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Portuguese Language in Angola: Discursive Memory, Coloniality, and Multilingualism in the Traces of Angolan Portuguese in the National Written Press

Portuguese language in Angola: discursive memory, coloniality and multilingualism in the marks of Angolan Portuguese in the national written press

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Abstract

This study analyzes the traces of Angolan Portuguese in the national written press, identifying the discursive, historical, and sociolinguistic processes that contribute to the construction of its linguistic identity. The research starts from the understanding that Portuguese in Angola results from the interaction between colonial heritage, national languages, and contemporary sociocultural dynamics. The work is based on the assumptions of materialist Discourse Analysis of Pêcheutian origin, Variationist Sociolinguistics, and studies on linguistic coloniality. Methodologically, it is a bibliographic research with documentary analysis, using as its corpus texts published in Angolan newspapers. The results show the presence of lexical and discursive markers that reveal processes of historical memory, multilingualism, and identity affirmation in the Angolan context.

Keywords: Coloniality; Written press; Discursive memory; Multilingualism; Angolan Portuguese.

Abstract

This study analyzes the characteristics of Angolan Portuguese in the national written press, identifying the discursive, historical, and sociolinguistic processes that contribute to the construction of its linguistic identity. The research is based on the understanding that Portuguese in Angola results from the interaction between the colonial heritage, national languages, and contemporary sociocultural dynamics. The study is grounded in the assumptions of Pêcheux's materialist Discourse Analysis, Variationist Sociolinguistics, and studies on linguistic coloniality. Methodologically, it consists of a bibliographic study combined with documentary analysis, using texts published in Angolan newspapers as its corpus. The findings reveal lexical and discursive features that reflect processes of historical memory, multilingualism, and identity affirmation in the Angolan context.

Keywords: Coloniality; Written Press; Discursive Memory; Multilingualism; Angolan Portuguese.

Initial Considerations

The Portuguese language occupies a prominent position in the sociolinguistic reality of Angola. establishing itself as the official language of the State and as the main means of communication between the various ethnolinguistic groups existing in the country. However, its implementation in Angola does not It occurs homogeneously, as it results from a long historical process marked by Portuguese colonization, through coexistence with local languages of African origin and through social transformations that occurred after independence.

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In this context, the national print media presents itself as a privileged space for
to observe the dynamics of the Portuguese language in Angola, since it manifests itself there
different forms of discursive construction, marks of historical memory and elements
linguistic features stemming from Angola's cultural and linguistic diversity.

The Constitution of the Republic of Angola (ANGOLA, 2010), in its Article 19, establishes the
Portuguese as an official language of the Republic of Angola, while also recognizing the
The importance of other Angolan languages is recognized, and it is determined that the State should promote their study.
teaching and use.

In turn, Law No. 1/17, of January 23 (Press Law) (ANGOLA, 2017), in its
Articles 1 and 5 guarantee freedom of the press and the free exercise of journalistic activity.
creating conditions for the media to act as spaces for the production, circulation, and reproduction of
discourses. It is in this scenario that it becomes pertinent to analyze
the marks of Angolan Portuguese present in the national written press, particularly
those that reveal processes of discursive memory, coloniality, and
multilingualism.

The problem that justifies conducting this study lies in the need to understand
how Angolan newspapers incorporate, reproduce, or reinterpret linguistic elements and
discursive elements inherited from the colonial period, as well as influences stemming from languages
Angolan women.

Thus, the present study, entitled "Portuguese Language in Angola: discursive memory,
Coloniality and multilingualism in the traces of Angolan Portuguese in the written press.
The general objective of this article is to analyze the marks of Angolan Portuguese in the press.
national writing, identifying the discursive, historical, and sociolinguistic processes that
They contribute to the construction of their linguistic identity.

This investigative exercise aims to contribute to the study of the Portuguese language.
in Angola, from Discourse Analysis and Sociolinguistics, offering theoretical and...
analytical tools for understanding the particularities of Angolan Portuguese and how it manifests itself.
It manifests itself in written media. The intention is also to encourage reflection.
about the relationship between language, identity, historical memory, and cultural diversity in society.
contemporary Angolan.

Developed from a predominantly qualitative perspective, using research.
Based on bibliographic and documentary research, this study is divided into two parts. In the first,
Following the theoretical framework, the central concepts are then addressed.

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related to the Portuguese language in Angola, discursive memory, coloniality, the Multilingualism and the print media. The second part, dedicated to results and discussion, The analysis of the corpus consisting of texts from the national print media is carried out, identifying the main linguistic and discursive features of Angolan Portuguese present in newspapers selected.

