

# L1 Grammar Instruction in Primary School

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# Goal

Offer an overview of the didactic experiments on L1 grammar instruction:

- Primary School (ages 6 to 10)
- Portugal
- Research group *Portuguese Didactics* (ESELx)

# Context



# Academic Master: Portuguese Didactics

The screenshot shows the website for the Academic Master in Portuguese Didactics at ESELX (Escola Superior de Educação de Lisboa). The URL is https://www.eselx.ipl.pt/oferta-formativa/mestrados/mestrados-pos-profissionalizacao/didatica-da-lingua.

The page features a header with the ESELX logo, navigation links for Localization, Contacts, Tools, and Search, and a main menu with tabs for OFERTA FORMATIVA, ALUNOS, CANDIDATOS, INVESTIGAÇÃO, INTERNACIONALIZAÇÃO, and COMUNIDADE. The main content area displays a large image of an antique book cover with gold-tooled decorations and the title 'DEVELOPMENT ABSTRACTS'. Below the image, the title 'Didática da Língua Portuguesa' is displayed, along with a brief description of the accredited course (11-05-2016) by A3ES.

The left sidebar contains a navigation tree for 'OFERTA FORMATIVA' under 'MESTRADOS (2º CICLO)', listing various master's programs including Didática da Língua Portuguesa, Administração Educacional, Educação Ambiental, Educação Artística, Educação Especial, Educação Matemática na Educação Pré-Escolar e nos 1.º Ciclo e 2.º Ciclo do Ensino Básico, Educação Social e Intervenção Comunitária, Intervenção precoce, Jogo, Brinquedos e Linguagens na Educação de Infância, Supervisão em Educação, Mestrados Profissionalizantes, Pós-Graduações, and Formação Contínua.

The right sidebar provides details about the program, such as the Coordinator (Maria Adriana Príncipe Cardoso), the Coordination Team (Carolina Maria Dias Gonçalves, Miguel Falcão), Duration (4 semesters), Functioning (Pós-Laboral: Terça (18.30-21.30) and Saturday morning (9.30-12.30)), and Contact information (s.academicos@eselx.ipl.pt).

# Funded project: PerGram

Pathways for grammar teaching in first grade of elementary school

http://www.eselx.ipl.pt/comunidade/recursos/redpt

ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE EDUCAÇÃO DE LISBOA POLITECNICO DE LISBOA ESELx OFERTA FORMATIVA ALUNOS CANDIDATOS INVESTIGAÇÃO INTERNACIONALIZAÇÃO COMUNIDADE Introduza as su

**PerGram**

Percursos para o ensino da gramática no primeiro ano de escolaridade

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graph LR; A((Ponto de Partida)) -- "Manipulação Física 1" --> B(( )); B -- "Comunicação 1" --> C(( )); C -- "Manipulação Física 2" --> D(( )); D -- "Definição Verbal 1" --> E(( )); E -- "Triagem 1" --> F(( )); F -- "Definição Verbal 2" --> G(( )); G -- "Triagem 2" --> H(( )); H -- "Definição Verbal 3" --> I(( )); I -- "Triagem 3" --> J(( )); J -- "Definição Verbal 4" --> K(( )); K -- "Triagem" --> L(( ));
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# Funded project: RED.PT

Digital Educational Resources for teaching and learning Portuguese in Primary School

The screenshot shows the RED.PT website on a computer screen. The URL in the address bar is <http://www.eselx.ipl.pt/comunidade/recursos/redpt>. The page features a header with the ESELx logo, the Politécnico de Lisboa logo, and navigation links for LOCALIZAÇÃO, CONTACTOS, FERRAMENTAS, and several other tabs like OFERTA FORMATIVA, ALUNOS, CANDIDATOS, INVESTIGAÇÃO, INTERNACIONALIZAÇÃO, and COMUNIDADE (which is highlighted). Below the header is a large image of a smartphone, a keyboard, and a pen. On the left, there's a sidebar with a 'COMUNIDADE' section containing links to RECURSOS (RED.PT, RECURSOS EDUCATIVOS DIGITAIS, OUTPUTS), PGRAM (PERGRAM, SCRIPTORIUM), ENCONTROS (PROJETO VIOLENCIAS NAS RELACOES DE INTIMIDADE, ALUGUER DE ESPAÇOS), and a 'RECURSOS EDUCATIVOS DIGITAIS para o Ensino e a Aprendizagem do Português no 1.º Ciclo do Ensino Básico'. In the center, there's a large 'RED.PT' logo and some text about the project. At the bottom, there's an 'EQUIPA' section with 'Coordenador' Adriana Cardoso (ESELx, CLUL) | [acardoso@eselx.ipl.pt](mailto:acardoso@eselx.ipl.pt).

