

# *Dizque* and *quesque* from evidentials to insufficiency markers

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## The reportative meaning

*Dizque* (developed from the verb *decir* 'say' and the complementizer *que*) 'supposedly, allegedly' has been analyzed as a *purely* evidential marker (reported speech and hearsay) with a notion of doubt implied in *some* contexts (Travis 2006)

*Dizque* developed into an evidential strategy (Miglio 2010)

Diachronic evolution of *dizque*:

- 1) 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century- First uses, reportative inanimates: books, documents
- 2) 12<sup>th</sup> century – Hearsay (*dicitur*) they say that, it is said that (impersonal form)
- 3) 15<sup>th</sup> century – Mistrust in the reported information

### *Reportative*

- (1) En el cviiijo Capitulo **dize que** se quisieron alçar los de valencia contra Abenjab  
'In chapter 108 **it says** [personal form?] that the people of Valencia wanted to revolt against Abenjab [...].

### *Hearsay (dicitur)*

- (2) Era mal quista; tebas de su frontera. Cuemo **diz que** mal debdo; a mal tiempo espera.  
'Thebes was not well liked by neighboring cities. **As they say**, a bad debt invites bad times (i.e., what comes around goes around)'

### *Mistrust in the reported information*

- (3) y a los yndios que de aca yban con los christianos **diz que** guardaron para comer  
'And the Indians that left here with the Christians they kept **they say** in order to eat them, but the Christians they would throw in the lagoon because they say that they have tried them and their flesh is hard and bitter.'

## The problem:

- *Dizque* is dominantly reportative.  
    <REPORTED SPEECH---DOUBT> *dizque* fits within this spectrum. (Travis 2006)
- A purely evidential marker, encoding reported speech and hearsay
- With a notion of doubt implied in **some contexts**

## Travis' (2006) overall results:

- Reported speech 43% --- source construction introduces an utterance attributable to some source
- Hearsay 42% --- not to report a specific speech act but to imply that there is an external source (it is said that)
- Labeling 12% --- (the 'so-called') introduces nominal elements (La *dizque* ley) does not make reference to a source, but simply indicates that this term is not attributed to the speaker.
- Dubitative 3% --- no longer attributes reference to any source *dizque* encodes the speaker's doubt

**Reported / hearsay** > labeling (rarely) > dubitative (exceptional)

- *Dizque* keeps the Spanish XV Century structure and meaning.

## Proposal:

- Pretending and questioning veracity are the core meanings of *dizque*
- The reportative meaning is dying out

*Dizque* has two basic components

1. A reportative part
  2. A questioning part with respect to the veracity of events and things (needs not be declared by someone).
- The source of information has become less relevant than the veracity of the information
  - Questioning of veracity has become the core meaning of *dizque*

Questioning veracity comes from two sources:

- a) Events or things *lack some nuclear properties* to be categorized as member of a category
- b) Subjects or events are seen as *pretending* an alternative representation and a deceiving intention can be implied.

**a) Things lacking properties**

- (4) algún vago como, digamos, el Yaraguán, que trajo un **dizque** compás marino, que resultó ser un visor de fotos (CREA Press,1985)  
'Some slacker like, lets say, the Yaraguan, that brought a **dizque (pseudo)** marine compass'
- (5) E: ¿De qué religión eres?  
I: Católico / **dizque** católico / pero nunca me paro a la Iglesia (risas) (CSCM)  
'E: Which religion do you practice?'  
'I: Catholic / well **dizque (supposedly)** catholic / but I never go to church (laughining)'

## b) Pretending

- i) Participants take alternative representations
  - ii) Participants do actions insufficiently and take alternative representations (implication: deceiving)
- (6) No, señor, esas encuestas eran amañadas por sus **dizque** amigos que se ganaron millonadas de dólares (CREA Fiction, 1995)  
'No sir, those surveys were manipulated by his **dizque (pseudo)** friends, that received millions of dollars'
- (7) a los nuevos los mandan a dormir/ **dizque** a dormir/ pero es para este/ agarrarlos/ en (titubea)/ cuando están en su/ en su cama (CSCM, 2011)  
'the send new ones to sleep/ **dizque to sleep (pretend to sleep)** / but is just to take advantage of them / while they are "in bed"



