An overview about the powerful writing process in a literate modern Brazilian society: research filed

Introduction

The discourse of everyday life involves a very large set of scientific concepts about writing and oral language products. The major purpose of our research at State University of Southwest Bahia (UESB, Brazil) is following questions such as: What can oral tradition propose to the discussion about literacy in the contemporary world? Where is the place among the speeches for such language productions, in a world dominated by writing? What about some strategies for using the mass media in Brazilian everyday news included its empowered discourses sustained by hidden scientific and political concepts? Which powerful writing dominance we sustain?

The theoretical approach considers that highly literate discourses (mainly the scientific, educational, and school ones) control other discourses according to interpretation management. Methodologically, the “clue paradigm” of Ginzburg was used because alerts the researcher about opaque clues; including the notion of cutting (unit of meaning involved with a raised issue). We formalized how the material analyzed (writing press, oral fiction narratives, schoolbooks) represses other forms of telling about ourselves and carries out the subjectivity. These hidden writing weapons empower the discourses in everyday life.

The theoretical bases are French Analysis of Discourse (AD), Lacanian psychoanalysis and literacy studies conducted in Brazil by Tfoni et al. Based on Michel Certeau and Pêcheux who discuss discourse and analyze the everyday life in language, we propose a discussion about the dominance of written productions over the oral ones. The “clue paradigm” of Ginzburg is a powerful tool for this task because it assigns the researcher to the interpretative organization of opaque clues, through which he formulates his hypothesis about the past. From the standpoint of Brazilian literacy studies, it is our goal to establish a dialogue about alterity in the discourse of writing, as an effect of origin, unity, and fulfillment. It’s the concept of authorship proposed in Brazil by Leda Tfoni and we follow in our researches developed at “Literacies, Narratives, and Discourses” a researcher group coordinate by me at UESB under-review by the Brazilian Research Council.

We consider that there is an interpenetration between the discourse of orality and the discourse of writing. The corpus is especially formed by oral narratives (popular stories) told by illiterate or people who had very little formal education, songs from Brazilian folklore and “cordel” literature (“twine” literature). The art of slander raised in the Modern Age is also a relevant point of interest in Brazilian twine literature universe. There are so many clues about deference and novelistic behaviors and also violent public exposition circulating in this writing and oral materials. We focused on “charivari” and “asouade” rituals described by some “Annales school” historians (Fabre, Darnton) and the Psychoanalyst Rey-Flaud.

These articulations were connected to the concepts of the file and discursive memory; costly concepts to the theoretical reference of Discourse Analysis proposed by Michel Pêcheux. We have seen that there is an effect of regularity in the stories of the corpus carried out through processes of resignification. This allows us to consider that this regularity occurs through themes that tend to stabilize the semantic meanings socio-historically produced.

The book publication (Myth and authorship in literacy practices, by Lambert) is a part of our researches published in English. This book presents a way to analyse oral narratives of Brazilian fiction, from the non-correspondence between oral and writing discourses. From the viewpoint of the corpora analysis, the study follows the clue paradigm of interpretation proposed by Ginzburg. Based on these references, it is considered that there is a close relationship between the mythical constitution of saying (the inability to track down a source in this pre-existent text structure) and the role of repression in interdiscourse (forgetfulness number one, according to Pêcheux) in stabilization and distribution of meanings.

These researches show how the authorship understood as a discursive position in Brazilian oral narratives leads to a discursive turn in the ideological naturalization of the superiority of writing in literacy practices (included schoolbooks, dictionaries, legal discourses in Education Politic Policies, writing press).

It carries out by discussing the effect of separation between oral and writing according to the autonomous model of writing proposed by Brian Street. This field of research is conducted explaining the role of the reification process of writing. It’s a kind of complex process that extracts the oral enigmatic value of language from the writing process. In this specific field, the contributions of Freud and Lacan are also very cleared and important to discuss the concept of the post-modern subject.

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