

INTRODUCTION TO BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE AND ITS IDIOSYNCRATIC VARIATION.



BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE

PARADIGMA DE TRATAMENTO INFORMAL (TU)					
Sujeito tu	Objeto direto te	Objeto indireto te	Reflexivo te	Possessivo teu(s)/tua(s)	+ preposição ti - contigo
PRS.IND cantas	PRS.SBJ cantes	PST.IPFV cantavas	PST.PFV cantaste	PST.SBJ cantasses	FUT.SBJ cantares
INF cantares	PST.PRF cantaras	FUT cantarás	COND cantarias	POS.IMPER canta	NEG.IMPER não cantes
PARADIGMA DE TRATAMENTO FORMAL (VOCÊ)					
Sujeito você	Objeto direto o/a lo/la no/na	Objeto indireto lhe	Reflexivo se	Possessivo seu(s)/sua(s)	+ preposição si - consigo
PRS.IND canta	PRS.SBJ cante	PST.IPFV cantava	PST.PFV cantou	PST.SBJ cantasse	FUT.SBJ cantar
INF cantar	PST.PRF cantara	FUT cantará	COND cantaria	POS.IMPER cante	NEG.IMPER não cante
paradigma de VOCÊ no sudeste do Brasil					
Sujeito você	Objeto direto te - você	Objeto indireto te - para você	Reflexivo se	Possessivo seu(s)/sua(s)	+ preposição com você
PRS.IND canta	PRS.SBJ cante	PST.IPFV cantava	PST.PFV cantou	PST.SBJ cantasse	FUT.SBJ cantar
INF cantar	PST.PRF cantara	FUT cantará	COND cantaria	POS.IMPER canta - cante	NEG.IMPER não canta - não cante

PREVIOUS STUDIES ON THE IMPERATIVE

((BARBOSA ET AL., 2017; GUY, 1983 ; SAMPAIO, 2001; SCHERRE, 2002; SCHERRE, 2004; SCHERRE, 2007, 2008, 2012; SCHERRE ET AL., 2007; SCHERRE & NARO, 2014; LAMBERTI & SCHWENTER (2018), SCHWENTER & HOFF (2023); O'NEILL (2024), O'NEILL AND UGARTEMENDÍA (2025))

- (a) diatopic: FAÇA (V-IMPER) most likely in the north/north-east- FAZ (T-IMPER) more no sul/sudeste
- (b) polarity: FAÇA (V-IMPER) most likely in negative contexts
- (c) immediacy: FAZ (T-IMPER) more likely in immediate contexts
- (d) formality: FAÇA (V-IMPER) more likely in formal contexts.



RED = etymologically derived from the paradigm TU
BLUE = etymologically derived from the paradigm YOU

Rodolfo, me **escute**, (vo)cê está no restaurante, **travessa** a ponte, **passa** pelo hospital, passou o hospital, **vira** à direita que você já vai chegar até o trem.

-Saindo da estação **pega** à direita, (vo)cê **atravessa** a ponte, **continue** em linha reta e que você vai chegar até o shopping.

- Rodolfo, do Shopping, você pode pegar a mesma rodovia que você veio, **volte** por ela, **atravessa** a ponte, chegou numa praça, **vira** à direita, **vai** reto que você vai ver a rodoviária.

Rodolfo, **listen** to me, you're at the restaurant, **cross** the bridge, **pass** the hospital, once you've passed the hospital, **turn** right and you'll reach the train.

-Leaving the station, **turn** right, you cross the bridge, **continue** straight ahead and you'll reach the shopping centre.

Rodolfo, from the shopping centre, you can take the same motorway you came on, **go back** along it, **cross** the bridge, you'll arrive at a square, **turn** right, **go** straight ahead and you'll see the bus station..

