



Editorial

We are presenting to our readers Volume 37, n. 2, 2015, of the scientific journal *Acta Scientiarum. Language and Culture*, featuring *Linguistic Studies*. You will find 10 articles and 2 appreciations in the current issue which deals with research on linguistic variation, functional syntax, phonology, teaching and learning of languages, teachers' formation and studies on several textual and discursive theories by renowned researchers from different parts of Brazil and abroad.

Esper and Hila's research at the State University of Maringá, Maringá PR Brazil, represents a trend in the teaching and learning area, with important contributions in the studies on textual and discursive genres. The authors suggest rewriting activities comprising the biography genre and textual revision. As from a survey of the main issues, results culminates in activity proposals aiming at the learning of the genre in elementary schools. Further, within the context of continuous teachers' formation, Brum (UFSM) forwards the results of a collaborative research between a teacher of English and another pre-service teacher in English lessons of the fifth grade. Although featuring a secondary role, the pre-service teacher's participation was basic for the development of a more dialogic collaborative process in language classes.

Researchers on the descriptive methods in linguistic functions will certainly find useful in current issue three papers which respectively deal with linguistic variations, phonology of Portuguese and Syntax. Foregrounded on the data base Falaes Sergipianos, Freitag (UFS) describes the phenomenon of palatalization of alveolar occlusives following the palatal glide and reveals the motives for the choice in the variants. The analysis of a Sergipe community brings to the fore the strong interaction between linguistic factors as social and stylistic ones, implying a minute control of the context by the researcher. Data on the dialect of the Triângulo Mineiro's town of Prata were provided by Alves (UFU) who dealt with the phonological characterization of vocalic segments by its distinctive marks. By means of the optimality theory, the author shows that the low medium vowel and the low vowel in a tonic or contiguous position interfere in the production of the low medium vowel in a pre-tonic position. It is thus possible to rank cases that take the high middle vowel as the best and another ranking for cases with vocalic harmony motivated by [-ATR]. Further, a theoretical and empirical discussion is provided by Rosario (UFF) on juxtaposed concessives. The author proposes an interpretation of distinct constructional patterns in a written corpus. The functional analysis showed that juxtaposed concessives have certain specificities that distinguish them from prototype concessives.

In current issue, the Text and Discourse area publishes five papers ranging between rhetoric-reading theories and pragmatic-discursive questions. Contributing doubly within the cultural and international axes, students of pragmatics will surely appreciate the articles by the Iranian Ahangar who analyzes the taxonomy proposed by Blum-Kulka, House & Kasper (1989) and examines the effects of power and gender on the addressees with regard to the type and number of strategies in excuse forms used by fifty male university students of Sarawani Baloch. Results demonstrate that, although the selected strategies by the students are mostly the same as those used by the participants of other languages in the project, the group used different strategies from those expected, due to religious and cultural factors that underlie their society. Current functional regime shows that factors influence also the type and number of strategies in the use of the speech act.

The other research works are dedicated to the wide field of reading. Catelão (UTFPR) proposes a rhetorical and a textual-discursive reading of letters and messages by non-declared-cause suicides in police archives kept at the National Archives of Rio de Janeiro. The suicides' enunciation is foregrounded on more

or less argumentative chains to construct a situation to justify the act. According to the researcher, suicides who are not concerned in making public the causes of their acts, are meticulous in giving the reasons that motivated the structure of their memos. Further, the author perceives the need for other interpretative and constitutive instances for the investigated productions. On the other hand, Schons (UPF), while considering social practices as also imaginary constructions, deals with body reading in cyberspace within a discursive perspective. The author states that the “body language is pierced by ideology, by a set of forces, that brings about the developments of discourse-images, constructs memories and produces silences on determined practices”. The teacher Butturi Junior from Florianópolis (UFSC) discusses, from a Derridean perspective, certain contemporary concepts of reading, airing the view on the possibility of deconstruction of modern paradigms related to logocentrism of most theories and practices of official readings, both scholarly and students’. The author insists that it is necessary to discuss the power relationships implied in ‘logophobia’ in the debates on the subject. Finally, Courtine’s concept of inter-iconicity is analyzed by Milanez (UESB) in an analytic-discursive reading of the picture *As Gêmeas* by the Brazilian painter Alberto Guignard. The author reveals a genealogy framework of the repetition of imagistic materiality and possible discourses with special emphasis on the place of historicity for the discursive functioning of image repetition and its discourses.

The issue ends with two book reviews inviting all to read them. Araújo (UFCEG) describes and analyzes the work by Bezerra & Reinaldo on Linguistic Analysis, whilst Assis (UFMG) and Mareco (UEM) synthesize the concepts of the French linguist Dominique Maingueneau on textless phrases in a book translated from the French by Sírío Possenti.

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