V Congresso Internacional sobre **Metáfora** na Linguagem e no Pensamento

PORTRAITS OF THE SELF

the metaphorized identites of English learners from Brazil and Hong Kong.

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Identities...

- Due to its dynamism, modernity completely changed the nature of social life, affecting the most personal aspects of our existence. (GIDDENS, 2002, p. 9).

- Identity is not as transparent or unproblematic as we think. Perhaps instead of thinking of identity as an already accomplished fact, which the new cultural practices then represent, we should think, instead, of identity as a 'production', which is never complete, always in process, and always constituted within, not outside, representation. (HALL, S. 1990, p. 222)

Metaphors...

- If metaphors structure humans' perceptions and conceptual systems, influence their actions as well as their relationships, and if the conceptual system has a fundamental role for our realities; understanding individuals' identities and how they are constructed can also be a matter of metaphor.

Research questions

- What are the most frequent metaphorized identities in narratives of a group of undergraduate students from Brazil (UFMG)?
- What are the most frequent metaphorized identities in narratives of a group of undergraduate students from Hong Kong (CityU)?
- How similar or different are the metaphorized identities of students of different realities who learn the same language?

Background and Objectives

- It is commonly believed that meaning is in the words. However, words are just "the tip of the iceberg", being the meaning and many other conceptions "hidden" in our minds (FAUCONNIER, 1994).

- Metaphorical analysis – inductive and indirect.

- Few students interested in investigating metaphors in teaching and learning contexts.

- Many Brazilian and foreign scholars have used identity as a theoretical construct in their studies. Nevertheless, this research seeks to associate the socio-cultural study of identity and the cognitive study of metaphor.
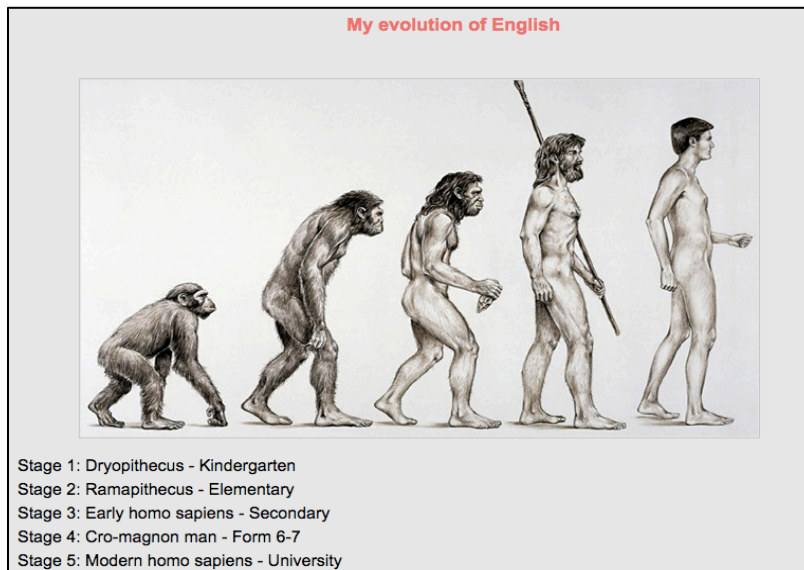
- Objective: to identify the metaphors in language learning histories of English students from one university in Brazil and one in Hong Kong, so it is possible to know the identity profiles of Eastern and Westerns students who are learning the same language.

