

PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE EXPERIENTIAL AND THE LOGICAL STRUCTURES OF THE NOMINAL GROUP IN PORTUGUESE

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This paper presents a description of the Portuguese nominal group both for its experiential and logical organizations and carries out a contrastive study of English and Portuguese nominal group features. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) state that the nominal group can be seen as a multivariate structure (experiential), in which elements play different functional roles and as a univariate structure (logical), generated by iteration. Consequently, the most comprehensive form to approach how the nominal group is organized is to look at these two structures at the same time. In order to do so, a corpus was collected based on the socio-semiotic processes typology (see Herke-Couchman, 2006) and nominal group elements were annotated. The analysis was carried out and patterns of functions and relations were retrieved. It was possible to identify features of elements taking part in the experiential and logical structures of the nominal group as well as their functional configuration. In the contrastive study with English, it was possible to understand how these systems differ when more delicate investigation takes place. Results indicate recurrent grammatical features and lead to a possible description of the nominal group in Portuguese – i.e., the elements that compose it as well as how they are functionally organized.

Keywords: nominal group, description of Portuguese, translation studies, English–Portuguese contrast

1 TRANSLATION STUDIES AND SYSTEMIC-FUNCTIONAL THEORY

This work is affiliated to the systemic functional approaches to translation. The adoption of systemic functional theory to approach translation came as a necessity to deal with linguistic questions involving translation phenomena, but also with contextual and cultural questions related to translation (Pagano & Vasconcellos, 2005).

Malmkjær (2005) states that approaching translation means to investigate it under one of the following headings. 1) To include translation as part of the phenomena explained by some theory, using translation to precisely widen the range of phenomena encompassed by this theory. 2) To construe translation as a specific object and approach it using the knowledge produced by some other theory aiming at understanding how translation takes place. 3) To develop a translation theory through concepts of another theory or discipline, making translation a sub-area of this theory or discipline.

Within the discipline of Translation Studies, systemic functional approaches to translation generally understand ‘approach’ as in the third heading. Consequently they apply concepts of systemic functional theory to the development of a translation theory (Hatim, 2001; Munday, 2001; Malmkjær, 2005). Thus (a) to describe linguistically source and target texts (Munday, 1998), (b) to compare and contrast them (Catford, 1965; Steiner, 2001; Teich, 2001) and (c) to explain reasons for choosing an item as the preferred translation against a number of possible choices (Halliday et al., 1964; Catford, 1965) are fundamental steps in a research for a linguistic theory of translation.

When the importance of (a) descriptions, (b) comparisons and (c) reasons for translation choices are considered, it is possible to conclude that, to systemic functional approaches, translation is not exactly a phenomenon, but a realizational relationship between source and target systems materialized in the relationship between source and target texts.

If systemic functional studies affiliated to Translation Studies had as their only goal the development of a translation theory through concepts of another theory, they could be classified as a sub-area of the linguistic theory, more specifically with respect to contrastive analyses. However, the shift in investigation from ‘what is translation’ to ‘how does translation take place’ in systemic functional studies of translation within Translation Studies may suggest other possibilities, as stated by Steiner (2001, p. 345).

The interest in the how (and in that sense in the what) can be usefully be seen as a providence of Translation Studies, partly shared with its close sisters linguistics and literary studies – to the extent that these latter have a textual orientation, which cannot always be taken for granted.

This leads to reason that the study of translation can benefit from linguistic theories (and literary studies for that matter) that conceive of language as a semiotic system for meaning production and that carry out investigations both from the context stratum and the grammar stratum. Hence it could be possible to produce a translation theory that is closely related to a sub-area of contrastive linguistics (the linguistic theory of translation) but that could contribute in the first place to a Translation Studies theory of translation when the focus shifts from ‘what is translation’, or the set of phenomena, to ‘how does translation take place’, or the set of relationships among texts and systems.

Among the necessary steps to postulate a translation theory, named here as (a) descriptions, (b) comparisons and (c) reasons for translation choices, Halliday et al. (1964) state that it is fundamental for the development of such a theory to first describe as a means to compare and second compare as a way to understand choices. Therefore, it is possible to see that in order to develop a translation theory, these steps have to be taken ‘backwards’ as it were, to compare to understand translation and to describe to enable comparison.

As previous research has shown (cf. Teich, 1999, 2001; Steiner, 2001, 2005; Matthiessen, 2001) this movement is able to open up new possibilities for systemic functional studies of translation, allowing more detailed analyses as well as contributing to a consistent body of translation theory due to the fact that it is based on description.

Specifically with respect to the Brazilian context of systemic functional studies of translation, it is possible to find a huge body of research, which for over a decade has

been contributing to explaining translation relationships when Portuguese is one of the languages at stake. However, there are no comprehensive systemic functionally oriented descriptions of Portuguese to draw upon for investigations.

As a consequent need, this work aims at contributing to systemic functional translation studies, especially those involving Portuguese, helping to build a descriptive basis to enable comparison and to understand choices. More specifically, it aims at describing the systems involved in the experiential and logical organizations of the Portuguese nominal group, by looking at it: 'from above', identifying group primary and secondary classes operating as functions at clause rank; 'from below' identifying word classes operating as elements at group rank; and 'from roundabout', describing how classes, and elements within classes, are functionally organized.

The remaining of this work is organized as follows. Section 2 presents translation studies within a more ample framework, that of systemic functional theory, based on the systemic functional view of translation (Teich, 1999, 2001; Steiner, 2001, 2005; Matthiessen, 2001). Section 3 brings as a case study the contrast of the nominal group in Portuguese and English, based on the description done by Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) and the description carried out for the Portuguese nominal group following a methodology that is described in this section. In order to carry out this analysis, nominal groups in Portuguese and English were chosen to exemplify both the importance of a description to contrastive studies and the relevance of description and comparison to understand reasons for choices. Finally, the paper presents the conclusions of this research.

2 TRANSLATION STUDIES AS MULTILINGUAL MEANING PRODUCTION

The development of systemic functional theory over the decades (HALLIDAY et al. 1964; HALLIDAY, 2002, 2003; among others) has produced semiotic tools useful to a huge number of different studies, which in general can be grouped as:

(i) Descriptive studies: these studies use categories – theoretical organization concepts (HALLIDAY & MATTHIESSEN, 1999) – established by formal criteria added to a descriptive method to explore regions of the linguistic system that have not yet been comprehensively described.

Under descriptive studies is comparative linguistics, which aims at understanding both similarities and contrasts among languages (ELLIS, 1966). The studies of comparative linguistics can be divided as:

General comparative linguistics, which tries to produce comparison parameters as well as methods to apply them to the study of languages. General purposes comparative linguistics investigates the types of languages compared, the environment of the linguistic objects compared (from particular to typological) and the comparison methods. Under this orientation are typological studies on linguistic systems organization of meaning. Comparative linguistics with specific purposes is defined according to the type of study that is carried out, for example, the study of dialects, institutional linguistics or how languages relate to each other. Here is the study of text types, which vary according to the context they are in. In addition, under comparative linguistics with specific purposes are the studies on register and on translation, which has traditionally been understood as restricted to comparison among texts.

