

Discourse Markers in Brazilian Portuguese: *Tipo*, Brazil's Like

One of the elements that has been shown to guide the interpretation of discourse is the discourse marker (henceforth, DM) (Alami, 2015; Beeching, 2016; Brinton, 1996; Fraser, 1999; Schiffrin, 1987). DMs such as *you know*, *so*, *like*, and *well*, bracket units of talk, are sequentially dependent (Schiffrin 1987), and possess procedural rather than propositional meaning (Brinton, 1996; Schiffrin, 1987). From the perspective of discourse as a structure (Schiffrin, 1987), the term DM is frequently used to refer to functional elements that belong to an array of syntactic categories. Researchers have argued that DMs are syntactically optional (Fraser, 1988; Brinton, 1996) and not easily syntactically constrained. Previous research, however, has revealed that DMs are not syntactically free (D'Arcy, 2005; Underhill, 1988). Despite the number of studies that have examined possible delimitations of syntactic positions of DMs in English (Andersen, 2000; Meehan, 1991; Romaine & Lange, 1991; Underhill, 1998), to date, the investigation of possible systematicity of syntactic constraints of DMs in Brazilian Portuguese remains scant.

In an attempt to address this gap, this study presents an initial documentation of linguistic predictions in the use of the still under-investigated DM *tipo* (*assim*) ('like') in oral discourse in the city of Rio de Janeiro. First documented by Bittencourt (1999), *tipo* is originally a noun (canonical meaning 'type, model'). Its use alongside the adverb *assim* ('this way', 'like this') has resulted in a term that can be translated as 'something of this/that type.' Innovation in its use in discourse has resulted in *tipo/tipo assim* seemingly reflecting the semantic and functional meanings equivalent to those of the English DM *like*.

e.g.: 1a) Ela est-á, tipo, cansada.
3SG be-PRS.3SG DM tired-F-SG
'She is, like, tired.'

b) Ela já começou a gritar, tipo, eu tava normal.
3SG already start-PST.3SG to yell DM 1SG be-PST.3SG normal
'She just started yelling, like, I was normal.'

To investigate the possible systematicity in the use of *tipo* in conversational speech, this study focused on the identification of pre- and post-DM grammatical elements (Tagliamonte, 2005). The data were retrieved from Projeto Sociolinguístico Contemporâneo Brasileiro, a corpus currently being built, which consists of informal natural speech generated during sociolinguistic interviews. Interviews are being conducted in public schools in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Participants are teenagers who, at the time of data collection, attend one of the municipal schools in that city. The data being presented correspond to 350 randomly selected utterances in which *tipo* was spontaneously produced by the participants. Participants were aged 12 to 15 at the time of data collection and were born and raised in Rio. Initial results from the ongoing analysis suggest that *tipo* may be rule governed. This presentation will provide the first account of linguistic predictions in the use of the DM *tipo* in oral discourse in Brazilian Portuguese in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

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