Social Representations on Migration by Female Latin American Immigrants in Valencia (Spain)

Representações Sociais Sobre a Migração por Mulheres Imigrantes Latino-Americanas em Valência (Espanha)

Representaciones Sociales Sobre la Migración por Mujeres Inmigrantes Latinoamericanas en Valencia (España)

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Abstract

This study was developed under the focus of social psychology, aiming to understand the social representations of Latin American immigrant women from Argentina, Colômbia, Brazil, Ecuador and Bolivia, who reside in Valencia, Spain about the constructs: "immigration"(1), "immigrants"(2), "Spanish"(3), "Valencia"(4) and "discrimination"(5). The sample was non-probabilistic and convenience, formed by 179 immigrants, between 18 and 59 years, which responded to the technique of free association of words. The results of the stimuli revealed that social representations about the immigration have been targeted as: *money, interculturality, journey, knowledge and nostalgia*; while on immigrants were: *traveller, necessity, exit, knowledge*. In relation to the stimulation induces Spaniards have the social representations: *racist, evil, Crisis, friends, educated*; the city of Valencia was represented as: *beautiful, tourist, paella*; already the stimulus discrimination was represented as: *hatred, prejudice, maltreatment, racism, xenophobia, violence, fear, maltreatment and ignorant*. The sample was non-probabilistic and convenience-wise, formed by 179 immigrants, aged between 18 and 59, who answered to the technique of free association of words. The results of the stimuli showed that the social representations about *immigration* were objectified as: *money, interculturality, travel, knowledge and nostalgia*; while on *immigrants* were: *traveler, need, leave, knowledge*. Regarding the *Spaniards* inductive stimulus we got the following social representations: *racist, evil, crisis, friends, educated*; the city of *Valencia* was represented as: *beautiful, tourist, paella*; as for the *discrimination* stimulus, we found: *hatred, prejudice, mistreatment, racism, xenophobia, violence, fear and ignorance*. The social representations have provided a better understanding about the activities affective, cognitive and symbolic of the participants in their everyday interactions and social positions. It is hoped that these findings will contribute to deepening the study and knowledge of female migration as well as provide changes that encourage integration, development and well-being of the population.

Keywords: international migration, discrimination, cultural diversity

Resumo

Este estudo foi desenvolvido sob o enfoque da psicologia social, objetivando apreender as representações sociais de mulheres imigrantes latino- americanas provenientes da Argentina, Colômbia, Brasil, Equador e Bolívia, que residem em Valência-Espanha acerca dos construtos: "*imigração*"(1), "*imigrantes*"(2), "*espanhóis*"(3), "*Valência*"(4) e "*discriminação*"(5). A amostra foi não-probabilística e de conveniência, formada por 179 imigrantes, entre 18 e 59 anos, os quais responderam à técnica de associação livre de palavras. Os resultados dos estímulos revelaram que as representações sociais acerca da *imigração* foram objetivadas como: *dinheiro, interculturalidade, viagem, conhecimento e nostalgia*; enquanto que sobre *imigrantes* foram: *viajante, necessidade, sair, conhecimento*. Em relação ao estímulo indutor *espanhóis* temos as representações sociais: *racistas, maus, crise, amigos, educados*; a cidade de *Valência* foi representada como: *bonita, turista, paella*; já o estímulo *discriminação* foi representada como: *ódio, preconceito, maus-tratos, racismo, xenofobia, violência, medo, maus-tratos e ignorantes*. As representações sociais proporcionaram um melhor entendimento sobre as atividades afetivas, simbólicas e cognitivas das participantes nas suas interações cotidianas e posicionamentos sociais. Espera-se que estes resultados contribuam para aprofundar o estudo e conhecimento das migrações femininas bem como proporcionar mudanças que favoreçam a integração, desenvolvimento e bem-estar desta população.

