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Sommario/riassunto

This monograph is one of the first theoretical studies of optatives. Optative constructions express desire without an overt lexical item that means 'desire'. The author specifically investigates optatives with the syntax of embedded clauses that contain prototypical particles such as 'only'. He rejects the view that optativity arises compositionally from the standard semantics of embedded clauses and prototypical particles. The following system is proposed: Desirability is due to a generalized scalar exclamation operator EX. Furthermore, clausal properties such as factivity/counterfactuality a
