



**“BUT HE IS NOT CORRUPT”:
NOT BEING CORRUPT JUSTIFIES ANY DELINQUENCY AND CRIME**

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Resumo: O objetivo deste pequeno artigo é discutir o bordão dos seguidores de Jair Messias Bolsonaro de que ele não é corrupto sempre que alguém lhes fala dos absurdos perpetrados pelo ex-capitão. Ele ofende pessoas, a mídia, países e instituições, em termos grosseiros. Porém, seus seguidores afirmam: “mas ele não é corrupto”. O artigo termina mostrando que ele não aceita corrupção nos outros, mas na sua família ela pode grassar.

Palavras-chave: Bolsonaro; ADE; corrupção; falácia; delinquência.

Abstract:

The purpose of this short article is to discuss the catchphrase of Jair Messias Bolsonaro's followers that he is not corrupt whenever someone talks to them about the absurdities perpetrated by the former captain. He offends people, the media, countries and institutions, in general. However, his followers say: "but he is not corrupt". The article ends by showing that he does not accept corruption in others, but in his family it is permitted.

Key-words: Bolsonaro; EDA; corruption; fallacy; delinquency.

I will start off from the assertion of the first part of the title as a catchphrase that will work as a refrain of what follows in the present essay, which comments and criticizes the actions and discourses of President Jair Messias Bolsonaro as well as of his fanatic followers. These actions and discourses point in the opposite direction of all the main principles and categories not only of Ecosystemic Discourse Analysis (EDA), but also of those of Ecosystem Linguistics (EL) in general, of which EDA is a part. According to *Webster's Encyclopedic unabridged dictionary*, catchphrase is “a phrase that attracts attention” whereas refrain “is a phrase or verse recurring at intervals in a song or poem, especially at the end of each stanza”. In the present essay, the catchphrase “But he is not corrupt” is the refrain occurring at the end of all paragraphs presenting some of Bolsonaro's absurdities.

Whenever someone questions any of the innumerable absurdities, delinquencies and crimes of the runaway President, some of his minions always have the refrain “but he is not corrupt”, blindly following the President's own refrain, “but I am not corrupt”. Their intelligence is not enough to

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make them understand that not being corrupt is not a quality, but an obligation, as the historian and political commentator Marco Antonio Villa once said, in an attempt at debating with Jair Bolsonaro. I said attempt because it is impossible to dialogue with him. He does not hear what his interlocutor says and, instead of answering his questions he speaks at the same time expressing what he thinks about everything.

EDA provides us with as a theoretical framework for the study of any text-discourse. Among its main principles the following stand out: (a) unconditional defense of life, which comprises (b) a fight against avoidable suffering. Because it is part of EL, it presupposes an attitude of (c) communion, of solidarity with humans and non-humans so that the relationships between people take place in a cooperative, non-competitive way, by general coordination of the wills, not by subordinating the will of the whole community to that of a minority or a single person. Category (c), for example, implies several others, such as (d) diversity, whose recognition requires an attitude of (e) humility, (f) tolerance and (g) compassion for the suffering of any sentient being, not only of humans. We will see that none of these principles, characteristics and categories of EL/EDA is present in the President's actions and discourse. On the contrary, he and those who collude with him practice hate speech, with everything that it implies.

When the President was reminded of the large number of people infected with the coronavirus and the many cases of death from this infection, he replied: “So what? I am Messiah, but I do not work miracles” – the “Messias” of his name is the Portuguese equivalent of “Messiah”. On the death toll, he replied on another occasion that he was not a grave digger. That is to say, category (a) above does not exist for him. Not only does he not fight against the suffering of patients, but he also thinks that those who die are the elders, who are disposable, as they only give expenses to the state. Or, “everyone is going to die someday”, so what difference does it make whether people die now or later!

- But he is not corrupt.

Category (g) does not exist for the former captain. He shows no compassion for the suffering of the infected or for the dead and their loved ones. However, when a military parachutist had an accident in a jump in Rio de Janeiro and died, he took the presidential plane, flew there with his whole gang, all financed by us, of course, and made an emotional speech at the funeral. For him, only the life of the militaries and of those who support him is important and deserves condolences.

- But he is not corrupt.

Disrespect to (d) is shown by Bolsonaro in several situations. So on many occasions he turned out to be sexist, offending women, homosexuals and other minorities, such as indigenous people. Before being President he said to a woman that she was too ugly to be raped; of one of Amerindian who was demanding respect for the rights of his people in Brasília he said that the Indian should go back to his village and eat grass. Afro-Brazilians are also frequently disrespected. The director of Palmares Foundation once said that there is no racial discrimination in Brazil – “we are importing it from the United States” – and that slavery was beneficial to the blacks. The irony is that the Foundation is dedicated to the defense of the African heritage in Brazil. But, the most astonishing irony is the fact that this Foundation’s director is himself black.

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Category (e), humility, is light years away from the President. On the contrary, he has an inflated, authoritarian and even fascist ego. As soon as he assumed the presidency of the country, he said that he would move the Brazilian embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, an action that would provoke a just anger in the Muslim peoples. He offended the great economic power that is China, the wife of the President of France, started to verbally attack Venezuela's President Maduro, who is no saint. He created a case with the Federal Supreme Court, the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, in short, he created enemies everywhere, but then he started to complain that he was not allowed to rule.

