

**Sociolinguistics Working Group,
35 years later: reflections and scenarios**

***Grupo de Trabalho em Sociolinguística,
35 anos depois: reflexões e cenários***

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35 years of (inter)action

In celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Sociolinguistics Working Group (WG) of the National Association of Postgraduate Studies and Research in Letters and Linguistics (ANPOLL), the Coordinators of the Sociolinguistics WG (management 2018-2021), Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira (UFRJ) and Marcos Luiz Wiedemer (UERJ/ Faperj), present this special issue of *Revista da Anpoll* to the academic community and the general public. As it is specially dedicated to our WG, this issue consists of a dossier, titled “*ANPOLL Sociolinguistics WG, 35 years later: reflections and scenarios*”.

According to Savedra (2010, p. 225):

During the 1st National Meeting of ANPOLL, held from 11 to 13 December 1985 in Curitiba, the initial 21 WGs of the Association were created. Among them, the Sociolinguistics WG already featured the cluster, then named the Sociolinguistics and Bilingualism WG. The coordinators chosen by the academic community were Jürgen Heye (PUC-RJ) and Sebastião Votre (UFRJ), in head of Sociolinguistics, and Paulino Vandresen (UFSC), in head of Bilingualism. Such coordinators, following the statutes defined by the then created ANPOLL, designed a survey of researchers, projects and academic production in the area. (our translation)

Since the beginning, the Sociolinguistics WG has been involved in the linguistic discussions that take place in Postgraduate programs in Brazil, as well as in information exchanges and dialogues within different forums, even in foreign territory. This is illustrative of the predominant role that the WG has played in Brazilian Sociolinguistics,



during its 35 years of existence. In this special issue of *Revista da ANPOLL*, in addition to tracing the history of the WG, we also aim at describing the development of research and of the area in the national territory, by displaying overall contributions from the works of the members and (former) coordinators of the WG.

This special issue adds to other texts in the history of the WG. For instance, Brandão (1995), on the 10th anniversary of ANPOLL and of the Sociolinguistics WG, provides a historical survey of the WG and the main researches carried out by its members up to that moment. In his turn, Vandresen (2003) offers a description of the activities developed by the WG in the period between 1985 and 2001, highlighting the researches carried out by the members of the WG, as well as seeking to reflect on the growth and expansion of the area in the national territory. Finally, we find, in the work edited by Ramos (2006), the registry of a set of lectures presented during the preparatory meeting for the 20th ENANPOLL (Encontro Nacional da ANPOLL). Mota and Aguilera, in this issue, when portraying the history of the WG, are clear in indicating these three phases of the WG; namely: the first ten years, the period of expansion and consolidation of researches and of the group, and, more recently, the period of consolidation of the axes of works developed by the WG. In spite of that, the authors also signal that there are some gaps in the narrative of this historical path. As the current coordinators of the Sociolinguistics WG, we have then decided to shed light on these gaps, by gathering in this issue a collection of voices and writings that were and still are of great relevance in the management of collective works – which display great significance and praiseworthiness in both number and quality of production. Some of the relevant names featured in this issue appear in Table 1 below, which arranges the former and the current researches in charge of the Sociolinguistics WG coordination from 1985 to 2021:

Table 1 - Coordinations of the Sociolinguistics WG

1985-1987 – Sebastião Josué Votre (UFRJ), Jürgen Heye (PUC-RJ) and Paulino Vandresen (UFSC)
1987-1988 – Sebastião Josué Votre (UFRJ)
1988-1990 – Giselle Machline de Oliveira e Silva (UFRJ)
1990-1992 – Stella Maris Bortoni-Ricardo (UnB)
1992-1994 – Suzana Alice Marcelino Cardoso (UFBA)
1994-1996 – Sílvia Figueiredo Brandão (UFRJ) and Maria Thereza Indiani de Oliveira (UFRJ)
1996-1998 – Odete Pereira da Silva Menon (UFPR) and Paulino Vandresen (UFSC)
1998-2000 – Dermeval da Hora (UFPB) and Maria Eugênia Lammoglia Duarte (UFRJ)
2000-2002 – Cláudia Nívea Roncarati de Souza (UFF) and Maria Jussara Abraçado de Almeida (UFF)
2002-2004 – Dermeval da Hora (UFPB)
2004-2006 – Jania Martins Ramos (UFMG) and Dermeval da Hora (UFPB)
2006-2008 – Mônica Maria Guimaraes Savedra (UFF) and Jürgen Heye (PUC-RJ)

