The alternation of *FICAR*, *TORNAR-SE* and *VIRAR* at *state change* and *property change* predications in Brazilian Portuguese

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PREDICAR Project – Formation and expression of complex predicates and predications: constructional stability, variation and change

Central issues

1) Types of change predication: change-of-state and change-of-property [——SubjectP ——ChangeVerb ——AttributivePredicativeNP/AP]ChangeP

- ✓ Verbal lexemes (*ficar*, *tornar-se*, *virar*; similar to *to become*, *to turn, to get*) > attracted to relational/ (pseudo-)copula construction.

- ✓ Types of associative links: similarities and dissimilarities.

2) Entrenchment of (micro)constructions and entrenchment of a metaconstruction of allostructions?

3) In a scenario of multivariate language use: do different textual-discursive paradigms lead to different strategies of grammatical use and representation?

[**SubjectParticipant** **ChangeVerb** **AttributivePredicativeNP/AP]** **ChangePredicativeConstruction**

| 1. Change-of-state predication (because of the transitory aspect of the change predication in perspective)	2. Change-of-property predication (because of the less transitory/more durative aspect of the change predication in perspective)
1.1) "Enquanto lia esse tipo de livro, **eu fiquei** bravo e de certa forma me indignei com o meu orientador em um dos encontros." (Revista Educação e Pesquisa) "While I was reading this type of book, I was angry and in a way I was outraged by my mentor at one our meetings."	2.1) "As escolas-pilotos, como [elas] **ficaram** conhecidas, foram criadas em caráter demonstrativo, com a pretensão de difundir um conceito de escola indígena." (Rev. Educação e Pesquisa) "Pilot schools, as they **become** known, were created in character demonstrative, with the intention of spreading a concept of indigenous school." **Fazer, in general, is not attracted to property change predication.**
1.2) "No trecho da delação que **se tornou** público, Palocci, que foi ministro nos governos petistas (...)." (O Globo) "**In the section that became** public, who was minister of PT governments."	2.2) "**O barulho da guerra, que se tornou** parte do cotidiano, mostra que a realidade violenta (...)" The noise of war, that **become** part of everyday life shows that the violent reality (...)
1.3) "Encontro na Curva, espaço de encontros e pensamento em Laranjeiras. Nos encontros de sábado, **a conversa vira** também **um almoço**." (Jornal O Globo) Meeting at Curva, meeting and thought space at Laranjeiras. On Saturday meetings, **the conversation** also **becomes** lunch. **Virar, in general, is not attracted to state change predication.**	2.3) "No mesmo ano em que o Waldemar Mundim foi transferido aos militares, outras 14 escolas de Goiás passaram pelo mesmo processo, e **salas e corredores viraram alas e pavilhões**." (Revista Época) In the same year that Waldemar Mundim was transferred to the military, another 14 schools in Goiás went through the same process, and **classrooms and corridors became** wards and pavilions.

1) **Usage-Based Construction Grammar** and **Sociolinguistics**: (meta)constructions, allostructions (Cappelle, 2006); discursive paradigm/textual-discursive construction (Leino and Östman, 2005; Hoffman and Bergs, 2018; Wiedemer and Machado Vieira, 2018; Machado Vieira and Wiedemer, 2019)

2) **Cognitive processes**: (i) Analogy (Traugott and Trousdale, 2013); (ii) **Entrenchment (routinization, schematization)**; Metaphorical mapping ("changes are movements"; "reaching a state is arriving at a location" in a source-path-goal schema)

