

## Introduction

### *Among language, literature and discourse as contemporary echoes*

*Revista Letras Raras* ended its eighth year with the Special Issue **Language, rustle, power**. In the beginning of this issue, the editors stated: “The events of the last decade, around the world, have brought us the returning of social and political configurations that many believed to be properly fought and removed from daily decisions of contemporary democracies” (**Introduction**: v.8, n. 4, 2019). This issue that brought discussions around Roland Barthes’ thinking also presented a concern that closely dialogues with today’s world, since the latest events surrounding the countries of all continents show a need for reconfigurations in the political field, as well as in the social one. What do democratic governments do in the face of such a real and yet invisible threat? Do we live a dystopia? Maybe! In our view, neither Orwell, nor Huxley, nor *1984*, nor *Brave new world* projected a society as “dehumanized” as the one we live in Brazilian contemporaneity. “Political configurations properly fought”? It does not seem to be the reality of our countries and of several others intensely affected by the coronavirus around the world. No. One cannot think of science without mentioning *hic et nuc*. It is because we are directly touched by a (in)voluntary confinement at the moment in which the fields of Linguistics and Literature also face a significant scarcity of resources for research. What awaits us?

What we do during these moments is to resist and to spread the thought expressed in the work of Barthesian and many other thinkers and theorists who have their discourses reverberating in contemporary times. For this reason, we bring here researchers from Brazil and other countries around the world, aiming to share the knowledge distributed among the academic texts, interview with the poetess Lubi Prates and the literary creations published here.

Following R. Barthes’ ideas, Samanta Esteves Nagem, from the University of São Paulo (USP), and Mônica Gama, from the Federal University of Ouro Preto (UFOP) discuss the “conception of language utopia in Roland Barthes, as well as the relationship with the notion of *Degree Zero and Neutral*, notions that refer to linguistics phenomena that break with the paradigmatic and binary structure of language. The article **Between writing Degree Zero and The Neutral: Roland Barthes’ utopia of language** opens this first issue of *Revista Letras Raras* in the year 2020.

Next, Altamir Botoso, from the State University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UEMS), and Néstor Raúl Gonzáles Guitiérrez, from the University of the State of Mato Grosso (UNEMAT), present **A Caribbean and postmodern Maigret in *El caso Neruda*, by Roberto Ampuero**. These researchers focus on some “features” from the novel *El caso Neruda*, allowing the reader to read it as a post-modern police narrative, by Roberto Ampuero, from the view of the detective character Cayetano Brulé. Continuing in the literature field, Ayanne Larissa Almeida de Souza, a researcher from the State University of Paraíba (UEPB), also brings a contribution that makes the reader reflect on the *contemporary echoes*. In her article **The tragic circularity in *Waiting for Godot*, by Samuel Beckett**, she discusses the tragic in the Irish writer’s play from the notion of feeling, thought by Raymond Williams. In this reading, the author proposes to find out how one can understand the tragic as a “structure of feeling”, emphasizing that the play “is expressed in the existence emptied of any sense”.

In this issue’s fourth article, there is dialogue between discussions based on many literary works and the history, since the professor of Contemporary History Sylvie Aprile, from the University of Lille III, in Lille, France, discusses migration and exile, even though it was published a few years ago, the reflections are so up-to-date that one would say they were published yesterday. The necessary discussion on women’s invisibility in this context is also as real as it is necessary to be shown. The researcher presents three female figures categories linked to the immigration context, these figures speak from their silences and “allow to rethink about the importance of female migration policies and, also, about the sex-based division of tasks, especially in the context of exile”.

Going in the direction of history and of contemporaneity, Nirvana Ferraz Santos Sampaio, professor at the Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies of the State University of Southwest Bahia (UESB), Simone Maximo, master candidate in the Graduate Program in Linguistics at the same University, and Pelis José Carlos Martins Oliveira, professor in the Department of Technology and Exact Sciences (DCET/UESB), locate elderly people from an institutionalized space to the centre of their discussions. This article, result of a long study, is published in a moment in which elderly people are again the subject of reflections in the media and in the conversation circles, in a confinement context. The authors aim at “analysing language in institutionalized long-lived individuals amid the process of silencing”, the intention was “to verify silence as a key point of resignification, as a structuring of meaning”. This research being published, after the pronouncement of a certain Brazilian authority who insinuates not seeing problems in the “disappearance” of elderly people, shows how ***Among language, literature and***

