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NOTES ON THE DESCRIPTION OF THE VERB IN FIVE 19TH CENTURY BRAZILIAN GRAMMARS

Cavaliere Ricardo

Universidade Federal Fluminense

Résumé

Le but de cet article est d'examiner la description du verbe dans les grammaires portugaises publiées au Brésil au XIX^e siècle, y compris une référence à leur fondement théorique, leur *métalangage*, leurs sources doctrinales, outre leur rôle dans le développement de la recherche linguistique au Brésil. Le travail utilise comme corpus cinq grammaires, deux d'entre elles appartenant au modèle rationaliste, basé sur la tradition de la *Grammaire de Port-Royal* (2010 [1660]), dont les principes sont arrivés au Brésil principalement par la *Gramática filosófica da língua portuguesa* (2005 [1822]) de Jerônimo Soares Barbosa (1737-1816), et trois d'entre elles appartenant au modèle scientifique basé sur la linguistique évolutionniste d'August Schleicher (1821-1868) et sur les thèses de la grammaire historique et comparée.

Mots clés

Verbe, grammaticographie brésilienne, XIX^e siècle

Abstract

This paper examines the description of the verb in five 19-th century. Portuguese grammars that have been published in Brazil, including a special reference to their theoretical foundation, their meta-language, their doctrinal sources, besides their significance for the development of linguistic research in Brazil. Among the five grammars, two of them belong to the the *Rationalist Period*, based on the tradition of the *Grammaire de Port-Royal*(2010[1660]), the principles of which arrived in Brazil mainly through the *Gramática filosófica da língua portuguesa*(2005[1822]), by Jerônimo Soares Barbosa (1737-1816), and three of them belong to the *Scientific Period*, based on August Schleicher's evolutionary linguistics (1821–1868)) and on the theses of historical-comparative grammar.

Key-words

Verb, Brazilian grammaticography, 19-th century.

PARADIGMATIC PROFILE OF 19-TH CENTURY BRAZILIAN GRAMMARS

The 19th century witnessed, in Brazil, the emergence of two trends in the grammatical description of Portuguese, based on different theoretical models. At the beginning of the century, the *Epitome da gramática portuguesa* (1831[1806]) was published, with which Antônio de Morais Silva (1755-1824) inaugurated the so-called *Rationalist Period*¹ of Brazilian linguistic studies, the theoretical bases of which come from the *Grammaire raisonnée de Port-Royal*. The fact that Morais Silva published the *Epitome* in Portugal has motivated some historians of linguistics to disregard him as a forerunner of the grammaticography of Portuguese in Brazil, allied with evidence that, although he was born in Rio de Janeiro, Morais Silva was a subject of the Portuguese Crown². The best historiographic position is to consider the *Epitome* as a Brazilian grammatical work, since it is the fruit of a Brazilian grammarian, although he was born in a Portuguese colony³, a procedure that is also adopted in relation to 17th- and 18th- century Brazilian literature.

¹On the periodisation of linguistic studies in Brazil, see (Nascentes 1939), (Câmara Jr. 1972), (Elia 1975) and Cavaliere (2002).

² This is an issue that affects, for example, the Archaic poets who were born in the 18th century, although they are doubtlessly considered Brazilian poets today.

³The incisive note “born in Rio de Janeiro”, that Morais Silva stamps on the title page of his *Dictionary* (Silva 1831 [1789]) must be taken into consideration.

The *Epítome*, visibly inspired by figures such as Étienne de Condillac (1715-1780), César Chesneau Dumarsais (1676-1756), Charles Pinot Duclos (1704-1772) and, more directly, Jerônimo Soares Barbosa (1734-1801), is based on language description according to the rationalist concepts of Port-Royal. It is not our purpose here to dwell on an in-depth analysis of such a significant work in the history of Brazilian linguistics⁴. It should be pointed out that, after the *Epítome*, several grammatical texts were published in Brazil following the creation of the Royal Press (Impressão Régia) in 1808⁵, in which the theoretical bases are namely of a philosophical nature. Consequently, the number of grammatical texts that aimed at teaching the vernacular in the classroom grew over the course of approximately half a century.