Verb	standard	vocative	productuon	verb form
vestir-se	vistam-se	gente	se vistam	3PL.SBJ
fazer	façam	gente	façam	3PL.SBJ
ouvir	ouçam	peçoal	ouve	3SG.IND
vir	venham	peçoal	vem cá	3SG.IND
trazer	tragam	gente	traz	3SG.IND
por	ponham	todo o mundo	põe	3SG.IND
subir	subam	todo o mundo	soben	3PL.IND
esconder-se	escondam-se	todo o mundo	se escondem	3PL.IND
ir embora	vão embora	peçoal	vão embora	3PL.IND/SBJ
ver	vejam	peçoal	vejam	3PL.SBJ



façam = standard = 3PL.PRS.SBJ

faz = TU imper = 3SG.PRS.IND

fazem = NOVEL = 3PL.PRS.IND



HOW TO TEST FOR 'IDIOSYNCRATIC' VARIATION IN MORPHOLOGY

ELICITATION, CONTROLLING FOR ALL POSSIBLE CONDITIONING FACTORS + REPETITIONS

OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS FOR RIO DE JANEIRO

SIGNIFICANT SINGULAR : PARTICIPANT, IMMEDIACY, POLARITY, FORMALITY
SIGNIFICANT PLURAL: PARTICIPANT, SYNTAX, REPETITION

SINGULAR

IMPER	T-IMPER	V-IMPER
COUNT	2808	1433
%	66.2%	33.8%



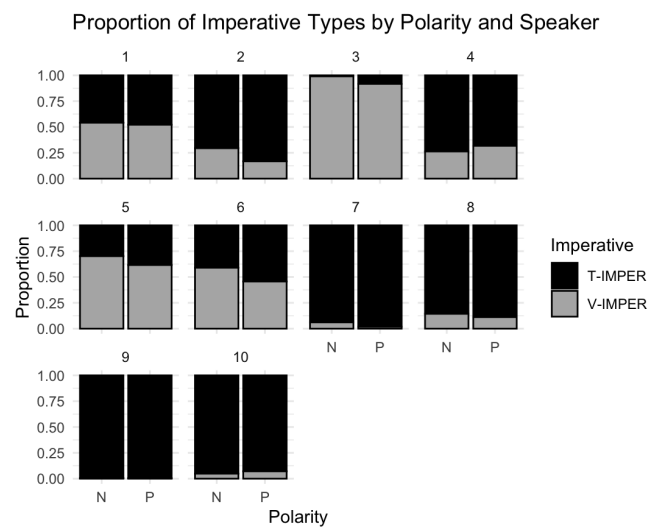
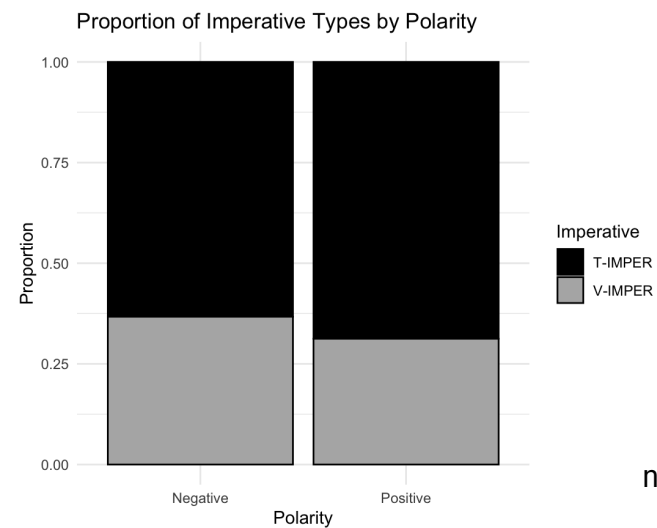
PLURAL