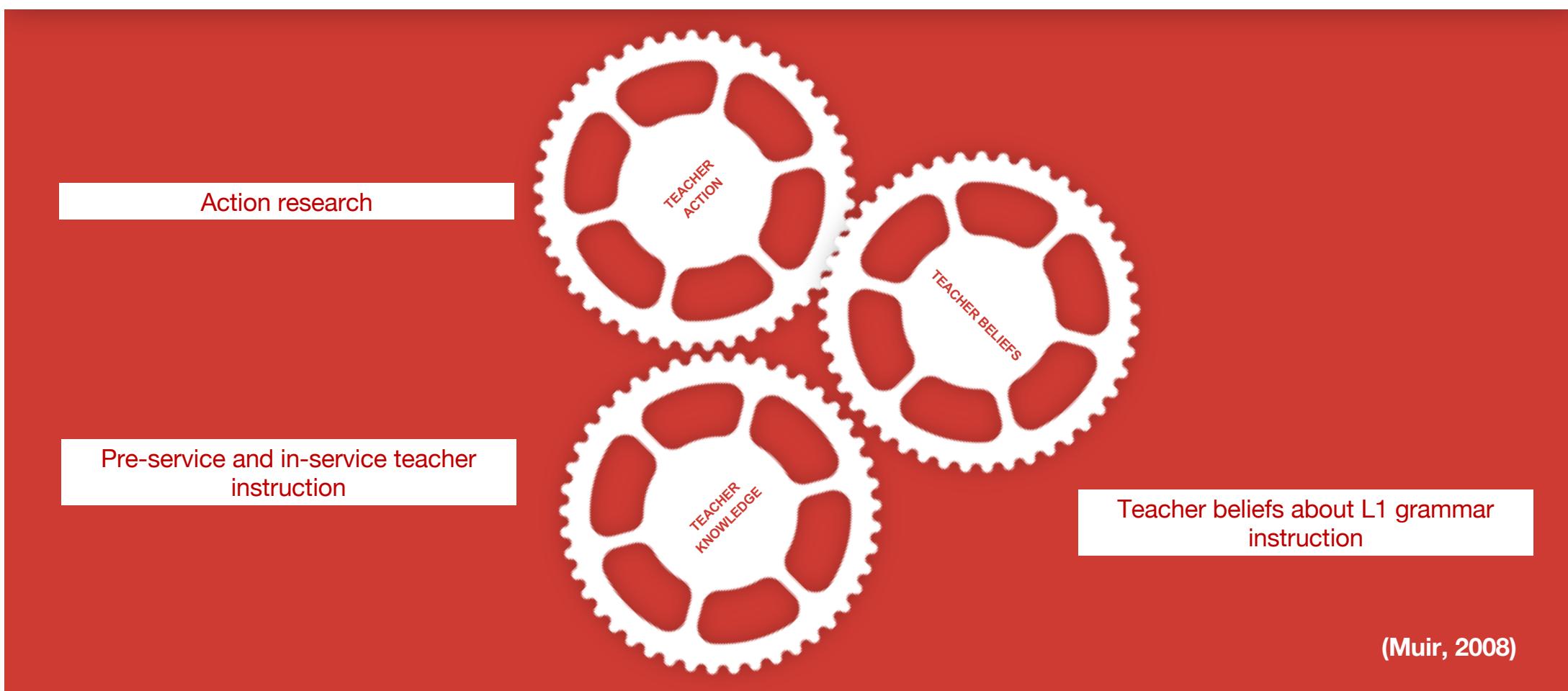
# Problem



## Challenge

**CHANGE TEACHER PRACTICES IN L1 GRAMMAR INSTRUCTION**

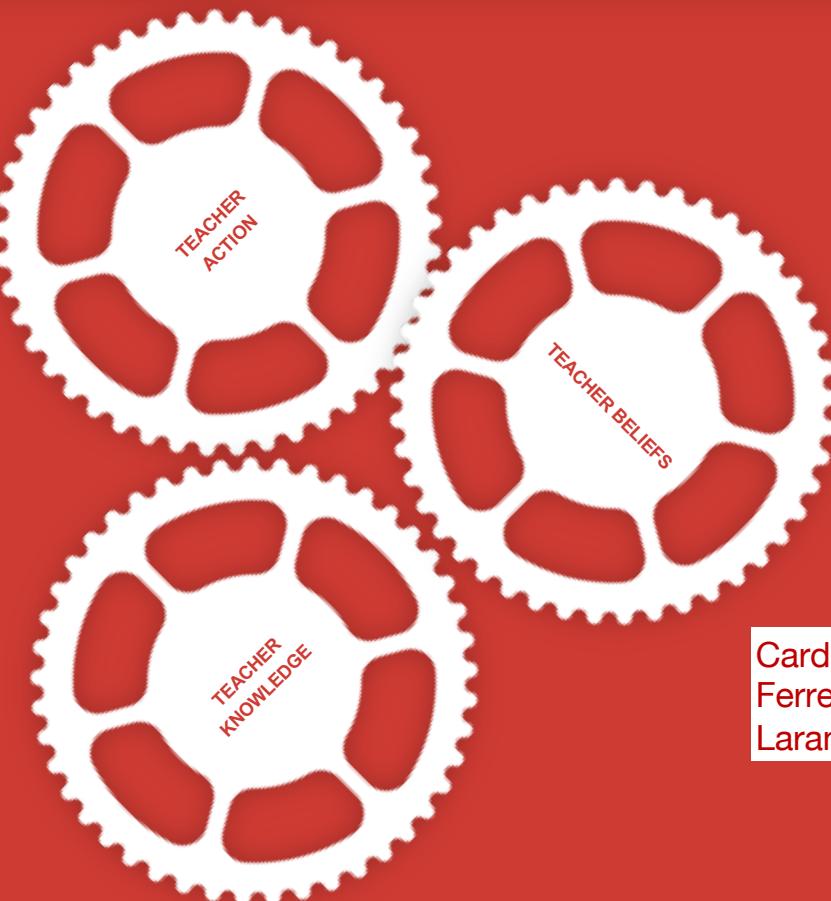
# Our research domains



# Empirical research

Cardoso, Pereira, Pinto & Silva (2018)  
Pereira et al. (2016)  
Santos, Cardoso & Pereira (2013)  
Gonçalves (in prep.)  
Soares (in prep.)  
Cardoso & Rodrigues (2018)  
Cardoso et al. (2019)

Cardoso, Pereira & Silva (2015a,b)



Cardoso, Leite, Pereira & Silva (2018)  
Ferreira, Pereira & Leite (2013)  
Laranjeira, Leite & Pereira (2015)

(Muir, 2008)

## Guiding principles for L1 grammar instruction

- (i) Promoting students' metalinguistic development (Gombert, 1990), with(out) using grammatical terminology.
- (ii) Contextualization of grammar activities;
- (iii) Adequacy of activities to the stages of students' language development.
- (iv) Promoting the discovery and exploration of language.
- (v) Mobilization of (meta)linguistic knowledge in the production of oral and written texts.
- (vi) Playful exploration of language (e.g. gamification strategies, digital learning environments).

(Sim-Sim, 1998; Costa, Cabral, Santiago & Viegas, 2011; Camps & Milian 2000; Santos, Cardoso & Pereira, 2014; Pereira, Santos, Pinto, Silva & Cardoso, 2016)

# Action research



# PerGram

## Goals

- Assess students' metalinguistic development, namely the syntactic and lexical domains, during 1<sup>st</sup> year of Primary Education (6/7 year-old);