Among the most prominent Brazilian grammarians of this period we must cite Inácio Felizardo Fortes (?-1856), Antônio da Costa Duarte (?-?), Filipe Benício Conduru (1818-1878), José Alexandre Passos (1808-1898), Francisco Sotero dos Reis (1800-1871), Charles Grivet (1816-1876), Antônio Alvares Pereira Coruja (1806-1889) and Ernesto Carneiro Ribeiro (1839-1920). The most visible legacy of Brazilian rationalist grammar was a marked prescriptivism, without a definite *corpus*, a characteristic that effectively overlaps with the analysis of linguistic facts in the light of the doctrinal canons. This fact reveals, in a superficial reading, merely the normative side of these grammars, which, in our opinion, does not reflect the true profile of the texts produced on the Rationalist Period⁶.

From 1870s onwards, a Brazilian grammar of the Portuguese language emerges that is built on the pillar of linguistic evolutionism. Now, in a clear change of paradigmatic directions, the task of the grammarian, whose canons are based on a *corpus* of literary language, is joined to that of the linguist concerned with the description and analysis of facts of language in the light of the new concepts introduced by the tradition of August Schleicher (1821-1868) and Wilhelm Scherer (1841-1886)⁷. The normative, purist trend is abandoned in favour of an approach that analyses the facts of language across all areas of grammatical description: phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, and stylistics. In Brazilian grammatical historiography, we identify this moment as the *Scientific Period*.

Figures such as Júlio Ribeiro (1845-1890), João Ribeiro (1860-1934), Fausto Barreto (1852-1908), Alfredo Gomes (1859-1924), Manuel Pacheco da Silva Júnior (1842-1899), José Ventura Bôscoli (1855-1919), Maximino de Araújo Maciel (1866-1923), among others, are part of this great movement of Brazilian grammatical production, whose legacy includes several theses on diachronic linguistics, especially in the field of morphology. Also published in Brazil is the first work that refers to general linguistics: the *Traços gerais de linguística* (Ribeiro, 1880), in which one can find the nodal themes of linguistic evolutionism, such as language processing in the brain, sound production by the phonatory apparatus as well as the hereditary lineage of language families.

⁴On the *Epítome*, see (Assunção 1999), (Verdelho, 2003), (Murakawa 2006) and (Cavaliere 2014).

⁵ The first Brazilian grammar of Portuguese published by the Impressão Régia is the *Arte de gramática portuguesa* (1816), by Inácio Felizardo Fortes (?-1856).

⁶See Cavaliere (2014).

⁷ In fact, the evolutionist ideas arrived indirectly in Brazil, through the work of linguists like Adolfo Coelho (1847-1919) and Abel Hovelacque (1843-1896). Nevertheless, Julio Ribeiro quotes directly August Schleicher, Charles Darwin (1809-1882) and Ernst Haeckel (1834 — 1919) in his *Traços gerais de linguística* (1880, p. 9-31).

In brief, an overview of 19-th Brazilian grammar shows, from the eighteen-eighties onwards, a paradigmatic discontinuity clearly identified by the introduction of the evolutionary model, allied to the bases of historical-comparative grammar, in a scenario previously dominated by the rationalist model. The effects of this rupture, regarding the spread of linguistic knowledge, include the intensified production of texts that served both the pedagogical scope and research purposes, a fact that certainly deconstructed the old pedagogical order and set new directions for the teaching of Portuguese as a vernacular.

