

Participation Report

Maria Eugênia Arantes Gonçalves,
UFSC - Federal University of Santa Catarina

From 2nd to 6th March, I was able to take part in Interab – Abralín's International Meeting, an event organized by the Brazilian Association of Linguistics (Abralín). The event opened with a lecture from one of the most important Brazilian linguists, Alberto Faraco, who belongs to the first generations of Linguistics professors in the country.

All of the following days were very busy, with a variety of simultaneous activities happening all the time. On the 3rd and 4th, I mostly attended the symposium "Psycholinguistics and Interfaces", proposed by Gitanna Bezerra (UPE) and Michele Alves (UFRRJ), in which I was able to get acquainted with new ongoing research as well as get updates from the job being done by researchers and research groups I already knew. On the 5th, I chose to participate in activities from other fields, thus spending the morning in a phonetics symposium in which, among other things, the quality of recent AI's speech recognition through a variety of Brazilian accents was discussed, as well as the creation of a diverse speech database for the available softwares. In the afternoon, I watched an activity proposed by researchers of literacy and written language acquisition, which is slightly more in tune with my personal research on the effects of literacy (or its absence) in the adult brain.

At last, the 6th was the day I presented my research myself, as part of the symposium "Language processing and development of linguistic abilities: speech, reading and writing", coordinated by professors Mailce Mota (UFSC) and Ana Paula Salgado (UFRA). I have had good feedback from my presentation on the last day of the event, and had the chance to exchange information with another research group who has similar research to mine and was interested in my talk.

In between sessions of the main symposia, I watched some round tables proposed to discuss methodology in Linguistics. The first was proposed by professor Elisângela Teixeira (UECE) and composed by both Brazilian and foreign researchers. It was "Linguistics in the age of AI, corpora, and machine learning", and it concerned the applications of large language models (LLMs) in experimental research in Linguistics. The second, "Artificial intelligence and linguistic processing: convergences, divergences and guidelines for the future" had four Brazilian professors and reference researchers from different fields of linguistics. The third, already on the last day of the event, approached the fundamental issue of "Reproductibility and quantitative methods in Linguistics", and also had important professors from different institutions in Brazil talking about ethics, statistics, and how it is that science works nowadays.

Overall, not only did I enjoy and have a great time at the event, as I also had the chance to discover new reference work for my field of research. Most importantly, the debates on methodology and good practices in science helped me to get a better overview of what my next steps must be concerning my own work, and offered me important insights on how to conduct these steps.