

The verbal suffixes *-ilhar* and *-inhar* in Brazilian Portuguese

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Background

- They are derivational diminutive verbal suffixes
- Portuguese has at least 5 different diminutive verbal cases (Caetano, 2017)
 - Some of these function as allophones (Alves, 2021),
 - Some have structured semantic differences (Kehdi, 1995).
- Many of the same verbal roots can be expressed using both *-ilhar* or *-inhar*

-ilhar and *-inhar*
/iɫar/ /iɲar/

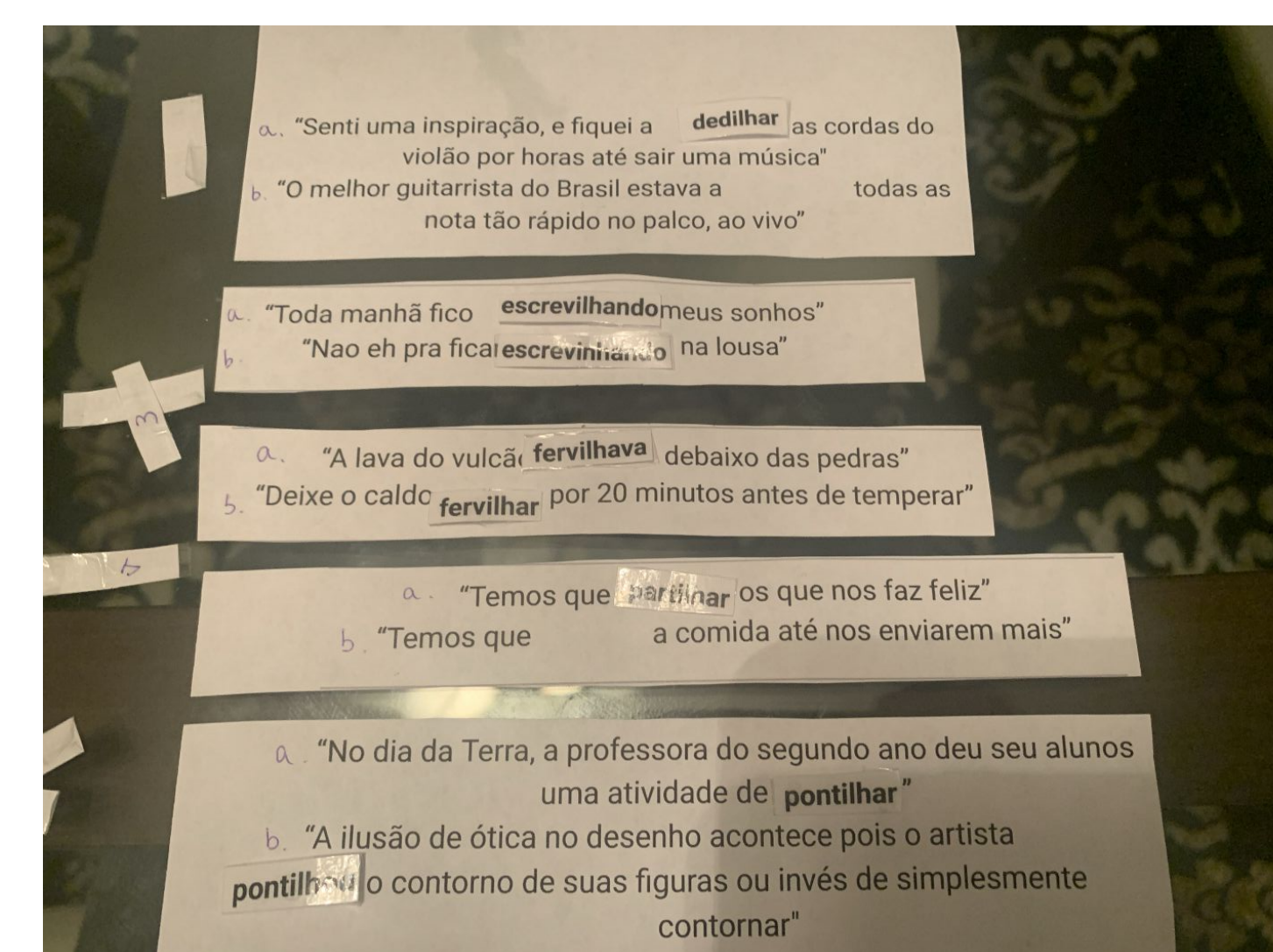
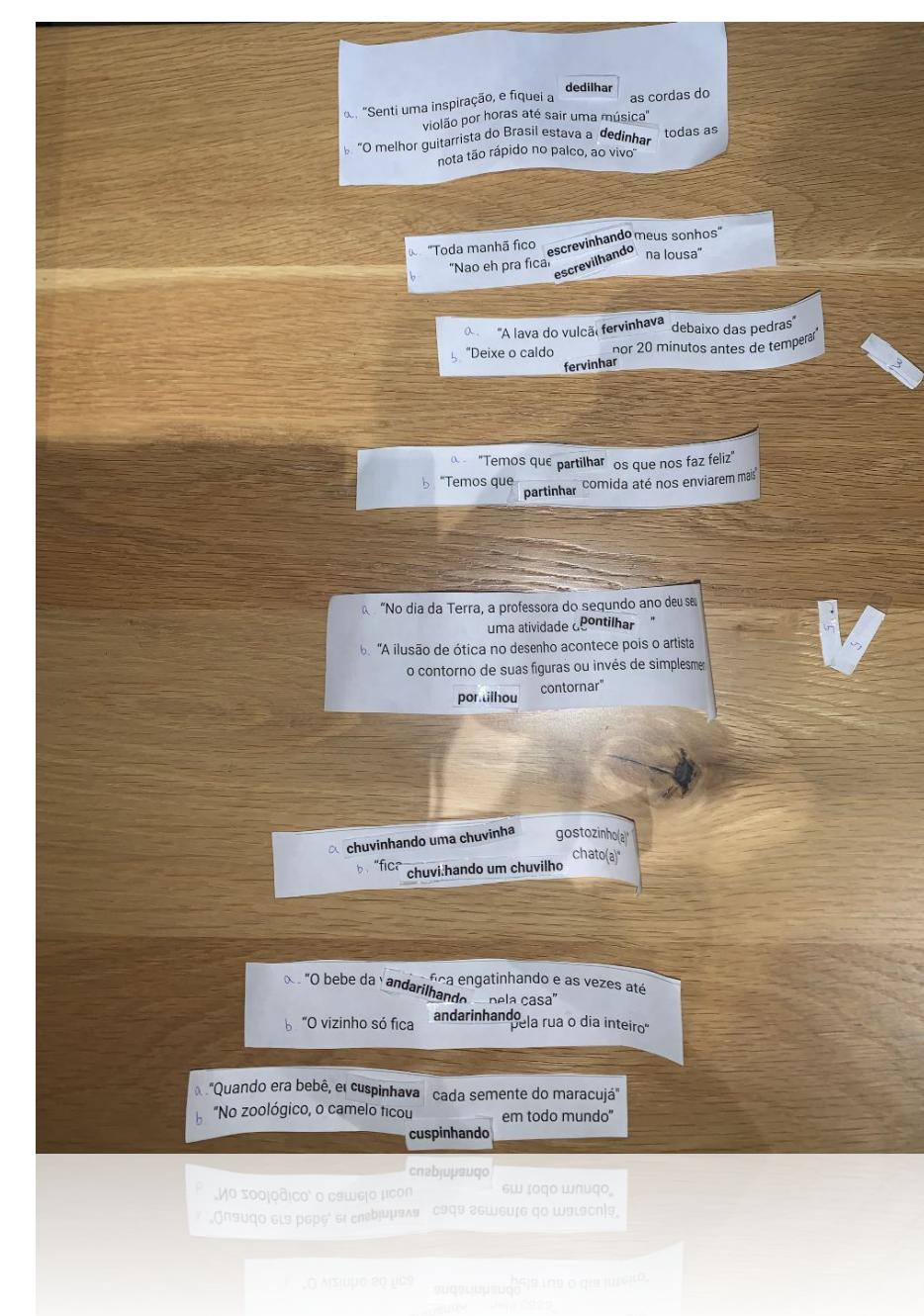
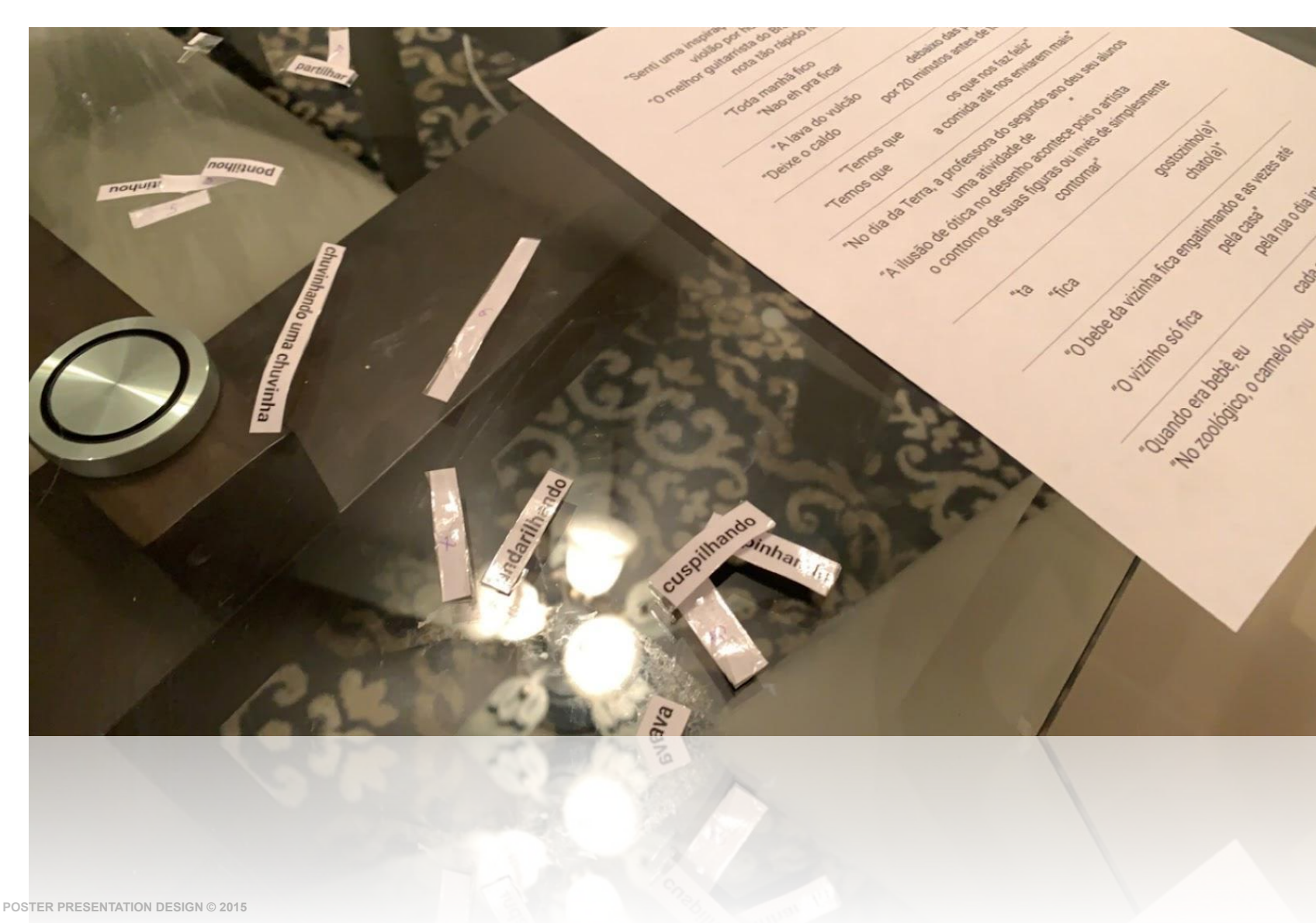
Research Question/Goal