Palavras-chave: migração internacional, discriminação, diversidade cultural

Resumen

Este estudio fue desarrollado con un enfoque en la psicología social, con el fin de aprehender las representaciones sociales de las mujeres inmigrantes latinoamericanos de Argentina, Colombia, Brasil, Ecuador y Bolivia, con domicilio en Valencia-España sobre las construcciones: "inmigración" (1) "Inmigrantes" (2), "españoles" (3), "Valencia" (4) y "discriminación" (5). La muestra fue no probabilística y de conveniencia, formada por 179 inmigrantes, entre 18 y 59 años, los cuales respondieron la técnica de asociación libre de palabras. Los resultados sobre la *inmigración* fueron objetivadas como: *dinero, interculturalidad, viaje, conocimiento y nostalgia*; mientras que sobre *inmigrantes* fueron: *viajero, necesidad, salir, conocimiento*. En relación con el estímulo inductor *españoles* tenemos las representaciones sociales: *racistas, malos, crisis, amigos, educados; la ciudad de Valencia* fue representada como: *bonita, turista, paella*; ya que el estímulo de la *discriminación* como: *odio, prejuicio, maltrato, racismo, xenofobia, violencia, miedo, maltrato e ignorantes*. Las representaciones sociales proporcionaron un mejor entendimiento sobre las actividades afectivas, simbólicas y cognitivas de las participantes en sus interacciones cotidianas y posicionamientos sociales. Se espera que estos resultados contribuyan a profundizar el estudio y el conocimiento de las migraciones femeninas, así como proporcionar cambios que favorezcan la integración, el desarrollo y el bienestar de esta población.

Palabras clave: migración internacional, discriminación, diversidad cultural

Introduction

The great international migratory movements show different moments with special features, behaviors and dynamics in different regions. This is due to the migratory movements responding to the dynamics that structure the international order, in which a plurality of social agents intervene with diverse interests and expectations.

This interaction comes from varied migratory types that can't be reduced to a single type. One of the characteristics of the current international migration is its high degree of feminization. Nowadays, women move in different regions of the world, taking part in the contemporary migratory flows.

Although women have always moved to different places, female migration as a social phenomenon that has been ignored for much of history. Before the 80s, migration studies did not regard women as social actors in this phenomenon, a situation that is a broad response to an invisible discourse that ignores the role women have played in social processes. For over two decades, female migration has been the subject of study, especially concerning the increase of female participation in the global labor market and their important contribution to the economy of their native countries by sending of remittances.

The causes of immigration are varied, involving life projects, representations, dreams, desires, needs, human wills in their living as individuals-collective, economic in nature, in which women appear as the first link in social networks to develop a migratory dynamic (Portes & Bórócz, 1998).

In current times, Ramos (2004, 2008, 2009, 2015) complements that there are new configurations of migration routes due to new political contexts, such as: globalization; urbanization; demographic aging in developed countries; the needs of the labor market in many industrialized countries; unemployment and international crises affecting developed and developing countries; the expanding increase in female migration; international tourism; natural disasters; ethnic conflicts; household and care needs of the elderly and children in aging countries; the new media (media, Internet); the ease of travel and speed of means of transportation and several other considerations.

According to data from the *Comissión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe* (CEPAL, 2017), it is mentioned that there are currently 258 million international migrants in the world, living outside of their native countries, of which 49% are women leaving their countries, taking with themselves the chance to reach a better life for them and theirs (Coutinho, Ramos, & Franken, 2008).

According to Moura and Hernandis (2013), in the last decades there has been a growing internationalization of the labor market, accompanied by an acceleration of migratory flows choosing generally the city of Valencia, specifically as a final

destination for their migration project. These immigrants basic traits are feminization, Latin origin and the irregular feature of their immigration situation. It should be noted that the increase of these international migratory movements has attracted the attention of several social and human sciences disciplines, including Psychology (Berry, 2001; Vala, Lopes, & Lima, 2008; Ramos, 2004, 2015a, 2015b; Moura & Ramos, 2018).

In the 70s and 80s several surveys, dissertations and theses focused on the phenomenon of immigration, concentrating on the figure of the migrant as an economic agent. In the same period, there is almost no study on female migration, despite the presence of women in internal and international migration throughout history.

According to Oso (1998) and Gregorio (1998), they state that, in this period, the studies on migration did not consider women as social agents of this phenomenon. In the last two decades of the last century, there was a clear interest in analyzing female immigration, yet it is still a marginal research topic in Social Sciences and Psychology.