## Deceiving

- (8) Toda la vida borracho ahí... ¿qué hace? **Dizque** trabajaba de noche (CSCM, 2011)  
'All the time drunk there... what does he do for a leaving? He **dizque (supposedly) "works"** at night'
- (9) y a sudar frío en la escuela. Acá en la casa **dizque** estoy enfermo de la garganta, pero la verdad es otra es la pura paranoia (CREA Fiction, 1976)  
'...and sweating at school. Here at home I have **dizque (pretend)** sore throat, but that's not true, its all paranoia'

## The reportative problem

Majority of reportatives (Travis)

In all cases where reportatives are found the questioning part is dominant

- (10) le rogamos, se emperró en quedarse en el hotel, **dizque** porque uno de sus dientes de cera se le estaba ablandando con el calor, pero **yo creo** que fue por miedo a que no la dejaran entrar (CREA Fiction, 1999)  
'We beg him to go, but he decided to stay at the hotel, **dizque (supposedly, he said)** because one of his wax teeth was melting with the outside heat, **but I think** that it was because he was afraid that of not being allowed in'
- (11) en el propedéutico/ **dizque** también te dan tu este// entrada/ a todas las licenciaturas/ **pero no es cierto** (CSCM, 2011)  
'...if you take the intro course they **dizque (supposedly)** take you in every program/ **but that is not true**'

## Travis' Reported Speech

(12) a. nos dijo a Beatriz y a mí que  
1pl.dat say-3sg.pret to Beatriz and to me comp

b. la acompañáramos al cementerio  
3sg. acc accompany-1pl.sjv to the cemetery  
Campos de Paz,  
Campos de Paz

c. Porque **dizque** iba a enterrar a una persona.  
because dizque go-3sg.impf to bury-inf to one person

'She said to Beatriz and me that we should go with her to the  
'Fields of Peace' cemetery, because **dizque (supposedly)** she was going  
to bury a person.'

(Castro Caycedo 1994: 194–195)

## Travis' Hearsay

(13) A: . . . Por ejemplo, el a- -- aquí el alcalde, Todo lo que ha hecho, Y. -- y ahorita, **dizque** ya lo están investigando.

'A:...For example, the mayor here, all that he's done, and now, **dizque (supposedly)** he's under investigation.'

## Reportativity Test

Replacing *dizque* for *que*

- (14) a. Que asqueaban con sus dedos llenos de mezquinos, **dizque** por señalar el arcoiris. ¡Bah! Sin disimulo (CREA Fiction, 1993)
- b. Que asqueaban con sus dedos llenos de mezquinos, **que** por señalar el arcoiris  
'It was gross to see their fingers full with warts, **dizque/que** that supposedly appear because they pointed to the rainbow'

