Record Nr. Autore Titolo Pubbl/distr/stampa	UNINA9910781535703321 Wildgen Wolfgang Catastrophe theoretic semantics [[electronic resource]] : an elaboration and application of Rene Thom's theory / / by Wolfgang Wildgen Amsterdam ; ; Philadelphia, : J. Benjamins, 1982
ISBN	1-283-35958-8 9786613359582 90-272-8060-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (128 p.)
Collana	Pragmatics & beyond, , 0166-6258 ; ; 3:5
Disciplina	401.43 401/.43
Soggetti	Semantics - Mathematical models Language and languages - Variation Catastrophes (Mathematics)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Bibliography: p. [115]-122.
Nota di contenuto	 CATASTROPHE THEORETIC SEMANTICS An Elaboration and Application of Rene Thorn's Theory; Editorial page; Title page; Dedication; Copyrigh page; Table of contents; INTRODUCTION; 1. APPLIED CATASTROPHE THEORY: A SHORT INTRODUCTION; 1.1. A sketch of the mathematical basis; 1.2. Catastrophe Conventions.; 1.3. The finite set of typical paths in the elementary unfoldings; 1.4. An example: the standard cusp; 2. SEMANTICS FROM A DYNAMIC PERSPECTIVE; 2.1. Aspects of dynamic semiotics; 2.2. The type o f semantics aimed at by our model construction 2.3. Formal semantics on the basis of catastrophe theory: a comparison with logical semantics 2.4. Principles of interpretation; 2.5. Rene Thorn's list of semantic archetypes; 3. THE HEART OF CATASTROPHE THEORETIC SEMANTICS: THE SET OF SEMANTIC ARCHETYPES; 3.1. The semantic archetypes derivable from the zero-unfolding; 3.2. The semantic archetypes derivable from the fold; 3.3. The semantic archetypes derivable from the cusp; 3.3.1 The standard cusp (A+3); 3.3.2. The dual cusp (A-3); 3.3.3. Versal unfoldings of the standard cusp

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	 3.3.4. Introducing higher archetypes: The archetype of bipolar differentiation 3.4 The semantic archetypes derivable from the swallowtail; 3.5 The semantic archetypes derivable from the butterfly; 3.5.1 Sketching the geometry of the standard butterfly (A+5); 3.5.2 Derivations on the basis of the perfect delay convention; 3.5.3. Derivations on the basis of the Maxwell convention; 3.5.4. Some semi-elementary archetypes derivable from the dual butterfly(A-5); 3.5.5. Summary of the archetypes derived from the butterfly; (1) Elementary archetypes.; (2) Semi-elementary archetypes (3) Higher archetypes3.6 Archetypes derivable from unfoldings with codimension > 4 and corank 1; 3.7 Semantic archetypes derivable from the compactified umbilics (D+4 D-4,D5); 4. APPLICATION OF CATASTROPHE THEORETIC SEMANTICS; 4.1. Dynamic inferences; 4.2 Word semantics; 4.3 Linguistic vagueness; 4.4. Compositional processes; 4.5. Application in neurolinguistics; 5. BEYOND CATASTROPHE THEORETIC SEMANTICS; 5.1. Beyond semantics: towards a dynamic theory of language; 5.2. Beyond Catastrophe Theory; FOOTNOTES; REFERENCES; INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	Rene Thom, the famous French mathematician and founder of catastrophe theory, considered linguistics an exemplary field for the application of his general morphology. It is surprising that physicists, chemists, biologists, psychologists and sociologists are all engaged in the field of catastrophe theory, but that there has been almost no echo from linguistics. Meanwhile linguistics has evolved in the direction of Rene Thom's intuitions about an integrated science of language and it has become a necessary task to review, update and elaborate the proposals made by Thom and to embed them in the f