(ii) Applied studies: these apply the knowledge and expertise from linguistic studies to other contexts outside linguistics, for example to the computational context, or to the development of commercial softwares such as text processors, orthographic tools, machine translators. One instance of this application can be found in the work of Herke-Couchman (2006). The author analyzes linguistic variation of a text type called Nigerian scam text, contributing to the creation of Scamseek, a software capable of identifying automatically linguistic traits this text type has.

(iii) Theoretical studies: a part of these could be grouped with applied studies, and another part with descriptive studies because there is no clear separation between theory and its applications within systemic functional linguistics. However, theoretical studies contribute mostly to the very expansion of the theory.

Under theoretical studies is a relevant part of multilingual meaning production studies, which tries to understand linguistic systems organization and to what extent it is possible to contrast them or to find cross-linguistic patterns. One instance of this type of study is found in Caffarel et al. (2004), which presents the descriptions of several languages and in its last chapter (Matthiessen, 2004, Chap. 10) presents typological contrasts and patterns that are common across languages.

The organization of systemic functional studies in (i) descriptive, (ii) applied, and (iii) theoretical is variable depending on the function of the study. Halliday (2003 [1964]) had foreseen it when he stated that these studies are not competing, but complementary. As a consequence, translation studies can be divided among these three types of study¹:

(i) Descriptive studies: understanding of translation as register; contrastive typology (Teich, 1999, 2001; Matthiessen, 2001; Steiner, 2001, 2002).

(ii) Applied studies: translator training; translation (human and machine).

(iii) Theoretical studies: the formulation of a general theory of translation; multilingual meaning production (Halliday et al., 1964; Catford, 1965; Halliday, 2001).

It is important to note that ‘multilingual’ is used here in two complementary senses. When related to contrastive typology [(i) descriptive studies], ‘multilingual’ is not directly related to the text, but to the systemic resources to produce it. Thus, ‘multilingual’ implies approaching the potential end of the cline of instantiation (Teich, 1999; Matthiessen, 2001), examining more closely systemic patterns across languages (instead of comparing texts, or text types) to establish a typology among languages able to explain how meaning is produced in inter-linguistic contexts, specifically the translation context.

When related to translation in (iii) theoretical studies, ‘multilingual’ is seen from the point of view of the production of a specific text (unit of meaning), suggesting the production of equivalent meanings according to formal criteria (Catford, 1965; Matthiessen, 2001) in a number of languages.

The notion of translation in systemic functional theory is to a large extent based on essays by Catford (1965), which state the possibility of finding probabilistic correspondences for textual elements among linguistic systems, thus being possible

¹ It is interesting to notice that in 1972 James Holmes, a translation studies scholar, proposed a map of what came to be known as the discipline of translation studies and that this was organized within two main branches: pure and applied translation studies, the former being subdivided into theoretical and descriptive translation studies.

through a list of all probabilistic correspondences to establish variations of registers. Catford (1965) conceptualizes translation as a means to understand how languages operate across ranks and strata, when it would be possible to keep or replace textual elements in the target language. The understanding of language operation in translation would be a necessary tool to build up a databank capable of translating according to probabilities. Moreover, Catford (1965) states the potential of translation to aid in linguistic description.

Catford's concept of translation (1965) was amplified by Matthiessen (2001) according to the development of systemic theory. From then on, translation is understood as a relationship between (among) systems located in the cline of instantiation as a particular view of a larger phenomenon - multilingual meaning production.

Drawing on the works by Catford (1965) and Matthiessen (2001) – which not only conceptualize the relationship of translation among texts, but also among systemic potentials – it is possible to understand that the contact among languages can be investigated at different levels of abstraction.

Consequently, research on translation – typically understood as carried out among texts – can contribute to understanding how meaning production happens, accounting for systemic potential features. This allows for positing translation as a relationship text-text, seen from the vantage point of the instance pole in the cline of instantiation.

It is remarkable that there are no theoretical or methodological reasons to impede systemic-functional studies of translation to move up and down along the cline of instantiation; after all, according to the systemic functional conceptualization of translation, this is the only way to understand translation as: a) a relationship among semiotic systems; b) meaning production involving language features, but also involving context as well; c) functional production driven by register; d) part of a system that is more complex, which also needs to be taken into account in analysis.

Drawing on these assumptions regarding the locus of translation within systemic functional theory, this work sought to contribute to systemic functional translation studies, through the building of a descriptive basis to enable comparison and to understand translators' choices. The next section thus presents a description of the nominal group in Portuguese carried out bearing in mind translation analysis and a comparison between the Portuguese and the English nominal group (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

3 THE NOMINAL GROUP IN PORTUGUESE AND ITS CONTRAST WITH ENGLISH

As previously stated, the study reported on here sought to describe the systems involved in the experiential and logical organizations of the Portuguese nominal group, by identifying group primary and secondary classes operating as functions at clause rank; word classes operating as elements at group rank; and describing how classes, and elements within classes, are functionally organized. The methodology for such a description is presented below.

3.1 METHODOLOGY FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF THE NOMINAL GROUP IN PORTUGUESE

The case study presented is based on the English nominal group (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, among others) and on the description of the nominal group in Portuguese (Figueredo & Pagano, 2007), which was carried out taking the following methodological steps.

In the dimension of structure, the description is restricted to the group rank. In the dimension of system, the description starts with primary structures, made up of word rank items and of primary classes operated by clause rank structures. At the most delicate level, group is made up of secondary structures, which specify it from the selection of word secondary classes. Secondary classes answer for the groupings at the most delicate level.

In the dimension of stratification, group rank is restricted to lexicogrammar, that is, there is no direct relationship with semantics (except when there is rankshift).