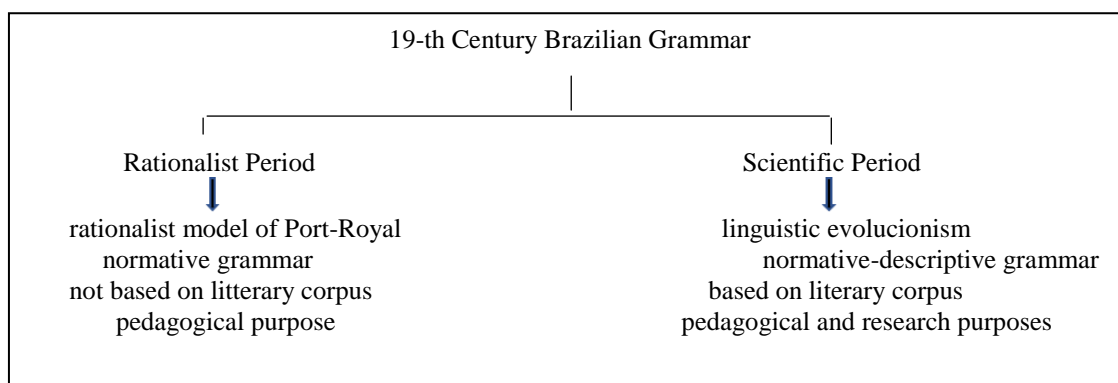


Table 1: Periodisation of Portuguese grammars in Brazil during the 19-th century.

THE CORPUS

Considering the necessary limits of this work, we have chosen to describe and analyse the verb in five eighteenth-century grammars; five of them belong to the Rationalist Period and five others were written in the Scientific Period:

1. DUARTE, Antonio da Costa. *Compendio da grammatica philosophica da lingua portugueza*. 6 ed. Maranhão: Livraria de Antonio Pereira Ramos d'Almeida, 1877[1829].
2. REIS, Francisco Sotero. *Grammatica portugueza, acomodada aos princípios geraes da palavra seguidos de immediata applicação pratica*. Maranhão: Typ. de R. d'Almeida & C., 1871[1866?].
3. RIBEIRO, Julio. *Grammatica portugueza*. 10 ed. Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo: Livraria Francisco Alves & C., 1911[1881].
4. RIBEIRO, João. *Grammatica portugueza, curso superior*. 17 ed. Rio de Janeiro: Livraria Francisco Alves, 1915[1889].
5. MACIEL, Maximino. *Grammatica descriptiva, baseada nas doutrinas modernas*. 5 ed. Rio de Janeiro: Francisco Alves & C^{ia}; Paris: Aillaud, Alves & C^{ia}, 1914[1894].

The choice of these grammars followed the criterion of their bibliographical relevance in their respective historical contextualization, as well as their reception and influence in the academic environment of their time. In this sense, all of them are successful works in the scenario of Brazilian linguistic description, widely used as vernacular teaching manuals and representative of well-defined theoretical models. Antônio de Moraes Silva's and Júlio Ribeiro's grammars have prominence, among the selected texts, since

they appear in moments of paradigmatic discontinuity in the grammaticization of Portuguese in Brazil.

THE VERB AS A PART OF SPEECH

An initial analysis reveals a significant fact, which denotes well the relevance of the verb as a part of speech. Indeed, there is, among the grammarians cited, expressive dissonance about the number and the nature of the parts of speech, a fact that can be attributed to the different guidelines and theoretical models they followed in language description. However, considering the verb, there is striking uniformity, since it is effectively one of the few parts of speech (along with the preposition and the conjunction) that appear in all the taxonomic proposals, as seen in table 2:

	Art.	Nom.		Pro.	Ver.	Adv.	Par.	Pre.	Con.	Int.
		Sub.	Adj.							
Duarte		•			•			•	•	•
Reis		•	•		•	•		•	•	•
Júlio Ribeiro	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
João Ribeiro		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Pacheco & Lameira		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•

Table 2: Parts of speech in five 19-th century Brazilian grammars.

