

# CONSTRIDIOMS

A repository platform of constructional idioms in **German and Spanish** 

This is a snowclone

from the biblical

quotation *No solo de* 

pan vive el hombre

Snowclones are a subtype

of constructional idioms,

originating from lexically

fixed expressions that

evolve to include open

slots filled by variable

Hartmann 2024:218).

lexical items (Ungerer and

Carmen Mellado Blanco (USC) Caterina Chinellato (USC, University of Bologna)

### What the hell is a constructional idiom?

"Constructional idioms are (1) partially lexically filled constructions in which some constituents function as variable slots while others are fixed anchors. (2) Slots are renewed in discourse and may be constrained by phonological, morphological, lexical, or semantic preferences or restrictions. (3) Constructional idioms generally have a pragmatic or discursive meaning, (4) with prosody usually playing a fundamental role.

Depending on their place along the grammarlexicon continuum, (5) they can vary in idiomaticity and schematicity." (Mellado Blanco in press).

[What's X doing Y?] (Kay/Fillmore 1999)

Diner: Waiter, what's this fly doing in my soup?

[What's X doing Y] expresses acts of reprobation or reproach, conveying disapproval or criticism in context.

**EXAMPLE OF** 

**CONSTRUCTIONAL IDIOM** 

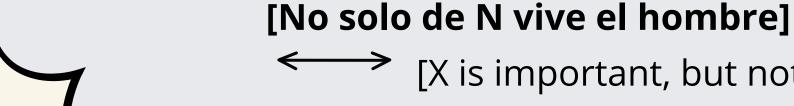
# Theoretical framework: CONSTRUCTION GRAMMAR

Construction Grammar (Goldberg 1995, 2006, 2009), a cognitive theory of language that defines constructions—form-meaning pairings—as the fundamental units of grammar. These constructions form a continuum from lexicon to syntax and can shift along this spectrum (Mellado Blanco, Esteban Fonollosa & Ivorra Ordínes 2024). Promoting cross-linguistic research in German and Spanish through the lens of Construction Grammar (CxG) is particularly relevant within this theoretical framework, as this perspective remains largely unexplored. Against this background, leading recent research started to fill this gap (Iglesias Iglesias, López Meirama, 2024; Esteban Fonollosa, 2024; Mellado Blanco, Dobrovol'skij, 2021).

## **Methodology: Corpus-based analysis**

Analysis of the 50 most frequent types in SketchEngine, identifying lexicalized constructions and assessesing the Construcciones equivalentes degree constructions' cognitive entrenchment and productivity (Mellado Blanco, 2020; Ivorra Ordínes, in press). This stage enables a holistic description of constructional idioms, focusing on their semanticpragmatic properties—particularly illocutionary function mapping horizontal relations among Spanish constructions (cf. Diessel 2023).

In order to identify equivalences, a Contrastive Unilateral Method is applied, evaluating the functional correspondences of constructions from L1 to L2 within linguistic contexts (Morciniec, 2001). Equivalent constructions in L2 are identified using PaGeS, a German-Spanish parallel corpus.



[X is important, but not sufficient on its own. Used humorously]

La Hora

No solo de política vive el hombre

septiembre 19, 2017

**Salvatore Foti** 

No sólo de cerveza vive el hombre

Resulta imposible no encontrarse con ellos y casi es un pecado en Inglaterra han sido desde hace siglos, no sólo templos de la encuentro y reunión.



DE SIETE EN SIETE Rafael Monje Periodista

No sólo de formación vive el hombre

Vords	Frequency	
an	455	No solo de par vive el hombre (Man shall not live by bread alone)
útbol	22	
ino	13	
umba	12	
núsica	10	
otos	8	
omida	7	
erveza	7	
arne	6	
mor	ε	
teratura	5	
olítica	5	

**Keep calm and explore CONSTRIDIOMS!** 



[Intensifying negation expressing exactly the opposite of what is expressed in the adjective or the nominal phrase]

[todo menos ADJ]; [nada ADJ]; [distar (mucho) de ser ADJ]; [cualquier cosa menos ADJ]; [no precisamente ADJ]

Ejemplos de las construcciones equivalentes (PaGeS)

[alles andere als X]

Ich weiß nicht, wie ich mich an deiner Stelle fühlen würde. Aber ich kann mir vorstellen, dass es alles andere als einfach für dich ist. [0054, 3, 23]

No sé cómo me sentiría si estuviera en tu lugar, pero imagino que es de todo menos fácil para ti. [0054, 3, 23]

Aber das hier war alles andere als eine alltägliche Situation. [0059, 3, 19]

Pero esta era una situación nada cotidiana. [0059, 3, 19]

Auch in den hochentwickelten Demokratien der Europäischen Union ist die Situation in den Gefängnissen alles andere als rosig und demokratisch. [Europarl, 16/05/2001]

Europea. [Europarl, 16/05/2001]

La situación en las cárceles también dista mucho de ser favorable y

democrática en las democracias altamente avanzadas de la Unión

Tatsächlich war es aber alles andere als beschaulich. [0006, 4, 11]

Pero, de hecho, era cualquier cosa menos apacible. [0006, 4, 11]

Engel hat sich übrigens bei den polnischen Kollegen ziemlich für mich ins Zeug gelegt. Die waren alles andere als begeistert von unserer eigenmächtigen Aktion.« [00007, Freitag, 1...]

Nicola Engel, por cierto, me defendió a capa y espada frente a la Policía polaca. No estaban precisamente entusiasmados con mi acción por cuenta propia. [00007, Viernes, 1...]