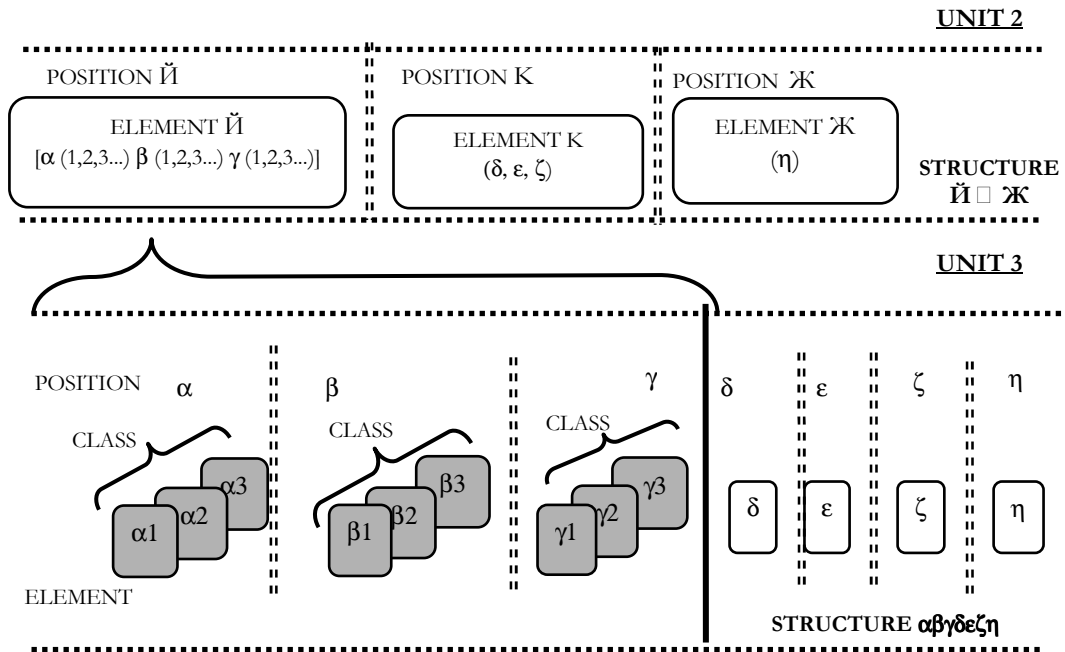
In the dimension of metafunction, nominal group items are made up of word complexes for the function of Thing, whose constitution is, to a large extent, restricted to logic and experiential components of the ideational metafunction.

In the dimension of instantiation, the widest environment for group description is restricted to the potential correspondent to lexicogrammar (group cell in the function-rank matrix) for primary classes and restricted to register for secondary classes.

Because this description is to a large extent the description of group rank and its classes, it was necessary to locate the nominal group on its widest environment, which was done from the vantage point of the dimension of structure. In order to do so, it was necessary to draw on Halliday's works on the scale-and-category grammar (Halliday, 2002 [1957, 1961, 1963, 1966]; Halliday et al. 1964) as a necessary step because it was fundamental to understand how segments were structured, that is, what is the nature of patterns formed within a given unit, which is able to indicate what elements can be selected to make it up.

The basis for such investigation was syntagmatic relations, i.e., in a given unit, the identification of what is common among items that group as a single element. It was also necessary to understand the reason for an item to be selected to be part of an element. In addition, given the elements stringing in a structure, the description needed to account for the groupings of items responsible for elements and, as a consequence, the reason for these items to group. Based on these inquiries, it is possible to comprehend how systems are organized paradigmatically; in other words, how different groupings make up different structural elements. The relationships among unit, structure and class can be seen in Figure 1 below.

FIGURE 1 - Unit, structure and class



In Figure 1 it is possible to see that structure is always understood with reference to the rank immediately below. Elements Й, К e Ж belong to unit 2 and are made up of items (α, β, γ) of the rank below in unit 3. By the same token, class is related to structure by stringing the structure of the rank immediately above. Classes α, β, γ , etc., are selections of groupings ($\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3\dots; \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3\dots$) of unit 3 and are responsible for items selected to make up elements (Й, К e Ж) of unit 2. In this case, class can be seen only in relation to structure in the sense that items in a class of a rank below make up the structure of the rank above. For example, items $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ are understood as classes when they form a group able to contribute to making up element Й in the unit above.

The description also needed to investigate what properties made some selection among items of a class highly probable and the selection of other items improbable, which had to be done by looking at the theoretical category of system.

It is the principle of delicacy that enables the system to differentiate primary and secondary structures. Secondary structures are made up of primary structures at a more delicate level. In opposition to primary structures, which are made up of items of a class in the rank immediately below, secondary structure elements are not directly related to the rank below, but to elements in the same rank at a more delicate level. More delicacy in the system suggests more restriction to the environment for an item to occur. Thus, in a secondary structure, only one part of the class groupings can operate as class in this structure, making it secondary. It is precisely in this sense that it is possible to relate the

description of the nominal group to instantiation with reference to system and stratification. Primary structures are less delicate and are related to the whole lexicogrammatical resources but restricted to group rank; secondary structures are more delicate and are related to more restricted lexicogrammatical resources that are not only restricted to group rank, but also register specific typological similarities.

3.1.2 THE CORPUS

The corpus was collected having as a basis the socio-semiotic processes diagram developed by Teruya and Matthiessen drawing on Ure's typology (see HERKE-COUCHMAN, 2006) for the possible relations between language uses and their context (URE, 1969a e 1969b). The corpus is made up of 12,000 words (tokens) divided into eight subcorpora (respectively to the socio-semiotic processes), each with 1,500 words. The subcorpora were divided into five text types varying in mode and type of relation (spoken/ written; monologic/ dialogic).

Sources for written text were printed materials of contemporary Portuguese (produced in the past fifty years) such as books, magazines, booklets and electronic material retrieved from the internet and the databank of the CORDIAL project developed at the Laboratory for Experimentation in Translation, at the Federal University of Minas Gerais. Oral texts were collected from web pages (for instance, news, interviews, conversation, etc.), the databank of the Expert@ project, developed at the Laboratory for Experimentation in Translation, and recordings of spontaneous conversation. Each text was labeled as follows:

```
<TEXT NUMBER>  
<socio-semiotic process> <interaction mode> <interaction type>  
<text type (register)>  
<title>  
<author> <date> <number of words>  
<Note>
```

It is important to note that, although the corpus covers all socio-semiotic process in modes and types, it is very reduced in terms of a corpus needed for the description of a language. Consequently, during the analysis of data retrieved from the corpus, it was also necessary to check patterns found in the corpus against general corpora databanks of Portuguese, more specifically the databanks of the NILC project, at USP (University of São Paulo, Brazil), the Lácio-Web Corpus, which can be accessed at the webpage www.nilc.icmc.usp.br/lacioweb/downloads.htm.

Manual annotation of corpus occurrences was carried out in two steps. First, the research had to assume the existence of the group rank in Portuguese as well as its classes. In order to do so, it was necessary to examine how groups contributed to the clause structure. Because the clause is organized metafunctionally, the first stage in the annotation was to chunk texts into clauses and each clause into groups (that is, items exhaustively bigger than words and smaller than clauses), and then to identify experiential and interpersonal functions of groups in the clause as well as their classes.

Then, nominal group items were further annotated in terms of word rank items that helped producing more delicate classes of groups, identifying nominal group secondary classes, and consequently more delicate options for nominal groups. After

annotation, data were retrieved and analyzed to produce a systematized description of the group rank in Portuguese, in particular the experiential and logical organizations of the nominal group.

3.2 CONTRASTING THE NOMINAL GROUP IN PORTUGUESE AND ENGLISH

The study identified resources of the Portuguese system to produce ‘word complexes’ to operate at clause rank. For example, [Quality + Thing]: a word can not realize a Thing and, at the same time, determine, quantify, qualify and classify it.

