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High German Tatian / Svetlana Petrova -- Verb placement and information structure in the OHG Gospel Harmony by Otfrid von Weissenburg / Andreas Lotscher -- Translating information structure : a study of Notker's translation of Boethius's Latin *De consolatione philosophiae* into Old High German / Rosemarie Luhr -- Aspects of word order and information structure in Old Saxon / Sonja Linde -- Subject index.

Sommario/riassunto

The volume presents new approaches to explaining word order variation and change in the Germanic languages and thus relates to one of the most prominent and widely discussed topics in the theory of language change and diachronic syntax. The novelty of our approach consists in three main points. First of all, we aim at describing functional variety in the field of word order and verb placement in the early Germanic languages not as a result of language contact, but rather as a language-internal phenomenon related to stylistic and grammatical conditions in information packaging. Second, given that information structure is not directly accessible in texts from historical corpora that are available only in written form and bear no or little information on prosody and intonation, it presents various methods of retrieving information-structural categories in such texts. Third, it presents empirical studies on the relation between word order and information structure of the four main texts of the Old High German period and embeds these results in the wider picture of word order change in Germanic. The volume will be of interest to students of German, English, and general linguistics as well as to researchers interested in diachronic syntax, philology of Older German, language change, information structure, discourse semantics, language typology, computational linguistics, and corpus studies.