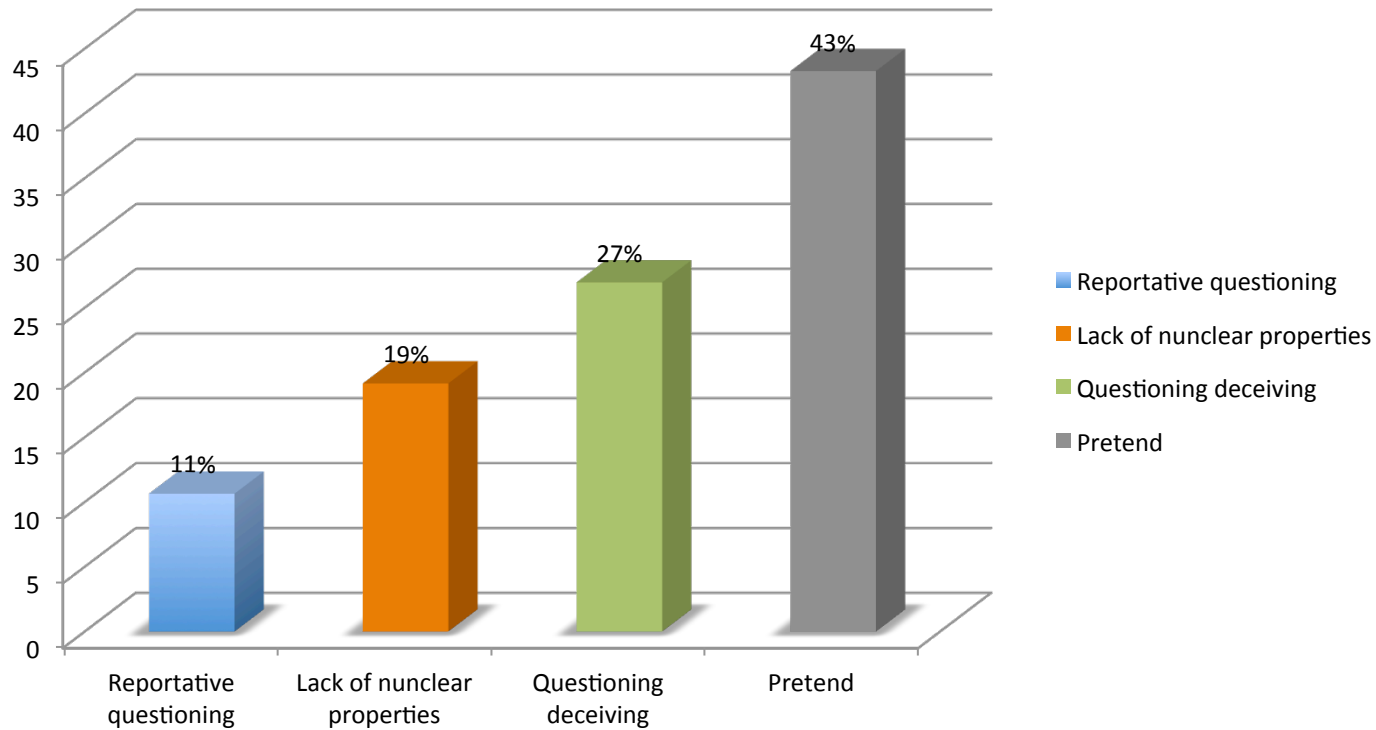
## Pretend

- (15) a. Sara, Jorge quiere poner ahí **dizque** su oficina. Ésa es la nueva ocurrencia (CREA Fiction, 1984)
- b. \* Sara, Jorge quiere poner ahí **que** su oficina. Ésa es la nueva ocurrencia  
'Sara, Jorge wants to have his **dizque/\*que** office. That's his new bright idea'
- (16) a. A los seis meses de andar **dizque** gobernando se puso enfermo.(CREA Fiction, 1995)
- b. \* A los seis meses de andar **que** gobernando se puso enfermo. Quiso ir a curarse  
'After six months in the **dizque/\*que** government he became ill. He wanted to go the get treatment'

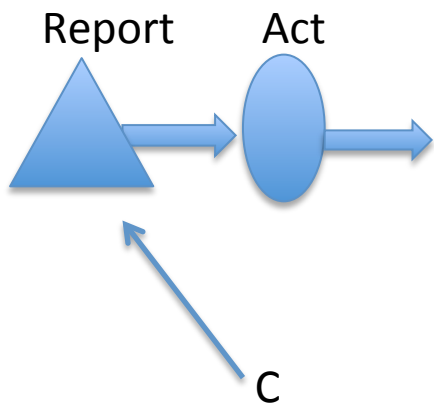
## Deceive

- (17) a. para dictar alocadas y demagógicas medidas **dizque** para controlar la crisis y la inflación. (CREA Fiction, 1995)
- b. \* para dictar alocadas y demagógicas medidas **que** para controlar la crisis  
'To establish demagogic solutions **dizque/\*que** to control the crisis'