Finally, it is acknowledged that the relevance and complexity of the subject matter prevent its... exhaustion in a single investigation. Thus, this study does not intend to present conclusions. not to provide definitive answers about the phenomenon analyzed, but rather to constitute an academic contribution to the deepening discussions surrounding the Portuguese language in Angola, its discursive specificities and their relationship with historical, cultural and sociolinguistic factors that shape national reality.

From this perspective, the aim is to understand how the marks of Angolan Portuguese Present in the print media, they contribute to the construction and affirmation of identity. Angolan linguistics, as well as for the consolidation of Angolan Portuguese as a variant. dynamic and constantly changing.

Part I: Theoretical Foundation

1.1 - The Portuguese Language in Angola: Historical, Social, and Linguistic Context

The presence of the Portuguese language in Angola is intrinsically linked to the process of Colonization began in the 15th century, and its spread intensified throughout the occupation. Portuguese colonialism through administration, evangelization, schooling and political structures established by colonial power. In this context, the Portuguese language left from being merely a communication tool for the metropolis to progressively assuming the status as a language of social prestige and access to formal state structures.

As Mariani (2004) observes, the processes of linguistic colonization involve Mechanisms of symbolic imposition that go beyond the mere diffusion of a language. influencing ways of thinking, representing, and interpreting reality. In Angola, such These processes contributed to the formation of a linguistic space marked by coexistence. between Portuguese and the various national languages, generating sociocultural dynamics that They remain visible in contemporary times.

After national independence, proclaimed on November 11, 1975, the Portuguese language It was maintained as an official language of the Republic of Angola, playing a role

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fundamental in building national unity in a country characterized by a significant ethnolinguistic diversity. However, the Portuguese spoken in Angola began to develop unique characteristics resulting from constant contact with Bantu languages, such as Kimbundu, Umbundu, Kikongo, Cokwe, Kwanyama, Nhaneka, among other languages national.

Studies conducted by Gaspar (2015) demonstrate that the Portuguese spoken in Angola presents phonetic, lexical, morphosyntactic and semantic particularities that distinguish it from... European Portuguese as well as Brazilian Portuguese. These specificities highlight the emergence of a distinct linguistic variety, historically constructed through contact between different linguistic communities and the social transformations observed in country over the last few decades.

From a sociolinguistic and discursive point of view, the Portuguese language in Angola should be... understood as a social practice permeated by historical, ideological and cultural; languages are in a constant process of variation and change, being shaped by the social contexts in which they are used. From this perspective, Portuguese Angolan culture is shaped as a result of interactions between different social groups and... historical conditions that characterize Angolan society" (Labov, 2008, p. 89).

In turn, Pêcheux (2009) and Orlandi (2007, 2012) argue that discourses are produced based on historical memories and ideological formations that influence the senses attributed to words. Thus, the analysis of the Portuguese language in Angola requires considering not not only its structural aspects, but also the discursive processes that reveal its marks. of colonial memory, identity construction, and multilingualism, especially in spaces of the circulation of discourse, such as the national print media.

1.2 - Linguistic Colonization and the Formation of Portuguese in Angola

The formation of the Portuguese language in Angola cannot be understood in isolation from linguistic colonization process implemented by the Portuguese administration throughout several centuries. More than just a means of communication, the Portuguese language constituted an instrument of political, administrative, and cultural power, used to consolidate the colonial presence and promote certain models of social organization and production of knowledge. In this context, the spread of Portuguese occurred in parallel with marginalization

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of African languages, often excluded from formal educational settings, of
administration and social mobility.

As Orlandi (2007) points out, the processes of institutionalization of a language
They simultaneously produce mechanisms of visibility and silencing, determining
Which voices, knowledge, and forms of expression acquire social legitimacy? In Angola, although
colonial policy has privileged the Portuguese language as a symbol of integration into
In the colonial universe, constant contact with national languages prevented the formation of
a homogeneous linguistic model, which gave rise to particular forms of appropriation and
reinterpretation of language.

From this historical process emerged Angolan Portuguese, a linguistic variety marked by
influences arising from local cultural, social and linguistic realities. Silva et al. (2021)
They demonstrate that the Portuguese spoken in Angola presents lexical and syntactic specificities.
semantics and pragmatics arising from the continuous interaction between Portuguese and Bantu languages
spoken within the national territory.

