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Perspectivization of body parts in Portuguese (EP and BP): the case of 'colo' and 'nuca'

We postulate that human cognition is not only rooted in the human body, but also inherently viewpointed in language, as defended by Dancygier & Sweetser 2012. We also hold that when we propose a special sort of location of perspective point, we place our “mental eye” to look out over the rest of the scene, as formalized by Talmy (2000: 68, 216).

In the present paper we shall discuss different locations of perspective point underlying conceptualization and naming of two cases of designation of body parts in Portuguese (taking into consideration variation in both national varieties of European Portuguese, EP, and Brazilian Portuguese, BP), namely in 'colo' and 'nuca'.

In the case of 'colo', usually translated into English as 'neck' or 'lap', we refer to (i) the front part of woman's neck, (ii) arms (when hugging or holding), and/ or to (iii) lap, as can be observed in the following fixed expressions: 'sentar-se ao colo', (seat in somebody's lap), 'pegar ao colo' (put/ hold in somebody's lap/ arms), 'querer colo' (want a hug) or 'dar colo' (give a hug). In the case of 'nuca', usually translated as *back of the neck, scruff, nape* or *hindhead*, we refer either to (i) the back part of the *head* (occipital zone) or (ii) the back part of the *neck* (cervical zone), the conceptualization depending on geographical/ dialectal variety of the speaker. This difference in conceptualization in this case is not as overtly observed as in the previous one, because 'nuca' hardly forms fixed expressions observed in the case of 'colo' (the exception being e.g. 'tiro na nuca' meaning *bullets in the back of the neck*).

Both of the names studied here illustrate different types of perspectivization in Portuguese, following the previous studies in the field of *physical motion, fictive motion*, and *systemic time-as-space perspectivization*, and its specificity in Portuguese given the richness of dialectal and national varieties (Batoréo in press and Batoréo & Ferrari 2013).

References

1. Batoréo, Hanna J. (in press). Perspective point (viewpointing) and events of motion in European Portuguese. *International Journal of Cognitive Linguistics*.
2. Batoréo, Hanna J. & Ferrari, Lilian. 2013. «Quão fundo é o fundo?»; Perspectivação no caso das expressões com 'fundo' em PE e PB. Trabalho apresentado no II Colóquio Brasileiro de Morfologia; uma homenagem a Margarida Basílio. Rio de Janeiro, UFRJ.
3. Dancygier, Barbara & Eve Swetser (eds.). 2012 *Viewpoint in Language. A Multimodal Perspective*. Frontmatter/Prelims, Cambridge University Press.
4. Talmy, Leonard. 2000. *Toward a Cognitive Semantics*, Vol. I: *Conceptual Structuring*
5. *Systems & Vol. II: Typology and Process in Concept Structuring*, A Bradford Book, Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: The MIT Press.