1. Record Nr.   UNINA9910298083503321

   Autore   Borghi Anna M

   Titolo   Words as Social Tools: An Embodied View on Abstract Concepts
                       [[electronic resource] /] / by Anna M. Borghi, Ferdinand Binkofski

   Pubbl/distr/stampa New York, NY : , : Springer New York : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2014

   ISBN   1-4614-9539-3

   Edizione   [1st ed. 2014.]

   Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (132 p.)

   Collana   SpringerBriefs in Cognition, , 2625-2929

   Disciplina   153.24

   Soggetti   Cognitive psychology
                       Neuropsychology
                       Psycholinguistics
                       Cognitive Psychology

   Lingua di pubblicazione   Inglese

   Formato   Materiale a stampa

   Livello bibliografico   Monografia

   Note generali   Description based upon print version of record.

   Nota di bibliografia   Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and
                       index.

   Nota di contenuto   Chapter 1. The problem of definition -- Chapter 2. The WAT proposal
                       and the role of language -- Chapter 3. Embodied and hybrid theories
                       of abstract concepts and words -- Chapter 4 Word learning and word
                       acquisition -- Chapter 5. What can neuroscience tell us about abstract
                       concepts -- Chapter 6. Language, languages, and abstract concepts --
                       Afterword.

   Sommario/riassunto How are abstract concepts and words represented in the brain? That is
                       the central question addressed by the authors of "Words as Social
                       Tools: An Embodied View on Abstract Concepts". First, they focus on
                       the difficulties in defining what abstract concepts and words are, and
                       what they mean in psycholinguistic research. Then the authors go on to
                       describe and critically discuss the main theories on this topic with a
                       special emphasis on the different embodied and grounded theories
                       proposed in cognitive psychology within the last ten years, highlighting
                       the advantages and limitations of each of these theories. The core of
                       this Brief consists of the presentation of a new theory developed by the
                       authors, the WAT (Words As social Tools) view, according to which both
                       sensorimotor (such as perception, action, emotional experiences) and
                       linguistic experiences are at the basis of abstract concepts and of
                       abstract word representation, processing and use. This theory assigns a

major role to acquisition: one of the assumptions the authors make is that the different ways in which concrete and abstract words are acquired constrain their brain representation and their use. This view will be compared with the main existing theories on abstractness, from the theory of conceptual metaphors to the theories on multiple representation. Finally, the volume illustrates recent evidence from different areas (developmental, behavioral, cross-cultural, neuropsychological and neural) which converge with and support the authors' theory, leading to the conclusion that in order to account for representation and processing of abstract concepts and words, an extension of embodied and grounded theories is necessary.