre Melo de SOUSA**

ABSTRACT: Toponymy, a discipline that studies place names, is one of the branches of Onomastics: science responsible for the study of proper names. This study aims to trace a profile of toponyms of indigenous origin in the rural area of Acre, analyzing toponymic motivations related to fauna, flora and hydrography in Acrean geographic features. This *corpus* – collected in the maps provided by IBGE, with a scale of 1: 250,000 and 1:1,000,000 – was based on the theoretical-methodological proposal by Dick (1990, 1992), especially regarding the taxonomic model, composed of 27 taxa, subdivided into physical and cultural categories, and as to the catalogue and storage of toponymic database (DICK, 2004). The results revealed that, out of 392 toponyms, 74% are names linked to physical and geographic characteristics, 20% concerning cultural factors and 6% were unclassified. The research showed that toponymic motivation is mainly based on flora, fauna and hydrography

RESUMO: A Toponímia, disciplina que estuda o nome dos lugares, é um dos ramos da Onomástica, ciência responsável pelo estudo do nome próprio. O presente trabalho tem como objetivo traçar um perfil dos topônimos indígenas da zona rural do Estado do Acre, destacando as motivações ligadas à fauna, à flora e às águas na nomeação dos espaços acreanos. Os dados – coletados nos mapas fornecidos pelo IBGE: os municipais com escala de 1: 250 000 e o mapa físico do estado do Acre com escala 1:1000 000 – foram analisados com base na proposta teórico-metodológica de Dick (1990, 1992), especialmente quanto ao modelo taxionômico, composto por 27 taxes, subdivididas em categorias de natureza física e natureza antropocultural, e quanto à catalogação e armazenamentos dos dados nas fichas lexicográfico-toponímicas (DICK, 2004). A análise revelou que, dos 392 topônimos indígenas coletados, 74% são nomes ligados a características físico-

* Master in Letters. Teacher in Acre Department of Education. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8679-3627>. melo.rozangela@yahoo.com.br.

** PhD in Linguistics. Associate Professor at Federal University of Acre. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2510-1786>. alexlinguista@gmail.com.

predominantly from Tupi language origin.

geográficas, 20% concernentes a fatores antropoculturais e 6% com classificação não identificada. A pesquisa demonstrou que a motivação toponímica se baseia, principalmente, nos aspectos da flora, da fauna e da hidrografia revelados nos extratos linguísticos de origem Tupi – predominante no corpus analisado.

KEYWORDS: Indigenous toponymy. Acre. Toponymic motivation. Toponymic Atlas of the Brazilian Western Amazon.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Toponímia indígena. Acre. Motivação toponímica. Atlas Toponímico da Amazônia Ocidental Brasileira.

1 Introduction

Toponymy is the science that studies placenames and with main characteristic is its interdisciplinarity, since it is necessary to accomplish knowledge integration from other sciences. Through them, it is possible to go back in time to get to know cultural, historical and ideological aspects of a community. And even though its field is associated with Linguistics, Toponymy traverses linguistic aspects and spreads over other branches of knowledge, taking into consideration historical, economic, social and cultural factors, once naming a place is not something that occurs randomly: there is always an intention guided by the cultural and ideological values of the one who is naming it, unveiling a close relationship between man and the environment (SOUSA; DARGEL, 2020, p. 11).

This study aims to trace a toponymic profile of placenames of indigenous origin in the rural zone in Acre, highlighting evidences of the relation between naming of a geographic feature and the environment, disclosing motivations related to fauna, flora and hydrography in these Acrean names.

2 Theoretical premises

Toponymy is a branch of Onomastics, which studies proper names, whose denominative object is circumscribed in the domains of lexicon, specifically to naming

geographic features, in their structural, semantic and motivational aspects (DICK, 1990, 1992; ISQUERDO, 1996; ANDRADE, 2006; SOUSA, 2019).

The theoretical discussions proposed here are divided in three parts. In the first one, we deal with the interdisciplinarity that is inherent to toponymic studies; secondly, we describe geographic and historical aspects of the state of Acre; and finally we address indigenous languages in Acre.

2.1 Toponymy: theoretical aspects and interdisciplinarity

Through toponymic studies, it is possible to “rebuild meanings and, later, trace a motivational panorama of the region concerned, as an ideological rescue of the one who named it and a preservation of the memory background.” (CARVALHINHOS, 2002-2003, p. 172). Salazar-Quijada (1985, p. 18) reminds us that naming a place does not occur in a random way and that there is always some intention guided by cultural and ideological values of the one who names the space.

Carvalhinhos (2007, p. 2) also points out that “proper names have as their function to register attitudes and social postures of a people, their beliefs, professions, region of origin, among other aspects.” Thus, it is necessary to understand that the toponym also integrates “the historical linguistic vocabulary, where it is possible to find information that inter-relate with toponymy and culture” (CARVALHINHOS, 2010, p. 2464).

According to Dick, Toponymy is “a huge linguistic and cultural complex, where data from other sciences can necessarily intersect and not exclusively” (DICK, 1990, p. 19). As Isquerdo (2020) says,

[...] lexical repertoire of language, in addition to storing the common lexicon that results from naming everyday physical, human and intellectual elements of a society which, on its turn, translates the form of perceiving and representing reality, gathers proper names of people and places, with all cultural, ideological, mythological and referential

load impregnated on them. In that context, one cannot disregard the referential function, which is denotative of proper names, aware of its symbolic and representative value of a motivational reality. (ISQUERDO, 2020, p. 10).

