

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780714603321
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Titolo	Structuring the lexicon [[electronic resource]] : a clustered model for near-synonymy / / by Dagmar Divjak
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; New York, : De Gruyter Mouton, 2010
ISBN	1-283-16489-2 9786613164896 3-11-022059-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (290 p.)
Collana	Cognitive linguistics research, , 1861-4132 ; ; 43
Classificazione	ER 955
Disciplina	415
Soggetti	Cognitive grammar Semantics
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 and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Preface -- Contents -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Degrees of event integration: delineating groups of near-synonyms -- 3. Ways of intending: constructional frames for lexicographical portraits -- 4. Clustering Behavioral Profiles: structuring groups of near-synonyms -- 5. Ways of TRYING: describing scales of variation in a radial category -- 6. Beyond Behavioral Profiles -- Appendix -- References -- Author index -- Subject index
Sommario/riassunto	Given that we lack sensory-motor experience for abstract concepts, how do we find out what they mean? How far can we get by tracking frequency distributions in input? The volume tackles the question of what language has to offer the language learner in his/her quest for meaning, and explicitly addresses how semantic knowledge may be distributed along the continuum from "grammar" to "lexicon". Focus is on the synonymy of constructions and lexemes, a meaning relation that has been largely ignored in Western linguistics. Frequency in all its guises plays a major part in this book. Approaching meaning from a usage-based perspective, a radically distributional approach to quantifying meaning is proposed that encompasses both the constructional and lexical level. Statistical data analysis, relatively new in the field of linguistics, yields a cognitively realistic, clustered model

that encourages re-evaluating existing accounts of near-synonymy. Theoretical concepts spanning a range of cognitive linguistic frameworks, i.e. Cognitive Grammar, Radical Construction Grammar and Prototype Theory, account for the complexity of the data and lead to a re-appraisal of traditional semantic theory. Built on a solid empirical foundation, this network account of synonymy at the constructional and lexical level enriches our understanding of established aspects of the cognitive model of language, serving as catalyst for their further development and refinement. The theoretically informed combination of descriptive accuracy and methodological innovation makes the book a worthwhile read for cognitive linguists and psycholinguists alike.

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