- How and in what ways are these two suffixes used?
 - Collect data
- Can we determine if there is a semantic difference between these suffixes?

Methodology



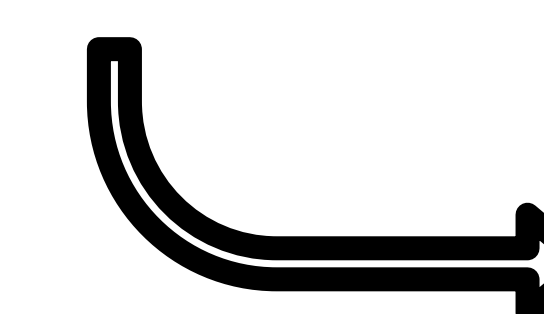
- L1 Brazilian Portuguese speakers - study took place in Portuguese
- 8 pairs of sentences were given to participants, each pair had the same missing verb
- The participants were asked to choose which suffix would most appropriately fit the verb, based on context of each phrase
- They could use the same or a different suffix for each sentence in the pair



Results

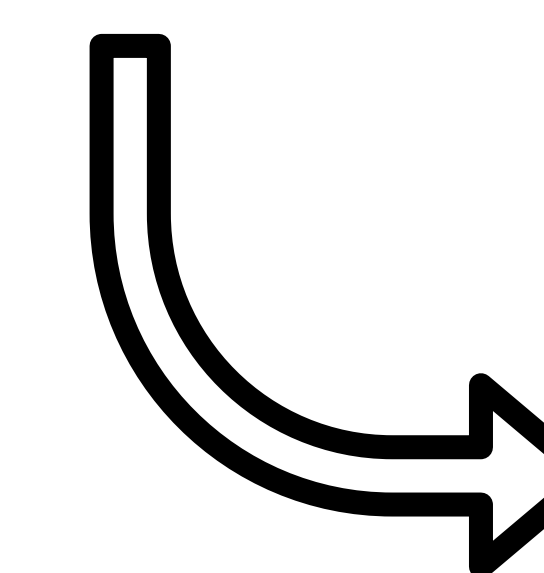
- The data collected in the research showed no correlation between the context on the phrase and which suffix was used
- For most part, participants used different suffixes for each of the different contexts (55%), but just slightly half of the times they used the same suffix for both contexts (45%)
- The frequency of usage for each suffix appeared to depend more on the speaker than the phrasal context; generally:
 - *-Inhar* suffix was used more by females, young participants
 - *-Ilhar* suffix used more by older and São Paulo-born participants

Discussion



- 5 participants
- only 1 male participant and 1 participant from Salvador
- Future Research

Conclusion



- Success in collecting data
- Open Question
 - Semantic differences? Allophones?

References and Sources

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