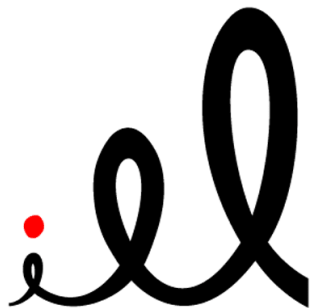




Dialect contact in the city of Santos: a study of Portuguese Immigrants' personal letters

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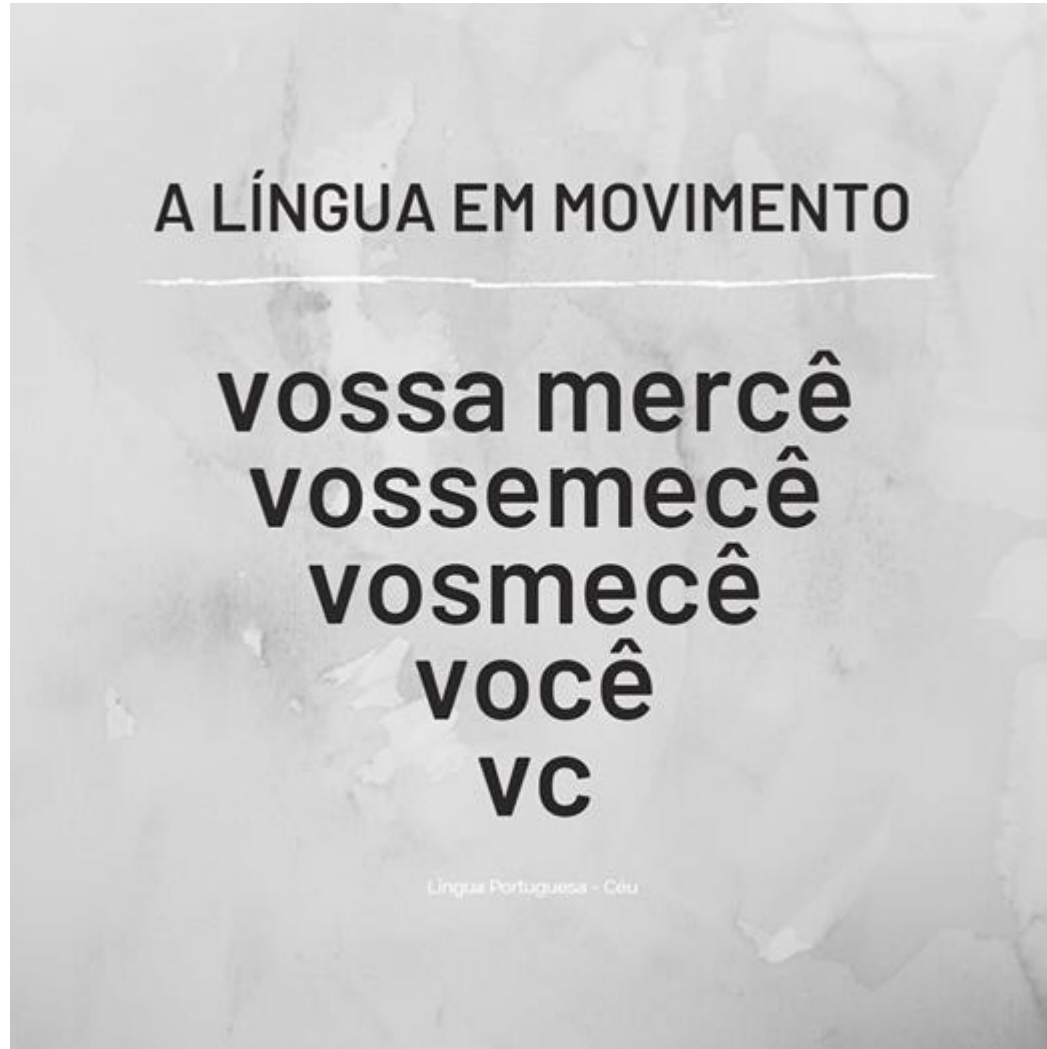
Main goals

- Study the linguistic contact between Portuguese immigrants and the Brazilian in the state of São Paulo in the end of the 19th century;
- Check the linguistic variation between the personal pronouns “tu” and “você” in the city of Santos/SP.

Pronouns and “social distance”

Pronoun	French	German	Portuguese
Familiarity	Tu	Du	Tu
Formality	Vous	Sie	Você/Vós

Pronouns in Brazilian Portuguese



Brazil and the state of São Paulo



The city of Santos



Why choosing Santos?

- In the beginning of the 20th century, about 45% of the inhabitants in Santos were immigrants (FRUTUOSO, 2004);
- Santos is the only city in the state of São Paulo where the use of the pronoun “tu” is documented (MODESTO, 2004);
- The Portuguese immigrants, the vast majority of Santos immigrant population, were known for using the pronoun “tu” more than the Brazilians in the state of São Paulo (CINTRA, 1972).

Language, power and solidarity

- Brown and Gilman's (1960) study on solidarity and power shows that:
 - The use of pronouns such as “tu” is observed in situations in which two speakers are in symmetrical power relationships;
 - The use of pronouns such as “você” would be observed in asymmetrical ones.

The immigrants' letters

esperto no mais a Deus. Lembranças as
vossas comhadas e a dona Angelica
no mais a souza e o sr. Traclete ocite
muitas lembranças minhas e da cilinha
e do Luiz e da sinhazina e um abraço
deste ~~sr~~ irmão e a filha do que muito
lhe estimo.

Sebastião. Gomes. Cardozo.

Our data

- 130 personal letters from Portuguese immigrants living in Brazil to their families.
- The corpus was created from the digital entries of the Immigration Museum of São Paulo (MUSEU DA IMIGRAÇÃO, 2019).
- The documents were transcribed and analyzed for the use of “tu” and “você”.

Our data

HIERARCHY	TOTAL
High	01
Low	99
Equal	30
TOTAL	130

- High hierarchy: two speakers in different positions of power (e.g. a parent writing to a son);
- Low hierarchy: two speakers in different positions of power (e.g. a son writing to a parent);
- Equal hierarchy: two speakers in the same position of power (e.g. a brother writing to a brother).

Our data

HIERARCHY	TOTAL
High	01
Low	99
Equal	30
TOTAL	130

17 (56%) with "tu"

10 (10%) with "tu"



A solidary community

- In the beginning of the 20th century, Santos had the first Labor Union of the country. Many social movements arouse and strikes were made against the main company of Santos: the “Docas” company;
- As Santos was a port city, most part of the immigrants worked in its harbor. In addition to it, as pointed out by Maram (1979), almost all Labor Unions were directed by Portuguese immigrants.

Final remarks

- The third wave of sociolinguistics points out communities as having an important role in the spreading of linguistic forms (ECKERT and WENGER, 2005);
- It seems to us that the Portuguese immigrants had this position of power inside the community. This factor is also related to the constant strikes that united the people from Santos.

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