

# The Comparisons and Contrasts between English and Portuguese Languages

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## ABSTRACT

*This study explores the historical background, grammar, phonology, loanwords, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, and syntax of the English and Portuguese languages. While English and Portuguese are widely spoken and popular languages worldwide, they have distinct histories and compositions. The objective of this research is to examine and compare the unique aspects of these languages, as well as to uncover the processes involved in understanding them. Although English and Portuguese exhibit some similarities in terms of vowel sounds and semantics, they originate from different linguistic backgrounds. However, learners often encounter challenges, particularly with pronunciation and spelling, when acquiring proficiency in both languages.*

**Keyword:** *English language, Portuguese language, history of language*

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## 1. Introduction

Language plays a pivotal role in human communication and has shaped the way we interact, express ourselves, and comprehend the world around us. English and Portuguese, among the most widely spoken languages globally, have become vehicles of international communication, literature, and cultural exchange. Despite their shared popularity, these languages possess distinctive historical backgrounds, grammatical structures, phonological systems, vocabulary, and syntactic patterns. This study embarks on an extensive and in-depth exploration of the English and Portuguese languages, aiming to shed light on their unique characteristics and the processes involved in understanding them.

The historical backdrop of a language influences its evolution, vocabulary, and grammatical structures. English traces its origins back to the Germanic language family, heavily influenced by Latin, French, and other languages due to historical events like the Norman Conquest. On the other hand, Portuguese, with its roots in Latin, flourished in the Iberian Peninsula and underwent its own transformative journey through interactions with indigenous languages, Arabic, and other foreign influences. Understanding the historical context of these languages provides valuable insights into their development and distinctiveness.

Grammar, the backbone of any language, encompasses various aspects such as syntax, morphology, and semantics. This research delves into the grammar of English and Portuguese, examining their sentence structures, word formations, and the rules governing their usage. Syntax, in particular, focuses on how words are arranged to convey meaning, while morphology explores the internal structure of words and their formation. Semantics, the study of meaning, investigates the nuances and subtleties embedded within the vocabulary and expressions of these languages. By analyzing the grammar of English and Portuguese, this study seeks to unravel the intricacies that shape the unique identities of these linguistic systems.

Phonology, the study of speech sounds, provides crucial insights into pronunciation and phonetic patterns. Although English and Portuguese share certain vowel sounds and phonetic features, they diverge significantly in terms of consonant inventory and pronunciation rules. Understanding the phonological systems of both languages enhances comprehension and facilitates accurate pronunciation, but learners often encounter challenges due to the differences in phonetic patterns and phonemic contrasts.

Furthermore, loanwords, borrowed from other languages, have played a significant role in expanding the vocabularies of English and Portuguese. This research investigates the influence of loanwords on the lexicons of these languages and explores how these borrowed terms integrate into their respective systems. Examining loanwords contributes to a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural interactions that have shaped the languages over time.

Beyond individual words, the study of semantics and pragmatics is crucial for understanding how meaning is conveyed and interpreted within different contexts. This research analyzes the semantic structures and pragmatic principles inherent in English and Portuguese, investigating how meaning is constructed, conveyed, and understood in various social and cultural settings.

While English and Portuguese share some similarities in certain linguistic aspects, such as vowel sounds and semantic categories, they emerge from distinct linguistic backgrounds. These differences pose challenges for learners, particularly in terms of pronunciation and spelling. Mastering the intricacies of both languages requires dedicated effort and a comprehensive understanding of their unique features.

By thoroughly examining the historical background, grammar, phonology, loanwords, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, and syntax of English and Portuguese, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of these languages and enhance our appreciation of their complexities. Through this exploration, we hope to assist language learners, educators, and researchers in navigating the challenges and intricacies involved in acquiring proficiency in both English and Portuguese.

## **2. Research problem**

The research problem under investigation in this study revolves around the exploration and comparison of the historical background, grammar, phonology, loanwords, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, and syntax of the English and Portuguese languages. Despite their widespread usage and global popularity, English and Portuguese are characterized by distinct historical origins and linguistic compositions. The central aim of this research is to scrutinize and elucidate the distinctive linguistic traits of these languages while delving into the cognitive processes involved in comprehending and utilizing them.

While acknowledging the presence of certain parallels, such as shared vowel sounds and semantic aspects, the study emphasizes the divergent linguistic roots of English and Portuguese. Furthermore, it seeks to identify and highlight the difficulties faced by learners, particularly in terms of pronunciation and spelling, when striving to attain proficiency in both languages.

Through the attainment of these research objectives, the study aspires to make valuable contributions to our comprehension of language typology, the intricacies of language acquisition, and the development of effective language teaching methodologies. Ultimately, this research endeavor seeks to enhance our understanding of linguistic diversity and the multifaceted processes involved in learning and instructing languages.

### 3. Rationale

The research rationale for this study is to investigate and analyze various linguistic aspects of the English and Portuguese languages, including their historical background, grammar, phonology, loanwords, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, and syntax. While both languages are widely spoken and popular globally, they possess distinct historical origins and linguistic compositions. The primary objective of this research is to explore and compare the unique characteristics of English and Portuguese, shedding light on the processes involved in comprehending and utilizing these languages effectively. Despite certain similarities observed in vowel sounds and semantics, English and Portuguese stem from different linguistic lineages. Consequently, learners often face difficulties, particularly in the areas of pronunciation and spelling, when endeavoring to attain proficiency in both languages. By addressing these research objectives, this study will contribute to enhancing our understanding of language typology, facilitating language acquisition, and informing language teaching methodologies.

### 4. Research questions

The research questions for this study are as follows:

1. What is the historical background of the English and Portuguese languages, and how have their distinct histories shaped their compositions?
2. What are the grammatical features and structures unique to English and Portuguese, and how do they differ from each other?
3. What are the phonological characteristics of English and Portuguese, and how do they contribute to the pronunciation challenges faced by learners?
4. What are the patterns and influences of loanwords in English and Portuguese, and how do they impact the vocabulary and language use?
5. What are the morphological processes and rules specific to English and Portuguese, and how do they affect word formation and meaning?
6. How do the semantic systems of English and Portuguese differ, and what are the implications for understanding and interpreting meaning in both languages?
7. What are the pragmatic strategies employed in English and Portuguese, and how do they contribute to effective communication and social interactions?
8. How does the syntax of English and Portuguese differ, and what are the implications for sentence structure and word order?
9. What are the challenges faced by learners in terms of pronunciation and spelling when acquiring proficiency in both English and Portuguese?

By addressing these research questions, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the unique aspects of the English and Portuguese languages, their linguistic origins, and the processes involved in acquiring and utilizing them effectively.

## 5. Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework employed in this study relies on linguistic theories and concepts to conduct a comprehensive analysis and comparison of the historical background, grammar, phonology, loanwords, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, and syntax of the English and Portuguese languages. Recognizing that English and Portuguese are two widely spoken languages with distinct linguistic histories and compositions, the primary objective of this study is to identify and examine the unique linguistic characteristics of these languages and delve into the processes involved in their comprehension and use.

Within this framework, it is acknowledged that despite certain similarities, such as shared vowel sounds and semantic aspects, English and Portuguese possess distinct linguistic backgrounds. The study also acknowledges the challenges that learners, especially those acquiring proficiency in both languages, may encounter, particularly in the domains of pronunciation and spelling.

By applying pertinent linguistic theories and concepts, this research aims to provide a comprehensive and in-depth analysis and comparison of English and Portuguese. It seeks to contribute to our understanding of the linguistic features inherent to these languages and the intricate processes involved in language acquisition, thereby enhancing our knowledge of language diversity and the dynamics of bilingualism.

## 6. Methodology

The research methodology for this study is designed to conduct a thorough and systematic investigation of the historical background, grammar, phonology, loanwords, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, and syntax of both the English and Portuguese languages. To achieve this, a comparative approach will be employed, focusing on the analysis and juxtaposition of the distinctive features of these languages to identify both their commonalities and distinctions.

The research process will entail the collection and examination of data from various sources, including linguistic literature, language resources, and language corpora. These sources will serve as valuable references to inform the analysis. The research will employ descriptive and analytical techniques to explore, dissect, and interpret the data gathered, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of the linguistic structures and nuances found in English and Portuguese.

Additionally, the study will incorporate a theoretical framework, drawing on linguistic theories and concepts, to provide a deeper and more insightful perspective on the linguistic structures and processes inherent in both languages.

Ultimately, the findings of this research endeavor are expected to make significant contributions to the existing body of knowledge in areas such as language typology, language acquisition, and language teaching methodologies. By shedding light on the linguistic characteristics of English and Portuguese, this study aims to enhance our understanding of language diversity and the strategies involved in language learning and instruction.

## 7. Comparisons and Contrasts between English and Portuguese History

English and Portuguese history exhibit both similarities and differences. During the Age of Exploration in the 15th and 16th centuries, both England and Portugal emerged as major colonial powers. Portugal ventured into Africa, South America, and Asia, whereas England established colonies in North America, India, and parts of Africa. Nevertheless, the Portuguese Empire declined in the 17th century, while the British Empire expanded and assumed dominance in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In terms of monarchy, Portugal maintained a monarchy until 1910, when it was overthrown, leading to the establishment of a republic. Conversely, England retains its monarchy, making it one of the few remaining constitutional monarchies worldwide. The languages spoken in both countries belong to the Indo-European family, but they diverge in their branches. English falls under the Germanic category, while Portuguese is classified as a Romance language. Consequently, the two languages possess distinct grammatical structures and vocabulary. Both England and Portugal have encountered religious conflicts throughout their histories. England witnessed prolonged religious turmoil

in the 16th and 17th centuries, resulting in the establishment of the Church of England as the dominant religious institution. In Portugal, the Catholic Church has played a significant role, and the establishment of the Inquisition in the 16th century marked a period of religious conflict. Concerning political systems, Portugal functions as a unitary semi-presidential representative democratic republic, while the United Kingdom operates as a unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy. The political structures and institutions of the two countries differ significantly. In summary, while there exist certain similarities between English and Portuguese history, substantial differences arise in their colonial pasts, monarchies, languages, religions, and political systems.

