

PRESENTATION

LEARNING AND DOING ON A NETWORK: STABILITY, VARIATION AND CHANGE

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This book is a tribute to twenty years of research development within the scope of the Predicar Project, coordinated, since its inauguration in 2002, by me, Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira, in the Postgraduate Program in Vernacular Letters at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. It is the result of rich (inter)actions mobilized within the Predicar Project, from or beyond it.

In 20 years of vitality, the Predicar Project has followed different paths, always counting on the participation and dialogue of students (from scientific initiation, research for the conclusion of undergraduate, master's, doctoral courses). It has contributed to the training of many as professors/teachers-researchers, with regard to predication, complex predicates, verbal multifunctionality and related topics linked to processes of stabilization, variation and change. It has contributed to the description of the phenomena of auxiliary, impersonalization, intensification, attenuation, representation, passivity, idiom, temporality, aspectuality, modality. And, for that, it has articulated different profiles of empirical research: observational profile, of corpora data (oral and written ones, synchronic or diachronic ones, of varieties of Portuguese inside and outside Brazil); or experimental profile, from data collected in

the experience of use or manipulated data but always based on this experience captured in corpora. Generally, it is developed on the basis of comparative analysis (including longitudinal analysis) and multivariate analysis and, more recently, also on the basis of collostructional analysis. And it deals with qualitative and quantitative treatment of data or records of experiments of the offline type.

Currently, the study of co-occurrences, of placements of construction units, of collostructional analysis, as will be seen in one of the chapters of this book, has mobilized the team. Under the title *Formação e expressão de predicados complexos e predicacões: estabilidade, variação e mudança construcional / Formation and expression of complex predicates and predications: stability, variation and constructional change*, from a socioconstructionist perspective (MACHADO VIEIRA; WIEDEMER, 2019, 2020),¹ the potential of the processes of constructional variation, of change (constructional change or grammatical and lexical constructionalization, TRAUOGOTT; TROUSDALE, 2013)² and of (relative) stabilization that we capture by representing the network of constructions based on the tendencies detected through constructional type and occurrence frequency analysis and/or through collostructional analysis. What come into play are (i) the tension between processes and forces of unity and variability, (ii) the relationship between repetition and conventionalization on the one hand and innovation, mismatch and creativity on the other, (iii) the triangulation between iconicity, indexicality and arbitrariness/conventionality, and (iv) the link between normalized or standardized identity, multifaceted (individual and community) identity in the midst of the diverse and dense nature of social networks that speakers of a language integrate or build. The Predicar Project began under the title *Formação e expressão de predicados complexos: polifuncionalidade verbal / Formation and expression of complex predicates: verbal polyfunctionality*. On that occasion, efforts turned to the study of verbal units in context, to the understanding of their multifunctionality in the experience of use, of the properties involved in the categorization of verbs, considering a continuum, with intersections, of more or less exemplary members of the verbs categories perceived in the linguistic-textual analysis and of the peripheral members, as well as for the detection of complex predicates formed from verbs. And, to some extent, different emphasis related to phases or waves of investigations of the Project are contemplated in this book.

This book brings together texts on methodology for investigating idioms and phraseology, for studying constructional variation, for experimental research, for empirical corpora research, for collostructional analysis, multivariate analysis and

1 MACHADO VIEIRA, M. dos S.; WIEDEMER, M. L. *Sociolinguística Variacionista e Gramática de Construções: Variationist Sociolinguistics and Construction Grammar: os desafios e as perspectivas de compatibilização*. In: *Dimensões e Experiências em Sociolinguística*. São Paulo: Blucher, 2019, p. 85-120.

MACHADO VIEIRA, M. dos S.; WIEDEMER, M. L. *A variação no modelo construcionista da Linguística Funcional-Cognitiva*. In: BRESCANCINI, C. R.; MONARETTO, Valéria. V. N. de O. (orgs.). *Sociolinguística no Brasil: textos selecionados*. Porto Alegre: Editora da PUCRS, 2020, p. 265-304.

2 TRAUOGOTT, E. C.; TROUSDALE, G. *Constructionalization and Constructional Changes*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

comparative analysis. The central question that will mobilize the authors of the chapters gathered here is the methodology used to research language(s), conceived in a perspective in which it is important to relate attributes of form and function/meaning and it is interesting to think about the potential of linguistic science that is reached with different methodological perspectives for the space of sensitization and training of researchers, for teaching about research processes and for dealing with the grammatical treatment in (mother or non-mother) language teaching. The process of scientifically studying the grammar of a language, based on various avenues of analysis that can be put into practice, needs to gain prominence also in the classroom, in addition to university labs. And, thus, we can collaborate to bring out the investigative spirit, as well as the interest in different approaches and processes to detect and map linguistic dynamics and heterogeneity.

