

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910465521303321
Titolo	The evolution of negation [[electronic resource] ] : beyond the Jespersen cycle / / edited by Pierre Larrivee, Richard P. Ingham
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; Boston, : De Gruyter Mouton, 2011
ISBN	3-11-023861-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (356 p.)
Collana	Trends in linguistics. Studies and monographs, , 1861-4302 ; ; 235
Classificazione	ET 740
Altri autori (Persone)	LarriveePierre InghamRichard
Disciplina	415
Soggetti	Grammar, Comparative and general - Negatives Polarity (Linguistics) Grammar, Comparative and general - Syntax Semantics 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 indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Table of contents -- Is there a Jespersen cycle? / Larrivée, Pierre -- Negative words and related expressions: A new perspective on some familiar puzzles / Biberauer, Theresa / Roberts, Ian -- Negative words and negation in French / Labelle, Marie -- Secondary negation and information structure organisation in the history of English / Kemenade, Ans van -- Looking high and low for NegP in early English / Haeberli, Eric -- Ne-drop and indefinites in Anglo-Norman and Middle English / Ingham, Richard -- Looking at Middle English through the mirror of Anglo-Norman / Hoeksema, Jack -- Ne-absence in declarative and yes/no interrogative contexts: Some patterns of change / Martineau, France -- The early absence of the French negative marker ne / Rowlett, Paul -- Atoms of negation: An outside-in micro-parametric approach to negative concord / Déprez, Viviane -- Viviane Déprez: "Atoms of negation. An outside-in micro-parametric approach to negative concord." Discussion / Hansen, Maj-Britt Mosegaard -- Negative polarity and the quantifier cycle: Comparative diachronic perspectives from European languages / Willis, David -- Indefinite pronouns, synchrony and diachrony: Comments on

Sommario/riassunto

Why do grammars change? The cycle of negation proposed by Jespersen is crucially linked to the status of items and phrases. The definition of criteria establishing when a polarity item becomes a negative element, and the identification of the role of phrases for the evolution of negation are the two objectives pursued by the contributions to this volume. The contributions look at the emergence of negative items, and their relation within a given sentence, with particular reference to English and French. The comparative perspective supports the documentation of the fine-grained steps that shed light on the factors that (i) determine change and those that (ii) accompany actuation, which are considered through a dialogue between functionalist and formalist approaches. By looking at the place of negation in the architecture of the sentence, they take up the debate as to the relevance of phrasal projections and consider the role of features. Focusing on the make-up of individual items makes it possible to re-conceptualise the Jespersen cycle as the apparent result of the documented evolution patterns of individual (series of) items. This novel perspective is solidly grounded on an extensive use of the complete, up to date bibliography, and will contribute to shape future research.

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