From a discursive perspective, Pêcheux (2009) argues that the meanings produced by
Language is influenced by history and ideology, which is why language cannot...
to be analyzed only as a formal system. Thus, Angolan Portuguese reveals, in its
constitution, traces of historical memories associated with the colonial and post-colonial experience,
highlighting processes of resistance, adaptation, and identity reconstruction that continue to
to manifest itself in the different spaces where language is used, including the written press.
national.

1.3 - The Grammatization Revolution and Linguistic Instruments

The concept of the grammatization revolution, developed by Sylvain Auroux, refers to
The historical process through which languages come to be described, codified, and disseminated.
through linguistic tools, namely grammars, dictionaries, vocabularies and
teaching manuals, these instruments are not merely technical mechanisms of
description of language, but also devices of power and social organization, responsible
by defining linguistic norms and legitimizing certain forms of usage in
to the detriment of others.

In this sense, grammatization plays a fundamental role in the constitution of languages.
modern national languages, as it contributes to linguistic standardization and construction.

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of imagined communities that share the same linguistic and cultural reference. The language
Portugal was not left out of this process, having its expansion into the territories
The colonization was accompanied by the circulation of grammars, dictionaries, and models.
regulations that sought to standardize its use (Anderson, 2008, p. 39).
In the Angolan context, linguistic tools played a significant role in
the spread of the Portuguese language and the consolidation of its position as an official language and of
schooling. However, the sociolinguistic reality of the country, marked by the coexistence between the
Portuguese and various national languages, it has produced dynamics that go beyond the limits of
Traditional European-based standard norm. Data released by the national press indicate
that millions of Angolans continue to regularly use national languages in the most
various communication contexts, highlighting the persistence of a multilingual framework that influences the
configuration of Portuguese spoken in the country (ANGONOTÍCIAS, 2016).

From this perspective, the standardization of the Portuguese language in Angola cannot be analyzed from
not in isolation, but rather in conjunction with the historical processes of linguistic contact and
with the cultural specificities of Angolan society. As Silva, Sassuco and observe.
Undolo (2021), Angolan Portuguese presents its own characteristics that result from
Permanent interaction between different linguistic and cultural systems.
The discussion surrounding linguistic tools is equally relevant in the debate.
Contemporary reflections on linguistic identity and language politics in Angola.
Studies produced by the Angolan Academy of Letters regarding the New Orthographic Agreement demonstrate
that issues related to written standards transcend the strictly defined domain.
linguistic, also involving historical, cultural, and identity aspects. From this perspective,
Language constitutes a space for symbolic negotiation in which different [contexts] confront each other.
Conceptions of national identity and cultural belonging.

As Ayoh'Omidire (2012) points out, the processes of identity construction in post- spaces
African colonial practices are deeply linked to the discursive and linguistic practices that
They shape collective representations. Thus, the analysis of the grammatization revolution and of
Linguistic tools allow us to understand not only the mechanisms of standardization of
Portuguese, but also the processes by which the language participates in the construction of
social and cultural identities in Angola.

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1.4 - Angolan Portuguese and the Construction of National Linguistic Identity

In recent times, the discussion about Angolan Portuguese has occupied a prominent place.
in linguistic studies developed by Angolan and African researchers, especially
due to the role that language plays in the construction of national identity. In Angola, the
Portuguese has ceased to be seen merely as a legacy of the colonial period and has asserted itself as...
a language appropriated and transformed by its speakers, incorporating elements
originating from the national languages and sociocultural experiences of the country.
Amélia Mingas (2000) highlights the permanent contact between Portuguese and Bantu languages.
originated phenomena of linguistic interference that contributed to the configuration of a
Angolan variety of Portuguese. Along the same lines, José Domingos Pedro (2018) argues that
The evolution of Portuguese in Angola results from the historical coexistence between different
linguistic communities, which produces forms of expression that reflect cultural reality.
Angolan.
In turn, Gaspar (2015) observes that the growing expansion of Portuguese as a language
The maternal instinct of a large part of the urban population has favored the consolidation of characteristics
distinct linguistic features, progressively distinguishing Angolan Portuguese from other varieties.
of the Portuguese language.
"The construction of national linguistic identity is also manifested through..."
Academic and social recognition of the specific characteristics of Portuguese spoken in Angola.
Studies developed by Undolo" (2015, p. 68),
According to Soquessa (2017), the particularities observed in the lexicon, syntax, phonetics and
Discursive practices in language should not be interpreted as deviations from the norm, but
as evidence of a linguistic variety in the process of asserting itself.
Alexandre Timbane (2013), when analyzing the processes of variation and change in varieties
African influences on Portuguese argue that language is shaped by the sociocultural realities of the region.
their speakers, which is why African varieties should be understood as
legitimate expressions of the linguistic diversity of the Portuguese-speaking world.
From this perspective, Angolan Portuguese simultaneously constitutes an instrument of
communication, a cultural heritage and an identity marker, through which one
They express historical memories, social values, and the multiple experiences that
These characteristics define contemporary Angolan society.

