

Forensic Linguistics – Research Group and Course

By Bruna Abreu and Kátia Muck

Have you ever thought about the possibilities of linguistics being used to support the investigation of forensic cases? We usually think of doctors, lawyers and the police, but not of linguists! Maybe it is time to expand our views about the contribution linguistics can make in this context. There is an area, recently started in Brazil, but not so young in other countries (such as the USA and the UK), where linguists have worked with both the police and lawyers on the solution of cases and improvements in the way investigations are carried out and also in how legal texts are presented. Basically, the area encompasses three branches: the language of the law; language as interaction; and language as evidence.

In relation to the language of the law, the contribution of linguists is mostly in the sense of looking at the complexities of language used in oral and mainly written legal discourses, including forensic translation. There is a movement called “plain language,” which aims at making ‘legalese’ more approachable to the public and challenging power relations. On the other hand, there are arguments supporting the claim that legal language is a technical register, which necessarily has specific terminologies. Therefore, it is a rich field of study that has been open to linguists - since it had always been restricted to the concerns of law.

Regarding language as interaction, investigations focus on various activities: police interviews, courtroom interaction, interpreting, and it includes how to handle vulnerable witnesses. There is the objective of improving efficiency in these interactions in order to extract the necessary findings to support a given case.

Finally, language as evidence deals more specifically with authorship identification, voice identification, labels and warnings, and the delivery of opinions and reports by forensic linguists.

At UFSC, since 2012, there has been a Research Group on Forensic Linguistics, led by Professor Malcolm Coulthard (an experienced linguist who has worked on over 200 cases in the UK) and graduate students who conduct investigations in the area in Brazil and in Portugal. Currently, the group has conducted research on the following subjects: forensic translation, translator training, plagiarism, forensic expertise, plain language, labels and warnings, and police interviews.

One of the group’s main objectives is to bridge the gap between language and law, narrowing the distance between linguists and members of the law enforcement professions, such as lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and police officers. In 2013, the group hosted the first international conference in Brazil on language and law at UFSC. In 2014, it founded its own academic journal: *Language and Law / Linguagem e Direito*, an international online journal with publications in English and in Portuguese (<http://lld.linguisticaforense.pt/>). In 2015, some members of the group authored several chapters in the book *Linguagem & Direito: Os Eixos Temáticos* (edited by Malcolm Coulthard, Virgínia Colares and Rui Sousa-Silva). In 2016, they are working on an introductory book on forensic linguistics in Portuguese.

This semester the group will offer an intensive course from March 28th to April 1st. It is an opportunity to learn more about the area and what the group has been doing. The course will be mainly taught in Portuguese in order to include other students who are not very proficient in English and who are interested in learning about the area. Besides, since the area is so new in Brazil, it is important to divulge it more widely, in Portuguese.

March 28th to April 1st

Rooms 311 and Machado de Assis (CCE-B)

Intensive course: mornings and afternoons

2 credits

INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC LINGUISTICS

Interested students please contact:

ppgi@contato.ufsc.br

For more information about the group, please visit the website:

<http://www.linguisticaforense.ufsc.br/tiki-index.php>

Meet the Group:



Editorial Staff

Editors: Arthus Mehanna and Claudia Mayer

Design: Patricia Bronislowski

Assistant Editors: Nayara Salbego and Alison Roberto Gonçalves

Recent Publications

Revista Estudos Anglo-Americanos

By Professor Celso Tumolo

The Revista Estudos Anglo-Americanos - REAA, ISSN 0102-4906, created by ABRAPUI (Associação Brasileira de Professores de Universitários de Inglês) and first published in 1977, is a peer-reviewed journal with biannual publication. In its 44th issue, the journal has as its main mission to disseminate knowledge in the fields of English language and literatures.

As of the year 2010, REAA has become the responsibility of ABRAPUI's former board of directors, professors Mailce Borges Mota, Anelise Reich Corseuil, Magali Sperling Beck, and Celso Tumolo, all members of Programa de Pós-Graduação em Inglês (PPGI), who have taken on as the new editors and, on account of that, the collection of REAA issues has been online at the PPGI's website.

The editors had, at first, the mission of updating the publications of the journal, publishing issues due in the previous years. Next, the editors concentrated on consolidating the editorial commission and the body of peer-reviewers, as well as on establishing the editorial policy, all to ensure the quality of the texts published and the biannual publication of the journal.

