

means that the eccentricity in the phonetic transcription demands extra knowledge to grasp the right pronunciation.

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Kernerman French-Portuguese dictionary: Adapting the translation from European Portuguese to Brazilian Portuguese

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This article describes the process of integrating translation equivalents for Brazilian Portuguese (BP) in French dictionary entries that were previously translated to European Portuguese (EP). The resulting dictionary is intended for adults and students who learn or use Portuguese on the intermediate level as well as for Brazilians learning French.

The dictionary is fully bilingual and bi-directional. Each section has about 12,000 entries in the source language with translations for every sense, example and phrase in the target language.

The French entries are part of the vernacular: names of animals, flowers, common trees, fairly common dishes and drinks, frequent interjections (*vive!* – *viva!*), foreign words (camping – *camping*) and colloquial words (*chouette* – *gracinha*; *legal*, *bacana*), not forgetting the most complicated terms found in the press or in administrative documents (*directeur adjoint* – *diretor adjunto*; *vice-diretor*), as well as acronyms and abbreviations.

Common expressions usually appear as part of the entry, either within a given sense or forming a sense of their own. The meanings that denote a change of grammatical category are treated as sub-entries, but homographs come in their own entries.

The dictionary includes a bilingual geographical list with names of countries (or major regions), their demononyms and corresponding languages.

The question could arise, why adapt a dictionary from Portuguese to Portuguese? When we think of Brazilian learners the answer is quite obvious. Regarding

the direction French-Portuguese, the Brazilian audience wishing to decode texts produced in French might find it difficult to understand certain equivalents in EP or might use unsuitable equivalents of the Brazilian variant.

However, compared to the French audience, the benefits of having two French-Portuguese dictionaries may not be very clear. At first, it might seem commercially more viable to add the equivalents unique to BP, simply by indicating “Br”, for example. Nevertheless, separating the two Portuguese variants into two dictionaries can considerably help learners, by avoiding a lexical mix and incorrect text production that is inappropriate for any of the variants. Wittmann et al. (1995) give good examples of this type of ungrammatical phrases, which they call “aberrations”:

(1) **Quando mo deu, ele não tinha se apercebido...*

According to the authors, this sentence “is not correct Portuguese because it mixes two syntactic phenomena from different variants: *mo* [contraction of the pronouns *me + o*] is not used in Brazilian Portuguese whereas the order of the clitic pronoun, *não tinha se apercebido*, is not acceptable in European Portuguese.”¹ We could add to this that in Brazil we prefer the verb *perceber* rather than the pronominal verb *se aperceber*.

(2) **Encontrei o banheiro no bonde.*

This sentence, on the other hand, cannot be accepted because of the words that are used. *Banheiro*, meaning *lifeguard*, is only used in EP (in Brazil *banheiro* means *bathroom*) and *bonde*, meaning *tramway*, is a word used only in Brazil (in Portugal, *eléctrico* is used).

The two variants differ on all linguistic levels: phonological, lexical, morphological and syntactic. But it should be noted that the comments made in this article relate only to standard registers of these two main variants of the Portuguese language. If we compared the regional dialects, we could perhaps find other situations, but this will not be considered at this time.

It is also worth mentioning that not all words or structures of EP replaced in the Brazilian version of the dictionary are necessarily absolute differences, that is to say, they can exist as a possible alternative for the Brazilian variant but they are not usually the preferred option. For example, in the entry *bus*, we had *autocarro* as EP equivalent, which is not used at all in BP, being then considered an absolute difference. In contrast, *tomar o ônibus*, the expression we obtained by changing *autocarro* for *ônibus* in the example, can be used in Brazil, but the expression *pegar o ônibus* is much more common, so in this case we refer to a preferential contrast, to use the terminology of Wittmann et al. (1995).

bus [bys] *nm* abreviação de *autobus*
 {ep/bp} *autocarro* [awto'karu] *m* ônibus *m*
 ◇ *prendre le bus*
 {ep/bp} *tomar o autocarro* *pegar o ônibus*

The issue of **phonetic transcription** of these equivalents is an important modification to the French audience interested in BP, but it is not discussed in this article since it was performed by Professor Luiz Carlos Cagliari, not by our team. In the examples given here the transcription thus remains in EP, such as [ɛbɛdu'nar] for *abandonar*, [ɛbdumi'nal] for *abdominal* or [ɛbur'daʒɛj] for *abordagem*.

