


**GOOGLE FIGURES AND THE REPRESENTATIONS OF IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN
TERESINA-PIAUI**

**O GOOGLE FIGURENS E AS REPRESENTAÇÕES DE CRIANÇAS IMIGRANTES EM
TERESINA-PIAUI**

**GOOGLE FIGURES Y LAS REPRESENTACIONES DE NIÑOS INMIGRANTES EN
TERESINA-PIAUI**

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ABSTRACT

The history of humanity has always been marked by the phenomenon of immigration, surrounded by diverse factors and violence, especially against children who experience double otherness—for being both children and immigrants. |This study, an integral part of the research conducted for the Master's in Communication (PPGCOM-UFPI), proposes to analyze the representations of immigrant children in Teresina, Piauí, especially Venezuelan children, using Google Figures. Public domain Figures depicting immigrant children in Teresina, Piauí, interact with the transmission and construction of meaning, acting as mediators of cultural and social practices. Therefore, we ask: how are immigrant children in Teresina, Piauí, especially Venezuelan children, represented in the Figures circulating on Google Figures? What are the implications for the social construction of immigrant childhood? The research adopts a qualitative approach, using digital tools for Figure selection. The descriptor used was "immigrant children in Teresina, Piauí," resulting in a page with 19 Figures, which we organized into a block and selected as observables for the research. The Figures were described and analyzed based on their iconic function—the Figure shown; indexical function—marks of exclusion, suffering, or resistance; and symbolic function—the construction of narratives and symbols related to the sociocultural context. The results highlight stigmatizing symbolic and iconographic patterns that shape a subject in a situation of social vulnerability, associated with poverty, lack of dignity, and neglect—stereotypical otherness.

Keywords: Children and Immigration. Children and Otherness. Internet. Google Figures.

RESUMO

A história da humanidade sempre esteve marcada pelo fenômeno da imigração, cercada por diversos fatores e violências, especialmente contra as crianças que sofrem alteridade dupla – por serem tanto crianças quanto imigrantes. |O presente estudo, parte integrante da pesquisa realizada no mestrado em Comunicação (PPGCOM-UFPI), propõe analisar as representações de crianças imigrantes em Teresina-PI, especialmente as venezuelanas, a partir do uso do Google Figurens, pois as Figurens disponíveis em domínio público que retratam crianças imigrantes em Teresina-PI interagem com a transmissão e construção de

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sentidos, operando como mediadores de práticas culturais e sociais. Portanto, questionamos: como as crianças imigrantes em Teresina-PI, em especial as venezuelanas, são representadas nas Figurens que circulam no Google Figurens? Quais são as implicações para a construção social da infância imigrante? A pesquisa adota uma abordagem qualitativa, utilizando ferramentas digitais para a seleção de Figurens. Utilizou-se como descritor “crianças imigrantes em Teresina-PI”, resultando em uma página com 19 Figurens, que organizamos em um bloco, selecionadas como observável da pesquisa. As Figurens foram descritas e analisadas com base na função *icônica* – o mostrado, *índice* – marcas de exclusão, sofrimento ou resistência; marcas da imigração (bandeiras, roupas, etc.) e *simbólica* – construção de narrativas e símbolos relacionados ao contexto sociocultural. Os resultados destacam padrões simbólicos e iconográficos estigmatizantes que formam um sujeito em situação de vulnerabilidade social, associados à pobreza, falta de dignidade e descaso – alteridade estereotipada.

Palavras-chave: Criança e Imigração. Criança e Alteridade. Internet. Google Figurens.

RESUMEN

La historia de la humanidad siempre ha estado marcada por el fenómeno de la inmigración, rodeado de diversos factores y violencia, especialmente contra niños que experimentan una doble alteridad: su condición de niños e inmigrantes. Este estudio, parte integral de la investigación de la Maestría en Comunicación (PPGCOM-UFPI), propone analizar las representaciones de niños inmigrantes en Teresina, Piauí, especialmente niños venezolanos, mediante Google Imágenes. Las imágenes de dominio público que representan a niños inmigrantes en Teresina, Piauí, interactúan con la transmisión y construcción de significado, actuando como mediadoras de prácticas culturales y sociales. Por lo tanto, nos preguntamos: ¿cómo se representa a los niños inmigrantes en Teresina, Piauí, especialmente a los niños venezolanos, en las imágenes que circulan en Google Imágenes? ¿Cuáles son las implicaciones para la construcción social de la infancia inmigrante? La investigación adopta un enfoque cualitativo, utilizando herramientas digitales para la selección de imágenes. El descriptor utilizado fue "niños inmigrantes en Teresina, Piauí", lo que resultó en una página con 19 imágenes, que organizamos en un bloque y seleccionamos como observables para la investigación. Las imágenes se describieron y analizaron en función de su función icónica (la Figuren mostrada); su función indicial (marcas de exclusión, sufrimiento o resistencia); y su función simbólica (la construcción de narrativas y símbolos relacionados con el contexto sociocultural). Los resultados destacan patrones simbólicos e iconográficos estigmatizantes que configuran a un sujeto en situación de vulnerabilidad social, asociado con la pobreza, la falta de dignidad y el abandono (otredad estereotipada).

