This project investigates the meanings of Simple Past and Present Perfect in the so-called Rioplatense Spanish of Argentina.

In previous studies we have shown that there are sensitive differences in the use of Simple Past and Present Perfect in different speaking communities of Argentina. Nevertheless, the results prove that all the uses are consistent with the hypothesized meanings: CLOSED/OPEN TO THE SPEAKING SPHERE, respectively.

In the case of the Rioplatense Spanish, the Present Perfect has shown a surprising decrease in its use while the Simple Past includes the great majority of the discursive contexts. However, far from being a form that has fallen into disuse or that is only restricted to formal contexts, the Present Perfect remains current and has kept its vitality in specific and meaningful communicative contexts.

From a corpus of 300 Whatsapp messages of different rioplatense speakers, we will analyse new instances of Simple Past, but mainly of Present Perfect, given that until now we have worked with a scarce number of examples of this verb form. This research will enable us to (dis)prove the validity of the meanings attributed to the Simple Past and the Present Perfect in the Rioplatense Spanish, and their consistency with the different discursive contexts registered so far.