It was also possible to identify distinct groupings of group rank items structuring clause functioning experientially as Participant, Process and Circumstance; interpersonally as Subject, Predicator, Complement, Finite, Adjunct; textually as Relator. The following are examples of group elements functioning in the clause.²

(1) [Text 1]³

	<i>vai</i> [go]	<i>ser</i> [to be]	<i>tudo</i> [all]	<i>Totalmente</i> [totally]	<i>diferente!</i> [different]
INTER.	<i>Finite</i>	<i>Predicator</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Adjunct</i>	<i>Complement</i>
EXP.	<i>Relational</i>		<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Manner: Degree</i>	<i>Attribute</i>
GROUP	<i>Verbal</i>		<i>Nominal</i>	<i>Adverbial</i>	<i>Nominal</i>

(2) [Text 6]

	<i>Eu</i> [I]	<i>queria</i> [would like]	<i>dizer</i> [to tell]	<i>para vocês</i> [to you]
INTER.	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Finite</i>	<i>Predicator</i>	<i>Adjunct</i>
EXP.	<i>Sayer</i>	<i>Verbal</i>		<i>Receiver</i>
GROUP	<i>Nominal</i>	<i>Verbal</i>		<i>Prep. Phrase</i>

(3) [Text 15]

	<i>O alienista</i> [The psychiatrist]	<i>Foi</i> [went]	<i>recebe</i> [to welcome]	<i>-la,</i> [ber]	<i>com o boticário.</i> [with the apothecary]
INTER.	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Finite</i>	<i>Predicator</i>	<i>Complement</i>	<i>Adjunct</i>
EXP.	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Material</i>		<i>Goal</i>	<i>Circ.</i> <i>Accompaniment</i>
GRUPO	<i>Nominal</i>	<i>Verbal</i>		<i>Nominal</i>	<i>Prep. Phrase</i>

² All gloss translations from Portuguese into English will be presented in square brackets immediately following the example in Portuguese.

³ Examples are given according to the following conventions: in parentheses is the number of the example and in square brackets is the number of the text in the corpus from which the example was retrieved. For instance (2) [Text 6] means that it is the second example and was retrieved from Text 6 in the corpus.

(4) [Text 20]

	<i>As competições de ultra-resistência</i> [The competitions of ultra-resistance]	<i>Representam</i> [represent]	<i>um grande desafio no mundo esportivo.</i> [a great challenge in the world sportive]
INTER.	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Predicator+Finite</i>	<i>Complement</i>
EXP.	<i>Identified – Token</i>	<i>Relational</i>	<i>Identifier - Value</i>
GRUPO	<i>Nominal</i>	<i>Verbal</i>	<i>Nominal</i>

Nominal group secondary classes are established by word class systems. At a low level of delicacy, Nominal groups function representing and qualifying things and can be classified according to the various representations of things and qualities. When functioning as Thing, the most common (probable) word classes are nouns and personal pronouns. When functioning as Quality, the most probable word classes are article, pronoun, adjective, numeral and preposition.

Word classes responsible for operating congruently as Head in the logical organization of the nominal group in Portuguese are those operating experientially as Thing, that is, noun and personal pronoun. However, items operating experientially as Deictic, Numerative, Epithet and Classifier can also function as Head. Modifiers are realized by elements operating experientially as Quality. Following the hierarchy between Pre and Post-modifiers, the former are structured by word classes article, pronoun, numeral, adverb and adjective; the latter by adjective, preposition and noun.

(5) [Text 21]

<i>A mais antiga amostra conhecida da crosta terrestre</i> [the most old sample known of the crust terrestrial]
<i>non-selective specific Deictic + quantitative Numerative + Epithet + Thing + Classifier + Qualifier</i>
<i>Article + adjective + noun + adjective + preposition + noun + adjective</i>

(6) [Text 29]

<i>O empreendedor que supera todas as dificuldades até fazer do seu sonho uma realidade</i> [the entrepreneur who overcomes all difficulties until makes of his dream a reality]
<i>non-selective specific Deictic + Thing + Qualifier + Numerative + non-selective specific Deictic + Thing + Qualifier + Qualifier + non-selective non-specific Deictic + Thing</i>
<i>Article + noun + conjunction + verb + adjective + article + noun + preposition + verb + preposition + pronoun + noun + article + noun</i>

(7) [Text 25]

<i>o processo de construção das normas</i> [the process of construction of the norms]
<i>non-selective specific Deictic + Thing + Qualifier + Qualifier</i>
<i>Article + preposition + noun + preposition + noun</i>

Contrasting Portuguese with English it is possible to see – as previous studies have demonstrated (Teich, 1999; Matthiessen, 2004) – that linguistic systems tend to be more congruent in broader environments and less congruent in more restricted environments. That is, the lower the level of delicacy, the closer systems are in terms of typological similarities.

3.2.1 SIMPLE THING

Characterizing Thing from the vectors established by Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) countability, generality and animacy, it was possible to see how these vectors can be applied to the categorization of Thing in Portuguese when compared to English.

Countability: in English, when Thing is non-count and the nominal group specific, the number used is singular (non-plural). When Thing is non-count, but the nominal group is non-specific, Thing is interpreted as plural (non-singular). In terms of countability, the Portuguese system produces Things that can be, in general, both count and non-count because the system has developed resources, such as the choice for specific non-selective Deictics as a means to particularize mass Things but also to construe itemized Things as mass.

(8) [Text 10]: *Itemized Thing*

*Acrescente os **tomates** [Add the **tomatoes**]*

(9) [Text 10]: *Itemized Thing as mass*

*1 colher (sopa) de purê de **tomate** [1 spoon (soup spoon) of puree of **tomato**]*

(10) [Text 10]: *Mass Thing as itemized*

*Aqueça o **azeite** numa panela grande anti-aderente. [Heat the **olive:oil** in a pan big and anti-adherent]*

(11) [Text 2]: *Itemized Thing as mass*

*São as venturas e desventuras que nos dão uma sensação de total **impotência** diante de nossas próprias vidas. [Are the fortunes and misfortunes that us give a sensation of total **impotency** before our own lives].*

Generality: both English and Portuguese systems are able to establish taxonomic relations; thus, more general Things can operate as superordinates for other Things which are more delicate choices.