In 2015, the editors published issues 43 and 44, and took on the challenge of repositioning the journal in the Journal Ranking based on the procedures adopted by Qualis-Periódicos CAPES. For that, they have sought to adopt the Open Journal System (OJS), or a similar one, to make the journal available online, and to keep the traditional quality of the texts published as well as the biannual frequency of publication, with the recent announcement of the Call for Papers for issue 45 to be published by mid 2016.

Revista Estudos Anglo-Americanos
<http://ppgi.posgrad.ufsc.br/estudos-anglo-americanos/a-reaa>

Call for papers for Issue 46
<http://ppgi.posgrad.ufsc.br/estudos-anglo-americanos/call-for-papers-reaa-45-2016>



Faculty Profile

PPGI Professors Anelise Corseuil and Viviane Heberle share highlights on their current research.

Prof. Anelise Corseuil

The research project “Travel Narratives in Contemporary Films: Geopolitics of Representation of Latin America and the USA” explores the ways in which travel has become not only a concept for crisis and displacement, but also a search for the “self” and the “other” within our contemporary culture. Films like *Elena* (2012), directed by Petra Costa; *Rio* (2012), by Carlos Saldanha; *Goodbye Dear Love* (2002), by Ruth Behar; *South of the Border* (2009) by Oliver Stone, *La Jaula de Oro*, 2013, by Diego Quemada-Diez; and *Babel* (2006), by Alejandro González Iñárritu problematize the concept of national frontiers, the interrelations between the private and the public, as well as the narrative forms used in the films themselves to convey hemispheric encounter among various peoples, as a form of metalanguage. Thus, the focus of the research is on hemispheric relations and geopolitical aesthetics of representation in these filmic travel narratives.



Besides the theories on travel narrative (Caren Kaplan; James Clifford; and Peter Hulme and Tim Youngs), the theories on narratology and the politics of representation, as foregrounded by Robert Stam, Ella Shohat, among others, were important tools for analyzing the selected films. The notion of representation is taken not as a referent for a real, but as a discourse capable of defining identities and views that, even contingent to certain historical and cultural moments, can help not only to mold certain perspectives on nationalities and ethnic groups.

Due to the strong resilience of traveling narratives within our contemporary moment, as cultures travel in various ways (Clifford), the critical analysis of these films can lead us to a better understanding of the ways in which identities, geographical spaces and mobility can be readdressed and redefined.

Curriculum Lattes available [here](#)

Prof. Viviane Heberle

I have been teaching English in Brazil for more than 40 years. At present, I am Professor of English and Applied Linguistics at UFSC, a funded researcher of the Brazilian Science and Technology Council-CNPq, and I also coordinate the research group NUPDiscurso (Núcleo de Pesquisa Texto, Discurso e Práticas Sociais). My research and teaching interests are in the area of Applied Linguistics. I am especially concerned with critical discourse analysis, systemic functional linguistics, English language teaching, multimodality and multiliteracies. These integrated theoretical perspectives allow me to work with lexis, grammar, discourse, images and sociocultural contexts in order to provide evidence of what is going on in texts in their specific contexts.



My on-going research, entitled *Social practices in contemporaneity: multiliteracies, identities and multimodal narratives (Práticas sociais na contemporaneidade: multiletramentos, identidades e narrativas multimodais)*, aims at analysing three different kinds of multimodal narratives in three contemporary discursive spaces/environments: narratives in videogames, in children’s literature and those produced by secondary school students. As an Applied Linguist, taking into account new demands in technologies and social networks, I see the need to discuss or resignify our sociocultural/educational practices regarding different texts and genres in educational, institutional or media contexts. My main objective is to stimulate teachers’ and students’ interests regarding the use of different semiotic resources to produce and interpret texts in our society.