This fact is, of course, due to the conception of the verb as the nucleus of the proposition and the term that predicates arguments, a fact that is attested from the earliest studies of classical grammar on the nature of the sentence and its mental conception. Strictly speaking, the lesson that can be drawn from this necessary reference to the verb in the phrasal structure is that it constitutes the indispensable minimum element for the construction of a meaningful discursive unit, except for the idiosyncratic question of the so-called nominal phrases, which are the subject of controversy over whether they are nonverbal discursive structures or verbal structures at the conceptual level and nonverbal at the expressional level.

DEFINITION OF THE VERB IN 19-TH CENTURY BRAZILIAN GRAMATICOGRAPHY

Consultation of the grammars cited gives us the following definitions for the verb:

a) Verbo é a palavra que anima os *termos* da proposição, e por diferentes *modos*, *tempos*, e *pessoas* exprime a união de um atributo com um sujeito, como *Deus é justo: O homem não he infalível: Applico-me ao estudo*(Duarte 1877 [1829], p. 51).

b) *Verbo* é a palavra que serve para afirmar a existencia da qualidade na substancia, pessoa ou cousa, e por conseguinte, o *nexo* ou *copula*, que une o atributo ao sujeito da proposição, frase, sentença ou enunciado de juízo. Diz-se tambem que é a palavra por excellencia, porque dá vida ao discurso, que sem ella não pode existir (Reis 1871 [1866?], p. 39);

c) Verbo é uma palavra que enuncia, diz ou declara alguma cousa. O verbo implica sempre uma asserção ou predicação(Ribeiro 1911 [1881],p. 67);

d) Verbo é a palavra pela qual póde uma acção, estado ou qualidade ser attribuida a um ser (Ribeiro 1915 [1889], p. 95);

e) Verbo é uma palavra de tempo que serve para afirmar e exprimir simultaneamente um facto. (Maciel, 1914[1894], p. 128).

«a) The verb is the word that animates the *terms* of the proposition, and by different moods, tenses and persons expresses the link between an attribute and a subject, as in: God is just: Man is not infallible: I apply myself to study

b) Verb is the word that serves to affirm the existence of a quality in a substance, person or thing, and therefore is the nexus or copula, which unites the attribute to the subject of the proposition, phrase, sentence or statement of judgment. It is also said that it is the word *par excellence*, because it gives life to discourse, and without it cannot exist.

c) Verb is a word that states, says or declares something. The verb always implies an assertion or predication.

d) Verb is the word by which an action, state or quality may be attributed to a being

e) Verb is a word of time that serves to affirm and simultaneously express a fact.»

The contrastive analysis of these definitions points to a clear change in the conception of the verb in the discontinuous course of the respective theoretical paradigms. The change begins with the definition of the verb as an essentially linguistic entity - a fact that is observed, above all, in Reis' definition, which typifies it as an instrument for assigning quality to substance - and the verb is finally seen as an effectively autonomous lexical item, from the semantic and syntactic point of view, as João Ribeiro and Maximino Maciel affirm. Note that Ribeiro does not deviate from Duarte, or even Reis, in relation to the copulative role of the verb, but instead assigns to the verb its own semantic value, so that the figure of this part of the speech ceases to be an accessory in the predication, to become nuclear as the centre of the syntactical predication.

The conception of the verb as a predicator is not clear in Maciel's definition, which chooses to characterize it as an autonomous lexical item that simultaneously "affirms and expresses" a fact. It must be observed that this double function, emphasized by the adverb "simultaneously", should be interpreted as the grammatical two-sidedness of the verb as a lexical item and as an autonomous term, at the taxonomical and functional levels, in the construction of the sentence. I understand, therefore, that "to express" means how to express a syntactical function that fits in the architecture of the sentence.

