

Lexical Discoveries on Roundabout in the Northeast Region

Mariana Spagnolo **MARTINS**¹
Josyelle Bonfante **CURTI**²
Dayse de Souza Lourenço **SIMÕES**³

¹ Ph.D. Student in Language Studies at Universidade Estadual de Londrina - UEL. Collaborating Professor at the Universidade Norte do Paraná - UENP, Cornélio Procópio *Campus*. Contact: mariana.spagnolo@hotmail.com

² Ph.D. Student in Language Studies at Universidade Estadual de Londrina - UEL. Proofreader. Contact: joosy.curtii@gmail.com

³ Ph.D. in Language Studies from Universidade Estadual de Londrina - UEL (2019). Ph.D. Teacher at Universidade Pitágoras - Unopar. Contact: dayse.lourenco1990@gmail.com

Abstract:

With this article, we aim to honor the researcher Carlota da Silveira Ferreira, contributor to the work *Atlas Prévio dos Falares Baianos* - APFB (ROSSI, 1963) and one of the authors of the *Atlas Linguístico de Sergipe* - ALS (FERREIRA *et al.*, 1987). The relevance of these atlases is recognized and constantly remembered in dialectological research: the APFB, for being the pioneer of geolinguistic studies in Brazil, and the ALS, the fourth atlas published, which is an extension and an improvement of the methods applied and learned in the APFB elaboration. Furthermore, we designate a topic in which we discuss the ALiB Project importance, an initiative that, in addition to presenting the *Atlas Linguístico do Brasil* - ALiB materialization (CARDOSO *et al.*, 2014), has performed the mission of encouraging students to undertake dialectological research, allowing academic works elaboration based on the unpublished *corpus*. Therefore, the data collected at the ALiB network sites referring to the Northeast Region supported this investigation *corpus*, from the answers given to the Question 198. Roundabout/Traffic circle of the semantic field “Urban Life” (ALiB Semantic-Lexical Questionnaire), whose objective is to describe the northeastern variants regarding the polymorphism of the area and the potential discoveries about the predominance of one form over the others in the analyzed area.

Keywords:

ALiB; Northeast Region; Roundabout variants.

Signum: Estudos da Linguagem, Londrina, v. 25, i. 1, p. 82-93, Apr. 2022

Received on: 03/02/2022

Accepted on: 05/23/2022

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INTRODUCTION

Geolinguistics in Brazil begins with Decree nº 30.643, of March 20, 1952, which determines, as one of the main purposes of the Filologia da Casa de Rui Barbosa [Casa de Rui Barbosa Philology Commission], the elaboration of a Brazil's linguistic atlas, whose objective was only achieved 60 years later, in 2014, with the first volumes of the *Atlas Linguístico do Brasil* (ALiB) publication (CARDOSO *et al.*, 2014a, 2014b).

The launch of ALiB occurred during the III Congresso de Dialectologia e Sociolinguística (III CIDS) [Conference on Dialectology and Sociolinguistics], held in Londrina, state of Paraná, in honor of professors Suzana Cardoso and Jacyra Mota.

Currently, geolinguistics studies have gained a prominent place in Brazilian academies, thanks to the work of many researchers who defended a dialectological mentality, as recommended by Silva Neto, during the 50s of the last century. The pioneer pieces served as the basis for several works in different scientific spheres and had the contribution of renowned researchers, including Carlota Silveira Ferreira, from the Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA) [Federal University of Bahia], honored in this edition.

The researcher, while still a graduate student, alongside Dinah Isensee, took part in the first Brazilian atlas preparation, the *Atlas Prévio dos Falares Baianos* (APFB) [Previous Atlas of Bahia's Speeches], published in 1963, under Nelson Rossi coordination. A few years later, in 1987, Carlota Ferreira published, with other researchers from UFBA, the fourth Brazilian linguistic atlas, the *Atlas Linguístico de Sergipe* (ALS) [Linguistic Atlas of Sergipe]. This research continued in 2002, with the second volume of the *Atlas Linguístico de Sergipe II* publication (CARDOSO, 2005). These are three works that serve as a reference for dialectological studies of Brazilian Portuguese, especially for the knowledge of Bahia's and Sergipe's speeches and, by extension, of Northeastern's speeches.

Thus, in the following sections, we deal with some aspects of these linguistic atlases as important landmarks for the geolinguistics development in Brazil.

STATE ATLAS DEVELOPED IN BAHIA

Bahia was a pioneer in the state linguistic atlases elaboration, thanks to the arrival of Nelson Rossi at the Federal University of Bahia, in 1955, where he established a Phonetics Laboratory two years later. The *Atlas Prévio dos Falares Baianos* and the *Atlas Linguístico de Sergipe* were immediately idealized and implemented, one after another, at that university, although the latter was only published in 1987.

According to Mota (2012), in 1958, in Bom Despacho, and in 1959, in São José das Itaporocas, Tanquinho, and São Vicente, linguistic surveys were carried out that would serve as the basis for the APFB constitution, with the participation of students who would later be part of the *Atlas Prévio dos Falares Baianos* definitive team and of the UFBA faculty.

The APFB *corpus* was constituted from the answers given by the natural informants of the fifty Bahian localities that compose the points net. The 182 questions are distributed by semantic areas: land, vegetables, human being, and animals. In all, the APFB team interviewed 100 informants, illiterate or semiliterate, being 57 women and 43 men, between 25 and 60 years old. The informants, therefore, presented the profile that would later be called HARAS (ZÁGARI, 1998), that is, male, adult, rural, illiterate, and sedentary.