	T-IMPER	V-IMPER	3PL.PRS.IND	PL-IMPER	INF
COUNT	451	11	11	935	2
%	32%	1%	1%	66%	0%

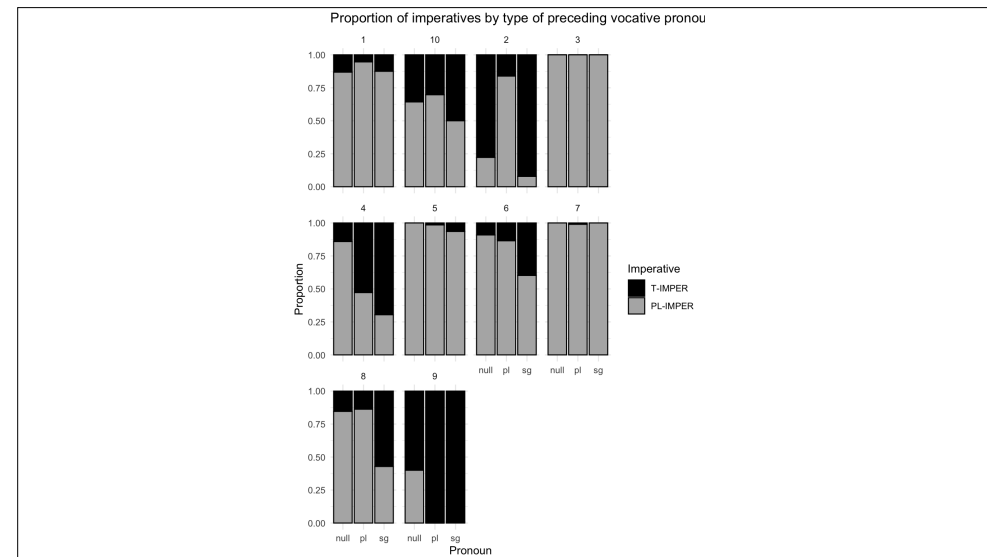
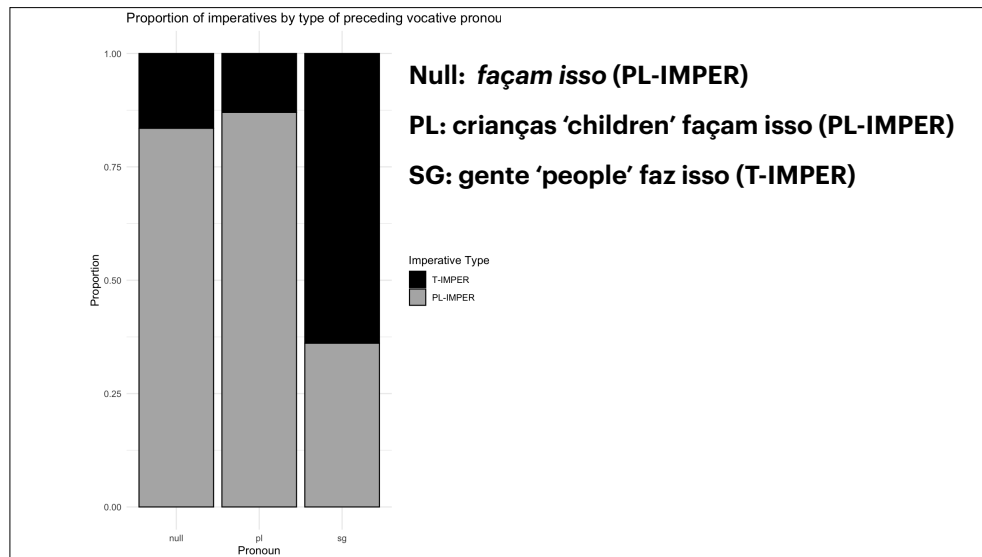


POLARITY

VISUALISING THE DATA OVERALL AND FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL SPEAKER



PLURAL IMPERATIVES



PLURAL CONTEXTS

MARGINAL AND CONDITIONAL R^2 VALUES COMPUTED
 FOLLOWING NAKAGAWA & SCHIELZETH (2013)



SYNTAX: this fixed effect explained approximately **9% of the variance in imperative type** whereas the cumulative effect of fixed and random factors (speaker + repetition) explained 72%

SPEAKER: the random variable explained **59% of the variation** (syntax 9%).

