

## CLUNL

### Advisory board report 2021

**Preliminary note.** This report was written on the basis 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. The meetings were organized as follows:

September 5, 2022: meetings with group 1 and group 3.

September 14, 2022: meeting with group 2.

### Meeting with Group 1 (LiFE)

#### 1. Overview and output

The core LiFE group is composed of 12 researchers, 10 with teaching duties at NOVA FCSH, the Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa, the Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal, or the Universidade Aberta; one has been working full-time at the Ministry of Education since 2015, where he is currently Minister of Education, and one is retired. The group also includes 22 PhD students (8 with a scholarship), 5 collaborators, and 2 junior researchers.

As the group name *Formal and Experimental Linguistics* reflects, the main areas of research are centered on both formal linguistic approaches (to comparative syntax and phonology) and applied areas using experimental methodology (typical and atypical L1 acquisition, L2 acquisition, and L1 and L2 language teaching). PhD students and regular collaborators include schoolteachers, language teachers for adults (L2 Portuguese, as well as L2 English and other languages), and speech-language pathologists, ensuring meaningful collaborations with professional sectors.

The output of the team is varied and impressive. Output in applied areas is particularly impressive, ranging from the development of linguistic resources (corpus of L2 learners, as well as of Medieval Portuguese) to the creation of speech-language therapy tools for diagnosis, therapy and assessment and tools for L1 and L2 language teaching and assessment. Instruments developed in these projects cover a range of language domains, targeting both oral language skills and reading skills. The team is currently engaged in an impressive number of research projects. Results from team activities have been presented widely, both nationally and internationally (see below).

The group produced 1 journal article, 4 book chapters and 2 working papers in English, as well as 12 articles, 3 book chapters and 3 books in Portuguese, and featured 31 conference presentations.

#### 2. National and International Visibility

The team is visible, both nationally and internationally. Nationally, this is translated into a number of outreach events and projects, based on close collaborations with professionals, as well as regular

participation in national linguistics events, and publications in Portuguese language journals, both linguistic and applied. The team has 3 ongoing projects and 3 newly funded projects. It participates in one external project and it is part of 6 international entities, between consortia and networks.

Clear evidence of the team's international attractivity is seen in the recruitment of PhD students (East Timor, Angola, Brazil, Shanghai), and the active collaboration with international linguistics community through a number of funded research projects and networks in which are implicated many universities, in Europe and elsewhere. International visibility is also shown through regular participation in conferences, roughly half of which were international conferences taking place outside of Portugal (Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, UK).

Publications produced by the team are also equally have national as well as international impact, with some preference for the Portuguese-speaking world.

### **3. Training of young researchers**

The group currently has 22 PhD students (8 of whom have a PhD grant); three others recently completed their PhD dissertations. The team should be commended on their ability to attract such a large group of doctoral students, not only from linguistics programs, but also from related fields (speech-language therapy, education, foreign language teaching). The team leaders appear to have fostered a congenial and productive working environment, as evidenced by the perceived cohesion between doctoral students and their evident enthusiasm. The team is also involved in the training of a number of M.A. students, which evidently indicates that the doctoral program has a fertile pool for future recruitment.

### **4. Comments and recommendations**

This is an active, socially engaged group of researchers, eager to apply fundamental linguistic research to areas having high societal impact.

We encourage the team to continue to pursue theoretically driven research as the foundation of their applied work. We observed that the focus of theoretical research seems to have been slightly overshadowed by the more experimental orientation, in the last few years. While we understand this to be a sign of the dynamism and modernity of the field, we encourage the team not to abandon purely theoretical research, and to continue the very strong tradition that the team has established in this field of study in previous years.

Since the team has a commendably large number of research topics, we suggest focusing on a subset of them to make them even more visible and impactful at international level. Despite the group's immense potential, it seems that its position as research leader within the EU is still not adequately recognized. In order to ensure continued international visibility, we also encourage team members to increase publications in high-ranking English-language journals, while maintaining their significant output in Portuguese-language publications, which is essential to both theoretical Portuguese linguistics, and, especially, to applied research.

We believe that both of these are fundamental for obtaining needed funding for continuing the interesting and important work being accomplished by LiFE.

## Meeting with Group 2 (LLT)

The meeting of the advisory committee with the LLT group was extremely informative since the presentations and discussions reinforced the impression produced by the detailed activity report that had been previously submitted.

The LLT group is composed of 13 PhD researchers, 2 full-time researcher contracts, 21 Non-PhD researchers, 17 PhD students, 4 MA students, and 9 Collaborators, a very slight increase over the past two years. 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 and PhD subjects, specific topics of focus include Terminology, Ontology building, 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 the design of resources, all of which have substantially increased in both quantity and quality since the previous year. Their 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 more than evident.