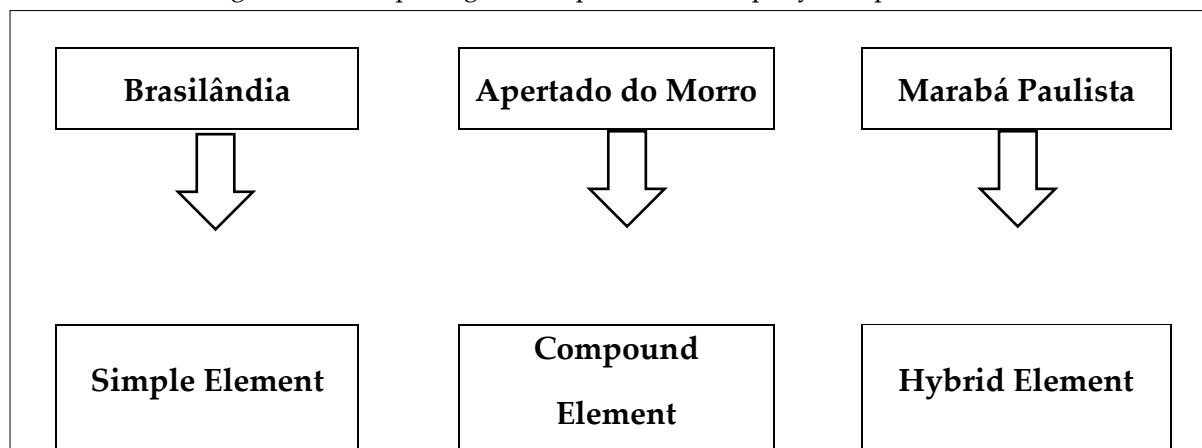
It is worth noting, however, that “the toponym is not the place per se, but one of its representations, carrying in its semic structure elements from language, culture, and the time it was created; in short from the man who named it.” (CARVALHINHOS, 2009, p. 83).

Studying a toponym should be based on the study of the lexical item, in its structural, semantic and motivational aspects, as mentioned before. Dick (1990) divides toponyms into two structures: a generic term (which refers to the geographic entity) and the specific term (which refers to the name of the place as such). In that sense, the author explains that:

When designating, traditionally, a proper name to a place, the toponym, in its formalization of onomastics nomenclature, connects with the geographic feature it identifies, constituting a set or binomial relationship which can be split up so their forming terms can be better distinguished (DICK, 1990, p. 10).

As for the morphological composition of toponyms, Dick (1990) classifies them in three types: simple toponym (or simple specific element), compound toponym (or compound specific element) and hybrid toponym (or hybrid specific element), as seen in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1 – Morphological composition of a toponymic specific term.



Source: adapted from Dick (1990).

A simple toponym consists of only one formant (ex. Colocação Sossego); a compound toponym is composed of two formants (ex. Seringal Novo Horizonte) and hybrid elements are the ones whose origin comes from two or more languages (ex. Marabá Paulista).

For the toponymic classification in this study, as stated previously, we use Dick's taxonomic model (1990; 1992) which combines 27 taxa, considering semantic and motivational relation. These taxa are divided by that toponymist in two groups: 11 taxa of physical nature and 16 of anthropocultural nature. We present the 27 taxa, then, with their corresponding definitions and examples, according to Dick (1990), Andrade (2010) and Sousa (2019):

- a) Physical Taxa:** Astrotoponyms: toponyms related to celestial bodies in general. Ex.: *Estrela* (BA); Cardinotoponyms: Toponyms related to geographic positions in general. Ex.: *Praia do Norte* (TO); Chromotoponyms: toponyms related to the chromatic scale. Ex.: *Rio Negro* (TO); Dimensiotoponyms: toponyms related to dimensional characteristics of geographic features such as extension, length, width, thickness, height, depth. Ex.: *Igarapé Profundo* (TO); Phytotoponyms: toponyms of vegetal nature. Ex. Pinheiral (RJ), Cafezal (PA); Geomorphotoponyms: toponyms related to topographic features. Ex.

Montanhas (RN); Hydrotponyms: Toponyms resulting from hydrographic features in general. Ex.: *Água Boa* (MG); Litotponyms: toponyms of mineral nature, related to the constitution of the soil, represented by individuals. Ex. Tijuco Preto (SP); Meteorotponyms: toponyms related to atmospheric phenomena. Ex.: *Ventania* (SP); Morphotponyms: toponyms that reflect a geometric figure. Ex.: *Curva Grande* (AM); Zootponyms: toponyms concerning animals, represented by domestic individuals. Ex. *Lagoa da Onça* (RJ);

- b) Anthropocultural Taxa:** Animotponyms (or Nootponyms): toponyms related to psychic life, spiritualistic culture, embracing all products of human psychism, whose major raw material and in its most important aspect as cultural fact, does not belong to physical culture. Ex.: *Vitória* (CE); Antropotponyms: toponyms related to individual proper names. Ex. *Fátima* (MT); Axiotponyms: toponyms related to titles or honors that are followed by individual names. Ex.: *Presidente Prudente* (SP); Corotponyms: toponyms related to names of cities, countries, states, regions and continents. Ex.: *Europa* (AC); Chronotponyms: toponyms that embrace chronological indicators which are represented, in placenames, by the adjectives *novol/nova/velho/velha*¹. Ex. *Velha Boipeba* (BA); Ecotponyms: toponyms related to habitation in general. Ex.: *Casa da Telha* (BA); Ergotponyms: toponyms related to elements of material culture. Ex.: *Córrego da Flecha* (MT); Ethnotponyms: toponyms related to ethnical elements, whether isolated or not (people, tribe, caste). Ex.: *Ilha do Francês* (RJ); Dirrematotponyms: toponyms made up by phrases or linguistic utterances. Ex.: *Há Mais Tempo* (MA); Hierotponyms: toponyms related to sacred names from different beliefs: Christian,

¹ NT: related to “new or old”.

Hebrew, Mohammedan, Ex.: *Cristo Rei* (PR) [Hierotoponyms can also present two subdivisions: hagiotoponyms: toponyms related to saints of the Roman hagiology: *São Paulo* (SP); Mythtoponyms: toponyms related to mythological entities. Ex.: *Ribeirão do Saci* (ES)]; Historiotoponyms: toponyms related to movements of some hystorical and social nature and its members, as well as to its corresponding dates. Ex.: *Inconfidentes* (MG); Hodotoponyms (or Odotoponyms): toponyms related to rural or urban communication routes. Ex: *Travessa* (BA); Numerotoponyms: toponyms related to numerical adjectives. Ex.: *Duas Barras* (BA); Poliotoponyms: toponyms constituted by the words *vila, aldeia, cidade, povoação, arraial*. Ex.: *Rio da Cidade* (RJ); Sociotoponyms: toponyms related to professional activities, to workplaces, and to meeting points of a community (plaza, patio, square). Ex.: *Pescador* (MG); Somatotoponyms: toponyms employed in a metaphorical relation with animal or human body parts. Ex.: *Pé de Boi* (SE).