At the time of the APFB elaboration, there was no agile recording equipment to simplify the recording of the given answers, which led the interviewers to carry out the phonetic transcription simultaneously at the survey time. Overall, the *Atlas Prévio dos Falares Baianos* is composed of 11 introductory charts and 198 linguistic charts, that present mostly the phonetic transcription. It is a one-dimensional atlas, whose objective is to map the Bahian sub-speech restricted to the Bahia state. Nascentes (1953), however, had extended this sub-speech beyond the state borders, reaching Sergipe, part of Minas Gerais (North), Goiás (East), and the current Tocantins (East).

In general, APFB is not only a pioneer work in geolinguistics in Brazil, thus consecrating its importance in dialectological studies, but is also relevant for encouraging the geolinguistic research development in Brazil.

Ratifying the APFB importance, we mention the words of Mota (2012, p. 512):

The importance of the APFB is highlighted, not only for having enabled a greater knowledge of the area, especially of a greater portion of the named Bahian speech, in the known proposal of Nascentes (1953), providing empirical data systematically collected and analyzed, but also for encouraging the development of the dialectological and, mostly, geolinguistic studies areas in Brazil.

After the APFB publication, in 1963, other state atlas projects emerged, which were later published: *Esboço de um atlas linguístico de Minas Gerais* (EALMG) [Overview of a linguistic atlas of Minas Gerais], in 1977; *Atlas linguístico da Paraíba* (ALPB) [Linguistic Atlas of Paraíba], in 1984; *Atlas linguístico de Sergipe* (ALS) [Linguistic Atlas of Sergipe], in 1987, *Atlas linguístico de Sergipe II* (ALS II) [Linguistic Atlas of Sergipe II], 2005, *Atlas linguístico do Paraná* (ALPR) [Linguistic Atlas of Paraná], in 1996, and *Atlas linguístico-etnográfico da Região Sul do Brasil* (ALERS) [Linguistic-ethnographic Atlas of the Southern Region of Brazil], in 2002; *Atlas Linguístico Sonoro do Pará* [Sonorous Linguistic Atlas of Pará], in 2004; *Atlas Linguístico do Estado do Ceará* [Linguistic Atlas of the State of Ceará], in 2010; *Atlas Linguístico do Amapá* [Linguistic Atlas of Amapá], in 2017. ALPR II, not yet published, is the result of a doctoral dissertation defended by Altino in 2007.

The *Atlas Linguístico de Sergipe* (ALS), authored by Ferreira and other researchers, in addition to Nelson Rossi, is the fourth state atlas published in Brazil. The ALS, like the other state atlases, is a linguistic mapping that registers the vernacular in its phonetic and lexical occurrence collected through a dialectal interview. The ALS was conceived in 1963, soon after the APFB publication, and published in 1987.

The methodological tools used in the APFB elaboration served as a basis for the ALS and ALS II constitution, starting with the questionnaire applied in Sergipe localities formed of 686 questions, of which 182 were used for the APFB. The semantic fields of the atlas of Sergipe follow the APFB model, that is, the addressed themes concern the land, the vegetables, the human being, and the animals.

The ALS points net is composed of 15 locations, covering the entire state of Sergipe; of these, seven cities coincide with the points proposed by Nascentes (1953). Altogether, 30 informants were interviewed, aged between 35 and 53 years, being men and women with levels of education that vary between illiterate, semiliterate, and literate. The mapping result consists of 180 letters, 11 of which are introductory and 169 are lexical charts with detailed transcription.

Fifteen years later, in 2002, Cardoso publishes, as a doctoral dissertation, the *Atlas Linguístico de Sergipe II*. According to the author, ALS II represents the field materials resumption, still unpublished, from the first volume. The work presents some particularities, such as the focus on the semantic area MAN, the diagenetic⁴ variable contemplation - not explored in the ALS (1987) - and the comments on the aspects emphasized by the mapped information. The attempt to interpret the dialectal data allows classifying the ALS II as a second-generation atlas, that is, “those who extrapolate the record in a geolinguistic map, advance in the annotated phenomena interpretation, faced in the particular perspective of each one or in their interrelation with other documents” (CARDOSO, 2005, p. 116).

⁴ This is the variation related to the informant's age group (young and aged) in both genders (male and female).

Both the APFB and the first and the second volumes of the *Atlas Linguístico de Sergipe* are atlases focused on issues more related to rural life. Thus, the linguistic results presented in the three atlas charts represent mostly a rural knowledge, such as the records of “*vilba*”, “*cincha*”, and “*barrigueira*” for the harness piece that passes through the animal’s belly to hold the saddle or burden (APFB - Chart 145R), as well as “*lavrador*”, “*ganbador*”, “*diarista*”, “*pataqueiro*”, “*macaqueiro*” and “*jornaleiro*”, that can name the Hoe Worker (APFB - Chart 23) or the Hoe Worker in someone else’s farm (ALS - Chart 24).

The phonetic and lexical collections registered in APFB (1963), in ALS (1987), and in ALS II (2002) safeguard variants that could have been lost over time, as well as would be unknown to most speakers living in urban centers.

We also emphasize the importance of the contact that young researchers had with dialectological studies since graduation, even participating in field research in data collection for these atlases.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FOR DIALECTAL STUDIES

As we have seen, for the atlas of Bahia and of Sergipe creation, the researchers did not dispense the contribution of undergraduate students in Languages in the various stages of its elaboration⁵.

