

**CENTRO DE AVALIAÇÃO DE SUFICIÊNCIA EM LÍNGUAS ESTRANGEIRAS
EDITAL 03/2025****LÍNGUA INGLESA****Rebuilding Babel: Language, AI, and the Future of Communication****The Tower of Babel and the Power of Language**

Language has always been one of humanity's most powerful tools, capable of uniting, defining identity, and creating division. The biblical story of the Tower of Babel illustrates this dynamic. In the tale, a unified humanity attempts to build a tower to reach the heavens. In response to their pride, God confuses their language, leading to their dispersion. The myth highlights language's dual role: enabling great collective projects, yet also fragmenting societies when mutual understanding is lost.

Linguistic Diversity: Origins and Adaptations

Linguistic diversity evolved naturally over thousands of years. Early Homo sapiens likely used a proto-language between 100,000 and 200,000 years ago. As humans migrated and became geographically isolated, new languages emerged. Environmental factors also shaped language development. For instance, tonal languages like Vietnamese and Yoruba may have evolved in dense forests where pitch variations carry more effectively.

Language is deeply influenced by sensory and cultural experience. For example, some Indigenous groups in forest environments struggle to understand linear perspective in drawing, as straight lines are rare in their surroundings. In Arctic regions, Inuit and Yupik languages lack a single word for "black," reflecting the cultural importance of distinguishing between snow, ice, and light-based phenomena.

Language, Identity, and Power

Language is a key marker of social identity. Dialects and accents distinguish communities and create a sense of belonging. As civilizations expanded, some languages gained global status through trade, conquest, or cultural influence, such as Latin, Arabic, Mandarin, and English.

During colonialism, European powers imposed their languages through governance, education, and trade. This led to the suppression of Indigenous languages and the creation of hybrid languages like Creoles. The Industrial Revolution and the rise of mass media further entrenched dominant languages. Today, English is the de facto global language, but this dominance comes at a cost - over 40% of the world's languages are now endangered.

At the same time, globalization has encouraged cultural exchange. English has borrowed countless words, like "bungalow" (Hindi), "algebra" (Arabic), and "safari" (Swahili), demonstrating linguistic hybridity and adaptation.

Language, Thought, and Science Fiction

Philosophers like Ludwig Wittgenstein have argued that language shapes perception: "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world." The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis echoes this idea, suggesting that linguistic structure influences worldview. For instance, having many words for snow can shape how one categorizes and experiences it.

Science fiction has long explored these themes. In *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, the Babel Fish translates all languages instantly but ironically causes more conflict. In *Arrival*, the alien language learned by the protagonist alters her perception of time, highlighting the transformative power of language on thought.

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Communication

AI presents new possibilities for human communication. Tools like Google Translate have already reduced barriers, but future systems could do more, like understanding idioms, regional dialects, and cultural nuances with precision.

Companies like Meta and Apple envision virtual worlds where communication is mediated by real-time translation technologies. Devices like smart earbuds already offer seamless translation. Meanwhile, projects like Neuralink, founded by Elon Musk, propose direct brain–computer communication, potentially changing how humans interact entirely. These advancements raise profound ethical and philosophical questions about the nature of language and connection.

AI and Language Preservation

AI could also play a crucial role in preserving endangered languages. Tools can document vocabulary, generate learning resources, and even simulate language evolution. Projects like Google's Endangered Languages Project or Indigenous language apps show how technology can support linguistic heritage and revitalization.

Risks of Overreliance on Technology

Despite these benefits, overreliance on AI for communication poses risks. It could discourage multilingual education and reduce the cultural empathy and cognitive advantages gained from language learning. Research shows that bilingual individuals perform better in multitasking and have delayed onset of dementia, suggesting long-term cognitive benefits.

Furthermore, AI systems are only as inclusive as the data they are trained on. Underrepresented languages may be poorly translated or excluded altogether, reinforcing linguistic hierarchies. Tech companies may also restrict access to advanced tools, privileging users who can afford them and marginalizing others.

A New Tower? Or New Babels?

Ironically, AI could also reduce the dominance of global languages. If people can speak their native tongues while being understood universally, there may be less pressure to adopt major languages like English or French. Urbanization, which often erodes minority languages, might be counteracted by AI-powered translation.

In response to increased surveillance and technological intrusion, new dialects or even entire languages might emerge to protect privacy and autonomy. These “micro-dialects” could challenge AI’s ability to interpret or monitor communication, an echo of the original Babel story, where confusion became a form of resistance.

Ethical Paths Forward

The future of language and AI demands ethical attention. These technologies must respect cultural nuance and be designed to complement, not replace, human learning and interpersonal connection. Equal access to linguistic tools should be prioritized to ensure that all voices, especially minority ones, are heard.

The story of language is one of bridges and barriers, of unity and diversity. With AI, we have a unique opportunity to rebuild the Tower of Babel, not as a symbol of arrogance, but as a structure of shared understanding that celebrates global cultural richness.

Conclusion: A Collective Responsibility



The biblical Tower of Babel warns against unchecked ambition and forced unity. Similarly, AI magnifies both our potential and our vulnerabilities. As we develop these tools, we must decide: do we ascend carefully, with ethics as our foundation, or risk another collapse?

