

PRESENTATION

This issue opens the volume 60/2016 under the sign of change. The change which happens to be in editorship suggests, in principle, a farewell shade between the lines of an inevitable evaluative speech. First, however, I will make a short introduction of the content presented to the reader.

Rather than propose a summary of the papers, I intend to base my presentation on the most interesting aspect which is the profile of this first issue in the light of the issues raised and theoretical perspectives assumed by each author in the treatment of her/his object of study.

Three out of eight papers examine matters related to diachrony. The first diachronic study covers the external history from a socio-ideological viewpoint (Severo); the second text focuses on the internal history of the Romance languages from a functional perspective (Cabraia et al.); the third provides an analysis of official letters to examine whether certain text formats are preserved throughout the history (Lima and Melo).

It is natural that *Alfa* reflects on its pages certain concern about diachronic studies, since the internal and external history of languages have returned into the agenda of the linguistic research for the past twenty years and especially in Brazil for the past ten years with the development of Project *For the History of Brazilian Portuguese*.

Other area which is represented here by two works is that of Terminology either applied to literature (Medeiros) or to the analysis of dictionaries in face of new social demands (Rodrigo and Muñoz). The last three texts closing this issue deal with the process of acquisition of language (Vasconcelos and Leitão), with linguistics applied to teaching (Silva and Spindola) and with a comparison between two phonological systems from an experimental viewpoint (Marusso). These three areas of research have appeared with great frequency in the pages of this journal.

As the reader can testify, this issue introduces a relevant set of contributions, especially due to the theoretical diversity of the proposals, the variety of phenomena involved and the different levels of analysis examined. As such, it represents an effort of the Editorial Board for maintaining the high quality level of the journal, widely attested by ranking A1 obtained from CAPES system of classification and in its indexing in SciELO. Here I begin to provide a brief evaluation of these last four years in which I acted as editor.

In 2012 when *Alfa* celebrated its 50th anniversary, it had its academic status fully recognized by SciELO. Today, being 54 years old it became a proper respectable lady with great capacity of innovation. Indeed, if, on one hand, volume 58 has inaugurated

the quarterly periodicity, on the other, volume 59 has converted *Alfa* into a Portuguese/English bilingual publication. This conversion, an effort for internationalization, also represented a significant opening of the content to a much wider audience, especially those researchers from abroad who are interested in Brazilian Portuguese.

It is for these reasons that the farewell shade happens to be that of a party. If today *Alfa* already occupies a prominent place in Brazilian journals top ranking, it has more than enough conditions to go on contributing positively to the advance of linguistic science in Brazil. This opinion gains an air of certainty when, from the next issue of this volume on, the editor's baton, so far in my hands, passes onto the hands of Professor Rosane Andrade Berlinck, brazilian renowned researcher, who will keep the work of permanent construction of this journal.

Roberto Gomes Camacho