

Independent *si*-Clauses in Spanish: Functions and Consequences for Insubordination

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When I wrote a dissertation that focused (mainly) on the Spanish conditional marker *si* 'if' and its myriad contexts of use (Schwenter 1999), I didn't realize that I'd stumbled upon what (now years later) people would end up calling "insubordination" (e.g. Evans 2007; Verstraete et al. 2012). While there were already a number of papers on somewhat similar phenomena in other languages in the mid- to late-1990s the term "insubordination" was not being used in the widespread way it is now and there was certainly no vision for a symposium dedicated to the broader phenomenon.

In this presentation I will trace the work that preceded mine on insubordination in Spanish conditionals, from the very old, yet extremely insightful comments, of the Venezuelan grammarian Andrés Bello in 1847 to the more modern precursor of my work (Almela Pérez 1985). I will also provide a general sketch of what my findings were on the use of subordinate-marked *si* clauses as independent declaratives, with an emphasis on their very particular discourse function in dialogue contexts. I will go on to examine in more depth the prosodic properties of "independent *si*-clauses" (Schwenter 1996), which were not a focus of my prior work. Finally, I will also explicate the consequences of the (supposed) insubordination process for the creation of a new adversative connective *si* identical in form but very different in function from the conditional marker (Schwenter 2000). The development of this adversative function has led to other, related uses of *si* that ultimately can be related back to the insubordination process. The more general question for discussion to emerge from my talk will be this: What happens to subordination markers once they begin to appear in contexts of insubordination?