

Revista Letras Raras, a scholarly journal of Linguistics and Literature, v. 10, n. 1. 2021

Letters in Contemporary Studies

It seems like it was yesterday; 10 years ago, we launched the journal *Revista Letras Raras*. If one asks the reason for its title, it must be said that back then undergraduate students could rarely publish in a well-qualified scholarly journal in the area of Letters and Linguistics – naming Capes uses for this broad area. Based on this reality, a group of professors created a space that aimed to highlight scientific initiation research, monographs, and other undergraduate courses' final projects in the area of Letters, thus encouraging students to conduct research and publish subsequently. However, the scope and policy of the journal were quickly accepted by the entire academic community, and as a result, various distinguished researchers and scholars from graduate programs published their work in *Revista Letras Raras*. Therefore, this is how 10 years have gone by for this journal in the area of Linguistics and Literature, providing space to junior professors at the start of their career as well as to renowned researchers, to share knowledge and science in this area; after all, we are aware that we produce important, necessary, and yet, fundamental research in the framework of our domains of expertise. We are from Letters. We are from the Humanities, too. We are teachers, professors, and scholars.

In a year that begins with the remains of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, hope seems to be the feeling that best translates what we are going through. There have been months of struggle against the invisible, social denialism, and many losses that total more than 215,000 deaths in Brazil and more than 2 million in the world. We have witnessed catastrophic scenes in the transition of leadership of the “most powerful” country on the planet; and we have seen the so-called “lungs of the world” nation of Brazil “dying without oxygen”, while the dictator president fails to offer neither oxygen nor democracy, without a political party, he actually offers death, either by denying the existence of Covid-19 or by liberating tax rates to import guns and to provide medicines without any scientific evidence that is effective to eradicate the virus.

In fact, not even fiction can imagine everything the world is struggling through in contemporary, postmodern times, nowadays. This is in this context that *Revista Letras Raras*' first issue of 2021 is published. Its 10th year anniversary begins with 10 articles (a number not randomly selected), which were initially listed in the category of “others” and are now gathered under **Letters**

in Contemporary Studies, since the issue presents papers on topics directly linked to the aims of the research group that supports the journal: LELLC (Laboratory of Studies on Linguistics, Literature, and Languages in Contemporary Society).

This issue, edited by Professors Alain-Philippe Durand, from the University of Arizona, Josilene Pinheiro-Mariz, from the Federal University of Campina Grande, and Maria Rennally Soares da Silva, from the State University of Paraíba, presents essays in the areas of Literature, Applied Linguistics, Discourse Analysis, Translation Studies, in addition to a translation on Linguistics, a review on Intercomprehension of Romance Languages, and highly qualified original literary texts. This is a special issue prepared in order to present readers with a sample of this journal's active diversity in different subfields in the areas of contemporary science and Letters. Authors from a variety of Brazilian institutions of higher education are represented in this issue, such as: Feevale University, Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Federal University of Pelotas (UFPEl), Federal University of Viçosa (UFV), Federal Institute Catarinense (IFC), State University of Feira de Santana (UEFS), University of Santo Amaro (UNISA/SP), Federal University of Campina Grande (UFCG); and from two European universities: University of Coimbra and Open University of Portugal, both in Portugal. Moreover, authors based at the Federal University of ABC (UFABC) and Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN) were responsible for the inserted review and translation.

Furthermore, the space reserved for language artists, poems and short stories makes it possible for readers to escape through the medium of literary letters. The authors of these fictional texts also come from Brazilian universities, such as the Federal University of Alagoas (UFAL), Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM), State University of Ceará (UECE), State University of Rio Grande do Norte (UERN), Regional University of Northwestern Rio Grande do Sul (UNIJUÍ), Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ), Fluminense Federal University (UFF), Federal University of Maranhão (UFMA), and Federal Institute of Education, Science, and Technology of Triângulo Mineiro (IFECTTM/Patos de Minas). Finally, the poetic work of elementary education professionals from the states of Alagoas and Ceará is also included in this issue.

