

THE SOCIAL REPRESENTATION OF VOTING AS AN EXERCISE OF CITIZENSHIP AND DEMOCRACY

A REPRESENTAÇÃO SOCIAL DO VOTO COMO EXERCÍCIO DA CIDADANIA E DA DEMOCRACIA

Cinthyá Amaral Santos

Doutora em Psicologia, pela Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Goiás. Mestre em Sociedade, Tecnologia e Meio Ambiente, pelo Centro Universitário de Anápolis. Especialista em Direito Constitucional e Eleitoral (UCG) e Docência Universitária (UCG). Graduada em Direito (UniEVANGÉLICA – 1997). Professora efetiva do curso de Direito da Universidade Estadual de Goiás – Unidade Palmeiras de Goiás. Foi coordenadora do Curso de Direito da Fundação Educacional de Goiás (Fac lions), de 2015 a junho de 2016. Professora de Direito Constitucional e Direito Administrativo do Centro Universitário de Goiás (Unianhanguera). Orientadora de Trabalhos de Conclusão de Curso das duas instituições de ensino acima especificadas. Professora da Pós-Graduação do Centro UniGoiás e da Faculdade Lions. Professora em EaD na faculdade Lions.

Humberto César Machado

Pós-Doutor em Psicologia, pela Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Goiás (PUC/GO), 2016. Doutor em Psicologia, pela Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Goiás – PUC GO (2013); Mestre em Psicologia pela Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Goiás (PUC/GO), 2006. Especialista em História, pela Universidade Federal de Goiás (UFG), 2002. Graduado em Filosofia, pela Universidade Federal de Goiás, 1996. Graduado em Pedagogia, pela ISCECAP, 2018. Graduado em Letras, pela FAFIBE, 2019. Membro do Comitê de Ética e Pesquisa e professor titular do Centro Universitário Alfredo Nasser (Unifan). Professor da Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Goiás (PUC/GO). Ator, coreógrafo, dançarino de salão. Elemento Credenciado Fator Humano e Prevenção de Acidentes do Centro de Investigação e Prevenção de Acidentes Aeronáuticos (Cenipa).

João Felipe Fleury

Doutorando em Direito, pelo Centro Universitário de Brasília (UnICEUB). Mestre em Direito Constitucional, pelo Instituto Brasiliense de Direito Público (IDP). Especialista em Direito Civil e Processo Civil, com habilitação para Docência Universitária. Especialista em Direito Penal. Bacharel em Direito. Docente Permanente no Curso de Direito da Universidade Estadual de Goiás (UEG). Assessor Jurídico de Desembargador do Tribunal de Justiça do Estado de Goiás. Analista Judiciário no Tribunal de Justiça do Estado de Goiás. Advogado licenciado dos quadros da OAB. E-mail: jfelipe.contato@gmail.com

RESUMO

Estudar sobre a representação do exercício do voto, como símbolo da cidadania e da democracia é o tema proposto para este artigo científico, resultado de um projeto de pesquisa realizado na Universidade Estadual de Goiás, englobado pelo Macroprojeto da autora, intitulado "Constituição, Direito Fundamental e Representação Social". Foi realizado um estudo bibliográfico sobre os conceitos de democracia, cidadania e a teoria da Representação Social, na primeira parte do estudo, sendo depois realizada a análise dos resultados gráficos, pelo programa Iramuteq. O objetivo geral referente à análise representacional do voto como exercício da cidadania foi alcançado, e os resultados esperados delimitaram que a população com direito a voto exige respeito, igualdade, dignidade, segurança para a escolha de seus representantes. A metodologia de estudo, além do estudo bibliográfico, foi a pesquisa de campo, realizada mediante questionários, utilizando-se do sistema Microsoft Forms, em que foram feitas duas perguntas de evocação, com as palavras "Cidadania" e "Eleição e Democracia", além de uma pergunta subjetiva em que se questionou para o eleitor "o que para ele é exercer o direito de voto no Brasil". Após a coleta das respostas, os dados foram tratados no sistema Iramuteq, gerando gráficos e tabelas, que deram ao estudo uma possível representação social, no sentido de que para o cidadão brasileiro, o exercício do voto é um direito fundamental, utilizado para a escolha dos representantes nas esferas de governo, mas que deve se pautar em respeito, igualdade, durante o processo de votação, evitando-se assim o caos, bagunça e a falta de segurança durante o processo eleitoral. Foi um estudo promissor, que se justifica pela atualidade do tema, em torno da descoberta da representatividade idealizada pelo povo em relação à democracia e o exercício dela por meio do voto.

Palavras-Chave: Representatividade. Eleição. Voto. Democracia.

ABSTRACT

Abstract: This article aims to study the representation of voting as a symbol of citizenship and democracy. This scientific article is the result of a research project conducted at the State University of Goiás, as part of the author's broader project titled "Constitution, Fundamental Rights, and Social Representation." The study begins with a bibliographic review of the concepts of democracy,



citizenship, and the theory of Social Representation. Subsequently, it analyzes graphical results using the Iramuteq software. The general objective of analyzing the representational view of voting as an exercise of citizenship was achieved. The expected results indicated that the voting population demands respect, equality, dignity, and security in choosing their representatives. The methodology included both a bibliographic study and field research, conducted through questionnaires using Microsoft Forms. Two evocative questions were posed with the words "Citizenship" and "Election and Democracy," along with a subjective question asking voters "what exercising the right to vote in Brazil means to them." After collecting responses, the data were processed using Iramuteq, generating graphs and tables that suggested a possible social representation. For Brazilian citizens, voting is a fundamental right used to choose representatives across government levels. This process should be guided by respect and equality to avoid chaos, disorder, and lack of security during elections. This study is significant due to its timely exploration of the public's idealized representation of democracy and its exercise through voting.

