

Record in the Commens Bibliography. Retrieved from  
[http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal\\_article/goethals-patrick-2010-multi-layered-approach-speech-events-case-spanish](http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal_article/goethals-patrick-2010-multi-layered-approach-speech-events-case-spanish), 23.01.2026.

**Type:** Article in Journal  
**Author:** Goethals, Patrick  
**Title:** A multi-layered approach to speech events: the case of Spanish justificational conjunctions  
**Year:** 2010  
**Journal:** Journal of Pragmatics  
**Volume:** 42  
**Issue:** 8  
**Pages:** 2204-2218  
**Keywords:** Language, Linguistics, Spanish, Pragmatics, Symbol, Index  
**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.  
**Language:** English