Foreword

We have the pleasure of presenting this special issue of *Diadorim – Revista de Estudos Linguísticos e Literários do programa de Pós-Graduação em Letras Vernáculas (Faculdade de Letras, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro)*. It contains selected papers from the Intermediate Meeting of the Theory of Grammar Working Group (Encontro Intermediário do GT de Teoria da Gramática), which took place in July 2015 at UFMG – the Federal University of Minas Gerais, with Fabio Bonfim Duarte and Cilene Rodrigues as organizers.

The volume contains thirteen papers. Together they represent an important contribution to the field, as they explore different aspects of syntax and its interfaces. They also represent a variety of languages. Although many papers focus on Portuguese, many other less well-known languages are investigated in the following pages, such as Karitiana, Shimakonde, Tenetehára, Pirahã and Wayoro. Thus, this volume contributes comparative studies on how language computes and expresses formal features, especially those related to PF interface.

We open the issue with a paper by Anders Holmberg (Newcastle University/Cambridge University), one of the invited speakers at the plenary session, who, in collaboration with On-Usa Phimsawat (Burapha University, Thailand), discusses recent developments in their research on null generic pronouns attested in partial pro-drop languages. Their paper shows that the presence of agreement correlates with a restriction to human referents in null inclusive generic pronouns. The seven articles that follow Holmberg & Phimsawat's paper deal with ongoing research on Brazilian Portuguese (BP): Lima Jr. & Augusto's paper proposes an analysis for eventive, resultative and stative passives. Pereira analyzes issues related to number agreement within possessive DPs in a dialect of BP spoken in Minas Gerais. She argues that in this dialect the number feature has been reanalyzed as a person feature, with the result that plural agreement is restricted to phrases located above NumP. Pilati, Naves and Salles investigate the syntax of subjects in Brazilian BP, proposing that the split in the pronominal/inflectional system (1st and 2nd person, inherently definite/referential and 3rd person, underspecified for both features) is the key to accounting for the distribution of 3rd person (spatial/ temporal) locative subjects, both lexical and null, in

BP. Next, Marins, Soares da Silva & Duarte analyze BP's strategies for subject indetermination, showing that they are divided into three different groups, according to a set of features they share with respect to arbitrary and generic reference. Nicolau de Paula brings a diachronic analysis of Wh questions in BP and European Portuguese (EP), based on data collected from theater plays. Her work shows that, contrary to BP, [WhV] is the most frequent order in EP, followed by [WhVS] and [WhSV]. The pattern [WhSV] is triggered by a clefting strategy. Oliveira & Machado-Rocha's paper offers an experimental way of testing the adequacy of using the obsolescent 3rd person accusative clitic and the tonic pronoun, an option available in natural speech in alternation with null objects. Sousa presents an acoustic analysis of sentences containing ellipsis in BP (stripping, gapping and VP ellipsis), concluding that there is a parallel between elision and de-accenting given information, while contrastive information is generally marked intonationally by High or Low-High contour.

The other six papers concentrate on languages from different families. Nogueira's paper discusses the morphosyntax of nominalization in Wayoro, an endangered Tupi language, spoken in the north of Brazil. Vivanco explores the relation between prosody and word-order in Karitiana, a Tupi-Arikém language also spoken in the north of the country. Another language from the north of Brazil, Pirahã, a Mura language, is the subject of Rodrigues's paper, in which she discusses the lack of transparent morphological evidence for self-embedding in Pirahã, suggesting that one should also look at the syntax-semantics interface for this type of evidence. Camargos analyzes agreement in Tenetehára, a language from the Tupi-Guarani family, and proposes an Agree-based analysis for the phenomenon. Rodrigues de Paula investigates the grammatical status of the stative morpheme in Shimakonde, an under-documented Bantu language spoken in Mozambique. The author assumes that this morpheme expresses stativity on the verb when related to remote past tense. In contrast, when related to recent past tense, the stative morpheme is also compatible with a telic aspectual denotation.

In conclusion, this volume represents an attempt to understand different grammatical aspects of unrelated languages, and it is just for this reason that putting together these thirteen papers was a very gratifying task. It gave us the opportunity to learn from others about the inner mechanisms of grammar. We are now very pleased to pass this volume on to you, the reader, with the hope that it will please you as well.

We are greatly indebted to those who contributed during the editorial process. We are especially thankful to the distinguished team of reviewers for their invaluable work. We also give our thanks to the proofreaders listed below, and to the Portuguese Linguistics Graduate Program of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro – UFRJ and the Editorial board of *Diadorim* for their support.

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