The **orthography** adopted in Brazil follows the standards of the Orthographic Agreement recently signed by the Portuguese-speaking countries². In this regard, there are several instances of changes, especially when EP has associations of consonants, such as *ct* (*atividade* > *atividade*), *DC* (*inspeccionar* > *inspecionar*), *CC* (*injecção* > *injeção*), *nn* (*connosco* > *conosco*), *pt* (*óptico* > *ótico*), etc.

For the equivalents, the **translation** work was based mainly on the electronic dictionary versions of Houaiss (2009) and Aurélio (2004), the online *Sensagent*, the *Grande dicionário francês-português* (1998) and the *Dictionnaire électronique d'expressions idiomatiques français-portugais* (online).

In order to find out the usage frequency of the words and phrases, we tried to look up the *Corpus Brasileiro*, a BP corpus available on the Internet (<http://corpusbrasileiro.pucsp.br/>) and thus accessible to the public. However, according to the introductory text of the project, this corpus is not ready, its

initiators have not achieved its billion-word target and, in addition, searching it still presents double results. We therefore decided to consult the Internet for information on frequency and collocations, despite its drawbacks (idiosyncrasies, “errors”, etc).

In many cases, it is quite difficult to distinguish between the changes due to morphological phenomena and those due to syntactic phenomena. Still, there are some modifications that can be considered as changes on the **morphological level**, for example the option in each of the variants for different suffixes attached to the same base, as can be seen in the entries *bégaiment* and *dessinateur*. In the first case, the suffix *-ez* is attached to the base form *gagu-* in EP, and the suffix *-eira* to the BP variant. In the second case, we have the same base form, *desenh-*, to which we add *-ador*, in Portugal, and *-ista*, in Brazil.

bégaiment [begemõ] *nm* fait de parler en répétant les syllabes
 {ep/bp} *gaguez* [gɛ'gɛ] *f* *gagueira* *f*
dessinateur [desinatœr], **trice** [-tris] *nmf*
 personne qui dessine
 {ep/bp} *desenhador/-ra* [dɛzɛnɛ'dɔr/-rɛ] *desenhista*

In the last example, there is a difference between French and Portuguese, as in the Portuguese language the gender is invariable while in French there is one form for masculine and another for feminine.

We also found some instances where the change is not of the suffix but in the thematic vowel. In the first example of the entry *constitution*, there is the word *équipe*, which in EP is *equipa* and in BP is *equipe*.

constitution [kɔstitysjõ] *nf* 1 formation
 {ep/bp} *constituição* [kɔstitwi'sɛw] *f*
 ◇ *la constitution d'une équipe*
 {ep/bp} *a constituição de uma equipa* / *equipe*

In the dictionary there are also cases of differences in the prefix, as in the entry *informe*, which has the EP equivalent spelled the same way as in French, but the BP one has the prefix *in-* replaced with the prefix *dis-*.

informe [ɛfɔrm] *adj* 1 qui n'a pas de forme précise
 {ep/bp} *informe* [ɛfɔrmɛ] *disforme*
 ◇ *une silhouette informe*
 {ep/bp} *uma silhueta informe* / *disforme*

At the morphological level, there are still instances where the word's gender “changes” depending on the variant. Looking at the example from the entry *pichet*, we could also say it in other words: there are two forms in this language that differ only with regard to the gender. For example, whether in Brazil or in Portugal, the words *jarro* (*nm*) and *jarra* (*nf*) are possible, but in the first, the feminine form is preferred, whereas in the second it is vice-versa.



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pichet [piʃɛ] *nm* récipient pour liquides
{ep/bp} **bidão** [bi'dew] *m* jarra *f*
◇ *un pichet de vin*
{ep/bp} *um jarro / uma jarra de vinho*

Divergences between the number (singular/plural) and the precision (defined/undefined) of the word were observed in several cases, but the contexts in which it happens must be researched further before making other comments or generalizations on the subject. Nevertheless, we present here two examples of the singular/plural difference in order to illustrate this phenomenon.

change [ʃɑ̃ʒ] *nm* action de changer une monnaie contre une autre
{ep/bp} **câmbio** [kãbju] *m*
◇ *un bureau de change*
{ep/bp} *uma agência de câmbios/câmbio*
chasse-neige [ʃasneʒ] *nm inv* véhicule qui enlève la neige sur les routes
{ep/bp} **limpa-neves** [fipe'neveʃ] *m* / *limpa-neve m*

In the examples of the entries, we could often observe syntactic changes. Among the analyzed parts of the dictionary, the most common cases concern the position of the pronouns. The BP variant prefers in most situations the proclise, while the EP variant makes more use of the enclise; therefore, in many examples where there were reflexive verbs or complements in a pronoun form, we had to change their order in the sentence, as can be seen in the EP sentence *Eles arranjaram-se* which became *Eles se arranjaram*.

