

FROM FOUCAULTIAN ARCHEOLOGY TO OTHER POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE

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This year (2019), we celebrate with enthusiasm the fiftieth anniversary of the book *Archeology of Knowledge*, by Michel Foucault, a work that, for more than two decades, has been a fundamental reference in our research in the field of Discourse Analysis, and even marks our entry to the line of research today called Foucaultian Discourse Analysis, or Foucaultian discursive linguistic studies, widespread in Brazil.

In addition to having recourse to Michel Foucault's thought, initially to the conceptual and methodological "toolbox" entitled *Archeology of Knowledge*, for our academic training, in our Masters and Doctorate courses, as a research professor at the

Federal University of Uberlândia - UFU, We began our work in the Postgraduate Program in Linguistic Studies, envisioning the productivity made possible by this framework. Thus, together with Prof. Dr. João Bôsko Cabral dos Santos, we created at UFU, in 2001, the Speech Analysis Research Group - GPAD. This group, led by us and registered in the CNPq Group Directory, had the active and direct participation of other research professors and students of the Institute of Letters and Linguistics of UFU, as well as other courses and other surrounding universities. The members of the group met regularly for studies, which constituted in the discussion of texts indicated for previous reading.

The reading of Michel Foucault's work, in particular *Archeology of Knowledge*, a book read and reread several times by the group, characterized an initial effort to develop studies in this line of research. This was not, however, an inaugural gesture of ours, other researchers in different Brazilian universities were conducting the same studies and investigative work, which

culminated in 2016 in the creation of the Working Group entitled “Foucaultian Discursive Studies” with the National Research Association and Postgraduate Degree in Letters and Linguistics, under the coordination of professors Pedro Navarro, from Maringá State University, and Vanice Sargentini, from the Federal University of São Carlos.

Regarding an initial gesture of these investigations in Brazil, we highlight the Araraquara Discourse Analysis Study Group - GEADA, coordinated by Profa. Dr. Maria do Rosário Gregolin, from UNESP Araraquara, in which we participated during our research training, and from which emerged the majority of coordinators of other related groups by Higher Education Institutions in all regions of Brazil. We took our Masters and Doctorate courses at the University of São Paulo at the end of the last century, but during that period we often traveled to Araraquara in order to deepen Foucault’s reflections.

As a professional working in undergraduate and postgraduate studies, the study activities then performed by us

and also those directed by us at the Federal University of Uberlândia promoted an integration among the participants of our group in the continuous search for theoretical and methodological support for the forwarding of research in the field of discursive studies; and GPAD also enabled the integration of UFU researchers and students involved in it with research groups from other institutions, with which we share academic experiences.

In summary, this group fulfilled the following objectives:

a) promote the integration of research projects and researchers in the same research area; b) link undergraduate to postgraduate studies to conduct research; c) constitute academic spaces that would allow the development of research in Foucaultian Discourse Analysis; d) promote colloquia and academic events and instigate the publication of the academic production carried out; e) to instruct researchers about the epistemological principles of French Discourse Analysis and Michel Foucault’s thought.

Among the activities developed, we would like to highlight the holding of three editions of the Speech Analysis Research Seminar - SEMAD, successively in 2004, 2006 and 2008. These were national events, subsidized by CAPES and CNPq, and in all their editions. Michel Foucault's thought took center stage as a light for a fruitful path in our academic work. In addition to the lectures given, the works presented at these events made it possible to publish books, which were a reference for later studies and contributed to the consolidation of M. Foucault's thought in Discourse Analysis.

With a view to further deepening the study of Michel Foucault's work, envisioning a more complete scope of his bibliographic production, which we are still looking into and with the certainty that it will never be exhausted, in 2009, we created the study group entitled Foucaultian Discursive Studies Laboratory - LEDIF. This group, since its inception, has been in the CNPq Group Directory, and is in full swing. With an interinstitutional character, this group brings together research

professors and students focused on Discourse Analysis studies focused on Michel Foucault. Thus, the group members are specifically concerned with the study of Foucault's bibliography in view of the proficiency of this work for Discourse Analysis.

For LEDIF, a site was created <<http://www.foucault.ileel.ufu.br/>> in which information about the group is maintained, such as: description; goals; profile and link to participant publications on the web; Michel Foucault archive composed of a bibliographical relation; links to texts available on the web, videos and audios. This project also brings together research professors and students to conduct studies and research of Michel Foucault's work, envisioning its articulation in Discourse Analysis. It also envisions integration with research groups from other institutions with which related academic experiences are shared.

In summary, the LEDIF aims to: a) instruct researchers about the epistemological principles of Discourse Analysis in dialogue with Michel Foucault: Foucaultian Discourse Analysis;

b) propose and develop research projects that enable the integration of teachers and students, involving undergraduate and graduate; c) promote and participate in academic events to discuss topics specific to the focus of this study group; c) produce and publish scientific works.

The works developed by the members of this research group are theoretically and methodologically based on Michel Foucault and envision investigations of issues related to Discourse Analysis in the following lines of study:

- a) Discourse, history and memory in artistic, literary and media production;
- b) Studies on discursive subject, subjectivation practices and identity constructions;
- c) Reflections on discourse theory, Foucaultian archegenealogy and ethics / aesthetics of existence.

During these works, we established a path through M. Foucault's work and, at the same time, a path with Foucaultian discourse analysts and historians, and with Foucaultian

researchers from other fields, with whom we constantly share guiding reflections on our academic work. . To retell this path would be to make up our constitution as subjects in the institutional academic space, and outside it in countless other spaces; for the subject who now recites Foucault is a subject of plural existence, whose academic doing is not dissociated from other doing - political, artistic, and so on - who build life.

Concerning the Archeology of Knowledge, along with discourse, indicated as a concept and an object of investigation, many other concepts are listed; which are echoed in later studies of this work, when we enter with Foucault the genealogy and the ethics and aesthetics of existence, in the discursive analyzes we undertake. As we stated earlier, if "archeology is a term understood as the description of the archive, this would be, or rather, is the set of discourses actually enunciated; a set of events

that happened one day, and continue to work, changing through history, enabling the emergence of other discourses”¹.

In our academic investigations, Michel Foucault consists of an intriguing thought understood as a space that invites us into it, full of objects for reflection: "space in which we live, through which we are drawn out of ourselves, in which precisely the erosion of our life, our time, our history, this [heterogeneous] space that erodes and grooves us"².

Tradução: Assis Daniel Gomes

¹ FERNANDES, Cleudemar Alves. *Discurso e Sujeito em Michel Foucault*. São Paulo: Intermeios, 2012, p. 21.

² FOUCAULT, Michel. Outros Espaços. In: MOTTA, Manoel Barros (Org.). *Michel Foucault. Estética: Literatura e Pintura, Música e Cinema*. (Ditos & Escritos. v. III). Rio de Janeiro: Forense Universitária, 2001d. p. 411-422.