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| Nota di contenuto       | Frontmatter -- Foreword -- Contents -- 1. Overview -- 2.1<br>Introduction -- 2.2 Verbatim and Non-verbatim Topic Drop: Two Kinds |

of Topic Drop in German -- 2.3 An Empirical Basis for the VTD/NVTD Distinction -- 2.4 Structural Well-Formedness Conditions on VTD and NVTD -- 2.5 Topic Drop and the Event Structure of Structural and Oblique Case Assigning Verbs -- 2.6 Topic Drop and the Representation of +/-Complex Events -- 2.7 Appendix: Topic Drop of Expletive Elements -- 3. Topic Drop in German: The Interpretation of the Gap -- 4. Null Subjects at the Syntax-Pragmatics Interface -- References -- Index

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## Sommario/riassunto

This monograph deals with argument drop in the German prefield and it presents new insights into null subjects, topic drop and the interpretation of topic dropped elements. Major issues are (inter alia) the drop of structurally vs. obliquely cased arguments and the question on which basis nominative/accusative and dative/genitive can be kept apart. Furthermore, it is shown that the (im)possibility of phi-feature mismatches concerning the antecedent and gap in topic drop dialogues allows to differentiate between coreference and "real" (quantifier) binding. Aside from topic drop, (1st/2nd vs. 3rd person) null subjects are investigated across a couple of unrelated languages, also focusing on the presence of syncretisms within verbal inflectional paradigms. It is proven that 1st/2nd person null subjects in German are not an instance of antecedent-dependent topic drop but that they are licensed by discrete verbal inflectional endings. Thus, according to this property, German can be classified as a partial pro-drop language. Next to theoretical discussions and considerations this book offers a broad (empirically covered) data basis, which makes it suitable for both theoretically and empirically interested (generative) linguists.

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