2008-2010 – Mônica Maria Guimaraes Savedra (UFF) and Vanda Maria Cardozo de Menezes (UFF)
2010-2012 – Marco Antonio Martins (UFRN) and Maria Alice Tavares (UFRN)
2012-2014 – Marco Antonio Martins (UFRN) and Maria Alice Tavares (UFRN)
2014-2016 – Claudia Regina Brescancini (PUC/RS) and Valéria Neto de Oliveira Monaretto (UFRGS)
2016-2018 – Claudia Regina Brescancini (PUC/RS) and Valéria Neto de Oliveira Monaretto (UFRGS)
2018-2021 – Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira (UFRJ) and Marcos Luiz Wiedemer (UERJ) ¹

Source: elaborated by the authors

Nevertheless, as readers are able to check from the references of the texts gathered here, many other researchers have contributed to what we now call the Sociolinguistics WG. Currently, the WG has been playing a central role in contributing to science, teaching and extension in linguistic studies – through its four axes of work; namely, linguistic variation and change; contact, variation and identity; sociolinguistics and teaching; and theoretical and methodological issues –, as can be seen in table 02.

Table 02 - Working axes of the Sociolinguistics WG in the 2018-2021 triennium

Coordination:	1. Linguistic variation and change
Silvia Figueiredo Brandão (UFRJ/Postgraduate Program in Vernacular Letters)	Synopsis: We focus on phenomena in (i) phonetics, phonology and prosody, (ii) morphosyntax, (iii) lexicon, (iv) semantics, discourse and pragmatics, based on geolinguistic and sociolinguistic perspectives or perspectives with a socio-functionalist or socio-formalist profile. We discuss problems and processes of variation and change (in real or apparent time). We deal with the analysis of theoretical-methodological approaches regarding the (quantitative and qualitative) treatment of linguistic uses or social evaluation. Speech communities, communities based on social networks and communities of social practice are studied. It is expected that we get together contributions on varieties of Portuguese, synchronously or diachronically captured changes, situations of contact, questions of identity and attitudes, as well as stylistic, functional and formal issues.
Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira (UFRJ/Postgraduate Program in Vernacular Letters)	
Izete Lehmkuhl Coelho (UFSC/Postgraduate Program in Linguistics)	
Jacyra Andrade Mota (UFBA/Postgraduate Program in Language and Culture)	
Coordination:	2. Contact, variation and identity

¹ Due the pandemic context, the term of the current coordination has been extended.

Mônica Maria Guimarães Savedra
(UFF/Postgraduate Program in Language Studies)

Karen Pupp Spinassé
(UFRGS/Postgraduate Program in Letters)

Synopsis: The relations between linguistic variation, linguistic contact, culture and identity gain special interest in this area. From the approaches and methods covered by the Sociolinguistics discipline, especially by Sociolinguistics of contact, we are interested in studies of variation and linguistic contact that deal with sociocultural dimensions such as gender, age group, ethnicity, class, among others. The approaches to be dealt with include the topics of contacts between Brazilian Portuguese and the languages of immigration, African languages, varieties that arise from the contact of linguistic and geographical borders, including those that discuss the theme in the scope of bilingual and plurilingual education in multilingual contexts. We are also interested, in this working axis, in theoretical discussions about evaluation, orientation and linguistic attitudes, as well as studies produced in school environments that deal with the themes and dimensions noted above. Finally, we are interested in descriptions of sociolinguistic databases that are prepared to deal with ethnolinguistic and cultural identities.

Coordination:

Silvia Rodrigues Vieira (UFRJ/Postgraduate Program in Vernacular Letters)

Joyce Elaine de Almeida Baronas
(UEL/Postgraduate Program in Language Studies)

3. Sociolinguistics and teaching

Synopsis: This axis puts as its priority three fronts of work to articulate the scientific results to the teaching of Portuguese: (i) the systematization of variable rules in function of variation continua, in order to deal with the school reference norm (standard norm); (ii) the investigation of beliefs/attitudes regarding linguistic variants in the school context; and (iii) the development of methodologies for didactic work with norms and variation.

Coordination:

Marco Antonio Martins
(UFSC/Postgraduate Program in Linguistics)

Rosane de Andrade Berlinck (Unesp-Araraquara/Postgraduate Program in Linguistics)

Maria Jussara Embraced of Almeida
(UFF/Postgraduate Program in Language Studies)

(These three professors worked until the November 2019 meeting, EIGTS2019, in Rio de Janeiro)

Claudia Regina Brescancini (PUC-RS/Postgraduate Program in Letters)

4. Theoretical and methodological issues

Synopsis: This axis, based on the theory (or theories) and methods for the study of variation and linguistic change, is expected to bring together proposals of work that: (i) deal with the relationship between basic conceptions of this study and theoretical-methodological orientations; (ii) analyze critically problems and theoretical orientations in different lines of investigation of variation and change, as well as consolidated theoretical articulations (limits and gains) or potential ones (new possibilities); (iii) research and discuss methodological questions, assumptions and methodological tools; (iv) make technical judgments about qualitative and/or quantitative treatments that are manifested in descriptions of variation and change or they are still needed to be explored; (v) promote theoretical and/or methodological (almost) unexplored components.

