PLACES OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN ABSTRACT TRANSLATIONS OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE

ABSTRACT: This study aims at investigating the places that foreign languages occupy in the abstract translation of articles published in journals classified with the highest rank (A1) by the Brazilian Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) in the area of Linguistics and Literature. This study is inserted within the area of Sociolinguistics, more specifically within Linguistic Policies. The methodological procedure consists in generating data from bibliographic and documental research. Results show that English occupies, in the analyzed journals, a privileged place over other foreign languages. Moreover, results also show that Spanish, French, and Italian are other possible languages adopted in the abstract translations, however, they represent a small place in the investigated journals.

1 INTRODUCTION

The CAPES Foundation (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel), a Brazilian federal government agency under the Ministry of Education (MEC), among other duties, accredits, finances, manages, and evaluates the Graduate Programs (GP) of Brazilian universities. One of the items evaluated by CAPES is the scientific production of GP faculty and students. Part of this production is published in specialized journals, which are also evaluated and classified by CAPES according to indexes that qualify the excellence of each journal and each GP.

The evaluation of these journals takes place over a four-year interstice. The current classification, in 2020, refers to the evaluation carried out in the 2013-2016 quadrennium. In this classification, each journal received a grade (referred to in Brazil as a Qualis), which symbolizes the quality of the journal. The grades (or Qualis) occur on a 1-8 scale: A1, A2, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, and C, with A1 being the highest. The next evaluation shall comprise the period between 2017 and 2020. Journals classified as A1 or A2 are considered to be of international excellence. Journals qualified as B1 or B2 refer to those of national excellence. Journals stratified as B3, B4, or B5 are considered to be of medium relevance. Qualis C journals are considered of low relevance.

The journal quality evaluation takes place within each field of knowledge in which the journal is inserted. Altogether, there are forty-nine fields, being Linguistics and Literature (Linguística e Literatura) one of them. Here a parenthesis is necessary, the name of this field appears in some CAPES documents as 'Linguistics and Literature', while, in other documents, the field is named 'Letters and Linguistics' or 'Language/Linguistics' (Letras e Linguística ou Letras/Linguística). For instance, in the 2017 GP quadrennial evaluation report, which was based on the 2013-2016 quadrennium, on the first page, there is the name 'Linguistics and Literature', and, in the same report, on page 2, 'Language and Linguistics'. In this paper, we have adopted 'Linguistics and Literature', since it is the term adopted on the web platform used for journal Qualis search (Sucupira Platform).

Considering the places foreign languages occupy in the journals evaluated with the highest grade (A1), this study aims at investigating the languages that are accepted and/or required for the abstract translation of papers published in these journals. In the academic genre 'scientific article', one of the mandatory textual items is the abstract. Another mandatory element is the translation of the abstract into one (or more) foreign language(s). In the case of papers that are not written in Brazilian Portuguese, national journals generally establish that the text must contain an abstract in Portuguese in their editorial rules for submission.
Articles published in journals, in our opinion, are the main means of communicating the results produced in universities and in GPs. For Alves (2016, p. 206), "[…] the journal is an excellent vehicle for dynamic circulation of thought and updated debate on perspectives, opening windows, inviting dialogue, pointing out ways, and bringing together diverse voices in thinking and analysis work". In the Language and Linguistics journal evaluation report (2013-2016) itself, it is mentioned the importance of journals for the dissemination of science produced in the country: "journals also constitute, also in the field of Letters and Linguistics (sic.), a fundamental means of disseminating research carried out or in process, demarcating actions of impact on the expansion and strengthening of the knowledge produced in the country" (CAPES, 2017). For Jesus (2018, p. 18), "[…] science communicates its results through, mainly, the publication of articles in journals - and there is a strict hierarchy between these spaces of visibility, some of which are respected worldwide and others, practically unknown in the global context". We realized that, over the last few years, researchers from Brazilian universities have reduced their interest in publishing the results of their studies in congresses, books, and book chapters, and have chosen to publish their research in scientific journals, considering mainly those aspects mentioned in the quotes aforementioned.

Given the introductory notes presented so far, we point out that this study falls within the area of Sociolinguistics, especially about the Linguistic Policies adopted by the journals when granting privileged places to some foreign language(s) through their editorial norms at the expense of others. This study has as a theoretical basis some postulates by Calvet (1999), who elaborated the gravitational model of the importance of languages in the world. Furthermore, we put into discussion the concepts of formal language planning and functional language planning (COOPER, 1997), and the concepts of corpus planning and status planning (CALVET, 2007).

