

PRESENTATION

In 2012, *Alfa* celebrated 50 years of its heroic resistance as a scientific journal in a publishing market which is not always especially favorable to this type of publication. This number, which opens the volume 59/2015, is a significant sample of the academic fullness achieved by the journal. This long line of continuity, far from showing conservatism and stagnation, ends up representing a process of disruption and innovation. If volume 58 inaugurated a new frequency from two times a year to quarterly, volume 59, which this number introduces, represents the conversion of *Alfa* to a bilingual publication issued both in Portuguese and English.

This innovation not only puts *Alfa* en route to internationalization, but also represents a significant opening of the content to a much wider audience, especially researchers from abroad who are interested in the structure of Portuguese, especially the Brazilian variety.

Considering now the content of this number, just a quick look at the texts allows us to realize that, in addition to certain thematic diversity, the different levels of linguistic analysis are almost fully covered. The ordering of the articles rests on a clearly top-down perspective of grammar, which starts with the discursive and semantic motivations, passes by the morphosyntactic units themselves to reach the lexical units and, finally, to end with phonological ones.

Another revealing aspect may be noticed in the diversity of themes. In fact, Machado's paper brings a theoretical reflection on the relation between the Freudian psychoanalytic analysis and a structuralist reading of Benveniste, which preserved himself as a Saussurean scholar, although opening a wide window to the actual discourse. The functionalist syntax, with one foot in cognitive linguistics, is present in Carrascossi's and Ferrari & Almeida' texts, while Teixeira & Menuzzi's relies on the generative theory, applying it to the analysis of the so-called "exhaustivity effects", which, by involving various kinds of inferences, suggest a new viewpoint on the semantics and pragmatic aspects of cleft sentences. The specialized lexicon from the medical domain, a branch of Terminology, is given a computational look in Orellana' contribution.

Reducing a little bit more the scope of the phenomenon, Britto Leite assumes a variationist look at rhotic phonemes in the language spoken in Campinas, while Adam & Zimmer postulate a dynamic conception of L2 acquisition, evaluating

Brazilian children's perception and production of standards of Voice Onset Time for initial plosives in English. Finally, closing this number, Neuschrack, Matzenauer *et alii* focus on the phonetic behavior of the lateral liquid, searching to formalize the asymmetry relation whereby in syllable onset, this segment shows phonetic stability, and in the coda position, some degree of variation.

As the reader can witness, this number introduces a set of impressively relevant contributions, especially in the light of the theoretical diversity of the proposals, the variety of phenomena involved and the different levels of analysis. As an editor, I express the hope that the reading of the papers here issued will trigger a debate with other proposals and with other theoretical positions, which provide the seeds for a critical and always fruitful reflection.

Roberto Gomes Camacho