KEYWORDS: Representativeness. Election. Voting. Democracy.

INTRODUCTION

The democratic rule of law is based on the pillar of popular sovereignty, linked to each member of society, who has the fundamental right to choose their representatives through universal suffrage and the exercise of direct, secret, universal and periodic voting.

This study looks at the social representation of citizens in relation to the right to vote, as an exercise of citizenship and democracy. The basic question was about the representational thinking of voters, chosen at random, in order to find out how they think when they are faced with the moment of choosing their government representatives, both in the Legislative and Executive branches.

Despite being a much-studied topic, this article was promising because it dealt with another area of study in relation to voting, citizenship and democracy, namely the system of social representation of the interviewees in relation to the questions presented. The revelations from the data analysis were verified and interpreted, leading to an answer to the general question presented.



The methodology used was bibliographical research, in which the basic concepts of citizenship, sovereignty and democracy were studied in the first part of the article. In the second part, the data collected was interpreted using three questions, two of which were evocative and the third discursive. The first evocation question was: "When you hear the word 'Citizenship', what are the first five words that come to mind?". The second question was along the same lines: "When you hear the words 'Election and Democracy', what are the first five words that come to mind?". And finally, the discursive question that asked the citizen the following: "For you, what does it mean to exercise the right to vote in Brazil?"

With the data processed in the Iramuteq system, the conclusion about possible social representation was based on the fact that voting as an exercise of citizenship and democracy is a fundamental right that must be exercised with respect during the electoral process. This act of democracy is the search for the best choice of representatives of the people in the spheres of power, and must be carried out in a fair and equal manner, avoiding chaos and institutional disorder.

1 ON THE POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY

The people are sovereign, i.e. they have the authority in democratic states and political societies to make up and shape the machinery of the rule of law. It is this group of individuals, called "the people", that can be given certain rights and prerogatives, even political attributions, such as voters in participatory democracies.

Jean Bodin, in his book entitled "The Six Books of the Republic", argued that the king was not subject to sharing power with anyone else, be they the clergy, the nobility or the people. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, on the other hand, transfers this power from the ruler to the people who make up the political governing body or society of citizens. For this philosopher, sovereignty is inalienable and indivisible, and must be exercised by the general will.

Rousseau was not the creator of popular sovereignty, despite his strong advocacy of democracy and popular participation in the context of the French Revolution. According to Dunn (2019), democracy, acclaimed by Robespierre, was synonymous with the Republic, that is, in a more specific term, which opposed aristocracy. Rousseau argued that, to be legitimate, it must be governed by laws and entrusted to society, to the people.

A legal concept of this term was developed from the 14th century onwards. It is not a particular authority, but for the state, as a legal entity, it guides relations between states and emphatically grants legitimacy to political power.

For Habermas (), popular politics is the formation of political will and opinion in the sphere of a republic, and parliament obeys. It is the paradigm of politics as an exercise in civic automation, which culminates in dialog. It can generate a conflict of opinions that takes place in the political spheres, but with popular participation, where the democratic process emerges.

The Constitution of the Republic of Brazil, recorded in the caput of the article 14, indicates a double characteristic: State Sovereignty and Popular Sovereignty. The first is a form of emancipation of defined natures in the political system and the second is the will of the people, formalized through voting, universal suffrage, plebiscite, referendum and popular initiative (CF, 1988).

It is clear that representative democracy needs its concept revised. It represents the end of a policy in which the people only expressed themselves with “Yes” or “No”, and opens up an arena of opinions to be contested and revised. It is the broadening of the meaning of the voice of the people and their active manifestation, even with regard to the content of laws (Urbinati, 2006).

For Lee (2016), there is a constitutive theory that aims to elucidate the doctrine of popular sovereignty. It portrays a unification of the collective agent, the state being this actor, in which the will emanates from the people, that is, if there is a State, there is necessarily a people.

The Magna Charter, promulgated on October 5th, 1988, regulates compulsory voting in Brazil, as one of the ways of exercising Popular Sovereignty. This regulation took place at a time of institutional transformation in order to give credibility to the electoral process. The reason for making this compulsory is summed up in the need, through fear, to seek more active participation by the people (BRAZIL, 1988).

1.1 On the Democracy and citizenship

When studying the organization of the Brazilian state, one of the foundations that needs attention is democracy. Article 1, caput of the Constitution states that the Federative Republic of Brazil is a democratic state governed by the rule of law, and one of its foundations is citizenship, as stated in the Article 1, II of the Federal Constitution.



When Abraham Lincoln described democracy, he said that it means government of the people, by the people and for the people. José Afonso da Silva (2018) explains that this concept is historical, and is not, in itself, a final value, but a means of realizing values that are essential for human coexistence, and in themselves translate fundamental rights.

The fundamental task of the democratic rule of law is to overcome social and regional inequalities, which is the main objective of the Article 3 of the Federal Constitution, so that social justice can be achieved. Dirley teaches that a state based on democracy rests on a pillar of popular sovereignty, in which the notion of government must be the of the people and always in the social interest.