To register the collected data, we used the toponymic database model proposed by Dick (2004), which will be described in the methodology section.

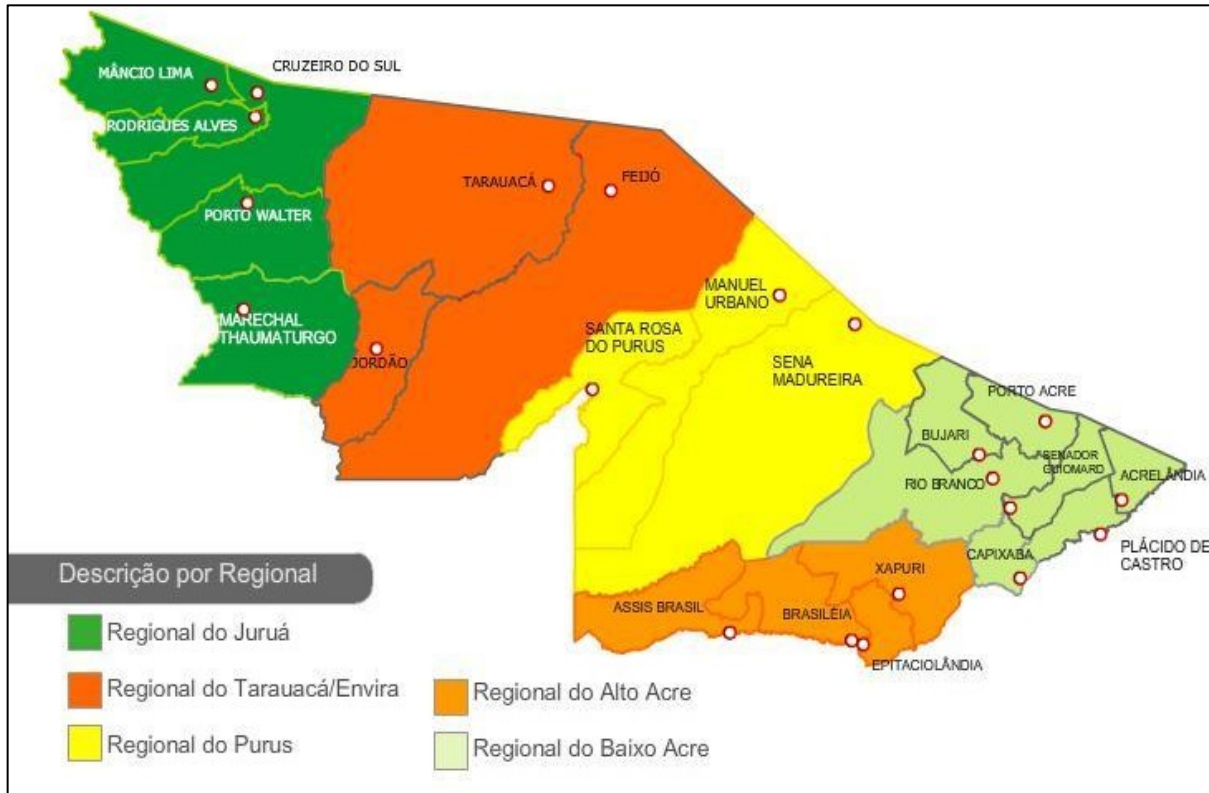
2.2 Geographical and historical aspects of Acre

The state of Acre is in the southernmost region of the Brazilian Amazon region and has an area of 164,123.964 km², bordering Peru and Bolivia. This land used to belong to Bolivia and was incorporated to Brazil on November 17, 1903, by the Treaty of Petropolis.

The Government of Acre adopted a regionalization system based on the river basins, aiming to make it easier to implement governmental policies. This regionalization has divided Acre into five Development Regional Areas (*Regionais de Desenvolvimento*): Regional do Juruá, Regional do Tarauacá/Envira, Regional do Purus,

Regional do Alto Acre, and Regional do Baixo Acre. The following map depicts these divisions (Fig. 2):

Figure 2 — Development Regional Areas of Acre.



Source: based on geographical data from *ZEE-Acre, Phase II* (2006).

According to the Environmental Economical Zoning of Acre (ZEE/Acre, 2006), Acre has an equatorial, hot and humid weather; high temperatures and high levels of precipitation. Its rivers play an important role for the colonization these lands and they have constituted an important means of transportation. They also provide subsistence, by supplying water for domestic consumption and for activities related to irrigation and fishing. Its vegetation comprises three phytoecological regions: the Dense Ombrophilous Forest, the Open Ombrophilous Forest and the Campinarana.

The relief is comprised by sedimentary rocks, divided into geomorphological units: the Amazon Plain, the Endimari-Abuna Depression, the Iaco-Acre Depression, the Rio Branco Depression, the Juruá-Iaco Depression, the Tarauacá-Itaquai

Depression, the Marginal Depression, the Serra do Divisor, the Cruzeiro do Sul Tabular Surface and the Residual Plateaus of the Serra do Divisor. The highest point in Acre, where there is a change in the relief, is in the Serra do Divisor, which is in the westernmost point of the state, with maximum altitude of 734m.

According to the census by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2010), the indigenous population in Acre has been estimated in 15,921, of which 2,595 are living in urban areas and 13,326, in rural ones. The ethnic groups that currently make up the indigenous people in Acre are: *Arara*, *Kampa (Ashaninkas)*, *Jaminawá-Arara*, *Katuquina*, *Kaxinawá (Huni Kuin)*, *Kulina (Madija)*, *Shanenawwa*, *Manchineri*, *Nawá*, *Nukini*, *Poyanawwa*, *Yawanawá*, *Jaminawwa* and *Isolados* (IBGE, 2010).