- Design and implement a programme conceived to enhance students' metalinguistic development, improving observation and manipulation of sentences, phrases and words;
- Measure the effects of work designed to stimulate metalinguistic development.



# PerGram

## Sorting words

word boundary

syntactic categories  
(word class)

...

## Verbal definition

semantic relations  
between words

## Sentence manipulation

word order

# PerGram



Textbook

This screenshot shows the first page of the Teacher material for Activity 1. At the top, there's a cartoon illustration of four children's feet in different colored shoes. Below it, the title 'Atividade 1' is displayed. A box labeled 'Materiais' contains the text: 'Elder, de David McKee, Carrinho, Cartolina (para os cartões), Cinta elástica'. Another box labeled 'Etapas' lists three steps: 'Etapa 1 - Contextualização da tarefa de definição', 'Etapa 2 - Preparação para a tarefa de definição', and 'Etapa 3 - Realização da tarefa de definição'. At the bottom right, there's a small logo for 'PB PerGram'.

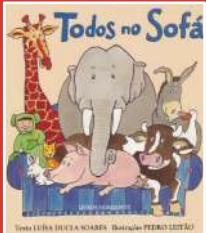
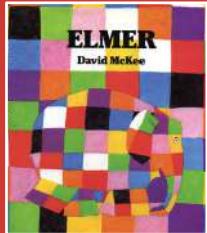
Teacher material



Student material

# PerGram: Sorting words

Starting point: stories explored in the lessons, such as:



## Procedure:

- i) Teacher hands out strips of paper to the groups with some sentences.
- ii) Students cut out the words; organise the words into groups; present their work to the class and explain the criteria they used for the groups.