Since November 2019.

Source: Activity Report of the Sociolinguistics WG²

² Available at: <https://anpoll.org.br/gt/sociolinguistica/>

For this special issue of *Revista da Anpoll*, we have gathered an essay written by one of the founding professors of the WG and seven articles by several (former) coordinators of the WG, in order to provide a historical background and to contextualize the state of the art and current propositions and actions in Sociolinguistics and Geolinguistics/Dialectology, with regard to the relationship between Language and Society³. The issue also features five other texts (three articles, one essay and one interview) written by international guests, whose researches are remarkable in the area. These texts either add to some of the ongoing discussions in the Sociolinguistics WG, or stress perspectives of research(-action) yet to be developed, from areas still on the margins of Brazilian Sociolinguistics.

Over the last 35 years, researchers from many Brazilian institutions have contributed to different loci of the Language and Society relationship. Our objectives, in this issue, are to make visible to the academic community the fronts of work, concern and discussion related to the four axes in which the Sociolinguistics WG has been operating for some time, as well as to rescue the previous bases and concerns that led us to these axes. To this end, we offer an overview that showcases the distinct and heterogeneous researches carried out by the different members of the WG.

Yet, besides these core objectives, we add two other ones, which are important for configuring the scenarios of our territoriality: (i) to collect a sample of the fertile interaction that we have attempted to build, both nationally and internationally, in different discussion forums, as well as (ii) to highlight and to prospect our potential scientific contributions regarding theoretical-methodological practices, and our social insertion within spaces for education, language policies, information and communication technology, and for interacting with different communities in Brazil. Aiming at doing so, this dossier features articles by researchers from foreign institutions, which, to some extent, have had an impact on the Brazilian sociolinguistic scenario. On that note, we also close off this initial presentation with a brief allusion to the ecosystem of knowledge — the multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary identifications and actions — that have been involved in investigations carried out in the Sociolinguistics WG, even reframing its body of research. Thus, in addition to highlighting the studies developed by the members of the WG, this issue counts on discussions made by the following international guests: Rajend

³ Not all of the invited (former) coordinators were able to contribute to this number.

Mesthrie and William L. Leap, authors recognized for the work “*Introducing Sociolinguistics*” (MESTHRIE; SWANN; DEUMERT; LEAP, 2010); Walt Wolfram, distinguished professor at North Carolina State University, co-author of the recent work “*African American Language: Language Development from Infancy to Adulthood*” (KOHN; WOLFRAM; FARRIGTON; RENN; HOFWEGEN, 2020); Sally McConnell-Ginet, who together with Eckert developed the bases for third wave research (ECKERT; MCCONNELL-GINET, 1992); and Bert Cappelle, one of the exponents in the articulation of variation and Construction Grammar (CAPPELLE, 2006). Finally, in the field of Portuguese teaching, there is also a historiographic article on Portuguese as a Foreign Language (PFL) written by a guest author who participated in the 1st International Forum on Sociolinguistics (I FIS) in 2019 and is one of the organizers of the book “*Travessias em língua portuguesa: pesquisa linguística, ensino e tradução*” (CASTAGNA; QUAREZEMIN, 2020), Vanessa Ribeiro Castagna.

Hence, we have designed these objectives as a way of paying tribute to the 35 years of the Sociolinguistics WG, weaving relationships between two textual paths that are both reported here and also built here: (i) reflections and scenarios proposed by the articles’ author, with invaluable contributions to the areas of research, teaching and extension in Languages and Linguistics; and (ii) reflections and scenarios mapped or prospected by the WG coordination in the three-year period of 2018-2021.

Reflections and scenarios proposed in the texts of this issue

The first article, “Sociolinguistics and Dialectology: thirty-five years in the history of ANPOLL’s Sociolinguistics WG”, unveils the fruitful field of action and interaction of the Sociolinguistics WG according to the perspective of two recognized researchers in the areas of Sociolinguistics and Geolinguistics/Dialectology: Jacyra Andrade Mota (UFBA) and Vanderci Andrade Aguilera (UEL). In this paper, the authors map a panorama of the contributions of sociolinguists in different academic and scientific administrations and spaces, mainly regarding dialectal investigations, and assess the consolidation and repercussion of these contributions. By opening this issue under the eyes of these researchers, we aim to highlight the reverberation of the link between Geolinguistics/Dialectology and Sociolinguistics, precious to the WG’s scientific paths.

