

## ***Marcher comme une reine/ Nager comme une sirène. Les verbes de déplacement et les compléments de manière en comme***

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**Abstract:** The aim of this paper is to explore the relation between lexical and syntactic encoding of manner in French by studying the combinatory potential of a small set of manner of motion verbs with comparative *comme* 'as' clauses (e.g. *Maria marche comme une reine*. 'Maria walks like a queen'). Following Stosic (2009), we assume that the manner interpretation of some motion verbs is due to the presence in their lexical meaning of some more basic features such as : SPEED (*courir* 'run'), BEARING/POSTURE (*marcher* 'walk', *boiter* 'limp'), FORCE (*jaillir* 'gush out'), AIMLESSNESS (*errer* 'wander about'). In accordance with Moline (2008), we hypothesize that the comparative *comme* clauses combined with such verbs instantiates the semantic feature that activates a manner interpretation of the studied verbs. We also take into account some motion verbs that do not express manner such as *monter* 'go up', *tomber* 'fall' and *descendre* 'go down' in order to bring to the fore the meaning of comparative *comme* clauses following them. This corpus-based study finally shows that in many cases there is a very strict correlation between manner features encoded by verbs and the meaning of *comme* clauses. However, this correlation does not always hold, owing to the fact that manner complementation can apply to many other features of the lexical meaning of the verb.

**Key words :** manner, motion, syntax and semantics, complementation, *comme* 'as' clauses