The first chapter of this book was written by Pedro Ivorra Ordines (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Universitat Pompeu Fabra). In *Codazo en plena y puñetazo en toda la boca: La familia de construcciones SOMÁTICAS DE GOLPE*, the author deals with morpho-syntactically and semantic-pragmatically similar constructions that can be described as a family of constructions within the Construction Grammar framework. He deals with idioms where a preposition and an adjective are lexically specified, while three slots are lexically open, with semantic restrictions. The objective is to describe these constructions of similar behavior in a two-dimensional network. Using the esTenTen18 corpus (Sketch Engine), the author develops an in-depth analysis of the semantic restrictions of these slots, paying attention to productivity through type frequency and hapax legomena. And, thus, the author highlights another important issue in Construction Grammar, which, to some extent, constitutes the tonic to mobilize linguists to this conception of language in which grammar and lexicon are integrated, but which, also, does not always have received the attention that would be expected.

The second chapter, written by Bert Cappelle (University of Lille) and Pâmela Fagundes Travassos (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) illustrates a tendency in the Predicar Project: the interaction between professors (in this case, a co-supervisor) and students (in this case, a doctoral student), attention to which is mainstream in the area of Letters and Linguistics (without losing sight of what precedes and leads to it), the interrelational potential of different institutions in favor of the description of languages. Under the title *Taking a look at the support verb construction V a look: a demonstration of methodology*, the authors present step-by-step instructions on how to conduct a study of constructional variation, illustrated here with one that they developed from the dialogue and guidance they have maintained since Pâmela Fagundes Travassos made her sandwich doctorate at the University of Lille.

The third chapter, written by Ravena Beatriz de Sousa Teixeira and Jeane Nunes da Penha (both from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), focuses on linguistic research centered on annotated corpora, focusing on those from the Corpus of Portuguese, by Mark Davies. Such a perspective is very important to areas such as Sociolinguistics, Corpus Linguistics, Usage-Based Construction Grammar, in brief,

what is referred to as Usage-Based Linguistics. In the text *Constructions with support verbs: data collection and treatment in the Corpus of Portuguese / Construções com verbo suporte: coleta e tratamento de dados no Corpus do Português*, the authors show ways and resources to explore this platform, deal with positive and negative aspects of online databases and characteristics of the constitution of samples and show a step-by-step work with annotated corpora.

Os primeiros passos em análise colostrucional: pesquisas de predicação para ilustrar um fazer / The first steps in collostructional analysis: predication research to illustrate a doing is a text written by many hands because, within the scope of the Predicar Project, it reveals a doing that has been built from readings, voices and different experiences. It was written by Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira, Mariana Gonçalves da Costa, Ravana Beatriz de Sousa Teixeira, Pâmela Fagundes Travassos, Pedro Poppolino and Lais Lima de Souza (all of them from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro). It is, above all, a tribute to the team that, guided by the goal of reflecting and studying in partnership questions of methodology for the analysis of linguistic co-occurrences, improves and strengthens itself cooperatively to develop the so-called collostructional analysis, without losing sight of the limits and its implications, without losing sight of its articulation with other methodologies that continue to guide the research group's paths. In this chapter, the authors explore three types of collostructional analysis procedures via R language and RStudio application, as well as briefly pass through the multivariate analysis modeling and the analysis modeling of the relationship between constructional units to textual-discursive constructions, to discursive patterns, via Excel.

The two following chapters reveal precisely another methodology of work implemented in the Predicar Project at the beginning of the 21st century when it was not nearly as visible as it is today in Brazilian studies: the experimental methodology. From Machado Vieira; Esteves (2008), many studies have focused on the subjective evaluation of uses of predications and predicates in Portuguese (evaluation inspired by the evaluation problem in WEINREICH; LABOV; HERZOG, 1968). So, a sample of this methodological perspective is also in this work, via the two chapters that are now summarized.

Jeane Nunes da Penha, Ravana Beatriz de Sousa Teixeira and Pâmela Fagundes Travassos (all from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) show, in *Pesquisa experimental na análise de construções com verbo suporte / Experimental research in the analysis of constructions with support verbs*, they present the main guidelines for the experimental treatment of usage data based on the experience of their research on constructions with support verbs.

Pâmela Fagundes Travassos (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, teacher at the Municipal Secretary of Rio de Janeiro), in *Proposta de testes experimentais para análise da variação construcional de predicador complexo / Proposal for experimental tests for the analysis of the constructional variation of a complex predicate*, gathers and illustrates a portion of the materials of her proposal of tests for experimental research presented on the occasion of her candidacy for a sandwich doctorate at the University

of Lille. In this chapter, the author shows models of experimental tests to analyze the variation between complex predicates with support verb DAR: *dar um empurrãozinho*, *dar uma forcinha* (something like give a little help), for example. And, thus, it deals with the problem of subjective evaluation of the possibility of equivalence and interchangeability of predicates like these in simple verbal forms, with users' attitudes towards this type of predication.