Palabras clave: Infancia e Inmigración. Infancia y Otredad. Internet. Google Imágenes.

1 INTRODUCTION

The report published in 2024 by the UN Agency for Migration (IOM), informs³ that in 2022, the estimate was about 281 million migrants worldwide, corresponding to approximately 3.6% of the global population. It also informs that the number of asylum seekers increased from 4.1 million in 2020 to 5.4 million in 2022, representing a growth of more than 30%. The report further emphasizes that international migration remains a driving force for human development and economic growth, evidenced by a more than 650% increase in international remittances from 2000 to 2022, which jumped from 128 billion to 831 billion dollars.

The increase in the migratory process, according to the report (UN-IOM, 2024), represents what have been designated as "modern immigration processes", generally motivated by factors such as wars, natural disasters, political persecution, intensification of violence against ethnic and religious minorities, as well as against women and the LGBTQIAPN+ ⁴population. The consequences of the neoliberal arrangement are also highlighted, where the precariousness of work and social inequality are central, leading several peoples to see migration as a chance to improve living conditions and survival (COGO, 2018; MILESI; MARINUCCI, 2005).

It should be noted that the history of humanity has always been marked by the phenomenon of immigration, surrounded by various factors and violence, especially against children who suffer double alterity – because they are both children and immigrants. Among the recent studies on immigrant childhood, the one by Bhabha (2014) stands out, in his book *Child Migration and Human Rights in a Global Age*, which expresses a significant concern with the reception of immigrant and refugee children. This concern arises from the updating of global immigration treaties, which recognize a space of greater vulnerability and the need for specific protection for the full development of these children (GRAJZER; VERONESE; SCHLINDWEIN, 2021). In addition, Bhabha points out that the relationship between each state and the understanding of the migratory process, as well as historical and cultural interferences, directly influence the formulation of thought and guarantees, and protections that are equivalent or not to the rights of these children, since children are often treated only

³<https://brasil.un.org/pt-br/268772-onu-n%C3%BAmero-de-pessoas-deslocadas-alcan%C3%A7a-cifra-recorde-de-117-milh%C3%B5es>

⁴ Acronym that represents the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities that encompasses Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Pansexual, Non-binary and others (represented by the + sign)

as objects, resulting in the adoption of an adult-centric perspective that justifies the punishment of irregular immigration as a supposed guarantee of security for these individuals.

Added to this concern is the increase in the movement of children between territories, as pointed out in the report *Refuge in Numbers* by OBMigra (JUNGER *et al.*, 2022). According to the document, most applicants for recognition of refugee status in Brazil, in 2021, were under 15 years old, totaling 9,214, a number higher than the age group of 25 to 40 years, which represents 9,096. This requires special attention both from the government and from studies that seek a more accurate understanding of the phenomenon.

In September 2015, an Figure reignited the debate on the global migration crisis and showed a child in a tragic scene that shocked the world (Figure 01):

Figure 1

Paramilitary police officer observes the body of a lifeless child on a beach in Greece



Source: Photograph by Nilüfer Demir/AP, 2015

Nilüfer Demir's photograph depicted a three-year-old boy found dead on a beach on the island of Kos, Greece, where several migrants drowned after an overcrowded dinghy capsized while trying to reach Greek territory. The little one was from Kobane, a Syrian city on the border with Turkey, where there were severe conflicts between Kurdish forces and the Islamic State that year. He was accompanied by his mother and a brother, who also did not survive. Only the father was rescued.

At the time, the photo became one of the most talked about subjects on social networks around the world⁵; However, the reaction of European authorities and other

⁵ Shocking photo of dead boy reveals cruelty of migrant crisis. Available at: <https://g1.globo.com/mundo/noticia/2015/09/foto-chocante-de-menino-morto-vira-simbolo-da-crise-/migratoria-europeia.html>. Accessed on 03/07/2023.

countries concerned about migration has been exactly the opposite. Italy, for example, decided to block access to ports for boats that rescue refugees at sea and further tightened its migration policies, a move also taken by US President Donald Trump⁶. Regarding the immigration records of children, Demartini (2021) discusses that, when considering the experience of children in the midst of these processes, it is observed that, even in the most recent reports of the entities that monitor migratory flows, there are few references to the living conditions, the development of children, and the formation of their identities in the new nation; only data related to social assistance and education are available, as can be seen in the "Annual Report 2021 (2011-2020) – A decade of challenges for immigration and refuge in Brazil", which in the following edition already brought data focused on migrant childhood and the issues surrounding it.

