

A case of discourse-pragmatic variation: non-embedded *que*-clauses in three dialect varieties of Spanish

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This paper presents a corpus-based interactional analysis of non-embedded indicative *que*-clauses (IQC) in three regional varieties of Spanish (Madrid, Spain; Santiago de Chile, Chile; and Buenos Aires, Argentina), using data from the corpus COLA (Corpus Oral del Lenguaje Adolescente). On the one hand, I show that IQCs exhibit regional variation regarding the discourse contexts in which they appear: not all contexts are equally available for each regional variety. Moreover, I argue that this variation can be placed on a cline that ranges from high discourse dependency to low discourse dependency, which might, in turn, suggest a divergent evolution of IQCs in the dialectal spectrum of Spanish. On the other hand, this analysis complements previous typologies of IQCs in two respects: (i) it describes the discourse contexts in which different types of IQCs are used, and (ii) it shows specific contexts and interpretations that had not been explicitly acknowledged in existing studies.