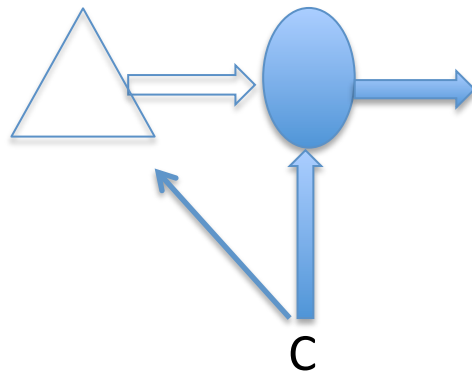
## Current usages of *dizque* (Mexican Spanish)



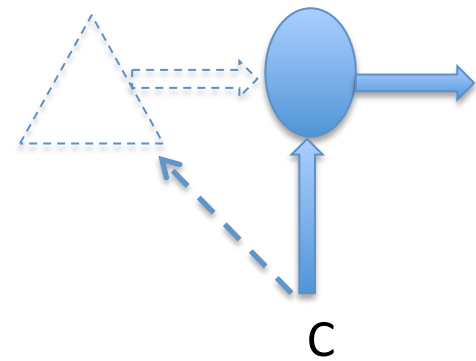
	Percentages	Raw numbers N=141
Reportative questioning	11%	15
Lack of nuclear properties	19%	27
Questioning deceiving	27%	38
Pretend	43%	61
	100%	141