The author also reflects that the basis of democracy is linked to the power that each member of society has when they are in charge of choosing their representatives at the ballot box, through suffrage, the right to vote and be voted for. This power is exercised through the vote, which in Brazil is direct, secret and equal, with equal value for all.

Marilena Chauí (1984) reflects on the principle of democracy, saying that it means the conquest and social and political consolidation of a state. In order for citizenship to exist, the author believes, it is necessary to have the proper institutions, mediations and behaviors, so that social spaces for struggle can be built. Thus, a distinction can be made between passive citizenship, which is granted by the state, and active citizenship, in which citizens have rights and duties, but are also capable of creating rights.

The author goes on to say that active citizenship is the possibility of extending political rights directly by society, when related to decision-making processes in the public interest. Still on the subject of the concept, Marshall, quoted by Reis (1997), influenced this discussion for dozens of years.

To acquire citizenship, still according to the thought of Marshall, it is necessary the existence of a Social Welfare State and that is still Liberal-Democratic. This means that the rights aimed at the citizen must be achieved by the state itself. Rousseau and Kelsen, in a detailed study, affirm that the will of the people is a democracy, because as a social being, it can have a particular will contrary to what thinks the whole, society, in its totality.

2 ON THE DISCUSSION OF RESULTS: SOCIAL REPRESENTATION OF THE VOTE AND THE EXERCISE OF CITIZENSHIP

In this topic, the results of the research undertaken among students and university teachers about voting and exercising citizenship in the last presidential elections, 2022 will be demonstrated. Having as main objective to demonstrate the possible social representation of subjects, through questionnaires with evocative questions, follows the analysis below, not without first explaining what this theory of Psychology is.

2.1 On the Social Representation

One of the main objectives of social representation is to find an explanation, through thoughts and ideas, in order to evoke an event, a person or even an object. They arise in the social environment and result from collective interactions, being common in a group delimited by time and space. In short, it is the symbolic exchanges developed in society, regarding a certain subject, in which it is allowed to understand, manipulate and internalize the new, in a process of union of values, ideals and theories (Moscovici, 1978).

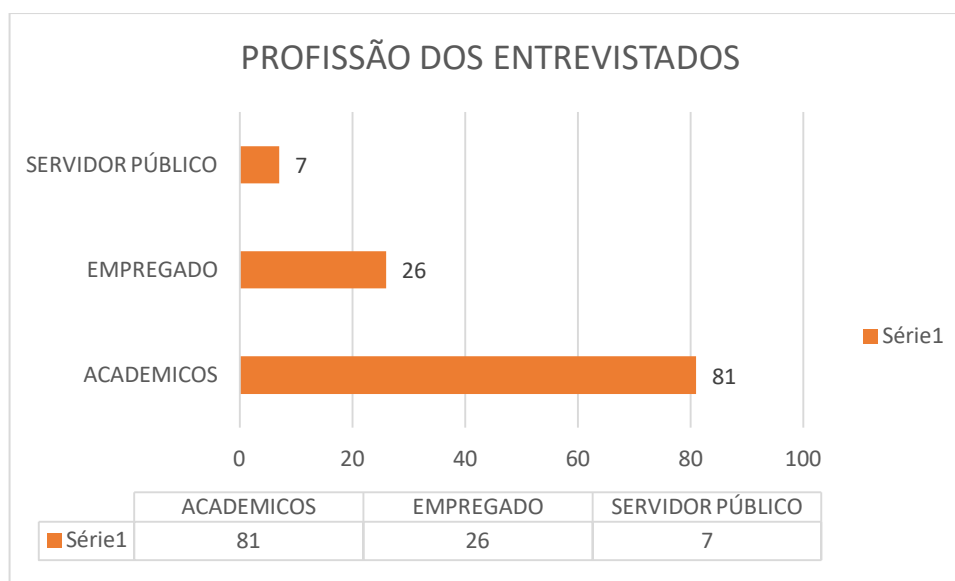
After a brief analysis of the given concept, we discuss the results collected according to socio demographic data in the next topic presented.

2.2 Socio demographic data

We answered 114 questionnaires, without nominal identification of the subjects. Below will be presented only some socio demographic data, such as profession, average age and sex of participants.

Regarding the first, profession, most of the subjects are academics, having, according to the chart below, reached more than half of the participants, with 86 students. The employees with registered papers reached the level of 26 and, finally, public servants, only 7 answered the questions presented.

Graphic I: On the exercised profession



Source: Iramuteq System

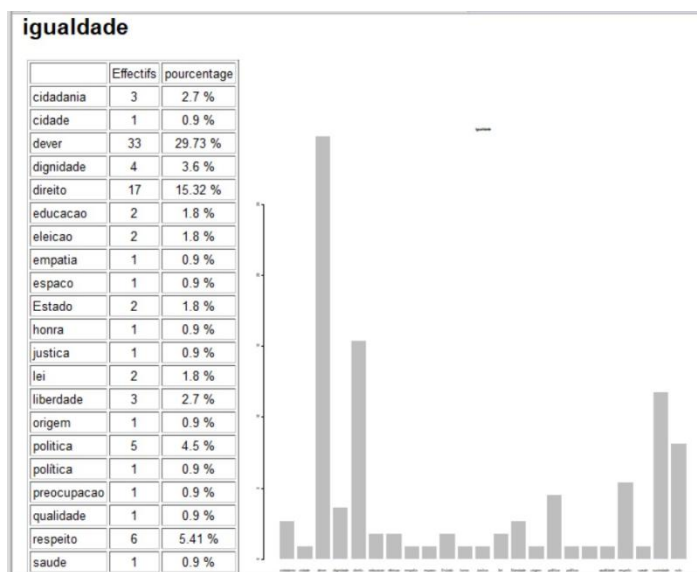
2.3 Results

I The analysis of the results of the subjects' social representation of the expression “Citizenship” had the following as the main words evoked: equality, respect, vote and right, which are analyzed in terms of representation below.