The second article, “From Geolinguistics to Variationist Sociolinguistics: a panorama of phonological variation”, was written by two former coordinators of the WG whose contributions have been responsible for strengthening our area, both nationally and internationally: Dermeval da Hora (UFPA) and Silvia Figueiredo Brandão (UFRJ). The authors present an overview of the behaviour of three variables (medium pretonic vowels, syllabic coronal fricatives /s, z/ and dental/alveolar occlusives /t, d/) in some regions of Brazil, upon two large areas of performance of the Sociolinguistics WG, Geolinguistics and Sociolinguistics. They highlight how these two areas complement one another in creating knowledge of the geo/sociolinguistic reality of Brazilian Portuguese. In addition, they mention the precursor role of Anthony Naro, who, in the 1970s, introduced Labovian variation research to Brazil, as well as the visionary role of great phonologists, such as Leda Bisol and Myriam Barbosa da Silva. They stress, among other aspects, the importance of linguistic atlases both in the constitution and consolidation of Brazilian geolinguistic research, and in the enhancement of socio-historical-cultural studies that are attentive to other dimensions based on geolinguistic mappings.

The third article, titled “Morphosyntactic themes focused on variationist research in Brazil (2000-2019)” was written by the researchers Jania Martins Ramos (UFMG) and Maria Eugenia Lammoglia Duarte (UFRJ), who trace an overview of the morphosyntactic studies/themes within the scope of the Sociolinguistics WG, from 2000 to 2019. The researchers, who have also contributed a lot to the development of morphosyntactic researches, provide a systematization of these inquiries, upon four groups of research profiles. From the review and systematization of researches in the area, the authors present trends observed in relation to morphosyntactic phenomena and propose some reflections upon them. Finally, they indicate different potential spaces for innovation, in addition to the fact that the field already counts on a substantial set of works covering a variety of themes based on synchronic and diachronic *corpora* and based on evidence from tests aligned with the so-called third wave of Sociolinguistics.

The fourth article consists of a valuable addition to the issue, by researchers from American institutions to the prominent dialogue and mapping on the axis of “Linguistic variation and change” and on the axis of “Contact, variation and identity”. Walt Wolfram (North Carolina State University) and Marie Bissell (The Ohio State University), authors of the article “Stability and change in native American Indian English: the case of Lumbee English in North Carolina”, address a very current topic in sociolinguistic studies, namely linguistic accommodation and the question of linguistic identity. They describe that the Lumbee Indians in North Carolina, a group of Native American Indians from the east of

the Mississippi River, had lost their ancestral language many generations ago and have been living in a relatively stable, three-ethnic and isolated rural context for several generations, among African Americans and European Americans. From the analysis of two morphosyntactic phenomena and a phonetic process, the authors come to the conclusion that the morphosyntactic structures indicate traces of a remaining regionalized variety that differentiate Lumbee from its group varieties. The phonetic trait, however, shows changes over recent generations as Lumbee moves from an alignment with African-Americans to one with American Europeans. In order to discuss and explain the relationship between stability and linguistic change, the authors elucidate the case of the realignment of a Lumbee's phonetic trait away from the African-American Language, in terms of an opposing identity, upon which the Lumbee people stress their distinction as an ethnolinguistic group that distances itself from an identification with European-Americans, and, above all, with African-Americans. In their analysis of this phenomenon, Wolfram and Bissel draw attention to a dissociation of the norm of the indigenous Lumbee community from the African-American norm in subtle but socially significant terms. The English variety of the Lumbee community has maintained distinctive features in the negotiation of its status with the European-American and African-American varieties, having them coexisted for several centuries.

Mônica Maria Guimarães Savedra (UFF) and Karen Pupp Spinassé (UFRGS), authors of the article “Contact studies in the Sociolinguistics WG”, have been working for the recognition and safeguarding of the diversity of (minority) languages in Brazilian territory. Hence, they have mobilized a series of discussions, actions and studies in the areas of multi/plurilingualism, linguistic contact — considering the implications arisen from such a contact in the identity configuration, both on the level of individuals on the level of community environments —, and minority/threatened languages, including the work on documenting these languages. In that article, they outline the profuse contributions to the needs in the area, by exposing the basic points that mobilize research and interlocutions, as well as the history of moments and themes developed in the field. To this end, they explore developments achieved in Postgraduate programs at Brazilian universities that bring together research in this regard.

Another unique contribution is the article by researchers Rajend Mesthrie (University of Cape Town, South Africa) and Heather Brookes (University of Cape Town, South Africa): “Language practices and language change among transnational migrants to South Africa, 1990-2020: a survey”. The authors highlight the year of 1990 for it being the year of the official announcement on the abolishment of the *apartheid*.

