1. Record Nr.   UNINA9910453786203321

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   Titolo   Grammar without grammaticality : growth and limits of grammatical
                        precision / / Geoffrey Sampson, Anna Babarczy

   Pubbl/distr/stampa   Berlin ; ; Boston : , : De Gruyter Mouton, , [2014]
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   ISBN   3-11-048806-X
                        3-11-029001-4

   Descrizione fisica   1 online resource (360 p.)

   Collana   Trends in linguistics. Studies and monographs, , 1861-4302 ; ; volume
                        254

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   Disciplina   415

   Soggetti   Grammaticality (Linguistics)
                        Grammar, Comparative and general
                        Electronic books.

   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 and index.

   Nota di contenuto   Frontmatter -- Preface -- Acknowledgements -- Table of contents --
                        List of figures -- List of tables -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2.
                        The bounds of grammatical refinement -- Chapter 3. Where should
                        annotation stop? -- Chapter 40. Grammar without grammaticality --
                        Chapter 5. Replies to our critics -- Chapter 6. Grammatical description
                        meets spontaneous speech -- Chapter 7. Demographic correlates of
                        speech complexity -- Chapter 8. The structure of children's writing --
                        Chapter 9. Child writing and discourse organization -- Chapter 10.
                        Simple grammars and new grammars -- Chapter 11. The case of the
                        vanishing perfect -- Chapter 12. Testing a metric for parse accuracy --
                        Chapter 13. Linguistics empirical and unempirical -- Chapter 14.
                        William Gladstone as linguist -- Chapter 15. Minds in Uniform: How
                        generative linguistics regiments culture, and why it shouldn't --
                        References -- Index

   Sommario/riassunto   Grammar is said to be about defining all and only the 'good' sentences
                        of a language, implying that there are other, 'bad' sentences - but it is
                        hard to pin those down. A century ago, grammarians did not think that
                        way, and they were right: linguists can and should dispense with

'starred sentences'. Corpus data support a different model: individuals develop positive grammatical habits of growing refinement, but nothing is ever ruled out. The contrasting models entail contrasting pictures of human nature; our final chapter shows that grammatical theory is not value-neutral but has an ethical dimension.