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The growing presence of Angolan Portuguese in the media, in literature,
in music and other spaces of cultural production, it demonstrates its importance in affirming
of national identity and in valuing the linguistic specificities of the country.

Part II: Results and Discussion

2.1 - Characterization of the Corpus: The Angolan Written Press as an Object of Study

The corpus of this investigation consists of texts published in Angolan newspapers.
national circulation, selected for presenting content representative of the practice.
Contemporary use of the Portuguese language in Angola. The choice of the written press as an object.
The study is justified by the fact that newspapers constitute privileged spaces for production,
circulation and dissemination of discourses, allowing us to observe how the Portuguese language is practiced.
in different communicative contexts.

Furthermore, the press plays a significant role in shaping public opinion and in
construction of social representations, reflecting historical, cultural and linguistic aspects of
Angolan society. In this context, the analysis of journalistic texts makes it possible to identify
Traces of Angolan Portuguese, as well as discursive processes related to memory.
historical context, coloniality, and multilingualism. As established in Article 19 of
According to the Constitution of the Republic of Angola, Portuguese is the official language of the country, coexisting with...
other national languages whose appreciation and promotion are equally ensured by
State.

The selection of the written press as a corpus is also justified by
Legal framework for social communication in Angola. Law No. 1/17, of January 23.
(Press Law), determines, in its Article 1, that journalistic activity is governed by
guiding principles of social communication, while Article 5 guarantees freedom of
To inform, to be informed, and to receive information through the free exercise of journalistic activity.
without prior censorship or discrimination.

These guarantees provide media outlets with the conditions for production and
circulation of discourses that express different positions, linguistic practices and
Forms of representation of social reality. From this perspective, Angolan newspapers
They constitute a relevant source for the analysis of the particularities of Angolan Portuguese, a
since they allow us to observe the presence of lexical, discursive, and cultural elements that
They contribute to the construction of national linguistic identity (Orlandi, 2012).

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2.2 - Methodological Procedures for the Discourse Analysis of Selected Newspapers

The corpus analysis was developed based on the theoretical and methodological assumptions of French-style discourse analysis, particularly the contributions of Michel Pêcheux and Eni Orlandi. This perspective understands discourse as a historical phenomenon and socially situated, whose meanings are produced in the relationships between language, subject, and ideology. and historical context. Thus, the selected journalistic texts were not analyzed solely from a linguistic point of view, but also as traversed discursive materialities through social memories, ideological formations, and processes of signification that characterize the Angolan society (Orlandi, 2012).

According to Pêcheux (2009), the choice of this approach is justified by its ability to highlight the mechanisms by which journalistic discourses produce meanings about language, the National identity and the sociocultural relations present in the Angolan journalistic context.

Methodologically, news items published in Angolan newspapers were selected from national circulation, favoring texts that presented linguistic occurrences. representative of Angolan Portuguese. Subsequently, identification and the interpretation of lexical units, discourse expressions and linguistic constructions recurring, with the aim of understanding the historical and social conditions that favor the its production and circulation.

According to Orlandi (2012), discourse analysis is not limited to the formal description of not statements, but seeks to understand the effects of meaning produced in certain production conditions. In this sense, the investigation focused on identifying brands. discursive approaches related to historical memory, multilingualism, and the construction of Angolan linguistic identity present in the journalistic texts analyzed.

2.3 - Lexical Markers of Angolan Portuguese in the Written Press

Lexical markers constitute one of the most visible elements of the specificity of Portuguese. Angolan, revealing the influence of national languages and sociocultural experiences that These characteristics define Angolan society. In the context of the print media, it is common for this to occur. of words like kandengue, ginguba, zungueira, cubico, among others, which, although they possess Widely circulating throughout the national territory, they do not belong to the traditional lexicon of the European standard.

