



Migration Linguistics Meets Cognitive-Anthropological Sociolinguistics: On Brazilian Portuguese in Dynamic Multilingual Canada

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1. Aims and Innovations

Brazilian Portuguese speakers have been immigrating to Canada since the 1980s. The speakers' geographical and social origins are heterogeneous, and they bring with them to multilingual Canada partly opposing Brazilian Portuguese linguistic norms and an individual multilingualism. Before, during, and after the transnational migration, speakers experience linguistic processes of accommodation and change. These sociolinguistic dynamics have not yet been studied for Brazilian Portuguese speakers in Canada. **The goal of this project is to investigate the internal and external multilingualism of Brazilian-Canadians.** On the one hand, we will analyze the processes of normalization and accommodation in a diasporic situation. On the other hand, on a theoretical-methodological level, the project makes a fundamental contribution to theory formation and methodological development of sociolinguistics in migration contexts.

- With a continuous focus on the subject, this project gradually approximates anthropological-cognitive sociolinguistics in plurilingual migration societies. The project will contribute to the **first investigation of Brazilian Portuguese and the multilingualism of its speakers in Canada.**
- In addition to this basic output, a theoretical-methodological **synergy between migration and cognitive-anthropological sociolinguistics** will be developed in the outcome of the multidimensional, **subject-based approach.**
- The impact, that this approach will prospectively have on the scientific community and the general public, will predominantly be gained by a subject-oriented approach to internal and external multilingualism in migratory dynamics of the global world.

2. State of the Art

- In general, there is a lot of research on Brazilian Portuguese. The main focus is on sociolinguistics. Regardless of first programmatic approaches to the investigation of attitudes towards language, language norms, and language ideologies, there is **no systematic recording of language norms and ideologies for Brazilian Portuguese.** Both the salience of specific linguistic variants and the speakers themselves are still rarely prioritized in studies in Cognitive Sociolinguistics, which are usually clearly quantitative and do not take into account aspects of Anthropological Linguistics. Furthermore, these studies seldomly exploit experimental methods to analyze perceptual data deduced from the subject empirically.
- The complex sociolinguistic situation in Brazil is particularly inviting for a study in Migration Linguistics. For, on the one hand, it generates scientific questions about the **linguistic-discursive negotiation of convergence and diversification processes in the diaspora.** On the other hand, studies on Migration Linguistics often fail to comprehensively acknowledge the varieties spoken in the respective country of origin. This project is the first to examine **divergent or convergent aspects of varieties of Brazilian Portuguese in Canada.** The focus is, thus, on the language repertoire and ideologies of Brazilian migrants in particular as well as on linguistic-discursive constructions of space in the context of transcontinental mobility in general, all of which present a gap in research.

3. Underlying theoretical models

By virtue of an innovative view on migration and Cognitive Sociolinguistics, the case study of Brazilian Portuguese in Canada illuminates the broader subject from a critical-anthropological angle. New empirical, subject-oriented insights into the multilingualism of Brazilian-Canadians are to be brought into an argumentative context with language norms of Brazilian Portuguese and, in addition to the fundamental aggregation of empirical data and insights regarding the Brazilian-Canadian context, the theory formation in the scientific field of **Anthopological Linguistics**, Cognitive Sociolinguistics and Migration Linguistics is to be further developed:

- Migration Linguistics** deals with multilingualism as a result of migration. Language biographies offer an innovative subject-oriented approach to language repertoire and experience in transcontinental (migration) spaces at different times. Brazilian-Canadians position themselves on a micro-level regarding their internal and external multilingualism by revealing themselves in narrative interviews. Due to their indexicality, these individual Life Stories allow conclusions of language ideologies and (linguistic) identities of the Brazilian-Canadian speech community on a macro-level.
- Cognitive Sociolinguistics** incorporates meta-linguistic speaker knowledge into the analysis of language norms. Thus, norm and accommodation processes of Brazilian Portuguese are collected by virtue of salient linguistic variables using production-oriented and perceptual data. The data allow to deduce conclusions regarding descriptive norms of Brazilian Portuguese in Canada (and Brazil) and language ideologies in the complex, multilingual space of Canada.

4. Methods and Corpus

- Translingually, dynamically changeable practices are common in transnational, global societies such as the Canadian. This multilingual dynamic leads to changes in the methodological approach of sociolinguistic works. Consequently I will be applying a multidimensional approach. The Life Stories narrated by the interviewees will be analyzed micro-analytically. Methodologically, the focus is on speakers whose **Life Stories**, whose dynamic language repertoires and whose perception-based representations of knowledge of language/variety can be used to draw conclusions about society on a macro-level. Here, it makes sense to conduct a subject-oriented analysis that is *emic*, i.e., based on the perceptions of the speakers. On the micro-level, their perception provides clues for the macro-analysis of group-specific language ideologies, language attitudes, norms, and linguistic identities, since they have an indexical meaning. In that, I assume that Life Stories do not simply exist, but they are constructed by narratives offered by the speakers. The narratives, which are initiated by virtue of **narrative interviews**, are the key instrument for the investigation of language ideologies. Here, the connection between micro- and macro-analysis is guaranteed. Simultaneously, narrative interviews can be used to examine both data on language production and subsequent experimental approaches to the speakers' knowledge of language and variety
- The field research is conducted with Brazilian-born individuals in the Anglophone and French-speaking parts of Canada. Speakers are interviewed in **Quebec (initially Montreal) as well as Alberta (initially Edmonton) and Ontario (initially Peterborough)**. Thanks to the gatekeepers, it is ensured that there will be Brazilian Portuguese **speakers from Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre** at the locations listed earlier. Departing from previously known speakers and by virtue of various institutions, further speakers from these Brazilian regions in Canada will be selected, so that a large corpus of at least twenty speakers per official language area (20 in Quebec, 20 in English-speaking Canada) can be created. The majority of the speakers will be from a more or less strong social network and from the **first (or second generation) of immigrants**, since these make the largest share of Brazilian-born migrants in Canada.

5. References

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