REVIEW

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Cardoso, Suzana Alice Marcelino da Silva, Jacyra Andrade Mota, Vanderci de Andrade Aguilera, Maria do Socorro Silva de Aragão, Aparecida Negri Isquerdo, Abdelhak Razky & Felício Wessling Margotti (2014) *Atlas Linguístico do Brasil*, Londrina: Eduel. Vol. 1, 210 pp.; vol. 2, 368 pp.

In October 2014, during the celebration in Londrina of the III Congresso Internacional de Dialetologia e Geolinguística (III CIDS), the first two volumes of the *Atlas Lingüístico do Brasil* (*AliB*) were presented. Until now, there have been ten regional linguistic atlases published[1] in Brazil, which were crucial for the realisation of the *ALiB* project in a country where the large territorial expanse made the production of a national atlas difficult. In fact, the dedication of the introductory volume comments on how we are before a prodigious project: "To our 1100 informants scattered over the 8.515.767 km² of Brazilian lands", as well as the list of universities and researchers included in the final appendix.

Volume 1, introductory in nature, comprises six chapters covering the historical background of the *Atlas Linguístico do Brasil*, and presents the methodology applied (locations network, questionnaire and informants) and the system of mapped data. Moreover, in the final part the questionnaire, worksheets, locations network and the framework of participating

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1 *Atlas Prévio dos Falares Baianos* (1963), *Esboço de um Atlas Linguístico de Minas Gerais* (1977), *Atlas Linguístico da Paraíba* (1984), *Atlas Linguístico de Sergipe* (1987), *Atlas Linguístico do Paraná* (1990), *Atlas Linguístico-Etnográfico da Região Sul do Brasil* (2002), *Atlas Linguístico Sonoro do Pará* (2004), *Atlas Linguístico de Sergipe II* (2005), *Atlas Linguístico de Mato Grosso do Sul* (2007) and *Atlas Linguístico do Estado do Ceará* (2010). Several other state atlases are in development, to which successful doctoral and masters theses should be added.

institutions and researchers can be consulted. Volume 2 registers the data gathered in the 25 Brazilian capitals which were the focus of the study on 159 phonetic, semantic-lexical and morphosyntatic maps.

Suzana Alice Cardoso opens Volume 1 with a chapter focussing upon the history of *ALiB*, which begins in the first half of the XX century and is associated with names which are crucial in the history of Brazilian linguistics, such as Antenor Nascentes, Serafim da Silva Neto, Celso Cunha and Nelson Rossi. The first of these published *Bases para a elaboração do atlas linguístico do Brasil* (1958 and 1961) in two volumes, where the bases for the beginning of the geolinguistic fieldwork are established. In fact, for the development of the *ALiB*, all of Nascentes' indications were taken into account, although only those regarded as relevant were retained.

The project to construct an atlas was not only promoted by the Brazilian academic community, but also attained official status when, in 1952, the Brazilian government passed a decree with which the development of Brazil's linguistic atlas was identified as the principal objective of the Rui Barbosa House Philological Commission. However, as Cardoso points out, the conditions that were conducive to the completion of a task of these dimensions did not exist in the 1950s, as 63% of the population lived in the countryside in a country which was continental in size and whose communications network was precarious. Nevertheless, Brazil has experienced significant social, economic and political changes over the last sixty years on account of the increase in population concentrated in urban centres, rural depopulation (in 2010 almost one hundred and seventy-one million people lived in urban centres, as opposed to thirty million in rural areas) and intense internal migration, to which the improvement of the transport network and means of communication must be added. As a result, the language began to undergo considerable changes at a rapid pace, with which the need to describe Brazilian linguistic reality became necessary before features, uses and forms which were still unidentified were lost, and for this reason the idea of the construction of the atlas was once again adopted by researchers from different parts of Brazil, who were able rely on the guidance of Michel Contini during the initial steps.

Cardoso concludes by offering data related to the development of the project. It is interesting to point out that owing to Brazil's large territory, it was decided to present the results in two blocks: in the first, the results of the state capitals and, in the second, those of remaining locations. In 2001, the different teams began data collection work in the 25 capitals, managing to carry out 1100 inquiries by 2013.

In the second chapter, Maria do Socorro Aragão situates *ALiB* in the framework of Brazilian geolinguistics and underlines four phases for geolinguistic studies in Brazil. The first begins in 1826 with the contribution of Domingos Borges de Barros, and is characterised by the production of glossaries, vocabularies, regional dictionaries and studies of a lexical nature. The publication of *O dialeto caipira* (1920) by Amadeu Amaral, which offers a new framework for dialectal studies (given that it employs techniques and methods which were innovatory at the time), ushers in a second period. In 1952, with the passing of the aforementioned decree, the third phase begins, and is characterised by the implantation and implementation of geolinguistic studies itself. The work of Antenor Nascentes, Serafim da Silva Neto, Celso Cunha and Nelson Rossi, who published in 1963 the *Atlas prévio dos falares baianos*, Brazil's first linguistic atlas and the model for those which followed, including the *AliB*, is carried out during this period. The fourth phase, at the end of the XX century, begins with the *Atlas Linguístico do Brasil* project, and represents the moment of greatest activity for Brazilian geolinguistics, with the production of regional atlases and small domains multiplying.

In the third chapter, Aparecida Isquerdo analyses the locations network, one of the great challenges of *ALiB*. In contrast to the previous atlases, it includes urban centres and, in being an atlas of considerable scope, the network is less dense (250 locations). The author underlines the criteria followed in order to establish the locations of the survey in each state: a) locations selected by Antenor Nascentes; b) demographic density; c) spacial distribution of locations and d) the importance of location for the study of bilingualism and diglossia in border areas. Furthermore, it analyses the different economic cycles which frame the social history of Brazil, and which were decisive in the population of the country's large regions and which caused migratory movements favourable to interethnic and linguistic contacts.