International immigration processes are not homogeneous and result from various factors, such as economic, geographic, demographic and political. In this sense, although the most sought after destinations remain concentrated in North America, especially in the United States (USA), and in Europe, the evolution of migratory patterns has shown that new countries are becoming targeted targets. In relation to Latin America, in the twenty-first century, countries such as Brazil, Chile and Argentina have registered an increase in the entry of Latin immigrants into their territories. It is in this context that Brazil and other countries in the Global South have become attractive destinations for immigrants (CAVALCANTI; OLIVE TREE; SILVA, 2021).

As far as Venezuelan immigrants are concerned, many embark on this transition accompanied by young children. In Teresina, Piauí, their presence has become increasingly frequent. In 2009, the city received about 206 Venezuelans from the Warao indigenous tribe, including children and adolescents, who represented 40% of this group. In March 2022, 306 Venezuelans, divided into 66 families, were registered, according to data from the Municipal Secretariat of Social Assistance and Integrated Policies (2021). It is important to emphasize that Teresina is not considered a receiving pole of immigrants, which highlights the heterogeneity of the migratory processes in progress.

The complexity that this phenomenon entails at social, institutional, economic and cultural levels is accentuated by the discursive aspects often influenced by traditional local

⁶ 3 years later, a photo of a Syrian boy killed on the beach left us no legacy of sensitivity and empathy. Available at: <https://esportes.yahoo.com/noticias/3-anos-depois-foto-de-menino-sirio-morto-na-praia-nao-nos-deixou-nenhum-legado-de-sensibilidade-e-empatia-150635369.html>. Accessed on 03/07/2023.

communication vehicles and the internet, such as the use of Figures from Google Figures. The present study, an integral part of the research carried out in the master's degree in Communication (PPGCOM-UFPI), proposes to analyze the representations of immigrant children in Teresina-PI, especially Venezuelan ones, from the use of Google Figures, because the Figures available in the public domain that portray immigrant children in Teresina-PI interact with the transmission and construction of meanings, operating as mediators of cultural and social practices. Therefore, we question: how are immigrant children in Teresina-PI, especially Venezuelan children, represented in the Figures that circulate on Google Figures? What are the implications for the social construction of immigrant childhood?

2 THE COMPASS CALLED GOOGLE – PRODUCTION OF SUBJECTIVITIES

Every machine is designed by humans for a specific function. Even with the complexity involved in the mathematical formulation of automation and the development of what is called "artificial intelligence", human influence remains constant. This influence inevitably brings with it subjective nuances related to the formation of the human being, in addition to moral and social values (SILVA, 2022). In addition, the architecture of the tools allows interaction with the user, favoring a more accurate equation of results and the search experience.

In view of these factors, it is utopian to think that the digital universe is free from the oppressions of the real world, which have been readjusted to a new system and a new technology that, at times, acts aggressively and, at others, in the light of disguises, in several layers. These processes are deeper and, in some cases, even more difficult to recognize due to new technology and automated capabilities.

In an investigation into how the world's largest search engine is influenced by subjective aspects, Noble (2021) discusses in his publication, from a personal perspective, how Google presents prejudiced results; However, the platform must remain under constant surveillance and updating its algorithms. The author mentions, for example, a case in which, when searching for Figures with the word "gorilla", the results include representations of black people, which she classifies as "racist algorithms". This process reveals a social and political problem that manifests itself on screens and takes on even greater unintended proportions due to the dependence on this service by institutions such as libraries, schools and government entities.

This occurs, according to Izquierdo (2015), through its complex algorithms that connect search keywords to a set of information collected from users to offer quick results.

Despite the automation of these mechanisms, it is essential to recognize that their construction and maintenance still require considerable human effort, both in internal interventions in programming and in the formulation of strategies influenced by external search interests. This involves a process that incorporates, according to Noble (2021), subjectivities, cultural pluralities, and social representations in the definition of algorithms. This can be observed in the different search results carried out during this research, reflecting the dynamism caused by the updates of the search engine and the social context, while keeping migrant children among the social markers associated with stereotypes.

For Silva (2022), there is an even deeper challenge when dealing with oppressive technologies, as these procedures often foster microaggressions, classified into types: microinsults, microinvalidations, miseducation and misinformation – offenses – which may include insults or derogatory expressions – of various linguistic representations, intentional or not, directed at minority or vulnerable groups,

In addition to oppressions, microaggressions in the digital environment, sustained by the hegemony of the internet, feed what is called "data colonialism": an "emerging, social, and economic order that appropriates human life to continuously extract data for profit" (COULDRY, 2020, p. 04). This reinforces how the forms of violence and domination experienced in the real world and the negative experiences of certain groups appropriated new technologies, revealing delicate layers and, in some cases, difficult to define.

In a mapping of newspaper headlines, Cogo (2013) observed a "criminalization" of immigrants due to a negative and police-like semanticization of the statements. It turns out that this same media production is also transferred to the digital network, considering that newspapers make the production of content available on the Web, being tracked and made available by the Google search engine, becoming something to be consumed by network navigators with the same stigmas that will be addressed in the analysis of this article.