The article outlines the main concerns and emphases of researchers when covering new migrations waves to South Africa, coming from other African countries and from Asia. Such migratory movements are viewed as constitutive of the intensification of global flows from different parts of the world towards South Africa, which are mostly consequential of the legal dismantling of *apartheid* in 1994, accompanied by the South African government's inducement to immigration movements towards the country. Thus, the characterization of sociocultural and linguistic realities in the African continent, provided by the authors in the article, adds information to the scope of those interested in studying linguistic varieties in Africa.

Researchers Stella Maris Bortoni de F. Ricardo (UNB), Joyce Elaine de Almeida Baronas (UEL) and Silvia Rodrigues Vieira (UFRJ) authors of the seventh article of this issue, "Sociolinguistics WG and teaching: the scenario of 35 years of achievements and challenges", invite the readers to reflect on the *Educational Sociolinguistics* and its role in designing strategies for a *Pedagogy of Linguistic Variation*. Based on the relationship between linguistic variation and teaching, the authors show a scenario of achievements and challenges based on the contributions of different members of the WG. Therefore, in the first part of the text, they provide a brief review of the actions developed by the members of the WG with regard to the area of teaching Portuguese language, foreign languages and other related subjects. Regarding the achievements of the area, two outstanding contributions are that of Stella Maris Bortoni-Ricardo, in the delimitation of the area of *Educational Sociolinguistics*, and that of Carlos Alberto Faraco, in the development of the *Pedagogy of Linguistic Variation*. As challenges for the axis of *Sociolinguistics and teaching*, the authors present Silvia Rodrigues Vieira's proposals under three work fronts. When reading the text, the reader is led to acknowledge the different linguistic realities and the outcomes of the studies produced by the WG, as well as the social (and linguistic) commitment of the axis, as indicated by the authors. Finally, the authors emphasize that a stability in the work of this axis is, without a doubt, consequential of the social commitment that makes the Sociolinguistics WG, since its early years, pay attention to the teaching-research-extension articulation, deemed a fundamental tripod for academic-related vocations.

Vanessa Ribeiro Castagna (Università Ca' Foscari-Venezia, Delegata del Dipartimento per l'Internazionalizzazione), in the article "Teaching and learning Portuguese in Italy", tells us about the teaching of Portuguese as a Foreign Language (PFL). In a global reality of growing interest for the Portuguese language (particularly at the level of higher education), she highlights (i) what she observes as some characteristics

and challenges of teaching this language in the Italian context; (ii) some consequences of the interest for the language in the publishing market; and (iii) issues related to the opportunity for converging policies promoted by Portugal and Brazil, in order to consider the international projection of Portuguese. Considering she is a Portuguese researcher who works with the relationship between language and translation and the comparison between the European and the Brazilian varieties of Portuguese, in terms of their prominence in Italy, her critical perception is of utmost relevance to the matter of European Portuguese (EP) holding more prestige in the continent. On that note, her article stresses the emphasis put on the teaching of the EP variety, as it has been subordinated to the study of literature for decades, privileging a grammatical approach that neither fosters the perspective of studying characteristics of the European and Brazilian Portuguese varieties, nor is anchored in the “principle of the unity of diversity and of diversity in unity”. The author also observes how certain language-oriented policies seem to indicate a growth of sociolinguistic awareness in Italy, allowing for a more equitable acknowledgement and more respectful coexistence of the the two Portuguese varieties in the context of PFL teaching in the country. On a note of conclusion, Castagna remarks the fruitful uses, both inside and outside Brazil, yet to be made of the catalogue of sociolinguistic descriptions of Portuguese varieties, developed by the Sociolinguistics WG, mainly regarding its content on the Brazilian variety.

In the article “Theoretical-methodological questions of Sociolinguistics in interface with Linguistic Generativism and Linguistic Functionalism and Portuguese language teaching”, Edair Maria Görski (UFSC) and Marco Antonio Rocha Martins (UFSC) discuss the analytical potential for the articulation between the Theory of Linguistic Variation and Change with both Generative Grammar, at first, and with Functionalism, in a second moment. When proposing such articulations, the authors explore possible gains and challenges involved in this endeavor, based on examples of studies carried out in these two lines of research/work, Generative Grammar and Usage-based Linguistics. In addition to that, the authors seek to highlight the contributions of these theoretical frameworks to the teaching of Portuguese.

In the article “Theoretical and methodological issues: contributions of the axis 4”, the authors Maria da Conceição Paiva (UFRJ) and Jussara Abraçado (UFF) outline objectives and goals for the study of variation and linguistic change, as well as its contributions, in which the interface between Variationist Sociolinguistics and other theoretical models is emphasized. These models are grounded on the assumption that language system and linguistic use are inextricable. Based on research questions

developed in the fourth axis, the authors discuss how existing analytical studies and potential new ones derived from different theoretical models approach sociolinguistic variation — understood in terms of alternating forms within similar social uses —; the article focuses especially on how this subject has been accommodated in the theoretical body of the Usage-Based Grammar (UBG). They concentrate on the interface between sociolinguistic variation and the Usage-Based models, and, more particularly, on the possibility of conjugating the central theoretical assumptions of Variationist Sociolinguistics with the Cognitive Construction Grammar. On that note, they conclude by emphasizing the principle that any dialogue between Sociolinguistics and other theories implies the incorporation of the social component of language in a grammar model.