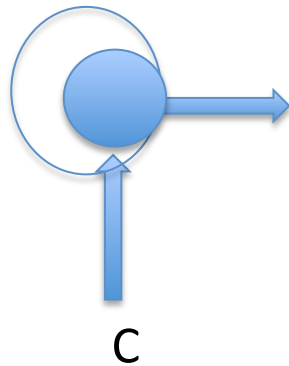
Reportative



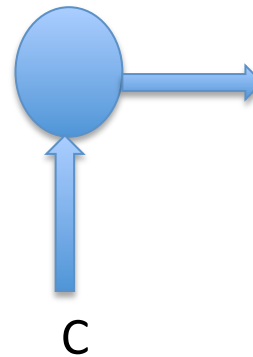
Reportative questioning



Questioning deceiving

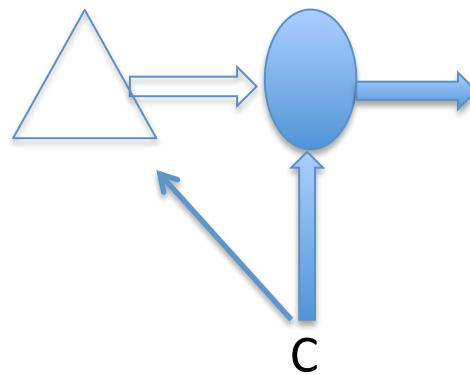
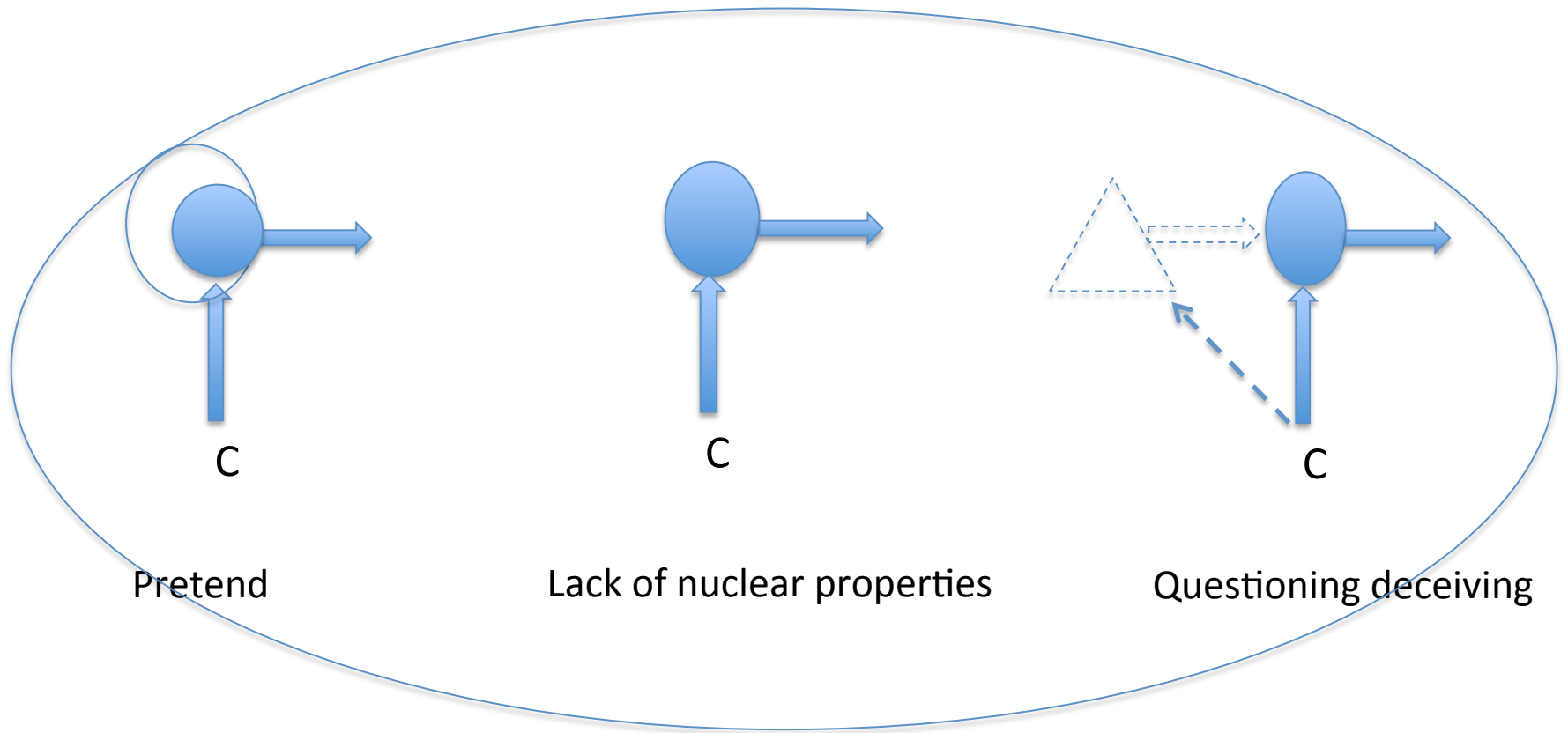


Pretend



Lack of nuclear properties





Reportative questioning

## What ever happened to the reportative meaning?

The conjunction *que* became part of the construction to retrieve the reportative meaning.

The reportative nature of *que*:

- (18)      ¿**Que** ya no fumas?  
            ‘That you quit smoking? (They say)’
  
- (19)      **Que** lo corrieron del trabajo  
            ‘He say/They say that they fired him’

## The *que dizque* construction

The reportative is brought back by *que*.

- (20) mejor dicho regalaron" las empresas del Estado **que dizque** "pagaron" y si lo hicieron fue a menos de diez (CREA Press, 1996)  
'better said they gave away the estate corporations **que dizque (they said that they supposedly)** "payed" and if they did it was less than 10 pesos per stock'
- (21) me lo podría decir con todo derecho, no me lo dice **que dizque** porque me quiere mucho, y usted que es mi hijo (CREA Fiction, 1991)  
'he could have said it to me, but he doesn't say it **que dizque (supposedly, they say)** because he loves me and you are my son'

## ***Quesque***

### **The emergence of a new marker in Mexican Spanish**

Two possible explanations:

- 1) A weakened explicative

*(que) es que > quesque*

- 2) Kany's (1944) weakening reportative :

*quesque* comes from *que (d)izque*

$d > 0, ei > e$

- What we have is a phonological and semantic weakening process:

*Que dizque > quesque*

- *Quesque* is a weak reportative

## Uses of *quesque*

### Reportative questioning

- (22) **dizque** porque la educación empezaba en la cima o **quesque** porque el llorar era bueno para sus pulmones (CREA Fiction, 1999).  
'**supposedly** because education started at the peak or **quesque (they say)** because crying is good for your lungs'

