



Perception of the Real Territory: case of the Engativá District Bogotá-Colombia

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Abstract

This paper presents the analysis of the results of a study on the perception of the population of Engativá-Bogotá-Colombia, regarding the whole territory. For this purpose, a survey (n=1350) was applied to inquire about the relationship between the link with the environment associated with the ideas of security, mobility, drug use, and pollution. It also asked about the subjects' perception of their relationship with others based on respect, kindness, collaboration, and sociability. As a result, high impacts were observed in the territorial perception of the inhabitants related to mobility and insecurity, as well as respect and community collaboration.

Keywords: Territory, Perception, Community, Locality, Security.

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Introduction

Studying the territory implies observing the social, cultural, and natural relations of the human beings that inhabit a physical space, which makes it necessary (Bernal, 2004) to recognize that the actors that converge in the same territorial setting establish precise norms that emerge from their genesis processes and therefore have an explanation in the light of their tensions. This implies recognizing the territory as a social space of

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human relationship and invites to carry out studies that allow awakening a greater critical conscience in the face of social and cultural problems, recognizing that "...popular culture has roots in the land where it is served, symbolizes man and his environment, embodies the will to face the future without breaking with the place, and from there to obtain continuity, through change" (Santos, 2000, p. 278) identifying the multiple territorial relations determined



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by social, cultural, economic and political diversities.

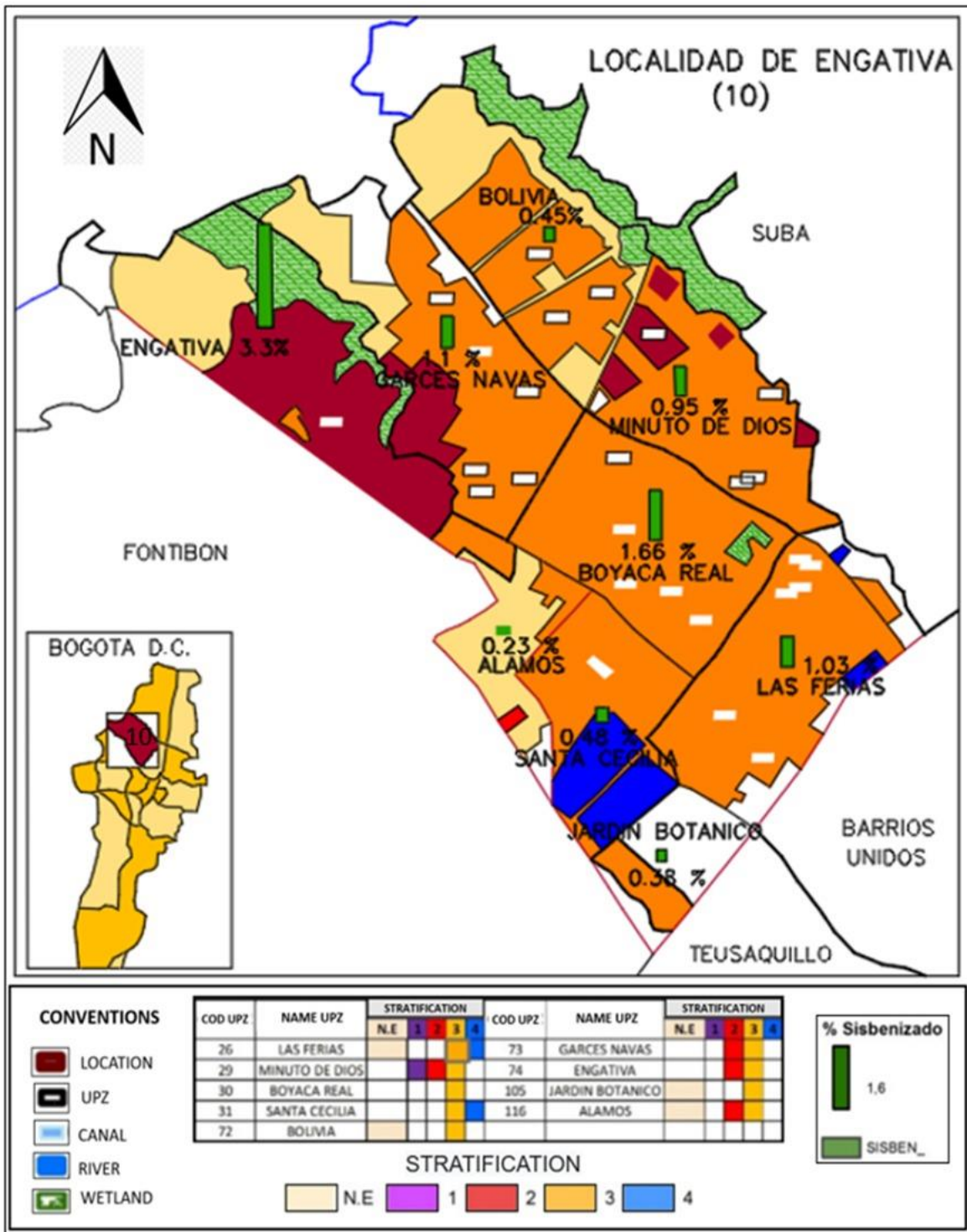
Territory as Environment in the municipality of Engativá.