In this context of mobility and extreme complexity, the present study seeks to investigate the phenomenon of female immigration from Latin America residing in Valencia-ES. It is based on a psycho-sociological perspective, anchored in the theory of social representations and on the assumption that representations are modeled within the individual/society interrelationship (Moscovici, 2003).

The goals of this study are as follows:

- Apprehend the social representations of Latin American immigrants from Argentina, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador and Bolivia, who live in Valencia, Spain on *immigration* (1), *immigrants* (2), *Spaniards* (3), *Valencia* (4) and *discrimination* (5).
- To identify the socio-demographic profile of Colombian, Argentinian, Brazilian, Ecuadorian and Bolivian immigrants living in Valencia-Spain.

The qualitative methodology allowed the study of the social representations of the immigrants from Argentina, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador and Bolivia living in Valencia-Spain on the *immigration, immigrants*, *Spaniards, Valencia* and *discrimination* constructs. Aiming to understand how these participants articulate the presented concepts, with their immigrant experience. To search the social representations of these constructs — within the context of immigration — implies making reading on the normative and scientific theoretical contributions and in light of the knowledge elaborated and shared by the group that it belongs to.

The phenomenon of female immigration in Spain

The Spanish state has become the destination for a growing number of people seeking a better future. Thus, according to data from the Instituto Nacional de

Estatística (INE), in 2005 there were 3,730,610 foreigners seeking to settle in this country, a number that now represents 8.5% of the population, while in 2009 the volume of immigrants increased to 8.9% of the resident population in Spain.

In 2010, they verified that the immigrant population in Spain, of both genders, totaled 360,704 thousand immigrants, with women representing 50.9%, consisting of the largest flow of the immigrant population. Most immigrants come from North America, Central America and the Caribbean, Oceania and, the most significant number comes from South America. The following year, there was an increase in the immigration flow to 371,335 immigrants, female immigration continuing to preponderate with 51.2%. The most significant regions of origin are: North America with 6,453, Central America and the Caribbean with 16,578, South America with the largest number of immigrant women reaching 44,377.

Two years later, in 2012, the immigration flow reached 304,054, with female immigration being the most representative, 50.7% of all immigrants. This year, North America, Central America and the Caribbean and South America, were the main continents that present a greater flow of immigration, highlighting, once again, the Latin American immigration flow as the one that was more relevant. In the following year, compared to previous years, there was a drop in the immigrant population. However, the female immigrant population had a good representation in immigration with 50.3%, coming from most of Latin America. In the year 2014, we can see an increase in immigration to the Spanish state, receiving 26,263 more than in 2013, totaling 307,035 immigrants. Most of this immigrant flow is represented by female immigration at a 50.9% rate. North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America and Oceania are the regions that send female immigrants the most, especially South America, which has the most relevant number of female immigrants among them.

The Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE), in 2017, observed that 417,033 of the total number of immigrants in Spain came from South America, and more, from Venezuela, with almost 29,67423 people, due to the deep political crisis economic situation facing this country. In the African continent, with Morocco being the second country with the largest migratory flow, 23,889 are Moroccans. Next, 22,424 are from Colombia.

We noted that in the period from 2010 to 2017 there was a significant rate of immigration to Spain, characterized by immigrant women, with Latin America as one of the main continents sending out female immigrants. According to Seabra (2003), the whole set of economic, social and cultural changes have been affecting gender relations and leading to an increase in female migration, in a way that, in many cases, this contingent surpasses the male migration.

In the same proportionality of Spain, we can observe the Valencian Community, as being the third most receiving city of immigrants, behind Catalonia and Madrid.

According to CEIM (2015), from 1999 to 2005, female immigrants represented 50% of the total number of foreigners in the city of Valencia. Throughout the analyzed period, the percentage of Colombian women showed higher than average rates, followed by Moroccan women.

According to INE (2017), regarding 2010, Valencia received 12% of immigrants, 51.5% males, however, South America was responsible for the largest number of female immigrants with 56.4%. In the following year, Valencia got an increase of approximately 13% in the number of immigrants, 50.7% being male. Despite this, South America stands out as the second issuer of foreigners to Valencia, of which 56.5% are women.

