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Collana	Empirical approaches to language typology ; ; 45
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Altri autori (Persone)	WohlgemuthJan CysouwMichael
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	The other end of universals: theory and typology of rara / Michael Cysouw & Jan Wohlgemuth -- Rarities in numeral systems / Harald Hammarstrom -- Additional rarities in the typology of numerals / Thomas Hanke -- Explaining typologically unusual structures: the role of probability / Alice C. Harris -- Right at the left edge: initial consonant mutations in the languages of the world / Pavel Iosad -- Quirky case: rare phenomena in case-marking and their implications for a theory of typological distributions / Andrej Malchukov -- Negatives without negators / Matti Miestamo -- Accounting for rare typological features in formal syntax: three strategies and some general remarks / Frederick J. Newmeyer -- Rara and grammatical theory / Jan Rijkhoff -- Pairwise comparisons of typological profiles / Søren Wichmann & Eric W. Holman -- Language endangerment, community size and typological rarity / Jan Wohlgemuth.
Sommario/riassunto	Universals of language have been studied extensively for the last four decades, allowing fundamental insight into the principles and general properties of human language. Only incidentally have researchers

looked at the other end of the scale. And even when they did, they mostly just noted peculiar facts as "quirks" or "unusual behavior", without making too much of an effort at explaining them beyond calling them "exceptions" to various rules or generalizations. Rarissima and rara, features and properties found only in one or very few languages, tell us as much about the capacities and limits of human language(s) as do universals. Explaining the existence of such rare phenomena on the one hand, and the fact of their rareness or uniqueness on the other, is a reasonable and interesting challenge to any theory of how human language works. The present volume for the first time compiles selected papers on the study of rare linguistic features from various fields of linguistics and from a wide range of languages.
