LANGUAGE AS AN ALTERABLE AND INDEFINITIVE PROCESS

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ABSTRACT

The mother tongue, in the case of the Portuguese Language in Brazil, is a broad field of linguistic varieties. The teaching of the mother tongue begins with the process of language acquisition. Several theories are supported to explain these bases of study, among them the theory of the behaviorist conception, the constructivist conception of learning, and the socio-historical-cultural conception. In interaction with the social environment the child learns to develop their language skills, causing through interaction a great variety in the linguistic process, called linguistic variation, this is the point that is worked on in this project. This variation is not different from other places is manifested in the municipality of Coari and is presented here in chapter III. In chapter I, the municipality is presented and the contextualization of teaching, in chapter II, an analysis of the teaching learning process is made based on theoretical currents comprising the linguistic variety. Keywords: Teaching, mother tongue, linguistic variety.
KEYWORDS: Tongue. Language. Alteration.

INTRODUCTION

In order to provide a deeper understanding of the subject in a given educational field, we intend to study language as an alterable and indefinite process. In this approach, two guiding research questions were outlined. What defines the language as a mutual process of transformation? Is language unalterable and definitive?

When we talk about language, we are talking about linguistics, and there are many questions raised by scholars in this field. When we speak of language as an alterable and indefinite (unalterable and definitive) process, we are referring to aspects that directly influence language dialects. Hence,

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the importance of investigating the mutual process of language transformation.

There is, in general, a widespread prejudice towards language terms from one region to another. According to Luiz Carlos Cagliari (2010), "prejudice is social, and its manifestations occur through people's attitudes towards linguistic facts."

According to Darcília Simões (2006, p.100), in her study "Considerations about Speech and Writing," she states that: "Information about the phenomenon of linguistic mutation needs to reach the speaker in a very significant way to encourage them to observe their own language as something alive, in movement."

The study is guided by its main objective, which is to present language as a process that undergoes changes through external influences, making it alterable and indefinite.

In order to achieve the proposed objective, the methodology used was the bibliographic research type, which involved gathering ideas already discussed by other authors in the research field.

The entire text was based on the ideas of authors such as Simões, 2006; Cagliari, 2009; Gomes, 2009; Passarelli, 2012, and articles published in electronic media available on the internet.

DEVELOPMENT

For a long time, various language scholars have been discussing topics such as "nature versus nurture," "innate versus acquired," and "biological versus social." Several theoretical studies are developed in the field of Linguistics, which encompasses the study of language. The discussions are based in two ways of thinking about language acquisition and the changes in language.

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Maria de Castro Gomes (2009) considers Ferdinand de Saussure to be the father of linguistics for having systematized linguistic studies, primarily through a terminology that explains linguistic facts in a precise and objective manner. Gomes (2009) emphasizes that:

> As Saussure himself said, "language has an individual side and a social side, and it is impossible to conceive one without the other." Saussure refers to the social aspect of language as "Langue" and the individual aspect as "Parole" or speech. Language, inherently homogeneous, is a social institution that belongs to all speakers of a particular linguistic community. Language possesses order and systemization. We have the Portuguese language as a social entity that all of us Brazilians acquire as native speakers and that belongs to our identity as Brazilians. However, in a country with continental dimensions, rich cultural diversity, and significant social differences, speech also takes on plural forms. The language we speak is the same, meaning that we all use the same linguistic system called Brazilian Portuguese. However, each of our speeches is diversified, individualized, and heterogeneous (GOMES, 2009, p. 90).

To delve deeper into the study of language, it is necessary to include the study of linguistics. Before explaining what Linguistics is and how it conducts its research, it is advisable to define its object. What is language?

It is implicit in the formulation of this question is the recognition that natural languages, notably diverse, are manifestations of something more general, language. This observation becomes even more evident when considering its translation into English, which has a single term - "language" - for both concepts - "língua" and "linguagem".

The development of linguistic studies has led many scholars to propose definitions of language, which are similar in many aspects yet diverse in the emphasis placed on different central aspects. Ferdinand Saussure considered language to be "heteroclite and multifaceted" as it encompasses various domains.

It is at once physical, physiological, and psychological. It belongs to the individual and social domain; "it cannot be classified into any category of human facts, as its unity cannot be inferred" (SAUSSURE, 1969, p.17).

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For Saussure, language is "a system of signs" - a set of units that relate to each other in an organized way within a whole. It is "the social part of language," external to the individual; it cannot be modified by the speaker and follows the laws of the social contract established by community members. The language-system combination also includes another element, according to Saussure: Speech.

Speech is an individual act; it results from combinations made by the speaking subject using the language code; it is expressed through the psychophysical mechanisms (phonation acts) necessary for the production of these combinations. The distinction between language/langua/fala situates the object of Linguistics for Saussure. This leads to the division of the study of language into two parts: one that investigates language and another that analyzes speech.

Having examined what language, "língua," and speech, "fala," are, it is appropriate to define what linguistics is. According to Luiz Carlos Cagliari (2009):

> Linguistics is the scientific study of language. It is focused on explaining how human language functions and how specific languages work. It involves descriptive work as proposed by theories, as well as utilizing the acquired knowledge to benefit other sciences and arts that use spoken or written language in some way. (CAGLIARI, 2009, p. 36).