Curriculum Lattes available [here](#)

Ongoing Research

PhD student Renata Gomes gives a glimpse of her ongoing research



Renata Gonçalves Gomes

Reading J.D. Salinger through a 1960s countercultural perspective

I have been working with the counterculture conceptualization since the last year of my undergraduate program in English. The fact that I started the study in this field with the poetry of Allen Ginsberg is symptomatic. Ginsberg, Kerouac and Burroughs are symbols of a countercultural canon in the US. However, in my dissertation, I decided to see counterculture as a broader concept, not as a movement, but as a perspective. In light of that, I analyze J.D. Salinger's Glass family stories through a countercultural perspective, i.e., how the post-WWII socio-political happenings are discussed within the stories, and what is the critical line of these narratives about the socio-political context. However, to do so, I needed to structure the dissertation not only based on Salinger's critical review and stories, but on countercultural texts and the criticism about them. The demystification of the beat-centered idea of counterculture - and its stereotypical ideas that form an everlasting common sense of it - is also a part of the objective. The excitement about the counterculture of the hippies, peace, and love, became outworn because of its nostalgic tone. In a way, the discourse of a "cultural revolution" went down to a conceptualization based on the title that cultural agents were "rebels without a cause." I attempt to disrupt this idea as well as the stories by J.D. Salinger.

Curriculum Lattes available [here](#)

Creative Corner

By Claudia Mayer



01.01.2016

at the end of the war, an abyss of misguided coups:
letters words phrases revocation

no white flags; instead –
purple finger marks, remains of longer days.

06-06-19.01.2016

it was night when she came, with a collection of enhanced pictures
of those days.

it was night, but it was bright: she was there, and she was mine.

rephrasing each moment
as she cut out square pieces of photographic paper—they weren't there before:
there was nothing, there is more.

more at: <https://csmayer.wordpress.com>

March 16th, Room Machado de Assis, 5.00 p.m.

**Lecture – Developing Software for
Corpus Linguistics**

Dr Mike Scott, developer of the Corpus software Wordsmith Tools, was a British Council Visiting Lecturer attached to PGI at the beginning of the 1980's. Some of the early developmental work on what became Wordsmith Tools was done in Lagoa. (information by Professor Malcolm Coulthard).

March 21st - Room Machado de Assis, 2.00 p.m.

**Round Table – Gender Studies:
Theories and Applications**

Dr. Tommaso Milani (University of Witwatersrand)
“Gender and Language: Where are we now?”

Dra. Silvana Mota-Ribeiro (University of Minho)
“Gender and Multimodality in the Media”

Dr. Rodrigo Borba
“A renúncia de Si: interação, gênero e (des)identificação no Processo Transexualizador”

March 22nd - Auditório Henrique Fontes, 10 a.m.

**Master Class – “Queer Performativity”
Dr. Tommaso Milani**

Dr. Tommaso Milani will be discussing the concept of “queer performativity”, focusing its queer roots and its potential to re-frame discussions on (anti)normativity in gender and sexuality research.

For more information about our upcoming events
please contact us at:
ppgi@contato.ufsc.br

Defenses

March 3rd 9a.m. - MA Candidate Tayane de Paula Bastos Santos: “Listening while reading narratives on spoken word recognition, test comprehension and lexical memory of EFL Brazilian learners” *

March 4th 9a.m. - MA Candidate Davi Alves Oliveira: “Working memory capacity and mental translation in EFL reading comprehension” *

March 7th 3p.m. - MA Candidate Paola Gabriela Biehl: “Tracing teacher development: A case study of a novice teacher” *

March 8th 2.30p.m. - MA Candidate Marcos Antonio de Oliveira Santos: “The production of word-initial /s/ clusters by Brazilian future EFL teachers in Bahia: The roles of linguistic and non-linguistic variables “ *

March 9th 9.30a.m. - MA Candidate Roberto Rodrigues Buenos: “Stress placement and production of suffix vowel in English polysyllabic words by Brazilian learners” *

March 10th 9a.m. – Doctoral Candidate Viviane D’Ávila Heidenreich: “Olive Schreiner: An early postcolonial voice?” *

March 11th 2.30p.m. - MA Candidate Felipe Antônio de Souza: “Don’t mess with a witch: Power relations, gender and subcultural issues on witches’ representation in the media” *

March 16th 2.30p.m. - MA Candidate Sidnei Werner Woelffer: “Constructing meaning from cartoon: The effects of EFL reading proficiency and working memory capacity on the processing of verbal and pictorial information” *

March 18th 2p.m. - Doctoral Candidate Rafael Matielo: “Intralingual subtitles, interlingual subtitles, and L2 development: An explanatory study with EFL learners” **