

CLUNL

Advisory board report 2022

Preliminary note

This report was written based on the analysis of the documents provided to the Advisory Board by those in charge of the Centre of Linguistics of the University NOVA of Lisbon (CLUNL) and of the meetings with members of the three groups which currently make up the research center. These meetings were organized on March 30, 2023, according to the following schedule:

10:00 – 10:45: CLUNL Board meeting with the advisors

11:00 – 13:00: Parallel meeting sessions with the three groups.

14h30 – 16h00: Meeting with CLUNL's young researchers

16h15 – 17h00: Advisors meeting

Meeting with Group 1 (LiFE)

The meeting with Group 1 took place in two rounds: during the first round, the CLUNL board illustrated the general composition of the Institute and the strategic role of LiFE (*Linguística Formal e Experimental*) within it. The second meeting was with all members of LiFe. Both meetings were very productive and informative.

The LiFE team is composed of 12 researchers with a PhD and 25 PhD students. It also has two collaborators and two junior researchers. Not all researchers teach at Nova: some of them also teach in other universities and institutions: two researchers teach at the Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal, one at the Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa, and one at the Universidade Aberta. The institute thus has a larger network within Portugal than just the Nova. It also has a wide international network.

LiFE focuses on two main research areas: formal linguistics and experimental linguistics. Experimental linguistics feeds formal research, and vice versa. The group was conceived to foster having the constant exchange of knowledge and information between these two areas. One of the most important features of LiFE is their strong impact on society. Most group members are involved in socially relevant activities, such as the development of tools for L1 and L2 language

teaching and various assessment tools. Given the important role that this applied dimension plays in the group, a separate paragraph will be devoted to it.

In 2022, the group produced 27 publications, mainly in Portuguese. It was very visible on the international scene because of its participation in 33 national and international conferences. It had 11 ongoing externally funded projects, many of which were with international partners. Furthermore, 4 PhDs were awarded in 2022. The general impression was that this is an extremely healthy and dynamic group.

1. Formal linguistics

The researchers working on formal linguistics are mainly concerned with theoretical questions regarding Portuguese syntax. These questions are addressed and answered by making use of the output of various experiments carried out by the experimentalists in LiFE, as well as by consulting and extracting data from databases and corpora that have been designed and created by the group or by other researchers at CLUNL. Formal research questions inform many of the experiments that are carried out by the group, but which have a somewhat less central role with respect to the experimental and applied side. The group participates in several projects both inside the NOVA and outside of it, most notably the *PIPALÉ – Preventive intervention project for learning to read and write* and the *Language and literacy at school* projects.

2. Experimental linguistics

The experimental subgroup is mainly concerned with the study of the typical and atypical acquisition of Portuguese L1 and L2. This group participates in many local and international projects, particularly in *ProPerL2 – Production and Perception in L2 speech learning*, with the University of Toronto, the University of Lancaster and Camões Institute]; *Heritage Languages go to School: The interplay of (extra)linguistic factors in successful language development*, funded by the British Academy, in partnership with Lancaster University, Universidade do Minho, Universidade de Lisboa, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, the Anglo-Portuguese School of London, and the Instituto Camões. The multifaceted output of this group constitutes the applied part of the joint research.

3. Applied linguistics

The output of the two subgroups of LiFE is applied in various ways. As previously mentioned, LiFE has a strong impact on various social institutions, primarily schools. It is also a leader in the national debate on the use of Portuguese in schools.

LiFE is active in developing science-based programs for the acquisition of Portuguese as L1 (for atypical learners) as well as Portuguese L2, especially for immigrants or heritage speakers. They

have created diagnostic tools (based on both the theoretical insights and experimental results of the group members) for assessing language skills and diagnosing language impairment. One of the projects that should be highlighted is the *PIPALÉ – Preventive intervention project for learning to read and write*, which is the result of a joint effort of the whole group. The PIs, Joana Batalha and Maria Lobo, are the leaders of the experimental and formal tracks, respectively. Other members of the team participate in the project, which received funding from two municipalities (Sesimbra and Seixal), with the participation of three school clusters from the same municipalities. The project aims at creating diagnostics for the assessment of phonological and syntactic awareness, early literacy skills, and reading and writing skills. It targets teacher training and coaching, and also involves the teachers in the development of intervention materials. This is evidently an excellent example of cutting-edge citizen science participation.