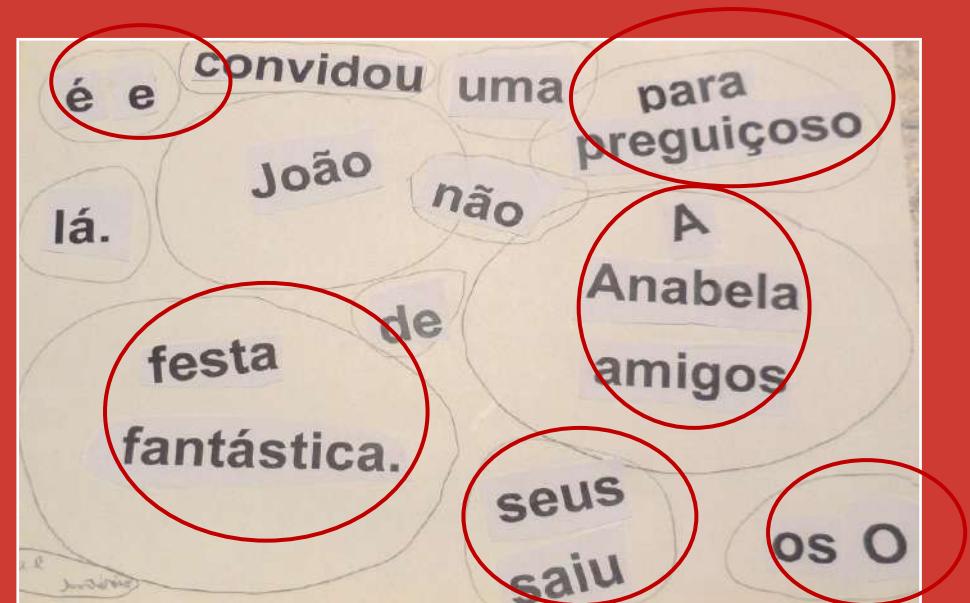
(Tisset, 2007)

# PerGram: Sorting words

## Sentences

O João é preguiçoso e não saiu de lá.  
*João is lazy and didn't move from there.*

A Anabela convidou os seus amigos para uma festa fantástica.  
*Anabela invited her friends to a fantastic party.*



(Santos, Cardoso & Pereira, 2014)

# PerGram: Sorting words

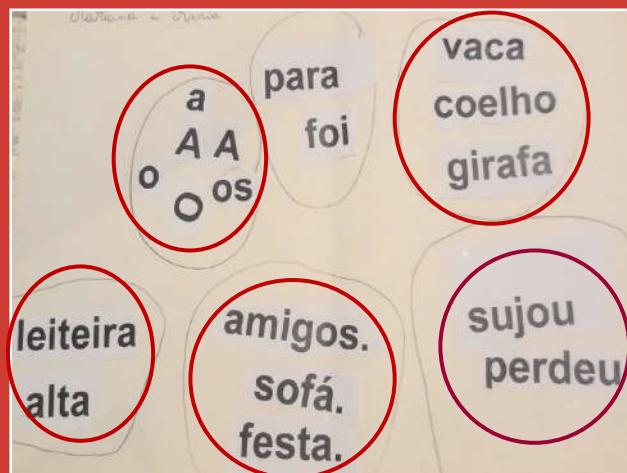
## Sentences

A alta girafa <sup>↑</sup>foi para a festa.  
*The tall giraffe went to the party.*

O coelho perdeu os amigos.  
The rabbit lost his friends.

The cow dirtied the armchair.  
A vaca leiteira sujou o sofá.

single vowels in  
singular or plural



→ nouns

→ actions



words that say how  
something is like

words that have letters  
in common

# PerGram: Sorting words

## Metalinguistic domains

Orthographic

Phonological

Morphological

Lexical/semantic

Syntactic

## Criteria used for grouping word

Words begin or end with the same letter.  
Words have the same number of letters;  
Words begin with a capital letter.  
Words involve special 'cases for reading'.

