

FOREWORD

Languages in contact: sociolinguistic perspectives

Gudrun Ledegen^a

Telma Pereira^b

The preparation of this issue 54 of the *Gragoatá* Journal, whose theme is “Languages in contact: sociolinguistic perspectives”, was held throughout the year 2020, a period marked by requests for social distancing and the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic caused in the lives of all. In Sociolinguistics, one of the premises is that language does not exist without its speakers. Therefore, reflecting upon the contact between languages, in a difficult global context, was a collective challenge faced by the authors, the reviewers, the editorial board and the organizers of the journal. In relation to the organization, this issue marks the cooperation, within the Institutional Internationalization Program (PrINT) of the CAPES, between the Universidade Federal Fluminense and the Université de Rennes 2, with the Project Multilingualism, linguistic rights and social inequality.

The concept of languages in contact is based on the book *Languages in contact* by Uriel Weinreich, published in 1953. Weinreich’s study has been used to characterize situations in which the presence of two or more languages affects the linguistic behavior of a community. The importance of the theme for the language area lies in the fact that the linguistic contact is directly related to the processes of linguistic change

^a Université de Rennes 2, Faculdade de Artes, Letras e Comunicação. Rennes, França.

E-mail: gudrun.ledegen@orange.fr

^b Universidade: Universidade Federal Fluminense, Departamento de Letras Estrangeiras Modernas;

Programa de Pós-Graduação em Estudos de Linguagem. Niterói, RJ, Brasil. E-mail: talmeida@id.uff.br

How to cite:

Ledegen, G.; Pereira, T. Línguas em contato: perspectivas sociolinguísticas. *Gragoatá*, Niterói, v.26, n.54, p. 5-10, 2021. <<https://doi.org/10.22409/gragoata.v26i54.48792>>

and variation, in addition to being part of discussions on endogenous norms, border contexts, migratory movements, cultural domination projects, identitarian movements and linguistic education. Thus, the 16 articles that gave life to this edition of *Gragoatá* have users of different languages, in different contexts of use, at the center of their perspective around themes derived from the languages in contact. The reflections presented here often highlight the relations of conflict inherent in these situations.

Considering the close relationship between the emergence of the area of studies in Sociolinguistics and the subject of languages in contact, we invited, to open this issue of *Gragoatá*, the sociolinguist Louis-Jean Calvet. His article, entitled “About Uriel Weinreich: languages in contact and sociolinguistics”, invites us to revisit some of the main theoretical bases of the concept of language in contact in the 20th century. The author highlights the contribution of Weinreich’s work to the constitution and consolidation of sociolinguistics as a research area, and also underlines the works of André Martinet, William Labov, the linguists of the Linguistic Circle of New York and the journal *Word*.

Then, the readers will be able to appreciate perspectives revolving mainly around the endogenous norms. These perspectives offer important reflections for the study of linguistic contact and pluricentrism. Bruno Moretti’s article, “Italian in Switzerland: statistical data and sociolinguistic varieties”, presents the situation of Italian in the cantons of Ticino and Graubünden, as well as the standardization of Swiss Italian. To this end, Morretti describes the functional overlap between the two language varieties and discusses the standardization models of pluricentric languages.

Pursuing the discussion on endogenous norms, Gilles Forlot’s article, “Endogenous norms and counter-norms in World Englishes: analysis models and fields of advanced modernity”, provides us a view of the models and theories around the issues of English norms in the world, mainly in postcolonial societies. The author proposes that, in order to understand the development of English around the globe, it is necessary to consider sufficiently dynamic perspectives to take into account a variety of phenomena faced by societies, such as migration, contemporary movement of goods and

people, virtual interactions and mobility, as well as the commodification of languages.

In “French from here, is it French? The construction of normativity judgements in peripheral European francophone communities”, Michel Francard approaches the diatopic variation of French and its relation to normative discourse, more specifically the French practiced in Belgium, with emphasis on lexicon and syntax. The author proposes a questioning of the identity of the actors responsible for the construction of normativity judgments of the language.

The article “The Production of the Francophone. A discursive construction”, by Jean-Marie Kinklenberg reinforces the critical view on the Francophonie. The author proposes a discursive analysis of the main phases in the evolution of the discourse on the Francophone world and the Francophone speaker. Kinklenberg highlights the need to take into account the specific characteristics of each of the Francophone cultural areas.

Hélène Cajolet-Laganière’s text, an active advocate of an endogenous Quebec norm, discusses the actions of language variation planning in the electronic dictionary *Usito*. The author, who coordinates the creation team of *Usito*, at the Université de Sherbrooke (Canada), presents us examples of the treatment of language variation, the hierarquization of uses and markers of cultural identity in the normative marks that belong to the endogenous norm of Quebec.

Moving the perspective to the African continent, Gregório Firmino contributes to the discussion around endogenous norms in his article “The rise of an endogenous norm of Portuguese in Mozambique; challenges and perspectives”. In this article, Firmino points out that the Portuguese language in Mozambique is undergoing a process of nativization, generating a heterogeneous variety with endogenous traits, in an environment where the European norm of the Portuguese language is still formally influential.