VERB CONJUGATION

The following verb conjugation definitions can be observed:

a) *Conjugação* é a serie das terminações diferentes, que a forma primitiva de qualquer verbo toma, para enunciar de diferente modo a relação de conveniência, os diferentes tempos desta relação, e para indicar o caracter e o numero da pessoa, que lhe serve de sujeito (Duarte 1877 [1829], p. 55).

b) (...) tem o verbo a [propriedade] de tomar inflexões diversas: primo, para acomodar-se á pessoa e numero do sujeito a que respeita a afirmação; secundo, para exprimir o tempo a que ella se refere; tercio, para significar o modo por que a mesma se faz (Reis 1871 [1866?], p. 40).

c) Há em Portuguez quatro conjugações que se distinguem pela terminação do presente do infinito:

a primeira tem a terminação do presente do infinito em *ar*, ex.: *Cantar*.

"segunda" " " " " " *er*, ex.: *Vender*.

"terceira" " " " " " *ir*, ex.: *Partir*.

"quarta" " " " " " *ôr*, ex.: *Pôr* (Ribeiro 1911 [1881], p. 106).

« The infinitive ending in *or*, which is observed only in the verb *pôr*, does not give rise to a special conjugation, because *pôr* is a contraction of the old *poer*, as it was previously said».

VERB MOOD: CONCEPTUAL DIVERSITY

Verb mood was understood as the form that the verb assumes to qualify its enunciation or the conditions of the assortment. The tradition of Júlio Ribeiro, based on the ideas of Michel Bréal (1832-1915)⁸, established four verb moods in Portuguese: the *indicative*, in which a real enunciation of the verb is expressed, the *conditional*, in which the enunciation depends on a condition, the *imperative*, in which the enunciation reflects an order or a manifestation of will, and the *subjunctive*, that expresses contingency.

Júlio Ribeiro excluded the verb moods from the infinitive and from the participle, “antes fórmās nominaes do verbo do que modos” (Ribeiro 1911[1881], p. 78) «that are nominal forms of the verb, not exactly moods». In other studies, however, one can find a reference to the infinitive as a verb mood - “enuncia o facto verbal de modo vago, indefinido e indeterminado” (Pereira, 1908, p. 95) «enunciates the verbal fact in a vague, indefinite and indeterminate way»- a position that clashed with the Latin tradition, that associated the infinite and participle forms with a nominal value. In a consensual position, Maximino Maciel considers only the inflected infinitive, which is typical of Portuguese, to be a verb mood, conferring the denomination of nominal forms of the verb on the noninflected infinitive and on the participle.

In the Rationalist Period, Costa Duarte refers to three verb moods: the *impersonal infinitive mood*, in which the verb has an absolute sense, the *indicative mood*, in which the verb is inflected in tenses of affirmative aspect and the *subjunctive mood*, of dubitative meaning. Along the same lines Sotero dos Reis adds the *imperative mood*, which Duarte includes among the indicative tenses, and the *personal infinitive mood*. In the period of Scientific Grammar, the *conditional mood* appears in the main grammars, given its more modal than temporal nature in discourse. A conception of forms like *cantaria* as a future tense of the indicative arises only in the 20-th century within the morphological studies of Manuel Said Ali (1861-1953).

VERB TENSES: THREE IDIOSYNCRASIES

In general, grammatical time is defined vis a vis the moment of the speech act, as Duarte states:

Tempo é uma parte da duração ou existencia. O tempo é relativo ao acto mesmo de quem está falando (Duarte 1877 [1829]), p. 60).

«Time is a part of duration or existence. Time is relative to the very act of the one who is speaking».

Hence, the conception of verb tenses is always linked to the present: the past precedes the present and the future comes after the present.

Given the extremely synthetic nature of this paper, I shall refer here briefly to the most unusual aspects of the description of verb tenses. First, I would like to refer the

⁸ See Bréal (1877).

imperfect tenses to do “tempos imperfeitos por fazer”, as Duarte calls them, which include periphrastic forms with *ter* and *haver* plus infinitives governed by *de*: *hei de fazer*, *tenho de estudar* etc. According to Duarte, such constructions are not exactly compound tenses of the verb, or even verbal locutions, but

(...) umas verdadeiras proposições a que por elipse falta o complemento objetivo (...) *Hei* ou *tenho de ser*, *de estudar*, é o mesmo que dizer, *ter*, ou *hei tenção*, *resolução* & c., *de ser*, *de estudar* &c (Duarte 1877[1829]), p.60).