According to Souza (2007), the whole set of economic, social and cultural changes have been affecting gender relations and leading to an increase in female migration, in a way that, in many cases, this contingent surpasses the male migration" (p. 399). Also created (2000), when referring to some features of migratory movements, points out the increase of women as an autonomous immigrant and irregular sort of immigration, and that, these movements affect not only the economy, but also the social, political and cultural settings of the countries concerned.

These Latin American social partners share language, culture, memory and the imaginary, their social practices about their experiences, which serve as support to understand, manage or face them. These are the productions of social knowledge in which shared knowledge influences their actions (Moura & Ramos, 2018).

So to delve into the Theory of Social Representations (TRS) has made possible the understanding of the immigration phenomenon in the psychosocial and subjective context. These studies are a contribution of the shared common sense perception through dialogue and manifestation about values, meanings and beliefs by these social agents in the destination country.

The Theory of Social Representations and female immigration

This study used the theory of social representations, especially considering the contributions of Moscovici (1978) and Jodelet (2005), as a support for the understanding of shared knowledge among the Latin American immigrant women responsible for most of the migratory flow to the city of Valencia. The selection of this theory was due to the fact that social representations have been acting as an important support for studies in Social Psychology, helping understand the subject as a social being constituted through social interactions with other subjects.

Moscovici (1978, p. 65) defined social representations as "a particular way of knowledge that functions as the elaboration of behaviors and communication between individuals... that are modeled in the individual/society interrelationship". He believes the representations are symbolic/practical/dynamic sets whose status is a production

and not reproduction or reaction to external stimuli, but the use and selection of information from the circulating repertoire in society, intended for interpretation and elaboration of the real. Thus, to represent an object, person or thing consists not only in implanting, repeating, or reproducing them, but rebuilding, retouching and modifying them (Moscovici, 1985).

The same author thinks the representations have a central purpose that is to turn into familiar something that is unfamiliar. This way, the representations that we constantly build are an effort to make something uncommon (unfamiliar) into something common and real. And the relation established by the author between familiar and unfamiliar concepts refers to the consensual universe in which social groups subscribe. The dynamics of representations is therefore one of familiarization, in which objects, people and events are perceived and understood in relation to previous encounters and paradigms. As a result, "memory prevails over deduction, past over present, response over stimulus, and images over" *reality* "(Moscovici, 2003, p. 55). In this sense, social representations serve as guides to action, since they model and constitute the elements of the context in which they occur, and also perform certain functions in the up keeping of social identity and socio-cognitive balance, as the subject, in representing an object, is represented in this relation (Moscovici, 1978; Jodelet, 2005).

There are few studies on social representations about immigration. One can mention, for example, the work of Moura and Pinazo (2013) in studying the social representations of 35 elderly immigrant caregivers, 80% female, living in the city of Valencia (Spain), about immigration and care of the elderly. The results revealed that immigration reflected "nostalgia", care was represented by "help" and care for the elderly by "respect".

Franken (2009) analyzed the social representations about immigration, immigrants, mental health and future developed by 509 Brazilian and Portuguese immigrants, 58% female, living in the city of Geneva/Switzerland. The results of this research revealed that the associations mentioned about immigration were represented by these immigrants in words like "money", "work" and "escape" by women.

Also, Franken, Coutinho and Ramos (2009) investigated the social representations about the immigration and quality of life construct in 93 female Brazilian immigrants living in Geneva/Switzerland. The results verified that the representations on migration and quality of life among women in the international migratory context do not exist as absolute entities, isolated and independent of their form of expression and manifestation, but as intertwined with the experiences of each participant and the personal and social ones.

It has been found that studies on the representations of immigration or immigrants by immigrant women are generally scarce. In addition, there are few studies on the representations made by female Latin American immigrants.

Method

Participants

The results achieved via the sociodemographic questionnaire show us the profile of the participants, based on the specific goal of this study. These data identifies: nationality, sex, age, marital status and level of education of the immigrants interviewed. From the analysis of the sociodemographic survey it was possible to trace the profile of the migrants sample, as pointed out in the Table. 1.

Socio-demographic data of the total number of immigrants

Table 1. Socio-demographic data of the total number of immigrants.

