

# Saber com Lógica: Editorial review

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## Learning Report

**Abstract**—In this report I shall describe the lessons I gathered during the realization of the Editorial Review of the chapter of the book *Saber com Lógica*. I will start this process by talking about my motivations for taking this activity and the goals I hoped to achieve based on them. I will cover the major obstacles I had to overcome and how passing each of them made me grow as an individual. I shall also mention the interactions I had with Engineer Silva (E.S.) and how his attitude and our exchanges gave me valuable knowledge. In summary, this document is the result of my experiences and my interpretation of them.

**Index Terms**—Review, meeting, lesson  $\LaTeX$ , paper.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

To start this report I would like to talk about my motivations for taking this ordeal. Frankly speaking I love English literature and, as my current course probably reveals, I like Information Tecnology (IT). Since I was a kid I often dreamt about writing my own book and I will even confess to have some clumsy attempts stored somewhere in a hard drive. So when an activity that was related to all of this was made available through the system I jumped at the opportunity.

It was an unique chance to learn more about the process of writing a book more so, one that tried to divulge the knowledge of something I love to a broad audience. It was all too perfect. If at the same time I somehow managed to improve my time management and understanding of large scope projects, even better.

I ended up with more than I bargained for, but as with many things in life, for each mistake I made and for each action I analyzed, there were other valuable lessons that can all too easily be

missed if one is not looking for them.

## 2 THE FIRST CONTACT

To start of this section we need some context. It was mid November when E.S. and the coaching team announced a meeting for the start of the activities. Unfortunately at the time I was away and busy, and as such missed the opportunity to attend the first meeting. As matter of fact it was only one week later that I managed to establish contact with E.S. and got started on the activities, and it was here that I got my first lesson.

Due to my delay on the contact I would have understood if I had an a cold welcome by the part of the activity coordinator, but instead, he proved himself to be very available to get me started on the project. He promptly answered my emails and even my calls. He readily disclosed information and overall tried to facilitate my integration into the process. It made me feel like I owed him for his actions, and that motivated me to get started on the work and cooperate with him.

This is particularly interesting because my current thesis involves the use of social powers, and this kind of relationship was briefly mentioned in one of the many sources I had read about it. I must say I wasn't too convinced at

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first but after seeing the results it was hard to argue with the points made by them.

For a reader of this document, how could he/she access the mentioned Report without a citation and reference?

## 2.1 Meeting and Motivation

Shortly afterwards I had my first meeting with E.S.. It was a pretty informal meeting as was described in the activity report. The main lesson I gathered from this occasion was related to motivation.

As I talked with E.S., it was patent that he was passionate about his book project. It was clearly something important for him and he displayed it through his gestures and words. At the same time he maintained a composed yet informal speech as to not overwhelm me in the conversation. I must confess that his enthusiasm was somewhat contagious, as by the time we were done I was fully motivated to start working on the project and I wanted to be a part of the creation of the book.

## 3 REVIEW AND DISAPPOINTMENT

I must confess that when I started working on the review itself I was left disappointed. The Portuguese, version although mostly correct in terms of semantics and grammar wasn't particularly well written, but since it is an instructional book that wasn't too problematic. The English version on the other hand was faring very poorly. I had changed so much text for so many reasons that I was getting into a slump. Add that to the fact that I thought that the writing style should be improved upon and for me it was clear that the best solution was a total rewriting of the English part.

I gathered my wits and scheduled a meeting with E.S. to discuss the reviewing process where I had the unfortunate goal of suggesting that the text should be rewritten. This proved to be most beneficial. In retrospective I think this was one of my best decisions during the process. I could had just as easily just given an half-baked review, correct most of the syntax and grammar errors and leave it at that. But due to the contacts mentioned above I had the feeling I ought to do more.

What report?

## 4 THE SECOND MEETING

As I mentioned in my other report, the second meeting was considerably more formal and long. I decided to methodically go through the list of problems I had seen in the manuscript. E.S. took my criticism seriously and well. I must say I was impressed because hearing that much criticism about something you spent so much effort into must be hard at any stage in one's life. And it was at this point that I was humbled by yet another lesson.

### 4.1 Shortcomings and Honesty

At one point of the conversation, E.S. gave me the missing piece. He confessed that his English was quite unpolished as he had little training on it. The text I had in my hands was in fact the already rewritten English part. I do not know if he brought this up because he sensed the direction in which I was going with the conversation, or if it naturally came up but in that moment a lot of the problems I had spotted finally made sense.

Knowing this, I could not possibly suggest a total rewriting as it would solve little. The content of the text was indeed very good after all. I don't believe I had mentioned this before, but the content itself was very neatly organized, and if one was willing to look past the multiple recurring mistakes in the language, it was a very nice read.

And here lies the lesson. If E.S. hadn't come to terms with the criticism or his own shortcomings, I couldn't have reached the level of understanding required for us to improve the work. However facing the problems head on and accepting that we needed to overcome them gave me a whole new perspective and allowed me to look for another solution.

### 4.2 Negotiation and revaluation of objectives

By then I understood, that the text I had, was indeed his best and that a lot of effort went into it. It would be hard, but with much work it would be possible to improve significantly the quality of the text. I think it should be clear to the reader, that if any of the steps I had

gone through before this had gone differently, we might have never reached this point. This is why every single one of them is so valuable. It was right then that I realized that I needed to go over the goals of review once again. It was simply impossible for me to review all the work I had been given if I was to do all the necessary changes. So we ended up having to negotiate my workload. By the end we agreed that I should focus on the English part and only on the chapter I had previously selected. His willingness to discuss allowed me to stay motivated and true to the goal of providing the best quality review.

### 4.3 The fault in the previous meeting

It was here that one of my previous mistakes came to play. As I discussed the subject more and more with E.S. it became increasingly clear that my method of displaying the changes to the text was far from optimal.

If I had discussed this in more detail in the first meeting I would be able to save a lot of work, but now in order to present good quality work I needed to redo a good part of my previous work. E.S. then showed me an example from one of my colleagues from the previous year which was easy enough to follow, and proved to be a good tool for him to explain me how he would prefer for me to present my report. The lesson here is simple, just because I assumed I had understood the requirements of the process, doesn't exempt me from asking about them in detail. After all changes midway are usually a problem.

## 5 PERSEVERANCE TO THE END

The remaining work only required perseverance. The review itself proved to be a tiresome job. Despite being rewarding, the number of repetitive mistakes proved to be a test for the patience, but as I mentioned previously I was motivated to continue. All I needed to do was to keep going until I was satisfied with the quality. I just needed to focus and keep going. It is interesting how something as simple as a mindset can have so much impact on one's productivity. When the reviewing work was

done all that was left to do was contacting E.S.. I submitted my work and then inquired on his satisfaction. Although I am still waiting for a reply concerning the quality, he confirmed the delivery and I finally accepted my work as done.

## 6 CONCLUSION

Overall it was a painstaking yet rewarding work. I feel I have learned a lot in this experience, and even if it was frustrating at times I am very pleased by the end result. I am sure these experiences will come in handy in the future, mainly those concerning mindsets and availability. There is a heart to work that one cannot ignore.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Firstly I would like to thank professor Rui Cruz and the portfolio course. Although I admit I haven't always been the biggest fan of this particular course I felt that this last venture in it was both rewarding and interesting and this experience wouldn't have been possible without them.

I would also like to thank Engineer Silva, for all of his availability and merits he displayed. I managed to learn a lot from his actions and words. It was good to work with him and I wish him the best for the completion of the book.

*In this type of document (technical), the conclusion should start with a summary of the subject addressed and then should highlight the results.*

**APPENDIX**