Suppose we assume (Santos, 2000 and Bustos, 2015) that the territory is framed in the relationships humans establish with different environments of fauna and flora. In that case, this results from a complex and dynamic interaction conditioned by cultural and environmental factors. It implies studying the territory by observing the relationships (social and natural) that human beings establish with their environment, giving it meaning based on their needs (Raffestin, 2011) linked to balances of power. In this sense, it is necessary to recognize that the actors that inhabit a territorial setting establish precise norms that emerge from their genesis processes and, therefore, have an explanation for each of the events experienced.

Therefore, the locality of Engativá-Bogotá-Colombia, is composed of nine (9) Zonal Planning Units (UPZ) in which territorial planning processes are established; it is

worth noting the study of the Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá (2007), which details this locality with very diverse characteristics, such as representing 4.2% of the area of the city, being the ninth locality in total size (3. Five hundred eighty-eight hectares (ha.) with approximately 150 ha. of expansion land; there is a predominance of stratum 3 with 11.6% of the city's total population with an average of 3.5 persons per household. Its most important economic activities are social, communal, and personal services (30%), commerce, hotels, and restaurants (24.6%), manufacturing industry (16.6%), and real estate activities (10.8%).

As seen in map image 1, the locality of Engativá is located between the localities of Suba, Barrios Unidos, Teusaquillo, Fontibón, and the Bogotá River to the North; the name of the different UPZ. It also shows socioeconomic strata and the location of the central bodies of water. This locality has been part of the District of Bogota since 1954, with a land area of 3588 ha, of which 3439.2 ha correspond to urban land that houses about 815,259 inhabitants.



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Image 1. Characteristics of the District of Engativá. Adapted from: Atlas de Salud Pública - Localidad Engativá. Year 2016

To conserve natural and environmental resources, the local mayor's office of

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Engativá seeks to save all the ecosystems it has. It has created strategies to mitigate the



impact on wetlands, understood as significant water reserves (water mirrors), and forests. There are three wetlands, Juan Amarillo, El Jaboque, and Santa Maria del Lago, where you can observe, among other animals, Curis, Possums, Weasels, and Bats. Birds such as Tingüas, Piquirrojas, Monjitas, and Blue Garzas; there are also reptiles. In addition, the flora can be observed: the Botoncillo, Lengua de Vaca and Chilco, La Lenteja, Ferns, Willows, Saúcos, Alisos, Eucalyptus, and Acacias.

Methodology

From the qualitative approach, a closed survey was designed, validated by estates (Cisterna, 2005), and implemented, which included open questions related to a. The actual perception that the inhabitants have of the area. The accurate perception of the inhabitants about their territorial environment is associated with the categories of insecurity, mobility, drug use, and pollution. Others related to the relationship with the other as an inhabitant of the same territorial area, about respect,

kindness, collaboration, and sociability. Finally, to tell their noise, air, and humidity pollution perception.

The analysis was based on the interpretative paradigm, which aims to understand social phenomena by interpreting their realities constructed from their multiplicity and dynamic interactions.

Perspectives of the territorial actors, results, and discussion

Fundamental knowledge of the territory; According to data from the survey applied, 87.2% of the inhabitants of this locality state (table 1) that they know the place where they live, which allows them to recognize themselves as part of it and therefore converge in four aspects: physical, environmental, and cultural characteristics. In this sense and observing the problems that most distress them, four relevant ones were found in order of importance: mobility, insecurity, drug use, and pollution in the wetlands.

Table 1. Relationship with the territorial environment

Real Territory	
Perception	(%)
Un safety	26,9
Mobility	45,7
Drug's consumption	18,6
Pollution	8,8

Source: Own elaboration

The problems of insecurity are essential for the extraordinary life of the inhabitants; in this sense, 26.9% of the inhabitants highlight this as a scourge; this sense we find in a study conducted by the Office of Analysis of Information and Strategic Studies OAIEE (2021), 28.13% state insecurity, linked to different scenarios of violence such as theft or homicide to which they are exposed daily. (2021), 28.13% manifest insecurity, linked to different scenarios of theft or homicide-type

violence to which they are exposed daily, consistent with the research conducted by Gélvez. (2018), which reflects that in 2016 there were 1601 hurtos and in 2007 homicides which made it one of Bogota's most dangerous localities by that date. According to official data from the Secretariat of Security, Coexistence and Justice of Bogota (2021), these affectations continued. They were reported as robbery-type theft of 11661 people, 1208 residential



robberies, 558 thefts of automobiles, 439 motorcycles, 6615 cell phones, and 1999 bicycles. It was also found that there was a report of 55 homicides, 1699 personal injuries, 491 sexual crimes, 4436 domestic violence,

