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The telejournalistic reception of people with intellectual disabilities

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Abstract

This article presents data and reflections related to the characteristics observed in the investigation process that addressed the reception of television journalistic content by people with intellectual disabilities. To this end, the main theoretical-methodological axes that support the work are: communicative citizenship, human right to communication, cultural and reception studies. By reflecting on the field movements and strategies employed, we seek to contribute to a perspective that recognizes people with disabilities as communicative subjects. As a result, aspects of the subjects' reception are systematized: the presence of proximity journalism in consumption; sensationalism as an aspect of TV news; the mobilization of consumption through agenda setting; the use of journalism in the reality of everyday life; and perceptions and experiences shaped by what is watched.

Keywords

Journalism; Telejournalism; People with intellectual disabilities; Reception studies; Communicative Citizenship.

Introduction

By emphasizing the processes involved in the different uses performed by communicating subjects regarding media offerings, it is understood as important to reposition the role of the receiver in the communicative process, rejecting the way functionalist approaches or even audience research relate to it. When bringing journalistic concerns into the debate, a dual effort tends to be employed. Firstly, there is a predominance of studies that prioritize the processes of news production and circulation, management, and financing, leaving reflections on audiences at a lower level. Secondly, when considering journalistic reception, there is a need for an approach that recognizes the public not merely as a sum of this audience but as communicating subjects, acknowledging the connections and uses they make of journalism. Therefore, it is pertinent to critically observe the crisis that journalism is going through, conditioned, among other factors, by the lack of understanding that journalism itself has regarding its audiences. (Bianchi, 2019).

In this perspective, this work presents aspects related to the journalistic reception of people with intellectual disabilities (ID), recognizing the uses and meanings they make from the television news content in their everyday life. Based on the investigative process conducted by Berni (2021), questions are raised regarding how individuals with intellectual disabilities consume the content aired on television news programs. The aim is to understand the meanings and reinterpretations they produce within their everyday social environment.

The tensioning of communication as a human right and journalism as an articulator for multiple social experiences is carried out in this paper. Therefore, the overlap between citizenship and communication underpins the reflections by recognizing journalism as a form of knowledge capable of making events take shape in people's consciousness (Genro Filho, 1987). It is understood that, in order to legitimately and meaningfully exercise the social function entrusted to it - to guide us and situate us in the face of social events, so that we can exercise our citizenship – journalism needs to know the specificities of its audiences and produce content accessible to everyone. Therefore, understanding journalism as an essential organism for life in society, the maintenance and guarantee of democracy, and citizen participation, it is also its responsibility to make an effort to include people with disabilities (PWD) in society through communicative citizenship. This involves creating content that does not exclude those whom the historically dominant structures of society have not recognized.

Another important assumption concerns the interpretation and recognition of the notion of intellectual disability considered in this paper. The perspective is the biopsychosocial model,¹ which understands disability as an interaction between people and structural, behavioral and cultural barriers that prevent that person's full participation in society in an egalitarian way, promoting limitations, disadvantages and exclusions. It is reiterated that the use of the nomenclature *person with disabilities* adopted here is done in a critical way. This terminology leads us to the conception and idea of an *abnormality* to the detriment of a socially constructed form of what is delineated as the body without disability (Diniz, 2007). However, contemporary society is far from experiencing a social coexistence in which, indistinctly, everyone is treated and respected as *people*. Hence the need to adopt the nomenclatures as a way of guiding the struggles for autonomy, inclusion and rights.

In the following sections, the theoretical and methodological interconnections that guided the work are presented. To provide a better understanding of the empirical dimension of the investigation and to facilitate comprehension of the choices and strategies employed, it is opportune to briefly outline some

1 The one recommended by the International Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, approved by the United Nations General Assembly, on December 13, 2006, and promulgated by Brazil on August 25, 2009, through Decree n. 6 949, which, among other factors, broadens the understanding of disability beyond body pathology, stressing socio-environmental, political, structural, psychological and personal factors

points related to the research corpus.

