

## THE CESSPOOLS ON THE SIDEWALKS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE URBAN SCENERY OF ARAGUAÍNA – TOCANTINS



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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses the problem of cesspools on the sidewalks of Araguaína as part of the construction of the urban scenario of the city, sometimes due to the lack/absence of the public power to meet the basic needs of the population, sometimes due to the cultural "cleverness" of the population that "taking advantage" of the lack of municipal inspection, also corroborates the sense of the organizational disarray of spatial production. Or still, both hypotheses at the same time, making up the scenario built and to be built gradually with the cultural subtleties of the place. Even because, the problematic does not choose "social class" in its existence as such. That is, both the person with low purchasing power and the person with high social status, use the artifice of cesspools on the sidewalks as a lack of sewage network and sanitary treatment and/or stating that their land is small and that, therefore, the cesspools "fit" inside them and/or even if when paying for the septic tank to clean the cesspool, they remove their waste, It is cheaper on the sidewalk than on the land. These are discourses that permeate the social classes that produce the urban space of the city of Araguaína – TO.

**Keywords:** Cesspools on sidewalks, Lack of municipal inspection, Spatial organization.

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## INTRODUCTION

There are many urban problems in Araguaína – TO, as well as in all Brazilian cities from north to south and from east to west. However, in Araguaína – TO, some are characteristic of it and, one of them, without a doubt, is the excessive number of cesspools on its sidewalks. This undoubtedly harms the traffic of people through them, in addition to not being a landscape that pleases the eyes of its residents and visitors. Not to mention the odor that is exhaled, especially in the rainy season, when the water table is shallower.

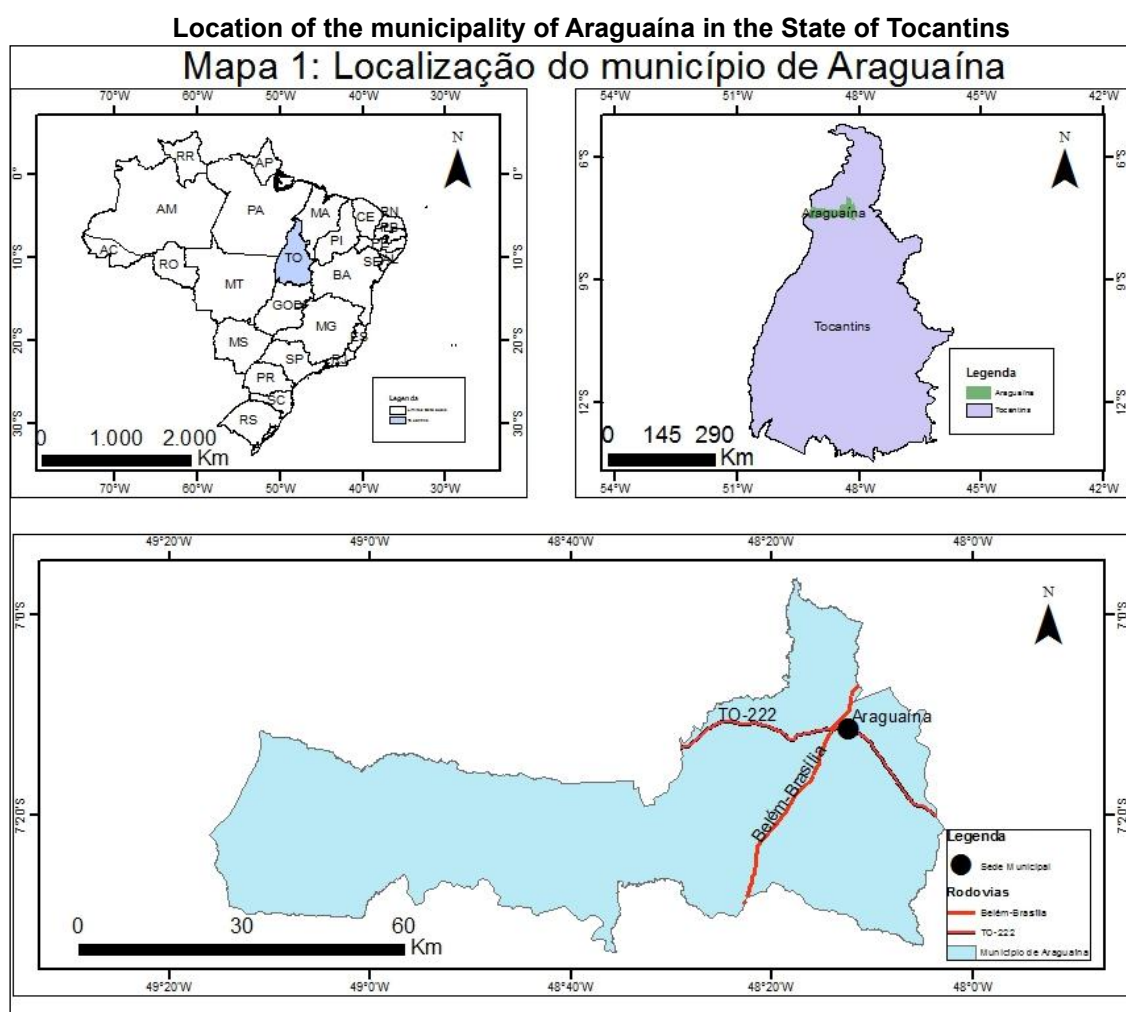
This article then discusses the problem of cesspools on the sidewalks of Araguaína as part of the construction of the urban scenario of the city, sometimes due to the lack/absence of the public power to meet the basic needs of the population, sometimes due to the cultural "cleverness" of the population that "taking advantage" of the lack of municipal inspection, also corroborates the sense of the organizational disarray of spatial production. Or still, both hypotheses at the same time, making up the scenario built and to be built gradually with the cultural subtleties of the place. Even because, the problematic does not choose "social class" in its existence as such.