3) **Social process**: **Conventionalization (usualization, diffusion)**

SCHMID, H-J. The Dynamics of the Linguistic System. Usage, Conventionalization, and Entrenchment, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020, p.4.
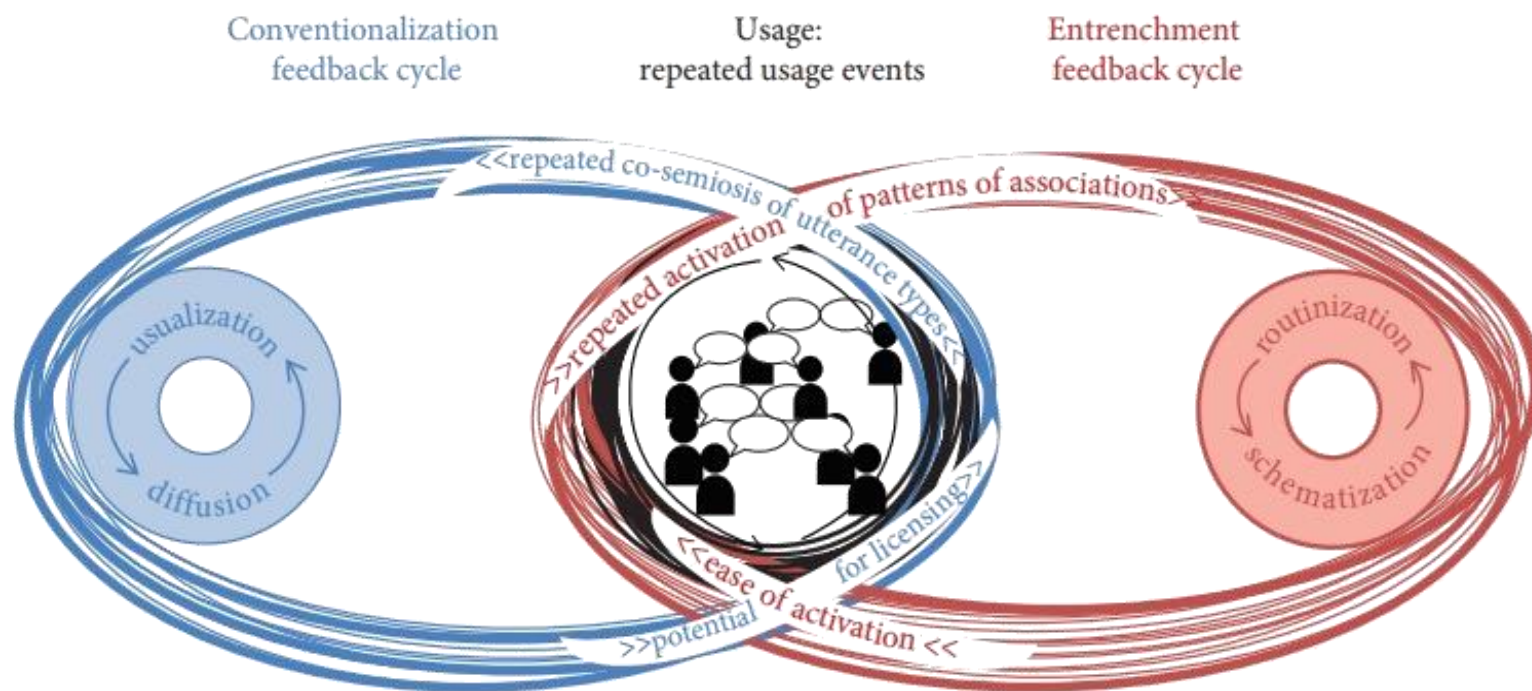
Modality	Sources	Register	Genre
Oral texts Written texts	Journals, Newspapers, Brazilian Oral databases, Booking, Mundi and TripAdvisor commentaries, Reclame Aqui notifications.	Formal register Informal register	Academic papers, Transcribed interviews, News, Reports about touristic places, Customer complaints, Oral classes.

Database: **525 usage data** of predicative construction of change (346 – with ficar; 122 – with tornar-se; 57 with virar)

Pie chart: 66% Ficar, 23% Tornar-se, 11% Virar
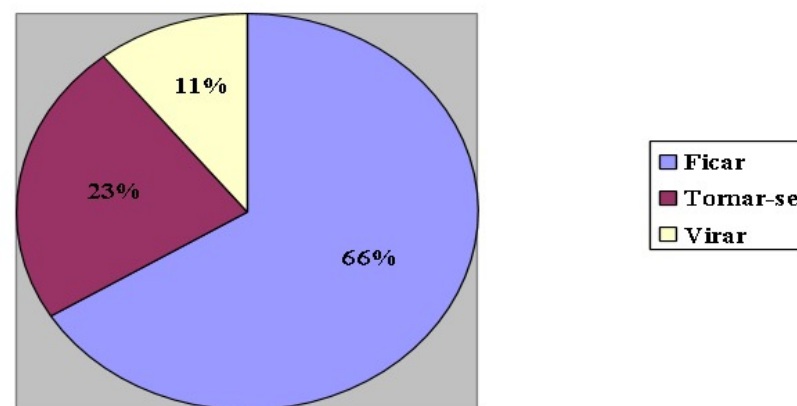
Token and type frequency >(meta)constructions
Sociolinguistic **multivariate analysis (Goldvarb X)**: the regression method was used to keep track of the roles and potential interactions of the multitude of variables.