(12) [Text 34]

*Nos **textos** que compõem este número, são abordados assuntos que envolvem o **Provão**, o **ENADE**, o **Sistema Educacional Chileno**, a **Auto-avaliação Institucional** (...). Robert Evan Verbine, Lys Maria Vinbaes Dantas e José Francisco Soares, no **artigo** intitulado "Do Provão ao ENADE:*

*uma análise comparativa dos exames nacionais utilizados no Ensino Superior Brasileiro", procedem a um estudo que compara os mencionados **exames**.*

*[In the **texts** that take part on this issue (of the magazine), are approached topics involving the Provão, the ENADE, the System Educational Chilean, Self-evaluation Institutional (...). Robert Eyan Verbine, Lys Maria Vinhaes Dantas and José Francisco Soares, in the **paper** called "From Provão to ENADE: an analysis comparative of tests national used in the Program Undergraduate Brazilian", carry out a study that compares the mentioned **exams**].*

It is possible to see that in the example 'avaliação [evaluation]' is a type of 'exame [exam]' and that 'auto-avaliação [self-evaluation]' is a type of 'avaliação [evaluation]', and 'auto-avaliação institucional [institutional self-evaluation]' is a type of 'auto-avaliação [self-evaluation]'. By the same token, 'artigo [paper]' is a type of 'texto [text]'.

Animacy: based on the work of Halliday & Matthiessen (1999), it is possible to state that taxonomy of animacy in English and Portuguese vary from conscious (human) to semiotic abstraction. However, the criteria to classify Things within this taxonomy are particular for each system. One of these criteria is the ability for Things to move along the cline of animacy.

(13) [Text 18]

Enquanto os personagens interpretam usar o corpo em jogos cênicos. [While the characters perform, use the body in theatrical games].

(14) [Text 35]

Observe que o poeta, à medida que descreve o corpo de Cristo, revela o valor espiritual e resgatador do sofrimento físico. [See that the poet, while describes the body of Christ, reveals the worth spiritual and redeeming of suffering physical].

In example 13 'corpo [body]' is a material object, but in example 14 it is construed as a semiotic object.

3.2.2 DETERMINATION

In English, the non-selective Deictic indicates a subset of Thing, however, it does not produce enough delicacy to guide the listener with respect to person or proximity (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). In Portuguese, the non-selective Deictic is also a feature of the system and the following entry condition is divided into specific and non-specific.

In English, the non-selective Deictic feature is one of the possible choices for TYPE OF DEIXIS. In Portuguese, the non-selective Deictic functions closely related to the selective Deictics (person and proximity). The Deictic of proximity in Portuguese functions both as specific non-selective Deictic and as selective for proximity Deictic. However, this choice constitutes a selective feature of the specific Deictic.

The relationship between Deictic of proximity and speech persons in English has the speaker as reference (Thing is close or distant from the speaker). Traditionally in Portuguese, proximity and distance are delimited as in the following table:

TABLE 1 – Demonstrative pronouns and discourse persons in Portuguese

	Variation		Invariation			Identity reinforcer (1st, 2nd and 3rd persons)
	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>		<i>Do not select for person (these are all 3rd person)</i>	<i>Do not select person or number</i>	
1 st	este(s)	esta(s)	isto		'o' invariável	mesmo, próprio
2 nd	esse(s)	essa(s)	isso			
3 rd	Aquele(s)	aquela(s)	aquilo			

<i>Port.</i>	este	esse	aquele	esta	essa	aquela
<i>Engl.</i>	this	this	that	this (she)	this (she)	that (she)

<i>Port.</i>	isto	isso	aquilo	tal	o, a	o	mesmo, próprio
<i>Engl.</i>	this (it)	this (it)	that (it)	such	it, this	it	same, former

However, the analysis of the corpus showed that in Portuguese spatial reference is negotiated to construe the experiential and referential spaces logogenetically.

(15) [Text 3]

P2: *Você já tinha lido **esse** texto antes?* [You already had read **this** (next to 2nd person) text before?]

S: *Olha, certamente sim. Eu já li **esse** texto na...na minha dissertação.* [Look, certainly yes. I already had read **this** (next to 2nd person) text for... for my thesis]

As can be seen from the example, both speakers treat the text as if it were next to their listener, regardless if it is next to or distant from any one of them. This suggests that each speaker uses Deictics of proximity to build a space for items around them and, consequently to negotiate this distance with other speakers.

In the following example, which is a fable, there is a bunny talking about her own 'orelhas' [ears] and how beautiful they are, however they are determined as close to second person by 'essas' [this, close to 2nd person].

(16) [Text 17]

A Coelhozinha das Orelhas Grandes

***Aquela** coelhozinha era tão branca como as outras. Acreditava que eram as maiores e mais bonitas de toda a região.*

*- Ah, como me sinto bem com **essas** belíssimas orelhas!*

[The Bunny of the Ears Big]

*That bunny was so white as all others. She believed that they were the biggest and most beautiful of all ears in the region. "Ah, how I feel well with **these** (next to 2nd person) pretty ears!"*

Deictics of person, both in English and Portuguese, are used with respect to the persons of discourse. In Portuguese, Deictics of person can not select the option for specific and consequently allow another Deictic to produce with it, a unit of specification (or non-specification) and orientation to person or to proximity.

(17) [Text 30]

*Cada um estava só no seu canto, cuidando de afazeres existentes no barco ou simplesmente ao léu (como era **o meu caso**).*
*[Each one was in his place, taking care of their duties on the boat or simply doing nothing (such was **the my case**)]*

(18) [Text 18]

*...pois **estas minhas** palavras no vosso coração e na vossa alma.*
*[...for **these my words** in your heart and in your soul]*

(19) [Text LI-LT-PR-Barreto-javanes_14.txt – Lácio-Web]

*Contribuiu muito para isso o fato de vir ele a receber uma herança de **um seu parente** esquecido que vivia em Portugal.*
*[Contributed a lot for that the fact that he got to receive an inheritance of **a his relative** distant who lived in Portugal].*

Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) state that non-selective Deictics in English integrate when operating in discourse. Non-specific Deictics introduce a referent in discourse and specific Deictics track it along the unfolding of the text. In Portuguese it is possible for a referent to be introduced by a specific non-selective Deictic. Non-selective Deictics in Portuguese are related to the system of REFERENCE with respect to identification when a referent is presented as part (or not presented as part) of the referential chain.

Thus, tracking a referent along the unfolding of the text is related to specific and non-specific determination in English; but in Portuguese it is related to identification. In Portuguese it is also important to take into account not only specificity, but identification as well. The possible selections can be seen in comparison in TABLE 2, which also brings examples for each possibility.