The subjects who co-participated in the investigation, due to their characteristics, were identified as citizens already inserted or in the process of insertion into the labor market and who present different types or degrees of intellectual disability. The corpus was constituted by preambular movements that envisaged successive approximations with the object-problem, *a posteriori* transmethodological strategies (Maldonado, 2013b) of the research were traced. Based on reception studies and the potential of the orality of the co-participants,² resources were mobilized to explore the speeches of people with intellectual disabilities. In the exploratory research, 28 subjects participated and contributed to the unfolding of the investigation with directions and initial clues about the communicational and journalistic consumption of people with intellectual disabilities. The sequence of the research was carried out by a group of five people with ID, aged between 16 and 56 years. Along the way, there was also the crossing of the COVID-19 pandemic,³ which required adaptations and new rearrangements to meet the proposed objectives.

People with intellectual disabilities as communicative subjects

The movement of intertwining the understandings of communicative citizenship, the human right to communication and communicative accessibility allows us to recognize people with IDs as communicative subjects. In other words, we assume the receiver as an active participant in the communicative process, rejecting understandings that neglect the movements of use, appropriation, meaning production, and reinterpretation that exist in the process of reception. These movements are not ordered in a linear perspective; on the contrary, they are multiple, conflicting, contradictory, and complex, influenced by various socio-cultural mediations that enhance the uniqueness of this process.

People in communication, who interact contemporaneously with media systems and processes, produce meaning in a fluid, chaotic, structured, conditioned, free, agreed, framed and subversive way. Despite this diversity, in fact, most processes are in sync (and confrontation) with the media systems and cultures established in the current world. The subjects in communication today are social beings who live and experience their practices of meaning in multiple contexts, in different spheres [...] and in multiple dimensions. (Maldonado, 2013a, p. 90, highlights from the original text).

When recognizing people with intellectual disabilities as communicative subjects, we have the opportunity to position communication, and journalism in particular, as an articulating right, essential for the achievement, exercise and maintenance of citizenship. But what is citizenship? Adela Cortina understands it as a mediating concept, since “it integrates demands of justice and, at the same time, makes reference to those who are members of the community, unites the rationality of justice with the warmth of the feeling of belonging” (Cortina, 2005, p. 27-28). María Cristina Mata interconnects the concept of citizenship with the ways of participation and intervention in the public space, mobilizing the appropriation of rights and opportunities, that is, a “practice that implies the ability to be a subject in all

2 The medical model of disability signals the “harmfulness” of writing and reading that these PWD would play when compared to the corporeality assumed as a standard. Referring to the biopsychosocial model, we shift the angle that can be given to the phenomenon, assuming and valuing the potential for communication and sociability through orality.

3 Pandemic still ongoing caused by the new Coronavirus that started in Brazil in February 2020. In April 2021, senators established a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged omissions and irregularities in the actions of the Bolsonaro government during the pandemic in the country. The report called for the indictment of the President of the Republic, Jair Bolsonaro, for nine crimes, among them common crimes, of responsibility and against humanity. Another 77 people, including three sons of the president, ministers, former ministers, federal deputies, doctors and businessmen make up the indictment request. Until the closing of this article, on February 22, 2022, although neglected, the data attest to 645,534 deaths in Brazil, approaching 6 million worldwide.

the areas in which power is constructed” (Mata, 2006, p. 08).⁴

When we seek to situate the debate in the historicity of human rights, an understanding emerges regarding the need to participate in communicational processes as a way of constituting spaces that enhance freedom and autonomy. Within this context, we can situate the concept of *communicative citizenship* proposed by Mata, which can be translated as "the ability to be a subject of rights and demands in the domain of public communication; and the exercise of this right" (Mata, 2006, p. 13). In other words, it recognizes the media as a space of visibility, validation of cultures and opinions, and the production of rights and responsibilities. Therefore, there is a need for citizens to occupy and participate in the processes of producing these media products.

Another mobilized debate takes form in the defense, recognition and inclusion of communication within the scope of human rights (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO], 1983; Guareschi, 2013). One of the foundations for this is based on the social need for information, since its access leads to the claim of prerogatives in the face of political powers and the full exercise of citizenship. In other words, "the right to communication constitutes a logical extension of the constant progress towards freedom and democracy" (UNESCO, 1983, p. 287).