Variables		Frequency	Percentage%
Nationality	Argentina	24	13.4
Brazil		22	12.3
Bolivia		31	17.3
Colombia		46	25.7
Ecuador		56	31.3
Total		**179**	**100**
Marital status	Single	87	48.6
Married		72	40.2
Divorced		13	7.3
Widow		7	3.9
Total		**179**	**100**
Education	Elementary School	32	17.9
High school		111	62
Higher Education		36	20.1
Total		**179**	**100**
	18 to 27 years old	51	28.5
	28 to 37 years old	68	38
Age	38 to 47 years old	42	23.5
	48 to 57 years old	14	7.8
	Above 57 years old or more	4	2.2
Total		**179**	**100**

Of the total sample (179 female immigrants), 13.4% are Argentinian, 12.3% Brazilian, 17.3% Bolivian, 25.7% Colombians and representing the largest group in the sample are Ecuadorians at 31.3%; single is the most representative marital status with 48.6% of the sample; 20.1% have higher education, which is an immigration with a job qualification, and 38% are aged between 28 and 37 years old.

These results corroborate data from the Office Fédéral de la Statistique (OFS, 2009) and the results of other international studies on female immigration (Franken et al. 2007, 2009, Ramos, 2008, 2011), highlighting a growing feminization of migrations and a young population of working age, and also more qualified, comparing to traditional migratory processes. Ramos (2008, 2011, 2013), Franken et al. (2007, 2009) when referring to some features of migratory movements, point out that immigrants leave behind their families, friends and familiar and safe places to face a new culture and a new language, in addition to the devaluation of their work capacity, and although they have qualifications, those are not absorbed by the labor market, since the majority with a high school education or above work in domestic services.

Instruments

The instruments used were the socio-demographic questionnaire and the Free Word Association Test, based on the specifics. The sociodemographic questionnaire was used to obtain a characteristic profile of the sample, in addition to obtaining information necessary for the composition of the fixed variables, used for the database processed by the *Tri-Deux-Mots software*. Through this, the following inductive stimuli were adopted: *immigration(1),*(1)*, immigrants(2),* Spaniards(3), Valencia*(4) and* discrimination(5). Such stimuli were thus employed with the intention of articulating them with our social object of investigation, as recommended by Nóbrega and Coutinho (2003). A more detailed description of the instruments used will be given below:

Socio-demographic Questionnaire

This instrument was used to obtain a characteristic profile of the sample, in addition to obtaining information necessary for the composition of the fixed variables, used for the database processed by the computer program Tri-Deux-Mots.

Free Word Association Technique

The technique in question was originally developed by Jung at the beginning of the 20th century, in the form of clinical diagnosis to "analyze the psychological structure through manifestations of reactions, evocations, choices and creation, capable of revealing the structure of the personality" (Coutinho, 2005, p. 78). However, it was Di Giácomo (1981) who adapted the instrument as a research tool that could be used in the field of social psychology studies, specifically in research anchored in the theoretical and methodological assumptions of social representations (Nóbrega & Coutinho, 2003; Sá, 1998).

For the present study, this technique was used as the intention to identify the latent dimensions of the representations through the setup of the elements that

constitute the associative networks of the contents evoked in reaction to each stimulus or inductive word. Thus, the technique is very pertinent to the proposal of this study, since, according to Abric (1994), it allows the "updating of implicit or latent elements that would be lost or masked in the discursive productions" (p. 66).

Procedures

Before starting research, immigrants were granted permission in some Immigration Centers; after the consent, the data collections were scheduled, according to the availability of each subject searched. Regarding data collection, the objectives of the study and the voluntary nature of the research were presented. Those who expressed an interest in participating in the research were asked for authorization by signing the Term of Free and Informed Consent, as required by the Code of Ethics for research on human beings (Resolution 466/12). As for the instructions for responses, the researchers instructed the immigrants to respond to the instrument individually, leaving them free to quit the study at any time. Finally, thanks were given to the participants. The average time for students to respond was approximately 5 minutes.

Type of Study

An exploratory field study was carried out with a multimethod approach.

Research Locus

The study was developed in the city of Valencia. For the purpose of this investigation, Latin American immigrant community centers were consulted.