Methodology

- Qualitative Research (DENZIN & LINCOLN, 2006, DÖRNIEY, 2007).
- Interpretivist paradigm (SARMENTO, 2003).
- Multimodal language learning histories (PAIVA, 2008).
- Data Analysis Procedures:
1. Search for meaningful unities (metaphors) present in each corpus;
2. Group metaphors in categories according to their own regularities.
3. Analyze how the identity selves are discursively constructed through metaphors.
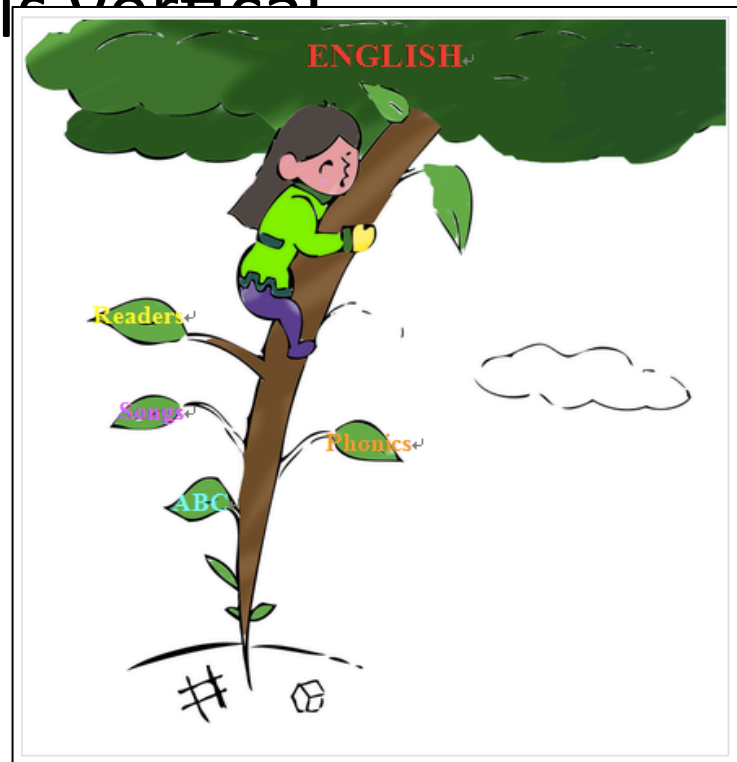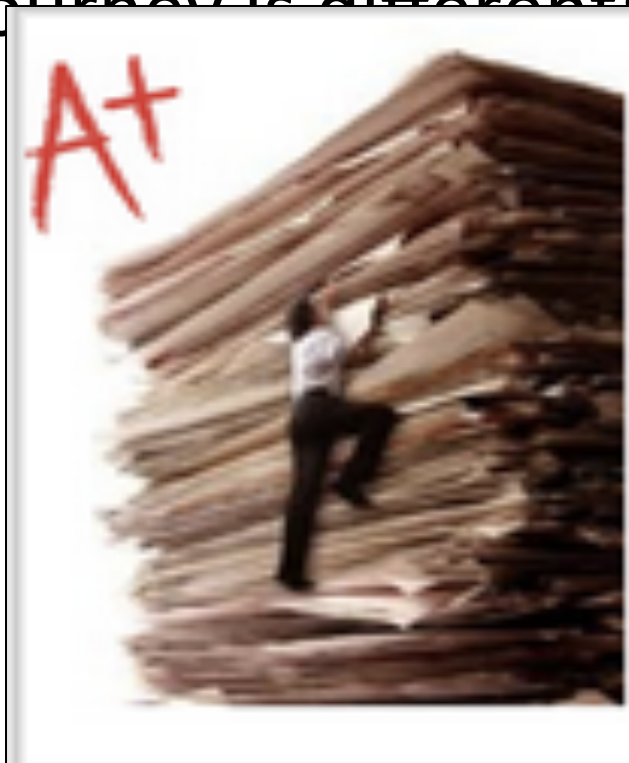4. Discuss and compare the identity profiles characteristic of each corpus.

- The image schema SOURCE-PATH-GOAL is the most used by the participants to conceptualize their learner identities.

My evolution of English

Stage 1: Dryopithecus - Kindergarten
Stage 2: Ramapithecus - Elementary
Stage 3: Early homo sapiens - Secondary
Stage 4: Cro-magnon man - Form 6-7
Stage 5: Modern homo sapiens - University

You will find here, how I have been learning English since my youth until the present moment, all the barriers I faced and how I overcame them.

- The RUNNER identity, for example, present in both groups, is a result of the same image schema, however, the duration of the journey is shorter, given its characteristic
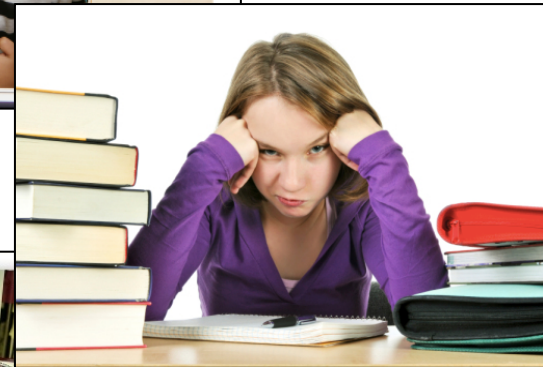
- The ALPINIST is a metaphorized identity present in the Hong Kong group. Although it is also a product of the SOURCE-PATH-GOAL image schema, the orientation of the journey is different; it is vertical.