■ **s'arranger** [sarãʒɛ] *vpr 1* se mettre d'accord
{ep/bp} *arranjar-se* [arẽ'zarsɐ]
◇ *Ils se sont arrangés.*
{bp/ep} *Eles se arranjaram-se.*

Other very common cases are those names or verbs that are the same in both variants but which preferentially control different prepositions, as in the case of *arrancar*, which is used with the preposition *a* in EP, but in BP it is used more often with the preposition *de*.

arracher [araʃɛ] *vt 1* enlever en tirant fort (...)
◇ *arracher des aveux à un criminel*
{ep/bp} *arrancar a confissão a/de um criminoso*

There are also many cases of *preposition a + infinitive* structures in EP which had to be replaced with a gerund/present participle form in BP, as in the example below.

arriver [arive] *vi 1* parvenir à destination (...)
◇ *Le printemps arrive.*
{ep/bp} *A primavera está a chegar/chegando.*

Another difference between the two variants is the usage of personal pronouns referring to the second-person speech. In such case, in EP the pronoun *tu* is used when it concerns an informal relation. This pronoun is also used in certain dialects in Brazil, but the preferred standard register is the pronoun *você*. As can be noted in the following example, extracted

from the entry *content*, this change of pronoun implies also a modification in the verb conjugation, since the pronoun *tu* follows the conjugation of the second-person singular speech while *você* obeys the third-person singular speech paradigm.

content [kõtã], **ente** [-ãt] *adj* heureux (...)

◇ *Je suis contente que tu sois venu.*

{ep/bp} *Estou contente que tenha você tenha vindo.*

Finally, there are also modifications in the order of words in the phrase. In the following example, the structure *ter suficiente dinheiro* is unusual in Brazil, but if the position of the adverb is changed we obtain a structure that is much more common (in this case, we changed the adverb too, but if *suficiente* had remained the result would be about the same).

assez [ase] *adv 1* en quantité suffisante (...)

◇ *avoir assez d'argent*

{ep/bp} *ter suficiente dinheiro / o bastante*

At the **lexical level**, there are several examples of absolute and preferential contrasts. Regarding these, there are cases where the equivalent proposed in the entry is adequate for BP, but when used in the examples, it must be changed. The following example may well demonstrate the role of the context in the choice of words.

The first sense of the entry *article* has *artigo* as its equivalent, which is undoubtedly used in Brazil with the meaning of "short text that is part of a book". However when it comes to the context of dictionaries, the short text within it is not commonly known as *artigo*, but as *verbete*.

article [artil] *nm 1* texte court qui fait partie d'un ouvrage
{ep/bp} **artigo** [er'tigu] *m*
◇ *un article de journal*
{ep/bp} *um artigo de jornal*
◇ *les articles d'un dictionnaire*
{ep/bp} *os artigos/verbetes de um dicionário*

Certain difficulties presented at the lexical level are due to **cultural differences**. Based on our data and on the reading of Wittmann et al. (1995), these difficulties can be divided into two types: words without equivalents and institutional contrasts. The first are lexical units not used in the other variant, often due to the absence of a referent, and which, therefore, have no equivalent. "In general, these are common names (not scientific) of certain plants, fruits or animals outside the current speech of the other variant (...)"³ As an example, we take the word *bruyère*, or *urze* in Portuguese. This word seems to be much more common in EP (51,500 occurrences on Portuguese webpages⁴) than in BP (9,440 occurrences on Brazilian webpages), but as the referent is not very common in Brazil either, there is no other more usual equivalent that could

be used as a substitute word for *urze*, and it should thus be kept in the entry.