METER-SE
FAZER-SE PÔR-SE
CAIR FICAR SAIR
+
TORNAR-SE VIRAR
ACABAR RESULTAR
TERMINAR

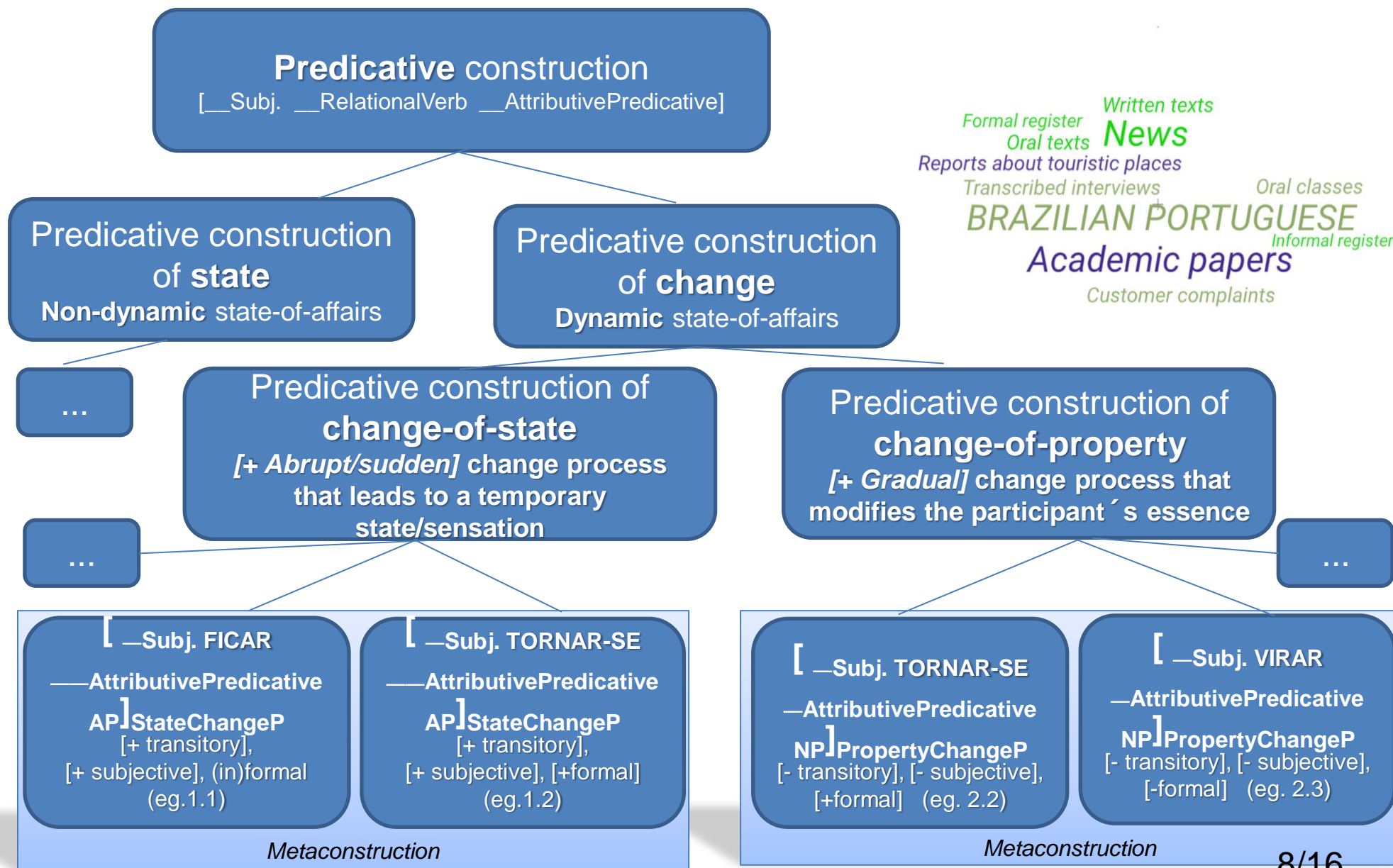| Variables	Properties/Factors
Type of change	State or property?
Aspect of the attributive predicative	More or less duration? Durative ou transitory?
Type of phrase	Nominal or Adjective phrase?
Type of subject participant	Animate or non-animate?
Verbal tense	Past, presente, future?
Subjectivity degree of predication	More or less subjective?
Expression modality	Written or oral?
Register	Formal or informal?
Genre	Academic papers, Transcribed interviews, News, Reports about touristic places, Customer complaints, Oral classes.

