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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Preface -- Contents -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. Towards a usage-based model of constructional generalisation -- Chapter 3. Testing ground: Intensity collocations -- Chapter 4. Lexicalisation patterns: From concepts to words -- Chapter 5. Fixed expressions: From words to collocations -- Chapter 6. Incipient productivity: From collocations to constructional schemas -- Chapter 7. Conclusion -- Appendix -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	How do speakers vary established patterns of language use and adapt them to novel contexts of application? This study presents a usage-based approach to linguistic creativity: combining detailed qualitative with large-scale quantitative analyses of corpus data, it traces the emergence of partial productivity in clusters of conventional collocations. Focusing on English and German intensification constructions, it proceeds in three steps: having first inventoried the lexical means (of a given semantic type) that are recruited for signalling intensity in both languages, collostructional analysis is then used to identify entrenched intensity collocations involving these formatives in three different syntactic constructions. Third, multi-rater manual

classification methods as well as distribution-based automatic classification methods are employed to uncover semantic generalisations over the attested types on different levels of abstraction. Collocational expansion is shown to proceed through local analogies within sets of semantically similar stored instances of a construction. Synthesising insights from research on language acquisition, variation and change, it is thus argued that creative extensions of linguistic conventions are intrinsically bound up with aspects of memory and repetition.