## **8. Comparisons and Contrasts between English and Portuguese Language**

English and Portuguese, both belonging to the Indo-European language family, originate from distinct branches, with English categorized as a West Germanic language and Portuguese as a Romance language. Notable comparisons and contrasts between the two languages can be identified. Pronunciation stands out as a significant difference, as Portuguese is phonetic, assigning specific sounds to each letter, while English exhibits numerous silent letters and multiple pronunciations for the same letters. Grammar complexity characterizes both languages; however, Portuguese entails a higher number of rules and exceptions compared to English. For instance, Portuguese incorporates more verb tenses and a complex system of noun gender and agreement. Vocabulary-wise, English possesses a significantly larger lexicon, comprising over 170,000 words in current usage, whereas Portuguese utilizes approximately 50,000 words. Nevertheless, Portuguese incorporates a greater number of loanwords from other languages, such as Arabic, French, and Spanish. Regarding the writing system, both languages employ the Latin alphabet, although English incorporates additional characters, such as "thorn" (Þ) and "eth" (ð), which are no longer used in modern English, while Portuguese includes diacritical marks such as the acute accent and tilde. Syntax diverges as well, with English adopting a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) word order, while Portuguese adopts a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order, influencing sentence structure and word emphasis. English is widely spoken globally, serving as a first or second language for over 1.5 billion individuals, making it one of the most prevalent languages. In comparison, although Portuguese is not as widely spoken, it ranks as the sixth most spoken language globally and serves as the official language of nine countries. In summary, while English and Portuguese share certain similarities, their distinctions encompass phonetics, grammar, vocabulary, writing systems, syntax, and global usage.

## **9. Comparisons and Contrasts between English and Portuguese Grammar**

English and Portuguese, both belonging to the Indo-European language family but originating from different branches (English from Germanic and Portuguese from Romance), exhibit similarities and differences in their grammar. When comparing their grammar, several points of comparison and contrast arise. In terms of word order, English follows a subject-verb-object (SVO) structure, while Portuguese adopts a subject-object-verb (SOV) structure. Adjectives in English precede the noun they modify, whereas in Portuguese, they follow the noun. Additionally, in English, the verb tense typically precedes the subject, while in Portuguese, it follows the subject. Verb conjugation differs as well, with English verbs having minimal endings to indicate tense or subject agreement, except for the third person singular form, whereas Portuguese verbs undergo extensive inflection to convey tense, aspect, mood, and subject agreement. English employs a simple past tense, while Portuguese utilizes both a simple past and an imperfect past tense. Nouns and gender diverge between the two languages, as English nouns are not gendered, while Portuguese nouns possess gender distinctions (masculine or feminine). Plural nouns in English are formed by adding "s" or "es" to the singular form, while in Portuguese, plural nouns change their endings based on gender and number. Articles also exhibit differences, with English having two articles ("a/an" for indefinite singular and "the" for definite and plural nouns), while Portuguese includes definite articles for both singular and plural ("o/a/os/as") and omits articles before indefinite nouns. Prepositions vary between English and Portuguese, with some overlapping in meaning but differences in usage. For instance, in English, "on" is used for surfaces and "in" for enclosed spaces, whereas in Portuguese, "em" serves both purposes. Overall, English and Portuguese display variations in grammar, encompassing word order, verb conjugation, gender, articles, and prepositions, while also sharing similarities in the use of prepositions and plural formation.

## 9.1 Comparing Portuguese Grammar to English

The grammars of Portuguese and English exhibit significant similarities due to their belonging to the Indo-European language family. They share common features, such as basic syntax and word order. However, as Portuguese is a Romance language and English belongs to the Germanic language subfamily, their grammatical structures differ in various aspects.

## 9.2 Similarities and Differences in Grammar

According to the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Portuguese is considered one of the easier languages for English speakers to learn, along with Spanish, Italian, and Dutch. The perceived difficulty of Portuguese grammar depends on prior knowledge of Romance languages. For those unfamiliar with Romance languages, Portuguese grammar may appear complex. On the other hand, individuals with a native language or familiarity with a Romance language will find it more intuitive. Compared to English, Portuguese grammar presents certain intricacies, such as gender agreement. Nouns have specific genders, and pronouns, articles, and adjectives must agree with them. Additionally, Portuguese verbs have more conjugations and endings to navigate than English verbs. However, the perceived difficulty of Portuguese grammar depends on one's native language. Learning a new language as an adult is always challenging but also rewarding.

## 9.3 Shared Features

Both Portuguese and English belong to the Indo-European language family, leading to shared characteristics that may not be immediately apparent. Both languages follow the Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) word order. For instance, in the sentence "O Pedro comprou um carro" (Peter bought a car), both languages adhere to the SVO sequence as the default word order.

## 9.4 Grammar Terminology

Those familiar with English word classes will find similarities in Portuguese grammar. Both languages use similar terminology and conceptualize grammar and syntax in the same way. In Portuguese, as in English, the majority of words fall into four word classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. These are referred to as "open" classes, as new words are constantly introduced while older ones become less common. Additionally, both languages have "closed" word classes, also known as "function words," including articles, prepositions, pronouns, numerals, and conjunctions.

## 9.5 S-Plural

By default, both English and Portuguese form plurals by adding an -s at the end of nouns (s-plural). Portuguese exhibits more exceptions to this pattern compared to English, although the s-plural remains the predominant form.

## 9.6 Verb System

The Portuguese verb system is more intricate than that of English. Portuguese verbs have more conjugation endings and forms to consider. For example, the verb "ter" (to have) conjugates as follows:

Eu (I) - Tenho (have) Tu (you) - Tens (have) Ele, ela (he, she) - Tem (has) Nós (we) - Temos (have) Vocês (you all) - Têm (have) Eles, elas (they) - Têm (have)

Furthermore, Portuguese allows for expressing different time-flow qualities by using different verb aspects within a

tense. English, on the other hand, does not mark different time-flow qualities with distinct verb aspects. Instead, contextual cues or rephrasing are used.

### Subject Null Parameter

In Portuguese, the presence of a phonetically realized subject can be dispensed with. Consider phrases such as: "Eu fui à praia" (I went to the beach) vs. "Fui à praia" (Went to the beach). "Tu queres ir ao cinema?" (Do you want to go to the movies?) vs. "Queres ir ao cinema?" (Want to go to the movies?).

In English or French, the explicit mention of the subject is mandatory: "I went to the beach" vs. \* "went to the beach". "Tu veux aller au cinéma?" vs. \* "veux aller au cinéma?".

Within the framework of the Theory of Principles and Parameters, Portuguese is classified as a language of null subject, meaning a language that positively marks the Subject Null Parameter. Conversely, French and English mark this same parameter negatively (Mira Mateus & Villalva, 2006, p.52).

In Portuguese, pronominalization shows traces of lexically realized case variation. Thus, when "rosa" is the subject, the pronoun replacing it is different from the one that occurs when "rosa" is the direct object:

"A rosa é bela" (The rose is beautiful) → "Ela é bela" (She is beautiful)

"Quero a rosa" (I want the rose) → "Quero-a" (I want it)

(Mira Mateus & Villalva, 2006, p.5).

### 9.7 Subjunctive Mood

The subjunctive mood is utilized to express desires, hypothetical situations, or uncertainty. In English, the verb forms for the subjunctive mood have gradually become identical to those of the indicative mood. Consequently, the use of the subjunctive is barely noticeable in modern English, to the extent that most native speakers are unaware of it. For example, consider the sentence "I suggest you go home." The verb "go" in this sentence is actually in the subjunctive mood. In contrast, in Portuguese and other Romance languages, the subjunctive mood remains distinct in both appearance and sound.

If I had more money, I would travel more often. (Portuguese: Se tivesse mais dinheiro viajava mais vezes.) In this sentence, the verb "tivesse" (from the verb "ter") is in the subjunctive mood (pretérito imperfeito).

In English and Portuguese, possession is indicated by using a reversed word order. For instance, "O carro da Sara" means "the car belonging to Sara" or "Sara's car." It is important to note that a preposition, such as "da" in Portuguese, is used to indicate possession and is placed between the possessed object and the possessor.

In Portuguese, unlike English, possessive pronouns are typically preceded by a definite article. For example, "A minha casa é branca" means "My house is white," and "O meu casaco é castanho escuro" means "My jacket is dark brown." The same pattern applies to proper nouns. For instance, "A Joana ficou em casa" means "Joana stayed home," and "Olá, eu sou o Ricardo" means "Hi, I'm Ricardo."

Prepositions in Portuguese often contract with other words, especially articles. Here are a few examples using the preposition "a": "Eu vou ao cinema" means "I am going to the cinema," where "ao" is a contraction of "a" + "o cinema."

In Portuguese, it is common to omit the subject in sentences as the verb form itself implies the subject. This is because there is a distinct verb form for each person. For example, "Gosto de música" translates to "I like music," and "Gostas de música" translates to "You like music." In these examples, the subject pronouns "I" and "You" are not explicitly stated in Portuguese because they are already implied by the verb forms.

Additionally, subjects are often omitted when they are impersonal or generic. For example, "Dizem que os eventos

climáticos extremos vão ter maior frequência no futuro" means "People say that extreme weather events will be more frequent in the future."

Furthermore, Portuguese does not have a specific pronoun equivalent to the English "it." Sentences in English that start with "it" do not require a subject in Portuguese. For example, "Está a chover!" means "It is raining!" and "Não é justo!" means "It is not fair!"

Portuguese, like other Romance languages, is a gendered language. Nouns have specific genders (feminine or masculine), and this influences other word classes such as pronouns, adjectives, and articles, which need to agree in gender. For example, "A minha cadeira é vermelha" means "My chair is red," and "O meu carro é vermelho" means "My car is red." In these sentences, only the verb "é" remains unchanged, while all other words adjust according to the gender of the noun they refer to.

Portuguese, along with other Romance languages, has two verbs for the English verb "to be": "ser" and "estar." The choice between the two depends on whether the state being described is permanent or temporary. Generally, "ser" is used for permanent states, while "estar" is used for temporary states. For example, "Tu és uma pessoa alegre" means "You are a happy person" (permanent state), and "Tu hoje estás alegre" means "You are happy today" (temporary state).

The use of diminutives and augmentatives is common in Portuguese. Diminutives are used to indicate smallness, endearment, or even irony, and are formed by changing the endings of nouns to "-inho." For example, "Que gatinho

bonito!" means "What a cute little cat!" Augmentatives, on the other hand, indicate largeness and are formed by adding the suffix "-ão." For example, "Que tigrão!" means "What a big tiger!"

In Portuguese, yes-or-no questions have the same word order as declarative sentences. The only difference lies in the intonation. In English, however, yes-or-no questions often use the auxiliary verb "do." For example, "Gostas gelado?" (Portuguese) means "Do you like ice cream?" while "Gostas de gelado" means "You like ice cream."

## 9.8 Unveiling the Linguistic Bonds Between English and Portuguese

Language, the quintessential tool of human communication, is a magnificent tapestry woven with threads of history, culture, and innovation. While English and Portuguese may appear to be distant branches on the tree of languages, a closer examination reveals surprising parallels. In this chapter, we will explore the fascinating similarities between these two languages, often hidden beneath the surface, where etymology and evolution converge.

