

EDITORIAL

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The power of discourse in different knowledge

Reflecting on the real working of the discourses, considering the power relations that are established among the participants of certain spheres or discursive domains that intersect, is the main aim of this issue of the scientific journal *Linha D'Água*. In addition, the published articles are the result of research presented during an event organized jointly by researchers of the Program in Philology and Portuguese Language of University of São Paulo (USP) and the Centre of Linguistics of the University of Porto, held in the city of Porto, on 28 of October of 2016.

The academic event corresponded to the VI International Conference upon Discourse Analysis (VI JADIS) and to the II International Conference on Discourse Studies (II CIED). Its goal was to bring together researchers from several universities both from Europe and Brazil so that they could address the discourse in various fields – juridical, political, media, academic, pedagogical – as an object of investigation. It sought to open a space for reflection on the discourses of power in their possible forms in the society, focusing on the discourse as an enhancer of change as well as the construction of alternative social practice models.

It started from the assumption that the notion of discourse as an exercise of power is always present in the various spheres of Discourse Studies, such as the French School of Discourse Analysis and the Critical Discourse Analysis, among others. It corresponds to an area of extremely interdisciplinary studies, being of

interest in several areas such as Social Sciences, Sociology, Philosophy, and many others. It focused both on power and domination, as well as the issue of empowerment; empowerment in social relations.

The event took place at a time when intense social, economic and political problems were affecting the world, and thus, the debates about discourse and power made it easier and enabled an urgent reflection regarding the understanding of the discursive practices that occur.

It is also worth stressing that a space of discussion has been created and permeated the discourse of institutional-political, juridical power, as well as the context of the classroom, the familial and the religious, in which the various levels of textual construction, from the co-textual to the non-verbal.

The theme “The power of discourse and the discourse of power” was designed to assume a transdisciplinary character, so as to enable a dialogue between different spheres of discourse studies. Thus, it is claimed that the discussions about epistemological and methodological questions of the Portuguese-language research served as a basis for understanding the organization of discourse, interaction, argumentation and context, among others, will certainly contribute to the development of investigations that are expected to emerge from the discussions in this volume.

It is also understood that in the most different spheres of the discourse circulation, representations of force coexist, in this case, represented by the relations of power. It consists of granting the discourse in such a nuance that the substantial character of power rests on the conceptions that are chosen as true. One should not understand the discourse of power reduced only to the instance of political power, but also to the power of discourse of other institutions, either public or private, in such a way that it can cross the already indicated spheres.

The inherent complexity in discursive practices, made up the different spheres of discourses circulation, and the way they are interwoven deserve to be registered and understood by the world of research that is formed by the societies that involve it. In this sense, it is understood that the discourse of some spheres coexists, as representations of force that can be observed from several taken actions, but not only those related to the languages.

In addition, it is necessary to remember that in these discourse practices, under specific conditions of public life, each one acts and reactivates discursively for defined purposes and determined from what one imagines from the other. This posture correlates to configurations of different eras and is carried out by social subjects, which defend and speak in the name of values and, thus, assume identities not in a stable and limited way, but adaptable and multiple, mainly because of the various roles they assume in society, as well as because of the places from which their discourses are produced.

On the other hand, the structures of social systems are available to all of them; the model of participation among individuals is what enables the discourse analyst to recognize the paths taken for the constitution of the relations of power that occur.

Trying to understand the conception of a relation of power in the discourse means to observe it in a way to understand much more than what it makes explicit – Voloshinov (1981) had already presented the idea that a statement consists of words and the presumed part; it means to seek the game that is interposed between the interlocutors from the formula – which seems to be fundamental in any discursive activity. The attribution of meaning to the discourse thus corresponds to observing it as an activity that takes place within the society and it is established intersubjectively in the game of language actions, in which acceptance / refusal, containment / innovation, are predicted as something to be negotiated, depending on the social context (FAIRCLOUGH; WODAK, 1997) and on the established relationships among the participants.

In fact, there are many theoretical paths that could be sought for us to methodologically understand the discourse: since Foucault (1987, p. 104) to whom “The referential of the statement forms the place, the condition, the emergency field, the instance of the differentiation of individuals or objects, of the state of things and of the relations that are at stake by the statement itself ...”, passing through the interactionist perspective – the basis for observation of specific variables, what the discursive roles are (that allows or not to say), the purpose of the encounter and who the interlocutors are (scope of discourse), according to Kerbrat-Orecchioni (1986), up to the point when we reach Bauman (2005), among

others, that reminds us that the Globalization, has lost the power of maintaining the solid and unshakable union with its nation.

