

PRESENTATION

Linguistics, like all science, is made up of continuities and ruptures, but above all of advances from previous foundations. *Alfa* has always meant to be a space for the dissemination of this knowledge, emphasizing the value of innovative research and the expression of critical analysis. It is with this keynote that we present the second issue of *Alfa* in 2018. Seven original articles and a review scrutinize subjects related to different topics under different theoretical-methodological perspectives, always guided by densely-based research, original in the definition of questions and in the construction of answers.

In the study that opens this issue, Batista retakes a debate that dominated the scenario of Brazilian Linguistics in the 1980s — the proposal of a Parametric Sociolinguistics — from the historiographic perspective. It is not a matter of analyzing the epistemological validity of the debater's arguments, but their discourses, the construction of their argumentation, applying in this analysis a socio-rhetorical theoretical and methodological framework. With this proposal the author provides a new angle to think the controversy. And he has the merit of highlighting an approach that, although motivating intense debates and questioning, was an example of the innovative potential of our researchers and paved the way for a new developmental period for Historical Linguistics in Brazil.

Machado reflects on questions «that disturb the semanticist of any affiliation», around the construction of significance. The author problematizes the relationship between structure and context, taking the concept of semantic paradox based on the Theory of Semantic Blocks. Drawing on the analysis of situations of semantic ambiguity and potentially polysemic structures, he discusses the role of structural meaning in reaching the enunciative meaning.

The third article, by Junqueira and Oliveira da Silva, investigates the discursive representations of the democratic school, the quality of democracy and violence, taking as theoretical basis the Critical Discourse Analysis and the Theory of Multimodal Social Semiotics. The object of study is analyzed from its materialization in journalistic texts of the genre article on public schools of the Federal District, posted in Metr opolis news portal. The analysis considered linguistic aspects (lexical selection), the multimodal approach and the metaphors used, revealing that the texts combine «legitimation of hegemonic social relations» and «commitment to the social identity created for the government of the Federal District».

Two articles focus on the teaching-learning universe of language(s). The first one, by Pinheiro, takes Vygotsky's sociocultural perspective to investigate teaching-

learning procedures used in a discipline of reading and producing academic texts under the *Programa de Formação Interdisciplinar Superior* (Profis) of State University of Campinas (Unicamp). Applying the concepts of Zone of Proximal Development, recursive feedback, Mastery Learning and Scaffolding, the study shows that it is “possible to take learners to new forms of knowledge” and to actual development, «by working with textual production through a process of formative evaluation» with continuous feedback.

The study of Diniz and Prieto brings to the forefront an increasingly inescapable reality — the complex interactions that characterize the frontier context. The authors’ interest lies in the profile of the language teaching professional in a plurilingual education context, such as that of the Brazil-Peru-Bolivia borders. In order to identify which elements of plurilingual competence underlie this profile, considering the teachers’ own perceptions, the authors conclude that these professionals are aware of the potential of the context in which they work and develop pedagogical practices conducive to plurilingual competence.

Rech and Varaschin investigate the properties of deontic modalities with different interpretations, with particular emphasis on the *ought-to-be* interpretation, which presupposes a property of a state of affairs that must occur. The authors defend the hypothesis that conceptual distinctions derive from structural differences, and then there are correspondences between these levels. Their objective is to evaluate, from Brazilian Portuguese evidence, the pertinence of analyses that propose a high position in the syntactic structure for this type of modal, based on the ordering of the functional categories in the «Cinque hierarchy». The analysis shows that this type of deontic is related to categories such as time and aspect (progressive).

The study by Abreu-Zorzi and Massini-Cagliari on the attribution of accent in adverbs in *-mente* in Portuguese closes the set of articles of this issue. The authors analyze the prosodic behavior of the adverbs at two moments in the history of Portuguese - Archaic Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese, according to Prosodic and Metrical Phonology approaches. Applying the assumptions in extensive corpora data representative of the two periods, they concluded that the adverbs in *-mente* are compounds from the prosodic point of view, embracing a lexical and a secondary accent.

We close this issue with a review of *Análise de Discurso Crítica: um método de pesquisa qualitativa* (Critical Discourse Analysis: a qualitative research method).

We wish you all an enjoyable and inspiring reading!

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