### **acto/ato; ecto/eto = act/ect**

At first glance, "acto" and "act," or "ecto" and "ect," seem like entirely different words. However, their shared origin becomes apparent when we peel away the linguistic layers. Both English and Portuguese draw from Latin roots, and as a result, words like "acto" in Portuguese and "act" in English are mirror images, differing only in the suffix. "Fato" and "fact," "Compacto" and "compact," "Objeto" and "object," "Intelecto" and "intellect" — these pairs exemplify the close bond that their common Latin ancestry forged between the two languages.

### **ado/ada = ed**

In the realm of adjectives and past participles, English and Portuguese once again find common ground. "Interessado" and "interested," "Intimidada" and "intimidated," "Especializado" and "specialized" demonstrate how the suffixes "ado" and "ed" are linguistic siblings.

### **ante/ente/ento = ant/ent**

The suffixes "ante," "ente," and "ento" in Portuguese bear a striking resemblance to their English counterparts "ant" and "ent." In "Imigranteante" (immigrant), "Inteligente" (intelligent), "Talento" (talent), and "Temperamento" (temperament),



the commonality becomes unmistakable.

#### **ão = on**

Portuguese and English share another linguistic treasure: the suffix "ão" in Portuguese often corresponds to "on" in English. "Paixão" and "passion," "Conexão" and "connection," "Opinião" and "opinion" highlight the harmony in their etymological roots.

#### **ável/ível = ible**

The suffixes "ável" and "ível" in Portuguese find their equivalents in English with "ible." "Incrível" and "incredible," "Plausível" and "plausible," "Responsável" and "responsible" showcase the close bond between these languages in forming adjectives.

#### **ção = tion**

When it comes to abstract nouns and processes, both languages utilize the "ção" and "tion" suffixes, respectively. "Emoção" and "emotion," "Comunicação" and "communication," "Informação" and "information," and "Resolução" and "resolution" embody this similarity.

#### **cia/ça = ce**

The suffix "cia" in Portuguese aligns neatly with "ce" in English, often denoting concepts related to entities, qualities, or actions. "Violência" and "violence," "Elegância" and "elegance," "Polícia" and "police," "Força" and "force" illustrate this linguistic convergence.

#### **cia = cy**

In the realm of abstract nouns, "cia" in Portuguese corresponds to "cy" in English. "Democracia" and "democracy," "Aristocracia" and "aristocracy," and "Eficiência" and "efficiency" exemplify this shared linguistic trait.

#### **dade = ty**

The suffix "dade" in Portuguese shares a lineage with "ty" in English, particularly in words that describe abstract qualities or states. "Universidade" and "university," "Calamidade" and "calamity," "Densidade" and "density," "Sociedade" and "society" emphasize this linguistic connection.

#### **esso = ess**

In words ending in "esso" in Portuguese, we encounter a reflection of "ess" in English. "Congresso" and "congress," "Processo" and "process," "Excesso" and "excess" offer a glimpse into the shared linguistic past.

#### **gia = gy**

The suffix "gia" in Portuguese aligns with "gy" in English, often in fields of study or specialized knowledge. "Alergia" and "allergy" and "Tecnologia" and "technology" underscore this similarity.

#### **ismo = ism**

In the world of ideologies and belief systems, both languages make use of "ismo" and "ism." "Consumismo" and "consumerism," "Turismo" and "tourism," and "Magnetismo" and "magnetism" exemplify the coexistence of these linguistic cousins.

#### **ista = ist**

The suffix "ista" in Portuguese resonates with "ist" in English, particularly in professions or affiliations. "Especialista" and "specialist," "Turista" and "tourist," "Ativista" and "activist" provide another example of the shared linguistic roots.

#### **mente = ly**

The suffix "mente" in Portuguese is akin to "ly" in English, often used to form adverbs. "Especialmente" and "specially,"

"Inicialmente" and "initially," and "Gradualmente" and "gradually" demonstrate this linguistic synergy.

#### **mento = ment**

In words ending in "mento" in Portuguese, we witness a reflection of "ment" in English, particularly in words related to states or actions. "Momento" and "moment," "Parlamento" and "parliament," "Investimento" and "investment" reveal the shared linguistic history.

#### **o = al**

The suffix "o" in Portuguese sometimes corresponds to "al" in English, often in adjectives. "Interno" and "internal," "Político" and "political," "Biológico" and "biological," "Místico" and "mystical" demonstrate this linguistic parallel.

#### **oso = ous**

Both languages share the suffix "oso" and "ous" in words related to qualities or states. "Corajoso" and "courageous," "Misterioso" and "mysterious," "Nervoso" and "nervous" highlight this similarity.

#### **ro = er/re**

The suffix "ro" in Portuguese resonates with "er" or "re" in English, often denoting objects or places. "Centro" and "centre," "Metro" and "metre," "Filtro" and "filter" offer insight into the interconnectedness of these languages.

#### **são = sion**

In words ending with "são" in Portuguese, we discover a reflection of "sion" in English. "Sessão" and "session," "Missão" and "mission," "Televisão" and "television," "Permissão" and "permission" exemplify this shared linguistic heritage.

#### **ura/uro = ure**

The suffix "ura" and "uro" in Portuguese is akin to "ure" in English, often found in words related to abstract concepts. "Cultura" and "culture," "Figura" and "figure," "Temperatura" and "temperature," "Futuro" and "future" demonstrate the linguistic affinity between these languages.

#### **uto = ute**

Lastly, the suffix "uto" in Portuguese mirrors "ute" in English, frequently found in words related to characteristics or attributes. "Absoluto" and "absolute," "Atributo" and "attribute," "Minuto" and "minute" showcase the shared linguistic DNA.

In conclusion, the linguistic parallels between English and Portuguese are a testament to the intricate web of human language evolution. From shared Latin roots to similar suffixes and prefixes, these languages showcase a fascinating journey of interconnectedness across time and space. Understanding these linguistic bonds not only enriches our appreciation for the beauty of languages but also serves as a bridge between cultures and peoples, fostering a deeper sense of unity in our diverse world.

## **9.9 Portuguese and English Differences**

Learning a foreign language involves not only acquiring its elements but also avoiding the negative influence of one's native language background. While this interference is more noticeable in pronunciation, it also affects grammar, leading students to produce unstructured and incomprehensible sentences. Students often sense that something is wrong, but their ideas are closely tied to the structure of Portuguese, leaving them unsure of other possibilities.

Comparative studies of two languages reveal clear differences and help predict and prevent errors before they become ingrained habits. Even advanced students may exhibit these errors due to a lack of exposure to the target language.

One major challenge for Brazilian Portuguese speakers when learning English is the structure of interrogative and

negative sentences. In Portuguese, interrogative sentences are distinguished primarily by intonation and do not require changes in sentence structure. However, in English, particularly in "Be Phrases" (sentences with the verb "to be" or other auxiliary verbs or modals), subject-verb inversion is necessary.

In Portuguese, sentences often lack a subject. Portuguese grammar accounts for the absence of the subject through hidden subject or indeterminate figures. However, English requires a subject in most cases, and when a specific subject is absent, the pronoun "it" is often used.

Additionally, Portuguese sentences frequently place the subject in the middle or end of the sentence, whereas English prefers the subject to be at the beginning. For example, "Tive um problema" translates to "I had a problem," and "Está chovendo" translates to "It's raining."

Verbs in English have less inflection and conjugation compared to Portuguese. English verbs, including past tense forms, undergo fewer modifications and are used consistently across different subject persons. Modal verbs are not conjugated, and the simple present tense is the only verbal tense modified twice, always in the third person singular.

Portuguese has a rich verb conjugation system compared to other Romance languages. It has preserved more verbal inflections from classical Latin, and some grammatical innovations are unique to Portuguese, Galician, and Fala. For example, the present perfect tense has an iterative sense specific to the Galician-Portuguese language group, denoting actions that started in the past and are expected to occur again in the future. The future subjunctive mood, which has fallen into disuse in modern Spanish and Galician, appears in Portuguese to express a condition that must be fulfilled in the future for the independent clause to happen.

Portuguese nouns have gender distinctions, while in English, most nouns are neutral and can represent both male and female entities. Adjectives in English do not have gender or number agreement and remain the same regardless of the gender or number of the noun they qualify.

Countable and uncountable nouns in Portuguese and English correlate in most cases, but there are exceptions that can lead to errors. English spelling poses difficulties, as syllabic splitting differs from Portuguese. Spelling correctly requires knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and roots of words.

Collocations, specific word combinations that are more natural and preferred in a language, can be challenging for language learners who try to translate literally from their native language. False cognates, words that resemble each other but have different meanings, can lead to misunderstandings. Intensive contact with spoken English is crucial for language learning, as even a superficial exploration of the differences between English and Portuguese reveals numerous points of divergence.

In conclusion, studying the differences between English and Portuguese helps identify areas of learning English and emphasizes the importance of immersive exposure to the language. This brief exploration covers only a few differences, and there is much more to investigate and learn.

## **10. Comparisons and Contrasts between English and Portuguese Phonology**

English and Portuguese exhibit notable differences in their phonological systems. Several contrasts can be observed: Vowel sounds differ, with English having 12 vowel phonemes compared to Portuguese's 9. English also possesses a greater number of diphthongs, while Portuguese only has five. Consonant sounds show discrepancies as well. Portuguese features more nasal consonants, whereas English only has one nasal consonant phoneme. Additionally, English includes the distinct "th" sound, which is absent in Portuguese. Stress and intonation patterns diverge between the two languages. English follows a stress-timed rhythm, while Portuguese adopts a syllable-timed rhythm. Moreover, the placement of stress in words varies, potentially impacting word meanings. For instance, in English, the word "present" is stressed on the first syllable, meaning "to give," while in Portuguese, it is stressed on the second

syllable, meaning "gift." Phonotactics also demonstrate disparities. Portuguese permits consonant clusters at the beginning of words, a feature less common in English. Conversely, English allows more complex syllable structures compared to Portuguese. These examples provide a glimpse of the distinctions and resemblances within the phonological systems of English and Portuguese.