As stated by ZEE-Acre (2006), it is likely that the arrival of the first known inhabitants took place approximately between 20,000-10,000 years ago, coming from the Asian continent. Ranzi (2008) points out that interethnic contact between native and non-native peoples were in the nineteenth century, when the colonization process of Acre started due to the discovery of rubber, raw material from *Hevea brasiliensis*, the tree known as Rubber tree, which lead to the massacre and exploitation of the native peoples.

Therefore, the colonization of Acre has a strong relation with the process of industrialization in Europe and other parts of the world due to rubber, a precious raw material coveted by many investors, used to manufacture coatings for car wheels, household objects, military equipment, etc.

A large contingent has migrated to Acre in order to work in the extraction of latex from rubber trees, having to adapt to live in the forest. Henceforth, a period of conflicts and violence against indigenous people started.

The demand for rubber lead to “the implantation of a productive structure based on rubber plantation (extractive company), financing capital, latifundium (although,

under that point of view, they were seen as productive) and the exploitation of the Northeastern labor force.” (SILVA, 2008, p. 134).

Aquino and Iglesias (2005) state that contact between migrant workers extracting rubber and the native dwellers caused the decimation of thousands of indigenous peoples, through violence employed in the “*correries*” (armed expeditions that resulted in massacres), along with diseases brought by white men, mainly those ethnicities who did not accepted being dominated. Iglesias, Ôchoa and Teixeira (2003) report that many of these who spoke *Aruan* and *Aruak* languages, such as *Jamandi*, *Apurinã*, *Manchineri* and *Ashaninka*, started to carry out activities related to the extraction of rubber and rubber sheet, such as woodmen, rowers, rubber tappers etc. The people who resisted domination and slavery were from the group who spoke *Pano* language, which constituted obstacles for the expansion of the rubber plantations, resulting in the persecution and extermination of several indigenous peoples.

Morais (2008) explains that, in that period, there was an attempt by some Indians to hide their own identity, causing many cultural traits to be left aside so they could escape from persecutions. The author claims that many tried to live as non-Indians, but even with the cultural and genetical mix, full assimilation did not take place, “emerging in the last three decades and claiming the right to be recognized as *Ashaninca*, *Kaxinanawá* and others, and therefore, entitled to the lands they occupied.” (MORAIS, 2008, p. 135).

According to Neves (2002), the indigenous situation tested a few changes from 1976 on, when the National Indian Foundation (*Funai*) was founded in Acre, and from fights carried on by non-governmental indigenous organizations and the indigenous leaderships themselves, who started to claim for their territorial rights. It was through much struggle and fight against the capitalist fury that the indigenous lands were demarcated and some rights were assured, although they are still far from being totally accomplished.

2.3 Indigenous languages

As Melatti (2007) affirms, there is a belief that *Tupi* is the most important language spoken by Indians in Brazil. One cannot deny valuation of that language related to others, and that is because colonizers found *Tupi* speakers all over the coast, whereas this is the first native tongue assimilated.

In Brazil, two large roots of indigenous languages are recognized, *Tupi* and *Macro-Jê*, and other families that are not classified in roots because they do not present the necessary similarities to be grouped. The distribution for the root of *Tupi*, according to Mellati (2007), is located in the following places: Northwest and Southwest of the state of Amazon; North of Rondonia; between the states of Mato Grosso and Pará; the Western part of Maranhão; West of Amapá; through the countries of Argentina and Paraguay; in the Brazilian sea coast, more specifically in the South and Southeast regions. As for the root of *Macrô-Jê*, it is located in the Center-South of Maranhão; in the Center-South of Pará; in the North and Northeast of Tocantins; in Mato-Grosso; in the Northeast of Minas Gerais; in part of São Paulo; in the North of Rio Grande do Sul; in Santa Catarina, and in the East of Pernambuco.

Sampaio (1987) emphasizes that *Tupi* “gives a special nature to Geography and History in South America, because that is where there is a large scale of names and designations that belong to the vocabulary of that language.” (SAMPAIO, 1987, p. 57). Unlike Melatti (2007), Sampaio (1987) attributes the expansion of *Tupi* to European colonizers who slaved the Indians and catechized them, in the period of the flags, making this “barbaric language become a general language”. (SAMPAIO, 1987, p. 68).

In Acre, there are three linguistic families: *Arawá*, *Aruak* and *Pano*, which belong to families that do not have any classification in roots. Languages from the *Pano* family are better distributed spatially in the lands of Acre, including the cities Feijó, Tarauacá, Jordão, Porto Valter, Marechal Thaumaturgo, Cruzeiro do Sul, Sena Madureira, and Assis Brasil. Speakers of the linguistic family of *Arawá* are located in the city of Feijó.

Speakers of languages from the family of *Aruak* can be found in Sena Madureira, Santa Rosa do Purus, Feijó e Marechal Thaumaturgo.

In the following segment, the research data will be analyzed.

3 Methodology

The corpus of this study is comprised of 392 toponyms of indigenous origin, related to the rural area, collected from municipal IBGE maps and from the physical map of Acre, with a 1:100,000 scale, and later, registered on toponymic cards, as the model proposed by Dick (2004), used in the *Atlas Toponímico da Amazônia Ocidental Brasileira (Projeto ATAQB)*, and whose fields are described below.

- a) Location/City: geographical location of the area named;
- b) Toponym: official geographic name;
- c) Type of Geographic Feature: AH (Human Features) or AF (Physical Features);
- d) Etymology: linguistic origin of the toponym and semantic explanation. These data are collected from etymological dictionaries of indigenous origin;
- e) Taxonomy: semantic classification of the toponym, divided into physical or anthropocultural classes (DICK, 1990);
- f) Lexical Entry: linguistic element for the lexicographic entry;
- g) Morphological Structure: formation of the toponym, divided into simple specific element, compound specific element and hybrid specific element;
- h) History: survey of historical registers of toponyms in IBGE. Other historical data were collected from academic publications and official documents;
- i) Encyclopedic information: relevant information for the analysis of the toponym collected in supporting materials: books, dictionaries, internet searches and others;

- j) Sources: bibliography consulted;
- k) Researcher: the researchers in charge of collecting and describing data;
- l) Reviewer: supervising professor and coordinator of the ATA OB Project;
- m) Collection date: the date on which the sample or data was collected.