TABLE 2 – REFERENCE and DETERMINATION of non-specific Deictics in Portuguese

SYSTEM →	REFERENCE		DETERMINATION	
	Identification	Referent	Definition	Specificity
(20) [Text 16]	<i>(...) porque você não passa de um amarelo muito safado!</i> <i>[(...) because you are but a bastard so trickster!]</i>			
	<i>Non-identified</i>	<i>Antecedent</i>	<i>Indefinite</i>	<i>Non-specific</i>
	<i>Identified</i>	<i>Succedent</i>	<i>Indefinite</i>	<i>Non-specific</i>

(21) [Text 22]	<i>Vocês sabem que nessa tomada de posse, aqui dentro do Palácio, os ministros não falam</i> [you know that in this ceremonial possession, here in the Palace, the ministers don't say anything]			
	<i>Identified</i>	<i>Antecedent</i>	<i>Definite</i>	<i>Specific</i>
	<i>Non-identified</i>	<i>Succedent</i>	<i>Definite</i>	<i>Specific</i>
(22) [Text 15]	<i>O alienista dizia que só eram admitidos os casos patológicos,</i> [The psychiatrist said that only were accepted the cases pathological]			
	<i>Identified</i>	<i>Antecedent or Succedent</i>	<i>Definite</i>	<i>Generic</i>
(23) [Text 18]	<i>Bem-aventurados são os que ouvem a palavra de Deus e a guarda!</i> [Blessed are those who listen the word of God and it keep!]			
	<i>Identified</i>	<i>Antecedent or Succedent</i>	<i>Definite</i>	<i>Generic</i>
(24) [Text 1]	<i>Privacidade é algo tão importante</i> [Privacy is something so important]			
	<i>Identified</i>	<i>Antecedent or Succedent</i>	<i>Indefinite</i>	<i>Generic (mass)</i>
(25) [Text 5]	<i>Autoridades iraquianas mantiveram o toque de recolher em Bagdá</i> [Authorities iraqi kept the toque de recolher in Baghdad]			
	<i>Identified</i>	<i>Antecedent or Succedent</i>	<i>Indefinite</i>	<i>Generic (count)</i>
(26) [Text 11]	<i>A Câmara dos Deputados, considerando a necessidade de adaptar o seu funcionamento...</i> [The Chamber of Representatives, considering the need to adapt the its work...]			
	<i>Identified</i>	<i>External</i>	<i>Definite</i>	<i>Specific</i>

Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) state that in face of specific Deictic options, the system of NUMBER makes the opposition between plural and non-plural, in which mass elements are grouped with singular; when the option is for non-specific Deictics, the system makes the opposition between singular and non-singular, in which mass is grouped with plural.

In Portuguese, the difference between occurrences as these on EXAMPLE 27 seem to rest only in the deictic determination of Things and not in its non-singular or non-plural nature, because both occurrences refer to simple Thing: substance but on the second sentence construed as a material object.

(27) [Text 10]
1 colher (sopa) **de azeite** de oliva [1 spoon (soup spoon) **of oil** of olive]

(28) [Text 10]
Aqueça o **azeite** numa panela grande anti-aderente. [Heat **the olive:oil** in a pan big and anti-adherent]

(29) [Text 7]

Mais que 20% dos adolescentes de 14 anos têm **asma**. A asma não é uma doença de alta letalidade. [More than 20% of adolescents of 14 years have **asthma**. The asthma not is a disease of high lethality].

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) besides the Deictic it is possible to the nominal group in English has a second element responsible for adding further identification to the subset of the Thing called post-Deictic. It was not possible to identify in the corpus of this research elements functioning as post-Deictics in the structure of the nominal group in Portuguese.

The post-Deictic function in English is operated in Portuguese by other functions, mainly non-specific Deictics and Interpersonal Epithets. Looking at these from the logical organization, many items functioning as post-Deictics in English are in Portuguese selected to a post-modifying position, functioning as Epithet, for example:

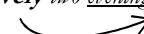
(29) [Text 14]

esse igualitarismo **inflexível** [this equality **inflexible**]



(30) [from Halliday & Matthiessen (2004, p. 317)]

those **lovely** two evenings



A comparative table for the system of DETERMINATION in English and Portuguese can be seen below:

TABLE 3 – Comparative elements of DETERMINATION in English and Portuguese

Specificity		Non-specificity		Person		Proximity		EXAMPLE	
Port.	Engl.	Port.	Engl.	Port.	Engl.	Port.	Engl.	Port.	Engl.
+	+							o, a	The
		+	+					um, uma	A
+						+	+	esta, essa, aquela	this, that
				+	+			minha, minhas	my, her
+				+				o meu	
		+		+				um meu	
+				+		+		esta minha	
Interrogative								qual, que, quem	which, what
					+			Whose	

3.2.3 QUANTIFICATION

Both English and Portuguese operate with Numeratives, which have the functions of quantifying and ordering the subset of the Thing. In English, the selection of items is from word classes of numerals and indefinite pronouns. In Portuguese, it is from numerals, indefinite pronouns, but also interrogative pronouns. This is due to the fact that in Portuguese Numeratives can select for interrogative mood, for example:

(32) [Text 4]

Quantos irmãos você tem? [How:many brothers and sisters you have?]

(33) [Text Papéis Avulsos\LI-LT-PR-Assis-papeisavulsos_08.txt – Lácio-Web]

- **Quanto?** [How:much?]

- Não posso dizer nada a este respeito, porque realmente só uma coisa muito modesta. [Not can say nothing about this, because really is just a sum modest]

(34) [Text 4]

Qual o número aproximado de estudantes por turma? [What the number approximately of students per class?]

As to the remaining of secondary classes of Numeratives, there is a higher level of congruence between English and Portuguese. For instance, both systems have resources of submodification as a means to make a Numerative precise or not, as in:

(35) [Text 15]

um dos mais sublimes da história moral dos homens [**one of the most** sublime in history moral of the men]

(36) [Text 5]

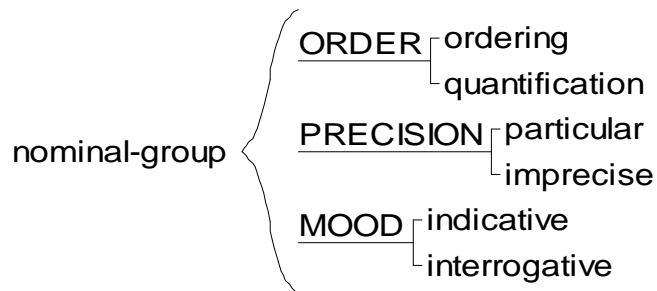
Saddam e **dois de seus** ex-colaboradores [Saddam and **two of his** former collaborators.]

(37) [from Halliday & Matthiessen (2004, p. 318)]

About ten trains; **almost the last** train.