### 10.1 The Study of the Sound System of a Language

The Portuguese language phonology is composed of seven vowel sounds and twenty consonant sounds (Schütz, 2004). In English, The *Oxford American Dictionary* in its pronunciation key shows a total of twenty-six vowel sounds (Guppy, n.d) in English while Portuguese has only seven (Schütz, 2004). Ricardo Schütz (2004) states that:

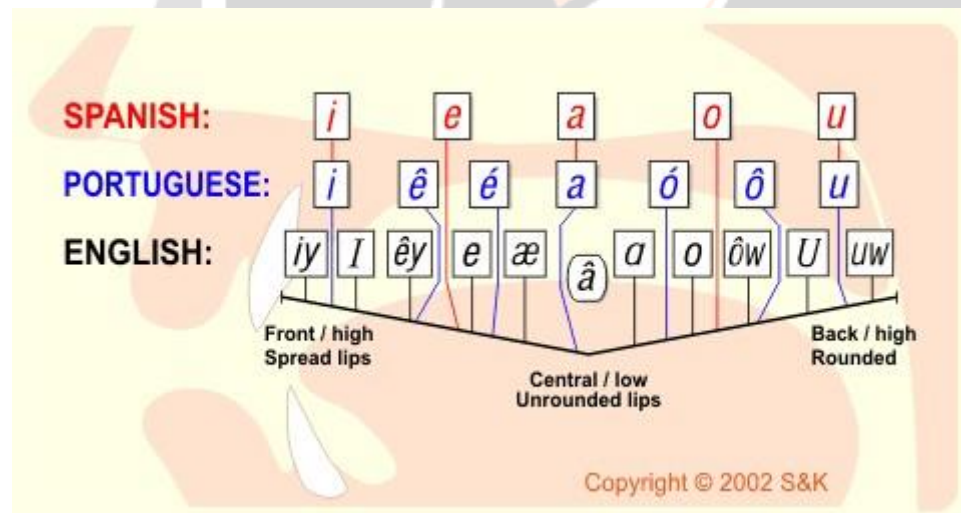
*... [A]chieving the correct vowel position is perhaps the most significant and persistent problem not only for learners of English as a foreign language that speak Portuguese or Spanish as a native language, but also for speakers of all languages that do not have as large a number of vowels in the spectrum as English.*

### 10.2 Phonemes (the Smallest Unit of Sound in Language)

Phonemes are contrasted speech sounds that make a difference in meaning. In the Portuguese language, phonemes are classified as *consonants* and *vowels*. Portuguese has seven vowel sounds (while English has 26) represented by a variety of graphemes.

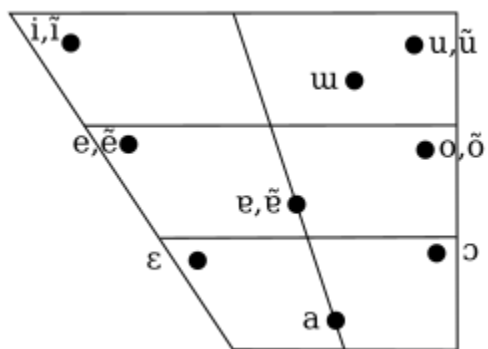
### 10.3 VOWELS: A E I O U

Spanish, Portuguese and English vowel phonemes



From Spanish, Portuguese and English vowel phonemes on the sound spectrum of human speech. Copyright 2004. by Schütz, R.

Vowels



Vowel phonemes of Portuguese (Portugal)

	Front		Central		Back	
	Oral	Nasal	oral	nasal	oral	Nasal
Close	i	ĩ	(ɨ)		u	ũ
Close-mid	e	ẽ			o	õ
Open-mid	ɛ		ɐ	ẽ	ɔ	
Open			a			



Like Catalan and German, Portuguese uses vowel quality to contrast stressed syllables with unstressed syllables. Unstressed isolated vowels tend to be raised and sometimes centralized.

#### 10.4 Consonants

Consonant phonemes of Portuguese (Portugal)							
		Labial	Dental/ Alveolar	Palatal	Velar		Uvular
					plain	labialized	
Nasal		m	n	ɲ			
Plosive	voiceless	p	t		k	k <sup>w</sup>	
	voiced	b	d		g	g <sup>w</sup>	
Fricative	voiceless	f	s	ʃ			
	voiced	v	z	ʒ			ʁ
Approximant	semivowel			j		w	
	lateral		l	ʎ			
Flap			ɾ				

#### The Significance of Phonological Studies

David Crystal eloquently states that no community has ever been found to lack spoken language, whereas only a fraction of languages have been transcribed. Similarly, while the majority of humans acquire speech, the skill of writing has been a relatively recent development for a portion of the population. This observation underscores the primacy of spoken language in human communication. The phonetic landscape of English is characterized by a pronounced presence of consonantal sounds, in contrast to Portuguese, which boasts an extensive array of vowels and vowel combinations, such as diphthongs and triphthongs. This disparity necessitates distinct articulatory efforts and movements, presenting challenges for Brazilians in mastering typical English phonemes and vice versa.

#### EFL - Linguistic Perspectives

Olívia Maria Alves Coelho

"I am European"

Favorite musical selections

Examples of challenging words: "Saguão," "espião," "enxaguei," "assembléia"

"December is the twelfth month of the year"

Mastery of spoken language is pivotal in communicative processes. Acquiring a new language entails learning to perceive, comprehend, and reproduce its phonemic inventory. This can prove daunting, as learners often rely on a comparative framework, aligning new sounds with those of their native language, which may overlook subtle phonetic distinctions.

Examples illustrating phonetic challenges: "This machine has strong springs," "triumph," "glimpse," "northern," "sightseeing"

### **Phonetic Density**

The concept of phonetic density can be quantified by averaging the syllable count per word, as syllables serve as fundamental sound units. A comparative analysis reveals that Portuguese typically exhibits greater phonetic density than English, highlighting significant differences in syllabic structure and complexity.

### **Comparative Analysis of Rhythmic Patterns**

Although Japanese and European languages differ structurally, Portuguese and English share Indo-European roots. However, their phonological systems diverge significantly, as evidenced by comparisons of basic vocabulary.

### **Language Taxonomy**

Both Portuguese and English belong to the Indo-European language family, yet they branch into distinct subgroups: Portuguese falls within the Romance languages, and English within the Germanic group. Despite these shared roots, the languages have evolved differently, with limited phonological overlap primarily in vocabulary rather than in syntactic structure or pronunciation.

### **Challenges in Second-Language Phonological Acquisition**

Research indicates that second-language speech recognition difficulties are notably influenced by the relative phonetic complexity of the target language compared to the learner's native language. Consequently, native Portuguese speakers may encounter challenges in understanding and speaking English due to these phonetic disparities.

### **Phonological Rhythm and Timing**

Languages are categorized based on their rhythmic patterns into syllable-timed and stress-timed types. Portuguese exemplifies syllable-timing, where each syllable is pronounced with approximately equal duration. In contrast, English is stress-timed, with the rhythm determined by the occurrence of stressed syllables at variable intervals, affecting the temporal structure of speech.

### **Pronunciation versus Orthography**

The relationship between pronunciation and spelling varies significantly between Portuguese and English. Portuguese orthography is more phonetically consistent, whereas English demonstrates considerable irregularity.

### **Phonemic Inventory**

The phoneme, as the smallest distinctive sound unit, varies across languages in both type and number. Portuguese utilizes seven vowel phonemes, while English, with its syntactic economy and prevalence of monosyllabic words, employs at least twelve vowel phonemes. This necessitates heightened auditory precision for English learners in distinguishing and producing these sounds.

### **Pedagogical Implications**

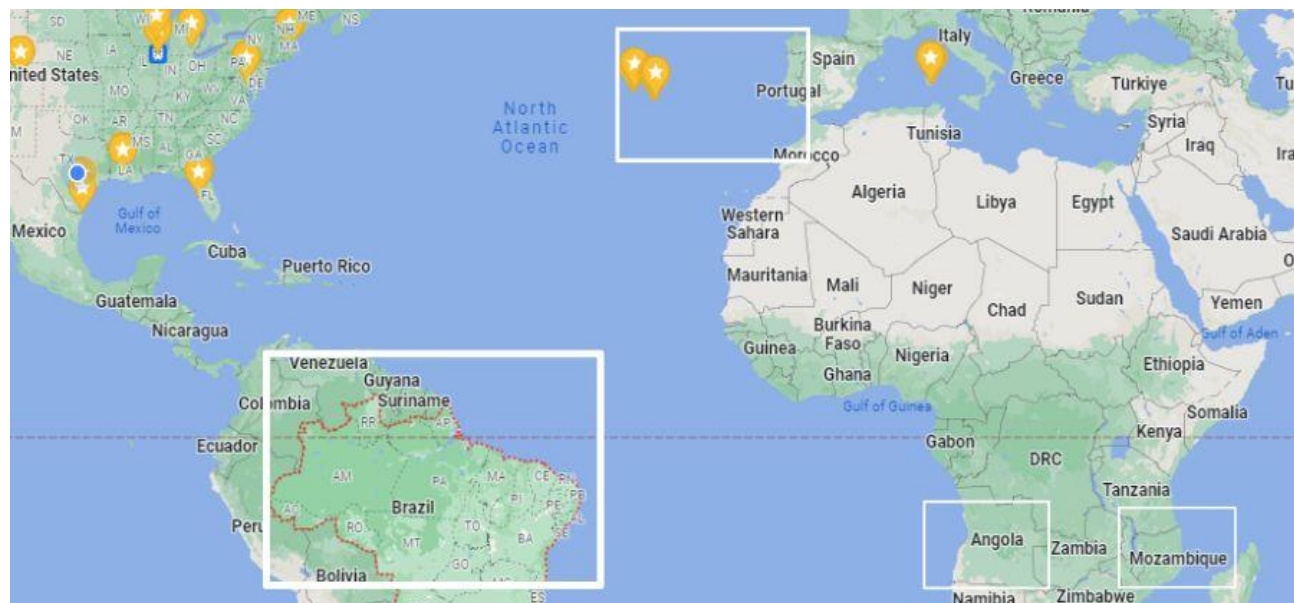
- Engaging with the spoken form of English is crucial for its mastery;
- A major learning barrier is the incongruity between English's written and spoken forms;
- Solely focusing on written English can lead to misinterpretation of its phonetics based on the learner's native linguistic framework;
- Employing a phonetic chart can significantly enhance pronunciation and mastery of English phonology.

The Portuguese language, a member of the Romance language family, is spoken by an estimated 215 million individuals globally. It serves as the official language in several nations, including Portugal, Brazil, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and São Tomé and Príncipe. Additionally, it has a significant presence in regions such as East Timor, Macau, and Goa. The extensive distribution of Portuguese speakers and the variety of dialects present a unique interest in the study of its speech and language patterns, although this diversity poses challenges in the evaluation of speech development in children who are native speakers.

Employing the Latin script, Portuguese is distinguished by its use of specific diacritical marks that guide pronunciation, and it is particularly noted for its nasal phonemes and regional pronunciation variations.

The global proliferation of the Portuguese language is largely a consequence of the maritime explorations and colonial activities undertaken by Portugal during the 15th and 16th centuries, which established Portuguese as a lingua franca across diverse continents including South America and Africa. Presently, Portuguese ranks among the most spoken languages worldwide, experiencing an increase in speakers, notably within the United States.