Following the tradition, for the *Atlas Linguístico do Brasil* (ALiB), the active participation of young researchers has become indispensable, both as inquirers and in dialectal works collected in 250 locations with 1,100 informants. In addition, ALiB contributed to the academic training of masters and PhDs who began their studies as volunteers or Undergraduate Research (UR) scholarship of the Atlas Linguístico do Brasil Project.

The ALiB Project, as a tool for training and encouraging dialectological research in Brazil, has the *Describing Language, training young researchers* Collection, that already have four volumes published⁶ and two more in the proofreading phase to be released soon.

The Collection gathers works on the data from the ALiB Project *corpus* developed by scholars and volunteers of undergraduate research, aiming to recognize and to promote publicity to these researches, spreading these students collaboration. Furthermore, the practice of valuing dialectological and geolinguistic research, with regard to undergraduate research, is essential to encourage new students to live the experience of researchers during the undergraduate course. The works published in the Collection, among several studies, address topics related to various aspects of language: phonetics, prosody, lexicon, and morphosyntax.

The Undergraduate Research program refers to already renowned initiatives, such as the Programa Institucional de Bolsas Iniciação Científica (PIBIC) [Undergraduate Research Scholarships Institutional Program], financed by the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) [National Council for Scientific and Technological Development] and by state foundings, which direct young students to straight contact with research projects developed by professors of Language courses, encouraging them to participate in seminars and conferences. Therefore, they are instructed to write abstracts, reports, and articles, individually or in partnership with their research advisors. This successful experience has led the majority of young researchers to postgraduate programs and, futurely, to enter language courses as professors and researchers. There are very frequent and beneficial for all examples of PhD professors who actually teach in important universities throughout Brazil, such as UFSC, UFBA, UFPE, UNIPAMPA, UENP, UNIT, and UNOPAR, among others who began their academic endeavors during graduation, such as volunteers or scholarship.

Thus, the emphasis on dialectal research can point not only to the academic incentive, through the ALiB Project, but also to the incentive to maintain the dialectological mentality that originated and diffused much knowledge about the vernacular. We reiterate that this incentive, which began, surely, with the APFB

⁵ Not only the APFB and the ALS, but also the ALPR (AGUILERA, 1994) had the participation of two UR scholarships who conducted interviews at more than one point and some Language students who conducted interviews at only one point.

⁶ For more information, visit: <https://alib.ufba.br/publicacoes>

publication, highlighted the pioneering spirit of geolinguistic studies in Brazil and motivated the subsequent productions that resulted in dissertations and thesis on linguistic aspects of the various regions (ALTINO, 2007; RIBEIRO, 2012; FREITAS-MARINS, 2012; ROMANO, 2015; YIDA, 2019).

Thereafter, we get in the methodological assumptions and data analysis, when we present the methods used in his work preparation and the results obtained with this reflection.

METHODOLOGICAL ASSUMPTIONS AND DATA ANALYSIS

After a brief overview of the first linguistic atlases and the way they represent the essential incentive for geolinguistic research and the professionals training in the area, we advance to the analysis of the material used as the *corpus* of this article.

In this undertaking, we propose an analysis of the variants behavior obtained from question **198. Roundabout/Traffic circle** of the Semantic-Lexical Questionnaire of the ALiB Project, formulated as follows: *What is the name of that section of the street or road that is circular, which cars must bypass to avoid the direct crossing?* From this questioning, we made up the *corpus* of this study, composed of 267 answers distributed by 31 designations obtained in the speech of the 312 natural informants of the Northeastern localities selected for the Project points net.

The 78 localities investigated are distributed over nine linguistic points in the state of Maranhão (25- *Turiacu*, 26- *São Luís*, 27- *Brejo*, 28- *Bacabal*, 29- *Imperatriz*, 30- *Tuntum*, 31- *São João dos Patos*, 32- *Balsas*, and 33- *Alto Parnaíba*), five points from Piauí (34- *Teresina*, 35- *Piripiri*, 36- *Picos*, 37- *Canto do Buriti*, and 38- *Correntê*), twelve from Ceará (39- *Camocim*, 40- *Sobral*, 41- *Fortaleza*, 42- *Ipu*, 43- *Canindé*, 44- *Cratêus*, 45- *Quixeramobim*, 46- *Russas*, 47- *Limoeiro do Norte*, 48- *Tauá*, 49- *Iguatu*, and 50- *Crato*), five surveys from Rio Grande do Norte (51- *Mossoró*, 52- *Angicos*, 53- *Natal*, 54- *Pau dos Ferros*, and 55- *Caicó*) and six from Paraíba (56- *Cuité*, 57- *Cajazeiras*, 58- *Itaporanga*, 59- *Patos*, 60- *Campina Grande*, and 61- *João Pessoa*); the state of Pernambuco has twelve locations (62- *Exu*, 63- *Salgueiro*, 64- *Limoeiro*, 65- *Olinda*, 66- *Afrânio*, 67- *Cabrobó*, 68- *Arcoverde*, 69- *Caruaru*, 70- *Recife*, 71- *Floresta*, 72- *Garanhuns*, and 73- *Petrolina*), Alagoas has four (74- *União dos Palmares*, 75- *Santana de Ipanema*, 76- *Arapiraca*, and 77- *Maceió*) and Sergipe has three linguistic points (78- *Propriá*, 79- *Aracaju*, and 80- *Estância*). Finally, the state of Bahia has 22 surveys (81- *Juazeiro*, 82- *Jeremoabo*, 83- *Euclides da Cunha*, 84- *Barra*, 85- *Irecê*, 86- *Jacobina*, 87- *Barreiras*, 88- *Alagoinhas*, 89- *Seabra*, 90- *Itaberaba*, 91- *Santo Amaro*, 92- *Santana*, 93- *Salvador*, 94- *Valença*, 95- *Jequié*, 96- *Caetitê*, 97- *Carinhanha*, 98- *Vitória da Conquista*, 99- *Ilhéus*, 100- *Itapetinga*, 101- *Santa Cruz Cabralia*, and 102- *Caravelas*).

