

## CLUNL Advisory board report

### *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 centre. These online meetings were organized on May 20, 2024, according to the following schedule:

Time (CET)	Sessions
10h00 – 11h00	Meeting with CLUNL Board
	<i>coffee break</i>
11h15 – 12h15	Meeting with CLUNL's young researchers
	<i>lunch break</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Meetings with CLUNL's groups (simultaneous) (1) Meeting of LiFE & their advisors (2) Meeting of LLT & their advisors (3) Meeting of G&T & their advisors
	<i>coffee break</i>
15h45 – 16h15	Wrap up & report preparation (advisors & CLUNL Board)

### **Meeting with Group 1 (LiFE)**

The LiFE team is composed of 11 researchers with a PhD and 22 PhD students. It also has eight collaborators and three junior researchers. Most of the researchers with PhDs teach at Nova (8), but two teach at the speech-language pathology department of the Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal and one at the Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa. Not only does the team have a solid network inside Portugal, it also has a wide international network.

As its name makes clear, LiFE contributes to two over-arching **research domains**: formal linguistics and experimental linguistics, the latter taken broadly to include many kinds of applied work. The fundamental goal of the group is to advance knowledge in these two areas, through meaningful cross-fertilization. In other words, not only is the experimental/applied work informed by formal linguistics, the latter is advanced by the results of the former. This research group is very far from research "in an ivory tower"; indeed, societal impact is very much in the forefront, from development of targeted pedagogical tools to creation of oral and written language assessment tools.

In this evaluation period, **scientific production** continued at a similarly high level as in the previous evaluation period. The group produced 22 publications, in Portuguese (10) and in English (12). Notable were the high level of participation in national (19) and international (48) conferences, the 11 ongoing externally funded projects and networks, most of which were with international partners, and the 4 PhDs were completed during this period. The group is also organizing the largest European language acquisition conference this year (GALA 2024), as well as an L2 Phonology Research Forum and several APL meetings. Overall, this group is impressive because of its local, national, and international engagements, and its continued capacity to recruit PhD students whose enthusiasm and dedication is evident.

LiFE work in the area of **formal linguistics** is mainly concerned with theoretical questions regarding Portuguese syntax and phonology, but also in theoretical questions inherent in study of child language acquisition, and in second language and heritage language acquisition. The empirical foundation for the study of these theoretical questions comes from experimental work (see below) and databases designed and created by the group or by other CLUNL researchers (examples are an L2 Portuguese database and a corpus of oral and written narratives produced by primary school children).

The **experimental linguistics** subcomponent of LiFE studies typical and atypical acquisition of Portuguese, L1 and L2. This research is part of several local projects, and international projects, in the areas of heritage language (the Heritage Language Consortium, with the University of Lancaster, University of Tübingen, and several other Portuguese universities, L2 acquisition (the EUTOPIA Alliance with the Brije Universitetit Brussels), and bilingualism (ANACOREX, with the University of Granada), among others.

The fundamental and experimental research carried out in the LiFE group is consistently and impressively invested into a far-reaching program of applied research. Adding to the tools previously created by the group are a number of new instruments and interventional materials, for reading (a placement test, assessment of reading skills, development of phonological, syntactic, and lexical awareness) and for language development (assessment of narrative production and comprehension). This participative research is based on collaborations with schools, and has included not only the creation of assessment and diagnostic tools, but also teacher training and coaching, and involvement of teachers in tool design.

**Summarizing**, LiFE continues to contribute to advancing understanding of theoretical issues in formal linguistics while at the same time producing a body of experimental research which both fosters and is fostered by the fundamental work. The combination of these two allows for continued and meaningful applied research that has genuine societal impact. These goals, rather than dividing the group into subgroups, appear to bind the group, including the PhD students, a particularly enthusiastic group of young researchers. Meaningful applied research is predicated upon strong ties with key frontline actors (teachers, speech-language pathologists, policy makers); such ties require robust, long-term partnerships, which LiFE has clearly established in several different sectors. The recruitment of PhD students with hands-on experience in these sectors further attests to the legitimacy of these ties.

## 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 currently composed of 9 permanent integrated members, 18 Ph.D. researchers, 5 master researchers, and 10 collaborators. Compared to 2022, the group has known a sharp increase as regards Ph.D. students (from 12 to 18). In 2023, two PhD dissertation and 6 MA thesis were successfully defended (vs. 1 PhD and 1 master thesis in 2022). These rough figures seem to indicate a strengthening of the LLT group's research capabilities. The average number of Ph.D. students per permanent members is about 2, but it appears that the supervision of doctoral students is concentrated around some of the permanent members of the team, which could be explained by various local factors.

The strategic lines of this group include fostering the advancement of knowledge and fundamental research as well as the development of applications connected to social challenges in the areas of Lexicology, Lexicography, and Terminology. One of the team's specific features in the pursuit of these objectives is the focus on the digital dimension, which underpins the vast majority of the projects, publications, PhD topics, and organization of scientific events.