William L. Leap (Florida Atlantic University, American University), in the article “Queer refusal”, discusses issues related to acts of queer refusal, queer linguistics, raciolinguistics and translanguaging. William L. Leap has already partaken in a research group that studied Portuguese in two contexts: (i) that of cyclical migrations between Europe (homeland) and the United States and Great Britain; and (ii) that of ESL (English as a Second Language) teaching, focusing on the development of language skills for formal language settings. The author emphasizes that queer refusal studies, like “language from below” studies, show how language users combine linguistic and social practices, which allow them to cut loose from the oppressive ideology and claim alternative performances, while stressing their indifference to the expectations imposed by societal regulatory structures. The author observes that the manifestation of *queer* refusal can be textually indicated by subjective negative markers, metaphorical associations, certain syntactic formulations (e.g., “I don’t care”, “Good for you!”), or even the use of certain linguistic modalization or simply silence, without any explicit textual mark. Finally, Leap turns to the question about the contexts in which *queer* refusal is more likely to be manifested: whether it is only in privileged contexts, limited to those who feel safe enough to bear the consequences of showing indifference to regulatory, oppressive linguistic spaces, or not. It is, therefore, an article that brings up a set of linguistic possibilities related to the relative indifference or even to the refusal of linguistic oppression.

Cohesively enough, the first essay of this issue joins together some of the themes approached by authors of the first set of articles, in that this essay tackles the act of refusing an oppressive linguistic perspective (as does Leap’s article), the concern with vulnerable groups (as does Savedra and Spinassé’s article) and the defense of a research-action that aims to contribute to autonomous citizenship. In the essay “Reinventing the

social imaginary and the social representations: in favor of a sociolinguistics of hope”, Sebastião Josué Votre, one of the founders and former coordinators of the Sociolinguistics WG, provokes and calls upon sociolinguists to mobilize towards the adoption of a Sociolinguistics of Social Hope. The researcher started to develop this idea in his conference “The social imagery and social representations: the weight of the *-socio* in Sociolinguistics” at the National Meeting of the ANPOLL’s Sociolinguistics Working Group at the 35th ANPOLL Meeting. In the article, the author outlines an agenda for Sociolinguistics within the scope of social hope, from which derive concerns regarding: the ways people move within unstable/uncertain social imageries, representations and social perceptions; possibilities for movements of resistance, resilience and social hope; interactions in favor of claiming the acknowledgement of one’s citizenship and conquering it; examining and setting goals for the Sociolinguistics WG with respect to discourses and actions; the construction of a work plan oriented by the Sociolinguistics of Social Hope, with the establishment of strategies towards this approach; multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary partnerships with socially committed linguistic currents; public policies linked to the demands of language education for social hope.

Sally McConnell-Ginet (Cornell University), inspired by questions proposed by Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira and Marcos Luiz Wiedemer, dedicates the essay “Studying language in social life: a personal narrative” to outline her perception of linguistic diversity. She begins to approach the topic by remembering her experience with “translation” as a child, when she would split her time between interacting with her New Yorker cousins and her friends from North Carolina’s countryside, neither of whom considered the other intelligible, but were somehow mutually understood by her. Then, the author goes on to unravel multiple situations of her life that add to the discussion; to name a few: the memory of her family’s misleading assumption that making the *standard* language accessible to all would ultimately lead to social progress; her entry into the field of Linguistics via the study of mathematical logic and philosophy of language; her first experiences in the field of teaching and in the field of research, when she would start focusing on semantic indeterminacy (which she currently understands as sociosemantics) and on the relationship between language and gender. When studying this theme, McConnell-Ginet collaborated with Penelope Eckert, joining her knowledge on theoretical semantics and pragmatics to Eckert’s knowledge on the systematic study of linguistic variation (both on the level of phonological variables and on the level of co-occurring linguistic varieties). They were responsible for introducing the concept/construct of “communities of practice” into sociolinguistic studies.