«real propositions in which the objective complement is ellipted. *Hei* or *tenho de ser*, *de estudar*, is the same as *ter*, or *hei tenção*, *resolução* & c., *de ser*, *de estudar* &c.».

Also in Duarte’s grammar we can read a distinct interpretation of periphrases built around *er* or *haver* + participle, which the tradition of the 20th century would call the compound past perfect, considering the semantic value of European Portuguese, as well as its past value in crystallized expressions such as “Tenho dito”. According to Duarte, the periphrases composed of *ter* or *haver* + participle mean

a successive series of states or actions of the same species from a determined or indeterminate time until the present in which it unites, ends and completes. This series is considered collectively, that is, as a whole connected with the Present. For this reason, it had to be denominated Perfect Present (Duarte 1877 [1829]), p. 61-62).

«uma serie successiva de estados ou accções da mesma especie desde um tempo determinado ou indeterminado até o Presente em que se une, acaba e completa. Essa serie se considera collectivamente, isto é, como um todo ligado ao Presente. Pelo que não póde convir-lhe senão a denominação de Presente Perfeito».

In relation to this same periphrasis of *ter* or *haver* + participle –for example, *tenho falado* - Júlio Ribeiro, adopting a singular position, calls it perfect tense of the indicative mood, reserving, thus, for the simple perfect tense—for example, *ele falou* - the denomination of *aoristo*⁹. Ribeiro’s decision is largely explained in a chapter of his grammar dedicated to the question. In synthetic terms, Ribeiro argues that the simple perfect tense in Portuguese, being an inheritance of the Latin *perfectum* present tense, fulfills the aspectual function of expressing an action in an indefinite moment of the past: *Carlos morreu*. According to Ribeiro, with support from Eugène Burnouf (1801-1852), in Romance languages the perfect tense is defined only when the sentence contains an adverbial term that places the action in time: *Carlos morreu ontem*.

Ribeiro, therefore, concludes that such an indefinite character of the Portuguese perfect tense confers on it the typicality of the Greek aorist, a verb tense also present in Sanskrit, whose distinction from the perfect in these languages is exactly based on the opposition between nondetermined and determined facts. In addition, Ribeiro maintains that the Latin *perfectum* accumulates the dual function of expressing definite and indefinite past facts, the reason why, in the first case, it must be accompanied by an adverb of time; consequently, the

Latin perfect is an aorist, not a true perfect (Ribeiro 1911 [1881], 344).

«O perfeito latino é um aoristo e não um verdadeiro perfeito.»

⁹On the aoristo in Ribeiro’s grammar, see Cavaliere (2015, p. 70-81).

Since the function performed by the Portuguese perfect tense is exactly the same, the Brazilian grammarian concludes that this tense is also essentially aoristic in the vernacular.

Ribeiro's reasoning would be absolutely justified if the Greek aorist were restricted to marking an indefinite point in the past. It happens, however, that this tense opposes both the present and the perfect tenses, because it marks an indefinite moment in the course of the process, not just in the past. The idea of past tense, which is attributed to it, only exists in the indicative mood. In the other moods of the Greek verb paradigm, the aorist only retains the aspectual value¹⁰.

As we can see, therefore, there is no absolute correspondence between the Greek aorist and the present of the *perfectum* mood in Latin, although we must admit, with Ribeiro, that this Latin tense obviously expresses an undefined aspectual value. Whatever the case may be, it can be unequivocally affirmed that Ribeiro's proposal did not find fertile ground in the scientific grammar period, as contemporary studies show it. His aoristic hypothesis on the Portuguese tense paradigm is today a "conceptual island" in the history of grammatical ideas in Brazil.