The system of QUANTIFICATION in Portuguese can be seen in FIGURE 2:

FIGURE 2 – The system of QUANTIFICATION in Portuguese



The entry condition for this system is the Nominal Group and there are three systems, ORDER, PRECISION and MOOD. For each subsystem there are two options. So, for example, if it is selected ORDER → ordering; PRECISION → particularization; MOOD → indicative, the option realized is for ordinal Numeratives, as ‘terceiro [third]’ or ‘décimo [tenth]’. Now if it is selected: ORDER → ordering; PRECISION → imprecise; MOOD → indicative, the option in Portuguese is for adjectives like ‘próximo [next]’, ‘anterior [previous]’ e ‘seguinte [following]’. Examples for selections of these options can be found in:

(38) [Text 9]
*(order, particular, indicative): Não pude deixar de notar que, das 18 cartas de apoio publicadas no **primeiro** número. [Not could help to notice that of the 18 letters of support published in the **first** issue]*

(39) [Text 15]
*(order, imprecise, indicative): no dia **seguinte**, foi recolhido à Casa Verde. [the day **following** was collected to the House Green].*

(40) [Text PE-CI-Bonfante-nov98.txt – Lácio-Web]
*(order, imprecise, indicative): não há tarefa de predição do **próximo** elemento da seqüência [no exists task of prediction of the **next** element of the sequence]*

(41) [Text 5]
*(quantification, particular, indicative): Anad Ahmed al Bandar, (...) e Burzan Ibrahim (...) foram considerados culpados pela morte de **148** xiitas em Dujail, em 1982. [Anad Ahmed al Bandar, (...) e Burzan Ibrahim (...) were considered guilty for the death of **148** xiites in Dujail in 1982].*

(42) [Text 21]
*(quantification, imprecise, indicative): (...) mecanismo que regula o movimento e a evolução dos grandes blocos rochosos que compõem a crosta terrestre – já estava em ação **muíto** antes do que imaginavam os cientistas. [(...) mechanism that regulates the movement and the evolution of the great blocks rocky that make part of the crust terrestrial – already were in action **a lot** before the what imagined the scientists]*

(43) [Text 15]
*(quantification, imprecise, indicative): O alienista foi recebê-la, com o boticário, o Padre Lopes os vereadores e **vários** outros magistrados. [the psychiatrist went to welcome her with the apothecary, the Priest Lopes, the aldermen and **various** other magistrates]*

3.2.4 EPITHESIS AND SUBCLASSIFICATION

From the experiential point of view, these are similar functions in English and Portuguese. This can be seen when they are located in the system.

Looked at ‘from below’ Epithets and Classifiers in English and Portuguese are selected from word class adjective (although in Portuguese, because of logical reasons,

possessive pronouns and demonstratives in post-modifying position can function as Classifier, just as in English nouns and verbs in pre-modifying position function as Classifiers and Epithets). For example:

(44) [Text 8] <i>Experiential Epithet</i>	(45) [Text 10] <i>Interpersonal Epithet</i>	(46) [Text PE-CI-Pardo-set99.txt—Lácio-Web] <i>Classifier</i>
<i>tempo necessário</i> <i>[time necessary]</i>	O <i>pobre</i> Mateus <i>[the poor Mateus]</i>	aspecto <i>este</i> <i>[aspect this]</i>
<i>noun + adjective</i>	<i>article + adjective + noun</i>	<i>noun + demonstrative pronoun</i>

More examples can be found below:

(47) [Text 6]
Na Idade Média, os artesãos começaram a usar um corante **vermelho** extraído da madeira.
[In the Ages Middle, the craftsmen began to use a **dye red** extracted of the wood]

(48) [Text 10]
Aqueça o azeite numa **panela grande** antiaderente. [Heat **the olive:oil** in a pan big and anti-adherent]

(49) [Text 13]
Limpe sempre as marcas das mãos com um **pano macio e seco**, após tocar. [Clean always the prints finger with a **cloth soft and dry** after playing]

Interpersonal Epithet

(50) [Text 30]
Quando observei minha mãe caminhando, cuidando de flores plantadas em **pequenos vasos** em um canto do navio. [When I looked at my mother walking, taking care of flowers planted in **tiny vases** in a corner of the ship]

(51) [Text 6]
O gentílico "brasileiro" surgiu no século XVI e se referia inicialmente aos que comercializavam aquela madeira e, mais tarde, aos portugueses que chegavam àquele **lugar exótico** em busca de fortuna. [The adjective "Brazilian" appeared in the century XVI and referred initially to those that traded that wood and, later, to the Portuguese who arrived at that **place exotic** seeking fortunes]

(52) [Text 2]
Rodopiando ao som de Pour Elise ou de outra canção, uma **canção singela**. [spinning at the sound of Pour Elise or of other song, a **song innocent**]

Classifier

(53) [SUBCONJUNTO]: [Text 30]

*Após a chuva, como em todo **bom sonho**, o sol voltou [After the rain, as in all **good dreams**, the sun came back]*

(54) [SUBCLASSE]: [Text 15]

*A Casa Verde é um **cárcere privado**, disse um médico sem clínica. [The House Green is a **jail private**, said a doctor without experience]*

When looked at ‘from roundabout’, Epithets and Classifiers in Portuguese and English are the nominal group element most closely related to the Thing, consequently modifying it and being modified by deictic and quantifying elements. Looked at ‘from above’, Epithets and Classifiers are part of a more ample function, Qualification. Epithets are responsible for qualifying the Thing, and Classifiers separate the Thing in subclasses.

3.2.5 QUALIFIERS

Qualifiers in English and in Portuguese are rankshifted elements from group and clause ranks.

Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) state that the function of Qualifiers in English is to characterize the Thing in some aspect. In Portuguese, specifically when prepositional phrases serve as Qualifiers these function similarly to Classifiers. Thus, while the Qualifier in English has the function of characterizing the Thing more amply, in Portuguese it also has the function of specifying the Thing in a subclass.

(55) [Text 18]

*expressões **faciais e corporais**. [expressions **facial** and **bodily**]
expressões **da face e do corpo**. [expressions **of the face** and **of the body**]*

3.2.6 SYSTEMS OF CLASS: HEAD AND MODIFIERS

The investigation of the nominal group logical structure in Portuguese suggests that there is a congruency between Portuguese and English because both have Head as the dominant element and hypotactic elements operate modifying it. In English and Portuguese the congruent structure has the same element operating both as Thing and Head.

In English, qualification is from right to left of the Head: “the basis of subcategorization of course shifts as we move to the left: ‘what type of...?’, ‘what quality of...?’, ‘how many...?’ and so on” (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, p. 329). In Portuguese, resources developed by the system allow modification occur to the left and to the right of the Head, as can be seen in the next table:

TABLE 4 – Qualification in Portuguese

<i>Estes</i> [these]	<i>dois</i> [two]	<i>excelentes</i> [excellent]	<i>projetos</i> [projects]	<i>editoriais</i> [editorial]	<i>maduros</i> [developed]
<i>Which?</i>	<i>How many?</i>	<i>What (subjective) quality of?</i>	<i>Thing</i>	<i>What type of?</i>	<i>What (objective) quality of?</i>

In English, there is also modification to the right. So it is possible to state that these two systems have pre and post qualifying elements. Nonetheless, Post-modifiers in English are Qualifiers. Being rankshifted elements, Qualifiers do not contribute to structure complex nominals in English. In Portuguese, Pre-modifiers and Post-modifiers are able to take part in structuring complex nominals.

