

PRESENTATION

Alfa is pleased to announce its third issue of 2019. At the end of this year, we have a set of nine original articles and two critical reviews of recent publications. In this small universe we have represented different tendencies in contemporary studies in Linguistics. The description and interpretation of linguistic phenomena at different structural levels, from various theoretical-methodological perspectives, remain strong. At the same time, we find studies in which language is modalized and determined by fields of related knowledge — cognition studies, teaching-learning, translation, research ethics. If everything goes through language, language cannot be untouched through and within these dialogues.

The first three articles in this issue have a strong descriptive component. The study by Yida, Simões and Vasconcelos fits into the investigations that begin to explore the richness of the collection built by the ALiB project. The authors analyze the phenomenon of non-final postonic vowel syncope, in proparoxytones, in the speech of 64 inhabitants of the interior of Paraná. From the perspective of Pluridimensional Dialectology and the autosegmental phonological model, they identify the influence of the adjacent context on the process of erasure.

Mora-Bustos investigates a syntactic process in Mazahua, a native language of central Mexico — the existence of a complex structure in which a matrix sentence and a relative clause articulate through a cleft construction. The unprecedented analysis of this language aspect was made from data collected in life stories, narratives and reports.

Recent questions in linguistic studies permeate the article by Sánchez Abchi and Mier: the influence of language sociolinguistic status on the acquisition of rules within the linguistic system. Their aim is to evaluate the distribution and degree of appropriateness of the use of certain verb tenses in written narratives produced by children who have Spanish as an inheritance language. In order to measure the possible impact of the context of language acquisition and use, the authors compare data of this group with another one composed by children living in a context in which Spanish is the majority language.

Maia's study investigates the influence of discursive context on sentence processing: it seeks, more specifically, to determine whether information of a semantic and discursive nature acts after a stage of syntactic interpretation or if it interferes in the process at an earlier stage, thus influencing the parsing of the sentence. The evaluation is done through experiments using the eye-tracking technique, with Brazilian Portuguese speakers.

Beyond the boundaries of the linguistic system, Knoll and Fuzer propose to understand the relationships between the multimodal aspects that characterize the infographic genre and the meaning production observed there. Their analysis explores advertising sphere infographics from the perspective of *Grammar of Visual Design*, concluding that variable verb-visual aspects combine to produce different degrees of salience.

Rodrigues and Barros bring results of the elaboration of a bilingual (Portuguese-French) terminological dictionary of terms of the domain “real estate lease agreements”. The dictionary, built on a corpus of real estate lease agreements in both focused languages, aims to meet the specific needs of translators working in this domain. In the article presented here, the authors focus on the dictionary microstructure.

The articles by Woelfer and Tomitch and by Fuza and Menegassi confirm an expanding trend of studies that focus on processes related to language teaching and learning.

Woelfer and Tomitch discusses the relationships between working memory capacity, reading proficiency, and processing of verbal and pictorial information in English as a foreign language (EFL) reading. The objective is to evaluate the extent to which these skills determine or influence learners’ reading comprehension. Through the analysis of tests applied to sixty Brazilian students, the authors show that there are positive correlations between the independent variables, and that these effectively condition the reading comprehension.

Fuza and Menegassi, in turn, analyze the organization of proposed reading questions in a collection of textbooks from grades 6 to 9, in terms of their ordering and sequencing. Starting from a general evaluation of the collection, which addresses different textual / discursive genres, the authors bring a new sequencing proposal for activities on chronicles and painting, from the 6th grade book. The study is within the scope of Applied Linguistics research, more specifically from the perspective of interactionist reading.

Closing the set of original articles, Chimentão and Reis discuss the intricate and controversial issues related to research ethics. The discussion focuses on the universe of research in social and human sciences, advocating for these domains (and perhaps beyond them) research practices that surpass the bureaucratic model defined within the health sciences. The study has the merit of highlighting the need to rethink the place and role of the research participant subject, whose voice should have secured space in the process. Thus, the authors defend the construction of an emancipatory research.

The issue is completed with two reviews of recently published works. In the first, by Saporas and Ikeda, we have an evaluation of the book *A conquista da opinião pública: como o discurso manipula as escolhas políticas* (The Conquest of Public Opinion: How Discourse Manipulates Political Choices), by Patrick Charaudeau, in its translation into Brazilian Portuguese.

In the second, Pessotto introduces us to the work *Para conhecer Semântica* (To Know Semantics), authored by Ana Quadros Gomes and Luciana Sanchez Mendes, an introductory guide to one of the fundamental areas of language studies.

With this expressive set of studies, we have completed another year of work, certain to have fostered the dissemination of the best in linguistic research. Alfa's team is made up of many highly qualified and dedicated specialists. And generous in their willingness to apply their knowledge to the construction of this space of diffusion and dialogue. I take this moment to thank deeply for the commitment and invaluable collaboration of this team, with special thanks to those who acted as evaluators of the dozens of papers submitted to us.

And I wish you all an enriching reading!

Rosane de Andrade Berlinck