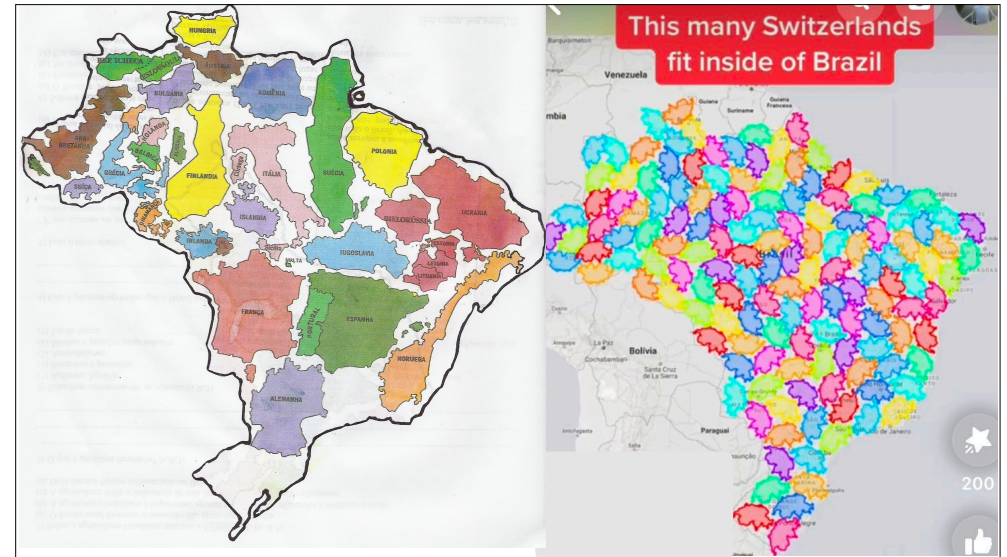
REPETITION: this random variable explained only **3.7%** of the variation (syntax 29%)

WHY SUCH IDIOSYNCRATIC VARIATION IN BRAZIL?

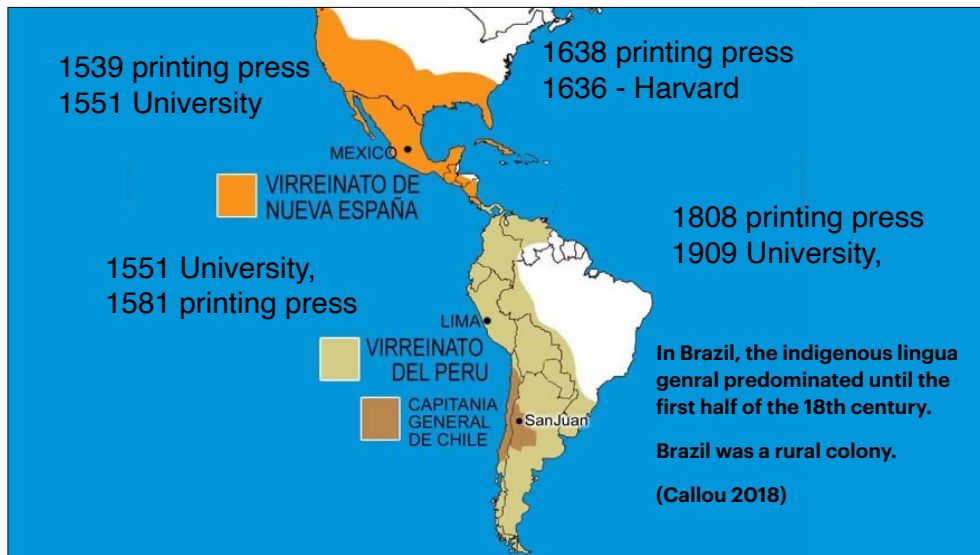
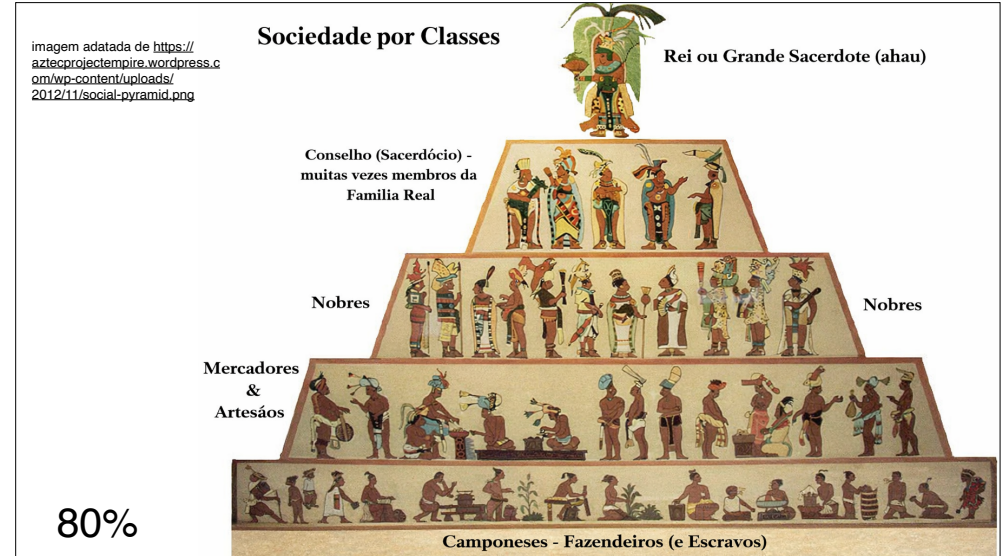
SOCIOLINGUISTIC AND HISTORICAL CAUSES

