Abstract
This essay aims to describe the Mexican experience of local governments in order to determine whether they have innovated or imitated in public management. The way to tackle it would be under the following six schemes: First, it is an approach to understand innovation, which defined and classified using the most common types. Second, it differentiates the innovation forms in public management, based on Drucker’s (1985 and 2005) innovation in business. Third, it review the Metcalfe’s (1999) innovation ways in public management. Fourth, it describes the experience of the New Public Management (NPM) in fourteen state governments in Mexico, starting from their innovation strategies. Fifth, the innovations in local governments under the Mexican experience of Government and Local Management Award are analyzed in contrast the achieved results. Finally, the conclusion is the necessity to go from “imitation” to “innovation” in local governments.

Keywords
Innovation, public management, local governments, adoption, reform.