

Variation in verbal and pronominal forms of second and third person singular in Portuguese spoken in Cabinda, Angola

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This pilot study analyzes the variation between the pronouns *tu* and *você* with verbs in the second (2SG) and third (3SG) person singular in Portuguese spoken in Cabinda, Angola. Earlier studies indicate that there is alternation of use between *tu* and *você* in Angolan varieties of Portuguese that differs from both the European and Brazilian varieties. We have analyzed eight interviews with 20- to 29-year-old speakers from Cabinda who attended the 12th year of school in 2014. The aim of the study is to verify if conclusions drawn from isolated examples of this alternation in previous studies on Angolan Portuguese are systematically confirmed in the corpus from Cabinda. We have identified the following types of pronominal or null subject combination and verbal form:

- (1) *você vais tentar*
- (2) *você vai dizer*
- (3) *tu apanhas a tua vida*
- (4) \emptyset *vais gostar*
- (5) \emptyset *vai ser repatriado pra tua, pra sua terra*

Previous studies point out that the verb appears in 3SG or 2SG with the explicit subject *você* (grammatically 3SG) and that the pronoun *tu* (grammatically 2SG) has low frequency (Adriano 2014, Winter 2009, Manuel 2015, Teixeira 2008). Our analysis aims at identifying linguistic and social factors that may influence the variation and discuss previously suggested influences from language contact with Bantu languages (Mingas 2000). The analysis of 155 occurrences of verbal forms in the corpus reveals that 3SG is the most frequent form and that there is a preference for implicit subject with 2SG verbs and explicit subject with 3SG verbs (Table 1).

Table 1. Implicit and explicit subjects (n=155)

	2SG (44%)	3SG (66%)
<i>você</i>	12	73
<i>tu</i>	1	-
implicit subject	55	14

68% of the occurrences represent generic use (in the sense of a person, cf. Myers and Lampropoulou 2012, Posio 2016). In this use, the predominant form is 3SG with explicit subject, followed by 2SG without subject (Table 2). This result contrasts with European Portuguese, where the most common generic form is 2SG with explicit subject (Posio 2017). However, in specific use (referring to the interlocutor), 2SG without explicit subject is the predominating form (Table 3).

Table 2. Generic use (n=104)

	2SG (37%)	3SG (63%)
<i>você</i>	-	61
<i>tu</i>	1	-

implicit subject	37	6
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Table 3. Specific use (n=51)

	2SG (70%)	3SG (30%)
<i>você</i>	-	12
<i>tu</i>	-	-
implicit subject	30	9

We discuss these results in relation to the contexts of acquisition and use of Portuguese and Bantu languages.

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