This article is the result of an empirical research in which we interviewed one hundred people such as: professors, university students, doctors, lawyers, gas station attendants, security guards, etc. and they gave their opinion agreeing and or disagreeing with the cesspools on the sidewalks of Araguaína. The results are very interesting for the governors to have a greater commitment to the issue of basic sanitation of the city as a whole.

It is evident that, from the moment the empirical research was carried out with the 100 people randomly selected to take a position/give their opinion on the topic in question, many changes have taken place in the urban scenario of that city. Even because, the last two municipal governments have provided relevant work in relation to basic sanitation and beautification of the city. We will see the results of the research, but first, however, we will see the location map of the municipality of Araguaína in the State of Tocantins, as can be seen in figure 01. We will also make a small discussion about the municipality of Araguaína, but this is not the focus of the article, since we will work specifically on the problem of the cesspool on the sidewalks of the city.

As can be seen in figure 01, the municipality of Araguaína is located in the northern region of the State of Tocantins, which in turn is part of the northern region of Brazil. It is a municipality that has its economic base in the primary and tertiary sector of the economy, mainly commerce, health and education. In the city there are several markets and

supermarkets that not only meet the local demand, but also serve the various neighboring municipalities in the states of Tocantins, Pará and Maranhão. There are also many wholesale trades in various sectors that meet this demand that goes beyond the limits of their municipality.



Source: Cartographic base, SEPLAN, 2012. Digitisation. DIAS, Reges Sodré da Luz Silva.

In relation to Education, the situation is repeated. We have several private face-to-face and semi-face-to-face colleges, in addition to the **UFNT Campus itself**, which already offers several master's and doctoral degrees, in addition to undergraduate and graduate courses (latu sensu). Not to mention the public and private elementary schools that exist in the city of Araguaína that attract students from various municipalities in the North of Tocantins, South of Pará and Maranhão.