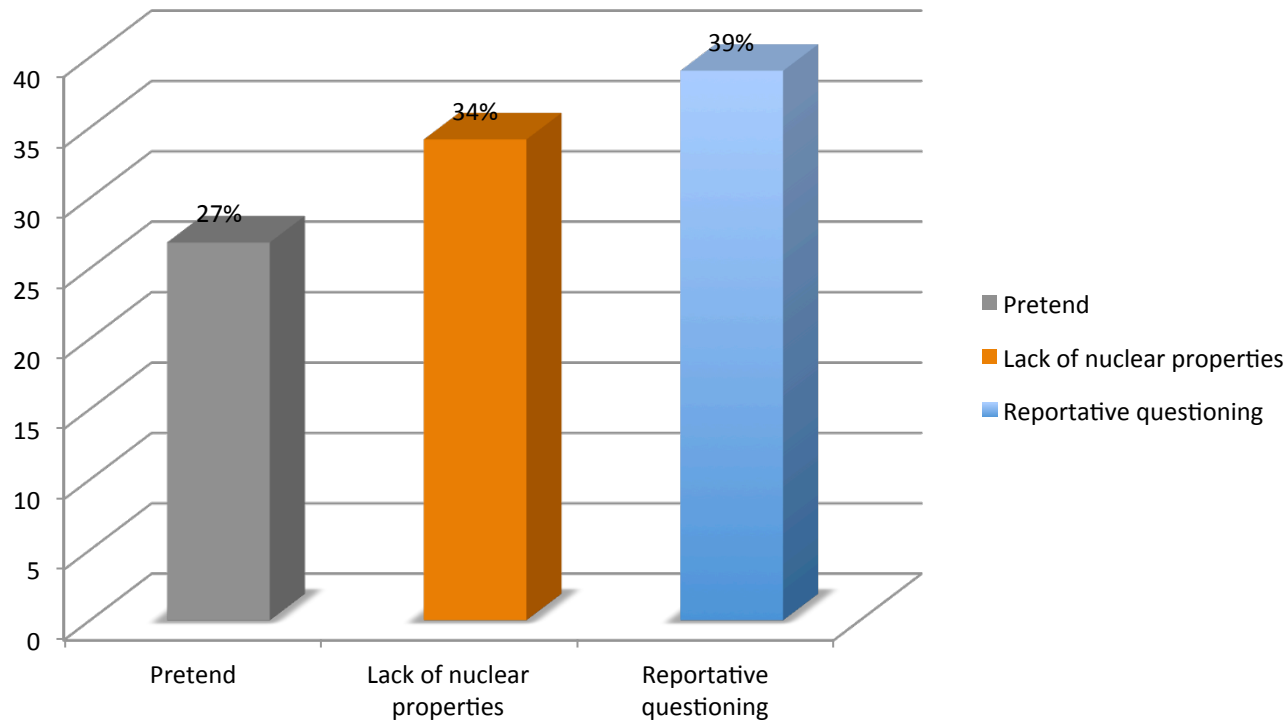
### Lack of nuclear properties

- (23) luego luego lo llevaron **quesque** a un hospital/ y que no sé qué y ya regresó y/ pero/ así encima de la ropa/ una venda/ así nada más sobrepuesta (CSCM, 2011)  
'and right after they took him to a **quesque (pseudo)** hospital'