- *But he is not corrupt.*

I could align Bolsonaro's nonsense, misdeeds, delinquencies and crimes (again in the words of Marco Antonio Villa) ad infinitum.

I would like to resume what Marco Antonio Villa said to Bolsonaro – before he became President – in the attempted dialogue mentioned above (recall that he does not dialogue, but imposes his opinion, speaks on the question of the interlocutor, etc.): “being corrupt is not a merit, it is an obligation”. It is from an unblemished past conduct that we can see if someone has the necessary posture and composure for the post he or she claims. The unbalanced President has none of these qualities.

- *But he is not corrupt.*

Unfortunately, the paranoid President does not need enemies from outside: he creates them all the time. Instead of proposing a big project for the country, thinking holistically as recommended by Ecosystem Linguistics, he sticks to spells like golden shower, use of chloroquine against coronavirus (a subject for scientists), gay kit and others of minor importance. He is unable to think big.

- *But he is not corrupt.*

I would like to emphasize that this chant of “I am not corrupt” and “he is not corrupt” only applies to others. So much so that the President tries to avoid investigations against alleged acts of corruption of his son Flávio Bolsonaro, while he was a state deputy in Rio de Janeiro. He is entirely silent on the accusations against his son's former adviser, Fabrício Queiroz, on the doubts in the discourse and behavior of his lawyer Frederick Wassef and his wife, involved in corruption up to the neck, but a frequent visitor to the Bolsonaros. As the Brazilian saying says, “Tell me with whom you walk and I will tell you who you are” (diga-me com quem anda e eu te direi quem és).

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Since he is the President of the Republic, Bolsonaro should be an example for everyone, coordinating the actions of state and municipal health authorities, showing the danger that coronavirus represents, protecting himself with mask when in public, in short, having the behavior that Brazilians should mirror. These attitudes would be acts of solidarity, cooperation, coordination, in short, linguistic-ecosystemically, of communion with his fellow citizens. But he does just the opposite: he criticizes the governors and mayors for being concerned with the spread of covid-19, he goes to public demonstrations of the devotees of saint bolsonaro against

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democracy, he provokes agglomerations without a mask, he embraces people, all that in an unprecedented irresponsibility. Bolsonaro is like Donald Trump, of whom Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden asserted that he “must be part of the solution, not the problem”, regarding the killing of George Floyd. Regarding Trump and Bolsonaro we could mention another Brazilian saying that: a bad vase does not break (vaso ruim não quebra).

- *But he is not corrupt.*

In the entry “Jair Bolsonaro” of *Wikipedia* in Portuguese, we can see that Bolsonaro came to plan acts of terrorism (something that today he says is the prerogative of the left) during his barracks time: How the extreme left and extreme right fundamentalisms became seen! Let's see an excerpt of *Wikipedia*'s article on Bolsonaro:

*On October 27, 1987, Jair Bolsonaro informed reporter Cássia Maria, from **Veja** magazine, about the ‘Dead End Operation’ (Operação Beco Sem Saída). At that time, Bolsonaro supported improving pay and was against the arrest of Captain Saldon Pereira Filho. The operation was intended to explode low-powered bombs in toilets in Vila Militar, in the Military Academy of Agulhas Negras, in Resende, and in some other military barracks in order to protest against the low salary that the military received at the time.*

Bolsonaro is said to have drawn the sketch of where the bomb would be placed on the water adductor Guandu, which supplies water to the municipality of Rio de Janeiro. The magazine handed the material over to the then Minister of the Army who, after four months of investigation, concluded that the report was correct [...]. The Military Justification Council (CJM) unanimously considered, on April 19, 1988, that Bolsonaro was guilty and that his behavior was ‘incompatible with the status of an Army official and consequently he should lose the rank, under the terms of article 16, item I of law nº 5836/72.

As a matter of fact, his insolence, his effrontery and disrespect for democratic institutions and the suffering of those affected by the coronavirus is not much different from acts of terrorism.

- *But he is not corrupt.*

Bolsonaro was incompatible with the military position he had, but managed to sit in the chair of the Presidency of the Republic due to three negative facts: 1) the rejection of the previous President Lula, who was in prison for corruption, 2) Bolsonaro was stabbed during the campaign for the Presidency, what turned him into a victim, 3) not having participated in the debates on TV among candidates. As pointed out above he does not know how to debate, but only to impose his opinion, he does not know how to live with anyone who thinks differently from him. His will must always prevail.

- *But he is not corrupt.*

Against his own words mentioned above, Bolsonaro considers himself a Messiah – fortunately it is not the “bessias” that the former President Dilma Rousseff said she had for Lula not to be arrested – who came to save Brazil from communism and leftists. Therefore, he thinks he is above good and evil. It doesn't matter what he did or did not do or what he does or does not do. What matters is the divine task that he thinks he has to carry out to make Brazil right. So much so that

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his motto, which appears even in government advertisements, is: “Brazil above everyone, God above all”. Respect for those who do not pray his catechism – recognition of diversity, communion and so on – is beside the point. After all, in Bolsonaro’s own words:

- I am not corrupt

Really? Poor country whose President is a Jair Messias Bolsonaro!

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