In the United States, the Portuguese language is predominantly spoken by immigrant populations originating from Portugal, Brazil, and other Lusophone countries. A significant influx of Portuguese immigrants in the early 20th century was driven by the pursuit of economic advancement. In contemporary times, Portuguese continues to be actively used within various American communities, especially in states such as Massachusetts, California, and New Jersey, reflecting the enduring cultural and linguistic ties that link these diaspora communities to their ancestral homelands.



A noteworthy aspect of the Portuguese language is its significant lexical contributions to the English lexicon. Terms such as "embassy," "mosquito," and "pirate" trace their etymological roots back to Portuguese. Furthermore, the lexical similarities between Portuguese and other Romance languages facilitate a smoother learning curve for individuals already proficient in these linguistic groups.

The Portuguese language exhibits a rich tapestry of dialectal variation, which is distinctly pronounced across different regions. For instance, the multiplicity of regional dialects within Brazil manifests in divergent patterns of pronunciation, grammatical structures, and lexicon. Likewise, the variant of Portuguese spoken in Portugal exhibits marked differences from the versions spoken in former colonies like Angola or Mozambique.

**Comparative Analysis of Portuguese and English Phonological Systems: Focus on Consonant Phonemes**

Portuguese Consonants Not Shared with English	/ʁ/ /ɾ/ /ʎ/ /ɲ/
Portuguese Consonants Shared With English	/p/ /b/ /t/ /d/ /k/ /g/ /f/ /v/ /s/ /z/ /ʃ/ /m/ /n/ /l/
English Consonants Not Shared with Portuguese	/z/ /tʃ/ /dʒ/ /h/ /ɹ/ /j/ /ð/ /θ/ /ɹ/ /w/



Portuguese Vowels Not Shared with English	/i/ /e/ /o/ /ẽ/ /ĩ/ /ũ/
Portuguese Vowels Shared With English	/a/ /e/ /i/ /o/ /u/ /ɔ/ /ɛ/
English Vowels Not Shared with Portuguese	/ʊ/ /ɪ/ /æ/ /ʌ/ /ə/ /ɚ/

In Brazilian Portuguese, the phonetic manifestations of the letters T and D preceding the vowel [i] typically yield the sounds /tʃ/ and /dʒ/, as illustrated in the words "tíbia" [tʃiˈbja] and "dígito" [dʒiˈʒitu]. These phonetic variations represent allophonic adjustments of the phonemes [t] and [d], rather than constituting distinct phonemes within the language. This is in contrast to English, where the phonemes [t] and [tʃ] (as in "tip" and "chip," respectively) serve to differentiate meaning. In Brazilian Portuguese, such distinctions in sound do not lead to variations in lexical significance.

Furthermore, Brazilian Portuguese incorporates a specific realization of the letter R, pronounced as /ɾ/ when positioned before a consonant or at the terminus of a word, exemplified by "cartógrafo" [kæɾ.tɔˈɡɾɐfo].

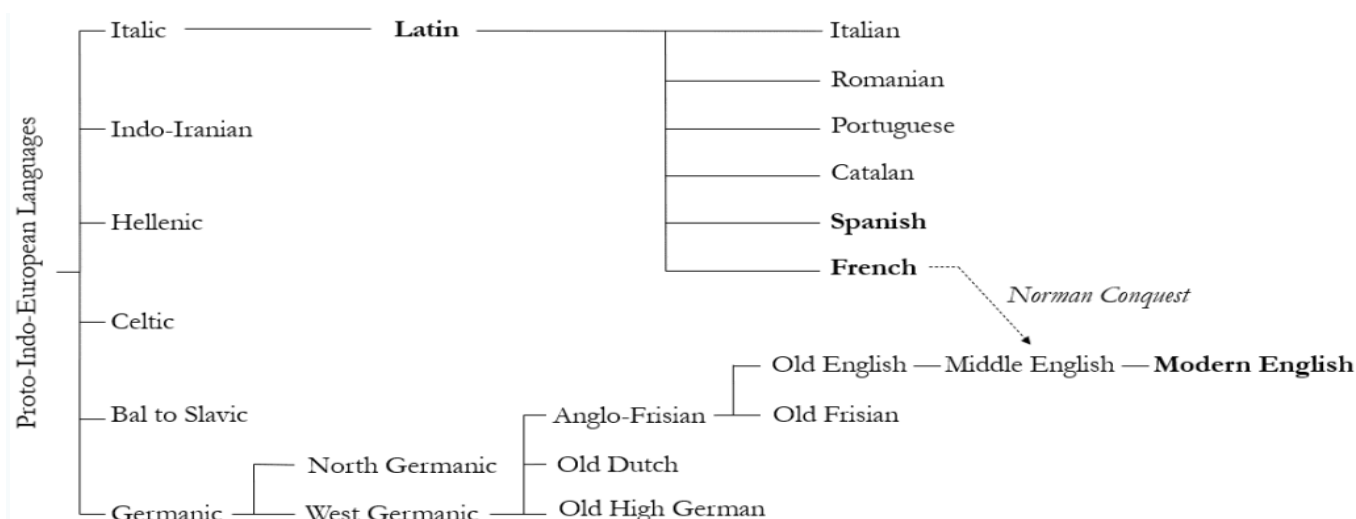
**Developmental Norms in Portuguese Phonology**

Age Group	Consonants	Consonant Clusters	Vowels
3;0-3;5	/p, t, k, b, d, g, m, n, ɲ, f, s, ʃ, v, R/		/a, e, i, e, ε, o, ɔ, u, ē, ī, ō/
3;6-3;11	/ʃ (syllable-final position), l, ʎ/		
4;0-4;5	/z, ʒ, r/	/pl, kl, fl/	
4;6-4;11	/r (syllable-final position)/	/fr, vr, br, pr/	
5;0-5;5	/ʃ (syllable-final position)/	/kr, tr, dr, gr/	

(Lousada, Mendes, Valente, & Hall , 2012)

Comparing Portuguese and English Language Structure

Feature	Portuguese	English	Examples of Errors
Word Order	Subject-Verb-Object	Subject-Verb-Object	No expected errors
Possessives	Object+of+Person	Possession marked by 's	The car of my mom is blue*/ My mom's car is blue.
Adjectives	Noun adjective	Adjective noun	The ball big bounced.*/ The big ball bounced.
Present tense verb inflection	5-6 forms, determined by subject: <i>Eu comoTu comesEle/Ela comeNos comemosEles/Elas comem</i>	2 forms: I eatYou eatHe eatsWe eatThey eat	She talk to me.* / She talks to me.
Use of subject pronouns	Pro-drop language (pronoun is dropped before verb once subject is established)	Pronoun or subject is always required	Looks for the frog* / He looks for the frog.
Double negative	Can be used; multiple negative elements occurring in the same clause do not cancel one another but instead reinforce each other	Cannot be used	I don't want to do nothing*/ I don't want to do anything.
Question Formation	Rising intonation is used with word order remaining the same or a question word is used at the beginning of the question with rising intonation.	Questions marked by word order inversion, question words, or addition of <i>do</i>	You give me a sticker?*/ Will you give me a sticker?What you think?*/ What do you think?We can go?* / Can we go?



Source: <https://www.adrosverse.com/similarities-differences-english-portuguese/>

## 10.5 Phonetics

### Basic Classification of Sounds

The sound system of any language necessarily comprises vowels and consonants, and optionally, semivowels that, together with vowels, form diphthongs (in Portuguese, words like "pau" and "pai" have diphthongs where the semivowels are represented by the letters <u> and <i>).

Vowels are harmonic sounds, and consonants are noise. The variation in vowels (for example, the difference between open [a] as in "pá" and closed [u] as in "tu") is produced by the movement of the tongue body along the vertical and horizontal axes.

In the production of nasal vowels, air passes not only through the oral cavity but also through the nasal cavity. In the production of oral vowels, air passes only through the oral cavity.

Consonants have two forms of classification:

The manner of articulation (for example, plosives like /p/ or /t/, fricatives like /s/ or /v/, or nasals like /m/ or /n/).

The place of articulation (they can be dental like /t/ or labial like /f/, or even velar like /g/).

(Mira Mateus & Villalva, 2006, p.59).

Languages can vary greatly, either as distinct communication systems or due to deep cultural differences in understanding human interaction. One example is the stark contrast between the Japanese language and the languages of Europe. It is often said that one must possess a "Japanese mind" to truly speak the language correctly, which holds true.

Fortunately, the differences between Portuguese and English are not as profound. Common origins, such as Greek culture, the Roman Empire, and Christianity, have led to shared elements among European cultures and languages. In a broader context of world languages, European cultures can be considered closely related. For instance, Spanish is almost like a twin sister to Portuguese, Italian is its half-sister, French is a cousin, and English could be seen as a second cousin.

Despite these common origins that help bridge cultural differences, linguistic similarities between English and Portuguese primarily exist in vocabulary when it comes to the written form. However, sentence structure and particularly pronunciation exhibit significant contrasts. In a superficial analysis of pronunciation differences, the following contrasts can be observed:

Portuguese lacks the "th" sounds (/θ/ and /ð/), which leads students to pronounce them as /f/ and /d/. For example, "that" (/ðat/) may be mispronounced as "debt" (/det/), causing misunderstanding.

Tonic accentuation of words represents another significant contrast between English and Portuguese. The predominant form of tonic accent in a language greatly influences its sound characteristics. Most Brazilians tend to accentuate English words based on Brazilian Phonetics, particularly those that resemble Portuguese spellings. This often leads to incorrect pronunciation. Examples include "dicionário" (dictionary) and "excelente" (excellent).

Furthermore, there are specific phonetic notes to consider:

Semivowels in Portuguese contrast with unstressed high vowels in verbal conjugation, as seen in pronunciations like "rio" (/ˈʁi.u/) and "riu" (/ˈʁi.w/). Linguists debate whether semivowels should be classified as vowels or consonants.

In most parts of Brazil and Angola, the consonant denoted as /ɲ/ is realized as a nasal palatal approximant [ɲ̃]. This nasalizes the preceding vowel, as in [ˈnĩʝu].

Some phonologists propose that Portuguese has distinct labio-velar stops (/kʷ/ and /gʷ/) rather than considering them as sequences of a velar stop and /w/.

The consonant denoted as /ʁ/ has various realizations depending on the dialect. In Europe, it is typically a uvular trill [ʀ], but a voiced uvular fricative [ʁ] is becoming more common in urban areas. Other realizations include a voiceless uvular fricative [χ], and the original alveolar trill [r] remains prevalent in different dialects. In Brazil, /ʁ/ can be pronounced as a voiceless velar fricative [x], a voiceless glottal fricative [h], or a voiceless uvular fricative [χ].