Health, in turn, has its polarization in relation to the previously mentioned area, because, in addition to having specialized clinics in various sectors, it also has a medical

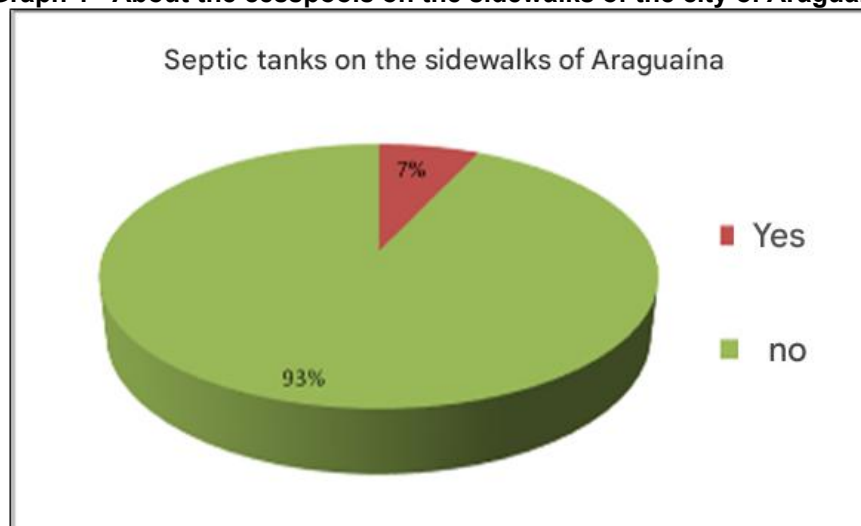
course at ITPAC, which directly and indirectly enables an improvement in the quality of health in the region. UFNT itself already has the Medicine course operating on its Campus and giving even more visibility to its polarization in health. All this only reinforces its polarization in this sector of the economy, as already pointed out in the Master's Thesis of retired professor: Jacira Garcia Gaspar.

On the other hand, industrialization is incipient, as in several cities in the interior of Brazil, since these spaces are generally complementary to the economy of the center-south of the country, offering agricultural products. In other words, these spaces are generally areas of capital expansion and, for this very reason, at most it has agro-industries that benefit products from agriculture. In the specific case, the greatest command of this sector is in the production of meat and its derivatives. In fact, the conclusion was reached that Araguaína is the "Capital of the Fat Cattle".

## WORKING RESEARCH DATA

Still working on the reality of the urban landscape of Araguaína, seeking to understand it in its particular nuances, we found that the cesspools on its sidewalks are also part of this urban scenario for its beauty or its ugliness.

**Graph 1 - About the cesspools on the sidewalks of the city of Araguaína**



Source: PEREIRA, Aires José. Field research.

In this way, we asked the same hundred people whether or not they agree with the cesspools on the sidewalks. Of the total, 93% disagree and only 7% stated that they agree, as can be seen in graph 01. Looking at graph 01, it can be seen that most of the interviewees

disagree with the cesspools on the sidewalks, however, when walking through the streets of Araguaína, we realize that the use of this practice is more common than one might imagine. When interviewing one teacher, among many others, we obtained the following answer:

They do not make a good impression, and reveal a great deficiency of the city: lack of basic sanitation, with sewage and waste treatment. From the point of view of public health, this is a challenge posed to the Public Power, which needs to establish projects that aim to implement and enable basic sanitation in the city. From the landscape point of view, the symbolic aggression with these cesspools on the sidewalks reveals the fragility of a society that organizes the urban space of Araguaianense with a lack of planning and political action in the face of the competent bodies to demand change in this form of disposal of sewage and waste. Society places itself in the situation of complacent and conniving with this situation. Part of the responsibility for this problem is also ours. (Interview conducted in October 2011 with a teacher).

The professor speaks indirectly of the ugliness of the city due to the cesspools on the sidewalks, in addition, of course, to denounce the problem of the lack of basic sanitation and the non-demand by the population of Araguaína to the constituted public power, of a solution to the social problem, and of the healthy sustainability of the urban environment. Another person says that "people who do not have means of transportation end up walking on the sidewalks, which can cause accidents with them". Indeed, pedestrians in the city have mobility problems. It is very dangerous to walk on the sidewalks of Araguaína. For an academic from the Geography course at UFT,

Cesspools on sidewalks represent a series of inconveniences, mainly due to poor maintenance, such as: unpleasant odor, incidence and proliferation of insects, structural problems, which end up causing risks to society that needs to transit on the public sidewalk (the sidewalk). There are also environmental impacts, as there is no control of the waste that is being dumped in these cesspools, which also end up causing contamination of the soil and consequently of the water table. (Interview conducted in September 2011 with a student of the Geography course at UFT).