Results Obtained via the Free Word Association Technique

The results found in the application of the Free Word Association technique, processed by the *Tri-Deux-Mots* software, allowed the Factorial Matching Analysis of the evocations of female immigrants from Latin America of Colombian, Brazilian, Argentine, Ecuadorian and Bolivian nationalities, facing the five inducing stimuli: *immigration* (1), *immigrants* (2), *Spaniards* (3), *Valencia* (4) and *discrimination* (5) associated with nationality, marital status, education and age.

The data collected by the test, from these stimuli, show the semantic variations organized in the space field, represented by two factors: Factor 1 (F1) and Factor 2 (F2) (Image 1). The two factors together explain 57.2% of the total variance, and these results are sufficient, in relation to the internal consistency and the reliability.

The results processed indicated a sum of 2,467 words evoked by all participants (N = 179). Among them, 961 were different, reduced according to the junction of terms with semantic similarity, performed by the computational program itself. Female Ecuadorian immigrants contributed with 822 (33.3%), married women with 1,499 words (60.8%). High school level immigrants contributed 1,418 words (57.5%), immigrants aged between 18 and 27 years with 1,158 words (49.6%).

Data processing through the *Software Tri Deux-Mots* originated the scheme represented in Image 1, where the semantic universes associated with nationality, marital status, education and age are presented.
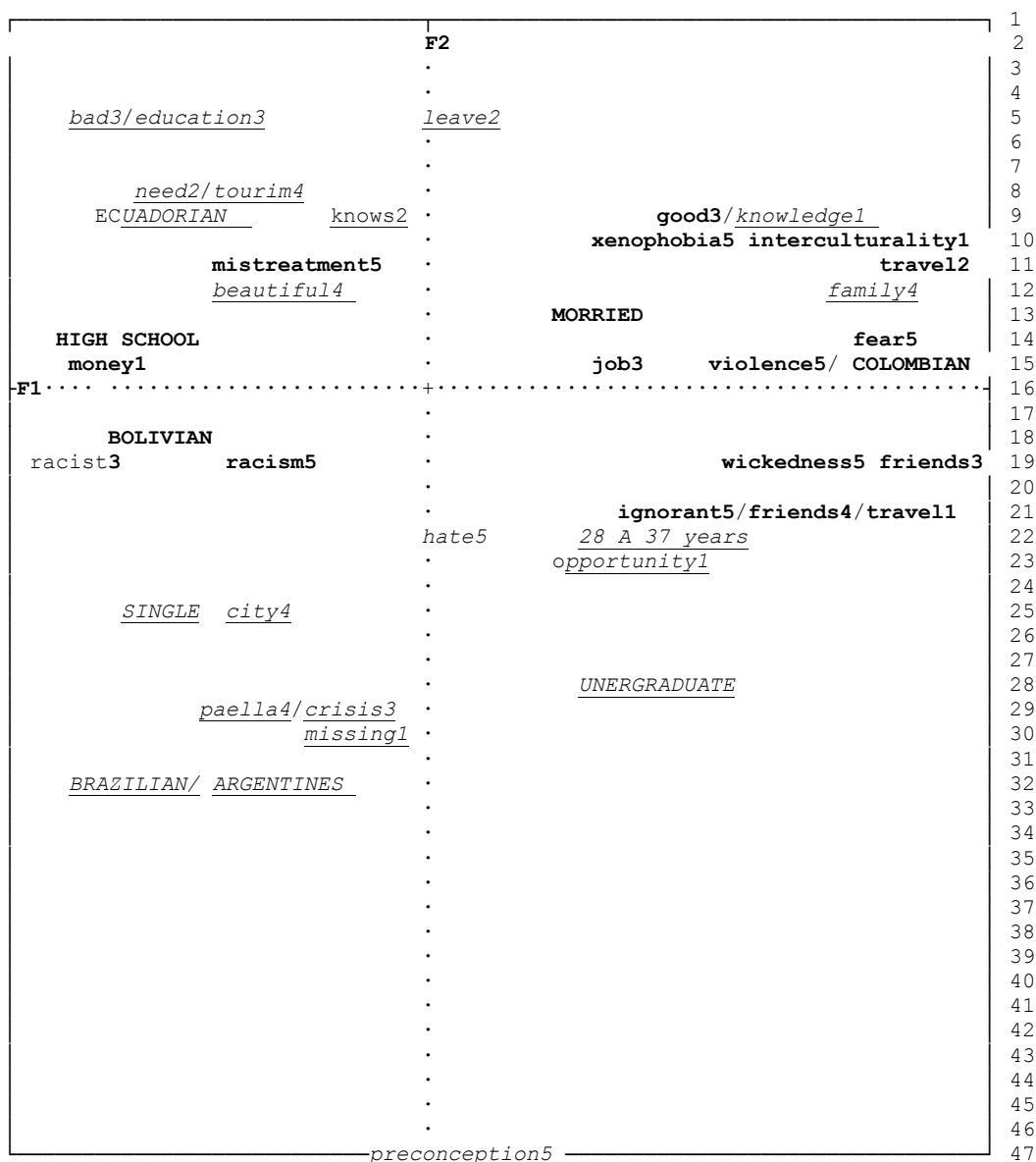
Factorial Correspondence Plan

