

Digital Oral Literature: editorial solutions with performance annotation

In this presentation I will describe the conception of an electronic edition model for orally transmitted texts that I am working on in my doctorate. I will especially concentrate on the issues behind collection methodology, theoretical aspects concerning editing traditions in Portugal, bearing in mind the ethical issues and the degrees of fidelity to the moment of enunciation. Can an edition of oral literary compositions be a good representation of what is actually being transmitted? What is Oral Literature? How to edit its contextual peculiarities?

Oral Literature textual editorial solutions have been long settled in the Iberian academic environment but what about paralinguistic elements? Several research areas focus on particular parts of the enunciation - Literary studies concentrate on the transcription, Anthropologic studies concentrate on the artistic performance or interactants' behavior, etc. Having the means to make available a more complete contextualization of Oral Literature, this presentation will focus not only on the literary enunciation but also on the concept that oral literary texts are multimodal. Therefore, attention will be given to the various aspects believed to be present during the production of an oral composition: textual utterance, body movement (face, torso, arms, hands), voice characteristics (intonation, prosody) and proxemics (the spatial relation between interactants).