Figure 1 shows that the first most evoked word is equality. This shows that the possible social representation extracted from the word “Citizenship” is the right to have equality in the electoral process. In the table below, we can see that it is interconnected with other words, such as duty, because from the age of eighteen to seventy, voting and exercising citizenship become compulsory, and is therefore a duty of the citizen.

It is also linked to the word right, which reflects the fact that this duty is enshrined in the country's Constitution and electoral laws. In this same context of equality, the word respect is added, which shows that everyone should exercise their right to vote on equal terms, without any kind of discrimination.

Figure 1: Equality

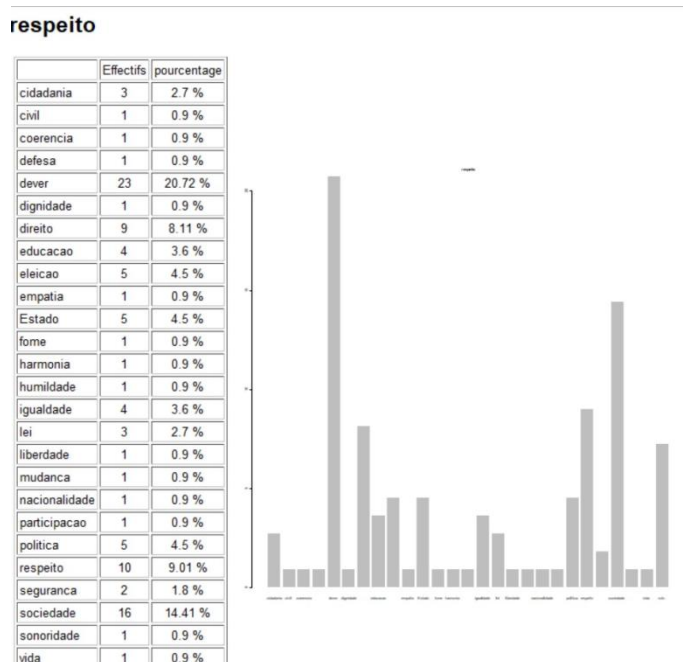


Source: Iramuteq

The second most evoked word, as shown in Figure 2, is “Respect”, which, like the word equality, is also linked to the words duty and right, but with a difference. The graphic sample shows the expression “Society”, which can demonstrate that being a citizen means having social engagement in the right to choose your representatives.

Participatory democracy takes the people of a country to the polls so that they, with respect for their right to vote, can vote for the candidate who represents them and can work in the public interest.

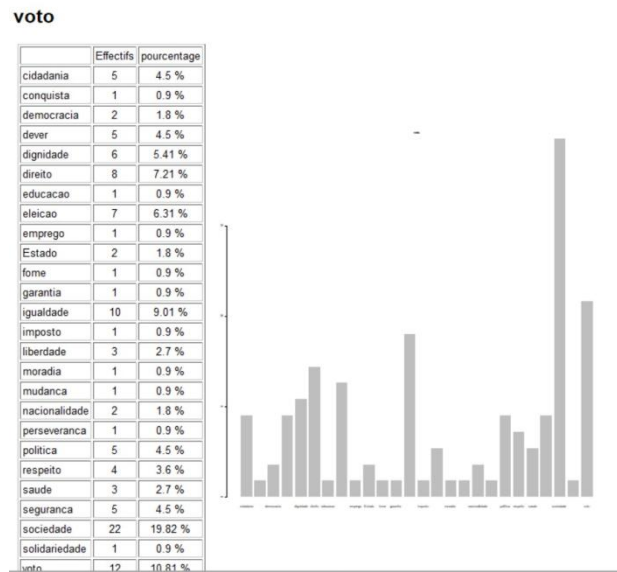
Figure 2: Respect



Source: Iramuteq

The third word, which is also possibly part of the representational system of the subjects of the research, is “Vote”. As an exercise of citizenship, it is related to equal rights, since everyone, as long as they meet the constitutional requirements, is guaranteed the right to vote and be voted for. It is related to the election, as shown in Figure 3 below, which is the moment when society, a word also highlighted, exercises its citizenship.