In this debate, the concept and implications of social inclusion emerge. We can understand it as the way in which society creates mechanisms to include in its organism people with specific demands and needs and, simultaneously, enable them to assume roles in the social structure. Thus, "it is up to society to eliminate all barriers [...] so that people with disabilities can have access to services, places, information and goods necessary for personal, social, educational and professional development" (Sasaki, 1997, p. 45).

In this context, it is important to bring forward ideas based on the concept of *communicative accessibility* (Bonito, 2015), which is presented as an entry point to discuss the different aspects involved in the lives of people with disabilities through the bias of communicative citizenship. Marco Bonito (2015, p. 88) develops the notion of communicative accessibility as "the set of processes that aim to clear and promote communication without barriers as a fundamental human right", that is, to think about and use accessibility resources and practices that allow the communicational consumption of people with disabilities. In this process of accessibility, there is a difference in the nomenclatures that needs to be emphasized in order to avoid misunderstandings and/or errors. Thus, we can understand it from two perspectives: communicational and communicative. It is the latter that truly interests us.

Communicative accessibility is concerned with the possible meanings to be produced during the adaptability process, that is, it is mobilized beyond the transformation of content from an access resource. On the other hand, the communicational one is restricted to a pedagogical character of transmission of information, being finished with the access of the subject to the content. It is important to recognize the consolidation, within the logics and routines of journalistic production, of resources/practices that attend and assist people with disabilities, such as Braille, Audio Description, Subtitles for the Deaf and Deafened, and the use of Sign Language. This recognition includes introducing discussions on communicative accessibility in the training of journalists, as well as in their daily professional practice (Sousa, 2014).

Contributions of the Cultural Studies to investigate the reception

When the perspectives related to Cultural Studies are mobilized, it is understood that the materiality of the research in journalism is organized from the consideration of its interfaces. The researched journalism, along with Cultural Studies - from an integrative, contextual and conjunctural nature -, finds in reception studies the possibility to analyze the conflicts, negotiations, and consensuses

⁴ In the original: "Práctica que implica la capacidad de ser sujeto en todos los ámbitos en que se construye el poder".

that are constantly in tension in the social sphere.

According to Jiani Bonin (2018a; 2018b), reception research is a living epistemic practice, which means it indicates the progressive construction of the object based on the engagement with researched realities. Therefore, one must pay attention in order to recognize the meanings produced in the reception contexts, since “they are multiple, complex, and may present affinities, complicities, contradictions, ambiguities, resistances, appropriations and even subversions in relation to symbolic media offerings” (Bonin, 2018a, p. 63). From this intertwining set of ideas arises the understanding of *mediations* proposed by Martín-Barbero (2015), a concept that rejects reductionist perspectives and advances in the understanding of communicational processes by taking into account their multidimensionalities, complexities and contradictions. In this way, reception studies are recognized as a possibility of understanding the meanings, appropriations and resignifications created by a certain group from the contents conveyed through the *medios*.

When we tension reception studies with the specificities of journalism, Bianchi (2019) pays attention to a necessary posture of understanding the public not as audience numbers, “bringing and addressing issues brought out by a look that privileges spaces and performances by/for those to whom communicational productions are intended” (Bianchi, 2019, p. 321). In this way, we seek to understand how a particular group builds meaning from contents that were conveyed by the media they consume; a group that has a background influenced by cultural, religious, age, ethnical, gender and class issues. These manifestations become difficult to perceive from a perspective that seeks automated quantification. Thus, it is necessary to organize a methodological apparatus which is committed to the search for an approximation that can result in a better understanding of the processes involved in this dynamic.