In concern to minority languages, our study is positioned in a field of disputes and tensions regarding the places that languages occupy in the scenario of scientific dissemination. Naively, one might think that the scientist decides to choose in which language they want to publish their research. However, this is not simply a language choice. It is an adaptation to a linguistic market that delimits the places that languages can occupy and the scope that our research can obtain depending on the language used for our texts' production. We shall discuss this in more depth when analyzing the data.

In the next section, we present the method section, more specifically, we describe how this study and the data collection and analysis were carried out. In section 3, we present the description of the data and the analysis of the results. In the last part, we conclude the paper, bringing some final remarks about the results achieved with the realization of this study.

2 METHOD

The journals included in the corpus of this study are classified as A1, the highest grade, corresponding to the 2013-2016 quadrennium of CAPES evaluation. The search and identification of the journals were conducted through the Sucupira Platform. In total, there are forty-nine fields evaluated, being 'Linguistics and Literature' our focus. In this field, there are one hundred and seven records of journals classified as A1, which does not necessarily mean that there are such several journals. Some of them have both a printed and digital version, that is, the same periodical appears twice as the search result on the platform. From these data, we selected Brazilian national journals. International journals were not included in the corpus. To find out if the journal is Brazilian, we had to access every journal to check such information. From these data, we selected Brazilian national journals. International journals were not included in the corpus. This verification was necessary since it would not have any way of knowing which journals are Brazilian and are not, just by their names. For instance, Pandemonium Germanicum is a Brazilian journal, edited by the GP in German Language and Literature and by the Department of Modern Languages at the University of São Paulo; if we had not accessed the journal page, this journal could not have been included in the study corpus. Moreover, there are also cases of Portuguese journals whose names are written in Portuguese. In cases where the journal has a digital version (online) and another printed version, we have included in the corpus only the digital version because most of these journals, although they are still on the CAPES evaluation list, are no longer published in the printed version. In addition, the editorial standards are the same for both versions. After these filters, we reached a total of twenty-two Brazilian journals, classified as A1, in the field of Linguistics and Literature.
After the selection and definition of the twenty-two journals, the next step was to access the editorial rules of each journal. Our focus was specifically directed to the information on the publication of scientific papers. Our concern did not involve the analysis of the rules for publishing reviews and interviews, for example. In most cases, the editorial guidelines for publishing articles are available on the journal page in the menu section called Guidelines for authors or Instructions to authors. In this step, we focus specifically on the item abstract and the language possibilities for translating the abstracts of papers written in Portuguese. The data of the journals that compose the corpus are presented in Table 1, below.

3 DESCRIPTION AND DATA ANALYSIS

We start this section by presenting Table 1, which contains data from the twenty-two Brazilian journals in the field of Linguistics and Literature, classified by CAPES as A1, the highest grade. Next, we describe these data and analyze the results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSN</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Languages into which the abstracts can/must be translated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1807-0299</td>
<td>ALEA: Estudos Neolatinos</td>
<td>English + (Spanish, French or Italian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-5794</td>
<td>ALFA: Revista de linguística</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1678-5320</td>
<td>Ars</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2176-4573</td>
<td>Bakhtiniana: Revista de estudios do discurso</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-8122</td>
<td>Boletim do Museu paraense Emílio Goeldi</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0102-5767</td>
<td>Cadernos de Estudos Linguísticos</td>
<td>Espanhol, English or French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2175-7968</td>
<td>Cadernos de tradução</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0104-8333</td>
<td>Cadernos Pagu</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2317-1782</td>
<td>Codas</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1678-460X</td>
<td>DELTA. Documentação de estudos em linguística teórica e aplicada</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1806-9592</td>
<td>Estudos avançados</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1518-0158</td>
<td>Estudos de Literatura Brasileira Contemporânea</td>
<td>English + Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1806-9584</td>
<td>Estudos feministas</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-2553</td>
<td>Galáxia</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2175-8026</td>
<td>Ilha do desterro</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-4017</td>
<td>Linguagem em (dis)curso</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2079-312X</td>
<td>Linguística</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-6821</td>
<td>Machado de Assis em linha</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-8837</td>
<td>Pandaemonium Germanicum</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the first column of Table 1, the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is presented. An ISSN is a combination of eight digits that serve as the identity number of each journal. With this number, the search for the journal’s Qualis is facilitated. In the second column, there are, in alphabetical order, the names of the twenty-two investigated journals. In the third column, there are the foreign languages that are required and/or accepted for the abstract translation of papers written in Portuguese.

