

Spatial Diversity of the Hungarian Household Structure and the Kish Grid — A Regional Specification of the Method

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The problem of spatial heterogeneity in society often arises during the design of multi-stage sampling procedures. Accurate and appropriate methods have been already used by researchers to avoid the spatial bias in the sampling design, such as the number of strata and the stratified sample size. The problem of drawing a single person from a household occurs at the final stage of a survey design, and the Leslie Kish grid gives an algorithm for this random selection. This method uses only the structure of the drawn household for the appropriate selection and to provide representativeness by gender and age.

The paper deals with the impact of spatial heterogeneity (regional and settlement type-level) in the household structure on the representativeness of a sample provided by the Kish grid method. The first result of the study is that the sample drawn by random walk method (and using face-to-face interviews) will not fit the population in respect of the households' different characteristics. The second result of the study is that a spatial modification of the Kish grid – by using a regional specification – would be more likely to lead to a representative sample as regional diversity in the household structure is notable.