[—— SubjectP —— ChangeVerb —— AttributivePredicativeNP/AP]ChangeP

[——SubjectP —— ChangeVerb —— AttributivePredicativeNP/AP] ChangeP

Comparing statistical results (multivariate analysis)	Property(ies) MORE associated with the verb	Property(ies) LESS associated with the verb
Usage data of FICAR and TORNAR-SE	more transitory aspect of the attributive predicative; oral modality; informal register; animate subject participant	
	FICAR (0.70; 0.70; 0.58)	**TORNAR-SE**
Usage data of FICAR and VIRAR	more transitory aspect of the attributive predicative, adjective frase (AP)	
	FICAR (0.73; 0.58)	**VIRAR**
Usage data of TORNAR-SE and VIRAR	formal register; written modality	
	TORNAR-SE (0.55; 0.55)	**VIRAR**
Usage data of VIRAR and TORNAR-SE/FICAR	more durative aspect of the attributive predicative; nominal frase (NP)	
	VIRAR (all 57 data > Nominal Phrase)	**TORNAR-SE and FICAR** (all 346 data of ficar > Adjective Phrase)

77

Predicative construction
[__Subj. __RelationalVerb __AttributivePredicative]

Predicative construction
of **state**
Non-dynamic state-of-affairs

Predicative construction
of **change**
Dynamic state-of-affairs

...

Predicative construction of
change-of-state
[+ Abrupt/sudden] **change process
that leads to a temporary
state/sensation**

Predicative construction of
change-of-property
[+ Gradual] **change process that
modifies the participant´s essence**

...

...

Formal register
Written texts
Oral texts News
Reports about touristic places
Transcribed interviews
Oral classes
BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE
Informal register
Academic papers
Customer complaints

[—Subj. FICAR
——AttributivePredicative
AP]StateChangeP
[+ transitory],
[+ subjective], (in)formal
(eg.1.1)

[—Subj. TORNAR-SE
——AttributivePredicative
AP]StateChangeP
[+ transitory],
[+ subjective], [+formal]
(eg.1.2)

[—Subj. TORNAR-SE
—AttributivePredicative
NP]PropertyChangeP
[- transitory], [- subjective],
[+formal]   (eg. 2.2)

[—Subj. VIRAR
—AttributivePredicative
NP]PropertyChangeP
[- transitory], [- subjective],
[-formal]   (eg. 2.3)

Metaconstruction

Metaconstruction

Outcomes:

1/5) Although there are statistical usage differences between the data licensed by the two highly convencionalized predicative constructional subschemes of change, relational verbs are used in both, as near synonymous (variants):

- **The applicability of their conceptual features is far from being clear in some contexts; so, a variety of relational verbs are available to express the notion of change, although *ficar*, *tornar-se* and *virar* are the most frequent at the database of the research.**

- ***ficar* and *tornar-se* are the most attracted collexemes to the predicative subschema of change-of-state; *tornar-se* and *virar* are the most attracted collexemes to the property predicative subschema of change-of-property.**

Outcomes:

2/5) There are four entrenched microconstructions in Brazilian Portuguese (cf. slide 8) where *ficar*, *tornar-se* and *virar* collocate:

- *ficar*, **a kind of default dynamic relational verb, tends to collocate with adjective phrases in (in)formal discourse;**