More specifically, the LLT group is currently participating in or coordinating a total of 11 research projects with substantial funding or which have been approved for funding. Eight of these are European projects (Horizon, Erasmus+, etc.) which are extremely competitive. (The most recent one, approved in 2022, will receive 2,700,000 euros). These projects focus on the following areas:

- Terminology and Specialized Communication (FRIDA, Caring Communication)
- Digital Lexicography (MorDigital)
- Digital Humanities (LL2DS, HUGOD, Western Sephardic Diaspora Roadmap)
- Language Teaching or Skills Improvement (iRead4Skills, Girofle)

It should also be noted that a significant proportion of research projects, especially those without external funding, are particularly socially if not commercially relevant. The number of projects in the health and care and education sectors is particularly praiseworthy, as is the involvement in initiatives of a heritage nature (for example work on historic dictionaries, heritage language learning...). The involvement in projects concerning developing countries (Angola in particular) is another ongoing commitment for the team.

This group is also outstanding as regards its scientific output. During 2021, 25 of their research papers (over half in English or French) were published or accepted for publication in high-impact journals (e.g., *Semantic Web Journal*, *Lexicográfica*, and *Linha D'Agua*) and publishing houses (Tirant Lo Blanch, Routledge). Members of the group also presented 42 communications at international scientific conferences throughout the world.

### 1. Lexicology

Publications in the area of Lexicology mostly pertain to the structure of general language. 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

could possibly include 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 fact, Language Teaching is one the domains for possible synergies with G1 and G3, as reflected in the current research projects. The projects in this (expanded) subarea include EXPRESSI, GiroFLE, and Read4Skills all of which address some aspect of language teaching or language rehabilitation. They have the virtue of being extremely useful to society. Although EXPRESSI is still not funded, it has great value as an outreach project.

## **2. Lexicography**

The group's research in Lexicography is extremely rich and varied, as reflected in the publications and projects directly related to Digital Humanities and the new era of electronic dictionaries. This is evident in the special volume of *Linha d'Água* on Linguistics for Digital Humanities that was recently published. As previously mentioned, funded projects related to the Digital Humanities include LL2DS, HUGOD, and Western Sephardic Diaspora Roadmap)

In regard to lexicographic resources, the group is elaborating a digital edition of the Orthographic Dictionary of the Portuguese language, a glossary of Morphology, 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*. There are also non-funded projects, such as the Cultural Heritage Lexicon, which hopefully will be financed in the near future.

## **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 Lexicography. The main publications in this area are on specialized knowledge units and their representation in a wide range of domains, ranging from Islamic artefacts (Almeida 2021; Almeida and Costa 2021) through wine-tasting terminology (Barbosa 2021, forthcoming) to orthophonics (Brin-Henry et al. 2021). 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. Their funded terminology projects are FRIDA (a temporarily interrupted) and OrthoDef, whose goal is to increase and validate ontological and lexical resources in speech and language therapy. The COVID-19 collaborative glossary and TermVest have not as yet received funding.

## **4. Recommendations**

As can be seen from the above, a small number of researchers produce a disproportionately large quantity of publications and take an active role in other scientific manifestations (conference papers, networking etc.). This is partly explained by taking advantage in synergies in research projects (for example several projects in the health sector) and by using funds from financed projects to pay PhD students who thereby further their training. It is also 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. It should be noted that although the number of researchers has risen slightly, there has been no full professor designated to replace Professor Teresa Lino, who continued playing a very active role from the time of her retirement to that of her death.

In the next activities report, it would 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 of application.]

### **Meeting with Group 3 (G&T)**

The *Grammar & Text*, group includes 17 Senior researchers with PhD, 10 integrated members and 18 PhD collaborators working in other institutions (from Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia and Thailand). Under the direction of members of this group, three PhD thesis were defended in 2021 and 15 PhD thesis are in progress.

#### **1. Group G&T research programs**

The G&T group continued to develop its theoretical approaches in the field of textual linguistics and theories of discourse, with a particularly original orientation which puts in interaction the conceptual and methodological contributions of French linguists Culioli and Maingueneau as well as Coseriu's integral linguistics and socio-discursive interactionism.

The G&T group has continued its research to identify the grammatical structures and processes marking the identity of genres, focusing on emerging text genres such as techno-discourses; the group has continued its research on the values taken by tenses in genres little analyzed until now, and he has also collaborated in research on technological innovations, including auto-completion and XLM coding. In the grammatical domain, the group has developed their work on the diachronic evolution of nominal and verbal structures, and has developed new approaches, concerning the role played by certain forms of grammatical processes in the differentiation of textual genres and the possibilities of redefining and reorganizing these processes from a textual angle. Finally, the group has increased and diversified its didactic-oriented work, which includes the development of textbooks and other teaching resources, the analysis of textual productions of pupils as well as the analysis of training interactions in this field, and which includes, at the university level, the required properties of MOOCs.

It is important to emphasize that the G&T group has acquired, in Latin America and French-speaking Europe, the status of leader in research on the topic of the relationships between grammar and text; and this both on the level of theoretical research and on that of research and practical interventions in didactics.

#### **2. National and international production**

During 2021, 66 papers by members of the group have been published or accepted in scientific journals and collective works, including around ten in collaboration with members of the other two groups. While most of these publications were written in Portuguese, there are some publications in English and French. There has also been a considerable increase in the interventions of members of the group in scientific events (more than sixty in 2021). Moreover, team dynamics is also evidenced in the number of ongoing PhDs and the integration of young researchers in their activities and projects; also noteworthy is the interest of the establishment, on the initiative of PhD students, of a discussion group "Entre textos" which organizes interaction sessions between research

professors and students on both sides of the Atlantic. Like every two years, the group organized in 2021 the 7<sup>th</sup> conference GRATO (*International Conference on Grammar and Text*) event who have acquired a strong European reputation.

