

We, professors of the Research Line 1 (Linguistic Description and Analyses) of the Concentration Area A (Language and Signification) of the Postgraduate Program in Language Studies are pleased to present the issue 2, volume 22, of *Signum – Language Studies*, now dedicated to the theme “Linguistic variation in the description of different languages or varieties of Portuguese itself”. In the classic *Dictionary of Linguistics*, by Dubois *et al.*, “Variation is called the phenomenon by which, in current practice, a given language, at a given time and place, and among a given social group, is never identical to what it is at another time and place, and another social group” (2004, p. 609). Thus, the eight papers presented here cover thought-provoking subjects related to the variation that, taken as a whole, outline the main current theoretical trends and the current concerns of the researchers, regarding the issue.

The paper that opens this issue is entitled *deletion of the final unstressed vowels [ɪ] and [ʊ] in Minas Gerais locations from Atlas Linguístico do Brasil – ALiB*, by Maria do Carmo Sá Teles de Araujo Rolo and Jacyra Andrade Mota. In the light of Variationist Sociolinguistics and Contemporary Pluridimensional Dialectology, the researchers aim to investigate the deletion of unstressed vowels [ɪ] and [ʊ] at the end of paroxytonic words from four localities in Minas Gerais that are part of the ALiB Project, namely Pedra Azul, Teófilo Otoni, Diamantina and Montes Claros, as well as checking the conditions that favor or restrict variation. According to the authors, the data indicate that the deletion of finals [ɪ] and [ʊ] in the four locations investigated is regulated by linguistic and extralinguistic contexts that work favoring or not the variants.

Anchored in data collected and transcribed by researchers from the Atlas Linguistic Project of Brazil (ALiB), the authors Rosângela Maria de Almeida Netzel and Vanderci de Andrade Aguilera write *A study of lexical variants to name the devil in the conversation of inland Paraná*, in which they carry out a dialectological and sociolinguistic analysis of the lexical choices made by speakers from sixteen inland Paraná cities. Among the thought-provoking results listed by the authors is the fact that Paraná speakers know almost two dozen names for the devil, among which five are the most frequent: devil (*diabo*), *capeta*, demon (*demônio*), Satan (Satanás) and Lucifer (*Lucifer*), most of them already have this meaning in Brazilian reference dictionaries.

In the paper *Words formation with adjectives from Tupi origin in Amazonian Portuguese*, the authors Orlando da Silva Azevedo, Felício Wessling Margotti and Ilina Kelly Ferreira dos Santos constitute the corpus for their analysis from the reading of books and dictionaries, in which the formations are listed by composition with the adjectives of Tupi origin, Açu and Mirim, in Amazonian Portuguese. The theoretical basis is based on the Generative Morphology model, and the results mainly demonstrate the existence of formations by composition, and the application of the Structural Analysis Rule (RAE) and the Word Formation Rule (RFP).

The authors Dayse de Souza Lourenço Simões, Josyelle Bonfante Curti and Mariana Spagnolo Martins focus on *The expression ‘daí’ in Curitiba informants speech: a study based on the Brazilian Linguistic Atlas* and seek to identify the circumstances of use of ‘daí’ in the speech of informants from Curitiba, with the corpus of interview data from the Brazilian Linguistic Atlas Project (ALiB). According to the researchers, in certain locations in Southern Brazil, the use of ‘daí’ is frequent in contexts other than those established by grammars, that is, as an adverb of place or time. The research carried out revealed the ‘daí’ as being a discursive mark in the speech of elderly women with a higher education level, which

may indicate that the change has not been consolidated, but the frequency of its use remains at the level of the diagenetic and diastratic variation.

Through the paper *Linguistic attitudes: a study concerning indigenous women in the Guarani Village Tekoha Añetete*, the researchers Sonia Cristina Poltronieri Mendonça and Aparecida Feola Sella talk about the linguistic beliefs and attitudes in the Guarani village Tekoha Añetete in Diamante D'Oeste, state of Paraná. The authors argue that the choice of the location was due to the sociolinguistic complexity marked by the multi-ethnic space of the triple border, which has the significant presence of Guarani Indians. For the composition of the corpus, six bilingual informants were interviewed, whose mother language is Guarani and the second language is Portuguese. Among the reflections made by the authors, the fact that the language, inside and outside the village, highlights the prestige of the Guarani language and culture.

In the paper *Vowel raising without a trigger: the pretonic mid-vowels in the northwest of São Paulo state*, Márcia Cristina do Carmo and Valeska Gracioso Carlos investigate the variable phonetic-phonological phenomenon elevation of the pretonic mid-vowels in the medial context in the variety spoken in the northwest of São Paulo state, discussing, specifically, the vowel raising without a trigger. Based on the Theory of Variation and Linguistic Change, the authors use as a corpus 38 surveys with spontaneous speech samples, from the IBORUNA database, linked to the Project *Amostra Linguística do Interior Paulista* (ALIP) (Linguistic Sample of Inland São Paulo). The researchers demonstrate that the raising without apparent motivation is not very productive in the variety considered and, in general, its application in paradigms of certain lexical items, corroborating the lexical diffusion hypothesis to explain the process.

Based on the theoretical-methodological assumptions of Variationist Sociolinguistics and based on speech samples from 48 Maceió informants, in the article entitled *Variations in nominal agreement in the language spoken in the capital of Alagoas*, Andressa Kaline Marques, Almir Almeida Oliveira and Aldir Santos Paula analyze the correlation of the use of nominal concordance in Maceió and the linguistic variables linear position, grammatical class and grammatical class relations with the core, as well as with the extralinguistic variables education, age group and sex. Among the results, the researchers note both that the first position, articles, demonstratives and possessive prepositions, favor the nominal agreement, and that more educated female, belonging to the lower age group are more likely to use the agreement.

The researcher Odete Pereira da Silva Menon closes this thematic issue with the article entitled *Contador de argote: a dialectologist / sociolinguist avant la lettre?*, in which she defends the idea that the author in question may have been a pioneer in using the words *dialect* and *slang* (for Portuguese varieties) in a grammatical work. According to the author, this occurred in the second impression of the Rules of the Portuguese language, to which the referred author added information in some of the chapters of the first impression, necessary for the understanding and teaching of that language, including specific users of the language as recipients of his work.

As a conclusion, we justify that this issue, despite being from 2019, was delayed and could only be published in 2020 due to technical problems. Finally, we express our thanks to our fellow researchers from different Brazilian higher education institutions, who dedicated themselves to conceiving and submitting the papers to compose the on-screen edition of *Signum – Estudos da Linguagem*, as well as to the peer reviewers who carefully made their assessments.

A great reading!

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Vanderci de Andrade Aguilera