In a debate about how Google is accompanied by subjective aspects in its results, Noble (2021) states that, although it is frequently analyzed and updated by algorithms, the tool still offers results that associate groups with racist and prejudiced terms, resulting in an "algorithmic oppression" that does not result only from a possible error in the system, but it is often part of their feeding and maintenance. It is, according to the author, a process that highlights a social and political problem that enters the screens and takes on even greater proportions.

Thus, several researchers have discussed how the results delivered by search engines, including Google, end up producing racist technologies that, through content recommendations, facial recognition, Figure processing, among others, enable the strengthening of prejudices and intensify processes of marginalization and social exclusion of certain social groups (SILVA, 2022; COULDRY, 2020).

Thus, immigrants also go through a process of marginalization, something that has been reinforced both in the period of the Covid-19 pandemic and now with the US policies of mass deportation, which make them carry a negative stigma in their luggage, both with an Figure of an invader or someone who lives in extreme social and economic fragility (BRASIL, 2021).

Therefore, the internet is one of the most powerful technological tools of humanity, generating significant impacts at a global level, leading, according to Fragoso (2007), to changes in science, culture, economy and in the ways of thinking, communicating and interacting, due to the wide possibilities of access and dissemination of information.

And with the increasing complexity of navigation and the increasing volume of information available on the internet, search engines are essential for browsers, with the ability to index pages created by and for users. There are several existing tools such as Yahoo, Bing, but Google stands out, which has enabled a new way of organizing and structuring information bases, with different levels and presentations of results according to what one wants to search, says Vaidhyanathan (2011), becoming one of the most prominent global institutions, with the intention of answering all the world's questions in an ideal way. **The question is, how does Google respond? What do you answer? What impacts do subjective impacts have on production?**

3 METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES

The research adopted a qualitative approach, using digital tools for the selection of Figures and their messages. The descriptor used was: "Venezuelan children in Teresina-PI", which resulted in a page with 19 Figures, organized by us in a block. The Figures were described and analyzed based on *the iconic* function – the shown, *index* – marks of exclusion, suffering or resistance; marks of immigration (flags, clothes, etc.) and *symbolic* – construction of narratives and symbols related to the sociocultural context (PIERCE, 2003)

The observables of the search included Figures of Venezuelan children between 2021 and 2022, which circulated on Google Figures and we highlighted the first page of a search

carried out on 26 and 28.12.2021, 06.08.2022 and 09.11.2022, highlighting common elements in the visual language, in addition to the regional, ethnic, racial and gender traits present in each Figure, as well as the changes observed in different time periods.

The use of Google Figures as a research tool proved to be particularly relevant since this platform aggregates a vast visual collection that, at the same time, reflects and shapes the public perception of complex issues such as immigration.

The search for the Figures was carried out with the Opera browser, both in "normal browsing" and "incognito browsing" mode, testing in places with different IP addresses – which represent the virtual address of each computer – and at different times, always presenting the same result. During the research, screenshots were taken of the page results on specific dates, when they presented modifications in the arrangement of the elements and in the results, as well as small edits were made in *Photoshop* to join the page sequence vertically.

Using keywords related to "Venezuelan children on Google Figures" provides access to a vast amount of photographs that often depict poverty, vulnerability, refugee camps, and children living on the streets or begging (Figures 02 and 03). Although these Figures offer visibility to the realities faced by many immigrants, they also reproduce negative representations, evoking an idea about these childhoods experienced across borders and reflecting on the construction of identity and the emergence of stigmatizing phenomena.

Figure 2

Woman and child in situation



Source: Google Figures, on 11.16.2022

Figure 03

Woman holds sign begging in Teresina asking for help in Teresina



Source: Google Figures, on 11.16.2022

In a search reconfiguration test to prove the difference in the results, it was noted that, when proposing a search using different keywords, such as replacing "Venezuelan" with "Spanish" (Figure 04), the result presented is quite limited. This includes some Figures that distance themselves from the meaning of the search, such as journalistic articles about leisure actions for "children's day", without "any mention of Spanish children in the scope of the text". In addition, "there is an Figure related to an exchange, showing white young people with the flags of Brazil and Switzerland", and another that addresses the "educational service of Venezuelan children in Teresina-PI".

Figure 4

Various Figures

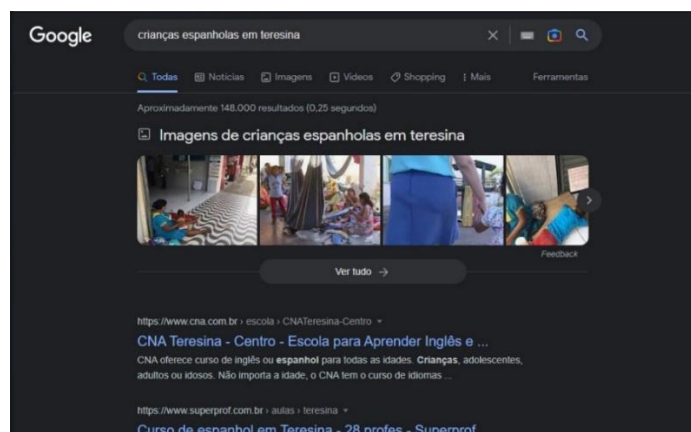


Source: Google Figures, on 05.01.2023

In addition, when using Google's results suggestion tool in the "All" tab (Figure 05), we are directed to language course websites (Spanish) in the capital of Piauí, accompanied by Figures that show photographs of Venezuelan children in the same city.