Figure 1. Factorial Correspondence Plan of social representations elaborated by immigrant women from Latin America of Colombian, Brazilian, Argentine, Ecuadorian and Bolivian nationality.

Key:

F1 *(positive axis):* bold, horizontal

F2 *(negative axis):* italic and underline, vertical

Inducing Stimuli: *immigration, immigrants, Spaniards, Valencia* and *discrimination*

According to Image 1, the first factor (F1), in the horizontal line, in bold, revealed the largest factor loads, specifically those evocations likely corresponding to the social representations seized. This factor explained 45% of the total variance of participants responses. For the first factor, in bold on the left of Image 1, the evocations of immigrants of Bolivian nationality, of elementary education, stand out. By contrast, on the same axis, on the right side, are the objections of married immigrants.

For the first factor, in bold to the left of Figure 1, we find the evocations of female immigrants of Bolivian nationality, of elementary school level, representing the stimulus "*immigration*" as: «money», facing the second stimulus for "immigrant", as a «strong and nostalgic» subject. The third stimulus "*Spaniards*" was represented as «racist» people, the fourth stimulus "*Valencia*" was not observed in the factorial plan of correspondence. For this group, the "*discrimination*" stimulus is synonymous with: «mistreatment and racism».

From another angle, still focusing on Factor One (F1), on the right side, in the horizontal part in bold, we see the evocations of married immigrants of Colombian nationality, who characterized "*immigration*" as: «interculturality and travel»; "*immigrant*" as: «traveler»; *Spaniards* «friends, work». The fourth stimulus "*Valencia*" *was associated with* «friends» and "*discrimination*" with «xenophobia, violence, fear, mistreatment and ignorance».

As for the second factor (F2), in the vertical line of the Image, in italics and underlining, two groups of evocations stand out, explaining the 12.3% of the total variance of participants responses. For this factor, two semantic fields emerged: one in the upper plane, manifested by the immigrants of Ecuadorian nationality, and, in contrast, the unmarried Brazilian and Argentine immigrants, aged between 28 and 37, with higher level of education.

In the second Factor (F2), in the upper plan, in italics and underlined, are the Ecuadorians who represented the stimuli as follows: "*immigration*" as: «knowledge»; "*immigrant*" as: «need, leave, and knowledge»; "*Spaniards*" as: «bad and rude»; "*Valencia*" as «beautiful, family and tourism» and "*discrimination*", any evocation given by these participants was not observed in the factorial plan of correspondence.

Considering the interpretation of the evocations that emerge in the second factor (F2), in the lower plan, in italics and underlined are the unmarried immigrants of Brazilian and Argentine nationality, aged between 28 and 37, of a higher level of education who represented the stimuli: "*immigration*" as: «missing (saudades)»; "*immigrants*" as: «opportunity»; "*Spaniards*" as: «crisis and racists»; "*Valencia*" as «city and paella»; and the stimulus of "*discrimination*" as: «hatred and prejudice».