Strategies built for the fieldwork

With regard to reception studies, Bonin (2018a) emphasizes that the methodological paths must be articulated in complex perspectives, valuing the context and reality of the research's co-participants. This understanding provokes us to explore the potential of fieldwork and the possibilities of qualitative research. In this sense, methodological triangulation (Figaro, 2014) is used as an approach that leads us to adopt different investigation methods for the collection, systematization and analysis of data on the object under study. It was from this bias that four methodological resources were mobilized to work with the subjects: comprehensive interview, life history, oral history and focus group. It is important to note that the resources mobilized for fieldwork were articulated taking into account the specificities of the co-participant subjects in the investigation. In other words, efforts were made to value aspects of orality, given their potential compared to the reading and writing abilities of individuals with intellectual disabilities (Pan, 2008). We will now highlight the central axes of the resources used.

It is important to point out that the construction of research strategies took place during 2019, with the aim of going to the field in 2020. Thus, in February 2020, the exploratory research was carried out to test hypotheses and seek guidance for the development of research.⁵ However, it should be noted that with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, measures of isolation and social distancing were implemented, necessitating adaptations of these resources. Thus, the use of technological devices was considered as an alternative strategy due to the impossibility of conducting in-person meetings. Additionally, there was a need to reduce the potential number of co-participants, with a fixed total of five for the systematic stages of the investigation. In this context, the exercise of establishing the particular

⁵ The development took place in February 2020 and had the participation of 28 subjects, aged between 16 and 42 years. They were members of the Young Apprentice Program, coordinated by Maringá (PR)'s APAE, and had some type or degree of intellectual disability, in addition to being already inserted or seeking insertion in the job market. In Autor (2021) it is possible to find the guiding axes for the interviews, the notes collected and some transcripts of the interviewees' testimonies.

media and communication history of each participant was carried out in November 2020.

The Next step was to create a group with all the co-participants, in January of 2021, mediated by the message app WhatsApp. The goal was to follow the daily media habits of the researched group for a week and to boost them to share the news that most caught their attention. The orientation was that they should bring that experience to the group in the way they considered best, that is, by text or audio message, prints, photography and video, as well as links to articles, etc. The intention was also to visualize how they mobilized technology to share information. Thus, the expectation regarding the data collected by the group was to understand: which news and broadcast content were privileged? What reverberated the most? What are the articulated guidelines? Still, which ones gained a grip on the personal agenda? How do broadcasters participate in this narrative?

It is important to provide some context: the focus on television journalism emerged from exploratory movements and interviews (carried out in 2019), which presented television as the most ingrained communication medium in the routines of the co-participants. Due to preventive measures against the coronavirus, it was not possible to accompany them in their homes during TV broadcasts. However, the exercise of creating a group on WhatsApp strategically allowed us to create proximity during the moment of consumption.

Finally, it was decided to virtually create a focus group, through the Google Meet platform, as an opportunity in which all participants were together to dialogue. At this meeting, based on the programs and news they signaled, similar guidelines were presented to provoke debate, as well as suggestions for improvements to journalism based on their needs and experiences. The discussion of the relationship between disability and its implications for consumption was a consequence. In relation to the focus group, it is understood as a suitable instrument to capture the interaction among participants. Through the debate and the mobilization of arguments, it provides the possibility for new perceptions to emerge, in this case, regarding journalistic content.

The development of the investigation sought to link different dimensions of time, space and analytical level in the handling of different methodological resources in field trips, seeking to minimize distortions related to the application of a single method and thus trying to build a relevant path for the development of the research. Another important assumption, which crossed the entire investigative path, is in line with the recognition of the speech of people with intellectual disabilities as valid knowledge, based on the epistemologies of the South (Santos, 2020)⁶. It was an effort to break with the hegemonic-positivist understanding that positions these individuals as invalid and disposable minds for the production of knowledge and participation in the decision-making mechanisms of the social sphere, given that, historically, these subjects have been denied the right to voice their issues and to social participate in the dynamics of society. In the following topic, we will present the results of this reported journey in an analytical manner.

Characteristics of the telejournalistic reception of people with IDs

In this section, we aim to present the main analyses and perceptions that can be derived from the field research as a whole.

