

PRESENTATION

The inaugural issue of Alfa's Volume 63 features eight articles and a review. The topics covered in the studies include the formation of creole languages, the process of lexical renewal by loan as the result of linguistic contacts, an evaluation of computational dictionary, the representation of children's speech in comic strips, the process of acquisition of writing in an interaction context, the evaluation of ideological constructions and the contents proposed in Brazilian and Portuguese official political-pedagogical documents.

In their study on the formation of the Papiamentu, Freitas, Araújo and Bandeira analyze an aspect usually disregarded in the history of the language — the role played by Sephardic Jews, through their use of Portuguese and their active participation in the trade of enslaved Africans brought to Curaçao. Poza's article deals with the process of incorporating indigenous vocabulary into the lexicon of Spanish, through the analysis of the vocabulary present in the *Crónica de Indias* (16th century). The author assumes the complex interrelationship of identity, cultural and cognitive aspects that underlies the process, identifying in the analysis of the data six phases by which the words were adapting until the full incorporation.

From processes that marked the first centuries of European presence in America, we go to the future / present, in the study of Finatto, Vale and Laporte. The authors propose to test the adequacy of a computational dictionary in terms of how much it incorporates popular terms attested in journalistic use. It is a study on elaborating and refining resources to grasp the language lexicon, its most visibly malleable component, and to provide an instrument tuned to the needs of its users.

Gomes and Alencar analyze texts published in *Veja* magazine regarding cases of political corruption in the governments of Lula and Dilma. As they identify linguistic-discursive resources mobilized to build an ideological position, they reveal the relationship between media and politics. Their study is based on the System of Appraisal (Martin and White) and Mouffe's social theory.

Gatti's research investigates children's talk in comic strips, discussing its likelihood from the perspective of interactionist Language Acquisition studies. Unique aspects of his work are the role of humor in the elaboration of this representation of infantile speech, and the evaluation on the potential of this type of data source for research in Acquisition studies.

We go from Acquisition of Speech to Acquisition of Writing, also on an Interactionist perspective. Felipeto presents an investigation held with children at the initial years

of literacy process, where she compares texts written in two different situations — in individual writing activities and in collaborative writing activity. The author aimed to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the production in an interaction context, taking into account quantitative (extension) and qualitative aspects (spelling errors, erasures) in the texts analyzed.

The focus on teaching brings the last two articles of this issue closer to Felipeto's. But in the case of the studies by Vieira and Gonzalez and Rodrigues and Sá, it is a question of investigating official political-pedagogical documents, each one under different theoretical aspects and approaches. From the perspective of Critical Discourse Analysis, Vieira and Gonzalez discuss how the construction of the concepts of “social gender” and “sexuality” in the PCNs is based on the analysis of the semantic relations established in the texts through lexical selection linked to these terms. The study of Rodrigues and Sá, in turn, reveals how Portuguese official documents for Basic Education have dealt with topics on Portuguese Phonetic/Phonology. The authors note that, while the importance of these grounds for reflection on language is not questioned, the documents reserve a limited space for them and also present theoretical and terminological inaccuracies.

Our issue closes with the review of the book *Fonologia, fonologias: uma introdução*, a work that proposes to “take the reader to the world of sounds”, and fulfills the promise, as Cangemi says, providing theoretical subsidies of a fundamental field in linguistic studies.

From the diversity of themes and approaches present in the studies that make up this issue, a common link emerges which is part of the essence of Linguistics, a science of the human. Through language we become individuals who are members of communities. Thus, the social and historical elements are constitutive of language, as much as its biological and cognitive components. When a study prioritizes an aspect of the internal mechanism that allows the functioning of language, it is not erasing the historical process that has built this semiotic system and that ceaselessly shapes it, nor its social function. Interestingly, since the middle of the twentieth century, we have been experiencing a constant expansion of interest and recovery of such aspects in linguistic studies. This movement, which has blossomed theoretical models, methodological proposals, and interdisciplinary approaches, seems to be, rather than a trend, a path. A path always present in the pages of *Alfa* and certainly also present in the works that we now share with our readers.

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