

PRESENTATION

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Era nossa avó, mas também mãe de pegação. Esse era o título que dizia qual era o seu lugar em nossas vidas: avó e mãe. Quando deixamos o ventre de Salustiana Nicolau – os vivos, os que morreram tempos depois e os natimortos – encontramos primeiro as mãos pequenas de Donana. Foi o primeiro espaço no mundo fora do corpo de Salu que ocupamos.

Torto arado, by Itamar Vieira Júnior, 2019

It is an honor for me to become the director of *Íkala, Journal of Language and Culture* after becoming an assistant professor at the School of Languages of Universidad de Antioquia. Taking on the direction of a journal that has reached quartile 1 in SJR and has consolidated its excellence is a great challenge: keeping up to the task and broadening the networks of dialog for the construction of knowledge in our field.

I would also like to congratulate and thank Professor Doris Correa for her leadership during her impressive four years in charge of *Íkala*, throughout which she was "a witness and a leader" (in her own words) of the journal's current position, as it was thanks to her that *Íkala* became one of the most important journals of our region in the field, which is a great achievement in the Latin American editorial context.

I know I can rely on a great team and on the institutional backing of our University to keep moving forward. This is my motivation to take on the privileged work of supporting those who wish to delivering their academic production to us. I truly find it to be similar to the work of midwives like Donana, as they aid the process of being born and are the first place in the word to open room for new voices.

The current Director's office of the School of Languages emphasizes the value of cultural and linguistic diversity and is highly committed to the dialogues between different regions of the Global South. These topics are already part of our journal's reflections, and I expect to keep strengthening them through my interaction with our authors, reviewers, and readers.

This issue contains twelve articles. This regular issue, the first of 2024, maintains the diversity of our production, as it includes the work of authors from Africa — Ghana (1) and Nigeria (1) —,

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America —Argentina (1), Colombia (1), and Chile (1) —, and Europe —Spain (7) —. Six of these articles were written in Spanish, and six in English. Overall, this issue contains three sections grouping two empirical studies, eight case studies, and two book reviews.

The empirical studies section brings two articles. It starts with the work of Guadalupe Alvarez, Ayelén Cavallini, and Hilda Difabio, focused on the writing of academic texts. In this article, the authors delve into the discussion of dialogic feedback in the context of graduate thesis writing. By using qualitative methods, they present results that show the relevance of two categories for online dialogic feedback: the analysis and editing of one's own writing, and the emotional aspects that favor textual production. These results can be used to substantiate decision-making regarding teaching proposals for graduate thesis writing. The second article, by Wilson Salas, Francy Galván, Julio Moreno, and Libardo Corzo, presents a study of 138 Colombian sign language interpreters, with the objective of identifying the characteristic of their work environment. By identifying risk factors threatening the access and permanence of this population, these results could contribute to the improvement of interpreters' working conditions and quality of life.

The second section, case studies, includes eight topics dealing with university education, language teaching, and discourse analysis in different fields (literature, audiovisual series, anime, and politics). Emmanuel Bonsu and Samuel Nkansah's article allows us to go deep into African literature through Ayi Kwei Armah's work. By using a discourse analysis approach, this corpus study allows for a better understanding of the novel *Fragments*, thus showing its pertinence for discourse analysis. This work shows the viability of computer tools like Wmatrix to sift through literary texts, contributing to future studies.

We have three articles related to university education in this issue. The first one, written by Benjamin Carcamo and Carmen Carmona, presents a groundbreaking study, based on mixed methods, about a semester-long intervention on the motivation, intended effort, and willingness to communicate of students enrolled in a translation and interpretation program. According to their results, the analysis of the semi-structured interview data showed that the intervention was important for the students and that it helped them to establish a future L2 professional vision and to determine the steps needed to reach this vision. Based on this data, the authors suggest including visionary teaching in translation and interpretation programs to improve students' motivation and commitment. The second text, by Zuriñe Sanz-Villar, analyzes data from translations from German into Basque, identifying strengths and weaknesses that appear on the products of the translating process. After identifying these variables, the possibility of them having a direct impact on translation courses, by

contributing to activity design, stands out. Finally, the third article, written by Carmen Pérez-Sabater, Enrique Cerezo, and Inmaculada Barbasán, analyzes the role of technological resources in language teaching at the university level. By observing the role of TikTok and Flipgrid in English and Italian courses, the researchers show how using short videos for speaking practice can motivate and enrich language learning, including feedback for each program.

Three other articles in this section focus on the field of cultural production. Alba Quintairos-Soliño and Francisco Ojeda-García present a qualitative and quantitative study of the Japanese anime *Detective Conan* following the ecology of knowledges approach. Mariona Visa, Lorenzo Torres, and María Isabel Menéndez focus on the study of the representation of motherhood in Spanish narratives of the early 21st century, analyzing six Spanish dramedies distributed through video-on-demand platforms. Finally, the article by Francisco Martínez and Cristina Cañamares identifies, quantifies, and interprets, through a semiotic-multimodal analysis, the resources and interactive relationships referred to focalization, social distance, and attitude that the use of certain semiotic resources provokes in the illustrations of Mercer Mayer's traditional series of album books *Frog Stories*.

This section ends with Mathias Chukwu and David Olorunsogo's study on the dynamics of inaugural speeches and ideologies in the political field. By going back to Van Dijk's approach, the authors analyze first-term inaugural speeches given in Nigeria between 2014 and 2017, and identify four recurring rhetorical strategies.

Finally, in the book review section, we have the presentation of two books from the field of translation studies. In *Traducción literaria y género: estrategias y prácticas de visibilización*, by Patricia Álvarez Sánchez (Comares, 2022). The reviewer underlines the diversity of approaches and methodologies used in the book, as well as the linguistic diversity studied in the chapters. He also highlights the ability of the author to maintain her political commitment and academic rigor on the same level. In the second review, Olaya Martínez presents the book *Traducción y paratraducción del odio: historia, historiografía y representación de los fascismos y del Holocausto*, by Karl Schurster and Óscar Ferreiro Vázquez (Comares, 2023). As the author highlights in her review, reading this book takes us on a critical journey that allows us to reflect on the repercussions of the decisions made by the people who narrate historic events on the way in which the events are presented.

We invite you, then, to read and enjoy the richness of this issue, and we look forward, joyfully, to our next conversation in May's issue.

I look forward to our next exchange!