As it is possible to notice in the third column, only the journal *Cadernos de Estudos Linguísticos* allows the paper publication without the abstract translation being in English. It accepts abstract translations into English, Spanish, or French. Regarding this, the journal’s rules include the following:

The first abstract must be written in Portuguese; the second, in a language other than the one in which the article is written:

- if in Portuguese, the second abstract should be in Spanish (RESUMEN), English (ABSTRACT) or French (RESUME).
- If the article is written in Spanish, the second abstract must be in English or French; if in French, the second abstract must be in Spanish or English; if in English, French or Spanish (*CADERNOS DE ESTUDOS LINGUISTICOS*, 2020).

In other words, the author decides which language the paper abstract should be translated into. Here is an observation. The choice is limited to only three foreign languages. This discussion shall be resumed later.

In the journal *ALEA: Estudos Neolatinos*, according to its editorial rules, the author is obliged to translate the abstract into English. There is also an obligation for a second translation of the abstract, and it is possible to choose between Spanish, French or Italian.

Papers must be unpublished and accompanied by abstracts (up to 150 words) in Portuguese, English and a third language (Spanish, French or Italian) and three to five keywords in the three languages in which the abstracts are written. The title of the paper must also come in English (*ALEA: ESTUDOS NEOLATINOS*, 2020).

In the journal *Estudos de Literatura Brasileira Contemporânea*, the authors are required to provide two translations for the abstract written in Portuguese. One of the translations must be made in English and the other, also mandatory, in Spanish. According to the rules contained on the journal’s website, in the abstract item, the following is stated: “The title of the article, the abstract and the keywords must be presented in the following languages: Portuguese, English, and Spanish (*CONTEMPORARY BRAZILIAN LITERATURE STUDIES*, 2020).

The norms of the journal *Revista Linguística*, which is an official publication of the Latin American Linguistics and Philology Association (ALFAL), deserve attention in this analysis. Its editorial policy includes the following: “Linguistics aims to disseminate research on topics related to the Spanish, Portuguese, and Native American languages and their literature and cultures” (*LINGUISTICA*, 2020). The editorial policy is related to the objectives of ALFAL itself, namely: “[…] to promote the progress of both theoretical and applied linguistics and philology in Latin America - especially general linguistics, indigenous linguistics and Hispanic and Portuguese linguistics and philology- as of literary theory and criticism” (ALFAL, 2020). Concerning the rules for publishing papers in the Linguistics journal, in the abstract item, the following is established: “Written in the language of the article and in English, with up to 150 words, indicating objectives, method, results and conclusions. Below each abstract, indicate 3 to 5 keywords” (*LINGUISTIC*, 2020). The exclusivity given to English for abstract translation shows, at least, a mismatch between the...
As we can see in the data described above, there is one journal that loosens (considering a small list of allowed languages) the choice of the foreign language for the abstract translation. There is another journal that requires the abstract to be translated into English and loosens (also considering a small list of allowed languages) the choice of a foreign language for the second abstract translation. Finally, there is a journal that requires abstract translation into two languages (English and Spanish). The other nineteen journals require that the abstract be translated into English and only English. This indicates that English occupies a privileged place in this sphere: of the twenty-two journals, twenty-one require that the abstract be translated into English. In percentages, 95.45% of the places of foreign languages in the abstract translation of papers published in scientific journals classified as A1 in the field of Linguistics and Literature are occupied exclusively by English. This percentage can be increased if we consider that English is one of the options given by one of the journals that does not necessarily indicate a foreign language for the abstract translation. Following the same metric of the percentage composition used for English, we understand that 4.54% of the space is occupied by Spanish. French and Italian occupy very little space in the group of journals under analysis since they are not mandatory languages for abstract translation in any researched journal and are optional in only one of the twenty-two journals analyzed.

Data analysis allows us to affirm that English reigns supreme at the top of the podium of the languages most used for abstract translation of published papers. Spanish occupies a small place in these translations. French and Italian serve as an option for abstract translation, but there is not necessarily a place reserved for them since they are not mandatory languages for translation and serve only as an option. This analysis shows that there is an asymmetry between the places occupied by foreign languages in the investigated corpus. Another possibility of analysis is to look at this data and realize that they represent a huge exclusion of other foreign languages (German, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Guarani, Mandarin, Japanese, among many others) that could be an option for abstract translation in the publications of these journals. This exclusion of other languages in the field of knowledge dissemination also occurs in other spheres of society. As an example, in Brazil, over time, a myth was built that Portuguese is the only language spoken here, disregarding the linguistic diversity that, according to Morello (2016, p. 2), based on data from the 2010 Demographic Census, from Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), “[…] is formed by more than 250 indigenous languages, more than 50 of immigrant descendants, in addition to Creole, Sign and Afro-Brazilian languages”. These numbers may be overestimated, especially if we consider that most studies presented by sociolinguists (SAVEDRA; LAGARES, 2012, for instance) estimated around two hundred and ten languages present in the Brazilian territory.