Fábio Rodrigo Gomes da Costa (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, teacher at SEEDUC), in *Discurso de parlamentares: um perfil metodológico de análise de corpus de domínio político / Discourse of parliamentarians: a methodological profile of corpus analysis in the political domain*, deals with the path of a multivariate analysis of predication data with the verb *trazer* (to bring), in that this can appear either as a predicate/full verb or as a support verb and can, in this case, integrate a complex predicate with a more or less evident non-compositional profile. In doing so, he addresses clusters of factors and hypotheses that are interlinked to illustrate a route in order to deal with this type of analysis. It also addresses aspects of political domain discourse constitution in which the predication of discursive attenuation has prominence.

In *Metodologias e análises em estudos de predicação transitiva direta com pronome SE: um estudo puxa outro / Methodologies and analyzes in direct transitive predication studies with SE pronoun: one study leads to another*, Eneile Santos Saraiva de Pontes and Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira (both from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) show the step by step involved in research fronts related to data of direct transitive predication with SE pronoun (indicative of synthetic passive, of suppression of the inducing participant and, consequently, of indeterminacy of the person responsible for or the cause of the state of affairs). In fact, they show how the fronts are interconnected, given the fact that one study ended up unfolding in others. And, then, they highlight the very frequent unfolding of (inter)actions and repercussions in scientific research that are carried out within the scope of a larger project.

The tenth chapter, written by Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), focuses on criteria for the identification of complex predicates and verbal subtypes, especially with regard to the auxiliary character. And it is built in view of spaces for the treatment of this theme in the teaching of Portuguese, mother and non-mother language. Under the heading *Análise comparativa para detectar auxiliabilidade verbal e predicadores complexos / Comparative analysis to detect verbal auxiliary and complex predicates*, criteria related to the association of verbal uses to the categories of (semi-)auxiliary verb, (semi-)support and relational verbs and, therefore, the detection of complex predicates are presented. Based on different criteria and some verbal uses, as well as research developed in the Predicar Project, the association of verbs to categories and degrees of auxiliary and to certain slots in complex predicates is the theme that receives attention.

This book also has texts, afterwords, which translate views, inside and outside Brazil, on the value of descriptive contributions supported by linguistic science (here,

some of those that are fruits and take place in the (inter)actions of the Predicar Project (or from there) to the teaching of Portuguese.

The postscript in French was written by Liliane Santos (University of Lille), with whom the Predicar Project team could dialogue during the I International Congress of the Postgraduate Program in Vernacular Letters, *Voices e escritas nos diferentes espaços da língua portuguesa / Voices and Writings in the Different Spaces of the Portuguese Language*, in reason for the seminar of which Liliane Santos was one of the coordinators. One result of this space of interaction is the interview Santos et al. (2021).³ In the afterword of this work, the professor-researcher deals with the interconnection between paths of linguistic research and paths of teaching mother and non mother language, including for the perception of the pluricentricity of Portuguese.

The valuable contributions regarding the methodologies of linguistic research and the perspectives on this network of perspectives that are gathered here show the potential for directions in the area and for dialogues beyond it. To all those who contributed to the result that is materialized in the form of this book, the expression of many thanks does not translate the comfort and joy of being able to count on the points of view and expertise that this book mobilized. This form certainly does not capture the richness of the dialogues and research and dialogue experiences that (re) elaborate and instigate us to always learn and walk, but they certainly show a little of the multi-methodological and interrelational profile that characterizes doings in Predicar since always.

The final version of each chapter is the intellectual responsibility of its author(s), who had complete freedom to define the profile of the thematic and textual approach. Naturally, the contribution of fellow specialists in the area of Letters and Linguistics enriched the process of (inter)action that a book requires. I am grateful to each one of the scientific committee who collaborated, with their time and know-how, for the best achievement of this sharing project.

I am especially grateful to the Postgraduate Program in Vernacular Letters at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and to Capes/Proex (Coordination of Postgraduate and Research Personnel/Academic Excellence Program) for the financial support, which allowed and encouraged the realization of a work of national and international dialogue like the one involved here. I also thank each one of those involved in the review, layout and dissemination of the book. I thank Gabriel Lucas Martins (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) for collaborating on the English version of this presentation.

I hope that this network of methodological perspectives can help the community of research students and professors and that, to some extent, it can be put to good use in spaces that pay attention to the training of researchers in Bachelor and Licentiate

3 SANTOS, L. et al. O português como língua não materna: reflexões sobre ensino e tradução – Entrevista com a Professora Doutora Liliane Santos. *Diadorim: estudos linguísticos e literários*, v. 23, n. 1, 2021. <https://revistas.ufrj.br/index.php/diadorim/article/view/41164> Acesso: 01 abr. 2022.

undergraduate courses and in other practices of research beyond that of the university. After all, methods of observation and mapping of linguistic uses can have consequences in several areas of knowledge: politics, advertising, artificial intelligence (with an increasingly less “artificial” language, with attention to different interactions, different spaces for the construction of the binomial language and power, including power to influence and move (inter)actions).

Enjoy it!