In the exploratory stage, carried out in February of 2020 with 28 possible co-participants of the research, some clues were considered possible to observe and were fundamental to follow the investigation. It was noted that television is the means of communication with greater adherence in the daily routine of PWDs, as well as consumption habits directly linked to it: the low consumption of radio

⁶ Here, considered by Boaventura de Sousa Santos' perspective, as those that "refer to the production and validation of knowledge anchored in the experiences of resistance of all social groups that have been systematically victims of injustice" (2020, p. 17).

and its connection, mostly, with musical programming; that from this movement immediacy emerges as a referential issue to position journalism in the imagination of the co-participants; the predominance of proximity journalism in the consumption of the subjects; the questioning regarding journalistic quality, influenced by the sensationalist agendas prevalent in the programming; recognition of the importance of journalism for the social life of people with intellectual disabilities, whether using it to inform themselves as well as to deal with decisions; and other forms of consumption mediated by cell phone. One of the main consequences of this movement was the delimitation of television news programming as a mediating object for research. For the development of the investigation, the research corpus was constituted by five communicative subjects – Aroldo (45), Augusta (56), Dandara (16) and Paulo (16), Rosa (24).⁷

By constituting the media history of each co-participant through the interviews, some general characteristics of the relationship they have with television were perceived.⁸ The influence of proximity journalism on their consumption was reaffirmed; there was a perception of personification and reference to the media experience through the presenters; there was a noticed prevalence of consumption of sensationalist topics, adherence to media agendas, and the presence of family in the consumption activity. As a result of the interviews, there was also the construction of a space for media content through WhatsApp as a way of recording the journalistic content consumed and, also, of interaction between the co-participants.

One of the first characteristics that were possible to be observed relates to the identification and proximity to the journalist/host/anchor. Previously, it was already possible to identify the strong presence of the presenters of journalistic programs in the media history of the subjects. Their names – Willian Bonner, Maria Júlia Coutinho, Eduardo Santos and Salsicha (the nickname by which the presenter is known) – were mobilized to locate which journalistic products were consumed by the audience.⁹ It was through this resource that Rosa (24) informed the group, on several occasions, about her consumption routine. For example, referring to the program *Maringá Urgente*, she states: “I’m watching Eduardo Santos, right? The man went to paint the wall, here in Maringá, he almost died... he was wearing safety equipment... he almost died, but he didn’t”. On other occasions, the name of the presenter appeared replacing the name of the news program itself, “I saw it on the Salsicha’s program”, “I am now watching the Bacci program”. What can be seen as a result is the effort to build a sense of belonging and proximity to the public.

Another characteristic that marks the reception of PWDs indicates adherence to local news programming, especially when comparing it quantitatively to the audience devoted to nationally broadcasted news programs. When observing the materiality of the agenda that resonated with each individual, there is a characteristic blend of factual news with proximity: accidents, rain, robberies, violence. The focus and attention given to these topics are influenced by each person’s life experience, whether as a worker, student, or citizen. A common feature of the consumed agendas is related to sensationalism¹⁰. In previous stages of the research, criticisms of the content aired were common, such as murder, rape,

7 Respecting their identities, pseudonyms were used

8 In order to learn about journalistic consumption habits, understand the interaction they have with the media, in addition to understanding the presence and role of journalism in their daily relationships, the interviews were carried out in November 2020 with the five co-participants who accompanied us until the final field movements.

9 Bonner and Coutinho are journalists from Rede Globo. The latter two are presenters from Maringá’s local news program.

10 Understood as a news practice, with the intention of generating an emotional impact on the audience through the selection, emphasis and repetition of extraordinary, dramatic and moving narrative and imagery elements. Elements considered as sensationalists are, for example, the exposure of violence and the misfortune of others, tragedy, the exploration of sex, sexism, marginality, vulgarity and prejudice. Angrimani Sobrinho (1995) presents elements such as proximity, emotion and subjectivity not only as a marketing strategy articulated by the newspaper, but for psychoanalytic assistance, responding to the needs of the audience.

robberies, and violence, especially associated with programs like Maringá Urgente, Cidade Alerta and Balanço Geral. Out of a total of 21 topics shared during the week, eight had strong elements of spectacle, as seen below.