In “Constructional variation – unveiling aspects of linguistic knowledge: interview with Bert Cappelle”, Bert Cappelle (Université de Lille) answers questions posed by researchers (Pâmela Travassos, Nahendi Mota, Mariana Costa, Letícia Nunes, Gabriel Martins and Marcia Machado Vieira) linked to the Predicar Project, coordinated by Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira. In his answers, Cappelle also indicates bibliography on constructional variation, a theme that has only recently been gaining visibility, both nationally and internationally. Such theme used to be disbelieved or face resistance from some scholars, but more recently the academic community has been proving to be more welcoming of it. Though still at odds with the academic common sense, the theme of constructional variation is proving to be timely and current. The interview provides a very thorough scrutiny of this theme, with detailed questions, careful explanation of concepts and rich suggestions for further readings. Bert Cappelle’s interview offers us insights on variation within the scope of the Construction Grammar, by unveiling various aspects that the work with linguistic variation implies, including the representation of variants via the theoretical construct of *allostructions*, with which the linguist has been dealing at least since Cappelle (2006), upon the understanding of a language modelling conceived as a complex network of relationships and interconnected constructions.

This interview with Cappelle is particularly important for the organizers of this special issue, due to (i) the work that they have been developing nationally regarding the need for a perspective of variation/alternation that encompasses generalizations arisen from the frameworks of Construction Grammar and of Functional-Cognitive Linguistics; and (ii) the opportunity to discuss such work developed by organizers’ work, by establishing an online dialogue with Capelle on the occasion of the symposium “Linguistic variation: constructional representations, discursive (inter)actions and teaching” held in the 1st International Congress of the Postgraduate Program in Vernacular Languages (PPGLEV-UFRJ), titled “Voices and writings in the different territories inhabited by the Portuguese language”. Hence, this interview allows for a renewal of the efforts that the organizers of this special issue have been employing for some time towards a socioconstructionist perspective (cf., for example, Machado Vieira and Wiedemer (2019; 2020) and Wiedemer and Machado Vieira (2021)), as one of the fronts conducted in the 4th axis of the Sociolinguistics WG. The organizers have been committed to endorsing such a socioconstrucionist perspective due to their previous experience in working with the sociofunctionalist interface, as well as due to their expertise in articulating constructional variation and constructional change (or

constructionalization) (TRAUGOTT; TROUSDALE, 2013). The first two previously cited works (MACHADO VIEIRA; WIEDEMER, 2019, 2020) were produced within the scope of the Sociolinguistics WG (upon research narratives discussed at the group's meetings), and are also cited in some of the articles gathered in this issue. On its turn, the third study cited above (WIEDEMER; MACHADO VIEIRA, 2021) is the result of a collective work headed by the two professors responsible for organizing this issue in collaboration with other researchers also committed to ranging theoretical-methodological paths towards constructional variation informed by a socioconstructionist perspective, due to the impact of their dialogue with those professors. When contributing to the development of researches in a socioconstructionist line, Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira and Marcos Luiz Wiedemer have been working towards a non-homogenizing constructionist vision of languages, and a diasystemic profiling both of languages (due to the compound of processes of social conventionalization and discursive identity configuration), and of the cognitive knowledge/entrenchment of language patterns(s) (as the profiling process is not always restricted to that of a language, more so in the Digital Humanities era).

Reflections and scenarios projected by the coordination of the WG in the three-year term of 2018-2021

This special issue brings together promising panoramas of the Sociolinguistics WG performance, drawn under the lenses of those who have added works and still strongly contribute to the strengthening of the area in the country, as well as presents foreign perspectives on issues in the area, providing fruitful interlocutions aimed at other contexts outside Brazil. By establishing such interlocutions, this special issue covers themes such as: linguistic diversity and (geo-)sociolinguistic representations of such diversity; phonetic-phonological and morphosyntactic variations; stability and variation under the perspective of identities and communities; linguistic contacts and multilingualism in Brazil; pedagogy of variation in teaching Portuguese; articulation of Geolinguistics, Generative Grammar, Functional Linguistics and Construction Grammar; experiences of vulnerability, identity configuration and fighting against oppressive discourses based on textual acts of queer refusal; defense for a more socially committed sociolinguistics ("Sociolinguistics of Hope"); effects of experiencing linguistic variability, discussed under a researcher's personal perception of this phenomenon, throughout their own

academic-scientific path; and constructional variation. The current scenario of Sociolinguistics in Brazil is, fortunately, that of countless researches being conceived, developed, oriented or inspired by the members of the Sociolinguistics Working Group, affiliated to many different institutions country-wide. We have accumulated a great amount of data inventories, investigations, information and writings on all the central axes constituting the current configuration of the Working Group. Such accumulation of knowledge and materials, besides being organized according to the so-called first, second and third sociolinguistic waves (ECKERT, 2012, 2018), has become a reference for multidisciplinary practices and interactions within Applied Sociolinguistics in different social spaces, among which we name a few: the educational space (of which the National Master's Program in Language Studies, called PROFLETRAS, is an outstanding example); the space of social memory (considering, for example, the collection on Brazilian linguistic diversity held by the Museum of the Portuguese Language); the space of media communication (approached through media assistance services and/or dialogues in this context); the space of documentation of the multidialectal realities in Brazil (of which the Atlas Linguístico do Brasil, ALiB, is an example); the forensic space (considering the development of speaker/voice comparison). These are just some of the most prominent areas on which our work has been having repercussions!