For the etymological analysis of the indigenous toponyms, the following dictionaries were consulted, specially Aulete (1970), Bueno (1986), Cunha (1986), Ferreira (1986), Navarro (2013), Sampaio (1987), Tibiriçá (1997). For the classification of the motivating patterns of the toponyms, we considered taxonomies by Dick (1990), from meanings of indigenous toponyms and their relationships with fauna, flora and local hydrography. Data were quantified and plotted in percentage figures on charts in order to guide the analysis and discussion of the results.

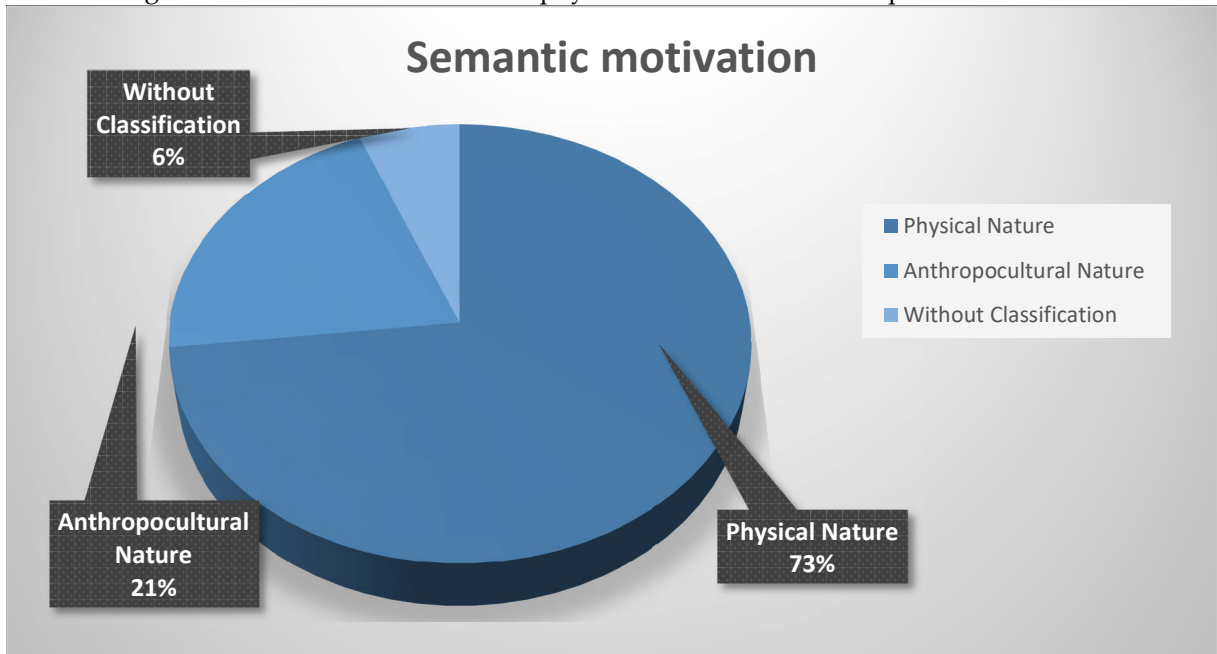
4 Results

As mentioned by Dick (1990), Toponymy can be considered as a way of registering the present for future generations, because, in place names, human perceptions of his time are registered as well as the environmental conditions of their time period. Indigenous toponymic research, especially the toponymy of Amazon, accuse a strong presence of natural element as motivator in the choice of a name. It can be noted that toponym is not something strange or alien to the historical and political context of the community. Its significative load holds straight connection with the soil, climate, abundant or poor vegetation and with the very own cultural traits of a region in its varied manifestations of life (DICK, 1992, p. 47).

In that way, the natural environment (flora, fauna and hydrography) can be found in a relevant way in the process of designating names to places of indigenous origin present in this research, since they are already present in the daily life of those

who named them. Quantitative percentages that consist of physical and anthropocultural motivations are represented in Figure 4, below:

Figure 4 — Semantic motivation of physical nature and of anthropocultural nature.

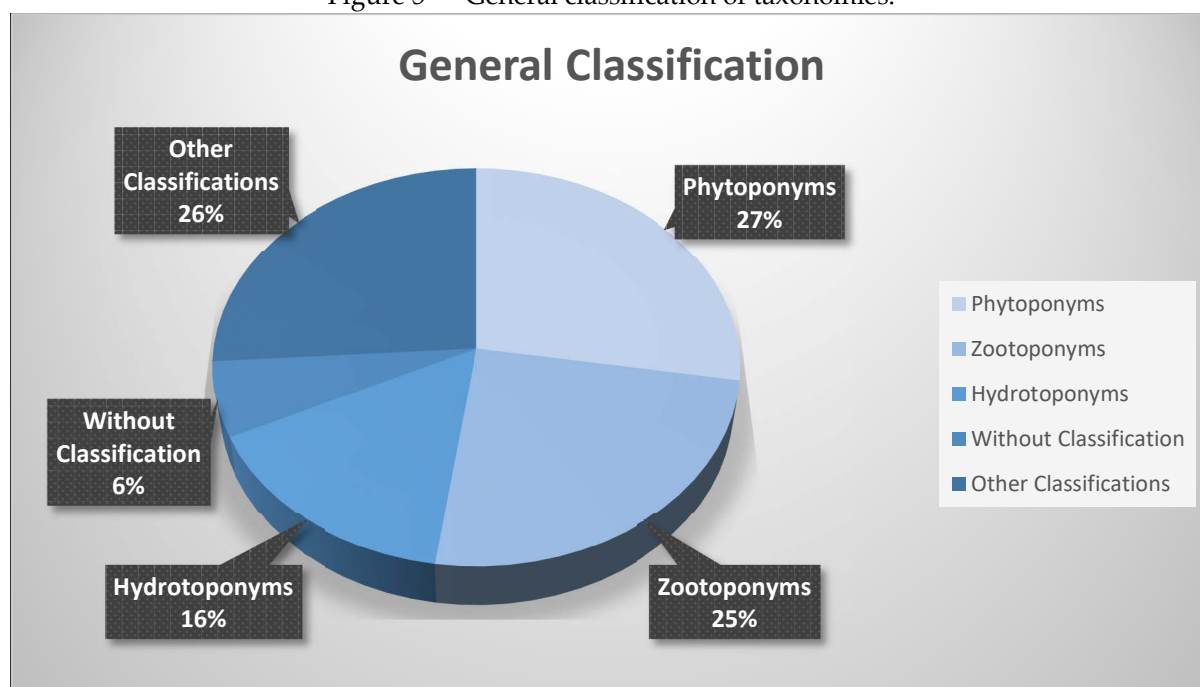


Source: research data.