Once the questions for the study were selected, we proceeded to the following steps: (i) listening to the surveys; (ii) transposition of the data to an EXCEL table, and (iii) transference of the linguistic material to the SGVCLin Software (ROMANO; SEABRA; OLIVEIRA, 2014), a tool used to generate the linguistic charts presented in the Northeastern data description.

DESCRIPTION OF DATA COLLECTED IN THE NORTHEAST REGION

This question related to Urban Life was one of the most susceptible to non-answers, so that, in the nine Northeastern capitals, we expected at least 36 answers, which correspond to the four informants of the elementary level by location⁷. However, we did not obtain an answer from twelve informants, which is equivalent to just over 33% of the total. Several reasons contributed to this lack of response: problems in recording, non-application of the question, unawareness of the referent on the part of the informant, forgetting the name of that space, among others. In the countryside of the northeastern states, 276 informants were interviewed in 78 locations, but we did not obtain the answer from 73 of them (26%) for the same reasons mentioned. The highest number of non-responses was observed among women in Band I (41%) and in Band II (29%).

⁷ In the capitals, eight informants were interviewed, four of whom should have completed an undergraduate course. In this study, to homogenize the sample, we analyzed only the responses of the four who attended the elementary level.

The linguistic scenario found in the northeastern speech evidences the polymorphism existing in the region regarding the variants for roundabout, that is, 31 items. In order to find an explanation for this multiplicity of forms, many of which with a low frequency rate, we initially verified the formulation of the question: *What is the name of that section of the street or road that is circular, which cars must bypass to avoid the direct crossing?* We believe that, when asking about the section of the *street* or *road*, the terms *street* and *road* reveals two different contexts, which could have generated ambiguity in the question and oscillation in the answer.

As we know, the lexicon *street* refers to a more urban context, where ways are built around houses and buildings as a way of organizing public space, enabling an orderly flow between cars and pedestrians. A *road*, on the other hand, presupposes a “way wider than a path, crossed by people, animals and/or vehicles”, it can also be “any path for the circulation of beings or means of transport” or even the “set of roads of a region, state or country” (HOUAISS, 2009).

When considering the approach to the question and the possibility of different interpretations reported by the informants, evidenced in the polysemy of the data obtained in the Northeastern region, we verify that some lexical items of the analyzed *corpus* refer to distinct contexts: only urban, only non-urban or both simultaneously. As examples, we have, respectively: “*praça*”, “*trevo*” and “*contorno*”.

Another factor that may have influenced the multiplicity of forms would be the inexistence of this space in smaller and less populated localities.

Considering the 267 valid answers, we noticed that “*retorno*” is the most productive form (33.3%) and is present in all states in the region, most frequent in the North-Eastern region (MA, PI, CE, RN, PB, PE, and AL), predominantly in the Maranhão, Ceará, and Rio Grande do Norte points. The group *others* presents the combination of less productive forms and unique occurrences (32.2%). “*Contorno*”, the second most mentioned lexicon in the Northeast (16%), is present in the Eastern region, more specifically in the state of Bahia, competing, in some points, with “*retorno*”, “*balão*” (10.4%) and “*trevo*” (8.2%) follow.

Chart 1 exhibits the most productive variants, the number of occurrences and the percentage recorded in the Northeast region of the country.

Chart 1 - Percentages of the most productive and other variants - Northeast.

Variants	Number of occurrences	%
“Retorno”	89	33.3
Others	86	32.2
“Contorno”	42	16
“Balão”	28	10.4
“Trevo”	22	8.2
Total	267	100

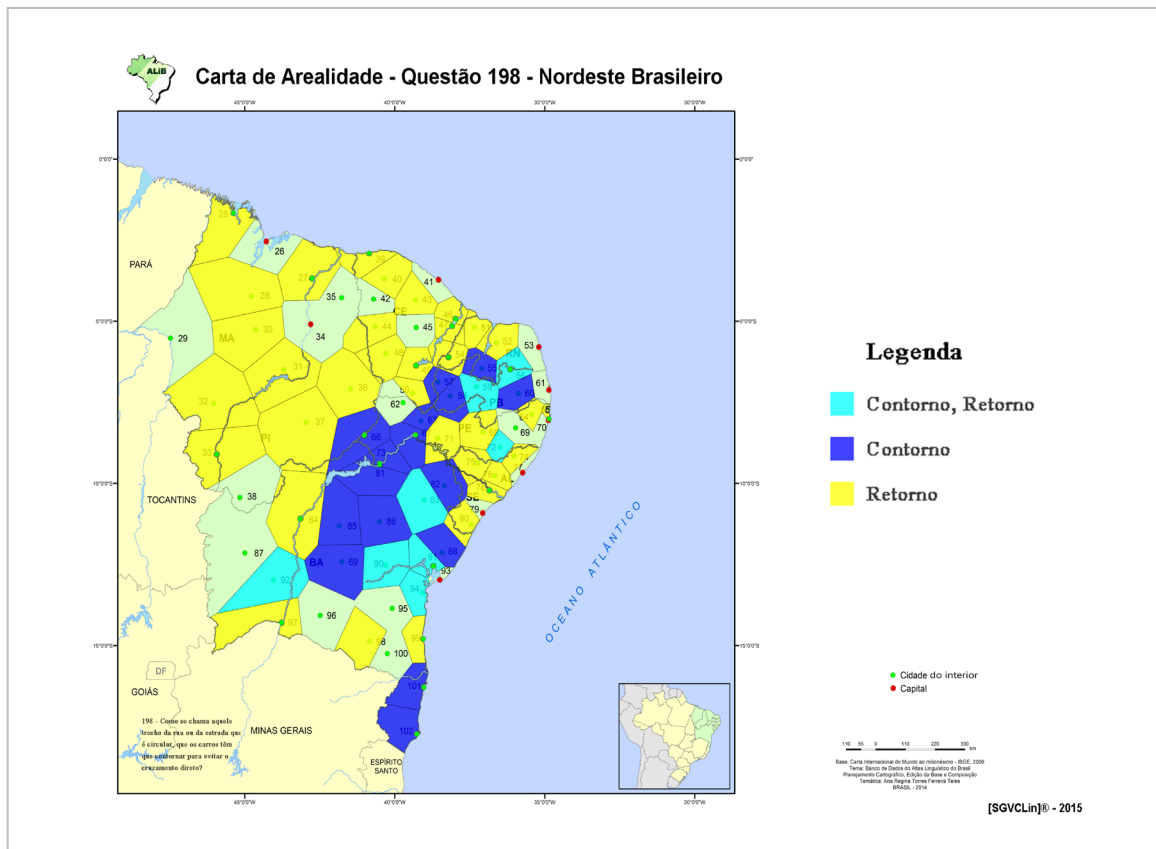
Source: Developed by the authors with research data.