From this perspective, the work is larger and controlling has become more difficult for those who seek to hold power through the discourse. The work of Hall (1999), who affirmed how the world would become smaller with the globalization, preceded the discussions of this scholar. If it became smaller in terms of circulation of ideas and values, it became more complex regarding the relations established in / through the discourse.

The works of 14 authors from 5 different Brazilian universities (UFPE, UFMG, UNICSUL, UFSS) and from two universities abroad (Universidade do Porto, Universidade Aberta) presented in this volume 30 (1) aim to reflect on the working of the discourse, taking into account specific contexts in which participants are in the exercise of power and occupy the highest positions in politics (president, prime minister, patronage), as well as participants who are at the forefront of classrooms, of the journalistic media, or even ahead of the artistic discourses as presented below.

The article by Maria Aldina Marques (University of Minho / Braga) “Portuguese electoral debate: presidentialism and strategies of language attenuation in a situation of political confrontation” puts on the agenda a relevant theme to contemporaneity: the televisual electoral debate in Portugal for the legislative elections occurred in May 2011. The author proposes a discussion around the electoral debate as a genre of political discourse stressed by the relations with the televised media discourse. It emphasizes the linguistic attenuation as a strategy used throughout the debate to mitigate the effect of aggressiveness among the candidates, building a credible image to guarantee success in the elections.

Maria Alexandra Pinto, Ana Catarina Pinho and Joana Teixeira, from the Center of Linguistics of the University of Porto, in “Polarization and construction of the discursive force in political manifestos: the case of the Portuguese presidential elections of 2016”, bring an analysis of the political manifesto of a candidate for the presidential elections of January 2016. The authors propose a detailed description of the argumentative organization as a discursive force, emphasizing the description of the political manifesto as a text genre, belonging to the type of political discourse.

Carla Aurélia Almeida (Open University / University of Porto), in “The power of the speeches of the patronage of Porto in the celebrations of birthdays: verbal rituals, argumentation and enunciative configuration”, presents a detailed analysis of news about the birthdays of the Industrial Association of Porto published in the magazine *The Industry of the North* (1949-1970) in order to recover the image of the announcer. From the semantic-pragmatic perspective, the author focuses on the strategies of argumentation used by the representatives of the bosses to show how they construct the argumentative game, demonstrating a position of the Porto patronage.

The article by Dóris de Arruda Carneiro Cunha, from the Federal University of Pernambuco and the Catholic University of Pernambuco, entitled as “A look at voices and power in the television news: the work of the discourse reported in the National Journal of Rede Globo”, deals with her central research from the point of view of the Bakhtinian perspective. The author analyses voices and power in television journalism, discussing the power of the editor and the journalists in the elaboration of the news in the daily program “Jornal Nacional” of Globo (a TV network) and the power of manipulation of the public, using discursive strategies that make believe the News of that TV news programme is really trustworthy.

The article by Ana Maria Nápoles Villela; Liliâne de Oliveira Neves and Natália Moreira Tosatti (Federal Center of Technological Education of Minas Gerais – CEFET), “Power relations in the Celpe-Bras exam”, deals with the power relations in the examination for Portuguese language proficiency to foreigners.

Angela Derlise Stübe and Luiz Fernando Greiner Barp, Federal University of Fronteira do Sul, in “The defendant’s grammar: the objectification of the murderer as an exercise of power”, examine the journalistic and police discourses, having as a theoretical-methodological side the concept of arch genealogy of Foucault and the concept of heterogeneity enunciative discussions of Authier-Revuz. They discuss how these speeches construct the figure of the defendant, hiding knowledge and powers circulating in the society.

Guaraciaba Micheletti (Cruzeiro do Sul University) publishes “Poetic discourse and the power relations and relations with the power in the poetry by Cacaso”, relating literature with the historical context. The author proposes a

discussion about the irony in the poetry of the Minas Gerais poet Cacaso, one of the representatives of the marginal poetry of the 1970s, having as theoretical basis concepts derived from stylistics, textual linguistics and dialogic analysis of discourse. The author presents an in-depth study of the power relations constructed in a detailed analysis of the poetic collection, considering the fact that the power of poetic discourse, through the word, reflects and refracts the Brazilian political-social situation at the time it was produced.

Also in this issue Paulo Gonçalves-Segundo and Douglas Rabelo de Sousa (University of São Paulo) present the book “Discourse, Grammar and Ideology: Functional and Cognitive Perspectives”, by Christopher Hart, professor at Lancaster University, UK. Scholar of Critical Discourse Analysis. The author, who had his book published in 2014, clarifies the relations between grammar, discourse and ideology by pointing to the role that grammars as models of language can play in elucidating the ideological marks of texts and discourses in social and political contexts.

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So we hope that this *Linha D'Água* may arouse interest and further raise the discussion of the reasoning of the problems posed by the present authors in this issue.

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