While carrying out the analysis of distribution of the semantic motivation of physical nature and anthropocultural nature, it was possible to observe that, from the 392 toponyms of indigenous origin, 73% have physical nature as their semantic motivation and 21% present anthropocultural nature as their semantic motivation, and from the overall total, 6% were unclassified. Data confirm Dick's (1990, 1992) observations as well as of other toponymic research that indicate the predominance of physical natural motivation in the toponyms of indigenous origin.

As for general classification of the taxonomies of the toponyms analyzed, it is possible to observe the predominance of phytotoponyms, with 27%, of zootoponyms, with 26%, and of hydrotoponyms, with 16%, as we can see in Figure 5, below:

Figure 5 — General classification of taxonomies.



Source: The authors' own authorship.

Phytotonyms, as classified by Dick (1992), are names with some connection with the Amazon flora, such as, for example, *taboca*, which is a kind of bamboo, a very common vegetal in this area. In the *corpus*, it is possible to find 3 occurrences for *taboca*, 4 for *tabocais*, and 1 for *taboquinha*. Another vegetal species that represents the flora in Acre and that appears in 7 occurrences is *samaúma*. As Lorenzi (2012) says, it is a large tree, whose height can reach 45m to 50m with a diameter of 1.5 to 2m. There are other data that relate to *palmeira jarina* and its agglomeration, *jarinal*, which also gives name to 7 geographical elements.

As for the zootonyms, the second taxon in percentage, it is observed the following items: fish, such as the *cubiú*, *piranha*, *pacú*, *tambaqui*, and *traíra*; mammals, such as the capybara, *cutia*, *paca*, and *coati*; amphibians, such as the *curú* and *jia*; reptiles, such as the alligator and boa constrictor; and birds, class which head the percentage of zootonyms, such as macaw, *aracuã*, *cujubim*, *juriti*, *jacú*, *japim*, *mutum*, *patu*, *paturi* and *saracura*. These are all names related to the fauna in Acre.

Hydrotoponyms appear as the third most recurrent taxon, demonstrating the importance of water courses in dwellers' *modus vivendi*, since – for a long time – these were the only means used as water supply, as communications and as transportation for those living near rivers, in addition to supplying food. Some occurrences of hydrotoponyms are: *Iguatu*, *Iguaçu*, *Ipanema*, *Itu*, and *Macuripé*. The word *paraná* (or *paranã*) has 3 occurrences as simple specific element and 5 occurrences as compound specific element: *Paraná do Acuriá*, *Paraná do Brabo*, *Paraná do João Bezerra*, *Paraná dos Mouras*, and *Paraná do Ouro*.

Data analysis pointed out high presence of Tupi linguistic items in indigenous toponymy in Acre. In order to understand the appearance of names with that origin, in the indigenous toponymy, it is important to recover the historical context of this place, and also the importance of Old Tupi, which was later modified by colonizers and became the general language used by non-Indians for a long time and taught to other indigenous ethnicities by the Jesuit missionaries.

It is possible that the predominance of words from Tupi in the indigenous toponymy in Acre is a consequence of the colonization and exploitation suffered by this region when rubber was discovered, considering that, in the XIX century, words with that origin were already part of the lexicon in Brazilian Portuguese language, naming flora, fauna, hydrography and places. The possible explanation for that predominance is offered by Andrade and Flores (2017), as follows:

[...] wherever indigenous people who spoke languages from the Tupi route passed by, they named the reality surrounding them, in order to demarcate spaces of local landscape (physical elements: rivers, streams, sierras, etc. and human and/or cultural elements: camps, settlements, etc.), with several interests, among them, conquering territories (ANDRADE; FLORES, 2017, p. 239).

Another aspect to take into consideration is that many toponyms of Tupi origin were disseminated “from the religious action of missionaries and the participation of

the old flags, who spread the so-called general language, consequently swelling the area occupied by these Indians” (DICK, 1990, p. 122).

Besides Tupi, we also found the following: 2 occurrences of names whose origin is *Aruaque*, which are *Manaus* and *Acre*; *Quêchua* origin place names: *Iaco*, *Antimary*, *Tamborico*, *Pulcallpa*, *Lapuna*; assumption of names whose etymology was not disclosed: *Xipamanu* and *Chambuiaco*; and the toponym *Tarauacá*, which has its origin in *Kaxinauá*.

5 Closing remarks

As we have mentioned previously, this paper aimed to trace a profile of the indigenous toponyms in the rural area in the state of Acre, highlighting motivations related to fauna, flora and hydrography in Acrean place names. The toponyms in the *corpus* added up to a total of 392, from which 6% of the names remained unclassified; 73% of toponyms of physical class; and 21% of anthropocultural class. Hence, we were able to verify that factors that most influenced indigenous toponymic signs were physical and geographical characteristics, especially names of animals, plants and hydronymic items.

Among the physical nature taxa, in first place we have phytotoponyms, with a total of 27%. In second, we have zootoponyms, with 25%, and hydrotoponyms as the third taxon, with 16%. The predominance of these taxa demonstrates the importance of vegetation, animals and hydrography courses for dwellers, representing mostly denominations that express local characteristics.

