The non-canonical use of *adiós* in Puerto Rican Spanish

This paper proposes an analysis of the Puerto Rican discourse particle *adiós* as an exclamative sentence marker.

In Puertorrican Spanish, *adiós* is used to mean *goodbye*. This paper is concerned with another use of *adiós* as a discourse particle (glossed ‘DP’).

(1) Context: María was invited to a party and Carlos was sad because she said that she would not be able to attend. However, when Carlos was at the party she also came. He said:

\[
\text{¡Adiós vin -iste a la fiesta.} \\
\text{DP come-2\textsuperscript{nd}SG.PRET to the party.}
\]

‘Hey you came to the party.’

**Felicity conditions of *adiós***: The discourse particle *adiós* can only occur if the speaker expects the prejacent of *adiós* to be false. In (1), the prejacent is ‘viniste a la fiesta’(you came to the party). In this example, *adiós* is felicitous because Carlos did not expect María to come.

Without the established expectation *adiós* is not felicitous. Carlos’s utterance in (1) is not acceptable in example (2):

(2) Context: María was invited to a party and she told Carlos that she was going. When Carlos was at the party she also came. He said:

\[
\text{¡Adiós vin -iste a la fiesta.} \\
\text{DP come-2\textsuperscript{nd}SG.PRET to the party.}
\]

‘Hey you came to the party.’

**Adiós as an exclamative**: Rett (2008) defines exclamative expressions as having two requirements:

“The utterance of an exclamation is expressively correct if its content is salient and the speaker finds this content surprising (or contrary to expectations)”. The illocutionary force of the exclamation is what differs them from assertions, they are uttered with emphasis and falling intonation. As Rett (2008) describes, the speaker believes the content of the exclamation and wants to communicate that it is surprising through the illocutionary force of the exclamation. Furthermore, according to Gutiérrez-Rexach and Andueza (2011) and Rett (2008) there is a distinction between proposition exclamations and exclamatives.

The proposition exclamations are expressed with declarative sentences, which have a content that is salient, and the speaker finds it surprising as showed in example (1). Proposition exclamations can be considered exclamatives from a prosodic and illocutionary point of view, and because of the expectation that is contrary to speaker. Meanwhile exclamatives are expressed with *wh*-clauses, definite DPs and inversion constructions that have a salient content about a degree, and that degree exceeds a contextually relevant standard like in example (3). (Rett 2008)

(3) Context: Laura has a friend, Manuel, which she has been talking about constantly. Sara said she wanted to meet him and Laura arranged a lunch. When Sara saw Manuel, who turned out to be 6ft. and 5in. tall, she said to Laura:

\[
\text{¡Adiós Manuel es bien alto!} \\
\text{DP Manuel is very tall}
\]

Hey John is very tall!

Nevertheless, Sara’s utterance is unacceptable if the contextualized standard is not exceeded like in example (4):

(4) Context: Laura has a friend, Manuel, which she has been talking about constantly. Sara said she wanted to meet him and Laura arranged a lunch. When Sara saw Manuel, who turned out to be 5ft. and 7in. tall, she said to Laura:

\[
\text{¡Adiós Manuel es bien alto!} \\
\text{DP Manuel is very tall}
\]

Hey John is very tall!

**Surprise in exclamative expressions**: In her article, Rett (2008) proposes that both proposition exclamations and exclamatives, although having different domains, have the same value: an
expression of surprise. Likewise, Gutiérrez-Rexach and Andueza (2011) point out that exclamative expressions must have a salient content and the speaker must find that content surprising. The surprise of exclamatives is required to some extent. As Rett explains, according to Kratzer (p.c.) “an expressively correct utterance of an exclamative doesn’t require that the speaker himself be surprised at the content of the exclamations. He need only consider it surprising in some capacity”. Examples (1) and (3) show that the speaker is surprised at the content of the exclamative expression. In (1) Carlos is surprised because María came to the party after all and example (3) shows Sara’s surprise that Manuel exceed the height relative to a contextual standard.

**Exclamative sentences do not have asserted content:** According to Rett (2008), Castroviejo-Miró (2006) claims that exclamatives do not assert their propositional content. Zanuttini and Portner (2003) also claim that exclamatives cannot form felicitous answers to interrogatives because their content is presupposed rather than asserted and questions require assertions as answers. This predicts that exclamative expressions with adiós cannot address a question as in (5) where, even though Carlos has a clear expectation that is not met, the expression is still infelicitous.

(5) Context: Carlos and María are invited to a party. María said that she can’t come. Carlos is at the party and Juan asks Carlos: “Where is María?” As Carlos starts to answer, he sees María at the party.

He says:

```plaintext
¡Está aquí!
She is here!
```

However, in certain cases adiós can be felicitous as in (6), where the exclamative content is relevant and the question is answered indirectly.

(6) Context: Carlos and María are invited to a party. María said that she can’t come. Carlos is at the party and Juan asks Carlos: “Where is María?” As Carlos starts to answer, he sees María at the party.

He says:

```plaintext
¡Adiós está aquí!
Hey she is here!
```

Exclamatives across languages: Wh-exclamatives like *What a car Ana bought!* are very common crosslinguistically. According to Rett (2008b) they can be found in Basque, Dutch, French, Chinese, German, Greek, Italian, Romanian, Russian, Turkish, and Spanish (Gutiérrez-Rexach and Andueza 2011). Nominal exclamatives, *(Oh) The car Ana bought!* are also fairly common in most languages. However, inversion exclamatives like *(Boy) Did Ana bought a car!* are relatively rare. Mandarín exclamatives have two types of exclamatives and not all of them have to express surprise. (Badan and Lai-Shen Cheng 2015). As for English (Rett 2008) and Spanish (Gutiérrez-Rexach and Andueza 2011), they both have proposition exclamations that are considered exclamatives from a prosodic and illocutionary point of view.

We conclude that in Puerto Rican Spanish, adiós can be used as a discourse particle and when used as such, it becomes an exclamative sentence marker. Adiós is uttered in exclamative expressions, either a degree construction or a proposition exclamations, where the expected content is not realized. Finally, an exclamative expression with adiós can be used to answer questions indirectly.