1. Record Nr. UNINA9910524846003321

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Titolo Language Crafted: A Linguistic Theory of Poetic Syntax / / Timothy R.

Austin

Pubbl/distr/stampa Indiana University Press, 1984

Bloomington:,: Indiana University Press,, 1984

©1984

ISBN 0-253-05433-8

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (1 online resource x, 170 pages) : illustrations

Soggetti Syntax

Dichtersprache

Theorie
Stilistik
Theorieen
Stilistiek
Literary style
Criticism
Style litteraire
Critique

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Sommario/riassunto Stylistics is at a crossroad, according to Timothy Austin. It must find a

way of bridging the chasm that separates it from deconstructionism and a means of restoring the faith of disillusioned stylists, like Stanley Fish and his followers, in its precepts. Offering a new, comprehensive, and clearly articulated theory of stylistics, Language Crafted is a first—and giant—step toward the goal of the revitalization of stylistics. Austin sets out the standards that a general theory of stylistics must meet. It must delimit its range of phenomena; it should offer a well-defined theoretical model, complete with theoretical categories and a description of the ways those categories relate to one another; it must

evaluate the capacity of the model to analyze data in an approp- riate and elegant way; and it should examine the implications of its conclusions for associated fields. Using these standards, Austin outlines a linguistic theory of poetic syntax, elaborating on its provisions and extending its exemplifications to cover a broad spectrum of authors and texts. Austin's refreshing approach to poetic syntax offers great hope for a positive and productive future for the discipline of stylistics.