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SPIRANTIZATION OCCURRENCES IN GERMAN AND PORTUGUESE¹

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RESUMO

Este artigo visa trazer à discussão, principalmente, traços fonológicos comuns ao Alemão e ao Português, os quais carecem de clarificação quanto à sua origem, como p. ex. a fricativação das oclusivas sonoras /b, d, g/, bem como, em certo grau, da vibrante uvular /R/. Contudo, outras semelhanças também serão abordadas.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to bring up for discussion mainly phonological traits common to German and Portuguese requiring clarification as to their origin, like the spirantization of the voiced plosives /b,d,g/, and, to some extent, of the uvular vibrant /R/. However, further similarities will be approached as well.

1. Introduction

1.1. Linguistic and historical background

German Lusitanists in the late 19th and in the 20th century explored the Germanic (Suevish and Visigoth) loan lexemes and morphemes in Portuguese extensively and with utmost thoroughness, starting with the neogrammarians, from amongst which the name of Carolina Michaëlis de Vasconcellos stands out for absolute singularity and excellence, up to Joseph Piel and Dieter Kremer (the latter still with us), with Ernst Gamillscheg, Helmut Lüdtke, Harri Meier and many others in between, who left us the huge legacy of their minute work.

This invaluable legacy in the study of the Germanic loan lexemes and morphemes in Portuguese – which occurred in the course of the so-called ‘Barbaric Invasions’ in the 5th and 6th centuries – is not only

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