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**Title:** A multi-layered approach to speech events: the case of Spanish justificational conjunctions  
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**Abstract:** I will describe the structural and semantic characteristics of the Spanish causal conjunctions *como* (as, since), *ya que* (as, since), and *pues* (for). I will argue that, unlike predicative causal conjunctions like *porque* (because), they function as speech event markers. This difference will be related to Peirce's semiotic distinction between symbolic and indexical signs. A speech event will be defined as a three-dimensional event, including a modal, interpersonal and sequential dimension. The three justificational conjunctions give the same indication at the sequential dimension: they identify the speech event as an act of justification. I will show that what further distinguishes the three conjunctions from each other can be analyzed in terms of the other two dimensions. I will argue that *pues* activates both the modal and the interpersonal dimension, that *ya que* activates the modal dimension but de-activates the interpersonal dimension, and that *como* de-activates both the modal and the interpersonal dimension. I will show that this analysis can explain certain typical pragmatic effects, for instance why *pues* marks the information that follows as new, why *ya que* allows special uses like irony or is frequently used to introduce quotations, and why *como* presents the information as taken for granted. In the concluding section, I will argue that the framework is not only suited to describe Spanish causal conjunctions, but has a broader theoretical and descriptive scope.  
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