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of Portuguese. According to Mingas (2000), prolonged contact between Portuguese and other languages
The Bantu languages spoken in Angola favored the incorporation of numerous lexical elements into
Angolan Portuguese, a phenomenon that contributes to the construction of a linguistic identity.
own. These lexical units perform not only a communicative function, but
It also plays a symbolic role in representing the cultural and social realities of the country.
The presence of these lexical forms in the written press demonstrates that the organs of
The media actively participate in the dissemination and legitimization of Angolan Portuguese.
as a linguistic variety. Studies conducted by Soquessa (2017) and Undolo (2015)
evidence suggests that many of these occurrences reflect processes of adaptation and innovation.
linguistic changes resulting from the coexistence of different linguistic systems.
From a sociolinguistic perspective, Labov (2008) highlights that linguistic variation constitutes
an inherent characteristic of all natural languages, influenced by historical factors,
social and cultural. Thus, the lexical markers observed in Angolan newspapers should not be
understood not as deviations from the norm, but as legitimate manifestations of evolution.
of Portuguese in Angola and its capacity to represent the specificities of the experience
Angolan sociocultural context.

2.4 - Traces of Angolan Portuguese in the National Written Press

Preliminary analysis of the corpus reveals the presence of lexical units and expressions.
characteristics of Angolan Portuguese that reflect the influence of national languages and
sociocultural specificities of the country. Among the examples identified, the word stands out.
"kandengue," present in the headline "support for Kandengue Scientists," a term widely used in Brazil, is a misnomer.
Used in Angola to refer to children or young people.
The use of this lexical unit in a journalistic text demonstrates the incorporation of
linguistic elements of African origin in media discourse, contributing to the
construction of a unique linguistic identity.
Another significant example can be found in the news article about agricultural production in Ambuíla, in
which is where the term ginguba comes from, a word of Bantu origin used in Angola to designate the
peanut. The recurrence of this word in national newspapers highlights the appreciation for
Local lexical elements and their legitimization by the media.
In turn, expressions like zungueira, observed in the headline "Police kill (another) one
"Zungueira" refers to social realities typically found in Angola. The term designates women who...

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They engage in informal street vending and it constitutes a strongly associated lexical marker.

to the economic and cultural context of the country. The presence of this word in the press reveals the appropriation of local concepts by journalistic discourse.

In addition to lexical markers, the analyzed texts allow for the identification of memory processes. Discursive elements related to Angolan political and social history. References to political parties politicians, state media outlets, and parliamentary debates demonstrate the circulation of historically constructed discourses in the Angolan post-colonial context, contributing to the production of meanings that go beyond the immediate content of the news.

Thus, the national print media presents itself as a privileged space for to observe the consolidation of Angolan Portuguese, highlighting the coexistence between the norm of Portuguese, the influences of national languages, and the cultural particularities that characterize it. Contemporary Angolan society.

Table 1 - Words from your corpus that can be analyzed

Word	Possible analysis
Kandengue	Influence of Bantu languages; cultural identity Angolan
Peanuts	Lexical Africanisms incorporated into Portuguese Angolan
Street vendor	Angolan sociocultural lexicon
To fail (in the political sense)	Frequent semantic usage in the Angolan press
Wave market	A common construction in local economic discourse.
Media outlets state	Political and institutional discursive memory

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Final considerations

This investigation has made it possible to understand that the Portuguese language in Angola constitutes a complex linguistic reality, resulting from historical, social and cultural processes that They transcend their status as the official language of the State. The analysis carried out showed that The Portuguese language used in the national print media has its own characteristics. built from constant contact with Angolan national languages and transformations that have occurred throughout the country's history. In this understanding, the press revealed- if a privileged space for observing linguistic and discursive dynamics that These characterize contemporary Angolan Portuguese.

The results of the analysis demonstrated the lexical, discursive, and cultural markers present. In journalistic texts, these elements constitute important indicators of the construction of an identity. Angolan linguistics. Terms and expressions widely used in the national context. They highlight the influence of Bantu languages and local sociocultural experiences on configuration of Angolan Portuguese. Such occurrences confirm that the language is in A permanent process of transformation, keeping pace with social changes and needs. communicative abilities of their speakers.

It was also found that the speeches produced by the print media retain traces of historical memory associated with the colonial period, while at the same time They express processes of resignification and linguistic appropriation specific to the post-context. Angolan colonialism. Thus, coloniality manifests itself not only through the legacy of language. Portuguese, but also in the forms of production and circulation of meanings that traverse the journalistic discourses. However, the analysis revealed that the speakers and the media of Communication actively participates in the reconstruction of these meanings, adapting them to... Cultural and identity realities of Angola.

The study also revealed that multilingualism is one of the characteristics fundamental to Angolan society and significantly influences the Portuguese used in social media.

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