Another aspect is related to mobility understood by Escobar, Montoya, and Moncada (2022) as the accessibility, availability, and possibility of use of any equipment or urban service, allowing, thus, to identify areas with deficiencies or imbalances in the conditions of accessibility and coverage that must be solved, in this case, with the insertion of new supply nodes associated with the equipment for the registration of vehicles and drivers. Thus, we find on the page of the Engativá Local Mayor's Office (Alcaldía Local de Engativá, 2021) that the road infrastructure; of Engativá represents 8.2% of the city's road network, which is equivalent to some 1,198 lane kilometers of roadway, for a total of 1,198 kilometers of highway. Engativá represents 8.2% of the city's road network, which is equivalent to 1,198 kilometers of road lanes, ranking third among Bogotá's localities; 69% of the roads there are deteriorated, of which 37% were in poor condition and 32% in fair condition, making it the fifteenth locality in terms of road deterioration.

It should be noted that mobility processes are directly related to city construction. In this sense, according to Franco and Zabala (2012), new cities in developing countries should aim at creating spaces where environmental, economic, and social aspects are combined continually to improve the quality of life of citizens, who should have access to the different elements of urban equipment, which contribute to the growth of joint mobility. This leads, however, to a broader reflection on the role of collaborative spaces as "instruments" that

favor the construction of a more inclusive, just and democratic city.

Regarding network verification and calibration procedures, it can be concluded that the application of tools associated with information sources allows better calibration and correlation of the current base information in the transportation networks, also guaranteeing a lower cost in the network adaptation processes since it does not require more extensive and more time-consuming field assessments. From this perspective, 45.7 % of the surveyed population states with greater relevance the repercussions that the effects of impaired mobility have on their daily lives.

Another aspect of relevance is associated with 18.6 % of the people surveyed who state that one of the problems present in the territory and that affect their daily lives is associated with the use of hallucinogenic drugs related to a public health problem, as stated in their research Medina et al. (2013), it is a social phenomenon that affects all levels of society. In this sense, looking at it from a public health perspective implies assuming it as a risk factor, which allows political actors to propose actions that facilitate, on the one hand, the attention to the affected population and, on the other hand, articulated with the justice sector, to prosecute those who produce and commercialize it.

It is essential for this research to highlight that of the 8.8% who recognize pollution as a problem, highlight that in this locality, noise pollution is severe in such a sense that we find that to mitigate this impact, the Secretariat of Environment of Bogota prepares noise maps that aim to identify the critical sectors of the city to determine the plans, programs, and measures that allow controlling the impact in such places. In this sense, the Secretariat of Environment (2021)

has designed an action plan for 2030 for all of Bogota and whose route aims to meet international air quality standards, resulting in health benefits. This state agency coordinates with organizations, companies, and citizens to achieve this. It is essential to highlight that the report made by the local Mayor's Office of Engativá (2020) reflects that regardless of the legal situation of the soils, these are waterproofed by the construction of houses, increasing the loss of wetland surface.

Relationship of the actors with the territory

Another aspect related to the actors in the territory is that 30% of the respondents state that the population inhabiting the locality respects each other. In this sense, Mantilla et al. (2016) state how, in this locality, the development of psychosocial skills allows its inhabitants "to have harmonious relationships of care and respect for themselves, other people and other living beings in the environment in which they develop" (p.465).

Table 2. Perception of the other as a social subject

The other	
Perception	(%)
Respectful	30
Friendly	22
Collaborators	23
Sociables	25

Source: Own elaboration

This is linked with the perception (table 2) the inhabitants have regarding the others with whom they share the territory, recognizing them as respectful 30%. In this sense, studying respect as a social value (Hernández, 2019) of the community is fundamental to analyzing and interpreting, and understanding the behaviors carried out by its members. In such a sense, these values are part of a social ideology; they are known and consensual. Another aspect is related to kindness (22%); in this sense, (Lacovella et al., 2015) assures that this positively affects empathy and thus opens the possibility of social experiences that enable a better living, which results in collaboration in front of the community projects. Therefore, the respondents, 23% highlight this characteristic, and 25% highlight sociability as the action of its inhabitants to live harmoniously.

Conclusion

Recognizing the natural territory as a social space of human relationship invites us to carry out studies that allow awakening a greater critical conscience in front of the social and cultural problems, recognizing that "...the popular culture has roots in the land in which it is served, symbolizes man and his environment, embodies the will to face the future without breaking with the place, and from there obtain continuity, through change" (Santos, 2000, p. 278) in which an ideal formation, without breaking with the place, would be a way of living in the community. 278) where an ideal formation would allow addressing multiple relationships due to the social, cultural, economic, and political diversities that interact in a territory, turning it (Bozzano, 2009) into a macro-object constituted by the places that are observed in a territorial cut, where the processes that occur in it thanks to the dynamic relationships between the actors give meaning and attributions to the territory.



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