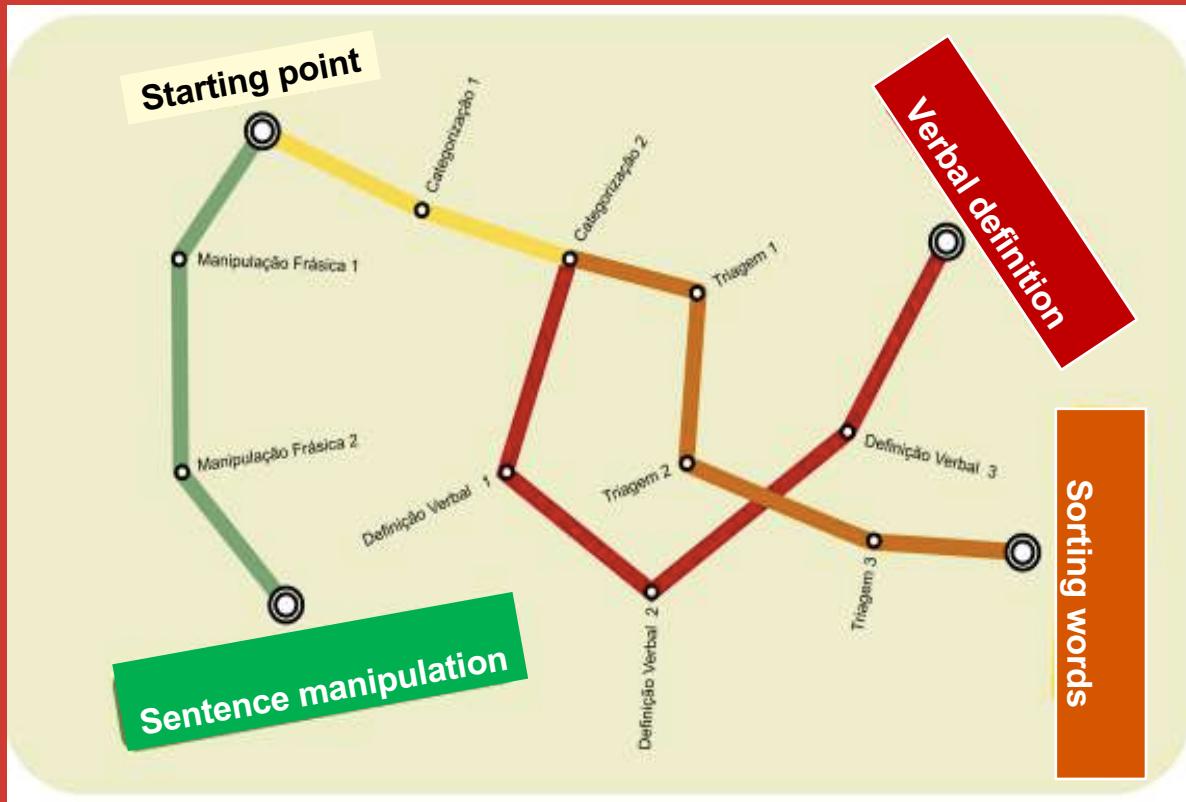
Single vowels.  
Words that have diphthongs.  
Words that rhyme.  
Words with more syllables.

Single vowels in the singular or plural.  
Words that are in the plural.

Words that are actions.  
Words that say what something is like.  
Words that have similar meanings.

They form parts of sentences.  
The words are nouns.

# PerGram

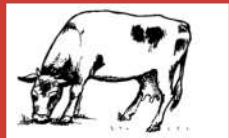


# PerGram: Verbal definition

**Standardized vocabulary test designed for Portuguese population (Sim-Sim, 2010)**

Verbal definition task

Explanation of the relevant characteristics of the entity / concept presented by the word Sim-Sim (2010: 7)



O que é vaca?  
*What is cow?*

(Cardoso, Pereira, Pinto & Silva, 2018)

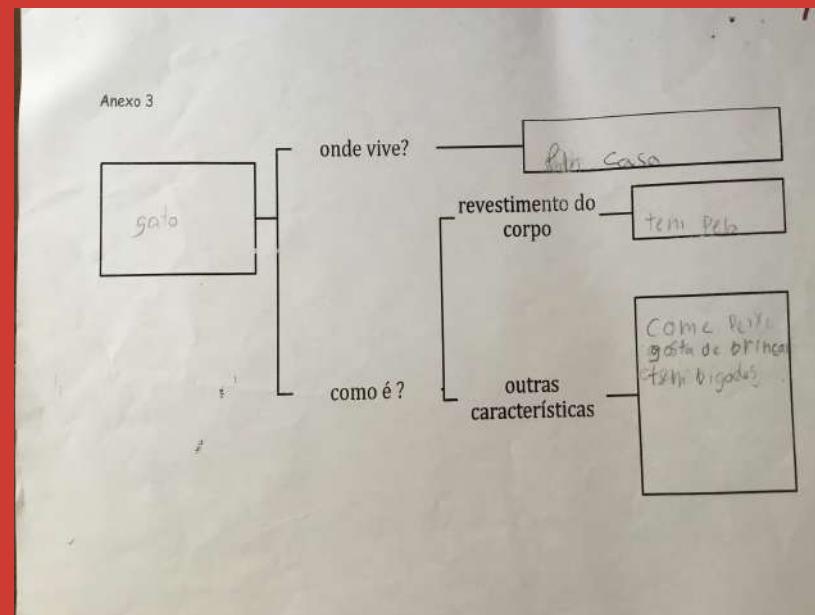
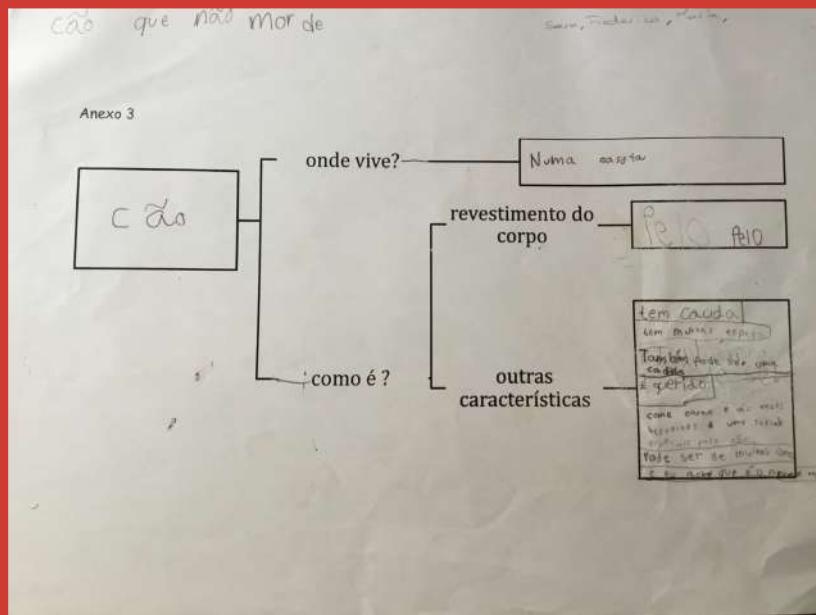
# PerGram: Verbal definition