Finally, two words about Maximino Maciel's hypothesis on the existence of deponent verbs in Portuguese, based on the concept that such verbs express in Latin grammar. Maciel affirms that some Portuguese verbs like the Latin ones, can express active meaning in passive forms. The Brazilian grammarian argues that such a fact, frequently seen in Romance languages, characterizes verbs of complete predication, especially those that express the idea of movement.

Initially, it should be noted that deponency manifests itself not in certain verbs, as it does in Latin, but in some verb periphrases with the auxiliaries *ser* and *estar*, a fact that makes the denomination *deponent verbs* undeniably improper. Besides, this fact, even by the time Maciel's grammar had been published, was restricted to some set phrases in Portuguese, as we can see in "É chegada a hora de partir", "Eram passados três anos" etc. The use of these set phrases seeks to attribute a higher degree of aesthetic formalism to the text, notwithstanding their common use until at least Camões' era, as can be attested in the verse "Porém cinco sóis já eram passados" (Camões 1572, p. 86) or in this verse by José Agostinho de Macedo: "Entrados sois na grande Trapobana" (1827, p. 134).

In his reasons, Maciel asserts that this verbal construction is usual in the living language, especially in regard to the verbs *chegar*, *vir*, *partir*, *passar*

and almost all of those with complete predication, those that express movement, including the verbs *morrer* and *nascer* (Maciel 1914, p. 181).

«e quasi todos os de predicação completa, de movimento, inclusive os verbos *morrer* e *nascer*».

In fact, this high frequency of use is linked to the crystallized verbal locutions cited, some of which became phrasal crystallizations, as in the case of "Agora Inês é morta". It cannot be denied, however, that deponent periphrases with *ser* + movement verbs are common in other Romance languages, such as French and Italian.

¹⁰ See (Berenguer Amenós 1999 [1946], p. 73).

This idiosyncrasy in Maximino Maciel's grammar - he is the only Brazilian grammarian who refers to Portuguese deponent verbs - can be attributed to his deep commitment to diachronic linguistics, allied to an undeniable trend towards taxonomic classification. Curiously, it can be observed that in his grammar Maciel places the deponent verbs in the section concerned with "flexão conjugativa" [mood inflection], that is, of those accidents pertaining to verb conjugation, instead of referring to them in the section that deals with the typological classification of verbs.

CONCLUSION

As seen in this paper, the treatment of the verb by the five 19-th century Brazilian grammarians, who belong to both the Rationalist and Scientific Periods, highlights the relevance of this part of speech in the sentence structure, considering its relevance as predicator, which defines the syntactic relations that constitute the phrasal structure. Given the complex nature of the verb, be it from the morphological or from the syntactic point of view, idiosyncratic visions appear here and there that lead to extravagant descriptions that require deeper analysis, as it can be especially observed in Antônio da Costa Duarte's, Júlio Ribeiro's and Maximino Maciel's proposals. An equally necessary task would be the comparison of such old proposals with those that can be found in the most recent Brazilian grammars of the Portuguese language, so that one can verify to what extent the old concepts conflict with the current concepts or, conversely, coincide with them.

The verb as a grammatical part of speech has always deserved special reference in most of the grammatical text books of all pedagogical levels, given its relevance for the construction of the sentence and production of meaning. This is a fact that can also be verified not only in the grammatical texts of the 20th century, but also in the most recent grammars, with significant enrichment by the theoretical apparatus of the new trends of linguistics. On the other hand, considering the richness of Brazilian linguistic production in the 19-th century, with special regard to the grammatization of Portuguese, it is certainly necessary to deepen the research on the grammatical thought of the time, with individualized and more detailed study of each author in the two paradigmatic periods referred to in this paper. This task should bring new insights to understand the course of linguistic thought in Brazil and contribute to revealing the relevant facts that have fostered the diffusion of linguistic knowledge and its application in the teaching of the vernacular.

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