

# Navigating through multidiverse margins: ethical and epistemological challenges in doing Applied Linguistics in the South

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Since I started doing language ethnography in the 1990's, my focus has been on scenarios of language minorities. For over ten years, as part of my fieldwork, I spent one to three weeks a year as a volunteer teacher educator in a course specially designed for indigenous peoples in the northwestern part of Brazil (in the Rain Forest). For the rest of the year, I held a post at my university of origin located in the southeastern part of the country. At the university I was busy supervising ethnographic studies which have resulted in theses and dissertations about other marginal scenarios such as Deaf People's and Descendants of Immigrants. The supervision of those studies have provided quite an opportunity for discussing data in these related minority fields. More recently, with the discontinuation of the educational project in the Rain Forest, I turned my attention to the migration wave that was started in Brazil in the 2010's.

This introductory description serves as background to the focal point of this presentation, i.e., the challenges that have permeated the research path looking at some scenarios of margins in Brazil, seen as a semiperipheral country in the South. The research developed have shown these margins as multidiverse regarding socio-political aspects, languages in use and language ideologies. In order to catch a synthetic glimpse of these aspects, I have chosen to consider the challenges from three points of view: ethical, methodological and theoretical. The ethical challenges are mainly related to entering and staying in the field and to decisions regarding the presentation of findings. As to the

methodological challenges, they include the very explanation of what it takes to do language ethnography to fit the requirements of a situated fieldwork. The theoretical challenges in dealing with multidiverse data derive from and are possible because I am aligned with a vertent of applied linguistics open to transdisciplinary facets. Through this alignment and in combination with a postcolonialist perspective, I have established a dialogue with theoretical concepts developed in the North. These dialogues have usually led to the problematization of concepts, such as North-South, globalization, subalternity, invisibility of languages, different diferences, illegitimate languages within a legitimate language in scenarios characterized as monolingual or multilingual. In both cases what one sees is pseudo monolingualism or multilingualism.

To close the presentation, some implications will be drawn from the research work developed regarding future (needed) research in AL in Brazil.