Linguistics encompasses a wide area of study. Therefore, it encompasses peculiar varieties of the linguistic system that can be explored in its branches of study, such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, textual linguistics, discourse analysis, neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics. In this perspective, only socio-linguistics will be addressed partially.

Sociolinguistics, within the linguistic dimension, investigates Phonetics, Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics. In the non-linguistic dimension, it studies the Spatial Plane, the Contextual Plane, and the Social Plane. According to Alkimim (2001), sociolinguistics can be defined as a field within

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linguistics that deals with the relationships between language and society. Thus, points of sociolinguistics will be presented, characterizing language as an alterable and indefinite process in linguistic studies.

According to Bakhtin and Volochinov (1995), the true substance of language is not constituted by an abstract system of linguistic forms, nor by isolated monological utterances, nor by the psychological act of their production, but by the social phenomenon of verbal interaction realized through utterances. Verbal interaction thus constitutes the fundamental reality of language.

In this context, language is understood as a process that arises from the interaction between the speaker and the community. It is at this moment that language becomes variable. When there is interaction between one community and another, the receiving community tends to adopt external influences, thus becoming variable. This leads to innovation and gives rise to a linguistic process called Linguistic Variation.

But then, what is linguistic variation? Linguistic variation is a system that relates to the social aspects of language. Language variants vary at different levels, encompassing internal variations within the language that are determined by extralinguistic factors, such as the speakers' strategies, whether to communicate or express their social condition or identity.

Extralinguistic factors are the main contributors to language change. These factors involve a significant introduction of new elements into the language of a community. In addition to being fundamental and important, they interconnect one culture with another through language, making it understood and comprehensible across different contexts. As stated by Cagliari (2009):

> Most speech and writing problems are linked to this point. Everyone knows that there are different ways of speaking a language, but when faced with these differences, one can be inflexible, attributing values of right or wrong based on a normative grammar preestablished by scholars. On the other hand, one can create a grammar of these same

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differences and observe how society manipulates them to justify their prejudices. (CAGLIARE 2009, p. 66).

Variations encompass the different uses that speakers make of the living language, that is, the different ways of saying the same thing. Linguistic variations occur due to the situation, the geographical space in which the speaker is located, the society to which they belong, and time. As a social factor, language is a phenomenon of constant dynamism and, at the same time, conservatism.

Conservative because it needs to maintain a certain degree of uniformity to enable communication within a given linguistic community; it is dynamic because it changes over time, being subject to regional, social, and stylistic influences that are responsible for the process of linguistic variation, as stated by Preti (1994).

Language undergoes modifications based on circumstantial determinations, and the speaker has the competence of acquisition and usage, knowing which form to choose in each different situation. As Camacho states, "The forms in variation acquire values based on the power that speakers hold in cultural relationships" (CAMACHO, 2000, p.59).

From this perspective, it is possible to observe that language undergoes various types of alterations, but it does not lose its main essence, which is the language inherited from its own people (or historical heritage). As stated by Darcília Simões (2006):

> The speaker, in turn, undergoes influences from two linguistic layers, as noted by Serafim da Silva Neto (1951:72-73): the transferred language, inherited and passed down from parents to children, and the incorporated language, which lacks continuity and typically consists of vocabulary, as it generally does not borrow sounds, morphemes, or syntactic structures. Therefore, the observable manifestations in the text, especially those that document various speech forms outside the standard variety, attest to the speaker's intervention in linguistic evolution. (SIMOES, 2006, p. 100).

Regarding changes in language, Rui Barbosa, as cited by Simões (2006), emphasizes that:

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> There is no language definitively and unalterably formed. They all form, reform, and transform continuously. Who doesn't know that? What moderately educated person today is ignorant of it? (in BARBOSA, Rui, 'Réplica'. Imprensa Nacional, Rio, 1904. SIMOES, 2006, p. 100).

Thus, it is concluded that language is not and is far from being definitive and unaltered.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings throughout the research, it has been concluded that language undergoes a process of transformation. This transformation occurs through acculturation, also known as "aportuguesamento" (portuguesization). Acculturation begins when a particular region starts to receive influences from other cultures. This is where linguistics comes into play with its detailed study, giving rise to other sciences.

Linguistics, as the science that studies language, delimits the study of language and its transformations. Language is a complex field of study that encompasses peculiar varieties of the linguistic system, which can be explored in branches of linguistics such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, textual linguistics, discourse analysis, neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics.

However, detailed information about these fields of study, except for sociolinguistics, was not presented in the research. Some issues regarding linguistic variation were explicitly discussed as an important factor for language evolution.

As mentioned earlier, language is a variable process, subject to transformation and lacking an exact definition. In other words, there is no a precise definition of language as something immutable.

In the end, if there is interaction with cultural influences from other societies, the language tends to acquire innovation because it is not an

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isolated process but a mutual one, subject to change. However, it does not lose its essence, which is its historically inherited heritage from its speakers.

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