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Como (si) constructions in Spanish

The present study explores *como (si)* constructions in Mexican Spanish (e.g. *corre como liebre* ‘he runs like a hare’; *parece como si estuviera borracho* ‘it looks as if he were drunk’). The analysis is based on 1362 instances of six constructional schemas (with NPs as locatives or non-locatives) from The Corpus del Español NOW corpus (News on the Web). A preliminary analysis shows that epistemic judgment predicates (i.e., *escuchar* ‘to sound’, *mirar* ‘to look’, *ver* ‘to look’, *parecer* ‘to seem’, *sonar* ‘to sound’, *sentir* ‘to feel’, and *oler* ‘to smell’) tend to occur in *como* ‘like’ constructions (e.g. *se mira como Michael Jordan* ‘he looks like Michael Jordan’). On the other hand, the mistaken identity verb lemmas *actuar* ‘to act’ and *comportarse* ‘to behave’ tend to occur in *como si* ‘as if’ constructions. A number of semantic hypotheses are offered regarding the co-occurrence of these verbs in these constructional schemas.