

## Presentation

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It is a complex task to introduce a thematic Dossier in honor of Professor João Antônio de Moraes. From an academic perspective, his contributions are numerous, and it would be ambitious on our part to try to address them all here. To avoid adopting an overly general profile, we turn to the writer Autran Dourado who, in a passage from his book *A Ópera dos Mortos*, wrote:

“A man is not alone, a lake of silence; he needs to hear the music of human speech. If we do not take great care with what words say, if we do not smell their essence, and merely listen, human speech becomes rough and barbaric, full of strange noises, of highs and lows. Now, pay attention not only with your ears wide open; listen with your body, with your belly if possible, with your heart, and see, listen to the sweet modulation of the song. Only the song, the music.”<sup>1</sup>

Thus, we may say that many of us are grateful to Professor João Antônio de Moraes for having been the first to teach us to develop this careful and attentive listening to speech, being a pioneer in studies on the Prosody of Brazilian Portuguese, in addition to having contributed vastly to the fields of dialectology and lexicography.

With his customary good humor, our honoree is not only a model of scientific rigor but also of good academic practice and ethics. The founding of the Laboratory of Acoustic Phonetics at UFRJ (LabFonA-c-UFRJ) in 1988 was a milestone for the development of studies in the field at the national level. Additionally, it is important to highlight the internationalization of research in the areas of Prosody and Acoustic Phonetics in Brazil carried out by Professor João Moraes, who is a global

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<sup>1</sup> Tradução nossa

reference in studies of Brazilian Portuguese Prosody and who has fostered dialogue with important international researchers in the field.

We therefore hope that this thematic Dossier, limited to fourteen articles, reflects his great importance, especially for studies on Prosody, Phonetics, and Phonology of Brazilian Portuguese. The first section of the Dossier, titled **Prosodic Description**, consists of works that are certainly inspired by Moraes's pioneering descriptions of Brazilian Portuguese, proposing new descriptions with new corpora and atypical speech, such as Rocha et al. in **THE C-ORAL-ESQ: a brazilian corpus of schizophrenics**, and Lisboa in **Exploring prosody in questions: a pilot study of speech in ASD**. In addition, Queiroz, Cruz, and Silva present a study on **Prosodic Variation In Brazilian Sign Language (Libras)**, and finally, Silva and Pacheco, in **ARE THEY GAY OR STRAIGHT? The role of the speech and visual prosody in the perception of gender and sexual orientation**, recall Moraes's work on effeminate speech.

In the second section of our Dossier, **Prosody and Interfaces**, Massini-Cagliari presents a study in dialogue with the musical field—of great interest to our honoree—titled **Graphic segmentation, musical notation, and prosodic constituents in medieval Galician-Portuguese cantigas**. Meanwhile, the articles by Gonçalves Mallman and Rodrigues, and by Reis, present interface studies involving syntax—another area strongly developed by Professor João Moraes—in **Juxtaposition: syntax, semantics, and prosody** and **The prosodic phrasing of subject doubling in Brazilian Portuguese and its relationship with discourse: an interface study**, respectively. Concluding this section, Silva and Fonseca offer an interface study between prosody and psycholinguistics in **Prosodic Parallelism, contextual and visual cues in the processing of gapping sentences in Brazilian Portuguese**.

The third, fourth, and fifth sections of our Dossier are titled **Phonetics and Variation; Phonetics, Phonology, and Teaching**; and **Phonetics, Phonology, and Interfaces**, respectively. These sections gather articles of a descriptive nature, similar to many conducted by Professor João Moraes, for example, within the Grammar of Spoken Portuguese.

In the section **Phonetics and Variation**, we include two articles on /S/ in syllable coda position **Interdialectal variation, perceptions and evaluations of /S/ in coda position in brazilian portuguese**, by Henrique, and **The Realization of /S/ in syllable coda in the Madeira microregion – Amazonas**, by Maia.

In **Phonetics, Phonology, and Teaching**, Benamor, Serra, and Melo explore **The consequences of linguistic change on adult literacy: An analysis concerning the misspelling of <r> and rhotic deletion**, and Azevedo, Lourenço, and Nevins develop **Phonological acquisition of Libras as a second language and second modality: a study on handshape configuration errors in adult learners**.

In the final section, **Phonetics, Phonology, and Interfaces**, Vital and Balduino discuss **On the formal differences among blending, exchange and spreading**

**in slips of tongue**, and Madruga and Millas develop **PhonLex: an annotated corpus for frequency research of phonetic, phonological, and morphological units in Portuguese**.

Finally, we may say that we do not intend for this tribute to encompass all contributions and qualities of Professor João Moraes, but rather to serve as a record of our gratitude for all his teachings and for his unquestionable legacy. To the Master of us all, with affection!