General remarks

This group is very active and makes intelligent use of formal and experimental research for the benefit of society. The subgroups appear very well integrated, even if each of them has a separate direction. The PhD students, with whom we had the pleasure to interact, are a group of very motivated and driven young scholars, working on a large number of varied topics.

Meeting with Group 2 (LLT)

The meeting of the advisory committee with the LLT group was very informative since the presentations and discussions validated the detailed activity report that had been previously submitted.

The LLT group is composed of 12 PhD researchers, 24 non-PhD researchers, and 10 Collaborators. In 2022, one PhD dissertation and one MA thesis were successfully defended. The strategic lines of this group include fostering the advancement of knowledge and fundamental research as well as the pursuit of knowledge application and response to social challenges in the areas of Lexicology, Lexicography, and Terminology. As reflected in their projects, publications, PhD topics, and organization of scientific events, specific topics of focus include Terminology, Digital Humanities, Lexicographic Resources and Resource Design, and Language Teaching (from a lexical perspective).

Especially praiseworthy are their research projects, participation in international networks, scientific output, conference participation, organization of scientific events, and resource design, many of which increased in both quantity and quality in relation to the previous year. The group's investment in the scientific initiation of students and the recruitment of young researchers as well as in the dissemination of their work in publications, resources, and knowledge transfer activities is an example for others to follow.

During 2022, the LLT group participated in or coordinated an impressive total of seven funded research projects, all of which are European projects or research networking initiatives (Horizon, Erasmus+, Cost Action etc.). These projects mostly focus on the following areas:

- Terminology and Specialized Communication (e.g., Collaborative Terminology Network)
- Digital Lexicography (e.g., MorDigital)
- Digital Humanities (e.g., LL2DS, HUGOD)
- Language Teaching or Skills Improvement (e.g., iRead4Skills).

During 2022, the LLT had eight projects without external funding, but which were social relevant because of their focus on education, language resources, healthcare, and cultural heritage. Current projects without external funding are related to the digitalization of Portuguese Language Resources (VOLP-1940, Terminology (TERMVEST), corpora in relation to Terminology (CORRELATE), language resources in relation speech therapy (OrthoDef), Language Teaching (EXPRIMI), and Cultural Heritage (Cultural Heritage Lexicon, Western Sephardic Diaspora Roadmap).

The resources produced in 2022 include two lexicography-related training modules, a parallel sense-annotated corpus and a Slovenian language resource repository.

The scientific output of the group is also very good. During 2022, 13 book chapters and two journal articles were published in international journals (i.e., *Trabalhos em Linguística Aplicada*, and *BMC Health Services Research*) and prestigious publishing houses (e.g., Springer, Peter Lang, de Gruyter, and Tirant Lo Blanch). Members of the group also presented 21 papers at international conferences and two at national conferences. This work was mainly published in English and French with one book chapter and eight conference papers in Portuguese. The two reports published were related to the successful conclusion of the ELEXIS Project. It should be noted, however, that there were somewhat fewer publications in 2022 than in 2021, especially in reference to journal articles.

One of the most outstanding activities of this group is the organization of scientific events (e.g., 23rd International Conference on Languages for Specific Purposes), workshops (e.g., Workshop Term21@LREC 2022), and summer schools (e.g., Lisbon Summer School in Linguistics). The importance of such initiatives cannot be overstressed since they create an excellent context for cross-fertilization, where researchers from all over the world can come together, share their research, and learn from each other.

