

## **This Issue**

This issue of *the ESpecialist* offers our readers five articles that display themes of interest in the areas of teacher development, systemic functional grammar, the textbook, and English for Specific Purposes. The first article, by Branéz, deals with the practice of observation as a methodological instrument that provides students of a Language (Portuguese and Spanish) course, taking the discipline Teaching Practice/Supervised Curricular Training, to develop critical reflection upon praxis.

Carvalho, carrying out a case study with participants of a Teacher Education course in the interior of Bahia, investigates the conceptions English teachers have of this Teacher Education course, in order to understand what makes graduate participants to avoid embracing this profession after graduating. The analysis revealed the conceptions on teacher development, the field these teachers work, as well as the reasons for the resistance in working as teachers.

In the third article, Santos e Ikeda, based on Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) as their methodological framework and Critical Linguistics, aim at investigating the categorization of women and men on the first page of *Folha de São Paulo*, a newspaper that circulates in the city and state of São Paulo. The study investigated the lexico grammatical choices that reveal the ideology behind the image of the woman and the man, the frequency women and men are cited on the first page of the newspaper, as well as the types of activities they are engaged in.

In the following article, Abdalla, focusing on pre-service Spanish teachers, investigates the representations these teachers reveal about the textbook. The study was conducted in two different moments of this course. The analysis concentrated on questions related to choices, adaptation and use of textbooks as one of the materials to be used in class by the students. One of the results points out the importance of developing awareness of the choice of textbooks.

This issue closes with the article by Lourenço who reports on a needs analysis carried out with secretaries who work in big companies in São Paulo City, and who use the English language as an important working tool. The analysis aimed at finding out the most important and frequent activities in the daily routine of the bilingual secretary. The results of the study will provide data to help to improve the teaching of the English language more appropriately in the Secretarial Course at Faculdade de Tecnologia de São Paulo.

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