Standardized vocabulary test designed for Portuguese population (Sim-Sim, 2010)

Answer categories	Score	Examples
Categorical definition with description	2	É um animal que dá leite. <i>It is an animal that produces milk</i>
Categorical definition	1,5	É um animal. <i>It is an animal</i>
Perceptual and/or functional definition or synonym	1	Dá leite. <i>It produces milk</i>
Exemplification	0,5	Cornélia. [The name of a well-known cow]
Generic Explanation	0	É uma coisa <i>It is a thing</i>
No answer or wrong answer	0	-----

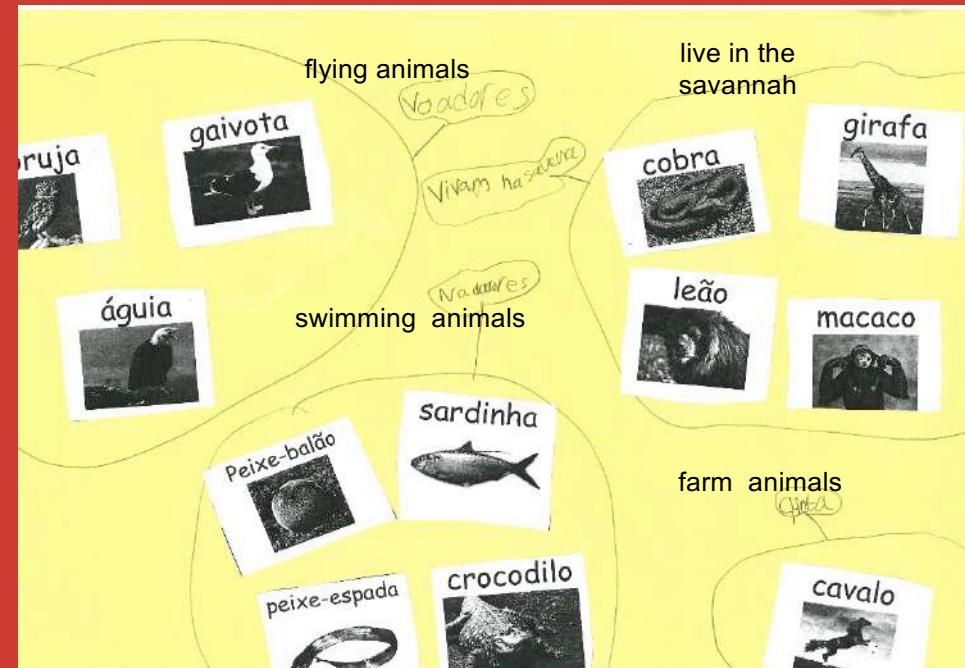
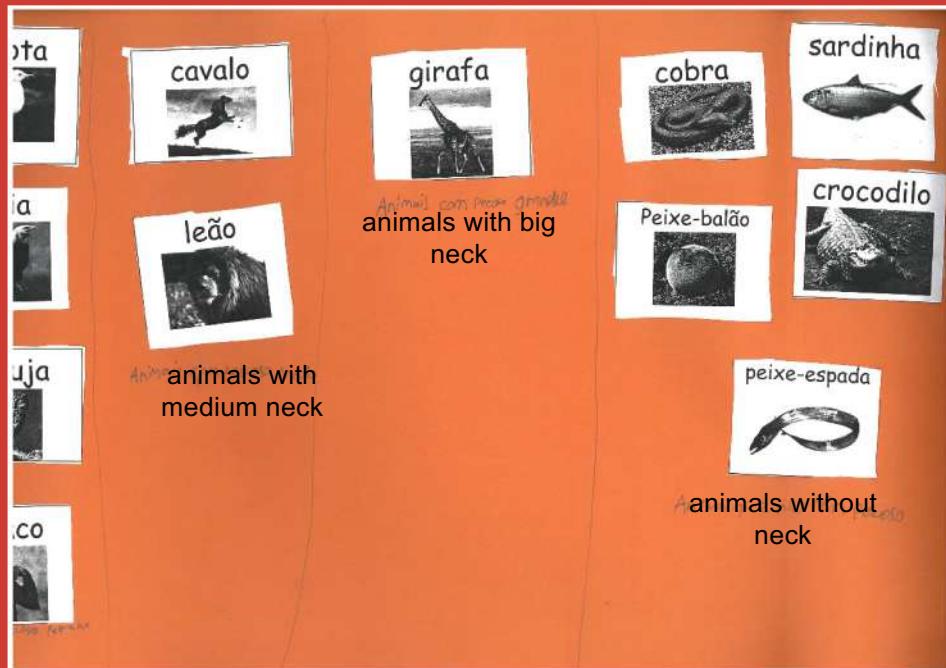
# PerGram: Verbal definition