Chart 1 shows that the lexical collection to name the *roundabout* is much more useful. Thus, in the class called *others*, we included variants with a frequency lower than 5%. Given the morphophonemic similarity of some lexical items, we consider it appropriate to gather some of them, such as: “*girador*”, “*giratório*”, and “*giro*”, which together total 14 records; “*curva*”, “*curva giratória*”, and “*vira curva*”, that also total 14 occurrences; “*anel*” and “*anel viário*”, with seven; “*círculo*”, “*círculo giratório*”, “*fazer círculo*” and “*circular*”, with six registers; “*praça*”, “*pracinha*”, “*praça no meio do mundo*”, with four; “*roda*”, “*roda do prefeito*”, with five; and “*interseção*”, “*interseção em círculo*”, with three; lexicons with up to 10 records: “*cruzamento*”, with 10; “*desvio*”, with six; “*encruzilhada*”, with three; “*canteiro*”, with two; “*entroncamento*”, with two; “*triângulo*”, with two; and as unique shapes in the region: roundabout, “*redondo*”, “*centro da pista*”, “*largo*”, “*rodoanel*”, “*ilha*”, “*rotativa*”, and “*passagem*”.

To better illustrate the areal distribution of the most frequent variants, we prepared Charts 1, 2, 3 and 4. The first brings the two most frequent forms in the Northeastern speech through a simple areality chart.

In this case, Figure 1 shows the greater or lesser concentration of the lexicons “*retorno*” and “*contorno*” regarding the possible lexical areas that can be presented: in yellow, the areal distribution of “*retorno*”; in dark blue, the “*contorno*”; double occurrences, that is, simultaneous records of the two lexicons, are highlighted in pool blue.

Figure 1 - Experimental Chart 1 - Most Frequent Forms - Question 198/Roundabout - Northeast Brazil.



Source: Developed by the authors based on ALiB Project data.

The lexia “*retorno*”, with 89 records (33.3% of the total), was mentioned in the capitals and in most of the northeastern municipalities that compound the ALiB points net. In capitals, large urban centers, this variant occurred in the speech of informants from São Luís (Infs. 3 and 4), Fortaleza (Infs. 2 and 3), Natal (Infs. 3 and 4), João Pessoa (Inf. 2), Recife (Inf. 1), Maceió (Inf. 1), Aracaju (Inf. 2), and Salvador (Inf. 3). Overall, eleven occurrences of “*retorno*” were registered in the capitals and 78 records were registered in the municipalities of the countryside. About the “*contorno*” occurrences, we observed a different scenario regarding the records of the capitals and municipalities in the countryside. The data revealed that, of the 42 contour records, 39 occurrences are destined for points in the countryside and only three records were found in the capitals João Pessoa (Inf. 2 and 3) and Recife (Inf. 3).

To develop the chart of the other two variants deemed productive in the northeastern region, “*balão*” and “*trevô*”⁸, we chose the gradual chart, whose purpose is to mark the incidence of the lexicons presented according to the occurrence index, demonstrating the productivity of each one through the tones in blue. Thus, the greater the number of occurrences (maximum four occurrences per point), the darker the shade used to demonstrate the use frequency in the area.