### Pretending

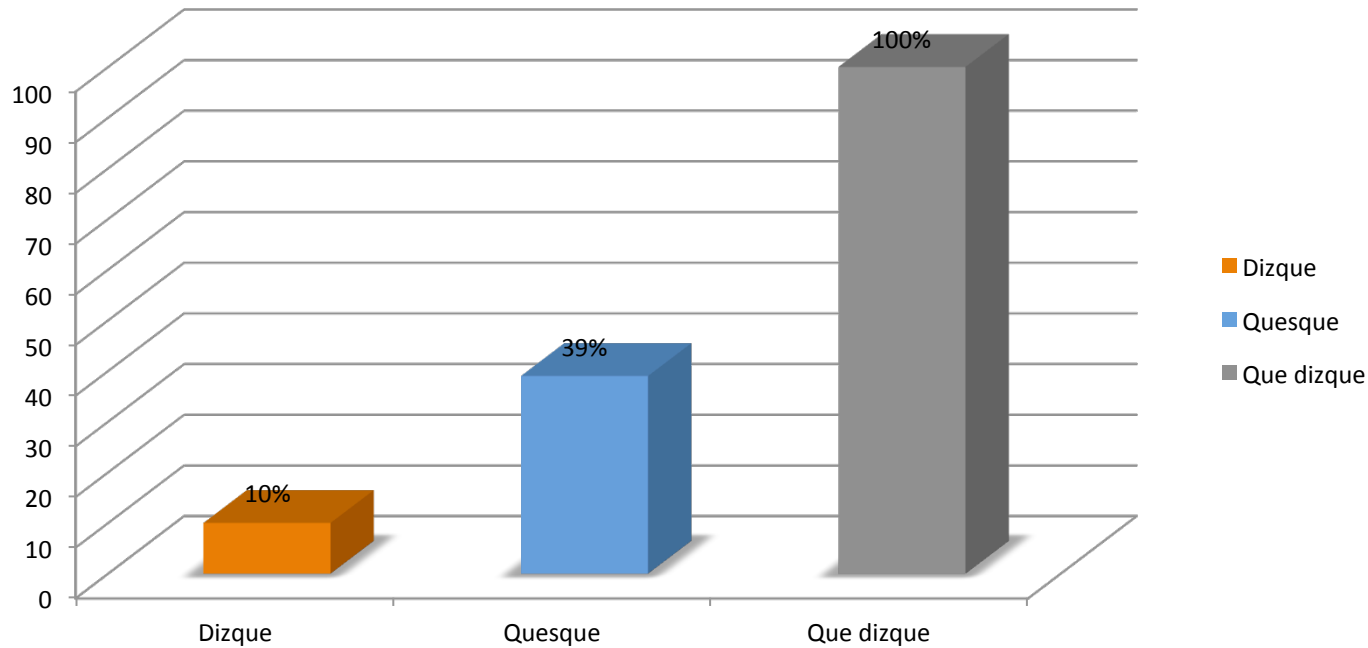
- (24) El primer día que fuimos **quesque** a posar, como dicen, fue, ora verá usted... (CREA Fiction, 1999)  
'The first day that we went to **quesque (pseudo) model**, as they say, was, lets see...'

## Current uses of *quesque* (Mexican Spanish)



	Percentages	Raw numbers N=41
Pretend	27%	11
Lack of nuclear properties	34%	14
Reportative questioning	39%	16
	100%	41

## Reportative questioning function on *dizque*, *quesque* and *que dizque*



	Percentages for each marker	Percentages out of all data N=210
Dizque	10% (15/141)	7% (7/210)
Quesque	39% (16/41)	8% (16/210)
Que dizque	100% (28/28)	13% (28/210)

*Que dizque* corresponds to 100% of instances

## Miglio (2010)

17<sup>th</sup> century- **Mirative** meaning of *dizque* (emotionally charged, surprising, unexpected information)

- (25) [...] **diz que** era pobre como yo soy abadesa.  
‘[...] **diz que** he was as poor as I am an abbess (i.e., he maintained he was poor, but I am obviously not convinced!).’

In questioning veracity how is reportativeness being preserved?  
Through *que*

*que dizque > quesque > dizque*



Evidentials and insufficiency markers in current Mexican Spanish

REPORTATIVE MARKERS		INSUFFICIENCY MARKERS		
Reportative	Reportative Questioning	Lack of nuclear prop.	Questioning deceiving	Pretend
<div>&lt;-----QUE-----&gt;</div> <div>&lt;---QUE DIZQUE---&gt;</div> <div>&lt;-----QUESQUE-----&gt;</div> <div>&lt;-----DIZQUE-----&gt;</div> <div>&lt;QUESQUE&gt;</div>				

# Thank you!

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