INTRODUCTION

INTRODUÇÃO

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This thematic volume *Experimental Linguistics and Portuguese Language Varieties* is dedicated to research that explores the interaction between linguistic theories and experimental methods in the areas of phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics and second language acquisition.

The volume includes research on Brazilian Portuguese (BP) that was presented in the second edition of the workshop "Experimental Portuguese Linguistics", which took place at the University of Toronto, Canada, on April 6, 2019 (Bezerra; Justino and Mota; Ramos and Augusto; Thompson Santos, Ciríaco, and Souza). The volume also comprises other experimental studies about linguistic properties of BP, European Portuguese (EP), Sao Tomense Portuguese (STP) and Principense Portuguese (PP) that were not presented in the aforementioned workshop, but which also explore the interface between theoretical and experimental linguistics, and further contribute to the description of Portuguese language varieties. In addition, this volume includes two articles in the *varia* section on the description and syntactic classification of EP proverbs (Reis and Baptista) and on the critical reflection on certain terms of the *Dicionário Terminológico* (Lopes).

The article by Geovana Soncin, Luciani Tenani, and Larissa Berti "Phonologic representation and speech perception: the role of pause" investigates the perception of pauses at intonational phrase (IP) boundaries in BP and further discusses the link between speech production and perception. The results of an experimental pause identification test suggest that speech perception does not depend exclusively on recovering an acoustic pattern and provide evidence of phonologic representation for pause perception.

Gabriela Braga and Flaviane Fernandes-Svartman analyze the intonational contour associated with neutral declarative sentences in STP, based on Intonational Phonology and Prosodic Phonology theories, in the paper "The tonal events association in Portuguese of São Tome". The authors compare this African variety with European, Brazilian, and Guinea-Bissau varieties and conclude that the intonational characteristics of PST are different from those attested for the Lisbon variety, thus arguing that STP is a variety with its own intonational grammar.

In the paper "Vocalic nasalization in São Tomé and Príncipe's urban Portuguese", Gabriel de Araujo and Amanda Balduino compare the vocalic nasality in two Portuguese

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varieties spoken in São Tomé and Príncipe: Santomean Portuguese (STP) and Príncipe Portuguese (PP). The authors measured duration and the formants of nasal (ṽN), nasalized (ṽ.N) and oral (V) segments, and the findings show that there are two different nasalization processes in STP and in PP: tautosyllabic nasality and heterosyllabic nasality.

The eye-tracking study "The processing of inflectional verbal morphology in Brazilian Portuguese" conducted by Julia Justino and Mailce Mota investigates how regular verbs of different verbal classes and tenses are processed. The results suggest that, in the processing of inflected verbal forms, verbal properties such as verbal class and tense as well as syntactic elements that are part of the sentence have an impact in the processing of verbs.

Michele Calil Alves investigates the role of gender cues in pronominal antecedent retrieval in the paper "Differences between grammatical gender and semantic gender in pronominal antecedent retrieval in Brazilian Portuguese". The results of two eye-tracking experiments show that both binding structural constraints and gender morphological cues are equally important in antecedent retrieval in memory at early stages of coreference processing and that semantic gender and masculine gender seem to weigh more in memory than grammatical gender and feminine gender.

Gitanna Bezerra presents the results of two experiments in the paper "The influence of referentiality, definiteness, and preposition+determiner contraction (P+D contraction) on relative clause processing". The results revealed that N2 modification was more probable when N2 was referential and when the article preceding it was not contracted with the preposition, and the author emphasizes the influence of the three factors investigated on relative clause interpretation, highlighting the novelty of the P+D contraction effect.

The paper "Reverse transfer in clitic collocation: A study on Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese" by Thamyres Ramos and Marina Augusto investigates clitic collocation in verbal complexes in BP and Spanish with a self-paced reading experimental task in which the position of the clitic in Portuguese sentences was manipulated. The results indicate that both BP monolinguals and BP/high-proficiency Spanish bilinguals accept clitic climbing, but bilinguals accept it even more, and are faster in reading sentences with clitic climbing, suggesting a possible Spanish facilitation in the Portuguese sentence processing.

Based on the grammatical notion of atomicity, in the paper "The bare singular in English and BP experimental approaches on atomicity", Kayron Beviláqua and Roberta Oliveira propose an analysis for the Bare Singular (BS) both in English and BP. The results show that sentences with the BS raise the same judgments as the ones without the noun in the prompt and the authors argue that the BS in BP does not carry any grammatical feature for atomicity, unlike the plural and the mass nouns, which carry [+ atom] and [-atom] features, respectively.

Núbia Rech, Eduardo Soares, and Simone Guesser conducted an acceptability test with native BP speakers to investigate the interpretation of deontic modals based on two types of obligation: ought-to-do and ought-to-be. The results show that the sequence in which two modal verbs are used followed by a second sentence emphasizing the ought-to-do interpretation is judged significantly less acceptable. When only one modal is used, the sentence emphasizing both ought-to-do and ought-to-be readings is on average

equally acceptable. The researchers interpret these results as evidence that the deontic ought-to-be is interpreted in the left periphery of the sentence, in interaction with the discursive relations of coherence.

The paper by Christiani Thompson provides an empirical account of the synchronic variation in the use of the noun TIPO ('type', 'kind') in vernacular BP by examining the speech of teenagers from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, collected between 2015 and 2018. Results indicate that TIPO is not only prominent in the teenagers' speech but also that non-nominal forms of TIPO (such as preposition and adverb) are more frequently used by speakers when compared to its nominal form.

Clarice Santos, Larissa Ciríaco, and Ricardo de Souza research on the caused-action construction in BP and its effects on the comprehension and production of BP-English bilingual speakers show that the caused-action meaning plays a role cross-linguistically, and that the caused-action construction is present in both BP and English.

The paper "Learning parts-of-speech through distributional analysis" by Pablo Faria explores how much of this learning can be successfully achieved through the distributional analysis of utterances in Brazilian Portuguese by applying a computational model developed by Redington, Chater and Finch (1998).

Qunying Li and Cristina Flores investigate the implicit and explicit knowledge of nominal and verbal morphology of Chinese learners of EP as a second language. The results of an elicited imitation task and a grammaticality judgment task reveal that failures in producing correct verbal and nominal inflection are caused mostly by weak implicit knowledge and showed an imbalance in the level of development of the implicit knowledge of the different nominal and verbal categories.

Rui Pereira argues in favour of the explicit teaching of word-formation processes in Portuguese in his paper "Derivational morphology in the acquisition of Portuguese as a foreign language/second language" and presents the types of contents and didactic activities that can be used in the classroom to promote the development of the learners' derivational component.

The paper by Francisco Vicente studies the impact of syllabic structure complexity on the learning of orthography in Mozambican children of Basic Education, who are speakers of Portuguese as second language (L2) and native speakers (L1) of Changana. The analysis of the data collected through a picture naming task allowed to establish the following order of learning of the writing of syllabic formats: CV, V >> CCV >> CVC.

In the paper "Description and syntactic classification of European Portuguese (EP) proverbs", Sónia Reis and Jorge Baptista provide a formal classification of EP proverbs aiming to contribute to the development of an automatic classification procedure useful for different applications in Natural Language Processing.

Conceição Lopes proposes a critical reflection on certain terms included in Dicionário Terminológico and discusses the classification of the relatives cujo(a), cujos(as), onde e quanto(a), quantos(as) as determinants, adverb and quantifiers, respectively.

In conclusion, the papers presented in this thematic volume aim to contribute to a discussion of the interface between theoretical and experimental linguistics and to further the description and analysis of Portuguese language varieties.