/s/ and /z/ are usually lamino-alveolar, similar to English. However, in some dialects of northern Portugal, they are pronounced as apico-alveolar sibilants, resembling the sounds [ʃ] or [ʒ] found in the Romance languages of northern Iberia. A few northeastern dialects in Portugal maintain the medieval distinction between apical and laminal sibilants (written *s/ss* and *c/ç/z*, respectively).

The phoneme /tʃ/ occurs only in loanwords, names, and interjections, and outside of Brazil, many speakers substitute it with /ʃ/. However, in most Brazilian dialects, [tʃ] is an allophone of /t/ before /i/. Similarly, [dʒ] is an allophone of /d/ in the same context.

In his article, *Exploring the Role of Tongue Position in Laryngeal Contrasts: An Ultrasound Investigation of English and Brazilian Portuguese*, Ahn (2018) maintained that the phonological and phonetic characterization of laryngeal contrasts in various languages, particularly in obstruents, remains a subject of controversy. For instance, in English, /b d g/ stops at utterance onset are often phonetically voiceless, while in languages like Brazilian Portuguese, these stops exhibit phonetic voicing in utterance-initial positions. This study employs ultrasound imaging to investigate the role of tongue position as an articulatory correlate of laryngeal contrasts. The findings reveal that despite differences in Voice Onset Time (VOT), tongue position distinctions in English and Portuguese are similar, albeit with greater variability observed among English speakers. Specifically, both English and Portuguese show tongue root advancement and tongue body lowering in /b d g/ stops compared to their /p t k/ counterparts. Beyond VOT, which reflects the timing of oral and laryngeal gestures, tongue position during closure emerges as a crucial aspect of the articulatory properties linked to laryngeal contrasts. These results suggest that while these languages employ distinct laryngeal gestures, they share a common supralaryngeal articulatory gesture. This shared gesture may be essential for distinguishing /b d g/ from /p t k/ stops in terms of supralaryngeal cavity volume.

Osborne & Simonet (2021), in another study, stated that fifty-six individuals who were native speakers of Portuguese and raised in Brazil were examined in their production of Portuguese words beginning with one of four plosive consonants, namely /p b k g/. Among these participants, twenty-eight were monolingual (the control group), while the remaining individuals were English as a foreign language (EFL) learners. The EFL learners were also tasked with producing English words commencing with one of the same four plosive consonants (/p b k g/). The research sought to investigate two primary questions: (1) Do individuals who are foreign-language learners, and thus have limited exposure to native English spoken input, establish distinct sound categories specific to their additional language? (2) Does the process of acquiring a foreign language have an impact on the phonetics of one's native language?

The findings revealed that EFL learners exhibited differences from the control group in their production of Portuguese voiced plosives, particularly in terms of longer prevoicing. Additionally, EFL learners demonstrated distinct voice onset time (VOT) targets for voiced (but not voiceless) consonants based on the language they were speaking, with longer prevoicing observed in Portuguese. In the productions of EFL learners, it appeared that English sounds were fundamentally influenced by phonologically similar native sounds, but some degree of phonetic development or reorganization was evident. This phonetic development, instigated by the process of learning a foreign language, may lead to minor adjustments in the phonetic characteristics of native language sounds. EFL learners might encounter challenges in acquiring the pronunciation patterns of English, primarily due to limited exposure to native spoken input.

In northern and central Portugal, voiced stops (/b/, /d/, and /g/) are usually lenited to fricatives [β], [ð], and [ɣ], respectively, except at the beginning of words or after nasal vowels. At the end of a phrase, due to final-obstruent devoicing, they may even be devoiced to [ɸ], [θ], and [x]. For example, the word "verde" at the end of a sentence may be pronounced as [vɛ.rθ].

Many speakers in both Portugal and Brazil replace [ɫ] and [ʎ] with [t] and [l], respectively. In Brazil, [t] is further shifted to [w] in many regions, particularly outside the southern area (similar to the evolution seen in Polish).

In their study, Barlaz, Shosted, and Sutton (2018) illustrated that the presence or absence of the phonological feature [±nasal] does not consistently reveal oropharyngeal distinctions among oral, nasal, and phonetically nasalized vowels. Recent research has pointed to the possibility that oropharyngeal shape might systematically adjust or compensate for the acoustic effects associated with nasal coupling. Furthermore, the precise phonetic realization of [−nasal] vowels in both oral and nasal contexts remains a topic of ongoing debate. Despite the inference of velopharyngeal opening during the production of these vowels using aerodynamic methods, there has been a notable absence of direct investigations into the oropharyngeal articulation of inherently oral vowels in both nasal and oral contexts within a language that encompasses phonemically [+nasal] vowels.

To address these questions, this study employed real-time magnetic resonance imaging (rt-MRI) to scrutinize vocal tract configurations in Brazilian Portuguese (BP). BP is a language believed to feature both phonemically nasal [+] vowels and two categories of [−nasal] vowels, namely oral and phonetically nasalized. The findings from this investigation unveiled distinct oropharyngeal characteristics between nasal and oral vowel pairs such as /a~ã/, /i~ĩ/, and /u~ũ/. These distinctions arguably contribute to the well-established acoustic effects associated with nasal coupling, particularly concerning vowel height. Furthermore, the study observed the emergence of nasal coda consonants following nasal vowels. In contrast, phonetically nasalized vowels displayed no indications of nasal enhancement, including the absence of nasal codas. This suggests that phonetically nasalized vowels are inherently oral in nature, despite their phonetic context.

The argument presented in this study posits that nasal vowels in BP are inherent features of the language, rather than forming part of /VN/ sequences. The latter distinction is specifically reserved for nasalized vowels. This articulatory divergence between [+] and [−nasal] vowels carries important implications for aspects such as perception, sound change, and the phonetic realization of nasality in the language.

In their study, Pollo and Treiman (2005) demonstrated that previous research has consistently pointed to a tendency among young Portuguese-speaking children to produce spellings that place a stronger emphasis on vowels and syllables when compared to their English-speaking counterparts. To delve into the extent and origins of these observed differences, the researchers conducted a thorough analysis of children's vocabularies. Their investigation revealed that Portuguese words encompass a greater abundance of vowel letter names and exhibit a higher ratio of vowels to consonants in contrast to English words.

Subsequently, in a spelling experiment, it was confirmed that Portuguese speakers incorporated a higher number of vowels into their spellings. However, this increased vowel presence did not necessarily result in a greater frequency of syllabic spellings when compared to English speakers. These disparities can be attributed to quantitative distinctions inherent to the languages themselves, as well as variations in their respective writing systems and conventions related to letter naming. Significantly, these findings challenge the prevailing notion that speakers of Romance languages, such as Portuguese, undergo an additional developmental stage marked by an intensified emphasis on syllables during the initial phases of spelling acquisition.

### **a. Comparisons and Contrasts between English and Portuguese Morphology**

English and Portuguese, despite both being Indo-European languages, belong to different linguistic branches within the family, resulting in notable disparities in their morphological structures. One prominent contrast lies in their levels of inflection. Portuguese features a highly inflected system, employing a complex range of suffixes and prefixes to convey various grammatical features such as tense, aspect, mood, voice, number, gender, and case. In contrast, English exhibits a relatively simpler inflectional system, relying on a limited number of suffixes and prefixes primarily for denoting tense, number, and case.

Nouns and adjectives present another noticeable difference. In Portuguese, these parts of speech show gender (masculine/feminine) and number (singular/plural) agreement with the nouns they modify, while English lacks gender agreement, and only some nouns and adjectives have distinct plural forms.

Verbs also demonstrate disparities. Portuguese boasts an intricate verb conjugation system that conveys tense, aspect, mood, voice, and person. English, on the other hand, employs a simpler verb conjugation system, characterized by only a few irregular verbs and auxiliary verbs used to indicate tense and mood.

Word order is another area of variation. Portuguese offers greater flexibility, allowing the subject to appear after the verb or even be omitted, and permitting adjectives to be positioned both before and after the noun they modify. In contrast, English maintains a more rigid word order, typically placing the subject before the verb and positioning adjectives before the modified noun.

Both languages possess the ability to form compound words by combining multiple words. Portuguese forms compounds by joining words together without spaces or hyphens, while English creates compounds through hyphenation or by merging words into a single unit.

In summary, while English and Portuguese share some morphological similarities due to their Indo-European roots, their significant differences highlight their distinct linguistic branches within the Indo-European language family.

Words possess characteristics that condition their integration into sentences and are analyzable structures consisting of smaller units like roots and affixes. Affixes encompass diverse units, including inflectional suffixes (such as the final -s in "livros" or the -va and -mos in "estudávamos"), derivational suffixes (like those forming agentive nouns, such as -dor in "programador" and -ista in "esteticista"), or modifying prefixes (like in- for negation, occurring in "inaceitável").

To construct an utterance, words combine in phrases, but the relationship between words and phrases is not a direct one. Words belonging to major categories, namely nouns, adjectives, verbs, prepositions, and adverbs, form the nucleus of larger units called phrases. These include nominal, adjectival, verbal, prepositional, and adverbial phrases. Phrases must contain a nucleus, distinguishing those that require complements (like verbs) from those that don't.

The term 'morphological constituents' refers to all these units. The root holds the core properties of the word, including its syntactic category and basic meaning. Simple words (like "livro") have roots that cannot be further decomposed, whereas complex words (like "livraria") consist of multiple units, including a simple root and affixes or even another root (like in "insecticida"). In Portuguese, words can be further categorized into inflected and uninflected groups. Inflected words, a subset of variable words, systematically change form. In Portuguese, this includes nouns that change in number (e.g., livro-livros) and verbs that change in tense (e.g., canto-cantei). The second group consists of words that cannot be inflected, such as adverbs. Once the morphological constituents are identified, morphology explicates how they are structured, both in linear arrangement and hierarchical relationships. In Portuguese, the internal structure of words recognizes that a root associates with a morphological specifier – in verbs, the thematic vowel (e.g., the final -a in "canta") and in other words, the thematic index (e.g., the final -e in "dente"). Together with the root, this specifier forms the theme. Suffixes of inflection add significantly to the morphosyntactic variation of words in this structure (Mira Mateus & Villalva, 2006, p. 64-65).

### **11.1 Syllables (Units of Language Smaller than a Word, but Larger than a Phoneme)**

A syllable can be defined as the rhythmic pulses of speech in a word, such as "bicycle" having three syllables (Gillet, 2004). Research suggests that English-speaking children typically demonstrate awareness of syllables around the age of four (Goswami, 2000). In contrast, Portuguese-speaking children show competency in syllables much earlier, between the ages of two and three (Serpa, 1978). Portuguese speakers are naturally skilled at segmenting spoken words into syllables, even without knowing the technical term "syllable." They may refer to it as "bocadinhos" (little pieces) because the Portuguese language naturally provides breaks between syllables in words.