With regard to indigenous languages, we noted in the *corpus* an abundance of names of Tupi origin and, while carrying out the historical and social study of the places, it is possible to ascertain that there are no languages from that linguistic root in Acre. Then, we started to question how these names constituted Acrean toponymy. So we tried to interweave the problematic of Tupi names in the toponymy of Acre with historical facts, as Dick suggests. We can suppose that the predominance of words of

Tupi origin in the indigenous toponymy of Acre is the result of the colonization and exploitation that this region went through. From the discovery of rubber extraction, migrants arriving to those lands already knew Tupi lexicon, which, in the XIX century was incorporated in the fauna, flora, hydrography, and place names from other regions. These results corroborate ideas proposed by Sampaio (1987) and Dick (1990). In a less expressive way, we found words derived from *Aruaque*, from *Kaxinauá* and from *Quéchua*, which are languages spoken in the Andes.

During the research, it was not possible to find the etymology of a few toponyms in the main dictionaries of indigenous languages, resulting in 24 unclassified toponyms, what represents a total of 6%.

The descriptions of environmental characteristics, projected in the sum of phytotoponyms, hydrotoponyms and zootoponyms, reveal that “language turns them into pieces of (cognitive) traits and cultural value which can be apprehended by the linguistic system, and from then on be transmitted to users.” (DICK, 2010, p. 195). Indigenous toponyms from Acre depict the Amazon nature and project physical and environmental forces that influence the life of local inhabitants. Flora, hidrography and fauna are prominent in Acrean people’s *modus vivendi*. Dick (1992, p. 145) points out that, in Brazil, especially in the Amazon region, “the diversity of flora is felt so vividly” given the “occurrences of the botanic types”.

In another moment, Dick (1992) mentions the importance of the waters as vital nourishment to human being. For the region under analysis, water represents paths, connecting bonds between spaces and cultures, food abounds and Amazon legends live. Water also limits interpersonal contact and, on the other hand, “tends to maintain – as much as possible – common values unchanged, preserving, because of that, group tradition.” (DICK, 1992, p. 197).

Just as it occurs with phytotoponyms, Dick (1992) highlights the great array of animal life in Brazil and the projection of fauna in the Brazilian toponymy. Acre,

because it is in the southern western region of the Amazon, naturally present a strong influence from names of animals in their indigenous toponymy, reflecting the abundance the species that characterized the environment.

Therefore, in the act of naming geographic spaces, men project their way of seeing the world, their culture, their ideology or the characteristics of the environment that surrounds them. All this will influence their choices, whether for subjective or objective factors. There will always be intentions, since it will be very unlikely that the choice of a name will be. On the contrary, data analyzed in indigenous toponymy in Acre show how designations related to flora, fauna and hidrography describe the Amazon environment and, mainly, how nature is strongly related to man, which is part of it and influenced by it, in the act of naming.

References

ACRE. Governo do Estado do Acre. **Programa Estadual de Zoneamento Ecológico e Econômico do Estado do Acre, fases I e II.** Zoneamento Ecológico econômico: recursos naturais e meio ambiente e indicativos para a gestão territorial. Rio Branco: SECTMA, 2000/2006/2010.

ANDRADE, K. S. **Atlas toponímico de origem indígena do Estado de Tocantins.** Goiás: Editora da PUC, 2010.

ANDRADE, K. S. **Atlas toponímico de origem indígena do Estado de Tocantins: Projeto ATITO.** 2006. 186 f. Tese (Doutorado). Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2006.

ANDRADE, K. S.; DICK, M. V. de P. do A. A interdisciplinaridade no contexto da Toponímia: reflexões iniciais de uma proposta aplicada ao ensino. *In*: ISQUERDO, A. N.; SEABRA, M. C. T. C. de. (org.). **As ciências do léxico: lexicologia, lexicografia e terminologia.** Campo Grande: Editora UFMS, 2012. p. 193-207. (Vol. VI).

ANDRADE, K.; FLORES, K. M. Imaginário e representação na formação da toponímia do Tocantins colonial. **Revista Filologia e Linguística Portuguesa**, São Paulo, v. 19, n. 2, p. 239-255, jul./dez. 2017. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.11606/issn.2176-9419.v19i2p239-255>.

AQUINO, T. V. de; IGLESIAS, M. P. **Povos e Terras Indígenas no Estado do Acre - Governo do Estado do Acre - Secretaria de Estado de Meio Ambiente e Recursos Naturais - Programa estadual de Zoneamento Ecológico-Econômico do Estado do Acre - Fase II – Rio Branco, 2005.**

AULETE, F. J. C. **Dicionário contemporâneo da língua portuguesa Caldas Aulete.** 5. ed. Rio de Janeiro: Delta, 1970.

BUENO, F. da S. **Grande dicionário etimológico-prosódico da Língua Portuguesa: vocábulos, expressões da língua geral e científica, sinônimos, contribuições do tupi-guarani.** São Paulo: Saraiva, 1963.

CARVALHINHOS, P. de J. Toponímia e memória: quando o passado não é utopia. *In:* BRAGA, R. C. G. *et al.* (org.). **Memória e Utopia.** Rondonópolis: Previsão: 2010.

CARVALHINHOS, P. de J. Interface onomástica/ literatura: a toponímia, o espaço e o resgate de memória na obra de memórias da rua do ouvidor de Joaquim Manuel de Macedo. *In:* **Cadernos do CNLF**, Rio de Janeiro, v. XII, n. 10, p. 83-99, agosto, 2009.

CARVALHINHOS, P. de J. As origens dos nomes de pessoas. **Domínios de Lingu@gem:** Revista Eletrônica de Linguística, Uberlândia, v. 1, n. 1, p. 1-18, jan./jun. 2007. ISSN 1980-5799. Available from: <http://www.seer.ufu.br/index.php/dominiosdelinguagem/article/view/11401>. Access on: Jun. 20 2020. DOI <https://doi.org/10.14393/DL1-v1n1a2007-9>

CARVALHINHOS, P. de J. Onomástica e lexicologia: o léxico toponímico como catalisador e fundo de memória. Estudo de caso: os sociotoponyms de Aveiro (Portugal). **Revista USP**, São Paulo, n. 56, p. 172-179, dez./fev. 2002-2003. Available from: <https://www.revistas.usp.br/revusp/article/download/33819/36557>. Access on: Jun. 25 2020. DOI <https://doi.org/10.11606/issn.2316-9036.v0i56p172-179>

CUNHA, A. G. **Dicionário etimológico Nova Fronteira da Língua Portuguesa.** São Paulo, Nova Fronteira, 1986.

