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Corpus linguistics and authenticity in textbooks: the case of Portuguese as a foreign language

This poster aims to show the results of an investigation of indicative aspects of authenticity in a textbook for the teaching of Portuguese as a Foreign Language, starting from the premise that even non-authentic texts may show characteristic elements of authenticity, and that these elements can be detected using the methods from Corpus Linguistics. As such, this analysis is based on Corpus Linguistics and the concepts of authenticity (Berber Sardinha, 2007; Nunan, 1989), idiomaticity (Sinclair, 1991), and lexical bundles (Biber et al., 1999).

We developed and applied a methodology for identification of authenticity in corpora that, in summary, is based on the lexico-grammatical analysis of the texts involved in a search for patterns that might provide evidence of authenticity (or otherwise) of teaching material, given that the frequency and quantity of the patterns found are expected to reflect the actual usage of language.