Figure 5

Spanish Children in Teresina-PI



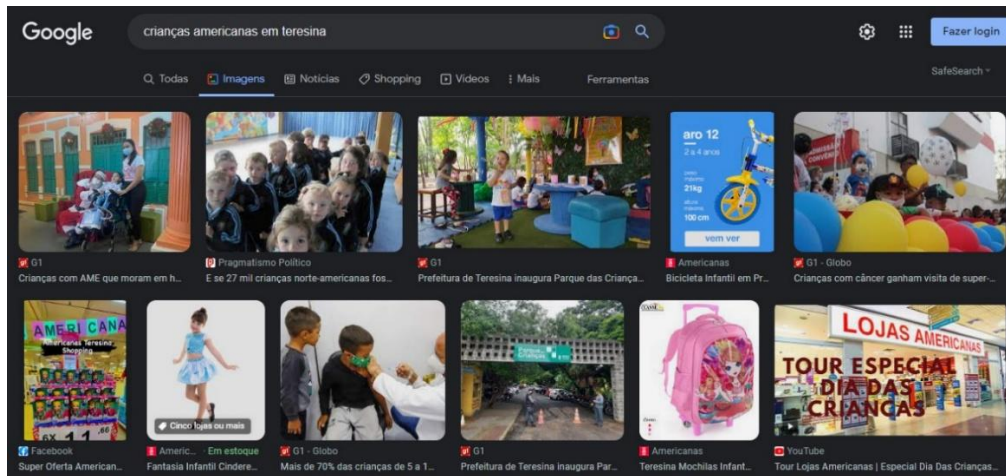
Source: Google Figures, 14.01.2023

Similarly, when we replace the words "Venezuelan" with "American" (Figure 06), the result presents Figures of white children in a school environment and engaged in activities in a hospital, in addition to including references to advertisements for a large retailer, with representations of products.

It is important to highlight that the results of a search depend on keywords, which generate different results and present divergent social markers. By testing the change in the search descriptor, replacing "Venezuelan" with "Spanish", Figures related to moments of leisure and exchange were obtained, with or without Spanish children present in the content, as well as white young people displaying the flags of Brazil and Switzerland. Similarly, by replacing the descriptor with "American", the results presented mainly Figures of white children in school contexts, health actions, and consumption practices, evidencing a stigmatizing trend in the outcomes related to Venezuelan children.

Figure 6

American Children in Teresina-PI

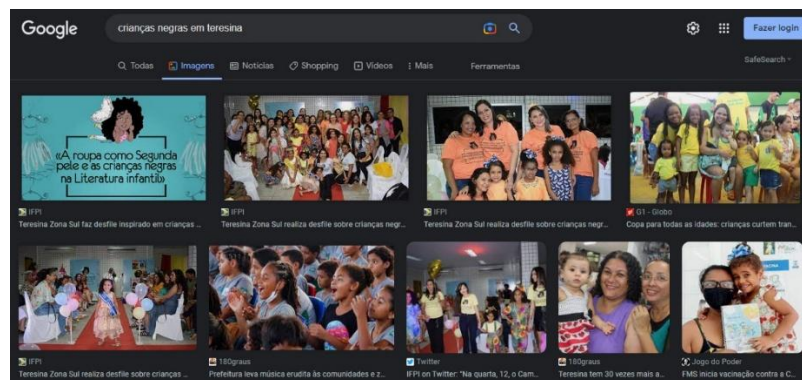


Source: Google Figures, 14.01.2023

Thus, there is a trend of stigmatization in the results related to Venezuelans, something that does not occur in searches with the descriptor "black children in Teresina-PI" (Figure 07), which results in a series of Figures of educational actions against racism in schools, including photos of children smiling in school cultural environments.

Figure 7

Black Children in Teresina-PI



Source: Google Figures, 14.11.2023

Another point to be noted is the absence of illustrations, drawings or similar elements; the result is marked by the presence of photographs, some in black and white, which refer to a report from the CidadeVerde.com portal entitled "Photographer portrays Venezuelan refugee children in Teresina⁷". This article includes a series of photographs by reporter

⁷ Available at the link: <https://cidadeverde.com/noticias/301055/fotografia-retrata-criancas-venezuelanas-refugiadas-em-teresina>

Roberta Aline, captured in 2019 at the Specialized Reference Center for the Homeless Population (Centro POP), where some immigrants were sheltered by the Teresina City Hall.