The research of the LLT group is centred on the Lexicology, Lexicography, and Terminology.

1. Lexicology

Publications in the area of Lexicology mostly pertain to neologisms, controlled vocabulary, and LSP. There are few ‘pure’ studies on lexicology since most of the papers and chapters focus on lexical and formal aspects of the specialized lexicon. The most salient work of the group mainly

targets the other two research areas, Lexicography (both general and specialized) and Terminology. However, Lexicology also encompasses the various publications on language teaching which do not seem to fit easily into the other subareas areas reflected in the name of the group.

In 2022, two book chapters and six conference papers were published on Language Teaching from a lexical perspective. The MA thesis defended was on language teaching strategies. In fact, Language Teaching is one of the domains for possible synergies with G1 and G3, as reflected in the current research projects. The projects in this (expanded) subarea include EXPRIMI, GiroFLE, and Read4Skills all of which address some aspect of language teaching or language rehabilitation. These projects, even those without external funding have the virtue of being socially relevant. For example, EXPRIMI has great value as an outreach project.

2. Lexicography

The group's research in Lexicography is rich and varied, as reflected in the publications and projects directly related to Digital Humanities (e.g., LL2DS and HUGOS) and the new era of electronic or 'smart' dictionaries. This is evident in the publications that focus on terminological methods that can be used to structure dictionaries in conceptual domains. In regard to lexicographic resources, the group is elaborating a digital edition of the Orthographic Dictionary of the Portuguese language and a glossary of Covid-19 terms. Research projects directly linked to Digital Humanities are MORDigital, which involves the digitalization of the *Diccionario da Lingua Portuguesa* and the VOLP-1940, the Digital Edition of the *Vocabulario Ortográfica da Lingua Portuguesa*.

3. Terminology

Terminology is another very strong research area of the LLT group especially since much of the Terminology work is also closely linked to the group's research in Specialized Language and Lexicography. The main publications in this area target various aspects of Digital Humanities, such as the structuring and representation of specialized knowledge units in dictionaries. The integration of terminological and ontological principles in lexicographic resources has become an important focus since this is a way of converting alphabetical lists in dictionaries into hierarchical domain labels. The group also studies terminology in domains, ranging from Biomedicine to Falconry

Relevant topics include ontology building, corpora, text mining, and the compilation of specialized glossaries. This valuable research has led to ontologies, corpora, and glossaries, all of which are publicly available. Funded research projects in this area include LL2DS, Humanities Gone Digital (HUGOD). Other related projects include the COVID-19 collaborative glossary, TermVest, and OrthoDef, whose goal is to increase and validate ontological and lexical resources in speech and language therapy.

4. Recommendations

As reflected in the activity report, a small number of researchers produce a disproportionately large quantity of publications and take an active role in other scientific initiatives (conference papers, networking etc.). This is the result of highly motivated staff working above and beyond the call of duty and producing high quality work in spite of a heavy lecturing and administrative load. Evidently, more administrative support and academic staff are needed. As mentioned in the previous report, university authorities have still not chosen a full professor to replace Professor Teresa Lino, who continued to play a very active role in the group from the time of her retirement to that of her death.

The 2022 activities report also seems to indicate that the group is in danger of spreading its efforts too thin because in 2022, it only published two papers in indexed journals. Even though this was somewhat compensated by the number of book chapters and conference papers presented, the group should perhaps consider giving less attention to non-funded projects and even more to projects with external funding so as not to become overextended.

In the next activities report, it would also be helpful to include employment information of the students who have graduated. This would provide data about the added value of the Linguistics Center as a place that prepares students to enter the labor market.

The group is strongly encouraged to continue and strengthen the already dynamic interaction and collaboration with the other two research groups in order to both build up the critical mass and to reinforce the basic research potential needed for projects.