## CONCEPT MAPS



# PerGram: Verbal definition

## GROUPING WORDS: ANIMALS



# Results

Table 1 – Assessing the internal reliability of the scales

Instrument	Number of items	Cronbach's alpha value
Verbal definition	35	0,928

Table 2 – Summary table: preliminary comparison between control and experimental groups

Instrument	Test value	P-value	Comment
Gender	X <sub>12</sub> = 0,004	>0,1	Control and Experimental groups are similar on the gender aspect, so it makes sense to compare them.
Age	T <sub>89</sub> =-6,26	>0,1	Control and Experimental groups are similar on the age aspect (in months), so it makes sense to compare them.
Verbal Definition	M-W(U)=724,0	>0,1	Control and Experimental groups are similar on the pre-test verbal definition score aspect, so it makes sense to compare them.

## Results

- In the control group the score increase between the two measured moments was not significant ( $t_{25}=0,574$ :  $P >0,1$ ).
- On the contrary, in the experimental group there was an increase in knowledge on verbal definition, which led to a score increase in the scale  $t_{64}=3,201$ :  $P <0,01$ ).

	Control group	Experimental group
Minimum	-18,50	-25,50
Maximum	25,50	22,50
Average	1,02	3,50
Standard deviation	9,05	8,81
Median	-,25	4,00
25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	-3,50	-2,00
75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	6,50	9,00

# RED.PT

Digital Educational Resources for teaching and learning Portuguese

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.eselx.ipl.pt/comunidade/recursos/redpt>. The page is part of the ESELx website, which is associated with the Politécnico de Lisboa and the Escola Superior de Educação de Lisboa. The navigation bar includes links for LOCALIZAÇÃO, CONTACTOS, FERRAMENTAS, and a search icon. The main menu has links for OFERTA FORMATIVA, ALUNOS, CANDIDATOS, INVESTIGAÇÃO, INTERNACIONALIZAÇÃO, and COMUNIDADE, with COMUNIDADE being the active tab. The page content features a large image of a keyboard, a smartphone, and a pen. On the left, there's a sidebar under 'COMUNIDADE' with links for ENCONTROS, PARCERIAS, PROTOCOLOS, ALUGUER DE ESPAÇOS, RECURSOS, RED.PT (which is expanded), and RECURSOS DIGITAIS. The central area has the 'RED.PT' logo and text about digital educational resources for the first cycle of basic education.

