Title: *Towards a grammar of the aspect in the Portuguese verb*

Abstract (Key-words are emphasized):

- This thesis has the aim to give an overview of and insight into the state of the research on the aspect in the Portuguese verb, reviewing, in a way, some of the studies that deal with the subject. Most of these studies have been produced in the past 20 to 25 years, almost exclusively by Brazilian or Portuguese authors.

- It seeks to inform about the theoretical and methodological presumptions on which the research is based, proceeds to the characterization of the verbal aspect distinguishing its expressive processes (lexical aspect and grammatical aspect and respective typologies), (re)cognizes the concepts of auxiliarization and grammaticalization and the correlates auxiliary verb and verbal periphrasis, traces the coordinates of the descriptive model, explains the constitution and purpose of the corpus and/ or the corpora, identifies formally and denominatively the verbal periphrasis forms (in opposition to non-periphrastical and bi- or multiperiphrasticals) and, finally, tries to uncover its organization in terms of aspectual meaning.

- With the (primary) aim to reveal the combinatories of some verbal periphrases that represent the internal temporal constituency of the situations (the very heart of the category aspect) in today’s Portuguese, following the preferences or tendencies, I will describe, on the basis of corpora, their morpho-syntactical properties (the flectional forms of Tense-Aspect-Mode and Person-Number they
combine with, thus forming the respective sub-paradigms that constitute the paradigm that is expressed by a periphrasis), syntactic-semantic properties (the propositional types and respective forms the co-occur with, types of subject and respective quantification, number and nature of the arguments and their syntactic configuration) as well as semantic-lexical properties (the types of verbal predicates they go with – whether state verbs, process verbs, culminated process verbs, culmination verbs or point verbs – and their significant implications), that is: the progressive (<estar a + infinitive> and <estar + gerund>), comitative-progressive (<andar a + infinitive>, <andar + gerund>, <viver + gerund> and <viver a + infinitive>), e gradative-progressive (<ir + gerund>, <vir + gerund> and <vir a + infinitive>).

Simultaneously, it is about the specialization (periphrases that (have) somehow specialize(d), because they show a particular meaning, that has emerged from the prototype meaning that characterizes it) and/or the variation (linguistically and non-linguistically conditioned periphrastic constructions) in the various periphrastical verbal forms.

And, thus, this thesis aims to inform about a part of the «grammar of the aspect in today’s Portuguese verb», essentially in the light of the European variant.