

APRESENTAÇÃO

FOREWORD



Investigating TAME

The nature of time and its manifestations in language have long been subject of inquiry, from philosophy to linguistics and all its related fields (Bach, 2013). More specifically, from a linguistic point of view, time in language can be seen as a cluster of grammatical elements—namely, tense, aspect, mood and evidentiality (abbreviated TAME), or semantic domains from which the content of grammatical items is construed (Dahl, 2013). Whether each of these elements is studied apart from each other or in relation to each other—such as Bach (1981) on time, tense and aspect, Klein (1994) on time, Comrie (1999) on aspect, Aikhenvald and Dikson (2003) on evidentiality, to name a few—they have been the object of much investigation.

The present issue of *Letras de Hoje* focuses on TAME, with papers representing a wide spectrum of methodologies currently employed in linguistics, from logical and philosophical analyses to experimental studies. It is well known that native-speaker's intuitions have long been the main source of empirical evidence for linguistic postulates, with cross-linguistic analyses and distributional evidence constituting the core of linguistic methodology. And while this approach has proven useful in the development of core principles of grammar—their manifestations in particular languages, and their interfaces with other linguistic and cognitive systems—the investigation of linguistic representations and processes has benefited greatly by the increasing interdisciplinary approach typical of the cognitive sciences (see de Almeida and Manouilidou, 2015). This is the case of the TAME papers included in the present issue. They approach TAME from different methods, but also at different levels of linguistic and cognitive representation. And just as it is typical of the cognitive sciences, these different methods and levels of analysis eventually all come together—not necessarily coherently—helping us understand a bit more how the mind works but, in particular, how the linguistic system works and how it interfaces with other systems.

Perfects and iamitives: two gram types in one grammatical space, by **Östen Dahl** and Bernhard **Wälchli**, discusses the relationship between iamitives

(grammaticalized expressions for 'already') and traditional perfects, "both language-particular grammatical categories with specific forms and specific meanings, so called grams". The authors raise the question whether perfects and iamitives form two distinct clusters or one continuum. To answer the question, they extracted perfect grams and iamitive grams from a parallel text corpus (the New Testament) in 1107 languages and built up a grammatical space of the union of 305 extracted grams by means of Multidimensional Scaling (MDS).

In *Flavors of obligation: the syntax/semantics of deontic 'deve' in Brazilian Portuguese*, **Roberta Pires de Oliveira** and **Núbia Ferreira Rech** argue that the deontic interpretations of Brazilian Portuguese *deve* (ought to do and ought to be) is possible when a modal is relative to an event with an agentive participant provided by the ordering source. It is an experiment-based paper in which the authors discuss the interpretation of the modal *deve* within unaccusative, unergatives and transitive contexts. **Renato Miguel Basso e João Francisco Bergamini Perez**' study *O adjunto 'durante X tempo' no domínio tempo-aspectual* addresses the role of temporal adjunct in Brazilian Portuguese 'durante X time' in comparison to 'por X time' and argue that both adjuncts measure the duration of a given event up to the end of their measure phrases, and are responsible for "detelicizing" perfective telic events. **Karina Molsing**'s paper *Sobre a pluralidade de eventos e plurais essenciais*, a revised version of a paper published in English in Molsing and Ibaños (2013), approaches the behavior of the present perfect in Brazilian Portuguese, analyzing the theoretical foundations of the elements that are part of it (events, plurality and aspect), arguing for a compositional analysis, favoring plurality without appealing to the notion of *pluractionality*.

On the nature of tense in finite control by **Daniela Isac** and **Ivanna Richardson** investigates finite control in the framework of generative grammar. The authors argue that the special nature of finite control is due to the existence of an additional mechanism by which features (in particular the features of T and of PRO) can obtain an interpretation in the semantic component. Apart from

feature valuation, a process that depends on Agree and that takes place in the syntactic component, features can also be assigned an interpretation via index sharing, a permanent link created between two features.

Percepção do tempo: da Psicologia para a Psicolinguística by **Thiago Oliveira da Motta Sampaio** reviews the main concepts on time perception, aiming at establishing a relation between the psychology of time and the psycholinguistics of aspectual coercion.

Tempo e evidencialidade na língua Kaingang – uma abordagem experimental by **Márcia Nascimento, Marcus Maia e Letícia Couto** reports chronometric offline experiments investigating the categories of tense and evidentiality in the Kaingang language. The authors found an active suprasegmental process acting in the Tense. With their second experiment, they studied two evidentiality markers that encode visual and reported information.

Um estudo longitudinal de tempo e aspecto na demência do tipo Alzheimer by **Juliana Barros Nespoli** and **Celso Vieira Novaes** investigates a possible impairment related to the linguistic expression of tense and aspect in patients with the dementia of the Alzheimer type (DAT). The paper is a discussion on the findings of a longitudinal case study.

Monica Monawar's paper *Modality and Evidentiality: a discussion of philosophical and formal*

aspects is about what underlies current approaches on natural language modality. A discussion on the evolution of language in connection to modality in terms of planning and displacement is promoted, followed by Lewis's and Stalnaker's proposals on possible worlds theory. Finally, a comparative approach on Lewis's and Stalnaker's perspectives on knowledge and belief is built in order to create a foundation for further readings on the topic of modals and evidentials.

The last paper, *Na interface Lógica Formal e Lógica Natural: uma ilustração sobre operadores e modalidade* by **Jorge Campos da Costa** addresses an interdisciplinary framework to demonstrate that fallacies, invalid arguments in formal logic, can be considered coherent and valid within a natural language context.

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