

**WETZELS, W. LEO / JOÃO COSTA / SERGIO MENUZZI (2016):** *The Handbook of Portuguese Linguistics*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 616 pp.

The description accompanying Wiley Blackwell's 2016 installment in its *Blackwell Handbooks in Linguistics* series promises "a comprehensive overview of research within the Brazilian and European variants of the Portuguese language", presenting itself as an "essential" reference work for both novices and experts in Lusophone and Romance linguistics more widely. Its scope is ambitious, with 32 chapters covering key synchronic, and to a lesser extent, diachronic phenomena across phonology, morphosyntax, semantics and pragmatics, through to language contact, acquisition and variationist accounts. Indeed, Portuguese is the second Romance language, after Spanish, to receive a dedicated volume in the *Blackwell Handbooks* series: a testament to the quality and quantity of the research

undertaken in this field of linguistics. Such a volume has long been needed, and *The Handbook of Portuguese Linguistics* (henceforth, *The Handbook*) arrives just in time to establish itself as the first such reference guide, with volumes from De Gruyter Mouton's *Manuals of Romance Linguistics*, particularly Martins / Carrilho's 2016 *Manual de linguística portuguesa*, following hot on its heels.

Despite some minor quibbles, it rapidly becomes evident that Leo W. Wetzels, João Costa and Sergio Menuzzi's 616-page volume delivers on its promises. All but five of its 32 chapters are co-authored, offering a diversity of voices and balanced contributions, making the volume a truly collaborative endeavour which lends itself well to the volume's stated objective as an introductory reference work. At the same time, *The Handbook* ensures academic rigour across a variety of subdisciplines by using contributors who are highly-respected scholars in their respective fields. Moreover, the recurrence of four of these authors (Maria Lobo, Ruth E.V. Lopes, Ana Maria Martins and Leo W. Wetzels) in more than one chapter offers cohesion in terms of style and content.

Since there is no introduction to the volume, the table of contents provides the chief means of orientation for the reader. Given the lack of parts or (sub)sections, one deduces that the three opening chapters constitute the scene-setting for *The Handbook*: it begins with Brocardo / Dos Santos Lopes' overview and contextualisation of the Portuguese language from Latin, through Old and Middle Portuguese and the historical origins of Brazilian Portuguese, ending with the key distinguishing features between Brazilian and European Portuguese. The second and third chapters are Kato / Martins' overview of European versus Brazilian Portuguese word order, and Carvalho / Lucchesi's review of Portuguese in contact, covering its geographical dispersal across Brazil, Africa and Asia, and the development of pidgins of creoles in these areas, as well as contact with Spanish both in the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America. In other words, the opening three chapters contextualize Portuguese along historical, geographical and socio-historical dimensions, and offer the fundamentals of its sentential grammar, including the formation of different clause/sentence types; weak pronoun placement;

inversion phenomena; and various types of discourse-motivated constituent movement. Although *The Handbook* is unlikely to be read from cover-to-cover, the contents of these chapters operate as a substitute for an introductory chapter and, together, establish the scope of the coverage offered.

The rest of the volume, which almost exclusively focuses on the structural aspects of Portuguese, develops coherently: five chapters cover segmental and suprasegmental phonology (Massini-Cagliari / Cagliari / Rendenbarger; Bisol / Veloso; Santos / Vigário; Frota / De Moraes), followed by two chapters on the morphology and phonology of word formation (Villalva / Gonçalves) and inflection (Schwindt / Wetzels), before segueing into Luís / Kaiser's chapter on clitics, i.e. a topic representing the nexus between phonology, morphology and syntax. Six chapters (Duarte / Figueiredo Silva; Brito / Lopes; Mioto / Lobo; Cyrino / Matos; Martins / Nunes; Menuzzi / Lobo) presented within the framework of generative syntax follow, making manifest the theoretical framework at the heart of the volume; then four chapters covering formal semantics (Barra Ferreira / Nunes Correia; Caçado / Gonçalves; Ilari / Oliveira / Basso; Marques / Pires de Oliveira), plus a fifth chapter by Schwenter on negation, which stands out for its attempt to offer as "theory neutral" a discussion of the topic as possible.

The remaining eight chapters are somewhat eclectic: Macário Lopes offers a functionalist discussion of discourse markers; Holt reviews the main phonological changes from Latin to Portuguese; Dos Santos Lopes / Brocardo and Galves / Kroch tackle (morpho-)syntactic change from a functionalist and formal perspective respectively; variationist accounts of Portuguese phonology and morphosyntax are correspondingly offered by Rodrigues / Da Hora and Pereira Scherre / Lammoglia Duarte; and the volume concludes with chapters on phonological (Ferreira-Goncalves / Freitas), syntactic (Costa / Lopes) and second language acquisition (Madeira).

A stand-out strength, or weakness, depending on one's perspective, of the volume is the number of chapters dedicated to formal, specifically generative, approaches. This is immediately apparent from a quick glance at the table of contents, where terminology

in the chapters' titles such as the "null subject parameter" (Duarte / Figueiredo Silva), "structure of DPs" (Brito / Lopes) and "Principles and Parameters" (Galves / Kroch) reveal a particular set of theoretical concerns. It is these theoretical priorities that make the volume simultaneously indispensable for those seeking a rigorous application of state-of-the-art formal understanding to the Portuguese empirical facts, and potentially alienating to linguists of differing theoretical persuasions (especially, one surmises, those with no theoretical background at all). Some chapters are guiltier than others at *prima facie* putting off the non-specialist: references to A'-bound variables, strong crossover violations, null operators and the Principle C effect in Cyrino / Mato's chapter on null objects and VP ellipsis may render some of the discussion opaque to the uninitiated, yet the chapter itself contains a wealth of empirical data that can be appreciated without any theoretical training.