Thereby, in this issue, the first of the ten articles is presented by researchers Marinês Andrea Kunz, Sabrina Susiêlen Corrêa, and Ernani Mügge, from Feevale University. In **Conceição Evaristo: Gender Violence in Olhos D'água**, they bring a necessary discussion based on a collection of short stories by a renowned Brazilian writer. The debate about structural racism and sexism in Brazil is the basis for their reflections through the essay, as it highlights the extent in

which fiction and reality are close to each other, at many times walking side by side and taking readers to enquire upon the borders between reality and fiction.

Subsequently, the article **Myth and Dystopia: The Rites of Fahrenheit 451**, written by Willy Nascimento Silva, Juan Ignacio Jurado Centurión Lopez, and Lucianes Alves Santos, from the Federal University of Paraíba, deals with medieval utopias, comparing them to ideology and liturgy. The authors also make a fundamental reflection, especially for the current times, in terms of myths as a mechanism of power in a fictional space of utopia and dystopia. Based on the analysis of rites, the discussion centers around the elements that Ray Bradbury presents in “Fahrenheit 451”.

Literary Reading in a Brazilian Portuguese Textbook: A Dialogical Approach, by Marcel Alvaro de Amorim, Débora Ventura Klayn Nascimento, and Maxwell Souza dos Santos, from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), presents a hybrid perspective over literary reading and Discourse Analysis. In this article, the authors emphasize the importance of reading development in Elementary Education, reminding us how hard it is to walk on this path, especially for teachers; thus, they analyze the first chapter of a textbook destined to teaching high school, entitled *Se liga na língua*. Based on the theories of Bakhtin’s circle, they argue that there seems to be a need for harmony among literary reading practices in a dialogical perspective and traditional views on the teaching of literature in high school, due to the lack of an approach that highlights literary reading in an aesthetical dimension.

João Carlos Cattelan, post-doctorate researcher at the University of Coimbra, discusses Michel Foucault’s perspective on women, according to Discourse Analysis, in **The Woman’s Nature (?): or the Nature of the Discursive Selection**. The author presents some highlights and analyses some discursive sequences, by considering historicity with the aim of demonstrating that much of what is said (up)on women has its origin in a date, therefore, historically, but not to be understood naturally.

In this issue’s fifth article, **Work Imaginaries: Vargas and the Political Discourse Aimed at Brazilian Workers (1943)**, Santiago Bretanha and Aracy Graça Ernst, from the Federal University of Viçosa, read president Getúlio Vargas’s speech addressed to Brazilian workers, on May 1st, 1943. Based on Discourse Analysis, the authors analyze enunciative marks taken as discursive traces, by assuming the “order of semblance of reversibility in a discourse that, in all evidence, shows itself open to the other”.

Next, Iane Maria Santos Martins and Adriana da Silva, both from the Federal University of Viçosa (UFV), present readers with **Reading and Text Comprehension Activities: An Analysis of Imperative Verbs and Interrogative Pronouns in Textbooks From a Portuguese Language Collection**. According to Applied Linguistics and Textual Linguistics, the authors discuss and reaffirm the importance of didactic books, even though they emphasize the fundamental supplement of activities in order to incite reflections and the study of linguistic elements which are set in language usage.

Founded by the same perspective, Rodrigo Schaefer, from the Federal Institute Catarinense, and Christiane Heemann, from the Open University of Portugal, outline a fundamental contribution to Applied Linguistics studies in the domains of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in their article **A Theoretical-Methodological Proposal for the Use of ICTs in English Classes in Brazilian Educational Institutions**. The authors highlight telecollaborative activities and the use of their proposal in English classes in Brazilian educational institutions. This may be inspiring to teaching any other language and represents an important starting point to collaborative work and other reflections.

The article **Through the Hands of the Lords of Campo Seco: Source for Studying the History of Penetration and Propagation of the Written Language in the Highlands of Bahia**, by Elaine Brandão Santos and Mariana Fagundes de Oliveira Lacerda, from the State University of Feira de Santana, present a study on *Livro do Gado do Brejo do Campo Seco*, written by a Lusitanian writer and his Brazilian descendants from Bahia's countryside. The discussion is presented as a linguistic study of the book and as a meaningful linguistic testimony to the studies on social and linguistic reconstruction of Brazilian Portuguese.