In the last 35 years, our Working Group has undoubtedly consolidated itself, being tirelessly attentive to new debates and innovations mobilized by society and by its technologies, and approached by the literature, both nationally and internationally, or even derived from the observations that we have carried out in terms of data analysis, meta-analysis and/or records examination, obtained through experimental research or tests of production, perception, attitudes and beliefs. A fraction of our attention to the reality that surrounds us and affects us is expressed in this special issue, in that we pursued the gathering of texts produced by researchers from three different continents (Africa, Americas and Europe), displayed by the label of a special issue of *Revista da Anpoll*, dedicated to paying homage to a group of researches situated in the field of Language Studies, as a tribute to the responsible and powerful work (being) developed by them.

Advancements in information and communication technologies (ICTs) – related to computer science, communication science (especially those mediated by electronic media) and digital humanities science (*e-science*), for example – have promoted quite a revolution in the relationship between language and society. As a consequence, many aspects of research-making have become increasingly more sophisticated in terms of the capacity to accumulate information, the tools for (observational and experimental)

analysis as well as for open access to science, the policy and protocol documents of theoretical-methodological orientation (dedicated to providing eligible analytical criteria and conditions to research verifiability and replicability), and the new ways of propagating research results and discoveries, as well as of interacting with society. These innovations have been positively impacting activities such as the (socio)linguistic modelling, description and reuse of linguistic data and the representation of knowledge emerging from the enhancement of data availability and facts triangulation, allowed by access to the complex network of knowledge and meta-analyses). Therefore, the continuous and diversified improvements in the sociolinguistic field are highly notable, driving us into new directions in terms of our (future) concerns, the logistics involved in upcoming researches, the demanded infrastructure for them and the collaborative work practices therein.

Our (future) concerns are translated into innumerable matters, among which we highlight: managing memory archive of individual and group linguistic records, making such records available for multiple users to (inter)operate on them and reuse them, as well as storing and making them available to society; coping with issues linked to themes highly prominent in other areas of knowledge (such as the patrimonialization and copyright of memory archives, statistical representation of data samples of language varieties, and development of applications for gamifying the process of communicating/disseminating the results of sociolinguistic research, for example); approaching ethical issues in the interaction with and documentation of linguistic communities, in which research participants are protected as well as the professional and scientific responsibility of researchers is maintained, respecting the rights, well-being and dignity of all parties involved. Therefore, our operational logistics is adapted onto an inter-, multi- or transdisciplinary environment and a multi-methodological profile. We need to develop (i) a strategic vision on how to articulate both knowledge and practices as well as articulate their outcomes and society interests; (ii) a complex infrastructure, which implies continuing-education and training of human resources; and (iii) collaboration networks for dialogue and support among subjects, especially beyond those that are constituted in the academic-scientific space. These requirements lead us to a journey of getting informed by, intercommunicating with and listening to societal demands, which should (re)shape research process by returning the results of such process to society itself, in a cyclical interaction with it.

Striving to incorporate the demands imposed by the scientific field and those of society is an ongoing commitment of the Sociolinguistics WG; which in 2021 has

prompted a collective project that is currently drawn by several hands, under the name *SocInTec Brasil (Sociolinguistics in (inter)action: social technologies for the development of sustainability in Brazil)*. The ideas that propelled this project were conceived during the WG's round-table "GT de Sociolinguística da ANPOLL, 35 anos depois: ações e perspectivas de trabalho conjunto/entre pares e de interação com a sociedade"/ "ANPOLL's Sociolinguistics WG, 35 years later: actions and perspectives of joint/peer work and interaction with society", which took place just when the WG completed its 35 years of operation. The round-table was proposed by the current coordinators, Marcia dos Santos Machado Vieira and Marcos Luiz Wiedemer, at the National Meeting of the Sociolinguistics WG of ANPOLL at the 35th ANPOLL Meeting, in which the researchers Raquel Meister Ko Freitag, Mônica Maria Guimarães Savedra and Dermeval da Hora Oliveira participated with propositions, along with the coordinators. The collective project arisen from this event, *SocInTec Brasil*, is illustrative of how important the relationship between Language and Society is. Such interwoven relationship has been guiding the Sociolinguistics Working Group in its diverse voices and writings, attentive to the reality in which they are inserted and in which they continue to resist, (re)exist/reframe and, of course, celebrate the vitality and potentiality of the plural dialogues held equally among its peers, in these 35 years.

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