Indeed, one of, if not *the*, chief contribution(s) of the volume is its privileging of the Portuguese empirical data. In almost all cases (Carvalho / Luchessi's chapter on contact, which is relatively light on empirical data, is an exception), the facts from the Portuguese language are at the heart of each chapter, enabling the reader to access the content at various levels. Those interested in the linguistic facts are supplied, first and foremost, with an abundance of information on and examples of present-day and, to a lesser extent, older varieties of the Portuguese language. Such readers may well prefer to gloss over the more esoteric aspects of the theoretical discussion. On the view that this is a book about Portuguese linguistics rather than linguistic theory, the sensible way for non-generativists to capitalise on the formal bias of the volume would be to view the theoretical assumptions of the various authors as simply a means for the systematic and principled presentation of the data. Yet for the interested reader —and given the bias in Portuguese linguistics towards generative and/or formal approaches, the number of such readers will not be insignificant—, the inclusion of certain theoretical priorities in the volume allows for a deeper exploration, and even explanation, of the surface facts.

It should be less difficult for researchers of various theoretical persuasions to agree that

where the volume excels is in its presentation and examination of the differences between European and Brazilian Portuguese. Given that the linguistic divergence between these two facets of Portuguese is well-known and documented, a longstanding lacuna has been the lack of a comprehensive reference that reviews the variation between the two in a systematic and sufficiently wide-ranging manner. *The Handbook* fills this gap, covering the empirical facts across the various linguistic modules, with the added bonus of having framed this material within state-of-the-art theoretical understanding. Discussion of the variation between Brazilian and European Portuguese does not feature in every chapter (Macário Lopes' contribution on discourse markers, for example, only refers to "Portuguese" without further refining the category), and the majority of chapters where variation is discussed do not qualify what they mean by these abstractions. In this sense, Villalva / Gonçalves and Frota / De Moraes are particularly helpful in clarifying the specific varieties to which their chapters refer when using the 'Brazilian' versus 'European' Portuguese labels.

Note, however, that those seeking an investigation of the fine-grained nuances of internal variation within European and Brazilian Portuguese will be disappointed. While some chapters make varying degrees of reference to predominantly diatopic variation (e.g. Frota / De Moraes and Massini-Cagliari / Cagliari / Redenbarger; diastratic and diamesic variation are covered in Rodrigues / Da Hora; Pereira Scherre / Lammoglia Duarte and, to lesser extent, Kato / Martins' contributions), the volume's focus limits itself to the key points of divergence between the Brazilian and European variants, with some (limited) reference to African varieties.

Since it would be impossible to satisfy the requirements of all its readership regarding the comprehensiveness of *The Handbook*, one can choose to be forgiving of the omissions that do exist. Indeed, it is worth bearing in mind that the volume must distinguish itself from its competitors: Martins / Carrilho's *Manual de linguística portuguesa* (2016), for example, covers corpus linguistics, language impairment, psycholinguistics and digital humanities within the umbrella of Lusophone linguistics. We would do well to consider that

it would not be especially beneficial to the fields of Portuguese and Romance linguistics to have two reference works published in the same year offering identical content.

In view of the above, it is therefore surprising that the volume launches straight into the chapters after the table of contents and a brief biography on each contributor, providing no introduction or subsections to orient the reader in terms of the handbook's organisation, or the editors' motivations and objectives in assembling the volume. Since other volumes in the *Blackwell Handbooks* series, notably Hualde / Olarrea / O'Rourke's (2012) Hispanic counterpart to *The Handbook*, include an introduction, one assumes a deliberate decision has been made to forego one in the Portuguese collection. Given the volume is advertised as a comprehensive companion to the field of Portuguese Linguistics, those for whom the volume does not represent a comprehensive survey of the field might have found an introduction clarifying the editors' goals helpful. Nonetheless, a brief scan of the table of contents shows the range (and limitations) of the volume, offering an implicit elucidation of the editors' priorities.

In sum, and leaving aside non-substantive issues such as copy-editing errors, which seem to crop up more towards the end of the volume, *The Handbook of Portuguese Linguistics* represents an ambitious and successful undertaking to offer empirical and theoretical insight across the discipline of Lusophone Linguistics that is both of admirable scholarly rigour and of broad appeal to a diverse readership. With the publication of this volume, students and researchers alike now have at their disposal a go-to reference whenever they need to consult or cite a reliable and comprehensive synopsis of any of the topics covered in *The Handbook*. Despite a command of (predominantly) formal theory being required for some of its content, the collection is on the whole easily accessible, achieving a level of readability that —given its readers are likely to use *The Handbook* to dip in and out of, rather than examine meticulously cover-to-cover— seems to be the right sort of balance such a volume should aim for. Finally, it is worth noting that, while *The Handbook* stands alone as a valuable addition to the literature in its own right, its contribution is enhanced by

the way in which it complements, and is complemented by, its Hispanic sister volume in Wiley Blackwell's series, and other recently-published and forthcoming titles on the subject of Portuguese linguistics.

## References

- Martins, Ana Maria / Ernestina Carrilho (eds.) (2016): *Manual de linguística portuguesa*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.
- Hualde, José Ignacio / Antxon Olarrea / Erin O'Rourke (2012): *The Handbook of Hispanic Linguistics*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

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