Syllabic structures vary across languages. Dividing English words into syllables can be challenging for English language learners from Portuguese and Spanish backgrounds because syllable segmentation is more difficult to hear and determine in English. American English dictionaries include syllabic segmentation, stressed syllables, and phonetic transcription for each word entry to address this. Portuguese and Spanish dictionaries do not include these features because syllable division, stress, and pronunciation are highly predictable in those languages.

In both Portuguese and Spanish, syllables can be classified into three types. Direct syllables consist of a consonant preceding a vowel (e.g., sa/pa/to - shoe) or a syllable with only a vowel (e.g., a/zul - blue). This is the most common

structure. Indirect syllables have a vowel preceding the consonant (e.g., ar/te - art, al/to - tall, cam/po - field, and is/ca - bait). Mixed syllables contain elements of both direct and indirect structures (e.g., fras/co - bottle).

In Portuguese, common words tend to have more syllables and are longer compared to English words. The placement of stress (accent) within a word is crucial in Portuguese phonology. Each polysyllabic word has one stressed syllable (sílabo tónica) and one or more unstressed syllables (sílabo(s) átona(s)). For example, in the word "ca/sa/co," the syllable "sa" is stressed, while the other two syllables are unstressed. Stress in Portuguese can only occur in three positions: the last syllable (palavras agudas), the penultimate syllable (second-to-last, palavras graves), and the antepenultimate syllable (third-to-last, palavras esdrúxulas). The placement of stress in Portuguese words is highly predictable, and therefore, Portuguese dictionaries do not indicate the stressed syllable. Syllable stress in Portuguese is not determined by the phonological structure of the word, as explained by Câmara (1972).

The predictability of stressed syllables in Portuguese stands in stark contrast to English, where stress placement is not as predictable. This difference is likely to affect the pronunciation of English words for Portuguese speakers learning English. Beginners in English often consult dictionaries to determine the correct stress placement and pronunciation of words (e.g., pronouncing "fortunate" as "fortunate").

### **b. Comparisons and Contrasts between English and Portuguese Semantics**

English and Portuguese, originating from distinct sources, exhibit contrasting semantics. In terms of word order, both languages adhere to the SVO (Subject-Verb-Object) structure; however, Portuguese offers greater flexibility, allowing for the emphasis of specific sentence elements. While English lacks grammatical gender, Portuguese encompasses two genders—masculine and feminine—impacting adjectives, articles, and even certain verb forms such as the past participle. Furthermore, both languages possess intricate verb conjugation systems, yet Portuguese excels in tense distinctions, including the pluperfect and future subjunctive. False friends, which are cognates with differing meanings, exist between English and Portuguese. Notably, the Portuguese word "atual" signifies "current" in English, whereas the English word "actual" denotes "real" in Portuguese. Additionally, Portuguese employs a more extensive array of prepositions, particularly for indicating possession and location. Each language harbors its own distinctive idioms and proverbs, which may differ in literal translations and cultural connotations. Loanwords borrowed by English and Portuguese from various languages exhibit variations in pronunciation and spelling.

Overall, although English and Portuguese share certain semantic similarities, their significant disparities arise from their distinct linguistic histories and cultural contexts.

The study of semantics focuses on the meaning of texts, sentences, and words. The semantic properties of natural languages can be studied at all linguistic levels. Both phrasal semantics and textual semantics explore aspects of the meaning of phrases integrated into a statement, which can be understood as logical propositions constituted by the predicate and its arguments. For instance, in "Inês ofereceu um jantar aos amigos" (Inês offered a dinner to her friends), the verb "ofereceu" (offered) is the predicate, and the noun phrases "a Inês" (Inês), "um jantar" (a dinner), and "aos amigos" (to the friends) are the arguments of the proposition. This domain encompasses the semantics of grammatical categories like tense, aspect, or noun. Let's take the case of 'tense'. Grammatical tenses seem to be organized linearly into three domains: 'past,' 'present,' and 'future.' However, our use of verb tenses does not correspond strictly to this linear organization, partly because we associate time with the dimension of 'duration.' For instance, while describing a historical event that occurred in the past (e.g., "no reinado de D. Manuel I, Portugal descobre o caminho marítimo para a Índia" - during the reign of D. Manuel I, Portugal discovered the maritime route to India), we might use the present tense, referred to as 'historic present.' Similarly, when informing someone about an action to be performed after the moment of speaking, we often use the 'present tense' (e.g., "vou ao cinema amanhã" - I'm going to the cinema tomorrow), where the semantics of the adverb locates the action in a future point despite the verb being conjugated in the present tense. Textual semantics also analyzes thematic functions, such as the roles of 'agent,' 'target,' or other roles fulfilled by sentence elements. In the previous sentence, 'Inês' fulfills the 'agent' function, and 'aos amigos' (to the friends) fulfills the 'target' function. Lexical semantics, as the name suggests, is closely related to the lexicon and deals primarily with word meaning and the semantic relations between lexical units (e.g.,

relationships between synonyms like 'belo' and 'formoso,' or between antonyms like 'triste' and 'alegre') (Mira Mateus & Villalva, 2006, p. 69-70).

### c. Comparisons and Contrasts between English and Portuguese Loanwords

English and Portuguese, both languages with rich histories of borrowing words, demonstrate distinct patterns in their utilization of loanwords. English, influenced by Latin, French, German, and Greek, has assimilated a substantial number of loanwords, constituting approximately 60% of its vocabulary. In contrast, Portuguese, shaped by colonial history and Brazilian influence, has incorporated loanwords to a lesser extent. Portuguese has borrowed from African, Native American, and Asian languages, as well as Spanish, French, and Arabic. However, loanwords constitute a smaller proportion of the Portuguese vocabulary when compared to English. Additionally, the specific sources of loanwords vary: English draws extensively from Latin, French, and Greek, while Portuguese tends to lean towards Spanish, Arabic, and Tupi-Guarani (an indigenous language of Brazil).

Certain loanwords are shared between the two languages, such as "banana" (originating from Wolof) and "bazaar" (derived from Persian). These disparities in the adoption of loanwords reflect the distinctive historical and cultural contexts of English and Portuguese, as well as their respective linguistic influences over time.

### d. Comparisons and Contrasts between English and Portuguese Pragmatics

English and Portuguese exhibit both similarities and differences in terms of pragmatics, which involves the study of how language is used in social contexts to convey meaning beyond literal words. Here are some key points of comparison:

**Directness:** English tends to be more explicit and direct in communication, while Portuguese often employs indirect and implicit strategies. English speakers may use straightforward language for requests and expressing opinions, whereas Portuguese speakers may prefer hinting or suggestion.

**Politeness:** Both languages have complex politeness systems, but they differ in expression. English leans towards formality, especially in professional or official contexts, while Portuguese places greater emphasis on personal relationships and social hierarchies. For example, English frequently employs titles like "Mr." or "Mrs." for formal address, while Portuguese may use terms like "amigo" (friend) or "senhor/a" (sir/madam).

**Contextualization:** Portuguese relies more on shared knowledge and context to convey meaning, while English often uses explicit markers such as pronouns or word order to clarify meaning.

**Nonverbal Communication:** Both languages make use of nonverbal communication, including facial expressions and gestures. However, interpretations of nonverbal cues can vary culturally. For example, in English-speaking cultures, direct eye contact is seen as a sign of honesty and sincerity, whereas in certain Portuguese-speaking cultures, it may be perceived as confrontational or disrespectful.

These examples provide a glimpse of the diverse range of comparisons and contrasts within the pragmatics of English and Portuguese. Pragmatic differences can be further explored in specific contextual and situational settings, as they are influenced by cultural norms and social conventions.

Regardless of the grammatical structure used to construct a linguistic statement, it is necessary to recognize that not all statements are of the same type. The fundamental distinction lies between those that convey information (for example, "li este livro em meia hora" - I read this book in half an hour) and those that serve to alter a given state of affairs, known as speech acts. When someone says, "prometo que acabo este trabalho hoje" (I promise I'll finish this work today) or "juro que não fui eu" (I swear it wasn't me) or simply "desculpa!" (sorry!), that person is doing something: communicating a specific intention to the interlocutor and expecting them to interpret it adequately. For speech acts to be successful, they must respect certain conditions known as felicity conditions. One of these conditions is related to recognizing the authority of the speaker: for an act of speech like "venham jantar a minha casa amanhã" (come to my house for dinner tomorrow) to be understood as a genuine and reliable invitation, it's necessary for the interlocutors to know that the speaker is the owner of the house, for instance. On the other hand, the expectations of the listener cannot be frustrated, which could happen, for example, if the opinion that someone looks very beautiful today is accompanied by a facial expression that contradicts it. The latter is a condition of sincerity, making an apology, for example, genuinely acceptable. The use that



speakers make of their language is highly conditioned by the social interaction context in which that use occurs. Even if the constraint is not explicitly stated, speakers generally know how to behave linguistically in various situations. For instance, a report of an attempted assault made by a certain citizen to their group of friends will not be identical to the one the same citizen might make at the police station. Likewise, a teenager who would like to borrow their father's car and wants their brother to return their favorite perfume will address their two interlocutors in very different ways. These constraints manifest diversely in different languages. An analysis of so-called forms of address (for example, "tu já leste o jornal?" vs. "você já leu o jornal?" vs. "o Senhor Doutor já leu o jornal?" vs. "Vossa Excelência já leu o jornal?") shows clear contrasts between European Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese. Variation is also frequent regarding the choice of strategies for expressing politeness: while Portuguese uses the past imperfect tense to soften a command ("telefonavas-me logo à noite?" - would you call me later tonight?), English does not dispense with the word "please" ("please call me tonight") (Mira Mateus & Villalva, 2006, p. 70-71).

### e. Comparisons and Contrasts between English and Portuguese Syntax

Features compared to Subject-Verb-Object languages like English. Pronoun usage differs, as English relies on pronouns more frequently, requiring subject pronouns in most cases, while Portuguese often indicates the subject through verb conjugation, rendering subject pronouns unnecessary. Articles also vary, with English possessing definite and indefinite articles ("the" and "a/an"), whereas Portuguese only employs definite articles ("o," "a," "os," and "as"). Negation diverges as well, as English commonly employs "not" or "don't/doesn't," while Portuguese utilizes the word "não." Verb tenses present another contrast, with English's intricate system and Portuguese's simpler structure, which favors compound tenses and exhibits subject-dependent verb endings. Prepositions, despite

expressing the same concept, differ between English and Portuguese. Overall, although there are notable syntactic discrepancies, both languages share commonalities and can be acquired through dedicated practice and study.