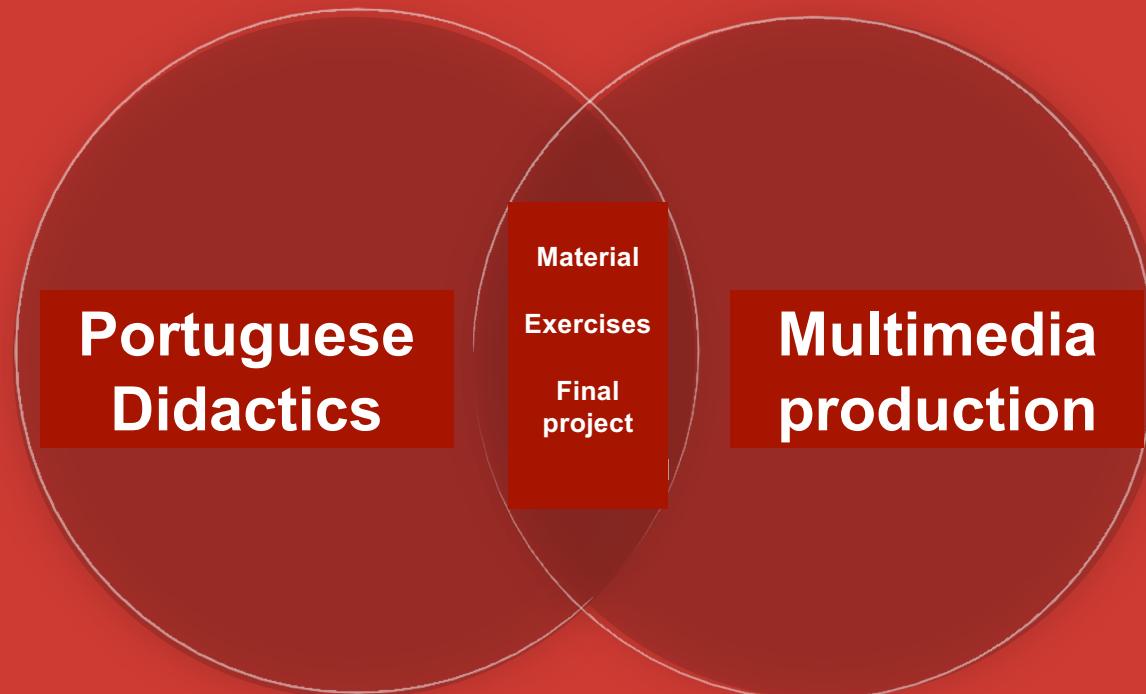
RED.PT

Recursos Educativos Digitais para o Ensino e a Aprendizagem do Português no 1.º Ciclo do Ensino Básico



## Articulação entre áreas dentro da UC

**Master of Portuguese Didactics (ESELx)**  
**Multimedia resources for teaching and learning**





## Aims

### General aim:

- Contribute to the promotion of innovative practices for teaching and learning Portuguese in Primary School (6-10 years) using digital technologies.

### Specific aims:

- Create, develop and implement digital educational resources for teaching and learning Portuguese in Primary School.
- Make the resources available in an online platform of free access.
- Develop research on the design, development and implementation of digital educational resources in Primary School.

# Phase 1: Prototypes of Digital Educational Resources

### — “The cooking recipe”

Authors: Ana Rita Alves, Bárbara Pinto, Bruno Paulos e Margarida Brée



— “Who’s for dinner?”

Authors: Eulália Redondo e Vânia Alegria



— “Exploring newspaper news”

Authors: Graça Machado e Liliana Freitas



— “I know everything about Father Chrismas”

Authors: Daniela Ribeiro e Inês Teixeira



# Phase 1. Prototypes of Digital Educational Resources

## — “The and the pea”

Authors: Mafalprincessda Soares, Maria Caramelo e Sandra Lima



## — “Zebra Stripes trip”

Authors: Marisa Inês Gonçalves e Rita Isabel Afonso Seiça



## **Phase 2. Funded projet (IPL)**

**Digital Grammar Lab: “Syllable strength”**

**Original idea: Liliana Freitas (ESELx)**

- Aims: (a) promote students' metaphonological development w.r.t. the perception of the strong/weak syllabe opposition; (b) promote the understanding and use of the classification of words based on the position of the strong syllabe.
- Phase of execution: Multimedia production.
- Target: 3rd year

## Phase 2. Funded projet (IPL)

Digital Grammar Lab: The syllable strength

Original idea: Liliana Freitas (ESELx)



## Phase 2. Funded projet (IPL)

DER: “The cooking recipe”

Original idea: Ana Rita Alves, Bárbara Pinto, Bruno Paulos e Margarida Brée (ESELx)

Aim:

Discover the discourse and linguistic properties of the ‘cooking recipe’ textual genre.

- non-linear and personalized pathways
- different media languages



## **Phase 2. Funded projet (IPL)**

**DER: “Reading fluency”**

**Original idea: Rita Seiça (ESELx)**

**Aim:**

**Promote the reading fluency training in the 1st CEB, considering the indicators of precision, speed and prosody.**

## **Future research**

**Multimedia resources**

**phased activities of grammatical labs  
digital learning communities**

**Grammar & Text**

**pre-service / in-service teacher training anchored on project based learning  
task-based interaction to reveal metalinguistic activity**

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