

# Grammaticalization of the Discourse Adverb *Equis* in Mexican Spanish

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In my presentation, I will present new data from young speakers of Mexican Spanish who have reanalysed very recently the linguistic item *equis* ‘some, any’ as a discourse adverb that expresses speaker’s indifference ‘I don’t care’ (see 1):

- (1) A: No es Dora, Es Nora. A: It’s not Dora, it’s Nora. B: Equis! ‘I don’t care!’ (Mexican Spanish)

The item *equis* has different functions in Mexican Spanish. It can be used as an existential quantifier with free choice meaning ‘every possibility is an option’:

- (2) Si por *equis* razón no vas a venir, me avisas. (Mexican Spanish)  
‘If for any reason you cannot come, inform me.’  
Free Choice Meaning: For every reason you cannot come, you should inform me.

I will suggest that there is a link between the discourse adverb meaning in (1) and the free choice meaning ‘any’ in (2). As will be shown in the talk, the appearance of the discourse adverb is the result of scope shift in the domain of speaker’s indifference. When *equis* modifies a noun, the indifference has scope over the nominal domain and when *equis* is used as a discourse adverb, speaker’s indifference has scope over a sentential domain. I will spell out this proposal more precisely and show how it can capture other instances of grammaticalization processes.