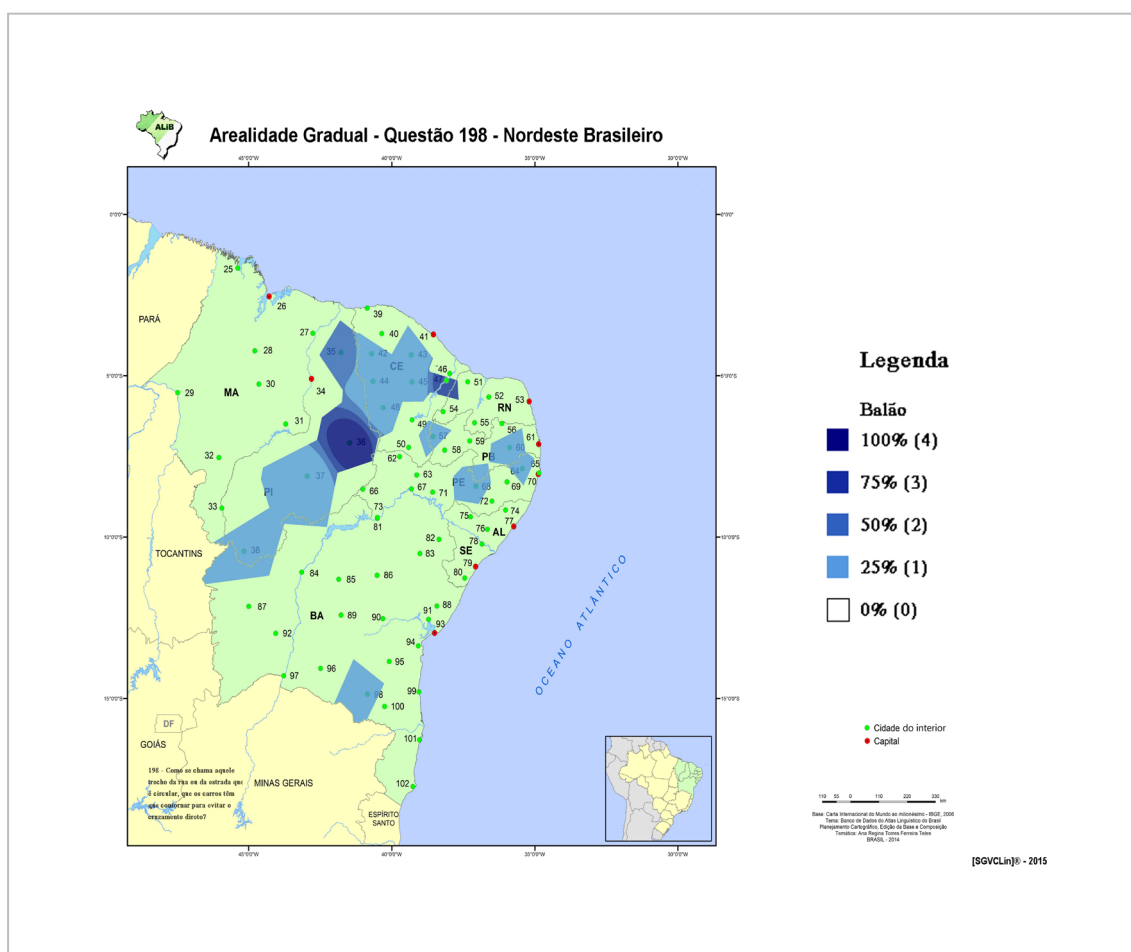
⁸ “*Balão*” with 12% of productivity (28 records), and “*trevô*” with 10% (22 occurrences).

The experimental Chart 2, Figure 2, shows the frequencies of “balão” recordings, with 25% referring to a single record of the variant, presented in light blue, at the following linguistic points: 37- Canto do Buriti (Piauí), 38- Corrente (Piauí), 42- Ipu (Ceará), 45- Quixeramobim (Ceará), 48- Tauá (Ceará), 61- João Pessoa (Paraíba), and 70- Recife (Pernambuco).

As the occurrences increase, the color tone intensifies. According to the percentage of the gradual chart, 50% refer to two records of the lexicon, obtained in: 35- Piriipiri (Piauí); the percentage of 75% represents three occurrences found in 47- Limoeiro do Norte (Ceará), and 100% are destined to the points whose data were obtained in all the informants speech; in the case of a “balão”, the records took place in the capital of Piauí, Teresina, and in 36- Picos, a municipality in its countryside.

Following, we present Figure 2, with the data graduality for the “balão” variant, and Figure 3, with the “trevo” records, also in gradual representation.

Figure 2 - Experimental Chart 2 - “Balão” variant in Northeast Brazil.



Source: Developed by the authors based on ALiB Project data.