In general, in these Figures, combined with the resources and the path of this new technology, by adopting a more critical and detailed perspective, it is possible to perceive a series of messages that reflect the sociocultural behavior in the face of some themes and that require an effective methodological tool for this reading.

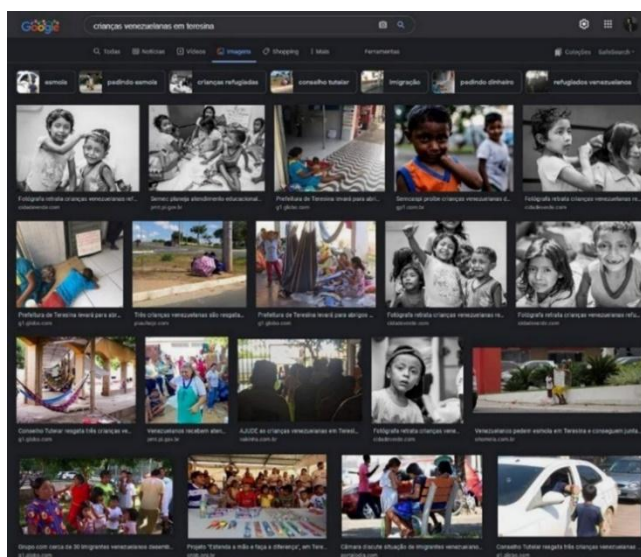
4 GOOGLE AND IMMIGRANT CHILDREN – OPPRESSION ON THE INTERNET

Each Figure leads us through a journey through the resources of hypertextuality, built from the interests of those who navigate, enabling a particular form of reading and a narrative formed by hyperlinks, as was done to identify and credit the photographer of some of the Figures, in a kind of navigation guided by a cognitive map (SANTAELLA, 2001).

We highlight that it was possible to perceive the dynamism that permeates the observable of the research, both by the results presented, which are constantly updated, and by the tool itself, which is being modernized, presented through the screenshots (Figures 08 and 09):

