

***Cualunque* in Argentinian Spanish and *qualunque* in Italian**
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In our talk, we will compare *cualunque* in Argentinian Spanish (A.Sp.) (see Rizzo Salierno 2013) and *qualunque* in Italian (It.) (see Aloni & Port 2013, Kellert submitted¹) and argue in line with Rizzo Salierno (2013) that A.Sp. *cualunque* was borrowed from It. *qualunque* and changed its semantic and syntactic properties in modern A.Sp. (see the difference in 1 and 2). We will argue that this change in A.Sp. reflects a general lexicalization process of indefinites into gradable adjectives which can be observed with other indefinites in A.Sp. such as *cualquiera* (Kellert in preparation), *equis* in Mexican Spanish (Kellert, submitted²) and *quelconque* in French (see Vlachou 2012).

In Italian, the Free Choice Indefinite *qualunque* can be used as a quantificational determiner in modal contexts with the meaning ‘any’ as shown in 1a.) (see Aloni & Port 2013, Kellert submitted¹) or as a postnominal quantificational modifier in predicative contexts with the meaning ‘ordinary/common’ (see 1b.). However, *qualunque* has not been reanalyzed as an adjective in Italian as degree modification or coordination with other adjectives does not apply there (see 1 b.):

- (1) a. Puoi darmi un libro *qualunque*. It.
 can give me a book any
 ‘You can give me any (kind of) book.’
 b. *sono una ragazza (*molto) qualunque*
 be a girl very any
 ‘I’m a normal/ordinary girl’

Cualunque in A.Sp. can be used in postnominal position (2a) as in Italian (see 1b.), be modified by degree adverbs (2b in contrast to Italian in 1b.) and undergo coordination (see 2c):

- (2) a. *es una flaca cualquiere*
 a skinny woman ordinary
 ‘she is an ordinary skinny woman’
 b. *es re/muy cualquiere*
 is very ordinary
 ‘it is very ordinary/bad’
 c. *sencillo y cualquiere como cualquier otro*
 ‘simple and ordinary like any other’

Our contribution to this talk will be empirical and theoretical. We will provide corpus data and native speaker judgements that will show the distribution of *cualunque* and compare it to *cualquiera*, another free choice indefinite that shows the same characteristics as *cualunque* in 2). We will then suggest an analysis how the syntactic and semantic change from indefinite into degree adjective took place in Argentinian Spanish by showing how indefinites with a free choice interpretation interact with copula verbs such as *ser*, *parecer*, *resultar* ‘be, become’.

Society, vol. 1, 29–42. Amherst, MA: GLSA. **Kellert, O.** (submitted¹) The Evaluative Reading of the indefinite *qualunque* in (Old)Italian. Gianollo, C. et al. (eds.) RED. **Kellert, O.** (submitted²). Semantic and syntactic change of *equis* in Mexican Spanish. Remus, G. et al (eds.). FoSe2. **Salierno, M. R. (2013).** El uso adjetivo de cualquiera. In A. Di Tullio (ed.), Aproximaciones al estudio del español de la Argentina. Universidad Nacional del Comahue. **Vlachou, E. 2012.** Delimiting the class of free choice items in a comparative perspective: Evidence from the database of French and Greek free choice items. *Lingua*, 122, 1523-1568.