

Indigenous body struggles: the state of knowledge

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Abstract

In this work, we aim to present the state of knowledge about researches that address the theme of indigenous bodily struggles. Thus, the research is justified by the need to understand what has been published on this topic. For this, the procedure used was the bibliographic survey, being carried out by consulting three research bases, namely: Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Journal Portal of the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (Capes) and Brazilian Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (BDTD); followed by reading and refining the data. The results pointed to the scarcity of researches related to the listed theme, being found only 6 works and that approached only three fights: Kapi, Xondaro and Ikindene.

Keywords: Indigenous bodily struggles. Indigenous struggles. State of knowledge.

Lutas corporais indígenas: o estado do conhecimento

Resumo

Neste trabalho objetivamos apresentar o estado do conhecimento realizado acerca de pesquisas que abordam a temática das lutas corporais indígenas. Assim, a pesquisa se justifica pela necessidade de se entender o que vem sendo publicado acerca desta temática. Para isto, o procedimento utilizado foi o levantamento bibliográfico, sendo realizado por meio de consulta à três bases de pesquisa, quais sejam: *Scientific Electronic Library Online* (SciELO), Portal de Periódicos da Coordenadoria de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (Capes) e Biblioteca Digital Brasileira de Teses e Dissertações (BDTD); seguido da leitura e refinamento dos dados. Os resultados apontaram para a escassez de pesquisas com relação ao tema elencado, sendo encontrados apenas 6 trabalhos e que abordavam apenas três lutas: Kapi, Xondaro e Ikindene.

Palavras-chave: Lutas corporais indígenas. Lutas indígenas. Estado do conhecimento.



1 Introduction

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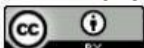
Fighting is one of the mandatory contents in the Common National Curricular Base (BNCC, 2018) for the subject of Physical Education. However, according to Pereira and Souza (2021), indigenous body fights always remain in the background or are not even mentioned in this content; and in general, this content when treated at school refers to approaches of fights such as Jiu-Jitsu, Karate, Judo, Kung-Fu and Capoeira. Thus, the following research question was raised: how is the research on indigenous body fights presented?

Thus, this paper aims to present a state of knowledge through a bibliographic survey of research on indigenous body fights. For such weaving, three research bases were consulted, namely: Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Portal de Periódicos da Coordenadoria de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (Capes) and Biblioteca Digital Brasileira de Teses e Dissertações (BDTD). These databases were selected because they are open access, in addition to having works with possible academic/scientific quality.

This research is justified by the need of the researchers themselves to provide interested parties with an introduction to understand what has been published on this theme. The state of knowledge on this theme is essential, because

When we think of the cultural processes involving the populations of the countryside, forests, and waters, we recall the struggle against a capitalist model of development that considered these populations as invisible, overshadowing them in the silencing and destruction of their knowledge (PEREIRA; GOMES, 2018, p. 125).

Thus, this text is divided into: the "Introduction" which exposes the guiding question, the objective, the justification and the presentation of the sections of the text; the "Methodology" which describes how the research was carried out, the descriptors and





the bibliographic bases consulted; the "Results and discussions" which presents the works found in the search and what they deal with; and finally the "Final considerations" in which we resume the objective of the proposed study and reflect on the main ideas and limitations.

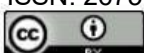
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2 Methodology

The state of knowledge of a given theme brings the challenge of analyzing and discussing academic productions in various fields of knowledge, trying to redarguing which characteristics and perspectives are being honored. The mapping of scientific studies related to the theme allows us to understand the existing productions in the field of science, besides pointing out the main focuses of these studies, unveiling the theoretical and methodological foundations used from the findings. In this way, the state of knowledge leads us to map and dialogue about the different productions in several fields of knowledge.

This research was called state of knowledge because it approaches only one sector of the publications on the studied theme (ROMANOWSKI; ENS, 2006), in the case of this work: the indigenous body fights. For this, the procedure used was to consult three research bases: Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Periodical Portal of the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (Capes) and the Brazilian Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (BDTD).

