

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780464103321
Autore	Dicker Susan J
Titolo	Languages in America [[electronic resource] ] : a pluralist view // Susan J. Dicker
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Clevedon ; ; Buffalo, : Multilingual Matters, c2003
ISBN	1-280-82822-6 9786610828227 1-85359-653-1
Edizione	[2nd ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (379 p.)
Collana	Bilingual education and bilingualism ; ; 42
Disciplina	404/.2/0973
Soggetti	Multilingualism - United States Cultural pluralism - United States
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 (p. 323-347) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Language and identity -- The melting-pot mythology -- Common misconceptions about language learning -- Languages in the schools -- The modern official-English movement -- Challenges to language restrictionism -- Lessons in multilingualism beyond the United States -- The possibilities of a pluralistic, multilingual America.
Sommario/riassunto	The United States is and has always been an immigrant country. However, it has always demonstrated a marked ambivalence towards newcomers. In some circumstances, they are seen as welcomed contributors to a multifaceted society; in others they are viewed as interlopers usurping depleting resources which should be going to the country's citizens. A major part of this ongoing debate centers on the languages which immigrants bring with them. For some, these new languages add to the country's diversity; for others the new languages are seen as an inherent threat to English and the American way of life. Languages in America: A Pluralist View is a vigorous response to this perspective by a sociolinguist and professor, Susan J. Dicker. Drawing on knowledge from the fields of linguistics, history and sociology, Dicker presents a cogent argument for language diversity in the United States. She explores the role language plays in personal and public identity. She debunks the mythology of America as a melting pot. She

tackles common misconceptions about second-language learning, reveals the nativist roots of the official-English movement, and describes how other countries nurture language pluralism. Finally, Dicker asks her readers to imagine America as an open, pluralistic society in which language diversity plays an important part.

---