Jacyra Mota dedicates the fourth chapter to the questionnaire and informants. The teacher places the *ALiB* in the methodological framework of contemporary multidimensional geolinguistics, although a brief introduction to this discipline and the reference to key authors such as H. Khun is missing. The *ALiB* includes, in addition to the diatopical parameter, other variational parameters (diastratic, diagenerational, diaphasic, diasexual or diageneric). In fact, the corpus comprises not only matters of a phonetic, phonological, semantic, lexical and morphosyntatic nature, but also matters relating to pragmatics, metalinguistics, themes for semi-directed speech and a text to be read. In its construction, the questionnaires of the published regional Brazilian atlases, as well as the *Atlas linguístico-etnográfico de Portugal e da Galiza*, were taken into account.

Regarding the informants, Mota points out that the profile is at a remove from what Chambers and Trudgill identify as NORM (non-mobile, older, rural male) in order to allow the inclusion of variables beyond the diatopical. In the selection of informants, variables such as gender and age band, and in the capitals, the level of schooling, were taken into account, although they were not always able to include the diastratic variable on account of the difficulties encountered in finding informants who fulfilled the required requisites. It is a pity, as the author herself recognises, that they were not able to carry out interviews in the group comprising 31-50 year olds, because of operational reasons in spite of the importance that is given to this group by studies in the sociolinguistic field, as well as it being the group which retains the most conservative variants, as well as that which promotes the most innovatory ones.

In the fifth chapter, Vanderci Aguilera discusses methodology and its application in the field, and highlights some of the problems encountered when carrying out interviews, as well as advancing some conclusions regarding the obtaining of inadequate responses or none at all. The author analyses the crucial role of the interviewer, given that at times the problems derive from their unfamiliarity with local linguistic and, I would add, socio-cultural reality, from the difficulty in rephrasing the question before a lack of response or before an inadequate response, and from the acceptance of any response provided by the informant without being asked any question. The author also focuses on the informants and their level of productivity, and points out three factors which determine the number of responses: the level of schooling, age and region of origin.

In the final chapter, Ana Regina Teles and Silvana Ribeiro offer a brief guide of a general nature to the history of cartography and some of its basic concepts. The authors point out that in the *ALiB* the data is georeferenced; that is, each point is identified by its geographical co-ordinates, which avoids problems when identifying locations, unlike what occurred in previous atlases. This system of cartography will enable the presentation of the digital version of maps in the future. Moreover, and with this being a multidimensional atlas, a suitable methodology for the representation of data had to be constructed, using graphs, charts and maps in those cases where it was necessary to introduce diagenerational, diageneric and diastratic parameters.

Volume 2 contains the results, represented in 159 maps, of the 25 Brazilian capitals surveyed. Previously Jacyra Mota and Ana Regina Teles explain the criteria of the presentation of maps and their typology. Following this, Aparecida Isquerdo offers a brief study of the social history of 25 capitals which make up the locations network and analyzes their toponomy. The

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same author, together with Marcela Paim and Valter Romano, explains the profile of the informants of the capitals (100 women and 100 men, distributed equally in two age bands and with different levels of schooling, were interviewed) in another chapter. Subsequently, information relating to the researchers and informants is provided, as well as 10 introductory maps which show the regional division of Brazil on a geographical and political level, existing transport networks and locations network.

The majority of the volume consists of 46 phonetic maps, 106 semantic-lexical maps and, finally, 7 morphosyntactic maps, which are presented in sequence with the alphabetic indications F, L and M beside the number of each map. It should be pointed out that for the same phenomenon or concept represented, different maps can be found; in the first, a diatopic variation is offered and in the following ones (when considered relevant), the diagenetic, diaphasic and/or diastratic variation, identified after the number of the map by the letters S, G and E, respectively. Moreover, when representing the lexical data, diatopical letters of a general nature and others of a regional nature can be found, which offer in a detailed manner the data from a specific region, identified by the letters a (north), b (northeast), c (southeast), d (south) and e (centre-west).

All the maps are accompanied by a title, situated in the top-right margin, and a caption, in the lower-right margin. The questionnaire enquiry related to the cartographical data and examples (when these are pertinent) of phonetic phenomena are displayed on the lower-left side. The representation of data on the map is realised through circular graphs or bars, which offer percentage information on each representation or shape. A bar representation was chosen for phonetic maps, some morphosyntactic maps, for the circular graphic on lexical maps and on the remaining morphosyntactic maps. A note on the reverse of the majority of maps, which lists, when these are available, single responses considered to be ideolectical variants, information which helps to understand the cartographical data and fragments of the interviews of the informants with sociolinguistic or ethnolinguistic information of interest, can be found.

Finally, a table of contents, which registers all the variants of the semantic-lexical letters and the respective notes next to the map or maps number in which they appear, and the number of the questionnaire query with which they are associated, are provided. This index is of great help when attempting to locate a specific denomination and consult its distribution.

The *Atlas Linguístico do Brasil* constitutes a fundamental work which inaugurates a new period in the history of Brazilian geolinguistics, and which is configured as a reference work for

Portuguese and Galician linguistics, as well as for Romance linguistics in general. For the first time, a vision of the entirety of the Portuguese language in Brazil has been provided, which until now has been represented by regional atlases which did not cover the extensive territory of Brazil, although as has been previously stated, these were essential in the construction process of the national atlas. Furthermore, the *ALiB* is a good display of how the methods of traditional dialectology can be complemented with those of sociolinguistics, thereby overcoming the concept which presented these two kinds of analysis as incompatible. It can be said that with the publication of the *ALiB*, the dream of Antenor Nascentes and Serafim da Silva Neto is gradually being realised.