Analyzes Obtained via the Free Word Association Technique

The results presented in Figure 1 are organized from the factor spaces, established by the first two factors (F1 and F2) and delimited by the responses to the 5 inductive stimuli (1 = Immigration; 2 = Immigrant; 3 = Spanniards; 4 = Valencia, and 5 = discrimination). On the other hand, they reveal the existence of semantic fields that show the similarities and differences in the contents and structure of the participants representations, according to the fixed variables data of nationality, marital status, education and age. Hereafter, in order to meet one of the specific objectives, we will analyze the Factorial Spaces and Semantic Fields organized from each inducing stimulus. The social representations of the factor (F1) on immigration, immigrants, Spaniards and Valencia are perceived in a positive way, corroborating Moura and Pinazo (2013) study that carried out a similar research with Latin Americans about immigrants and immigration in an optimistic form. A previous study with similar results by Coutinho, Ramos and Franken (2008) pointed out that the participants obtained the representation of migration from the obtainance of money, which provides the acquisition of housing and food, certainly marked by their social role of providers that dictates to men. responsibility for the most objective questions in life.

For Silva (1997), money represents understanding for the demands in meeting basic and survival needs as vital and fundamental for every human being, essential to life and happiness itself. Its importance to the human being is undeniable, because through working people feel themselves useful to society and life.

The stimulus "immigrants" was represented by these social authors for being strong and for the feeling nostalgia, as well as for being within a process of interculturality. It is traditionally thought that when immigrants leave their home country and settle in another, they completely abandon their ties to whatever they have left behind. At most, they are still allowed to continue speaking their language, maintaining certain traces of their diet for a few years, and living a continuing nostalgia for the past.

The stimulus "spaniards" was represented by friends, co-workers and racists. Valla (1999) states that social support contributes to the sense of coherence and control over life and brings benefits, not only to those who receive it, as information or help, but also to those who offer it. The social representations emanating from female immigrants in the factor (F2) about immigration and the immigrant reveal a sense of nostalgia. In this sense, Ricardo and Castro (2003) emphasized the feelings that affect the immigrant when arriving in a new and unknown place, specifically fear, shame, apprehension and nostalgia. Ramos (2008, 2013) emphasizes the same feelings, but also the difficulties and the need of adaptation and integration in the host culture. However, the social representation of the *Spaniards* was anchored in this factor in a negative way, resembling negative representations conveyed in the media (Lucena, 2008).

These results allowed us to analyze the social representations of "*immigration*", "*immigrants*", "*Spaniards*", "*Valencia*" and "*discrimination*", from the psycho-social perspective with female Latin American immigrants in their experiences related to the possible manifestations of their daily. So the importance of the Social Representations Theory (Moscovici, 2003) was highlighted for the investigation of the immigration by the identification of the representational contents explained by the immigrants.

Final Considerations

This research was oriented by the seek for knowledge of the representations about *immigration*, *immigrants*, *Spaniards*, *Valencia* and *discrimination* of female immigrants from Latin America: Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, and Brazil, living in the city of Valencia-Spain, aiming at the understanding of how this phenomenon is constructed from the optics that symbolizes it. It is hoped that this study will contribute to a better understanding of the specificities of Latin American female immigration.

It is clear that in the representations related to stimuli: immigration, immigrants, Spaniards, Valencia and discrimination, scientific knowledge and common sense, as well as social values, are intrinsic. It was also possible to observe how these representations influence and guide the behavior of these respondents regarding the maintenance of the customs, habits, cultures and values of their birthplace coexisting simultaneously with the new environment, completely different and distant from friends and family. .It should be noted that the main limitation of this research could not find an equal sample of the nationalities to count on. This situation would certainly have been different in the responses where no evocation given by these participants was observed in the factorial correspondence plan.

The theoretical structure that guided the analysis of this research was the theory of social representations (Moscovici, 1978) fundamental for the understanding of the constructions, the structures and the meanings that are part of the reality of the social agents involved. This theory reveals a plural dimension of human associations, collective forces, knowledge and everyday actions within society or a group of belonging. These assumptions are presented as substantial theoretical support in this study.

This research aimed to contribute empirically to the knowledge about the migratory phenomenon. It is expected that this study provides a better understanding of the Latin American immigrant population of the Valencian capital and serve as support for future investigations.

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