The following descriptors were used for the search in the three databases: indigenous fight, indigenous fights, indigenous body fights; as well as terms that refer to indigenous body fights: Xondaro, Ikindene, Huka-huka and Uka-uka, Kapi, djassú, Aipenkuit, Oi'o, Wa'i, Otaarünü, xavante boys' fight, and maraca fight. The descriptors were chosen from the reading of Pereira (2021) in which the book "Práticas corporais indígenas: jogos, brincadeiras e lutas para implementação da lei 11.645/08 na Educação Física escolar" gives a more in-depth description of indigenous fights. The search was conducted on May 29, 2021, in a simple, non-Boolean search, without combining



descriptors. After the search, the results were refined by reading and analyzing the papers.

3 Results and Discussion

The consultation of the three selected databases was summarized in the following table:

Chart 1 - Search results

Descriptors	Source	Total de registros
indigenous body fights indigenous body fights Indian wrestling	Scielo	0
	Capes Periodicals Portal	0
	BDTD	0
Xondaro	Scielo	0
	Capes Periodicals Portal	3
	BDTD	4
Huka-huka Huka huka Uka-uka	Scielo	0
	Capes Periodicals Portal	0
	BDTD	0
Ikindene	Scielo	0
	Capes Periodicals Portal	1
	BDTD	1
Idajassú	Scielo	0
	Capes Periodicals Portal	0
	BDTD	0
Aipenkuit	Scielo	0
	Capes Periodicals Portal	0
	BDTD	0
Kapi	Scielo	1
	Capes Periodicals Portal	0
	BDTD	0
Otaarünü	Scielo	0
	Capes Periodicals Portal	0
	BDTD	0
fight of the xavante children	Scielo	0
	Capes Periodicals Portal	0
	BDTD	0
luta do maracá	Scielo	0
	Capes Periodicals Portal	0
	BDTD	0

Source: Own authorship



From Chart 1 we can see the lack of research on this theme, and despite the inexpressive number of studies found, it is necessary to comment on each one of them. But before turning to the discussion of the papers found, it is important to explain a few points.

In the Scielo, Portal de Periódicos da Capes and BDTD bases, when searching with the descriptor "indigenous struggle", 3, 15 and 17 papers were found, respectively, but these did not refer to the theme in question, since they addressed the issue of social and political struggles of indigenous peoples. Thus, we have Chart 2 with the result of the works, after the search refinement.

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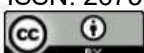
Table 2 – Search results after refinement

Autor	Título	ano
CARVALHO, Fernando Orphão de.	<i>Obscure cognates and lexical reconstruction: notes on the diachrony of the Xinguan Arawak languages</i>	2016
MENDES, Mara Souza Ribeiro.	Xondaro - an ethnography of Guarani myth and dance as ethical languages	2006
CATIB, Norma Ornelas Montebugnoli.	The Rites of the Xondaro Dances and of the Guarani M'Bya - Agúapeu Village's Terreiro and Circle Dances	2010
SANTOS, Lucas Keese dos.	The elusiveness of the xondaro - movement and political action among the Guarani Mbya	2017
GUIMARÃES, Denise Guimarães.	Indigenous dances in initial training in Physical Education: a didactic app for the 2nd cycle of elementary school	2019
COSTA, Eduardo. Carlos	Ikindene hekugu: an ethnography of struggle and fighters in the Upper Xingu	2013

Source: Own authorship

For the result with the descriptor "Xondaro" 4 works were found in the BDTD; and 3 more in the Portal de Periódicos da Capes, however, these were repeated from the BDTD searches. The same thing happened with the descriptor "Ikindene" in which the only work was found in both research bases.

In the first database consulted, Scielo, only one work was found with the descriptor "Kapi", for which the work entitled *Obscure cognates and lexical reconstruction: notes on the diachrony of the Xinguan Arawak languages* by Fernando Orphão de Carvalho (2016) was detected. In this first work he brings a semantic discussion of some words in Waurá/Mehinaku Amerindian language, in which the author first mentions about the noun huka-huka and refers to a



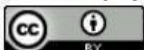


fight similar to a melee of ritualistic importance in the Upper Xingu region. In the text he ends up explaining that the words *kapi* and *Yawalapiti kari*, both nouns, denote the fight *huka-huka*, constituting semantically altered reflections of the etymonym *khapi* which means "hand".

