Record Nr. UNINA9910780246503321 Autore Jenkins Lyle Titolo Biolinguistics: exploring the biology of language / / Lyle Jenkins [[electronic resource]] Cambridge:,: Cambridge University Press,, 2000 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-107-11736-4 0-511-00994-1 1-280-43252-7 0-511-17235-4 0-511-15083-0 0-511-32473-1 0-511-60576-5 0-511-04821-1 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (xiii, 264 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) Collana Cambridge approaches to linguistics 401 Disciplina Soggetti **Biolinguistics** Grammar, Comparative and general Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). Includes bibliographical references (p. 234-253) and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Preliminaries: Contents: Preface: Acknowledgements: Introduction: 1 The unification problem; 2 Knowledge and use of language; 3 Acquisition (growth) of language; 4 Mechanisms of language; 5 Evolution of language; 6 Conclusion; References; Index This book investigates the nature of human language and its Sommario/riassunto importance for the study of the mind. In particular, it examines current work on the biology of language. Lyle Jenkins reviews the evidence that language is best characterized by a generative grammar of the kind introduced by Noam Chomsky in the 1950s and developed in various directions since that time. He then discusses research into the development of language which tries to capture both the underlying universality of human language, as well as the diversity found in individual languages (Universal Grammar). Finally, he discusses a

variety of approaches to language design and the evolution of

language. An important theme is the integration of biolinguistics into the natural sciences - the 'unification problem'. Jenkins also answers criticisms of the biolinguistic approach from a number of other perspectives, including evolutionary psychology, cognitive science, connectionism and ape language research, among others.