In constructing an utterance, words combine into phrases. However, the relationship between words and a sentence is not a direct one. Words belonging to primary categories—nouns, adjectives, verbs, prepositions, and adverbs—constitute the nucleus of larger units called phrases, specifically nominal, adjectival, verbal, prepositional, and adverbial phrases. These phrases obligatorily integrate a nucleus and are further distinguished by those requiring complements (like transitive verbs or prepositions) and those not demanding complements (like intransitive verbs and most nouns and adjectives). Sentences in Portuguese typically follow the Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order. Many sentences consist of a subject and a verbal predicate, the basic grammatical relations (e.g., "O gato mia" - The cat meows). If the verbal predicate is transitive, the sentence includes a direct object, another central grammatical relation (e.g., "A menina comeu um chocolate" - The girl ate a chocolate). An additional central grammatical relation is the indirect object (e.g., "A menina ofereceu um chocolate à amiga" - The girl offered a chocolate to her friend). Besides these central grammatical relations, there are other oblique relations fulfilling various syntactic functions (e.g., "O livro estava na biblioteca" - The book was in the library, "Ela foi a Barcelona" - She went to Barcelona). The description of syntactic structures also distinguishes between simple sentences containing a single predication relation (e.g., "A menina está doente" - The girl is sick) and complex sentences that can include two or more clauses linked by coordination (e.g., "Ele foi ao aeroporto mas não embarcou" - He went to the airport but didn't board), apposition (e.g., "O Presidente da República disseram na televisão, decidiu dissolver o Parlamento" - The President of the Republic, they said on television, decided to dissolve Parliament), or subordination (e.g., "O crítico disse que o filme era espetacular" - The critic said that the movie was spectacular). Both simple and complex sentences can be characterized as declarative, interrogative, imperative, or exclamatory. In some cases, the distinction is syntactically determined, as in interrogative sentences (e.g., "O que é que vais fazer hoje?" - What are you going to do today?) or imperative sentences (e.g., "Não digas nada" - Don't say anything). In other cases, identification depends on the intonation used while speaking. For instance, the simple sentence "Vamos almoçar" can be declarative if it's a mere statement, interrogative if it's a question, imperative if it's a command, and exclamatory if it expresses an evaluation (Mira Mateus & Villalva, 2006, p. 65-67).

**The following examples show some of the diverse aspects between Portuguese and English language**

<b>Historical Background</b>	English: The influence of French can be seen in English vocabulary, such as the words "chef" and "restaurant," which were borrowed from French during the Norman Conquest. Portuguese: The Arabic influence in Portuguese is evident in words like "açúcar" (sugar) and "alface" (lettuce), which were borrowed during the Moorish occupation of the Iberian Peninsula.
<b>Grammar</b>	English: The use of auxiliary verbs for expressing tenses, as in "I am going" (present progressive) or "She has eaten" (present perfect). Portuguese: The inflectional morphology for verb conjugation, as in "eu falo" (I speak) and "ele falava" (he used to speak), which indicates different verb forms.
<b>Phonology</b>	English: The distinction between the voiced and voiceless "th" sounds, as in "that" and "thing." Portuguese: The nasal vowel sounds, represented by letters like "ã" and "õ" in words like "mão" (hand) and "pão" (bread).
<b>Loanwords</b>	English: Borrowed words from Latin, such as "alumni" (plural form of "alumnus") and "ad nauseam" (to a sickening degree). Portuguese: Words borrowed from indigenous languages, like "caju" (cashew) from the Tupi-Guarani language.
<b>Semantics</b>	English: The word "cool" can have multiple meanings, such as referring to temperature, fashion, or even expressing approval. Portuguese: The word "legal" can mean "legal" (lawful) or "cool" (in a positive sense).
<b>Pragmatics</b>	English: The idiom "break a leg" is used to wish someone good luck, even though its literal meaning is unrelated. Portuguese: The expression "dar um banho de bola" (to give a ball bath) means to outperform.

	someone.
<b>Spelling and Pronunciation</b>	English: The irregularities in spelling, such as the silent "k" in "knight" or the silent "b" in "comb." Portuguese: The nasal vowels and spelling consistency, as in pronouncing "mão" (hand) with a nasal "ã" sound.

These examples illustrate the diverse aspects explored in the study, highlighting the distinctiveness of English and Portuguese in historical background, grammar, phonology, loanwords, semantics, pragmatics, and spelling. They demonstrate the challenges learners face in mastering both languages due to their unique features and linguistic differences.

### f. Critical Analysis of the Study

The examination of the historical background of English and Portuguese reveals fascinating insights into their development and distinctiveness. English, with its Germanic roots, underwent significant transformations through historical events like the Norman Conquest, resulting in a rich vocabulary and complex grammatical structure. Portuguese, originating from Latin, absorbed influences from indigenous languages, Arabic, and other foreign sources during its evolution. For instance, the influence of Arabic can be observed in words like "açúcar" (sugar) and "alface" (lettuce) in Portuguese. These historical trajectories have shaped the languages' unique characteristics, making them distinct entities.

The analysis of grammar in English and Portuguese showcases both similarities and divergences. For instance, both languages employ a subject-verb-object word order in basic sentence structures. However, English exhibits a greater reliance on word order and auxiliary verbs to convey grammatical information, while Portuguese relies more on inflectional morphology. Take the English sentence "She is singing," and its Portuguese counterpart "Ela está cantando." The English sentence relies on the auxiliary verb "is" to express the present continuous tense, whereas Portuguese conveys the same information through the inflectional ending "-ando."

Phonological analysis highlights both shared and distinct features between English and Portuguese. While both languages have vowel systems with similar sounds, they differ in terms of consonant inventories. For instance, English distinguishes between voiced and voiceless th sounds (as in "this" and "thing"), while Portuguese does not make this distinction. Additionally, English has a complex system of stress patterns, while Portuguese employs a more predictable and regular stress pattern based on syllable weight. These phonological variations contribute to pronunciation challenges faced by learners, as they must navigate the differences in sound inventories and stress patterns.

The examination of loanwords provides an interesting lens through which to explore the cultural and historical interactions that have influenced English and Portuguese. English has borrowed extensively from Latin, French, and other languages, resulting in a diverse lexicon. Examples include "restaurant" (from French) and "alumni" (from Latin). Portuguese, on the other hand, has integrated loanwords from indigenous languages, Arabic, and more. For instance, the Portuguese word "caju" (cashew) originates from the indigenous Tupi-Guarani language. The incorporation of loanwords enriches the vocabulary of both languages, reflecting their historical and cultural connections.

Semantics and pragmatics analysis uncovers how meaning is conveyed and interpreted within English and Portuguese. The study of semantics reveals interesting nuances in word meanings. For instance, the English word "cool" can refer to temperature, fashion, or even approval, while the Portuguese word "legal" can mean "legal" (lawful) or "cool" (in a positive sense). Pragmatics, on the other hand, explores how language is used in context, including cultural norms and idiomatic expressions. For example, the English expression "break a leg" is an idiom wishing someone good luck, whereas the Portuguese equivalent "dar um banho de bola" (to give a ball bath) means to outperform someone. Understanding the subtle semantic and pragmatic nuances is essential for effective communication in both languages.

While English and Portuguese share certain similarities in terms of vowel sounds and semantics, they originate from different linguistic backgrounds. This divergence poses challenges for learners, particularly in terms of pronunciation and spelling. English has a complex orthographic system with many irregularities, while Portuguese has a more consistent spelling pattern. Learners often struggle with the inconsistencies and irregularities, such as the silent letters in English words like "knight" or the nasal vowels in Portuguese words like "mão" (hand). These challenges require dedicated effort and practice to overcome.

In conclusion, this study has critically analyzed the historical background, grammar, phonology, loanwords, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, and syntax of English and Portuguese. Through numerous examples, we have uncovered the unique aspects of these languages, emphasizing their distinct histories and compositions. While there are similarities in vowel sounds and semantics, English and Portuguese exhibit differences due to their linguistic backgrounds. Learners face challenges in pronunciation and spelling, requiring a thorough understanding and practice of the languages. This in-depth analysis contributes to our appreciation of the complexities and nuances present in English and Portuguese, facilitating language acquisition and communication in diverse contexts.

#### **g. General Conclusion**

This comprehensive study has shed light on the historical background, grammar, phonology, loanwords, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, and syntax of the English and Portuguese languages. Through an in-depth exploration, we have gained a deeper understanding of the unique aspects that define these two widely spoken and popular languages. Despite their global recognition, English and Portuguese possess distinct origins, historical trajectories, and linguistic compositions.

By examining their historical backgrounds, we have unraveled the influences and linguistic interactions that have shaped English and Portuguese into what they are today. The knowledge of their origins provides valuable insights into their development and helps us appreciate their individuality.

The investigation into grammar has allowed us to analyze the syntactic structures, word formations, and semantic nuances present in English and Portuguese. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the intricate systems governing these languages and provide a foundation for language learners and researchers to navigate their complexities.

Phonological analysis has revealed both similarities and differences in vowel sounds and phonetic patterns between English and Portuguese. While some aspects of pronunciation may overlap, learners face challenges due to contrasting phonemic inventories and pronunciation rules. Awareness of these disparities is crucial for achieving accurate pronunciation and comprehension in both languages.

The examination of loanwords has demonstrated the impact of external influences on the lexicons of English and Portuguese. Borrowed words from various languages have enriched vocabulary and reflect historical, cultural, and societal interactions. Recognizing and understanding loanwords contribute to a more comprehensive grasp of the languages' linguistic and cultural heritage.

The exploration of semantics and pragmatics has illuminated how meaning is constructed, conveyed, and interpreted in English and Portuguese. Through the analysis of semantic structures and pragmatic principles, we have gained insights into the subtleties of communication within these languages. Understanding context, cultural norms, and idiomatic expressions enhances proficiency and promotes effective communication.

While English and Portuguese exhibit certain similarities, such as vowel sounds and semantic categories, they ultimately stem from different linguistic backgrounds. This divergence poses challenges for learners, particularly in pronunciation and spelling. Mastery of both languages necessitates perseverance and a deep understanding of their unique characteristics and linguistic nuances.

In conclusion, this study has provided a comprehensive exploration of the historical background, grammar, phonology, loanwords, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, and syntax of English and Portuguese. By uncovering their unique aspects, we have enriched our understanding of these languages and facilitated the process of language acquisition and comprehension. This research serves as a valuable resource for language learners, educators, and researchers, enabling them to navigate the complexities and appreciate the richness of English and Portuguese as distinct linguistic entities.

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