Carlos Deoclécio and Marcos Bagno, with the article “Standardization and standardology: notes on the linguistic norm” points out lines of work that constitute possibilities, analysis and actions on linguistic standardization, enriching the debate on the elaboration of a new norm of reference for Brazilian Portuguese.

In “The variation in the number agreement in nominal phrase in rural Portuguese in mountain region in Rio de Janeiro state: drift or contact?”, Jaqueline de Moraes Thurler Dália and Dante Luccchesi address linguistic contact based on a sociolinguistic analysis, in apparent time, of the variation in number agreement in the Nominal Syntagma (NS) in the rural Portuguese of the mountainous region in the state of Rio de Janeiro. The authors believe that this is the result of a change induced by contact between languages, considering the sociolinguistic history of Brazil as a whole and, particularly, the multilingualism present in the history of the region, which brought together Swiss and German settlers, Portuguese and Brazilian settlers, and enslaved Africans.

The contact between the Kimbundo and the Portuguese is the subject of the article “Kimbundu and Portuguese of Libolo (Angola): languages in contact”, by Paulo Jeferson Pilar Araújo and Margarida Petter. The authors bring data from the Kimbundu language that corroborate the situation of contact between this Balkan language and the variety of Portuguese in the multilingual region of Libolo (Angola) and highlight that this relationship can contribute to discussions on an Afro-Brazilian *continuum* of Portuguese.

In the interview that Professor Konstanze Jungbluth conducted with the sociolinguist Brita Schneider, the discussion is based, above all, in the context of Belize, a multi-ethnic and multicultural country located on the east coast of Central America. Brita Schneider highlights the role of the ethnographic research to understand the linguistic choices of Belizean speakers, who use *kriol* as a symbol of belonging.

The contact of languages involving contexts of migration and refuge can be seen in the sequence of two essays. The first, entitled “Migration in the context of a multination state: language policies, division and intolerance in South Tyrol”, was written by Luana Rocha and Débora Costa about migrants in the South Tyrol region, in the extreme north of Italy. The authors show how language policies affect migrants living in that location and what they think about the policy of declaring membership or linguistic aggregation and division in society. The data collected by Rocha and Costa point out that the topics of racism and xenophobia were raised by the participants,

being related to linguistic issues of non-legitimation of the speaker.

Then, in “Linguistic rights of refugee applicants in Brazil: the presence of the linguistic mediator in the refuge request as a guarantee of human rights”, Ana Balestro and Sabine Gorovitz start from a theoretical framework based on the area of Language Policies and Glotopolitics studies to discuss the linguistic boundaries that must be overcome by asylum seekers in Brazil. The researchers highlight the work of the Mobility and Language Contact Research Group - MOBILANG, of the Universidade de Brasília (UnB), to illustrate the actions and studies of population mobility and the phenomena arising from language contact.

Around the linguistic practices and ideologies of speakers in contact situations, we have the articles by Savedra, Rosenberg and Macedo, entitled “Language and ethnicity among colored students in Cape Town”, and the article “Families in a plurilingual situation: linguistic ideologies” by Karen Pupp Spinassé and Isabella Mozzillo. In the first, with the anthropological theoretical support of ethnicity, the authors present the relationship between the Afrikaans language, spoken by university students who are members of the Colored ethnicity, and their linguistic and ethnic identity, in Cape Town, located in the South African Western Cape province. The authors mainly discuss the linguistic practices of colored *speakers*. Spinassé and Mozzillo, in their turn, address the linguistic ideologies in the speech of members of families in plurilingual situations. The authors emphasize that discursive awareness is a form of reflexive monitoring that allows speakers to explicitly discuss ideologies.

We conclude this issue with an example of an approach between languages in contact and linguistic education, specifically in foreign languages, in the context of a country that borders Brazil. In the article “Glotopolitical analysis of Portuguese textbooks used in Argentina and Spanish textbooks used in Brazil: tensions in the representation of verbal and pronominal paradigms”, Virginia Rubio Scola performs a glotopolitical analysis of textbooks used in schools in Argentina and Brazil, during the period 2003-2015, for teaching both languages as foreign languages in both Brazil and Argentina.

The perspectives we selected are some of the many possibilities for addressing situations marked by linguistic contact. We would like to thank the precious collaboration of PhD students Shirlei Baptistine and Nina Rioult, from the Postgraduate Program in Language Studies at UFF, for the organization of this issue of *Gragoatá*.

We wish you an excellent reading.

Gudrun Ledegen é Doutora em Ciências da Linguagem pela Universidade de Tours, na França. Professora e pesquisadora em sociolinguística na Universidade de Rennes. Atua na área de análises das dinâmicas sociolinguísticas francófonas plurilíngues. Autora de várias obras sobre variação e normas linguísticas. Participa do Projeto “Multilinguismo, direitos linguísticos e desigualdade social” (CAPES-PrInt-UFF).

Telma Pereira é Doutora em Letras pela PUC-Rio. Realizou estágio de doutorado na Universidade Aix-Marseille. Desenvolve pesquisas e orienta na área de sociolinguística, linguística aplicada e línguas e culturas em contato. Participa do Projeto “Multilinguismo, direitos linguísticos e desigualdade social” (CAPES-PrInt-UFF).