### **3. Prospects and development projects**

The current objectives of the group are as follows. In the field of fundamental research, the group will pursue the development of work reanalyzing grammatical structures or processes (such as periphrases and grammaticalization) as they appear in different text genres. In the same field, the group will place particular emphasis on the sociological and socio-historical dimensions of textuality, including new research on inclusive language and gender stereotypes. In language teaching, the group will continue its process of increasing and diversifying educational work: with analysis of programs and/or training processes and the development of teaching materials for Portuguese first and second language as well as for certain foreign languages. In 2022, the group will organize the 21<sup>st</sup> Workshop Gramática & Texto (*(Des)confinar a linguagem; práticas gramaticais, textuais e discursivas*) and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Gramática & Texto (*Indeterminação*); he will participate in Lisbon Summer School in Linguistics and in XVI Fórum de Partilha Linguística / Forum for Linguistic Sharing.

### **4. Recommendations for Group 3 (G&T)**

The *Grammar & Text* group has acquired an international reputation in the field of the relations between grammar and text, and we must obviously recommend that the group continue, deepen and diversify this approach: on the one hand by developing research aimed at identifying and conceptualizing the mechanisms of interaction between the formal properties and the textual properties of various grammatical structures; on the other hand by emphasizing the process of developing a specific theoretical framework, by integrating and reformulating current borrowed frameworks. On these theoretical topics, it would be necessary for the unit to publish more papers or books in English, and/or in other European languages.

As was recommended in the previous report, the group needs to further develop the quality and the diversity of research relating to language teaching issues, and should also continue and intensify interactions with the two other CLUNL groups.

## **Global comments**

### **1. Elements of the CLUNL situation**

Since its creation in 2000, the CLUNL has experienced several forms of structural organization, before effectively stabilizing its architecture in 2020 in three imposing research groups: *Formal and Experimental Linguistics (LiFE)*, *Lexicology, Lexicography and Terminology (LLT)* and *Grammar & Text (G&T)*. The titles of these groups show that they are theoretical orientations which, in the organizational configurations of research in linguistics, are rarely articulated in an overall structure; articulation whose originality thus turns out to be potentially fruitful.

These three current groups were formed as soon as CLUNL was created, and they have experienced continuous development in their specific field of research, in terms of the theoretical and methodological requirements of fundamental research, which is reflected in the scale and the quality of the publications of the members of the three groups, as well as by their imposing presence at the international level, in research networks and scientific events. More specifically, the three CLUNL groups have identified specific problems for the resolution of which they have developed original research programs and obtained results whose publications have earned them a solid reputation in Europe, Latin America and North America. In addition to numerous collaborations with foreign colleagues in research and publications, this integration into global networks has resulted particularly in the obtaining of numerous research credits or participation in international research projects, as well as in the presence, in the three groups of CLUNL, of many young researchers from the five continents

Over the past few years, CLUNL groups have developed many forms of intervention and applied research in the areas of terminology and digital humanities, language acquisition processes (and possible language deficits), of teaching in multilingual situations and teaching programs and methods of the Portuguese language.

In addition to this excellence in the fundamental and applied sections of research, the three groups of CLUNL have distinguished themselves since their creation by a remarkable density of training activities for PhD and Master students, as well as by the numerical importance of doctoral theses prepared and defended there.

During previous evaluations of CLUNL, two recommendations were regularly addressed to the three groups: on the one hand, to set up and/or develop forms of interaction between the three groups in research programs and activities; on the other hand, to increase the development of interventions and research linked to societal needs of an educational, didactic and/or social nature.

On the basis of the files presented and the exchanges carried out within the framework of this 2022 evaluation, it appears that the collaborations between the three groups have increased, in particular within the framework of theoretical research collaborations and in training interventions, in particular in the educational fields of Portugal.

## **2. Recommendations**

Previous recommendations to increase collaboration between the three groups have evidently been taken into account; however, they remain limited with regards to fundamental research, which is ultimately “normal” due to the specific theoretical and methodological characteristics of the work of the three groups. In this field, we could rather advise the groups to pursue, within their own organization, the formulation and clarification of their own epistemological and theoretical positioning, which would in particular make it possible to better highlight, at the national and international levels, the theoretical specificities of their work.

In terms of interventions in the field of education, effective and productive forms of collaboration have been set up, and we can only recommend that these collaborations continue and develop, and thus constitute the major place for forms of interaction between the three groups.

As in previous evaluations, we recommend that efforts be continued to highlight the interest, quality and specificity of CLUNL's research at the international level, which necessarily implies that greater efforts are required to increase publications in foreign languages and particularly in English.

We cannot close these recommendations without pointing out, once again, the gap between the scope of CLUNL's work in the theoretical field, as in psychological and didactic interventions, with the relative meagerness of the resources at their disposal in terms of research positions and research credits.

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