Figure 8

Comparison of Google Figures screenshots in an interval of 11 months

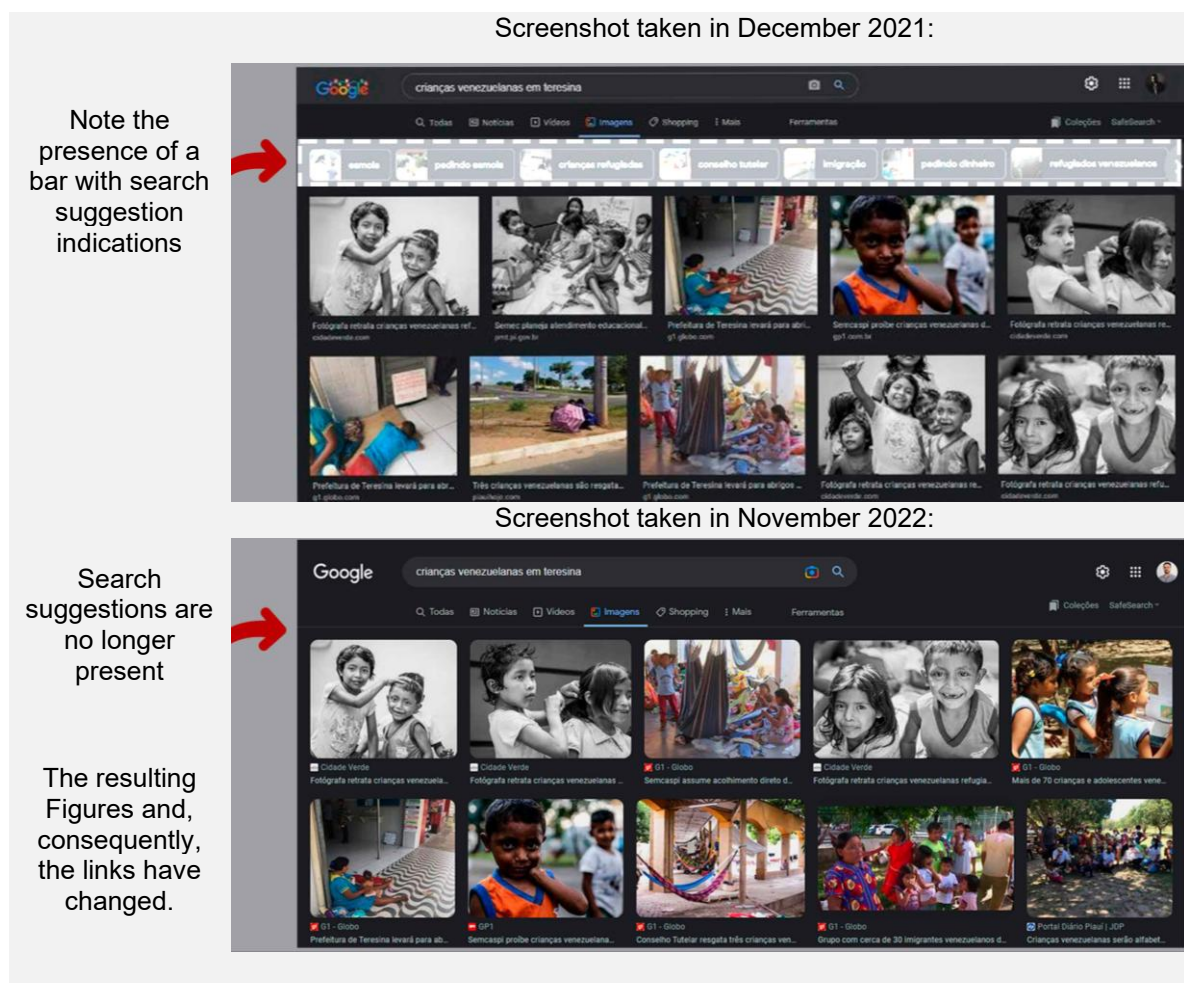


Source: Google Figures, December 2021.

Although the searches were made with the same keywords, the results were different – the first horizontal row of photos presents some Figures that, in turn, lead to links (Figure 9):

Figure 9

Comparison of Google Figures screenshots in an interval of 11 months



Source: Google Figures, 2021 and 2022

Among the Figures found in the search with the keywords "Venezuelan children in Teresina", the result was predominantly composed of photographs, with emphasis on a black and white series⁸ that portrays Venezuelan children in shelters in the capital of Piauí. It is important to emphasize that, during the investigation, the dynamic character of the Google Figures platform was evident, both by the results presented, always updated, and by the tool itself, which is modernized, alternating between displaying only the searched photos and

⁸ The photographs are part of a journalistic report by the Cidade Verde portal, entitled "Photographer portrays Venezuelan refugee children in Teresina", and are authored by photographer Roberta Aline: <https://cidadeverde.com/noticias/301055/fotografia-retrata-criancas-venezuelanas-refugiadas-em-teresina>. Accessed on 04/14/2023.

offering Figure thumbnails in the first horizontal line of the screen (as suggestion links). This evidences the presence of hypertextuality resources, built based on the interests of users and that enable a singular reading, forming a narrative composed of hyperlinks that guides a navigation structured by a cognitive map (SANTAELLA, 2001).

In addition, another point that drew attention is the absence of search suggestions in this time interval (Figures 08 and 09), this reinforces the dynamics of the tools, which results both from changes in the ranking of page access and from the ability of the new algorithms to "gather sparse information on the network into a coherent whole", in addition to continuously "learning" from the stored information, comparing them and providing relevant results (SIQUEIRA, 2013, p. 60-61).

The screenshot was divided into three parts: 1) search bar, 2) suggestion bar, and 3) search results, which correspond to a mosaic of 19 Figures. These Figures represent what Pierce (2003) defines as primeirity: the initial visual reading, where one observes, in general, several photographs that lead to news sites in Piauí and the Teresina City Hall. The latter were included in the analysis as a possible reading trajectory traced by hyperlinks.

In a general analysis of the Figure, which represents Pierce's (2003) process of secondness, the visual elements of the search result stand out (Figure 7), composed of 19 frames of photographs arranged in a mosaic. These Figures correspond exactly to what was triggered by the tool when using the keywords "Venezuelan child in Teresina-PI": photographs of Venezuelan children in Teresina in various contexts.

The Figures reveal several common elements that function as a mosaic of signs, including the presence of children, smiles, dirt, alms, homeless people, houses and shelters, as indicated by the number of photos in the graph below. These elements influence the creation of a connotative meaning, initiating the construction of the subjective relationship between the reader and the elements and sensations of the first place, which confers a new quality to the object (PIERCE, 2003).

For the general analysis of the object, several common elements were observed, such as the presence of children (15), smiles (06), dirt (15), alms (05), homeless people (11), as well as shelter (11) and houses (00), and white and black people (06).

The prevalence of factors that sustain a negative stigma is evident. Although the "home" environment is not present in the 19 Figures, the configuration of the shelter (11) and the homeless situation (08) stand out. This reinforces, within the current context, the perception of homeless people in need of help, especially due to the number of photos that

illustrate children begging for alms, totaling five Figures. This idea is further accentuated by the luminosity of the photographs, most of which are set in places well lit by natural and/or external light, and only one has a dark interior.

It is also observed the predominance of a melancholic tone in the Figures, emphasized by the scarcity of smiles (06), in contrast to other children's representations that evoke games and joy. This aspect becomes even more striking in the black and white Figures, which accentuate the reflection and give an artistic look to the treatment of the Figure. This choice reinforces a documentary tone, subtracting information from colors and encouraging the observer to dedicate more time to analyzing the Figure in search of its true meaning (VANUCCHI; MELO, 2013).