The strength of the LLT group's scientific activities originates in the number of funded research projects it manages to obtain in a highly competitive environment. In 2023, an impressive amount of 18 funded projects were in operation in the LLT group, several of which are European projects or research networking initiatives (Horizon, Erasmus+, Cost Action, etc.). In particular, the group joined three new Cost Actions this year, showing a sharp interest in taking part to international collaborations. These projects mostly focus on the following areas:

- Terminology and Specialized Communication (HEREDITARY, *Horizon Program*; *Cost Action* on Repository of Phraseme Constructions)
- Technology and Lexicology (3 Cost Actions)

- Digital Humanities (e.g., LL2DS, HUGOD)
- Language Teaching or Skills Improvement (e.g., iRead4Skills, *Horizon program*).

In addition to these 8 European projects, the group also initiated 10 projects that are nationally or internally funded, among which e-Term ANCV and TTC-CPLP which are supported by the Instituto Internacional da Língua Portuguesa; MORDigital (supported by the FCT) or Nobarriers2Health, supported by a NOVA FCSH support. It must be stressed that those projects have generally a high social relevance because of their focus on education, language resources, healthcare, and cultural heritage.

The scientific output of the group is also good. This year, 9 papers were published in international journals (i.e. *Lexicography*, *Études de linguistique appliquée*, *Cahiers de Lexicologie*, *Digital Translation*, etc.), which is much more than in 2022 (2 papers). In addition, members of the group also presented as much as 35 communications in either international conferences and workshops (25) or in national ones (10). Sixteen of those oral communications led to written papers published as proceedings in a book. This work was mainly published in English, French and Portuguese.

As regards the resources produced in 2023, they also exceed 2022 by three and include three dictionaries, a dataset with texts annotated as regards complexity, and an ontology for Mathematics. Among the dictionaries, we can highlight the *Dicionário da Língua Portuguesa*, compiled in collaboration with the Science Academy of Lisbon, which includes more than 100,000 entries. Its electronic version on the web (<https://dicionario.acad-ciencias.pt/>) attracted more than one million requests during its first year of existence.

One of the most outstanding activities of this group is the organization of as many as 13 scientific events, being either main conferences (e.g., PROPOR 2024, the main NLP conference for Portuguese, MDTT 2023, LaICL 2023, or LDK 2023) workshops (e.g., SALLD-3, TermTrends 2023), summer schools (e.g., Lisbon Summer School in Linguistics), or more local events. 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. Although this type of activities is not highly valued according to dominant scientific career indicators, it is of critical importance for maintaining the scientific dynamism of the fields concerned.

The MA and PhD projects of young researchers also highlight the fact that the research activity of the LLT group is centred on the Lexicology, Lexicography, and Terminology.

### ***Lexicology***

Projects in Lexicology mainly focus on teaching Portuguese as a foreign language as well as the production and linguistic features of texts written by or for certain population groups. Other topics include metaphor in newspaper texts and the integration of specialized Art terms in a general language WordNet.

### *Lexicography*

Young researchers have four dictionary projects, related to Portuguese and the languages spoken in Angola. Two of these focus on the creation of a learners' dictionaries, whereas the third and fourth are centered on the construction of a digital dictionary and a thesaurus of Angolan toponyms and hydrotponyms, respectively. The fifth dictionary project is dictionary for the sensory analysis of wine.

### *Terminology*

Another very productive research area for PhD projects is Terminology. The projects proposed by young researchers focus on the terminology used in Medicine (infectious diseases, assisted procreation, and social health services) Military Science, Law (Angolan customs sector and Angolan legal-administrative terminology), and Literature.

**Summarizing**, all of these projects are very promising and the results should lead to more publications that will showcase the research in Group 2. Indeed, as underlined throughout the report, 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 excellent.

## Meeting with Group 3 (G&T)

The Grammar & Text group connects and enhances grammatical and text /discourse approaches to language. The group is characterized by developing linguistic research based on the interplay of different perspectives (synchronic and diachronic) and different theoretical frameworks, by promoting the integration of young researchers and by promoting cooperation with other national and international research teams.

The G&T team is composed of 17 integrated members with a PhD, 10 young researchers (PhD students), 5 PhD grant holders, 3 young researchers (teacher training grant holders), 7 PhD collaborators and 14 external collaborators. Not only does the team have a solid network inside Portugal, it also has a wide international network (Portugal, Brazil, Argentina, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland...)

Some of the **research domains** of the G&T group are synchronic and diachronic descriptions of Portuguese (contemporary European Portuguese: temporal and aspectual properties, verbal periphrases, tenses and modality; diachronic approaches of Portuguese...), Text and Discourse Studies (descriptive approaches, historical dimensions, citizenship perspectives...) and didactical (or educational) interventions.

