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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; List of figures and tables; Abbreviations; 1 Natural classes and distinctive features in phonology; 2 Phonetic and psycholinguistic evidence; 3 Survey methods; 4 Ambivalent segments; 5 Emergent feature theory; 6 General survey results; 7 Survey results in terms of feature theories; 8 The emergence of linguistic structure; Appendix A: Languages in the survey; Appendix B: Detailed survey results; Appendix C: Detailed phonetic similarity results; References; Language Index; Feature index; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Jeff Mielke presents the results of a crosslinguistic survey of natural classes of distinctive features covering almost six hundred of the world's languages drawn from a variety of different families. In doing so he systematically tests the supposition that features are innate and universal rather than learned and language-specific. - ;This book makes a fundamental contribution to phonology, linguistic typology, and the nature of the human language faculty. Distinctive features in phonology distinguish one meaningful sound from another. Since the mid-twentieth century they have been seen as a