Table 1 - Characteristics of the content shared in the WhatsApp group

Date	Co-participant	Content	Program and broadcaster	Observation
11 jan.	Rosa	The presenter Salsicha talking with the viewer	Cidade Alerta (RIC Record)	
11 jan.	Dandara	Civic-Military Schools in Paraná	Boa Noite Paraná (RPC TV)	
11 jan.	Aroldo	Joe Biden is vaccinated	Folha de São Paulo	Screenshot of the Instagram profile
12 jan.	Rosa	A painter suffers an accident while working	Maringá Urgente (Rede Massa)	Sensationalist approach
12 jan.	Rosa	Child abandonment	Maringá Urgente (Rede Massa)	Sensationalist approach
12 jan.	Rosa	Animal protection NGOs	Cidade Alerta (RIC Record)	
12 jan.	Rosa	Impacts of the rain in the city	Cidade Alerta (RIC Record)	Sensationalist approach
12 jan.	Paulo	Vaccination	Maringá Urgente (Rede Massa)	
13 jan.	Aroldo	Back to school in Paraná	Meio Dia Paraná (RPC TV)	
14 jan.	Rosa	The Jadson case	Cidade Alerta (RIC Record)	Sensationalist approach
15 jan.	Rosa	Firemen saving an ambulance during a flood in SP.	Cidade Alerta (Record)	National coverage; Sensationalist approach
15 jan.	Rosa	Accident in a local road	Cidade Alerta (RIC Record)	Sensationalist approach
15 jan.	Rosa	Vaccination in Maringá	Cidade Alerta (RIC Record)	
15 jan.	Rosa	COVID-19 cases in the city	Cidade Alerta (RIC Record)	
15 jan.	Paulo	Lack of oxygen in Manaus	-	Presented as a comment
16 jan.	Rosa	Robberies in a luxury condominium	Fala Brasil (Record)	Sensationalist approach
16 jan.	Rosa	Increase in the price of cooking gas	Maringá Urgente (Rede Massa)	

16 jan.	Rosa	Police investigates threat from ex-husband	Balanço Geral (Record)	National coverage; Sensationalist approach; Interaction by audio message
17 jan.	Paulo	First vaccinated Brazilian	-	Presented as a comment
17 jan.	Rosa	First vaccinated Brazilian	Domingo Espetacular (Record)	
18 jan.	Aroldo	Vaccination	-	Presented as a comment

Source: Adapted from Berni (2021)

Considering the table above, we draw attention to two points: the low influence of news programs with national coverage in contrast to quotes from local programming, and the coronavirus agenda. Unlike the regional news programs, the national TV news in prime time did not have an explicit citation by the participants at any time in this stage of the research. On different occasions, there was a reference to issues that go beyond the regional scope, such as the collapse of health in Manaus (AM)¹¹ and the approval of the vaccine against COVID-19 by the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa).¹²

This indicates some interpretations: even though it may not be apparent in the accounts and shared content, the mainstream media, through its national programming, influences and gains adherence in shaping the reality of PCDI. This is reflected in the inclusion and resonance in local news agendas, as well as in media consumption beyond television news programming. Additionally, although national journalists such as Willian Bonner and Maria Júlia Coutinho are mentioned at other points in the research, which initially suggests a dense audience for their programs, the data revealed through empirical analysis indicates that their recognition and remembrance assume characteristics that go beyond their role as journalists. They are perceived as media personalities, becoming references and sources of inspiration for others¹³. Finally, by observing the experiment and the organic nature of the daily journalistic routine shared in the WhatsApp group, it becomes apparent that the mobilization of these topics serves to make sense in the proximity and everyday life of each participant.

Regarding aspects linked to the presence of references to local journalistic events (Peruzzo, 2007), and especially in considering the demarcated sensationalist bias, it is understood that these are relevant issues, particularly when considering the implications directly linked to journalism. These were highlights presented in the developed research. Due to the necessary limitation of approaches to work in this article, such points are mentioned briefly, but with the indication that they are important issues to be highlighted

11 In Manaus, crowded hospitals are missing oxygen and patients are transferred to different states. [Rede Globo, Rio de Janeiro], 2021. 1 video (6 min). Published by the channel Globoplay. Retrieved January 26, 2021 from: <https://globoplay.globo.com/v/9179566>.

