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Autore	Barðdal Jóhanna
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Nota di contenuto	1. The Curious Case of Reconstruction in Syntax / Spike Gildea, Eugenio R. Lujan and Johanna Barðdal -- Part I. Cognacy: 2. Reconstructing the Source of Nominative-Absolutive Alignment in Two Amazonian Language Families / Spike Gildea and Flavia de Castro Alves -- 3. Conducting Syntactic Reconstruction of Languages with No Written Records / Kikusawa Ritsuko -- 4. External Possessor Constructions in Indo-European / Silvia Luraghi -- 5. How to Identify Cognates in Syntax? Taking Watkins' Legacy One Step Further / Johanna Barðdal and Thorhallur Eythorsson -- Part II. Directionality: 6. On the Origins of the Ergative Marker wa in the Viceitic Languages of the Chibchan Family / Sara Pacchiarotti -- 7. Voice, Transitivity and Tense/Aspect: Directionality of Change in Indo-European (Evidence from Greek and Vedic) / Nikolaos Lavidas and Leonid Kulikov -- 8. On Shared Structural Innovations: the Diachrony of Adverbial Subordination in Semitic / Na'ama Pat-El -- 9. Reconstructing Semantic Roles: Proto-Indo-European *-bhi / Eugenio R. Lujan and Angel Lopez Chala -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

During several decades, syntactic reconstruction has been more or less regarded as a bootless and an unsuccessful venture, not least due to the heavy criticism in the 1970s from scholars like Watkins, Jeffers, Lightfoot, etc. This fallacious view culminated in Lightfoot's (2002: 625) conclusion: "[i]f somebody thinks that they can reconstruct grammars more successfully and in more widespread fashion, let them tell us their methods and show us their results. Then we'll eat the pudding." This volume provides methods for the identification of i) cognates in syntax, and ii) the directionality of syntactic change, showcasing the results in the introduction and eight articles. These examples are offered as both tastier and also more nourishing than the pudding Lightfoot had in mind when discarding the viability of reconstructing syntax.
