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Autore	Heimerdinger Jean-Marc
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Note generali	Originally presented as the author's thesis (doctoral--Reading University).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Abbreviations; INTRODUCTION; Chapter 1 LANGUAGE, DISCOURSE AND NARRATIVE: AN ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK; Chapter 2 LONGACRE'S TEXT-LINGUISTIC MODEL: DESCRIPTION AND CRITICAL APPRAISAL; Chapter 3 TOPICALITY AND TOPICAL ENTITIES: AN ANALYSIS OF GENESIS 22; Chapter 4 DISCOURSE REFERENTS AND TOPICALITY; Chapter 5 FOCUS IN DIRECT SPEECH CLAUSES AND FOCUS IN THE NARRATIVE VERBAL CLAUSES; Chapter 6 ASPECTS OF FOREGROUNDING IN NARRATIVE DISCOURSE; Chapter 7 GENERAL CONCLUSION; Appendix; Bibliography; Index of References; Index of Authors
Sommario/riassunto	This study breaks new ground in describing how various linguistic and pragmatic mechanisms affect both the form of the narrative clause and the arrangement of the grammatical elements. The various possible forms that a narrative clause can take are classified in terms of their 'topic-comment' and 'focus-presupposition', and it is argued that the way in which these are articulated dictates the word order in the clause. The outcome of the study demonstrates that the traditional binary

distinction between foreground and background, based purely on verb forms, is inadequate.

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