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Call for papers: **Gender and Language: perspetives and challenges**

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Gender and language: perspectives and challenges

The issue of inclusive, non-sexist, gender-equal or gender-sensitive language has taken hold at a social and political level, with different positions (as happens whenever the status quo is shaken). This development is not restricted to one particular language or to one particular country, but is relevant in many Western countries no matter which language is concerned. The issue has also entered the scientific field, within the scope of linguistics or language sciences, with considerable dynamism at the international level, focusing on both morphological aspects and the history of the language(s) as well as factors linked to discursive uses (see Cerquiglini 2019; Constantin de Chanay, Chevalier and Gardelle 2017; de Miguel 2022; Diewald and Steinhauer 2022; Diewald forthcoming; Rabatel and Rosier 2019; a.o.). In Portugal, however, scientific discussion has remained

limited (Coutinho 2021; Matos 2020), despite extensive legislation which, at least since 2009, has recommended the use of inclusive language, particularly in public administration, and the publication of numerous inclusive language manuals. There are signs of resistance from both society and the linguistic community - as well as positions that seek and push for change. Therefore, we need to develop consistent thought, from a linguistic point of view, which is the target of this volume.

There are different perspectives to be considered. First, there is the distinction of several layers of analysis, in particular the distinction between the notions of grammatical gender, social gender, and sex. While grammatical gender is a formal property of (individual) languages, social gender, and sex per se are language-independent factors; however, they interact with linguistic phenomena in various ways. Second, it's necessary to highlight that, from a social interactionist conception of language (Voloshinov, 1977 [1929]), the praxeological and gnosiological dimensions are part of the way in which language intervenes in the social, permanently re(constructing) the world, or the so-called 'real'. In this sense, choosing to say a generically masculine world or choosing to say an inclusive world is a choice, a more or less conscious decision - made by those who use language, at the moment they use it. It's true that the norm - naturally fulfilling its role of regulation - acts as a brake on more or less improbable or even controversial choices. But its power is certainly no greater than that of the dynamism of language itself. Consequently, it's expected that linguistic description should be able to cope with that same dynamism - as Coseriu (1987, 23) has well shown.

From this point of view, resistance is opposed to (meta)linguistic reflection and sustained research - which can provide a framework for experimentation and - where appropriate, or when appropriate - record (systematize, standardize) the uses (some uses) that may today fall outside the norm.

This is the context of this thematic issue. The aim is to bring to the discussion scientific argumentation that provides a broad and enlightened view of the problem under analysis and, to the same extent, contributes to supporting, in practical terms, the implementation and operationalization of linguistically supported inclusive language strategies.

In a non-exhaustive way, a list of topics that fall within these objectives includes the following points:

- discussion of the notions of equal language, non-sexist language, inclusive language, gender-sensitive language, gender-fair language;
- linguistic perspectives (historical linguistics, morphology, discourse analysis, a. o.) that recover and demonstrate the plasticity of languages (or their non-immutability);
- data that allows the strategies in use to be linguistically framed with the system and the norm from a gender-sensitive language perspective;
- a linguistic description that allows one to understand both the specificities of the system of each language concerning gender (grammatical) issues and the solutions that are found and practiced in the use of that language (possibly from a contrastive perspective);
- inventorying discursive strategies (formulation and reformulation, among others) as factors of "de-naturalization" about the usual uses of sexist language.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive. We encourage you to submit other proposals that fit in with the theme of the dossier. Texts are accepted in Portuguese, English, Spanish, and French.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Submission deadline: **January 15, 2024**

Notification of acceptance decisions: **March 15, 2024**

Deadline for submission of the revised version by the authors: **April 15, 2024**

Publication date: **June, 2024**

SUBMISSION

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Summary and cover of last issue:

