

**The ideology inside the discourse of Dom Luís António de Sousa Botelho Mourão,
the Morgado de Mateus**

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How to understand the current politics without dealing with the discourse level? Above all, how to deal with the current discourse without learning the national politic past? The connection between the politics and the discourse instances interferes directly in the plans of developing a country like Brazil. So, this connection was the motivation that guided me to the initial hypothesis of an existing inter-subjectivity level in the eighteenth-century official handwritten documents.

According to some researchers, this kind of administrative manuscripts were mere copies of the discursive formulas established at the period. My doctoral dissertation intends to prove the existence of a “free discourse”, which presents the personal (and social) ideology included on its content, besides the sentences written as crystallized formulas.

On the one hand, the Philology field guides the semi diplomatic transcription of a hundred non-published eighteenth-century manuscripts. This set of handwritten documents consists on a fragment of the correspondence received and sent by the Morgado de Mateus to the Portuguese Central Government. These official documents were sent by the Morgado de Mateus (Dom Luís António de Sousa Botelho Mourão) between the years of 1765 and 1775, when he was the governor and captain-general of the captaincy of São Paulo. His interlocutors were King Joseph I, the Conde de Oeiras, better known nowadays as “the Marquis of Pombal”, and the two secretaries of the kingdom, Francisco Xavier de Melo Furtado and Martinho de Melo e Castro.

On the other hand, the Discourse Analysis, which is not normally applied as a tool to conduce the analyses of the works connected to the Philology, was selected to develop the examination of the language data. More specifically, the *Appraisal Theory* was chosen to be applied to the analyses of the “free discourse”. This theory was defined by Martin and White in 2005 and represents a useful resource to better comprehend the level of evaluation, including emotion and attitude represented in the discourse substance.

Based on the research proposal presented above, I travelled to Portugal thanks to the *Student Research Abroad (SRA)* award. Initially, the main intentions were to learn more about

the Morgado de Mateus biography and his period of government find new documents related to it and improve the discourse analysis methodology. Fortunately, my SRA guided me to much more than that! It allowed me to discover new possibilities of researching.

Since the beginning of the SRA selection process I could focus my attention to new possibilities, such as the chance of having maintained contact with some Professors in the University of Lisbon. Among them, who decided to help me was Professor Ivo José de Castro, who gently sent me the recommendation letter.

The Professor Ivo Castro, who is the most talented Professor in Portuguese Philology, met me twice in *University of Lisbon* in order to guide my analyses. The meetings were really useful; since he could show me a greater way of better understand the manuscripts of my research *corpus*. During the reunions he enabled me to discover new perspectives, we could discuss the main hypothesis of my research and he advised me on how to develop it better. He presented me some theories about the study of the discourse level in manuscripts and offered me best ways of avoiding anachronistic mistakes in this sort of analysis, such as treating the official documents as they were a mere product of the will of their authors.

Aware of all possible mistakes that could be made by unlinking the historical context of the period of the discourse produced at that time, I was introduced to Professor João Carlos Silvestre. As well as Professor Ivo Castro, he takes part in the Philology Department of the University of Lisbon. Our reunion brought me the useful indication of a bibliography reference: a manual used by the secretaries (who were supposed to write all the letters) in the eighteenth century. I was glad to find it in the National Library, where I could purchase copies of some pages of it.

In addition, I was invited to attend a seminar coordinated by the Philology Group. This seminar enriched my transcription methodology techniques and allowed me to meet many other researchers interested in the same materials. It was possible to share experiences and dialogue with colleagues about my project.

Besides the Philology, the academic field of the Discourse Analysis offered great contributions, especially because of Professor Alexandra Assis Rosa's help in conducting me to meet other contacts.

Professor Carlos Gouveia is one of the best professors of Linguistics nowadays and I could schedule a reunion with him. He gave me some advices about bibliography, as well as the reference of other contacts in other universities in Portugal. What is more, I had a great surprise in my reunion with Professor António Avelar: he offered me the possibility of co-

supervising my research from Portugal. It is an awesome opportunity, so I am checking this possibility according to my own university regulation.

Furthermore, I could also meet my own Supervisor, Professor Sílvio de Almeida Toledo Neto, who is currently living in Portugal in order to attend his post doctoral program in *Faculty of Letters of the University of Lisbon*. Thus, we had some reunions in which we were able to have a detailed discussion about my doctoral dissertation. It helped me so much to organize all the ideas to the final writing of the chapters.

Moreover, I could visit the *Faculty of History* as well as the *Faculty Social Science of the University of Lisbon*, where I could research new bibliographic references.

In Lisbon I had the chance of working at the *Torre do Tombo Archive*, where I found important documents related to the Morgado de Mateus governmental period, which will be included in the analyses.

Due to Dr. Ana Canas, the main director of the *Overseas Historical Archive*, I was allowed to handle the original papers of the manuscripts I study. Until then I was working based on their copies, available in Brazil by the *Projeto Resgate Barão do Rio Branco*, which provides digital copies of the Portugal overseas documents. Dr. José Sintra Martinheira helped me a lot there, he is the main Archivist of the *Overseas Historical Archive* and one of the responsible for this project.

At the *National Library*, with the help of the main librarian, Dr. José Luís Narciso, I researched books and microfilms and the original manuscripts provided by the Rare Books Department.

Dr. Fátima Gomes, the main Archivist at the *National Library of Ajuda* introduced me some unpublished documents about the period.

The edge of my SRA was certainly my visit to the *Casa de Mateus Foundation*, which is located at Vila Real, in the north of Portugal, about 5 hours by bus from Lisbon. These five days I could stay there were the most exciting experience for me. Firstly, thanks to the fact I could learn a lot in the Archive and in the Museum about the main historical character of my research, secondly because I was received there by the *Casa de Mateus Archive* main archivist, Dr. Abel Rodrigues, who is a skilled historian and patiently helped me to deal with all the manuscripts and their historical context. All the staff of the Foundation, specially the researcher Hugo Oliveira, was very kind to me and provided me a very familiar environment.

To conclude, the SRA experience was an unforgettable chance of improving my

doctoral dissertation and also of expanding my cultural overview. The Portuguese people are very hospitable and solicitous, so I felt really safe during all the time I was in Portugal. What is more, the Lisbon facilities such as the public transportation, specially the subway, helped my research routine. Therefore, after this time abroad I felt much more confident about my doctoral dissertation. So I intend to write its final version in order to provide a view of how the international politics were built in the eighteenth century and, above all, in order to offer a safe path to the understanding that the current Brazilian ideology still connected to its initial governmental discourse.