

ON THE INTERACTION BETWEEN PROPER NAMES AND DEMONSTRATIVES IN BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE

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This work discusses the interaction between Brazilian Portuguese demonstratives and proper nouns in constructions such as “Essa Maria” (This Maria), from a semantic and pragmatic point of view. The objective is to understand the role of each one in the different uses and how they contribute to various interpretations. We verified that these constructions have deictic (direct and deferred reference), anaphoric, and emotive uses. In each of these uses, it is possible to find an interpretation of stages of the referent, not pointed out in the literature. The formalization used is the one proposed by Wolter (2006) that uses situations as a parameter for evaluating sentential predicates, and for which demonstratives are evaluated in subsituations of the general situation. We concluded that (i) the proper noun is responsible for determining the referent, considering that from it it is possible to identify it unequivocally in the physical context (deictic use), in the linguistic environment (anaphoric use), of shared knowledge (emotive use); and (ii) the demonstrative is the element responsible for information such as physical, emotional, temporal proximity/distance in relation to the referent or stages of this referent. Thus, semantics comes into play when the referent is determined and pragmatics when the demonstrative is used, especially because the constructions in which the expression demonstrative + proper noun appears would be grammatical without the presence of the demonstrative: “Essa Maria é excelente!” (This Maria is excellent) *versus* “(A) Maria é excelente!” ((The) Maria is excellent).

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