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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910454764103321 |
| Autore | Smith N. V (Neilson Voyne) |
| Titolo | Chomsky : ideas and ideals / / Neil Smith [[electronic resource]] |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 1999 |
| ISBN | 0-511-05312-6 1-139-16389-2 0-511-14955-7 0-511-00976-3 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (ix, 268 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) |
| Disciplina | 410/.92 |
| Soggetti | Linguistics |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references (p. 215-262) and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | <p>""Contents""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Introduction""; ""1 The mirror of the mind""; ""Linguistics as a science""; ""Modularity""; ""Competence and performance""; ""Performance, parsing, and pragmatics""; ""Evolution and innateness""; ""Natural language and the language of thought""; ""2 The linguistic foundation""; ""Introduction""; ""Knowledge of language""; ""The lexicon""; ""Knowledge of language: structure""; ""Knowledge of language: structural relations""; ""Levels of representation""; ""Constituents and rules""; ""Deep structure""; ""Description versus explanation""</p> <p>""Government and Binding theory""""Empty categories""; ""The status of transformations""; ""Principles and parameters""; ""Lexical and functional categories""; ""Minimalism""; ""A historical progression""; ""Evolution""; ""3 Psychological reality""; ""Causality and observability""; ""Psychological reality and the nature of evidence""; ""Language processing""; ""Language acquisition (Plato's problem)""; ""Language pathology""; ""Connectionism: the behaviorists strike back""; ""4 Philosophical realism: commitments and controversies""; ""Commitments""; ""Controversies""</p> <p>""Language and the world""""Language and the community""; ""Language and the individual""; ""Problems of semantics""; ""Innateness""; ""Unification and reduction""; ""Conclusions""; ""5</p> |

Language and freedom"; "Explanation and dissent: the common threads"; "Rationality, modularity, and creativity"; "The anarchist background"; "The critique of (American) foreign policy"; "The critique of domestic policy"; "The critique of media control"; "The technique of dissection"; "Moral absolutes and options for the future"; "The positive program"; "Conclusion"; "Envoi"
"Notes and references""Bibliography"; "Index"

Sommario/riassunto

Chomsky has had a major influence on linguistics, psychology, and philosophy. In this rigorous yet accessible account of Chomsky's work, Neil Smith analyses Chomsky's key contributions to the study of both language and the mind. He gives a detailed exposition of Chomsky's linguistic theorizing, and examines the ideas for which he is best known. Smith discusses the psychological and philosophical implications of Chomsky's work, and argues that he has fundamentally changed the way we think of ourselves. Smith examines Chomsky's political ideas and how these fit intellectually with his scholarly work. The final chapter spells out the themes - rationality, creativity and modularity - that unite the disparate strands of his vast output. Throughout, Smith explores the controversy surrounding Chomsky's work, and explains why he has been both adulated and vilified.