The little appreciation for multilingualism perceived through the absence of language diversity in the abstract translation of scientific papers, in our understanding, is a reflection of a process that has been implemented in Brazil more intensely since the beginning of the last century, when there was a ban on the use of the languages of immigrants and their descendants. The nationalization program of Getúlio Vargas implemented by the Federal Government during the Estado Novo (1937-1945) strongly repressed the use of the languages of immigrants and their descendants. According to Cardoso (2016), “[…] this situation intensified during the Second World War (1939-1945) when Brazil took a stand against the Axis countries, formed by Germany, Italy, and Japan. The Brazilian government prohibited German, Italian, Japanese – and even Polish and Ukrainian immigrants – to speak their languages”.

Following our analytical path, we find, on the one hand, the defense that the knowledge produced in Academia should be published in English so that the study’s visibility is larger. On the other hand, publishing research results in other languages would favor multilingualism and place minority languages in places of greater visibility. It is worth mentioning that the notion of a minority language is quite complex, be it in terms of terminological definition, characterization, or framing. Aware that the term “minority” weighs on a discriminatory or pejorative character, some authors propose the use of minorized language, others recommend the use of ethnic language, some advise the use of language in a situation of minorization. As it is not our aim to problematize these terminological issues, in this study we work with the notion of minority language based on the perspective of Achard (1989). According to him, “[…] all languages, except one, would be a minority, in a given national space” (ACHARD, 1989, p. 31). It is necessary to clarify that the concept of a minority language does not refer exclusively to the number of speakers of the language, but...
to the importance (or lack of it) of the languages that coexist in the same space. This concept is related to what Calvet (2007) calls language status planning, or functional language planning if we adopt the terminology used by Cooper (1997).

For Calvet (2007), language management can be divided into two parts. One that deals with the language management of the language in its subject, making interventions in the form of the language through the creation of dictionaries, grammars, orthographic agreements, didactic materials, etc., known as corpus planning. The other part is status planning, that is, interventions in social functions and language assignments. The results of these interventions determine values for languages and indicate places where they can/should transit. In the words of Cooper (1997), corpus planning is treated as formal language planning and status planning is treated as functional language planning. The author also adds a third type of planning, which is language acquisition planning.

In relation to the hegemonic place currently occupied by English in different areas of modern societies, the field of Science and Higher Education is one of them, this prominent place is due to linguistic policies that have been developed over the last decades. Language policies at the corpus level (simplification of linguistic structures, verbal conjugations, among others) and at the status level. Although these two levels of policies are mutually related and complementary, our study is more directly aligned with the status of foreign languages. It is, therefore, a study linked essentially to policies that address the status and places of languages. Here is an alert for the reader unfamiliar with the topic: following the postulates of Calvet (2007), we emphasize that linguistic policies are not a phenomenon of nature. They develop amid relations of power and dispute and, therefore, are the product of human activity, so that they are the result of the interests, beliefs, objectives of those who hold the power and the ability to articulate these policies in society. The journals’ editorial standards, for example, are thought, defined, and put into practice by a group of people, who compose what is usually called the Editorial Board. Editorial decisions, therefore, are linguistic policies stemming from personal interests and not the result of natural phenomena.

In his study of the importance of languages in the world, Calvet (1999) uses the metaphor of the linguistic constellation to explain the places that languages occupy in cosmic space. For the author, in short, English is the hyper-central language, the one that is at the center of the constellation and, therefore, the most important. Some super-central languages revolve around English, such as Portuguese, Spanish, German, French, etc. Around these super-central languages, a few hundred central languages gravitate (for example: Wolof, Bambara, Breton, etc., revolve around French), and around the central languages, a few thousand peripheral languages are gravitating, such as Guarani, Tikuna, Kaiowá, Kaingang, Xavante, etc. This model proposed by Calvet (1999) is based on the perspective that languages are linked together through bilingual subjects.