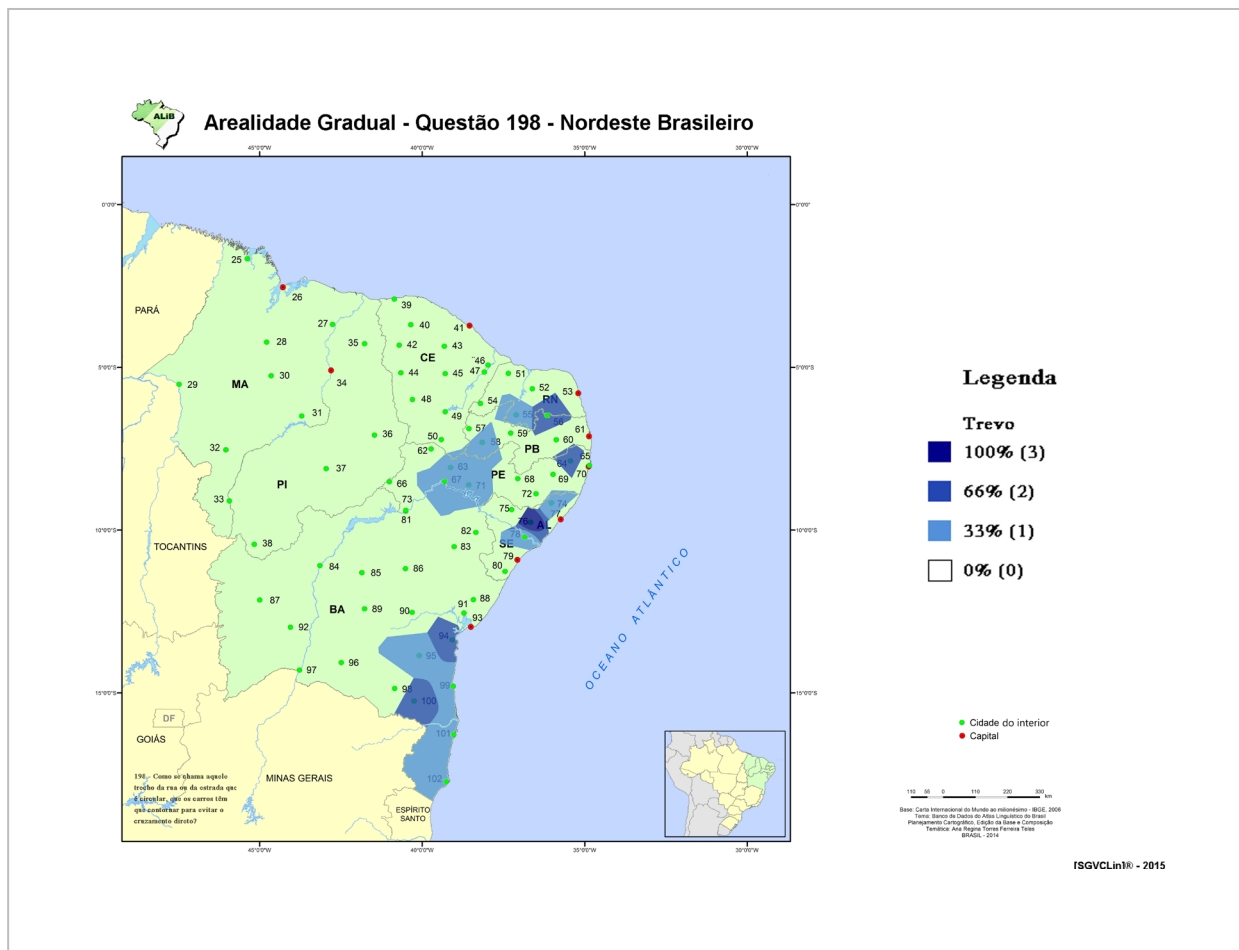
As shown in Chart 2 of Figure 2, the lexicon “balão” is productive in Piauí, where it covers the entire length of the state, with sparse records in the states of Ceará, Pernambuco, Paraíba, and Bahia. The lexicon behavior can be considered as exclusive to the Piauí speech, since the form was registered in the four linguistic points that composes the state network (035- Piriipiri, 036- Picos, 037- Canto do Buriti, and 038- Corrente). We affirm that the “balão” exclusivity is due to the fact that only in Piauí it occurs in all investigated locations.

Unlike the “balão” gradual chart, the “trevo” cartography, below, represents as 100% the occurrence of three records per linguistic point. The fact is due to the lexicon behavior, being mentioned in the speech of three of the four informants from the municipality of 76- Arapiraca (Alagoas). In the gradation inferior to

the percentage of 100%, we have a percentage of 66%, equivalent to two occurrences by linguistic points: 56- Cuité (Paraíba), 94- Valença (Bahia), and 100- Itapetinga (Bahia); and 33% refer to unique records by locality: 55- Caicó (Rio Grande do Norte), 63- Salgueiro (Pernambuco), 64- Limoeiro (Pernambuco), 71- Floresta (Pernambuco), 74- União dos Palmares (Alagoas), 95- Jequié (Bahia), 101- Santa Cruz Cabrália (Bahia), and 102- Caravelas (Bahia).

Figure 3 shows the gradual distribution of data for the “*trevo*” variant in the Northeast region of Brazil countryside.

Figure 3 - Experimental Chart 3 - Variant “*Trevo*” Distribution - Northeast Brazil.