It is evident that this problem is mainly due to the lack of a sewage network, although it is not only because of this. Even because this lack of basic sanitation is "common" in Brazilian cities and, however, its residents do not make cesspools on the sidewalks. Therefore, one interviewee states that "the correct thing would be the sewage network for the entire population". For another interviewee, "it is dangerous and worrying for those who use the sidewalks to transit". Another also states that "when poorly done they can cause accidents". In fact, there is a subjective intimacy between the producers of the places, their cultures, experiences and perceptions, as described by Guimarães (2002) and the place where the sedimentation of their effective actions takes place. Let's see his speech:

The spaces and places, in turn, sheltered the construction and sedimentation of bonds of a secular and sacred nature, demarcating parallel structures of the world lived in the old landscapes. The renewal of symbolic codes and their experiences and perceptions generated interpretations involved in the magic and charisma of their own myths, combined with a geographical knowledge of empirical roots. This involvement of mythical and geographical aspects delineated, at various times, territories that to this day present thresholds oscillating between the obscurity of a subjective intimacy and the concreteness externalized in geopolitical borders. However, the men who inhabit the Earth continued to build their landscapes, icons of their cultures, where singular experiences led to levels of experiences and perception related to the landscapes of visibilities, non-visibilitys and even those concerning the levels of the sensible, (Guimarães, 2002, p. 129).

Urban landscapes, not to mention others, say a lot about their people. On the other hand, from what can be seen, depending on the answers of the interviewees, their opinions about the problem are diversified and practically all of them have an empirical urban reason to understand the seriousness of cesspools on sidewalks. See how the concern of a university student appears:

In addition to the danger we run of always walking over cesspool covers and these collapsing, there is the issue of pollution; You see, as we have all the urban soil in the city of Araguaína contaminated, and as there are streets and houses on the banks of springs and streams, we may be contaminated by organisms harmful to our health through water and other foods. (Interview conducted in June 2011 with a university student).

In addition to the problems caused by the cesspools on the sidewalks of Araguaína, pointed out by the university student, a clerk, in turn, talks about public health, if not let's see:

What is missing is a sewage collection system, that is, the municipal authorities have to include it in their government and state planning, so that it stops using the cesspools that due to the large number of them end up affecting the water table of our municipality, causing more damage to the entire population, since the water is collected in the municipality through the water table, that is, artesian wells. (Interview conducted in October 2012 with a clerk).

In addition to the public health problem, and others of a different nature, caused by this situation, a university professor criticizes the Araguainense population that does not mobilize against political ills.

I do not agree under any circumstances, this demonstrates the lack of structure in the city and how much people (the majority) here think small in the face of situations that deserve more critical attention. The big problem is that 99.9% of the people in this city think that everything is going very well. This is what I notice in my conversations with people here. (Interview conducted in July 2011 with a university professor).



A university student, from the Geography course at UFT, talks about the risks to the population and the environmental problems that these cesspools cause. For her, the risks range from the problem of pedestrian trafficability to the problem of public health.

**Photograph 01 - Cesspools on the sidewalks of a neighborhood of high social status**



Source: PEREIRA, Aires José. Field research conducted in May 2018.

Because according to the law it should stay within the lots. The cesspools are one of the major problems for the population of Araguaína, as most of them are located on the sidewalks, which pose a risk to the entire population. Because we know that several accidents can occur, just as many accidents have already occurred. Not to mention the risk to the health of the population, as these cesspools contaminate/pollute the groundwater, rivers and soil. Not to mention the issue, the odor emitted from these cesspools, and the imminent risk they pose to pedestrians, who travel on the sidewalks, and to the entire population of Araguainense directly or indirectly. (Interview conducted in October 2011 with a student of the Geography course).