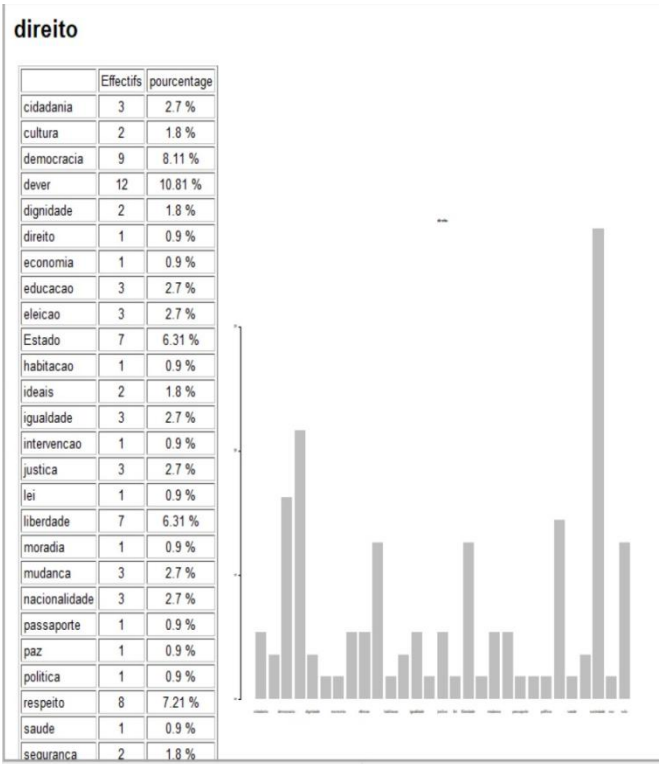
Figure 3: Vote



Source: Iramuteq

Finally, the fourth most frequently evoked word, when subjects were asked about the word Citizenship, was right. This vernacular is in line with the other three words above, because the right to vote is duly regulated in the Federal Constitution of 1988. It is a social duty, in which society can periodically choose its representatives. The highlight in Figure 4, not seen in the others, is the expression democracy, which shows that the exercise of the vote, with equality and respect, by society, are the parameters for a democratic State under the rule of law.

Figure 4: Right



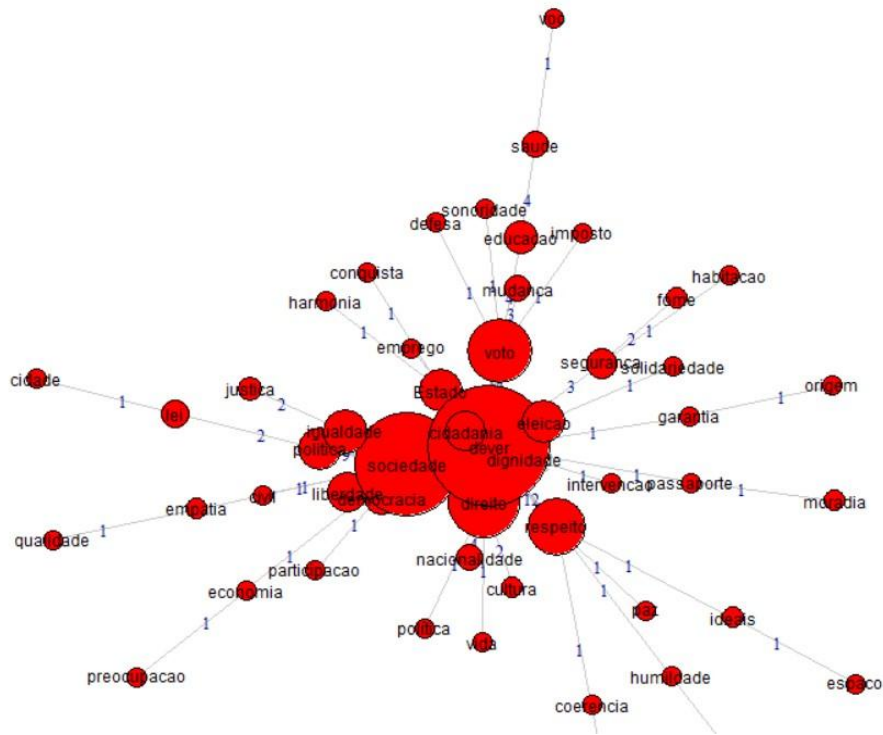
Source: Iramuteq, 2024

2.4 Similarity Analysis

Figure 5 shows that:

The most prominent circles carry the words society, dignity, election, right, vote and State. This shows that the people have the duty to vote, constitutionally regulated by the State, and do so through an electoral process. Separate from these main words, where there is no interconnection, is the word respect, which, during the exercise of voting and citizenship, requires respect for the voter, as the choice of candidates is a unique and individual act.

Figure 5: Maximum Tree



Source: Iramuteq, 2024

2.5 On the frequency analysis – second recall question

The next analysis refers to the second evocation question, answered by 109 subjects, which is: When you hear the expression “Election and Democracy”, what are the first five words that come to mind?

Figure 6 shows that, in relation to this question, the first word most evoked is “Vote”.

Figure 6: First word “Vote”



voto

	Effectifs	pourcentage
antes	1	0.92 %
bagunça	4	3.67 %
Bolsonaro	3	2.75 %
Brasil	1	0.92 %
busca	1	0.92 %
candidatos	2	1.83 %
cidadania	1	0.92 %
concorrença	1	0.92 %
confirmação	1	0.92 %
consciente	3	2.75 %
corrupção	6	5.5 %
de	1	0.92 %
debate	3	2.75 %
democracia	3	2.75 %
desconfiança	3	2.75 %
dever	2	1.83 %
dinheiro	1	0.92 %
direito	1	0.92 %
duvida	1	0.92 %
eleição	5	4.59 %
escolha	1	0.92 %
esperança	1	0.92 %
expressão	1	0.92 %
fake news	4	3.67 %
fome	1	0.92 %
fraude	2	1.83 %

fraude	2	1.83 %
garantia	1	0.92 %
governador	1	0.92 %
hipocrisia	1	0.92 %
honestidade	1	0.92 %
igualdade	2	1.83 %
insegurança	1	0.92 %
justiça	2	1.83 %
liberdade	2	1.83 %
Lula	4	3.67 %
maioria	1	0.92 %
mudança	3	2.75 %
novo	1	0.92 %
obrigatório	2	1.83 %
oportunidade	1	0.92 %
país	1	0.92 %
participação	1	0.92 %
perigo	1	0.92 %
pluralidade	1	0.92 %
poder	1	0.92 %
polarização	1	0.92 %
política	3	2.75 %
população	1	0.92 %
progresso	2	1.83 %
propaganda	2	1.83 %
representatividade	1	0.92 %
responsabilidade	2	1.83 %
roubo	1	0.92 %
sabedoria	1	0.92 %