● Previous studies on non-systematic and 'idiosyncratic' morphological variation have tended to focus on small language communities and/or minority languages without an accepted written-standard. It has even been suggested (Dorian 2010a: 238) that such variation is contingent on the social structure of the speech community. The following four social factors are identified for its appearance.

- Small population
- Absence of socioeconomic differentiation
- A minority language/endangered language used as the traditional means of communication within the home but under pressure from another language for communication.
- Lack of a written standard/excluded from the written standard



WHY IN BRAZIL AND NOT IN LATIN-AMERICAN SPANISH?



BANNED/STRICTLY RESTRICTED IN COLONIAL BRAZIL

Iron ore mining

Establishment of foundries

Grape and olive cultivation

Sugar refining

Manufacture of high-quality textiles

Leather tanning

Universities

Printing Presses

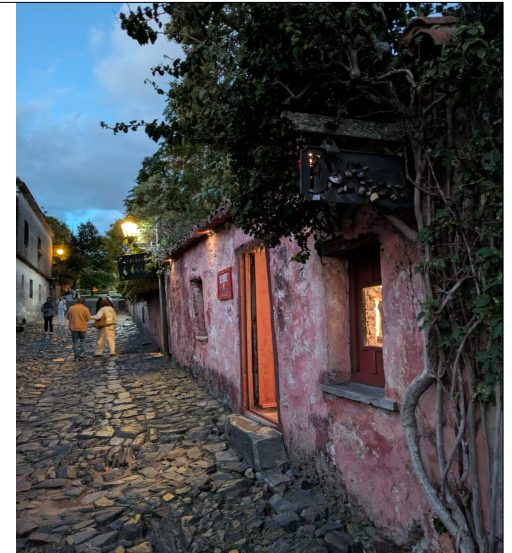
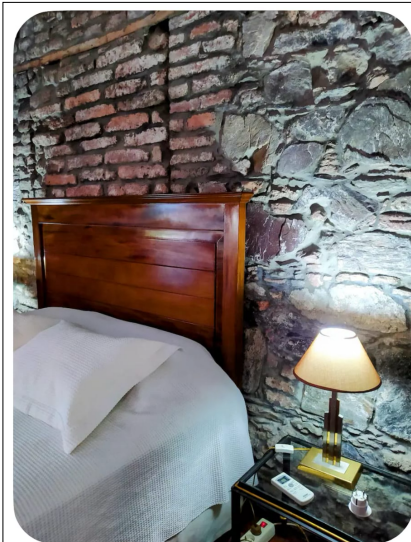
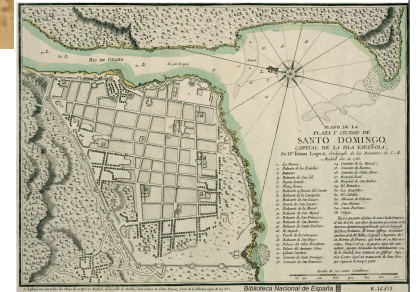
RUSSELL-WOOD, A. J. R. (2002). CENTERS AND PERIPHERIES IN THE LUSO-BRAZILIAN WORLD, 1500-1808. IN C. DANIELS & M. V. KENNEDY (EDS.), NEGOTIATED EMPIRES : CENTERS AND PERIPHERIES IN THE AMERICAS, 1500-1820 (PP. 105-142). NEW YORK ; LONDON: ROUTLEDGE.