The urban landscape brings with it many elements that an unsuspecting eye cannot fully capture its nuances. A lawyer says that "the cesspools on the sidewalks cause a serious problem, as pedestrians go to the streets to further disrupt the city's traffic, which is already chaotic". On the other hand, we have a university student who tells us the following: "it facilitates the drainage, but the best thing would be the sewage network". These cesspools on the sidewalks of Araguaína are part of this urban scenario.

On the other hand, Martins (1997) tells us about the mismatch of men in border areas. Araguaína is in this effervescent cauldron where the dispute of public space for private use is great and the local public power turns a blind eye to the problem. The cesspools on the sidewalks are some of the examples of invasion of public space by private use that spreads throughout the city in all neighborhoods regardless of their social condition. But let's look at Martins' speech:

Among the many disputes that characterize it, the one that dominates over the others and gives them meaning is the dispute over the definition of the line that separates

Culture from Nature, man from animal, who is human and who is not. The border is one of the rare places in contemporary society where this dispute still has the visibility that in others lasts only in theoretical and philosophical discussion. {...}. It is at the frontier that one can best observe how societies are formed, disorganized or reproduced. It is there that it is best to see what are the conceptions that ensure these processes and give them meaning. On the border, Man does not find himself – he does not meet. It is not in it that the humanity of the Other is discovered as a mediation of the gestation of Man. (Martins, 1997, p. 12).

**Photograph 02 - Three cesspools on the sidewalk in Araguaína - TO**



Source: PEREIRA, Aires José. Field research conducted in October 2018.

There are numerous problems arising from this culturally rooted social practice in the city of Araguaína, in addition to the absence of the public power in regulating and inspecting the actions of the population that lead to the degradation of the city's urban landscape. For a university professor, there are reasons for this reality that characterizes the city of Araguaína:

For a few reasons, such as: they mean danger to pedestrians; they mean contamination of the water table; they mean disobedience to the municipality's code of conduct; Less problematic than installing a cesspool on the sidewalk is installing it in the backyard. But the correct thing is that there is a sewage treatment system, as this solves the problem. (Interview conducted in September 2011 with a university professor).

A secretary said: "I find it inconvenient, because it brings big problems, the structure of the sidewalks and the bad smell". For a security guard: "because it gives us insecurity when we travel on the sidewalks". Others also claim that the city should have basic sanitation and that this can cause contamination of the water table. They also say that Araguaína is the only place they know where you see so many cesspools on the sidewalks, in addition to being poorly made it is a sign of underdevelopment and is unhygienic. This, in addition to being too ugly, also gives off a terrible stench. All this is part of the urban landscape of Araguaína. Let us see what Milton Santos (1988) has to tell us:



The landscape is the set of objects that our body reaches and identifies. The garden, the street, the set of houses that we have in front of us, like simple pedestrians. A fraction more extensive than our sight reaches from the top of a building. What we see from an airplane at 1,000 m high is a landscape, as we apprehend it in an even wider extension, when from a greater height. The landscape is our horizon, wherever we are. (Santos, 1988, p. 76).

In this way, the urban landscape of Araguaína includes the cesspools on the sidewalks with all their problems. It is not possible to "unravel" the landscape from the cesspools on the sidewalks and vice versa. The smell, the ugliness, the fright of pedestrians when traveling on the sidewalks, the contamination of the water table, among many other problems pointed out by the urban users interviewed by us, are indisputably components of the urban landscape of Araguaíense and as such should be studied. Identification with place, regardless of how it is, goes through what Tuan (1980) discusses:

Awareness of the past is an important element of love of place. Patriotic rhetoric has always emphasized the roots of a people. To intensify loyalty history becomes visible with monuments in the landscape and past battles are remembered, in the belief that the blood of the heroes sanctified the soil. Illiterate peoples may be deeply attached to their place of origin. They may not have the modern Western sense, but when they seek to explain their loyalty to the place, they either point out the ties to nature (the mother-earth theme), or they turn to history. (Tuan, 1980, p. 114).