12 ANVISA approves request for vaccines from Butantan and Fiocruz. UOL, São Paulo, 2021. Retrieved February 21, 2021 from: <https://noticias.uol.com.br/saude/ultimas-noticias/redacao/2021/01/17/anvisa-aprova-pedido-de-vacina-do-butantan-e-da-fiocruz.htm>.

13 The speech of Dandara (16) in an interview during the investigation provides, to a certain extent, this understanding. "I like Maju [Maria Júlia Coutinho] because Maju, even though she is a journalist on television, she also says everything she has to say, she does what it takes so that people can understand each other's side, for example: equality, to have respect. I also like her, because she is not afraid to say what she thinks and what she feels".

in future analysis.

Through the focus group, held online given the measures to prevent coronavirus, there was the possibility of the co-participants meeting synchronously. In this process, it is important to highlight the instability of the connection and the low usability of the Google Meet platform for the participants, which affected the overall group experience. Difficulties in handling the platform's tools, such as turning the microphone on and off, led to disruptions and audio disturbances during the conversations. As the focus of the research was not to advance in relation to accessibility resources, we punctuate this fact as a record for future investigations that are interested in such aspects. In this way, the online focus group brought developments that helped us to understand the journalistic reception of PWDs, the main objective of the investigation. This endeavor aimed to gather and facilitate a conversation among the participants based on the news they shared throughout the week on WhatsApp. This stage was designed to understand how the others received and interpreted the news shared through the messages. It also sought to comprehend the similarities in their preferences and highlights, as well as to observe how they mobilized their arguments and reasoning to justify their preferences and choices.

The dynamic consisted of displaying five reports, which were divided into *close* and *distant* to the content they consume daily. After the exhibition of each agenda, impressions and highlights about the news were collected. Briefly, what was observed: there was no recognition of differences between the *Meio Dia Paraná*¹⁴ and *Cidade Alerta*¹⁵ programs, despite their distinct programming and editorial approaches; it was possible to identify similarities in the agendas between the programs, when trying to understand what was reported in each one of them; there was little feedback regarding agendas considered "distant", confirming the hypothesis that little attention was paid to agendas that were distant from their daily lives; again, it was possible to notice the relevance and personification of the presenters in the journalistic experience; and it was common to refer to journalism as an institution capable of mediating the understanding of reality.

Final Considerations

One question accompanied the entire investigative process: how to understand intellectual disability in the process of consuming journalistic products? Would it be a characteristic that would need an accessibility resource? Or would it be a sociocultural mediation like many others? When directly questioned about it, the participants were straightforward in stating that intellectual disability does not hinder the reception processes. It was possible to notice that it manifests itself in a heterogeneous way, with aspects such as life experience, maturity, work, and education being experiences that act as mediations in the manifestation of disability.

In an effort to systematize, we present the main characteristics of journalistic reception of PWDs that were observed. They are: the presence of proximity journalism in consumption; sensationalism as a brand of television news consumed; The mobilization of consumption through agenda-driven topics; the use of journalism in the concreteness of everyday life; and the perceptions and experiences shaped by what is watched. With this scenario, a question emerges: what is the difference between the journalistic reception of people with intellectual disabilities and the reception of people without intellectual disabilities? We understand that by presenting these characteristics without previously determining the context and the specific audience group from which they were gathered, it becomes evident that intellectual disability itself does not determine or condition, in the sense of a multidimensional and multifactorial idea of reception of PWDs.

14 TV news broadcast by RPC, an affiliate of Rede Globo in Paraná

15 TV news broadcast by RIC, an affiliate of Record in the state

This understanding does not disregard the influence and participation of intellectual disability in the uses, meanings and resignifications that the subjects make of television journalism, since we place it as a mediation that crosses the world experience of these individuals, which in turn, conditions the form through which they interact and consume journalistic programming.

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