- The READER metaphorized identity demonstrated to be characteristic of Brazilian learners. It seems to be related to the metaphor LEARNING IS READING.

What Did I Do in Order to Improve my English?

- The MILITAR and CONSTRUCTOR identities, found in the Hong Kong corpus, highlight more autonomy and motivation.

Time

English
ing Eng
a serio
ing, dis
and lo
rules of thumbs to make my English better than
ever. Throughout the learning process, I laid
every small bricks to build my strong foundation
base without collapse. Remember! You should
not give up and make corrective decisions so that
it will not fall if you feel frustrated.

Learning English is like building a wall .

By Charlotte Kwok

THE **SERGEANT** STAGE

- On both corpora, it was possible to find metaphorized identities related to profits.

- THE LEARNER IS AN INVESTOR ... AYER

Secondary

You can Run, But You can't Hide

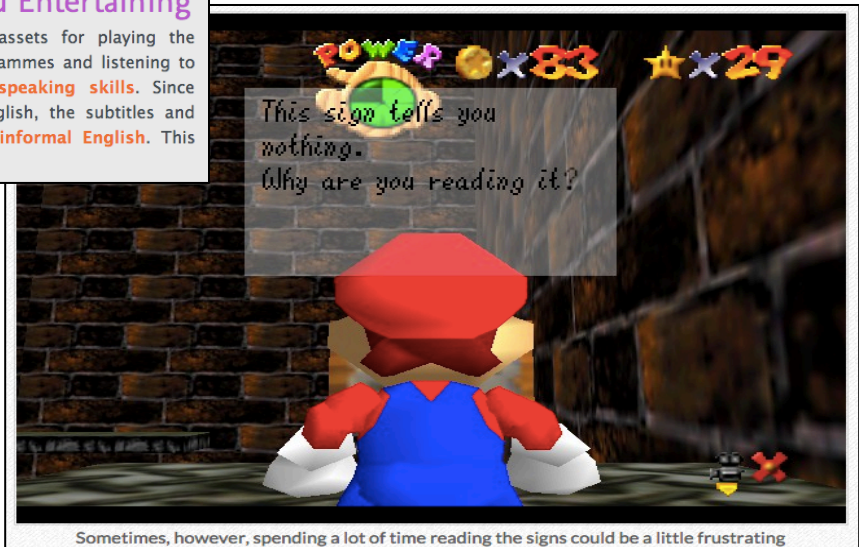I went back to jail during Form 6 and 7 because of A-level. These 2 years were my hard time, full of challenges, fear and disappointments. I have paid more effort and time on English than ever.

Assets

Learning can be Fun and Entertaining

TV programmes and songs are my assets for playing the monopoly of English. Watching TV programmes and listening to songs strengthen my listening and speaking skills. Since schools mainly teach formal written English, the subtitles and lyrics are useful tools for me to learn informal English. This enhances my ability to chat in English.

POWER x83 x29

This sign tells you nothing.
Why are you reading it?

Sometimes, however, spending a lot of time reading the signs could be a little frustrating

- The PLAYER metaphorized identity
has different characteristics.

HOWEVER, could I win the game? Spin the wheel!
(click the Spin Button)

ƒ10.000
LIFE XO

Spin !!

MARIO LESSONS

Let's start with a casual game. Who did not play even a single Mario Bros. game?

30 YEARS OF MARIO

By Adam Newsted

'81 '82 '83 '84 '85 '86 '87 '88 '89 '90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11

ADAM NEWSTED 2011

- In the Brazilian corpus, it was possible to find some metaphorized identities that were not found in the Hong Kong corpus.

- THE LEARNER IS A BABY

- THE LEARNER IS A PASSIONATE PERSON.

Mama
Apple
Cat
Daddy
book

Learning a language is cultural appropriation

I consider myself as a cuture vulture.

At college I fell in love even more with the language, and I got in contact with all aspects of the language's structure.

Final Considerations

- By narrating, about their language learning processes, students project their identities using metaphors, what I am naming metaphorized identites.

- The metaphors are related to the identities since they are the portraits of the self: the way how the individual is perceived in a specific moment in time.

- The metaphors of learners of different cultures reveal metaphorized identities that confirm the cultural variation. Students of different cultures who learn the same language have different but also similar metaphorized identities.

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