- *virar* **tends to collocate with nominal phrases and in informal discourse;**

- *tornar-se*, **more used in written and/or formal discourse, may collocate either with adjective or nominal phrase.**

Outcomes:

3/5) In a scenario of multivariate Brazilian Portuguese use, it seems that different perspectives of predication construal lead to different strategies of grammatical use:

- in order to profile a subjective change-of-state, the verbs *ficar* and *tornar-se* are more used and they tend to be followed by a psychological adjective phrase;

- In order to profile a property/contition change (changes involving duration), the verbs *tornar-se* and *virar* are more attracted to the construction and they tend to be followed by a nominal frase;

- some instances of use are linked to more central constructional types, others to more peripheral ones (such as instances of *virar* in the predicative construction of change-of-state or *ficar* at the predicative construction of change-of-property; these do not represent the profiling inclination of such relational verbs).

Outcomes:

4/5) The predicative construction of change permits constructional patterns that – due to formal or functional *associations* (semantic aspect, more or less subjective conceptualization of the process of change – highlighting the transitory resultant state or the relatively durative change movement – and discursive configuration of text *similarities*) – **are gathered and stored as constructional variants in metaconstructions.**

Metaconstructions are entrenched cognitive areas in which correspondences between constructions, that are associated as *allostructions*, are repeatedly (re)configured by repeated co-semiosis/interations; they represent the potential for neutralizing the meaning and discursive-pragmatic peculiarities deriving from the influence of the collocation of the relational verb. (Cf. slide 8)

Outcomes:

5/5) In exploring lexical collocation at the predicative construction of change, we noticed that certain verbal lexemes can indeed be conventionally associated to textual modalities, genres and register types: *tornar-se* is more used in written and formal texts, at academic papers or journalistic texts; *virar* tends to be blocked at academic papers, is more used in informal and/or oral discourse; *ficar* is also more used in oral texts. Different textual-discursive paradigms lead to different strategies of grammatical use.

So, the assumption of a socioculturally textual-discursive pattern routinization and schematization seems to be a plausible hypothesis in future investigation of other predication constructions.

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The alternation of FICAR, TORNAR-SE and VIRAR at state change and property change predications in Brazilian Portuguese
ABSTRACT

According to theoretical-methodological assumptions of Cognitive-Functional Linguistics that encompasses the Usage-Based Construction Grammar model (Goldberg, 1995, 2019; Traugott and Trousdale, 2013) as well as a variationist sociolinguistic perspective (Machado Vieira, 2016; Machado Vieira, 2019; Trousdale, Machado Vieira and Cezario, 2019), we intend to deal with the variation/alternation issue (Hilpert, 2014; Perek, 2015) among the generalizations of the Construction Grammar of Portuguese.

The focus of this poster proposal is to expose results of a Brazilian research about relational constructions of change that express state change or property change and which feature a slot that can frequently be filled by verbs such as: ficar, tornar-se and virar. We aim to describe existing differences and similarities, depending on the verb selected to fill the slot of such relational constructions.

In order to do so, a sample of utterances collected from academic papers, newspapers, magazines and complaint sites is quali-quantiative analysed (in a regression model), according to some parameters: the type of change (of state or property), the type of animacity of the subject participant, the type of predicative phrase, the aspectuality of the construction (permanent or transitional aspect), the degree of formality associated with the discursive situation in which their constructs operate, among other ones. We investigate the constructs of such constructions considering schematicity, productivity, compositionality and contextuality (Traugott and Trousdale, 2013; Goldberg, 2016).

The research shows that the predicative construction of change permits diverse constructional patterns that, due to functional association (semantic, discursive, pragmatic, cognitive and/or social similarity), are gathered and stored as constructional variants in a metaconstruction (an entrenched cognitive area in which correspondences between constructions, that are associated as allostructions, are established). It neutralizes nuances of meaning and discursive-pragmatic peculiarities deriving from the influence of the relational verb on the construction in which it is inserted.

The compatibilization of verbs ficar, tornar-se and virar (lexical verbs that correspond to "to become") is subtly distinct: some instances of use are linked to more central patterns, others to more peripheral ones; some patterns have been routinized as allostructions (Cappelle, 2006). The research also shows evidences that contribute to the problematization about the locus of variation/alternation generalizations in the Usage-Based Construction Grammar model.

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