

Determined Last names Spanish

Renato García González - Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas - UNAM

Ana Clara Polakof - Universidad de la República/Sistema Nacional de Investigadores

Introduction: we have shown (García González and Polakof 2025) that last names can appear with the definite article without gender restrictions, as in (1), and defended that a pejorative effect arises due to a conversational implicature.

1. El Ojeda es un fake. (<https://x.com/Goicoydiezmas/status/1855593815920304401>)
'The Ojeda is a fake.' (US)

In this present talk, we continue to explore the behavior of last names with other determiners.

Our goals: I) to show that the meaning of affective (Lakoff, 1974) determined last names can be explained if we assume that the said determiners are identity functions with different presuppositions, and ii) that the violation of those presuppositions gives rise to a conversational implicature which usually shields an affective reading of the complex DP (Lakoff, 1974)

The data

2. Este Manini es un pillo (<https://x.com/EllocoKaiser1/status/1825868645811003403>)
'This[+s] Manini is a crook'
3. Esa Sheinbaum es una vergüenza para las mujeres
(https://x.com/Dai_Lucero23/status/1976863126328148231)
'This[+a] is an embarrassment for the women'
4. No le gusta la frase de su Mujica
(<https://x.com/tomas031017/status/1927460488448819481>)
'She doesn't like her Mujica phrase'
5. Chinga tú madre Claudia! Tú y tu López Obrador y todo tu partido nido de ratas!!!!!!
(<https://x.com/GabrielaRCM/status/1984973429888487831>)
'F*ck your mother Claudia! You and your López Obrador and your whole party rat net'

The analysis: determiners that combine with proper nouns must be identity functions with presuppositions:

6. $[[\text{def article}]] = \lambda X_{\langle e \rangle} : |X| = 1 . X_{\langle e \rangle}$ (inspired by García González and Polakof, 2025)
7. $[[\text{prox dem}]] = \lambda X_{\langle e \rangle} : |X| > 1 \ \& \ X \text{ is proximal to the a/s. } X_{\langle e \rangle}$ (Polakof, 2025)
8. $[[\text{Possesive}]] = \lambda X_{\langle e \rangle} : |X| = 1 \ \& \ X \text{ is possessed by the a/s. } X_{\langle e \rangle}$ (inspired by Eguren, 2018)

If at least one presupposition is violated an affective reading arises (Polakof, 2025). The said affective reading arises due to the violations of different maxims. With the definite article, the maxim of manner (Grice, 1975), and the maxim of minimization (Levinson, 1988) are violated. With proximal demonstratives, the maxim of quality (Grice, 1975), and minimization (Levinson, 1988) are violated. With possessives of third and second person, the three previously mentioned maxims are violated.

Remarks: affective determined reading in Spanish arise due to conversational implicatures.

References García González, R y Polakof A (2025) Last names with the definite in Uruguayan and Mexican Spanish, presentation at NBPB 2 workshop México/Eguren, L. (2018). Evaluative pronominal possessives in Spanish. *Borealis—An International Journal of Hispanic Linguistics*, 7(1), 1-26./Grice, H. P. (1975). Logic and conversation. *Syntax and semantics*, 3, 43-58N. (2020)./Lakoff, Robin. 1974. Remarks on this and that. *Chicago Linguistic Society* 10: 345–356./Levinson, S. C. (1998). Minimization and conversational inference. In *Pragmatics: Vol. 4 Presupposition, implicature and indirect speech acts* (pp. 545-612). Routledge/Polakof, Ana. 2025. Mecanismos de peyoración: el caso de los demostrativos, conference given at VI Encuentro de Lingüístico Formal in Ciudad de México September 2025.