**discourse as contemporary echoes** is as up-to-date Issue and how silencing is able to speak, in the voice of an elderly woman who participated in the research published here. Also focusing on minorities, such as the elderly people, Cleide Emília Faye Pedrosa, professor at the Federal University of Alagoas, Brazil, and Phd researcher, at the University of Lisbon, Portugal, bring a comparative study on bilingual education for deaf people in Brazil and in Portugal, showing an important hiatus between one reality and the other. Based on Critical Discourse Analysis and on bilingual education studies in both countries, the author highlights notions as ‘listener hegemony’ and makes a linguistic analysis of the parameterizing documents from the perspective of Systemic-Functional Grammar, emphasising the convergences between the two communities she studied.

Discussing languages teaching, **Gender as identity constructions in English language classes at high school**, by Josenice Cláudia Moura de Lima, from the Federal Institute of Alagoas, and Paulo Rogério Stella, professor at the Federal University of Alagoas, analyse a comic strip created by a high school student. In accordance with Bakhtin, these authors observe the circulation of values, “understood as gender differences in their discourses, in an English language class, pondering ‘gender issues as identity constructions’”; the authors reflect on gender ideology in a vulnerable context of this type of discussion. Another article about language teaching is **For a teaching/learning of contrasting grammar in foreign language departments: the example of the demonstrative in French and Polish**, by the French author Joanna Górnikiewicz, from the University of Jagellonne, in Cracow, Poland. Based on word classes, “the author shares her experience as a teacher-researcher in charge of Franco-Polish contrasting grammar classes, in a foreign language department at a Polish university”. In the discussions, it is possible to notice that, although the language pair does not belong to the same ‘trunk’, the two languages have comparable forms, according to the author.

In the field of translation, Janailton Mick Vitor da Silva, professor at the Goiano Federal Institute (IFG), and Alessandra Ramos de Oliveira Harden, from the University of Brasilia (UNB), question: **Where can we find the subtitler’s thumb-print? A study on the use of pronoun placement and discourse markers in the *Star Trek: Enterprise* subtitles**. The authors present us an up-to-date discussion on gender traits in translation; therefore, they try to “characterize the style of a legendist”. The investigation focused on the “way she used the pronominal placement and discourse markers (DMs) in Brazilian Portuguese subtitles, made for episodes of the TV show *Star Trek: Enterprise*”

Next, the reader will find the review **Notas sobre poesia sul-mato-grossense: aleia sangue, de Paulo Henrique Pressotto**, by Andre Rezende Benatti, professor at the State University of Mato Grosso do Sul. In this review, the reader will discover the subtleties of the poet who, although located in a geographical space, has a universal poetics.

As Paulo Henrique Pressotto, Lubi Prates is also universal; it can be seen in “**Meu corpo é meu lugar de fala**”: **entrevista com Lubi Prates**, by Têssia Gomes Carneiro, doctoral student at the Federal University of Tocantins, and Eliane Cristina Testa, professor at the Federal University of Tocantins. The interview presents relevant discussions on black women empowerment, through literary writing, in the Brazilian context.

Closing this issue, young writers show their works for the delight of the journal’s readers: Vinícius Bandera, from the University of São Paulo, with the poem **Deste já tão longo andar**; Adriana Andrade Alves, from the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, with the poem **Corpo devir**; Richard Morgan Müller, from the Federal University of Santa Maria, with the poem **Watch out for the darkness**; Yvisson Gomes dos Santos, from the Federal University of Alagoas, author of poem **Mulher**; Marcelo Calderari Miguel, from the Federal University of Espírito Santo, with the short anthology entitled **Folguedos, canções e a poética na contemporaneidade e tradições**; Teófilo Teles Pereira de Arvelos, from the Federal Institution of Education, Science and Technology of Triângulo Mineiro, Patos de Minas campus, author of the chronicle **Cortina de galinha**; and, lastly, Yvisson Gomes dos Santos Correio, from the Federal University of Alagoas, with the short story **Pipoca**.

With these texts, dear reader, we hope to keep resisting to all forms of “social and political configurations that many believed to be properly fought and removed from daily decisions of contemporary democracies”. Therefore, we wish everyone to be instigated to rethink, to resist and to rustle, resuming the Barthesian perspective; and, only then, survive the current pests.

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