Who makes the argument adversative?
Competition between narrator and protagonist

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Research on perspective in narratives shows that information may be allocated to the narrator or the protagonist (Doron 1991; Zeman 2018). The allocation of argumentative orientation (Anscombre & Ducrot 1977) has not yet been investigated thoroughly. We analyze adversatively introduced indirect speech in Spanish (*pero* ('but') + speech verb + indirect speech) as it instantiates the explicit intersection between narrator and protagonist and involves a salient marking of argumentative orientation. There is some discussion on the relative informative weight of the complement-taking clause compared to the subordinate clause (Thompson 2002), but the allocation of both parts to narrator and protagonist is uncontroversial (Declerck 2003). In accordance with syntax, the adversative connector, which precedes the main verb, is expected to indicate the argumentative stance of the narrator. E.g., in (1), the narrator evaluates what the protagonist says. However, as our data show, the argumentative orientation may also be contributed by the protagonist like in (2).

(1) *[D]ijo que [...] tenía que marcharse [...]. [...] claro que volvería;* **pero dijo <u>que</u>** <u>volvería</u> *[...] de una forma que estaba claro que no sabía cuándo iba a volver.* (CREA: Mendicutti 1995, p. 92)
'He said that he had to leave. Of course he would come back; but **he said <u>that</u>** <u>he would come back</u> in a way that it was clear that he did not know when he was going to come back.'

(2) *Solana agradeció el ofrecimiento,* **pero** *le* **dijo <u>que</u>** *[...]* <u>*no se planteaba*</u> <u>*volver a España*</u> *ya que, aunque hubiera querido, no podía dejar a medias su mandato al frente de la OTAN [...].* (CREA: López Alba 2002, p. 62)
'Solana thanked him for the offer, **but told** him **<u>that</u>** <u>he was not</u> <u>considering returning to Spain</u> because, even if he had wanted to, he could not leave his term at the head of NATO halfway through.'

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