About this statement of the author we infer that the *kapi* fight is known by non-Indigenous people as female *Huka-Huka*. Such fighting is practiced during a ritual, which is described by the names *Yamurikumü*, *Yamurikumã* or *Iamurikuma*. This ritual where this female fight takes place is known as the party of the superwomen or the party of the hyperwomen (PEREIRA, 2021). The party is like a kind of revenge of the women, where they sing in the form of satires directed at men and at the end there is a physical fight (MELLO, 2005).

The BDTD search found four papers with the descriptor "Xondaro". The first study is the master thesis of Mara Souza Ribeiro Mendes (2006), from the Graduate Program in Social Communication of the University of Southern Santa Catarina, entitled "Xondaro - an ethnography of Guarani myth and dance as ethical languages". The research is presented as an anthropological study that approaches the mythical relations that involve the ritual dances of the Mbya-Guarani people from Morro dos Cavalos, Santa Catarina region. Through photographic records of the daily life of the village, we sought to analyze the myth-ritus binomial as an organizational factor of the social system of this community, specifically the Xondaro Art. The author discusses the relations between anthropology and language, contextualizing this understanding from the point of view of dance as a language of movement. Afterwards, she presents a contextualization of the historical and geographical background of the Morro dos Cavalos region as indigenous land, highlighting the reflection and analysis of research on the Guarani. Mendes (2006) also presents the cultural specificities of the current residents of the village; and addresses the historicity of myth, from the Greek peoples to modern times, highlighting the Xondaro Art, in ethnic language and resistance to the advances of the surrounding society. During the study, the author analyzed the collected data, in which she made explicit the considerations in relation to the myth-ritus binomial as ethnic languages.

The second study is the master's thesis of Norma Ornelas Montebugnoli Catib (2010), entitled "The Rites of the Xondaro and Terreiro Dances of the Guarani Village M'Bya - Agúapeu and Circle Dances". The research aimed at identifying the matrixes present in the indigenous dances that manifest themselves in contemporary circle dances. A structured interview was carried out with 13 adult subjects, of both sexes, with different

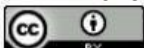




age groups, who are part of the Aguapeú Village and who have a direct relationship with the rituals of indigenous dances of the community. The results of the study indicate that the sacred songs and dances have a common relationship to all indigenous ceremonies of celebration, regardless of the reasons. These rituals when experienced, demonstrate a form of connection with the Gods, but on the other hand, they have the intention of gathering the community to experience fun, which characterizes them both in the contexts of the sacred, and in the perspective of leisure.

The third study is the master's dissertation by Lucas Keese dos Santos (2017), from the Graduate Program in Social Anthropology, of the Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and Human Sciences, with the title "The dodging of the xondaro - movement and political action among the Guarani Mbya". The research aims to discuss how relations with otherness operate politically among the Guarani Mbya. The study emerges as a movement capable of helping to think about the dynamics between bodies, collectives, and worlds, presenting itself as a movement that is neither exclusively positive nor exclusively negative. The Xondaro dance is characterized by the presence of a conductor who, at the moment of the ritual, initially leads the steps that must be followed by the other participants. The author concludes the work by demonstrating how the Guarani dodge is an element (movement) capable of producing, simultaneously, opposing and interdependent resistance possibilities.