A graduate academic argues that cesspools should be made in the backyard (inside the land) of their owners. In general, the interviewees are in tune with the problems arising from this way of producing the urban space of Araguaína. The vast majority say that the water table will be contaminated by the cesspools, that this is a lack of sewage network, that it is also a problem of "cleverness" of the owner of these cesspools himself in not wanting to use his land for their construction. A high school teacher tells us that: "these cesspools on the sidewalks are a lack of respect, most are falling apart and are a real trap in the street. The sidewalk that should be the place for pedestrians to walk, becomes a danger that must be avoided". The sidewalks are public and as such should serve pedestrians who travel or could travel through the city through them. However, it is very difficult to see someone walking on the sidewalks of Araguaína. A bank employee tells us that:

On the sidewalk, I don't consider the allocation of cesspools to be correct. Because the effluent treatment system is incipient in the city, I think that the only alternative to minimize environmental impacts is the use of septic tanks, but always inside the land (lot). (Interview conducted in January 2012 with a bank employee).

Araguaína undoubtedly lacks basic sanitation that meets its needs. Aesthetically, the frightening number of cesspools on the sidewalks is very ugly. Countless people interviewed

spoke of the dangers, the bad smell, the pollution of the water table, the ugliness that this ends up causing in the city. They also stated that the sidewalks are public and not private and that, therefore, pedestrians have the right to come and go without worrying about falling into the cesspools. For a college student,

For a few reasons, such as: they mean danger to pedestrians; they mean contamination of the water table; they mean disobedience to the municipality's code of conduct; In addition to bringing a bad smell, it is very dangerous because the population walks on the sidewalks to protect themselves from cars. Less problematic than installing a cesspool on the sidewalk is installing it in the backyard. But the correct thing is that there is a sewage treatment system, as this solves the problem. (Interview conducted in October 2011 with a university student).

The list of problems caused by the indiscriminate use of public space for private purposes, according to the interviewees, is very long, as can be seen in their statements. The list of problems ranges from the illegality of the action to the dangerous practice, as it threatens the safety of pedestrian passersby, the bad smell, the ugliness, the lack of hygiene, public health and the environmental unsustainability of the urban space.

The urban legislation of the city generally defines the construction standards of its urban space, but when these laws do not exist or if they exist, they are ignored both by the public power and by the constituted civil society, causing an unbounded ugliness, as observed when traveling through the tortuous streets of Araguaína. Landim (2004) points out that:

The legislation that defines the patterns of urban occupation, which in turn define the physical configuration of the landscape, basically deals with the physical-territorial space, alienating itself from the other components of the urban problem. In this way, cities are homogenized, due to a low, generalist urban discourse that contributes to architectural pasteurization. (Landim, 2004, p.20).

It so happens that architectural pasteurization in this specific case does not result from the modern production of urban space, but rather from the almost rudimentary form of construction of high walls, cesspools on the sidewalks and houses without architectural details. Today, after the city (a large part) is "built" in this way, it is normal for people to say that this was due to the economic poverty of the place of yesteryear. However, it is common to see cesspools on the sidewalks of wealthy people in the city. But back to the topic itself, what are the cesspools on the sidewalks, let's see the speech of a cafeteria attendant:

No, first of all there should be a sewage treatment network, but as it does not exist, I think that, as the lots of Araguaína are quite large, thus having a lot of free space, you can use the open areas of the lot to make them, thus avoiding the risk of an accident with some person and even having to pay compensation, which possibly the injured

person will ask for. Each resident should build his cesspool inside his backyard and not cause urban and environmental damage to the whole society. (Interview conducted in February 2012 with a cafeteria attendant).

It is interesting that the people interviewed, regardless of their level of education and regardless of the profession they practice, their discourse is more or less in tune. See what a concierge agent said: "if there is a rupture in the structure of this cesspool, it will be uncomfortable for neighbors and other people who pass through it". For a technical consultant: "no, because at any time they can fall and thus hurt pedestrians". The lines are sometimes repeated, even using other ways of saying, but the essence is the same. Observe what a replenisher says: "I don't agree, because they leave a bad smell on the street, in addition to preventing the passage of pedestrians and if they give in, they can consume the street". A legal advisor tells us that "no, because the sidewalks, in some way, are public, in addition to the issue of aesthetics". The landscapes resulting from this way of acting in the production of urban space also obey, indisputably, as we are always emphasizing throughout this work, the culture of its people, beyond the very morphology of the urban site, the economy, etc. Landim (2004) reports that:

The cultural production of space takes place in space and time, and historical moments are reflected in landscapes. The morphological characteristics of the cities then spread out the stages of construction of the urban space, and the urban landscape is constituted by similarity, which confers homogeneity, or by specificity, which confers particularity of some periods. That is, how much of each period, the result of a historical/cultural process, survives in each new landscape. The remaining urban structures in the new landscapes will confer the particularity of that space, precisely because it illustrates its history, leaving us, then, to identify which are the configured elements that would characterize the transformation. (Landim, 2004, p.42).

It is evident, on the other hand, that despite the numerous cesspools on the sidewalks of Araguaína in all "sectors", there is also, proportionally, a decrease in this type of "urban structure". That is, due to the arrival of people from various parts of the country in recent years, some of them make their cesspools inside their lots. It is, in fact, the emergence of a change in the spatial relations between the population and the physical space of the city. But, going back to our interviewees, an electrician comments on the subject as follows: "sidewalks are places where pedestrians travel and it is too dangerous, because they can fall into it". Going a little deeper into the discussion of the reason why the people of Araguaína make their cesspools on the sidewalks, it is interesting to observe what Tuan (1980) has to tell us in relation to affection or contempt for this or that. Let us see his observation:

Familiarity engenders affection or contempt. We all know that a person can have affections for old slippers, which to a stranger look moldy. There are several reasons for this affection. A person's belongings are an extension of their personality; To be deprived of them is to diminish one's value as a human being, in one's own estimation. Clothing is a more personal belonging. There are few adults whose senses of self do not suffer when naked, or who do not feel threatened by their identity when they have to wear someone else's clothes. In addition to clothes, a person in the course of time invests part of his emotional life in his home and beyond the home, in his neighborhood. To be evicted, by force, from one's own house or neighborhood is to be stripped of a wrapper, which due to its familiarity protects the human being from the perplexities of the outside world. Just as some people are reluctant to abandon an old coat for a new one, some people – especially the elderly – are reluctant to abandon their old neighborhood for another with new homes. (Tuan, 1980, p. 114).

Araguainense society, in general, has a very peculiar way of dealing with urban public space. This particularity "jumps to the eyes" more attentive through the landscape that is historically created by the daily actions of ordinary people and the public power has done nothing to curb them. It is evident that this look also depends a lot on who directs it. The lifestyle that society itself adopts as the most correct for itself also counts when it comes to attributing values to certain attitudes of people in a certain place or even place. Tuan (1980) also assures us that:

The lifestyle of a people is the sum of its economic, social and ultra-terrestrial activities. These activities generate spatial patterns; they require architectural forms and material environments that, in turn, influence the pattern of activities after they are finished. The ideal is an aspect of the total lifestyle. We know the ideal because it is often verbalized and occasionally substantiated in works that endure. Economic and social forces contribute in an extraordinary way to the definition of lifestyles, but, unlike idealistic impulses, they lack self-awareness. Lifestyles are hardly verbalized and performed consciously. In most cases we come to understand something of a people's way of life, including their attitude, towards the world only through the accumulated evidence of daily acts and the character of the physical circumstances in which they occur. (Tuan, 1980, p. 199-200).

Therefore, such behavior of Araguainense society is supported by its own spatial verbalization of its concrete attitudes in its daily life and for this very reason, there are different views of the views on the urban landscape precisely because each one has its own life history, culture, way of being, acting, being and living in the world. Therefore, the perspectives that we are following through the interviews are sometimes similar, but also some moments are totally different. It is precisely the look at these other perspectives that ends up complementing the understanding of how the urban thinking of the Araguainense population works.

A vendor, when referring to the problem addressed here, makes the following observation: "cesspools on the sidewalks bring many dangers to the population, in addition to diseases. It makes it impossible for the physically disabled to exercise citizenship". On the

other hand, a psychologist says that "the sidewalk is for the pedestrian and not to throw shit at irresponsible residents". A self-employed person, on the other hand, completely disagrees with the cesspools on the sidewalks. He says that the sidewalks are public and that the cesspools can explode and/or burst. A public official warns us that cesspools on sidewalks are something "disgusting and it is still dangerous for people to fall".