AN IMPETUS TOWARDS ORGANIS

an obsession with 'order' and 'rationality'.

This can be seen in urban planning in the 'ubiquitous grid pattern that has endured to this day' in Spanish America, p. 5





POSITIVISM

AUGUSTE COMTE 1796-1857

Philosophical outlook whereby the structure of society and the behaviour of human individuals can be understood through the application of the scientific method (objective, empirical observation)

Scientific knowledge and reason can and should be used to control society and social life because it was assumed that just as natural laws governed the Universe, so too did they govern the human societies.

Positivist ideas 'struck a chord with sections of Brazil's incipient middle class, especially among the army officers, teachers, engineers and doctors to whom positivism offered a role as self-appointed apostles of national development. (Reid 2015:81)

POSITIVIST TEMPLE IN
PORTO ALEGRE
(BRAZIL)

Civilisation

ORDEM
E
PROGRESSO

Degeneration
Barbarism

order
rules
code of behaviour.

‘the anxiety of
instability’
Burke (2004: 90)

changing or inhibiting
one’s natural linguistic
tendencies and
speaking in another
way could be conceived
as part of a ‘civilising
process’ (ibid)
Burke (2004: 90)

Civilisation

ORDEM
E
PROGRESSO



In terms of language and education, this translated into establishing a written standard for Portuguese which was very distanced from the speech of most people and not providing a robust and universal system of education

Barbarism
Degeneration

EDUCATION IN BRAZIL

1950 the average Brazilian worker only had 1.8 years of schooling (Reid, 2014:113),

1980s the average Brazilian worker only had 3.9 years of schooling

1990's it was approximately 6.6 years (3.3 years in the north-east region)

Currently there are high levels of illiteracy (placed at between 77% (Faraco 2017:362) and even as high as 90% (Psacharopoulos 2015)

POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND IMMIGRATION

DIALECT CONTACT, LANGUAGE CONTACT, L2 ACQUISITION BY ADULTS

• Mass populations movements within Brazil

- (expansion of cattle farmers along Rio São Francisco (XVI-XVII), Gold rush to Minas Gerais (XVII-IX), Amazon rubber boom (1872-1910)

• Immigration

- (1884-1933): Italians (1,400,000), Portuguese (1,200,000), Spanish (580,000), Japanese (185,000), Germans (170,000), Turks and Syrians (100,000),

• Population increase

- 1940 (41,236,315) - 2000 (170,000,000)

• mass rural exodus and the creation of supercities

- At the turn of the 20th century, 80% of the population lived in rural areas, falling to 20% of the population by the end of the century (Faraco 2016: 151).

OVERVIEW OF STANDARD LANGUAGE IN BRAZIL

IN BRAZIL, LINGUISTIC VARIATION WAS/IS THE NORM:

- the historical absence of an educated model for speech
- a disregard for matters related to 'correct usage'
- high-levels of dialect mixing, language contact and L2 acquisition by adults
- largely rural population
- the standard that was created was so artificial that there were a multitude of differences from spoken speech
- there was never the resources or political will to implement this standard via mass education and its authority and validity has been challenged
- certain 'non-standard' features have acquired negative social connotations but much idiosyncratic morphological variation continues and is accepted.