DARGEL, A. P. T. P. **Entre buritis e veredas:** o desvendar da toponímia do Bolsão sul-mato-grossense. Mato Grosso do Sul, 2003. Dissertação (Mestrado) – UFMS, 2003.

DICK, M. V. de P.do A. **A motivação toponímica e a realidade brasileira.** São Paulo: Arquivo do Estado, 1992.

DICK, M. V. de P. do A. Rede de conhecimento e campo lexical: hidrônimos e hidrotponyms na onomástica brasileira. *In*: ISQUERDO, A. N.; KRIEGER, M. da G. **As ciências do léxico**. Campo Grande: UFMS, 2004. (Vol. II).

DICK, M. V. de P. do A. Etnia e etnicidade: um novo modo de nomear. Projeto ATESP/ATB. *In*: ISQUERDO, Aparecida Negri; FINATTO, Maria José Bocorny. **As ciências do léxico**. Campo Grande: UFMS, 2010. (Vol. IV)

DICK, M. V. de P. do A. **Toponímia e Antroponímia no Brasil**. São Paulo: Serviço de Artes Gráficas/FFLCH/USP, 1990. (Coletânea de Estudos).

FERREIRA, A. B. de H. **Novo Dicionário da Língua Portuguesa**. 2. ed. Rio de Janeiro: Nova Fronteira, 1986.

GUERRA, A. T.; GUERRA, A. J. T. **Novo dicionário geológico-geomorfológico**. 4. ed. Rio de Janeiro: Bertrand Brasil, 2005.

IBGE – Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística. **Censo Demográfico 2010: características gerais da população**. Available from: <http://www.censo2010.ibge.gov.br>. Access on: Mar. 10 2020.

IGLESIAS, M. P.; ÔCHOA, M. L. P.; TEIXEIRA, G. de A. **Índios no Acre: História e organização**. Rio Branco: Comissão Pró-Índio do Acre, 2003.

ISQUERDO, A. N. Prefácio. *In*: AMARAL, E. T. R. do; SAIDE, M. S. **Nomes próprios de pessoa: introdução à antroponímia brasileira**. São Paulo: Blucher, 2020.

ISQUERDO, A. N. Léxico regional e léxico toponímico: interfaces linguísticas, históricas e culturais. *In*: ISQUERDO, A. N.; SEABRA, M. C. T. C. de (org.). **As ciências do léxico: lexicologia, lexicografia e terminologia**. Campo grande: Editora da UFMS, 2012. p. 115-139. (Vol. VI).

LORENZI, H. **Árvores brasileiras: manual de identificação e cultivo de plantas arbóreas nativas do Brasil**. Nova Odessa: Plantarum, 1992. p. 368.

MARTINS, R. de M. **O perfil da toponímia indígena na zona rural do Estado do Acre**. 2017. 147 f. Dissertação (Mestrado) – Universidade Federal do Acre, Programa de Pós-Graduação Letras, Linguagem e Identidade. Rio Branco, 2017.

MELATTI, J. C. **Índios do Brasil**. São Paulo: EDUSP, 2007.

MORAIS, M. de J. **Acreanidade**: invenção e re-invenção da identidade acreana. Niterói. Tese (Doutorado em Geografia), UFF. 2008.

NAVARRO, E. de A. **Dicionário de tupi antigo**: a língua indígena clássica do Brasil. São Paulo: Global, 2013.

NEVES, M. V. História Nativa do Acre. *In*: ACRE. **Acre, Governo do Estado do Acre**: povos do Acre: história indígenas da Amazônia Ocidental. Rio Branco: Fem, 2002.

RANZI, C. M. D. **Raízes do Acre**. 3. ed. Rio Branco: EDUFAC, 2008.

SALAZAR-QUIJADA, A. **La toponímia em Venezuela**. Caracas: Universidad Central de Venezuela, 1985.

SAMPAIO, T. **O Tupi na geografia nacional**. 5. ed. São Paulo: Editora Nacional, 1987.

SEABRA, M. C. T. C.; SANTOS, M. M. D. dos. Toponímia de Minas Gerais em registros cartográficos históricos. *In*: ISQUERDO, A. N.; SEABRA, M. C. T. C. de (org.). **As ciências do léxico**: lexicologia, lexicografia, terminologia. Campo Grande: UFMS, 2012. (Vol. VI).

SILVA, S. S. (coord.). **Acre**: uma visão temática de sua Geografia. Rio Branco: EDUFAC, 2008.

SOUSA, A. M. de. **Desbravando a Amazônia Ocidental Brasileira**: estudo toponímico dos acidentes humanos e físicos acreanos. 2007. 127 f. Tese (Doutorado) – Universidade Federal do Ceará, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Linguística. Fortaleza, 2007.

SOUSA, A. M. de. Projeto Atlas Toponímico da Amazônia Ocidental Brasileira: gênese e trajetória. **Ícone** – Revista de Letras, São Luís de Montes Belos, v. 2, n. 1, p. 31-42, 2008. Available from: <https://www.revista.ueg.br/index.php/icone/article/view/5126>. Access on: Mar. 20 2020.

SOUSA, A. M. de. Considerações sobre a toponímia acreana: as marcas deixadas pelos desbravadores nordestinos em nomes de seringais e colocações. **Caderno Seminal Digital**, Rio de Janeiro, v. 13, n. 1, p. 39-50, 2010. DOI <https://doi.org/10.12957/cadsem.2010.10245>

SOUSA, A. M. de. **Língua, cultura e sociedade**: a toponímia acreana. São Carlos: Pedro e João Editores, 2019.

SOUSA, A. M. de; DARGEL, A. P. T. P. Onomástica: interdisciplinaridade e interfaces. **Revista Gtlex**, Uberlândia, v. 3, n. 1, p. 7-22, 2020. DOI <https://doi.org/10.14393/Lex5-v3n1a2017-1>

TIBIRIÇA, L. C. **Dicionário de topônimos brasileiros de origem tupi**. 2. ed. São Paulo: Traço, 1997.

Submission received: 08.27.2020

Submission approved: 02.02.2021