Source: Iramuteq, 2024

The most evoked word is interconnected with others in question, such as corruption, repeated six times, which could mean that voters believe that politics is shaped by corrupt candidates. This leads to the connection of the word vote, also as a conscious vernacular, evoked three times, which defines the need for the voter to be conscious when voting and to choose responsibly, in order to achieve the expected change.

Figure 7 already reveals the second most evoked word, “Security”, which reflects, through the words linked to it that citizens think the political system is a mess, a vernacular evoked four times. In addition, corruption, as linked to voting, is also linked to this second expression, which shows that, for the citizen, as well as a search for political security, this will only happen when there are no more corrupt politicians who tarnish the country.

Figure 7: Security

seguranca

	Effectifs	pourcentage
anti	1	0.92 %
bagunca	4	3.67 %
bolsonaro	2	1.83 %
bom	1	0.92 %
candidatos	2	1.83 %
cidadania	5	4.59 %
cidadao	1	0.92 %
comida	1	0.92 %
compromisso	1	0.92 %
comunismo	1	0.92 %
confianca	1	0.92 %
consciencia	2	1.83 %
corrupcao	5	4.59 %
democracia	4	3.67 %
deputados	2	1.83 %
desenvolvimento	2	1.83 %
direita	1	0.92 %
direito	1	0.92 %
discordia	1	0.92 %
duvida	1	0.92 %
eleicao	6	5.5 %
escolha	2	1.83 %
esperanca	2	1.83 %
esquerda	2	1.83 %
facista	1	0.92 %

Source: Iramuteq, 2024

The word election is also connected with security, because the electoral process must be surrounded by it, both in terms of the voter and the candidates. Only in this way is it possible to exercise democracy with awareness, make a choice and have hope that changes will happen.

Figure 8 shows the third most evoked word, "Dispute". From the sequence of words below, it can be seen that this main word is linked to the word "mess", which reflects that, for the people interviewed, the subjects of the survey, the electoral process today symbolizes disorder, chaos.

Even though the election is a right protected by Brazil's highest legislation, there is no longer any awareness on the part of politicians who only think of themselves and the corruption to be perpetuated during their electoral mandate. Despite this, there is the word "hope", which shows that part of the population that took part in the survey still believes that there can be changes in the political reality of Brazil.

Figure 8: Dispute

disputa

	Effectifs	pourcentage
alianças	1	0.92 %
autonomia	1	0.92 %
bagunca	6	5.5 %
centro	1	0.92 %
comprometimento	1	0.92 %
comunismo	2	1.83 %
consciencia	2	1.83 %
corrupcao	3	2.75 %
debate	1	0.92 %
decepcao	1	0.92 %
decisao	1	0.92 %
democracia	3	2.75 %
desconfianca	1	0.92 %
dignidade	2	1.83 %
dinheiro	1	0.92 %
direito	5	4.59 %
discussao	1	0.92 %
dualidade	1	0.92 %
eleicao	5	4.59 %
escolha	1	0.92 %
esperanca	5	4.59 %
esquerda	1	0.92 %
exercicio	1	0.92 %
fake news	1	0.92 %
falsa	1	0.92 %
fome	1	0.92 %

Source: Iramuteq, 2024.

Figure 9 shows the last reference word, “Election”.

eleicao

	Effectifs	pourcentage
absurdo	1	0.92 %
ano	2	1.83 %
atitude	1	0.92 %
bagunca	7	6.42 %
capitalismo	1	0.92 %
cidadania	4	3.67 %
corrupcao	3	2.75 %
credibilidade	1	0.92 %
decepcao	1	0.92 %
decisao	1	0.92 %
democracia	1	0.92 %
deputado	1	0.92 %
desconfianca	1	0.92 %
dignidade	2	1.83 %
direito	2	1.83 %
ditadura	1	0.92 %
divisao	1	0.92 %
economia	2	1.83 %
eleicao	5	4.59 %
emprego	1	0.92 %
esperanca	4	3.67 %
existe	1	0.92 %
fake news	2	1.83 %
fraude	2	1.83 %
ganhar	1	0.92 %
governo	4	3.67 %
governo	4	3.67 %
guerra	1	0.92 %
honestidade	2	1.83 %
incoerencia	1	0.92 %
judiciario	1	0.92 %
legalidade	2	1.83 %
liberdade	4	3.67 %
Lula	1	0.92 %
medo	1	0.92 %
moralidade	1	0.92 %
Moro	1	0.92 %
mudanca	7	6.42 %
obrigacao	1	0.92 %
participacao	1	0.92 %
paz	1	0.92 %
politica	1	0.92 %
politico	3	2.75 %
presidente	4	3.67 %
propaganda	1	0.92 %
qualidade	2	1.83 %
representatividade	2	1.83 %
respeito	4	3.67 %
resultado	1	0.92 %
sabedoria	2	1.83 %
senador	1	0.92 %
sociedade	4	3.67 %
tragica	1	0.92 %
verdade	1	0.92 %
voto	4	3.67 %

Source: Iramuteq

The fourth most evoked word, “Election”, is related to the electoral process itself, which begins with the preliminary polls to choose the candidates of the participating parties and continues until the results are announced by the Superior Electoral Court. In Figure 9 above, it is interlinked with other vernaculars, such as “mess”, which reflects voter dissatisfaction with the election period, as they see it as a mess.