bruyère [bryjeʁ] *nf* plante à fleurs violettes ou roses

{ep/bp} *urze* [ˈurzɐ] *f*

Similarly, *azevinho* is much more frequent on Portuguese webpages (42,700 occurrences against 8,500 on Brazilian webpages) but it had to remain as the equivalent, since there was no other word to replace it.

houx [u] *nm* petit arbre à boules rouges

{ep/bp} *azevinho* [ɛzəˈviɲu] *m*

In the following case, we have a slightly different situation. The proposed equivalent for *bidonville* in EP, *bairro de lata*, does not score many occurrences on Brazilian webpages (7,580), but that is not due to the absence or weak presence of the referent in our culture. On the other hand, in Brazil the marked presence of this genre of housing groups has played a significant role in our demographic development and in our history, whereas this presence in Portugal is due to various historical reasons and it plays a different and particular role in their culture, so it seems natural that each country has its own name for these types of dwellings. Thus, for the Brazilian variant, we put as an equivalent the word *favela*, which is much more common (923,000 occurrences) in our culture.

bidonville [bidɔvil] *nm* groupe d'habitations où vivent des gens très pauvres

{ep/bp} *bairro de lata* [ˈbajɾu de ˈlatɐ] *m* / *favela* *f*

Citing Wittmann et al. (1995), institutional contrasts “cover words and phrases related to differences on the organizational level” of countries.⁵ In the case of institutional contrasts, we have chosen as an example the entry *lycée*, which was translated in EP as *liceu*. This word exists in the Brazilian variant and is also quite frequent (211,000 occurrences), but in another context: it is widely used in proper names of this type of schools that are generally designated by *colégio* or, more specifically, *escola de ensino médio*.

lycée [lise] *nm* établissement scolaire du second degré

{ep/bp} *liceu* [liˈsɛw] *m*, *secundária escola* *f* [ɛfˈkɔlɛsɔkũˈdɔɾje] / *colégio* *m*, *escola* *f* de ensino médio

With the help of examples extracted from the adaptation of a French-European Portuguese dictionary to the Brazilian variant, we have seen that the differences between the two variants of Portuguese are numerous and exist on all linguistic levels. So, in the hope that other dictionary publishers take the same initiative, we can only praise this initiative to avail one same macrostructure in French into two main variants of the Portuguese language, as this will increase the availability of bilingual dictionaries of

French for the Brazilian public and will also help the French public to produce texts in Portuguese without mixing variants.

Notes

1. “Assim, sustentamos que a seguinte frase, por exemplo, *Quando mo deu, ele não tinha se apercebido... não é português correcto, porque mistura dois fenómenos sintácticos de variantes diferentes: mo não é usado em português do Brasil, enquanto que a ordem dos clíticos não tinha se apercebido não é aceitável em português europeu.*”
2. Cf. the pull-out of the 5th edition of the *Dicionário da Academia Brasileira de Letras*, <http://www.academia.org.br/>, and the *Guia Prático da Nova Ortografia* (TUFANO, 2008).
3. “Em geral, são nomes vulgares (não científicos) de certas plantas, frutas ou animais não pertencentes à linguagem corrente da outra variante, embora não exista nenhum equivalente, como por exemplo *azinha* (PE) ou *sapoti* (PB).”
4. All frequency searches presented in this article were performed on March 7th, 2011.
5. “**Contrastes institucionais.** Cobrem palavras e expressões relacionadas com diferenças a nível organizacional entre Portugal e Brasil, como é o caso, por exemplo, do sistema educacional (*liceu, primeiro grau*), das regiões administrativas (*distrito, estado*) de instituições oficiais, etc. Este tipo de contrastes compõe um conjunto à parte por representar uma realidade equivalente mas não igual no âmbito cultural dos dois países.”

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Encyclopædia Britannica launched an educational website for primary schools (K-6) in Brazil in April 2011 (<http://escola.britannica.com.br/>), which features an online application of *Dicionário Houaiss Kernerman da língua portuguesa para estudantes*. This monolingual learner's dictionary for native speakers of Brazilian Portuguese consists of 30,000 entries and forms the first title in the new framework of cooperation between K Dictionaries and Instituto Antônio Houaiss from Rio de Janeiro. The editor-in-chief is Ieda Maria Alves and the editors include Ana Maria Ribeiro de Jesus, Luciana Pissolato de Oliveira, Liana Koiler and José Monteiro.