(56) [Text literatura.Bra-Alencar-iracema_14.txt]
Verdes mares **bravios** [green seas **ferocious**]

Based on modifying elements behavior, it is possible to understand that in English and in Portuguese they obey the hierarchy of hypotaxis. In the congruent form, having Thing as Head, the hierarchy of hypotaxis is of modifiers corresponding to the experiential functions of: Classifier, experiential Epithet, interpersonal Epithet, Numerative, Post-deictic (only for English, but not for Portuguese) and Deictic. Because Portuguese establishes another hypotactic hierarchy, between pre and post-modifying positions, the interpretation of hypotactic order in this description needed an intermediate level, as it is possible to see in the following table:

TABLE 5 – Portuguese nominal group submodification

<i>Estes</i> [these]	<i>dois</i> [two]	<i>excelentes</i> [excellent]	<i>projetos</i> [projects]	<i>editoriais</i> [editorial]	<i>maduros</i> [developed]
γ			α	β	
$\gamma\gamma$	$\gamma\beta$	$\gamma\alpha$		$\beta\alpha$	$\beta\beta$

The following table presents comparatively submodification in English and Portuguese in the most congruent form.

TABLE 6 – Submodification in English and Portuguese

<i>Order of modification</i>	<i>Most probable status</i>	<i>Portuguese</i>		<i>English</i>
<i>Thing</i>	<i>Head</i>	α		α
<i>Classifier</i>	<i>dependent 1</i>	$\beta\alpha$		β
<i>Experiential Epithet</i>	<i>dependent 2</i>	$\beta\beta$ (post)	$\gamma\alpha$ (pre)	γ
<i>Interpersonal Epithet</i>	<i>dependent 3</i>	$\beta\gamma$ (post)	$\gamma\alpha$ or $\gamma\beta$ (pre)	δ

<i>Numerative</i>	<i>dependent 4</i>	$\gamma\beta$	ε
<i>Deictic</i>	<i>dependent 5</i>	$\gamma\gamma$	ζ

However, due to modification resources specific to each system, the meaning potential can be amplified when these two functions are dissociated from the same element.

Due to the fact that in Portuguese there is a relationship of dependency between pre and post-modifying positions, elements within each position are also organized hypotactically among themselves. For example, a Classifier is a dependent element in relation to Thing, but is the dominant element within post-modification. As a consequence, the system produces a resource that enables dependent elements to function as Head. Using the example from above, tables 7 and 8 present possible organizations with Classifier as Head and experiential Epithet as Head:

TABLE 7 – Portuguese nominal group submodification

<i>estes</i> [these]	<i>dois</i> [two]	<i>excelentes</i> [excellent]	<i>editoriais</i> [editorial]	<i>maduros</i> [developed]
γ			α	β
γ	$\gamma\beta$	$\gamma\alpha$		$\beta\alpha$

TABLE 8 – Portuguese nominal group submodification

<i>estes</i> [these]	<i>dois</i> [two]	<i>maduros</i> [developed]	<i>excelentes</i> [excellent]
γ		α	β
$\gamma\beta$	$\gamma\alpha$		$\beta\alpha$

4 FINAL REMARKS

In the past few years, systemic-functional studies of translation having Portuguese as one of the systems involved have claimed the need for ampler descriptions as a resource to further studies of translation. As an attempt to meet this need, this work adopted a systemic functional view of translation (Teich, 1999; Matthiessen, 2001) in which translation is understood as a meaning-making resource that takes place when a relationship is established between linguistic systems. This view requires system description as a fundamental step to the study of translation.

Because research in the Brazilian context faces a particular situation, in which there are no systematic or sufficient description available, this work aimed at describing some part of the Portuguese linguistic system to make a basis for future investigations in translation.

Within this context, the Portuguese rank scale was identified and the nominal class of groups was described as well as its experiential and logical structures by taking the dimension of structure as the most comprehensive environment (Halliday, 2002).

Based on the social-semiotic processes and the text types related to them (see Herke-Couchman, 2006) a corpus was collected. Classes of group were annotated in relation to their clause functions, as well as word rank items serving as elements or parts of elements in group structure.

For the analysis, structure was taken as the most comprehensive environment for description and was able to point at the hierarchical constitution of the Portuguese rank scale. Looked at 'from below', it was possible to understand how group items form elements in clause structure and word items form elements in group structure. Looked at 'from above', it was possible to understand which group classes operate as particular elements in clause rank. As a result, this description indicates that Portuguese rank scale has four ranks: morpheme, word, group (phrase) and clause.

Examining nominal group class 'from below', word classes operating as elements in nominal group structure were identified. Examining nominal group 'from roundabout' it was possible to see how elements functioning within the nominal group were selected to form secondary structures of nominal groups, indicating that the nominal group structure in Portuguese is both experiential and logical.

The experiential structure of the nominal group in Portuguese has two broad functions of Quality and Thing. Quality in Portuguese has the functions of: Deictics: non-selective (specific and non-specific), selective for proximity, selective for person, indefinite and interrogative. Numerative: ordenative, quantitative and interrogative. Epithet: experiential and interpersonal. Classifier: several classes (with respect to material, origin, characteristic, etc.). Thing, classified taxonomically as: conscious, animal, material object, substance, material abstraction, institution, semiotic object, semiotic abstraction.

The logical structure of the nominal group in Portuguese has a Head and Pre- and Post-modifiers. The Head can be operated by any of the elements from experiential structure, including Qualifiers (prepositional phrases mostly). Post-modifying position is dominant in relation to pre-modifying position in Portuguese, which enables Post-modifiers to be modified by Pre-modifiers.

The next step was to contrast English and Portuguese nominal group organizations.

Following previous investigations (Teich, 1999; Matthiessen, 2001) it was possible to note through typological contrast that these systems are more congruent at lower levels of delicacy and are less congruent at higher levels of delicacy. Contrasting English and Portuguese at lower levels of delicacy it was possible to see that both systems:

- Have four ranks.
- Have nominal group class.
- Have experiential and logical structures for the nominal group.
- In the experiential structure, they have the functions of Quality and Thing.
- In the logical structure, they have Head, Pre-modifiers and Post-modifiers.

At higher levels of delicacy:

- Meaning produced by each rank is different. For example, in English Thing subclasses are established by word class items (operating as Classifiers), but in Portuguese they can be established by rankshifted elements (Qualifiers).
- The Portuguese nominal group operate at clause level with different functions from English, for example Circumstances of Manner: Means and Manner: Comparison realized by nominal group.
- The experiential structure of the Portuguese nominal group does not present the function of post-Deictic, in which case Thing is additionally determined by Epithets, interpersonal in general.
- The logical structure of the Portuguese nominal group distributes elements in Head (α), pre-modifying ($\gamma\alpha, \gamma\beta, \gamma\gamma\dots$) and post-modifying ($\alpha; \beta\alpha, \beta\beta, \beta\gamma\dots$) positions differently from English ($\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \epsilon, \zeta\dots$)

Following the works of Teich (1999), Matthiessen (2001), Teich (2001) and Steiner (2002), the present description can be understood as a means to develop a typological contrast and a resource to future investigations bearing the linguistic-functional view of translation.

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