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Sommario/riassunto

There can be no products without processes. Though this statement may seem to be no more than an overused generalization, it encapsulates the undoubted importance of processes and process-oriented approaches in language teaching and learning. In foreign language education in recent decades, researchers and practitioners alike are increasingly focusing their attention on: 1) the learner as the active subject of learning and the internal processes that constitute his/her learning leading to the development of communicative competence; 2) teaching approaches, curricula and materials that reflect this view of language learning; and 3) other factors such as the sociocultural context, social interactions and discourse, and individual learner characteristics and differences. The theme of this book reflects this paradigm shift, and the papers included here from the disciplines of foreign language education and second language acquisition provide vital insights into processes in curriculum planning, teaching methodology, teacher education and professional development, language acquisition, language discourse, classroom instruction and interactions, the development of language skills and learning strategies, and language learning motivation.