AI can help us connect across differences, but only if we wield it with wisdom and care. The future of language, and communication itself, will depend on the choices we make today.

Fonte: Adaptado de <https://philosophical.chat/philosophy/branches-of-philosophy/philosophy-of-language/rebuilding-babel-language-ai-and-the-future-of-communication/>

QUESTÃO 01

No texto, a história da Torre de Babel é utilizada para ilustrar (1,0):

- (A) A origem científica das primeiras religiões do mundo.
- (B) A invenção da escrita como forma de controle social.
- (C) O papel da linguagem como força de união ou de divisão entre os povos.**
- (D) A destruição de tradições linguísticas pelas guerras religiosas.

QUESTÃO 02

Segundo o texto, a diversidade linguística surgiu principalmente em razão (1,0):

- (A) Das reformas educacionais promovidas por impérios antigos.
- (B) Da imposição de idiomas dominantes por governos coloniais.
- (C) Da criação de idiomas artificiais por grupos religiosos.**
- (D) Da migração humana e do isolamento geográfico ao longo do tempo.**

QUESTÃO 03

Em "AI could also play a crucial role in preserving endangered languages", o uso do verbo modal "could" indica (1,0):

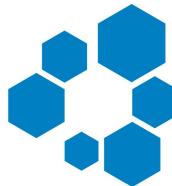
- (A) Uma obrigação inevitável.
- (B) Uma possibilidade futura.**
- (C) Uma certeza no passado.
- (D) Uma ação habitual.

QUESTÃO 04

Qual das opções apresenta um possível risco relacionado ao uso excessivo de IA para tradução, segundo o texto?

- (A) A completa extinção das línguas europeias por falta de uso contínuo em ambientes digitais.
- (B) A eliminação gradual de documentos históricos em idiomas antigos pelas novas tecnologias.
- (C) A redução da empatia entre culturas e o enfraquecimento de habilidades cognitivas comprovadas.**
- (D) A troca definitiva do inglês como idioma global por sistemas de tradução instantânea.

QUESTÃO 05



A expressão “*further entrenched dominant languages*” pode ser melhor compreendida, no contexto do texto, como (1,0):

- (A) Fortaleceu mais o poder e a influência das línguas já predominantes.
- (B) Impediu que as línguas locais fossem aprendidas por estrangeiros.
- (C) Criou novas línguas dominantes para substituir as antigas.
- (D) Promoveu a tradução simultânea de todas as línguas regionais.

QUESTÃO 06

A expressão "micro-dialects", usada no texto, refere-se (1,0):

- (A) Aos dialetos que surgem espontaneamente em plataformas digitais.
- (B) **A novas variantes linguísticas criadas para escapar da vigilância da IA.**
- (C) A sistemas de tradução controlados por corporações privadas.
- (D) A traduções simultâneas feitas por inteligência artificial.

QUESTÃO 07

Em relação à contribuição da IA para as línguas ameaçadas, o texto afirma que (1,0):

- (A) A IA elimina completamente os idiomas menos falados.
- (B) **A IA pode ajudar a documentar e simular a evolução dessas línguas.**
- (C) A IA substitui os falantes humanos na preservação linguística.
- (D) A IA foca apenas nas línguas oficiais e comerciais.

QUESTÃO 08

Considere o grupo nominal destacado na frase: "**Language is a key marker of social identity.**" Qual das alternativas abaixo apresenta a **melhor tradução e estrutura correta** dessa frase e do grupo nominal em português? (1,0)

- (A) "A língua é uma chave marcadora da identidade social" – formado por artigo indefinido, substantivo e complemento.
- (B) " A língua é a principal marca da identidade social" – formado por artigo definido, adjetivo e substantivo, com alteração de intensidade sem base textual.
- (C) **"A língua é uma marca fundamental da identidade social"** – formado por artigo indefinido, adjetivo qualificativo e substantivo, mantendo o sentido original.
- (D) " A língua funciona como marcador linguístico da identidade social " – reformulação sem correspondência estrutural com o grupo nominal original.

QUESTÃO 09

Segundo o texto, a hipótese de Sapir-Whorf sugere que (1,0):

- (A) A linguagem apenas reflete o pensamento, sem influenciar a forma como percebemos o mundo ao nosso redor.
- (B) Todas as línguas do mundo compartilham uma estrutura única e universal, independente da cultura de origem.
- (C) **A estrutura de cada língua pode moldar a maneira como seus falantes percebem, pensam e se relacionam com o mundo.**



(D) A linguagem é uma ferramenta neutra que não interfere nas diferenças culturais ou na diversidade de pensamentos.

QUESTÃO 10

A conclusão do texto sugere que (1,0):

- (A) A sociedade deveria abandonar definitivamente o uso da inteligência artificial por representar um risco iminente.
- (B) A presença crescente da IA inevitavelmente levará à destruição completa da comunicação entre os seres humanos.
- (C) O futuro da linguagem será dominado por línguas artificiais impostas globalmente por sistemas automatizados.
- (D) A inteligência artificial pode ser uma aliada na promoção do entendimento entre culturas, desde que usada com responsabilidade ética.