The Rupture of the Mimetic Epistemological Model is one of the last articles in this issue. It discusses the place of mimesis, considering this rhetorical figure as an epistemological model created in Ancient Greece. The author, Jack Brandão, professor and researcher from the University of Santo Amaro, outlines a timeline of this figure, going from Humanism to the nineteenth century by some meaningful downfall. Based on this view and using an inter-arts perspective, the essay argues that "more than a change in the perception of art, there was a change in the world's perception that surrounds humanity, whose significant influence was due to photography".

Concluding this issue's series of articles, Jeremias Lucas Tavares and Sinara de Oliveira Branco, from the Federal University of Campina Grande, present **Drag Language Translation on RuPaul's Drag Race: A Study About Representation Through Subtitles**. The authors analyze

some expressions and their translations into subtitles of the American reality show “RuPaul’s Drag Race”, based on Audiovisual Translation and Subtitling theories. They argue that the subtitles translate an “English drag language through expressions of the Brazilian LGBTQI+ language”. Thus, the essay also discusses cultural issues on drag language from the United States and Brazil.

According to the journal’s editorial policy, in this issue, Thompson Menezes, from the Federal University of ABC, outlines a review of the book **Intercompreensão: a chave para as línguas**, written by Professor Francisco Calvo Del Olmo, from the Federal University of Paraná (UFP), and Professor Pierre Escudé, from the University of Bordeaux (France). The book was published by Parábola Editorial in 2019 and, as the title suggests, it is presented as a key to understand languages by emphasizing Intercomprehension of Romance Languages (which is not very well known in Brazil yet). Consequently, the review establishes the role of Intercomprehension as a methodology that seeks to spread languages; this is what makes it an almost unavoidable way for linguistic policies that must provide space for all languages, without hierarchies.

Hereupon, according to the journal’s scope and policy, Maria Hozanete Alves de Lima and Clemliton Lopes Pinheiro, both from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, present a translation of the conference paper delivered by French professor and researcher Rudolf Maher, originally entitled ***Pour une linguistique de la production écrite: quelques préalables théoriques*** and translated into Portuguese as ***Para uma linguística da produção escrita: alguns pré-requisitos teóricos***. The text is fundamental to linguistic studies in Brazil, since it deals with the writing (versus the written), based on the views of Linguistics, and the writing as a specific situation of enunciation, writing and enunciation, and rewritings as methods.

In the section of artistic creation, given that we understand literature as an art, three short stories and four poems are presented. The first short story, ***Destino***, is written by Yvisson Gomes dos Santos, from the Federal University of Alagoas; José D’Assunção Barros, from the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro, wrote the second, ***O Suicida***; and the third, ***(A)temporais***, was written by Aldenora M. Chaves P. Carvalho, from the Federal University of Maranhão. The poems are: ***Solitude***, by Richard Morgan Müller, from the Federal University of Santa Maria; ***A(r)mar-se para resistir***, by Adriana dos Santos Pereira, from the Estate University of Ceará; ***Espero que adoeças***, by Maurício Fontana Filho, from the Regional University of Northwestern Rio Grande do Sul State; and ***Poema do apátrida***, by Teófilo Teles Pereira de Arvelos, from the Federal Institute of Education, Science, and Technology of Triângulo Mineiro.

Dear reader, this issue of *Revista Letras Raras*, which can also be read via its QR Code, launches one more set of texts that inspire a lot of different reflections in our domains of expertise in Linguistics, Literature, Translation Studies, Discourse Analysis, Applied Linguistics, and much more set in our **Letters in Contemporary Studies**. At the moment we begin a new year, 2021 and the journal's tenth year, among so much pain caused to uncountable losses, only remains the urge to resist and keep up with the struggle for social and scientific recognition. Neither social distancing, nor online education, and not even the new ways of social or academic interaction might prevent us from keeping up with the search for answers to questions that surround us.

We finish the first edition of 2021, in this tenth year of *Revista Letras Raras*, sharing with readers the issue 1, from volume 10, hoping that this year might be different, and that science will overcome denialism, including of Linguistics and Literature.

Enjoy the reading!

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