At the same time as citizens perceive the exercise of citizenship as a mess, they also see the election as hopeful, because it is the moment when society, through voting, and with respect, can elect its representative to the highest position of power, being the head of the Executive.

Despite possible corruption on the part of the candidates, the people believe in change, because they are the citizens who go to the polls to exercise their fundamental right to freedom of choice, under the terms of constitutional legality.

2.5 Textual analysis

The next representational analysis was carried out using a subjective question: “Answer in at least five lines what you think it means to exercise the right to vote in Brazil. The 109 answers generated 10 command lines, and the texts were grouped for analysis using the Iramuteq program.

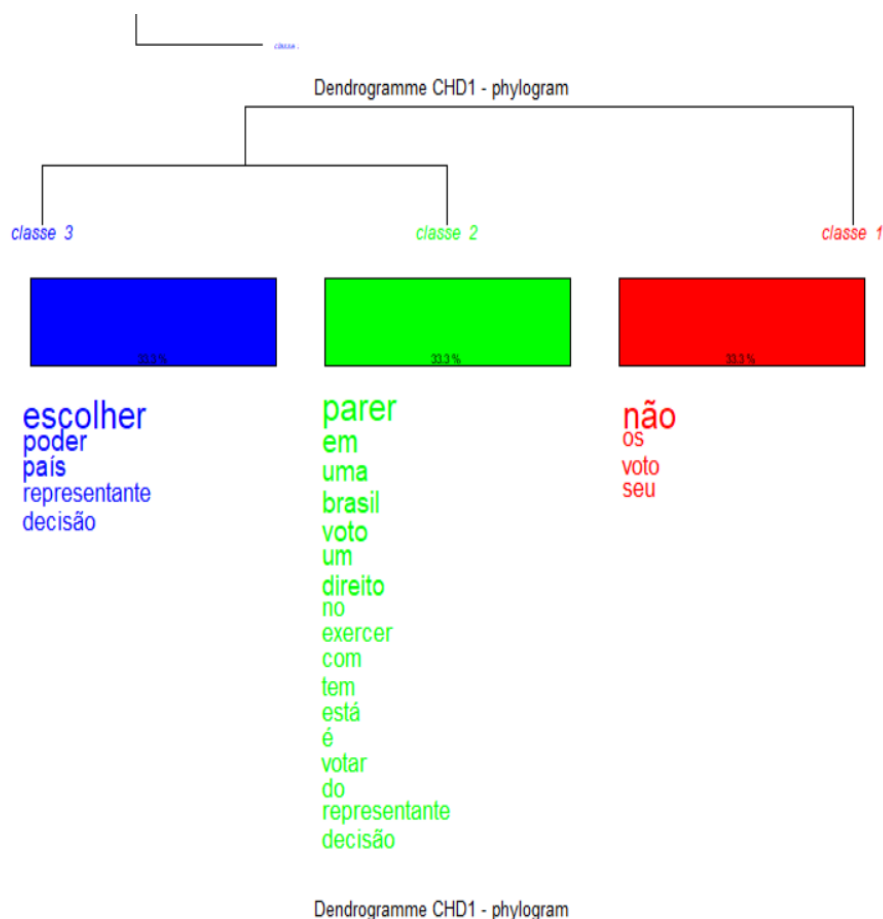
In Figure 10 below, called a dendrogram, there is a division of classes, which may or may not be interconnected. With the answers given by the subjects, the program generated three classes of words, with the first interconnected with the second and the latter with the third. The words that stand out in class one, in red, are “vote” and “your”, which shows that this exercise belongs to the person themselves, it is a very personal act that cannot be transferred to others, not even by proxy.

Class 2, interconnected with classes one and three, repeats the vernacular vote, but now in the sense of a right, since it is a constitutional norm, present in the Federal Constitution of 1988. It also shows that it is through voting that citizens can exercise their right to choose and vote for their representatives, such as those in the executive branch, who will make administrative decisions for the country and the people.

Class three is just a complement to class 2, as it reinforces the right to choose of the citizens and is, in fact, the reality of the sovereign power of people. It reinforces that the decision to elect a candidate to represent the country comes

from the citizen, when they exercise their power of decision at the ballot box in Brazilian elections.