The privileged place occupied by English today is a reflection of policies (linguistic, educational, economic, editorial, among others) that were adopted throughout the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, especially when globalization provokes people from different countries, speakers of different languages, to communicate. And it is worth mentioning that the intensity and magnitude of the hegemony that English occupies is something that perhaps never happened before in the history of mankind. However, it is also worth noting that in other times, other languages were ‘chosen’ as the language of communication between peoples. For Jesus (2018, p. 18), “[…] history shows that humanity tends to elect, in a cyclical way, lingua francas, this turning to the 21st century being the predominant moment of English in communication, in international trade, in the media, in education and science, among other spheres”. It is implicit in the words of the author that the place occupied by English today may, by allusion, be occupied by another language (s) in the future. In this sense, it is valid to state that the current situation reflects a succession of linguistic policies (status planning) that put English at the center of the scientific production and dissemination system. If we want this scenario to be changed, a series of linguistic policies that aim to occupy places by other languages currently placed on the margins of this system will also be necessary.

For defenders of English monolingualism, the current linguistic scenario is perfect. On the other hand, for those who defend multilingualism, this scenario is problematic, as the tendency is for knowledge produced on the periphery of the linguistic system to be made invisible as only one language is valued. In addition, it is necessary to warn that this scenario in which English assumes such hegemony tends to expand if the current linguistic policies are maintained. The foreign language framework offered in the curricular matrix of Brazilian schools is a case that can serve as a recent example of political-linguistic favoring of English. Through
Provisional Measure nº. 746, converted into Law nº. 13,415, of February 2017, since the school year of 2018, there is a legal reserve of place for the English language in the school curricula. According to what is contained in this law, in Art. 35-A, § 4º, “high school curricula will necessarily include the study of English and may offer other foreign languages, in an optional manner, preferably Spanish, in accordance with the availability of offer, places and times defined by the education systems” (BRASIL, 2017).

As one can see, there is an explicit determination about which foreign language schools should offer to their students. The impacts caused by this law are very significant. For English, the impacts of this law are extremely positive, as they move a whole linguistic, economic, educational and editorial market related to that language. For other foreign languages, in particular the Spanish language that occupied a place in the curricular matrix of some schools, the impacts of this law are negative, as they reduce the visibility and the space that Spanish occupied before the approval of that law.

Another fact that we must mention in this analytical line about the places occupied by languages in the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge has to do with the attempt to internationalize universities. This attempt at internationalization has provoked, for example, teachers to teach their subjects in undergraduate and graduate courses in English. This is because the institutions intend to approach the great centers of power in order to raise external financial resources, to show what is produced in their research centers, even if they have to abandon their linguistic diversity. On this subject, Jesus (2018, p.18) points out the following: "The problem is that these policies encourage the maintenance of the exclusionary process that is established in science. After all, the prioritization of English as a language of science has consequences that put peripheral languages at risk and makes the knowledge that is produced and circulated in them invisible".

For Hamel (2013), the large-scale reservation of a place for a single language can lead, from an ecological perspective, especially in the areas of social sciences and humanities, to a risky impoverishment of scientific development itself, in addition to accentuating even more the already existing asymmetries, both in terms of access to international science and in the production and circulation of science and technology specific to non-English-speaking countries.

4 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Our main objective was to investigate the places that occupy foreign languages in the abstract translation of published scientific articles in Brazilian journals, evaluated in the area of Linguistics and Literature and classified as A1 by CAPES. Our analysis has shown that English occupies a privileged place in relation to the other foreign languages that are accepted for abstract translation. Additionally, our analysis has also shown that there are very few languages that appear as options for abstract translation in the publications of the investigated journals. This data demonstrates how multilingualism is little valued, especially in the field of knowledge production and scientific dissemination.

We have made an effort to show throughout the analysis that the central importance given to English can, on the one hand, be beneficial if we consider the scope that the publications made in that language have. On the other hand, we warn about the increase in the invisibility of other languages that are more and more placed in a peripheral place. The analyzed data indicate that there is an asymmetry in the places occupied by foreign languages in the field of scientific production and dissemination. It remains for us to investigate whether this inequality in places occupied by foreign languages also extends to publications in journals classified with other (lower) Qualis. To answer this question, the path to be followed is that of scientific research, carrying out other studies that may clarify this question.

In conclusion, it is worth mentioning that the places occupied by languages and their status are the result of linguistic policies that are defined by people, especially those that occupy positions of power in relation to the management of languages. In the case of journal editorial standards, it is the people on the editorial board’s decision to define in which languages the articles can be written for publication and into which languages the abstracts can be translated. Therefore, it is up to all of us, researchers, editors, members of the editorial board and advocates of minority languages, to help promote a change in attitude in favor of multilingualism, whether in the field of knowledge production and scientific dissemination or in other spheres of society. By doing that, we will help other
languages to function as a means of disseminating research results and, with that, we will help to reduce the speed with which English walks in occupying privileged spaces for the dissemination of knowledge, as are the specialized journals.

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