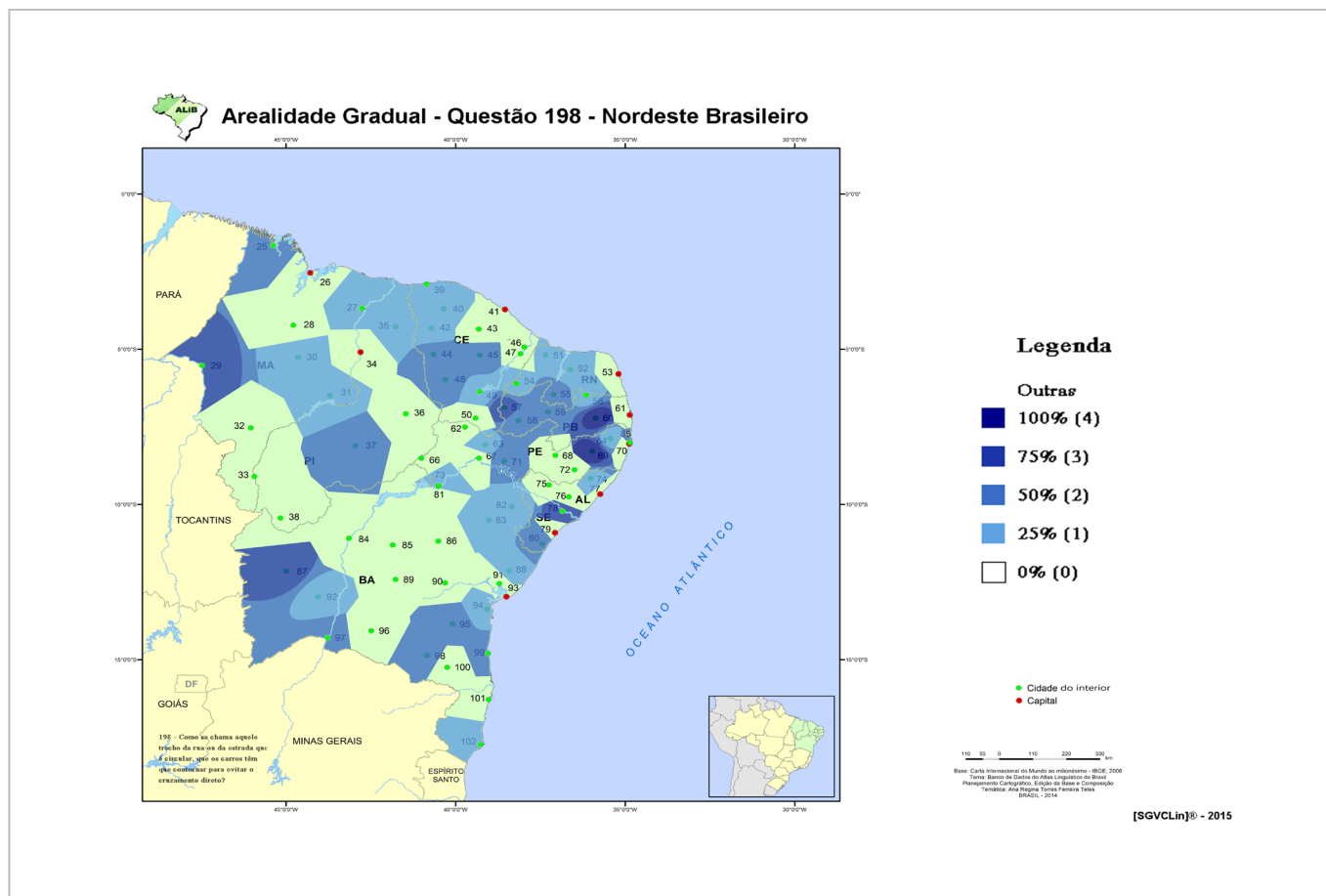
Source: Developed by the authors based on ALiB Project data.

In summary, the “*trevo*” variant is distributed across the states of Rio Grande do Norte, Pernambuco, Paraíba, Alagoas, and Sergipe. As it expands across the state of Bahia, lexicon is concentrated in the area known as Zona da Mata, close to the border with Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo.

Comparing the distribution of the “*balão*” and “*trevo*” forms, we can notice that in the more northwestern states of the northeastern region there is a certain productivity in the use of “*balão*” and some indications of this lexicon in Paraíba, Pernambuco, and Bahia. This fact does not characterize a dialectal area, but it can confirm that the “*balão*” form is preferred in Piauí speech, with regard to the records for Question 198/QSL. “*Trevo*”, in turn, occurs exclusively in the states of Paraíba, Pernambuco, and Bahia, with greater records in Bahian speech.

In the absence or unawareness of a regional or local name for this space on the urban public way, the speaker makes use of language resources to name the requested referent, sometimes using metaphors, sometimes metonymies. It is a way of expanding the meaning of one name to another, such as “*curva*”, “*volta*”, “*desvio*”, “*circular*”, “*encruzilhada*”, “*roda*”, and “*praça*”. We gathered in the class *others* all the records that presented low frequency, as shown in Chart 4 in Figure 4.

Figure 4 - Experimental Chart 4 - Others - Northeast Brazil.



Source: Developed by the authors based on ALiB Project data.

We verify, from the cartography, the dissemination of the various lexicons found for the Question 198/QSL. The multiplicity of names attributed to the same referent indicates, in addition to the polysemy of the data, the failure to establish a lexical norm for Question 198.

SOME CONCLUSIONS ON DATA ANALYSIS

From the description of the data recorded in the informant's speech from 78 points in the Northeast region, we observed that there is still no form that represents the norm for the *circle concept found on the street or road which cars must bypass to avoid the direct crossing* in the northeastern speech. The data reveal the occurrences of the most productive forms that order "retorno" (89 occurrences - 33.3%) as the most used in the region, followed by "contorno" (42 occurrences - 16%), "balão" (28 occurrences - 10.4%), and "trevo" (22 occurrences - 8.2%).

Through these indices, we trace some regional characteristics, since in the state of Maranhão the preferred variant is "retorno" and in some places in this state the variant reaches 100% of use, confirming a possible lexical harmony in relation to the researched item. The same was observed in the neighboring state, Piauí, which records "balão" in all locations explored.

However, in the states of Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Alagoas, Sergipe, and Bahia, we verified the polymorphism to name the referent, because, although there is a prominent form, such as "retorno" in CE, RN, AL, and SE, and "contorno" in BP, PE, and BA, in many cases, these forms were accompanied by another lexicon (duplicate answer from the same informant).

At the end of this analysis, we emphasize the advance of geolinguistics in Brazil from the APFB, that motivated the studies in other states and culminated in the formation of the National Committee responsible for the ALiB elaboration. Thanks to the efforts of researchers who assumed tiring and lengthy missions,

traveling through municipalities and capitals distributed throughout the national territory, listening to popular knowledge, getting to know stories, and sharing knowledge about the vernacular spoken in Brazil, today, we have two ALiB volumes published and three others in progress.

The data analyzed in this article demonstrate the diversified richness of the lexicons aimed to just one question of the ALiB Project QSL and led us to register that, in northeastern speech, in general, “*retorno*” and “*contorno*” are the most frequent to name the circular referent that organizes cars on urban roads. At the same time, we underline the creativity of the speaker performing in the absence of a form that meets the local or regional norm.

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