Meeting with Group 3 (G&T)

The *Grammar & Text*, group includes 21 integrated members, 18 PhD collaborators working in other institutions (from Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia and Thailand), 13 young researchers, 7 of whom are grant holders. Under the direction of members of this group, four PhD theses were defended in 2022.

1. Group G&T research programs

The G&T group has continued to develop its theoretical approaches in the two areas to which it has devoted its research, scientific publications and didactic proposals over the last two decades. Taking texts as sources for synchronic and diachronic linguistic descriptions, the group continued its work on the acquisition and teaching methods of tense, aspect and modality, focusing more on the sub-domains of verbal periphrases, morphological structures and grammaticalization as well as on the diachronic evolution of nominal and verbal structures. In the same area, they also developed new approaches, concerning the role played by certain forms of grammatical processes

in the differentiation of textual genres and concerning the possibilities of redefining and reorganizing these processes from a textual angle.

Furthermore, taking authentic texts as objects of description, the group analyzed them by characterizing and differentiating textual genres and discursive types. This entailed the analysis and conceptualization of the specific properties of various genres (including commentaries, chronicles, texts of opinion, and emerging genres in social networks). On the other hand, the group used different corpora of texts to analyze the embodiments of planning and multimodality as well as the forms of expression of politeness or verbal violence.

The G&T group has implemented three new lines of research. The first deals with new computer tools for text mining, in particular the markup language MTL (*Extensible Markup Language*) and its possible exploitation in the identification of specific properties of texts genres. The second line of research deals with translation revision issues, approached through the theoretical principles and methodology of socio-discursive interactionism. The third is centered on the realization modes, in various languages, of the processes of reformulation, as well as modes of expression and development of inclusive language and/or gender stereotypes.

As indicated in greater detail in the section “Prospect and development Project” the group has further accentuated its research and intervention in the didactics of Portuguese and more generally in the didactics of languages.

Finally, as stated in previous reports, it is evident that in Latin America and Europe, the G&T group has an important leading role in research pertaining to the relationships between grammar and text, on both a theoretical and didactic level.

2. National and international production

During 2022, 16 papers by members of the group were published or accepted in scientific journals and collective works. Most of these publications were written in Portuguese, and three were published or submitted in English. During the same year, the members of the group presented papers in twenty-one conferences or other scientific meetings, including four papers in French and three in English. Also worth mentioning is the completion and defense of four PhD thesis on textual linguistics, history of temporal markings, and the construction of didactic models for the teaching of poetic text.

The group has also continued to develop the *Bibliografia de Linguística Portuguesa* (BILP), aiming at optimizing bibliographic data and allowing PDF files to be associated with each record (new version expected in September 2023).

The discussion group “Entre textos”, an initiative of PhD students in March 2021, has organized nine sessions that have brought together professors, researchers and students from both sides of the Atlantic in a forum of textual and discursive issues.

3. Prospects and development projects

In the area of fundamental research, the group plans to work on the reanalysis of grammatical structures or processes as they appear in different text genres. Their work will also address inclusive language and gender stereotypes. For 2023, it is preparing an international research project in fundamental linguistics, aimed at the development of resources and tools, such as term glossaries and corpora for data collection.

A major focus of the group's activities will be on the didactics of language and texts, within the context of the projects: (i) *Teacher training action*, scientific and methodological updating for “professors cooperantes”, pedagogical supervisors and tutors of the Masters Programs in Portuguese Teaching; (ii) *Percursos et trajetórias gramaticais* (recursos educativos digitais - REDGRAM) aimed at developing a web platform of digital resources on grammar; (iii) *Didática do texto* (DiTo), design and provision of digital didactical resources for production and comprehension of text genres.

In 2023, the group will organize the 8th International conference on Grammar & Text (Lisbon, NOVA FCSH), the 3rd *Encontra Nacional sobre Discurso Académico*. It will give three seminars in the Lisbon Summer School in Linguistics, and will participate in the XVII *Fórum de Partilha Linguística* / Forum for Linguistic Sharing.

