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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- 1 Introduction -- 2 Cases -- 3 Thematic Roles -- 4 Morphosyntactic Expression of Thematic Information -- 5 Phrase Structure and Basic Word Order -- 6 Predicate Agreement -- 7 Passive and Antipassive -- 8 General Summary -- References -- Author Index -- Language Index -- Subject Index
Sommario/riassunto	This book is concerned with the mapping of thematic roles, such as agent and patient, onto syntactic cases, such as nominative or ergative, or onto structural relations. It shows that cases and structural relations code different aspects of thematic structure. The thematic determination of the structural relation of an argument is confined to its position in the thematic structure of the predicate. Case mapping is determined by the number of basic thematic concepts involved in this structure. This fact and other facts presented in the book presuppose an approach to thematic roles that decomposes them into more basic concepts involving volitionality, causation, activity, sentience, possession, etc., and motivate the hypothesis that syntactic cases cannot be derived from structural relations in universal grammar. The phenomena pertaining to relational typology that classifies languages into ergative, accusative and active languages are shown to be restricted to case mapping. The specific thematic determination of case mapping and the hierarchical organization of case systems explain not only the existence of these types of mapping, but also the fact that ergative and active phenomena are typically case-based. The book

provides a global cross-linguistic perspective, but German data
recurrently serve as an illustration of the main theoretical assumptions.