There are those who say that this needs to be seen from the environmental, organizational and structural side of the city. And that all this brings environmental damage to the city. In addition, there is the problem of the proliferation of agents that transmit various diseases. There are also those who say that this is an old problem in the city of Araguaína that brings contamination to the water table, which is a source of survival for many families who use water from artesian wells. A health service assistant says the following: "because when they (cesspools) saturate and end up leaking, they can cause diseases and spread epidemics". But, as can be seen in graph 01; 7% of respondents agree with the cesspools on the sidewalks and see in summary what they said.

A self-employed man says that "cesspools are the only alternative that the population has, since we do not have sewage in our city". For a cashier, it is necessary to have cesspools on the sidewalks because "most do not have land in the backyards and, many for land savings, to build houses for rent at the back of the backyards". For his part, a university student also agrees with the cesspools on the sidewalks, stating that: "it is the only way to pollute the city's streams less". On the other hand, a real estate and car broker also agrees with the cesspools on the sidewalks, as he considers that: "when it fills up, it is easier to be emptied". In fact, this is the reigning discourse in the city by those who have cesspools on the sidewalks. These owners of land and houses with cesspools on the sidewalks adopted the discourse of those who own "the cesspool cleaning truck", the "minhocão". Even because, for them, cleaners, this is really much easier. On the other hand, a police officer states:

I do agree, but only for one reason, that the sidewalks at this point are essential, because if there were a sewage network throughout the city, it would also pass through the sidewalks also causing a certain risk not in terms of cesspools, but also debatable. (Interview conducted in September 2011 with a police officer).

From the interview above, it is possible to understand a little of the ambiguity between the notion of the right to the city and to citizenship and the very absence of the state in its legislation, execution and punishment of offenders, even because, suddenly, we live the power of backwardness, as José de Souza Martins states. The State is completely absent, from the

moment it refuses to equip the city with basic sanitation to the connivance of the invasion of public space by private use. The owner of the land or even the house that builds cesspools on the sidewalks, is certainly making private use of the public space.

Neither agree nor disagree, it depends a lot on the situation of each resident. It would be good if the entire residence had a space in the backyard of their houses and that had car access to clean the cesspool. In front it is not a good initiative, but people end up making the cesspool on the sidewalk due to the easy access for emptying.  
(Interview conducted with a security guard in April 2012).

The discourse of the resident of Araguaianense about the ease of emptying the cesspool is interesting, because in many Brazilian cities that also do not have sanitary sewage, the cesspools are built within the land of their owners and the septic tank cleaner does the service normally. There are those who say that in Araguaína the septic tank cleaner charges a higher fee of around R\$ 20.00 to drain the cesspool that is inside the backyards. Even with this higher price, it is not justified to make the cesspool on the sidewalk. Especially because it is not every day that you need to exhaust it.

## **FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

At the conclusion of this article, it is clear that the imaginary of the population surveyed is very different from that of the general population of the city. That is, the universe researched: university students, teachers of the three levels of education (elementary, secondary and higher education), doctors, lawyers, etc. differs greatly from the daily practice of the residents of Araguaína – TO, since it is very common to find cesspools on the sidewalks of the city. And, on the other hand, 93% of respondents disagree with this attitude that is so common among its inhabitants.

It is interesting that the constituted public power does not assume its responsibilities to manage the quality of life of the population, taking to their homes, the minimum attendance of their basic needs, and also does not act to curb abuses by the population that takes advantage of the absence of punishment to invade public space, such as, for example, building cesspools on the sidewalks. The Power of Delay, so well understood by José de Souza Martins, intensifies in the practice of the production of the urban space of Araguaína – TO. The public power is absent and does not charge its residents anything so as not to be charged for their true attributions. This is how the right is closed where no one charges anything to also not be charged. The citizen is exempt from his rights so that they do not comply with his duties. It is a real vicious cycle.



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