4. Recommendations for Group 3 (G&T)

As recommended in previous reports The *Grammar & Text* group has continued to diversify and deepen its specific approach to the relations between grammar and text, both theoretically and methodologically. We had previously recommended, that they publish more papers or books in English, and/or in other European languages. In line with our recommendations, the group had intensified interactions with the two other CLUNL groups. It had also developed and diversified in an extremely important and interesting way its interventions in the field of education (language didactics) with an emphasis on techniques and procedures that exploit computer resources. We can only advise the group to continue to develop these practical-didactic interventions and take care to establish a conceptual and epistemological coherence between these practical approaches and its strictly theoretical work.

Global comments

Analysis of the structure and scientific production of the CLUNL

Previous evaluations of the CLUNL have underlined the originality and the scientific interest of the articulation of the three research groups centered on formal and experimental linguistics, the

dimensions of lexicology, lexicography and terminology, and textual linguistics in its theoretical and didactic interactions with grammar (syntax). These three groups have engaged in scientific, social, and didactic activities which are of a remarkable magnitude in view of the relatively meager financial resources received and of the lack of available teaching posts.

Despite these limited resources, the three groups have an impressive influence and impact which on the national level, and which are also remarkable on the international level. Because of the specificity of their objects and their epistemological orientation, the groups have different frameworks and modalities of interaction with foreign institutions and colleagues. The LiFE group has developed a complex network of relationships with polytechnically oriented institutions both in Portugal and abroad. The LTT group has further increased its involvement in multiple international research projects and in conferences and scientific events related to lexicology. The G&T group has confirmed its status as an international reference in the articulation of the textual and grammatical dimensions of the language, on both the theoretical and didactic levels.

During 2022, the three CLUNL groups have further accentuated the diversity and scope of their social interventions. In the field of language teaching, they have made an important contribution to the development of new programs and to the creation of new teaching tools related in particular to the teaching of Portuguese as a first or second language. In contrast, in the psychosocial field, their contributions have been to the process of identifying and treating language disorders.

Even more so than in previous evaluations, all three groups have dramatically increased the attention and support given to their students, by providing them with exchange and financial aid structures, participation in research activities and external interventions, as well as various forms of assistance so that they can publish their articles.

Finally, it should be noted that in all three groups, the diversity and impact of the research and the publications in the Portuguese language and social interventions are in vivid contrast to the relative scarcity of publications in indexed international journals.

General recommendations

As was the case in previous evaluations, this analysis confirms that given the extent of their investment in scientific research and social and educational interventions, the CLUNL should receive significantly more funding for academic resources and administrative support, especially in relation to the management of international projects. In partial connection with this request, it would be useful that at the highest level of the organization of the CLUNL a common research and intervention policy should henceforth be designed, formalized and disseminated, transcending the diversity of the orientations of the three groups.

Although the CLUNL has a wide variety of social and educational commitments, a significant number do not seem to have any funding. It would no doubt be desirable to find a better balance between interventions of a voluntary nature, which are carried out in the educational, social and/or medical spheres, and interventions within the scope of funded projects which may be of the same

order or of a strictly scientific nature, but which have the advantage of receiving adequate compensation.

Finally, of great value are the originality and interest of the various systems, local or linked with foreign institutions, implemented for the training and integration of students in teaching and research systems. These systems constitute models that also deserve support from university funding bodies

September 25, 2023

Jean-Paul Bronckart

Handwritten signature of Jean-Paul Bronckart in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'P' followed by 'Bronckart'.

Roberta d'Alessandro

Handwritten signature of Roberta d'Alessandro in blue ink, consisting of 'Roberta' followed by a stylized 'd'Alessandro'.

Pamela Faber

Handwritten signature of Pamela Faber in blue ink, consisting of 'Pamela' followed by 'Faber'.

Laurice Tiller

Handwritten signature of Laurice Tiller in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by 'Tiller'.