Figure 10: Dendrogram with three word classes

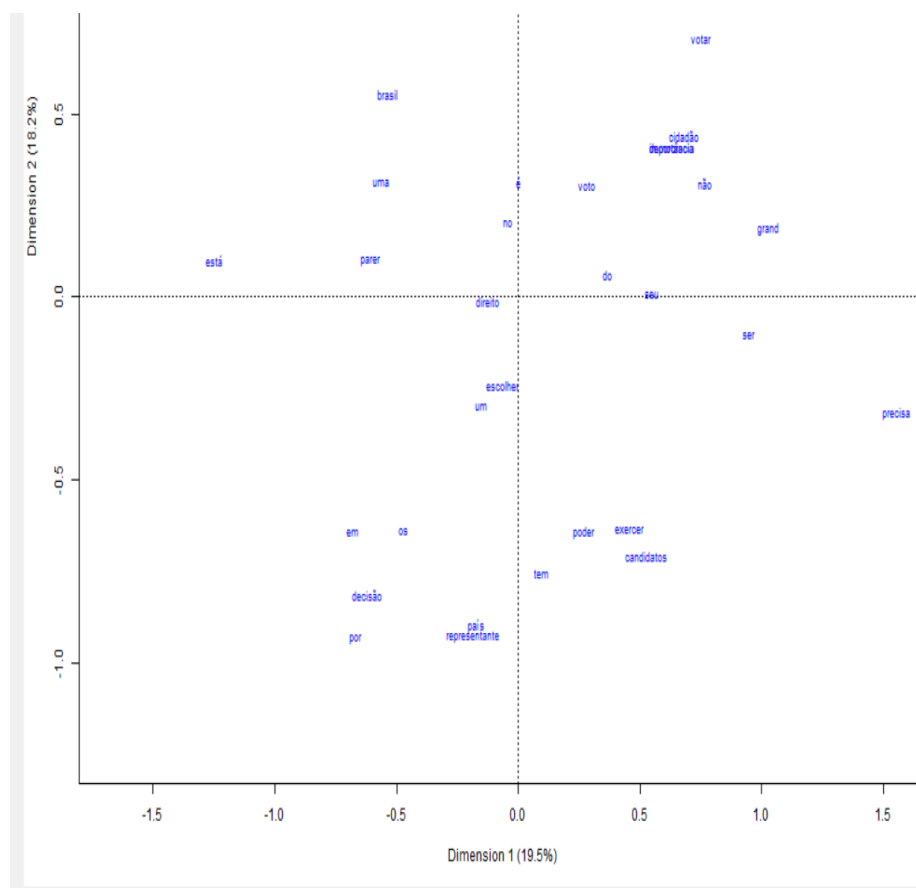


Source: Iramuteq system

Figure 11, called the prototypical analysis, simply separates the above words into quadrants. In the upper left quadrant, the word Brazil stands out, while in the right, “Election” and “Representative”, which specifies that in the country an electoral system is needed, to choose the representatives of the people to be approved for the Legislative and Executive Powers.

Figure 11: Prototypical analysis – quadrants





Source: Iramuteq, 2024

In the other two lower quadrants, it shows the vernacular “decision”, in other words, it is a process of the people, through which they seek to find the best candidate to represent them for a period of four years, or eight when it comes to senators of the Republic. It is only through this electoral process that citizens can exercise democracy as a right and a practice.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The study on the Social Representation of voting as an exercise in citizenship and democracy looked at what citizens think about this social aspect, which is the right to vote and be voted for. The research problem was answered through data analysis and a conclusion was reached based on reality, namely that voting is a fundamental exercise of citizenship and democracy, provided that it is exercised with respect, equality, security and that there is an electoral process based on the law.

The objective of studying the common and social thinking of voters in Brazil was successfully achieved. The interviews were carried out and the necessary

answers were sought to arrive at a possible representational reality on such a serious and fundamental issue for the democracy of any democratic State governed by the rule of law.

After the study, with more than 100 responses processed by the Iramuteq system and analyzed using graphs, we arrived at a possible picture of social representativeness, in which citizens claim that citizenship and democracy are duly interlinked with the exercise of voting, which is a constitutionally regulated fundamental right.

Exercising citizenship with dignity, in order to achieve democracy, is a value guaranteed to the voter and is within the specific field of rights and obligations, but for these to exist; security, equality and respect are needed when choosing representatives. The decision is a free choice and, for this, it is necessary to have security in the conduct of the electoral process, so that the process is fair, equal and based on the dignity of the voter.

REFERENCES

BARROSO, L. R. **Curso de Direito Constitucional Contemporâneo: os conceitos fundamentais e a construção do novo modelo**/Luís Roberto Barroso. – 5. Ed. São Paulo: Saraiva, 2015.

BRASIL. Constituição da República Federativa do Brasil. Disponível em: www.planalto.gov.br. Acesso em: 12 de abril de 2024.

CHAUÍ, M. **Cultura e democracia**. São Paulo, Editora Moderna, 1984

SILVA, J. A. **Curso de Direito Constitucional Positivo**. 36°. Ed. São Paulo: Malheiros Editores, 2013.

MARSHALL, T H. **Cidadania, Classe Social e Status**. Rio de Janeiro: Zahar, 1967. Essa perspectiva é desenvolvida pelo autor, no cap. III, Cidadania e Classe Social, p. 57– 114

JÚNIOR, D. da C. **Curso de Direito Constitucional**. 2. Ed. Salvador: Juspodivim, 2008.

REALE, M. **O Estado Democrático de Direito e os Conflitos de Ideologias**. 2º ed., São Paulo: Saraivas, 1999.

HABERMAS, J. 2014. Prefácio de 1990. In: HABERMAS, Jürgen. **Mudança estrutural da esfera pública**: investigações sobre uma categoria da sociedade burguesa São Paulo: Unesp.

HABERMAS, J. 2014: **DERECHOS HUMANOS Y SOBERANÍA POPULAR: LAS CONCEPCIONES LIBERAL Y REPUBLICANA** * Jurgen Habermas

DUNN, J. 2019. **Setting the People Free: The Story of Democracy** Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press.

SILVA, Nuno Cardoso. **A Globalização como factor de Exclusão**. Disponível em: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/48574731.pdf> Acesso em: 23 dez. 2020.