

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463957703321
Titolo	Number-- constructions and semantics : case studies from Africa, Amazonia, India and Oceania / / edited by Anne Storch, Gerrit J. Dimmendaal, University of Cologne
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam : , : John Benjamins Publishing Company, , [2014] ©2014
ISBN	1-4619-5835-0 90-272-7063-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (382 p.)
Collana	Studies in language companion series (SLCS), , 0165-7763 ; ; volume 151
Disciplina	499.12
Soggetti	Grammar, Comparative and general - Number Semantics (Philosophy) 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	Number - Constructions and Semantics; Editorial page; Title page; LCC data; Table of contents; List of tables, maps and figures; Abbreviations; Preface; Chapter 1. One size fits all?; 1. Introduction; 2. The meanings of number; 2.1 Variation; 2.2 Aspect; Tables; Table I.1. Major nominal subcategories (Rijkhoff 2002: 54); 3. Constructs and the non-canonical marking of number; 4. Social and cultural aspects; 4.1 Honorifics; 4.2 Numerals; 4.3 Trade and diplomacy; 5. How this volume is organised; References; Chapter 2. Number and noun categorisation; 1. Introducing the topic 2. Number and reference classification in north-west Amazonia: A bird's eye view Table II.1. Classifiers in Tariana (a selection) (adapted from Table 5.1 in Aikhenvald 2003: 89-92); Table II.2. How classifiers help disambiguate a polysemous noun in Tariana; Table II.3. Number distinctions, and number marking in Tariana; 3. Number, animacy and reference classification in Tariana; 3.1 Number distinctions and the categorisation of nominals; Table II.4. Personal agreement markers in Tariana; Table II.5. Personal pronouns in Tariana; 3.2 More on number agreement; 3.3 Multiple number marking

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Chapter 6. The history of numeral classifiers in Teiwa (Papuan)

Sommario/riassunto

Numeral systems of the Greater Awyu family of Papuan languages are the topic of this paper. Extended body-part systems that employ the fingers, parts of the arm and head are used by most languages in this family. Body-part based numeral systems of this type are only found in parts of New Guinea and Australia and are therefore of great interest for the typology of numeral systems. They are closed systems, with 23, 25 or 27 as highest number in the languages of the Greater Awyu family. They are also interesting because of the role of conventional gestures to distinguish the primary body-part mea