And finally, the fourth study entitled "Indigenous dances in initial training in Physical Education: didactic app for the 2nd cycle of elementary school", master's dissertation by Denise Guimarães (2019), from the Graduate Program in Human Development and Technologies, of the Paulista State University. The research makes reference to regulations that contribute to the insertion of indigenous dances in school subjects in basic education, such as Law 11.645 (2008) that makes the study of Afro-Brazilian and indigenous history and culture mandatory at this stage of education, and Resolution No. 2 (2015) of the National Education Council that determines the insertion of themes on ethnic-racial relations, as well as the use of Information and Communication Technologies in the initial training of undergraduate courses. Based on what the BNCC





states about the proposal to teach indigenous dances in Physical Education classes, the study aims to produce and analyze an app about indigenous dances, to be used on mobile devices, in the initial training in Physical Education for the second cycle of elementary education. The research was conducted with 40 students of the undergraduate course in Physical Education from a private institution in the interior of the state of São Paulo and showed that, in an attempt to investigate the experiences of the subjects with indigenous dances and dances at school and outside of it, from basic education to higher education, the experiences with dances are centered in the first stage of basic education, explained in times of festivals and commemorative dates, with no mention of experiences in higher education.

At another moment of this same research, the objective was to elaborate and analyze a didactic material in the form of an app about indigenous dances, with a view to the teaching skills of the BNCC for the second cycle of elementary school. For the production of the material, there was the inclusion of media (images, texts, videos and documentaries), in which four Brazilian indigenous dances appeared: Cariáçu dance, in the North; Toré dance, in the Northeast; Ema dance, in the Midwest region; and Xondaro dance, in the Southeast and South regions. It is important to say that although the focus of the work is the use of technological resources, in the perspective of the construction of an application for mobile devices, the learning process is also being put into question in terms of discussions about ethnic-racial relations, even if it is not the main purpose, fulfilling what is proposed by the aforementioned normative.

It is noted that all the works bring the Xondaro (which means soldier in Portuguese) as a dance, because it is a ritual practiced only for defense and involves dance, music and body fighting (PEREIRA, 2021). Mendes (2006) reports that the practice of Xondaro serves to learn to defend oneself from possible aggressions, being practiced every day with the function of "warming up" the body to protect from evil spirits and denoting a peculiar technique that provides agility, sense of direction and self-control.

With the descriptor "Ikindene" we found the doctoral thesis, from the Graduate Program in Social Anthropology at the Federal University of São Carlos, by the author





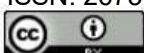
Carlos Eduardo Costa (2013), which was based on the indigenous sportive fight, more specifically the High Xingu fight (kal. ikindene) with the title "Ikindene hekugu: an ethnography of the fight and the fighters in the High Xingu". In this study, the author carried out an anthropological debate about sporting practices, describing and analyzing the sports played in different social contexts. In the weaving of the work was carried out an ethnographic cut with the Kalapalo indigenous people of the village Tanguro, in the Upper Xingu. The author emphasizes the High Xingu fight (kal. ikindene).

What we can see about the state of knowledge is the scarcity of literature on the indigenous theme of indigenous body fights, which are not emphasized in academic productions. What ends up corresponding in lack of research material for teachers or source of material to be addressed in the content required by the BNCC, especially in the area of Physical Education, where the theme of fights is mandatory. What ends up being consistent, for example, with the findings of Pereira and Souza (2021) who conducted a research on the approach of indigenous body fights in the classroom with Physical Education teachers of the city of Fortaleza, pointing as a result that such teachers did not deal with the theme, because they had no training (initial or continuing) and also reported the lack of material to work on the subject.

4 Final considerations

In this work we aimed to present a state of knowledge through a bibliographic survey of research on the theme of indigenous body fights; in which we could see that there is a lack of literature, because only 6 studies were found, namely the studies of Carvalho (2016), Mendes (2006), Catib (2010), Santos (2017), Guimarães (2019) and Costa (2013). The results addressed only the Kapi (1 paper), Xondaro (4 papers) and Ikindene (1 paper) fights.

We denote that the relevance of this research consists in the fact that, from it, it was possible to carry out a survey of publications on indigenous body fights and perform an analysis that made it possible to understand what had already been produced. Thus, we intend to contribute to a reflection on ethno-racial knowledge, considering that more





studies on the theme of indigenous body fights are necessary. And that this gap of study on this theme reminds us of the importance of having, as well as disseminating academic materials, and consider exploring more about this content and encourage research on the indigenous theme.

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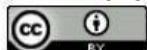
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