The dirt in the environments is another factor highlighted in the Figures, with 15 of them showing this element, which reinforces the feeling of neglect, neglect and abandonment, accentuated even more in the Figures that show the absence of an adult. The alms element, present in five of the Figures, also intensifies the idea of vulnerability, whether it is implied in signs or in the Figure of a child with his back turned receiving something from a driver in a white car. These interpretations are part of a visual literacy, a complex and subjective cultural construction (DONDIS, 1991).

By deepening the analysis, we highlight the reading process mediated by hyperlinks, which expands "the logic of hypertext to the audiovisual, choreographic, tactile and even muscular dimension of language" (SANTAELLA, 2001), enabling the creation of a new sign. This hypertextuality, as described by Santaella (idem), offers a particular narrative during reading, in which the user follows paths through clicks, according to his preferences, creating an interactive complementary text that can be extended according to the interest of the receiver. Thus, it is essential to consider the context and the origin. Of the 19 Figures in the mosaic, 15 correspond to news from websites and bring information about events in the city involving immigrants, reinforcing the documentary and news character and raising a debate about a social problem through the media.

It is found that the elements of the 19 Figures of the mosaic resulting from the search reinforce a negative social stigma and, together with the representation of other factors, such as verbal language and search suggestions, place the child as the center of the discussion in a dichotomous relationship between fragility and joy.

In other words, the feelings highlighted in the analyses are based on the representations of each sign, which, according to Niemeyer (2007, p. 475), "depending on

the culture, a sign or a signic articulation is interpreted in its own way". This requires familiarity and understanding of the cultural group to which they belong. In this case, a remembrance is made of war photographs, either by the character of the colors, with the monochromatic ones associated with Figures of concentration camps or iconic photographs that illustrate history books, or even by the elements of dirt, facial expressions and lack of shelter.

However, it is important to emphasize that the sum of all these elements analyzed made it possible to identify stigmatizing representations, which lead an interlocutor to a negative thought about the Figures and the subjective construction of a represented reality. In addition, this analysis contributes to the perception of a subject shaped by characteristics previously assimilated by the interlocutor, due to a previous experience with other representations that "have contributed to fixing and constituting transnational memories around this criminalization, demanding from these immigrants themselves and their networks and organizations the production of media that can build and disseminate counter-hegemonic discourses" (COGO, 2018).

These characteristics common to the sets of Figures reveal current cultural and social aspects about the immigrant, contributing to the formation of a subject in the midst of the crisis. This reflects conditions of fragility, homelessness, adaptation, and even misery, exposed through a panel of qualitative representations of colors (or their absence) and visual elements that emphasize this reality. Thus, the formation of new signs is represented based on their relationship with cultural and subjective factors, constructed through the interpretant, which Pierce (2003) categorizes as thirdness.

5 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The analysis made explicit the ambiguity present in the representations, marked by a tension between discourses that humanize and, simultaneously, label immigrant children. This duality reinforces the importance of a critical reading of visual signs, especially in a context in which digital technologies, such as Google Figures, play a decisive role in the dissemination of narratives and in the constitution of the social imaginary. Thus, the study contributes to the discussion on the role of digital media in the formation of social discourses, highlighting the need to understand the influence of algorithmic curation systems in defining the meanings and stereotypes related to immigration.

As it is an object in motion, given that it is a constantly updated database – represented by search engines – the result of a new search can be presented differently, revealing new possibilities of analysis.

However, it is important to emphasize that, within the internet, Google Figures, the models/representations of immigrants reflect the social, economic, political and cultural crossings permeated by conflicts, violence and oppression of contemporary reality.

In the four corners of the virtual window generated by the Google Figures tool, time frames of the city of Teresina-PI emerged, from the descriptors of the research, which revealed a little of what happens around the world, illustrating a migratory crisis that mainly affects children. In this specific case, Venezuelan children are negatively emphasized by subjective factors that involve symbolic elements and representations present in the Figures, along with markers of race, gender, and stigmas that affect the formation of the identity of these new citizens and, especially, childhood.

In general, with the characterization of the symbolic elements present in the Figures and the relationship with the cultural baggage of the interpretant, it was possible to understand that:

1) children were negatively represented in a general framework full of prejudice – a segregating and oppressive discourse – placing them in a situation of vulnerability and neglect;

2) representations contribute to the stigmatization of immigrants and children, producing negative subjectivities;

3) Google Figures brings a social discourse created by the hegemonic base that dominates the large internet conglomerates, producing hierarchical knowledge based on stereotypes;

5) despite a welfare treatment of public policies towards immigrants, especially children, greater care measures are still needed in the formation of these new nationals and in the treatment given, especially in line with the Statute of the Child and Adolescent (1990), considering that some Figures serve as direct indices of situations of begging involving children and adolescents, act condemned by current legislation;

Thus, it is considered essential to discuss the representations of immigrant children on the internet and to hold the media accountable for the reproduction of a discourse that corroborates the stigmatization, whether of immigrants or other minority groups.

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