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3.4 Foreign language acquisition; 3.4.1 An unexplored field; 3.4.2 Contrastive/Error analysis; 3.4.3 Developmental analysis; 3.5 Conclusion; Feature unification and linking in case marking; 4.1 Introduction; 4.2 LFG and case; 4.3 Representation within PT; 4.3.1 Direct case mappings; 4.3.2 C-to-f mapping; 4.3.3 A-to-f mapping; 4.4 Re-interpretation of prior research; 4.4.1 Case oppositions; 4.4.2 Case use with verb arguments vs. prepositional objects; 4.4.3 The role of personal pronouns; 4.5 Developmental hypotheses; 4.6 Conclusion; Methodology; 5.1 Introduction; 5.2 Corpus; 5.2.1 Participants; 5.2.2 Data elicitation; 5.2.3 Transcription and coding; 5.2.4 Data set; 5.3 Data analysis; 5.3.1 Form-function relationships; 5.3.2 Emergence criterion; Results and discussion; 6.1 Introduction; 6.2 Verb arguments; 6.2.1 Marking SUBJ and OBJ in canonical word order; 6.2.1.1 Canonical syntactic structures; 6.2.1.2 'Case' markers in preverbal subjects; 6.2.1.3 'Case' markers in postverbal objects; 6.2.1.4 Developments in the intra-stage; 6.2.1.5 Conclusion; 6.2.2 XP-adjunction; 6.2.3 Marking SUBJ and OBJ in non-canonical word order; 6.2.3.1 XP VS(O); 6.2.3.2 OVS; 6.2.3.3 Elliptic constructions; 6.2.3.4 Passives; 6.2.3.5 Conclusion; 6.2.4 Implicational scaling of morpho-syntactic development; 6.2.5 Ditransitive constructions; 6.2.5.1 Options to express the indirect object (OBL); 6.2.5.2 The indirect object as a prepositional phrase; 6.2.5.3 Position marking of the IO DO sequence?; 6.2.5.4 Functional case assignment of the indirect object; 6.2.5.5 From unmarked mapping to functional case assignment; 6.2.6 COMP; 6.2.7 Conclusion: From marking the position to marking the function; 6.3 Prepositional phrases; 6.3.1 Introduction; 6.3.2 Case development with regard to one-way prepositions; 6.3.3 Interface between lexical and positional/functional marking

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Sommario/riassunto

This is the first book on the acquisition of the German case system by foreign language learners. It explores how learners in their interlanguage progress from the total absence to the presence of a case system. This development is characterized by an evolvement from marking the argument's position to marking the argument's actual function. Theoretically couched within Processability Theory, the book deals with the feature unification and the mapping processes involved in case marking, and critically examines previous findings on German case acquisition.

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