The **scientific production** is at a high level. In 2023 there were 30 publications from authors or editors, mainly in Portuguese but also in English and French. Among the publications

planned for 2024, a collective volume on *The Portuguese Verb; Textos de Henriqueta Costa Campos* and *O Plural da Norma* should be highlighted.

The group's identity mark is the International Conference on Grammar and Text - **GRATO** organized biannually since 2009, it is already a nationally and internationally recognized brand. It is about the research that crosses text/discourse studies and grammatical approaches. The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Grammar and Text - GRATO 2023 with the topic *Continuidades e Desafios em Gramática & Texto* was organized in June 2023.

Other relevant outputs were the conference organizations such as the *3º Encontro Nacional sobre Discurso Académico (ENDA 3)*, held on September 7 and 8, 2023, NOVA FCSH, Lisboa, in co-organization with CELGA/ILTEC; *3º Congresso Internacional Inovação e Tecnologia no Ensino de Línguas- Avaliação Digital no Ensino de Línguas (iTel 2023)* held on November 6 and 7, 2023; *WGT – Sedia la fremosa... Homenagem a Teresa Brocardo* (Tribute to Teresa Brocardo), NOVA FCSH, held in June 2024; as well as a recently submitted project by the groups G&T and LIFE: *Diachronic Evolution of Verbs in Iberian Languages: changes in syntax and meaning and emergence of discursive uses*.

Very important are the activities in the field of **didactics** that were carried out in 2023, for example *Teacher training action* (January-May 2023): *Language, text and literacy - Specific educational methodologies*, and projects such as *Percursos e trajetórias gramaticais (recursos educativos digitais – REDGRAM)* with the aim of developing a website (or web platform) of digital resources on grammar (addressed to teachers and students), *DiTo – Didática do texto* in order to conceive (and make available online) didactic devices involving production and comprehension of text genres, including texts in literary activity; and *Active Citizenship Through Dialogue in Virtual Teacher Communities* [2022-2024].

We also need to mention the **Summer School 2023** with 3 courses which was carried out in the framework of G&T in collaboration with the University of Hanover, Germany, the University of Minho, Portugal, and the University of Rosario, Argentina, and the **Summer School 2024** carried out in July 2024 with 3 G&T courses in collaboration with Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, and Nova CLUNL, Portugal.

Activities with doctoral students and early career researchers are highlighted. The group has five PhD grants, two PhD theses concluded in 2023 and four ongoing PhD theses, to be concluded in 2024. Also worth mentioning is the monthly online meeting *EntreTextos* Grupo de Discussão / Discussion Group organized by PhD students and young PhD, which has been running since March 2021 and regularly brings together professors, researchers and students from both sides of the Atlantic around textual and discursive issues.

**Summarizing**, The G&T Group continues to contribute to the development of linguistic research based on the interplay of different perspectives (synchronic and diachronic) and different theoretical frameworks, promoting the integration of young researchers (by

offering seminars, supervision of master and PhD dissertations and granting scholarships for introduction to research) and encouraging collaboration with other national and international research teams.

G&T is a very active group with great scientific relevance, both theoretical and practical. It has an important impact not only on the national and international scientific environment, but also on society in general, by promoting the dissemination of scientific data on those domains concerned with the nature and structure of language and texts. The assessment of the activities carried out by this group can only be a very positive one.

### **General Suggestions for Groups 1, 2, and 3**

As reflected in all the reports, the three groups are very active, each with significant output. Given the diversity of the research foci, fostering collaboration or integration between the groups is necessarily challenging, but could enhance the internal dynamics of the Centre.

The members of the advisory board feel that the unifying goals and strategy of the research center as a whole, as well as of each of the three groups, could be made more explicit, so that these come out stronger. We think that evaluators without intimate knowledge of the center could have an impression of dispersion, both within groups and within the center, and could come away with a global view of a number of distinct, autonomous projects running in parallel. To help avoid this impression of dispersion, we have the following suggestions.

In our opinion, a strategy consisting of exhaustive enumeration and summary description of all research projects runs the risk of diluting the focus and major contributions of CLUNL. It might be useful to move projects which are more peripheral (less directly related to the explicit goal of the groups and the center), or harder to illustrate at this point, to the background, and maybe not take space/time to do more than list them, or maybe even, for some, not talking at all about them at all if they do not contribute in any readily understandable way to the over-arching research goals. Such a strategy, we believe, would make it possible to meaningfully highlight those projects which you believe best illustrate your research goals and strategies. The center's major contributions are quite strong, and deserve to be given prominence, making even clearer the excellence of the center's achievements.

It is also evident that more administrative support and academic staff are needed because the large number of publications is the result of a 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.

Finally, we would like to congratulate all three groups for their magnificent work and funded projects, which will doubtlessly continue in the future.

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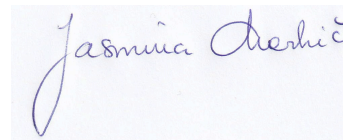


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