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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Preface -- Acknowledgements -- Table of contents -- List of figures -- List of tables -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. The bounds of grammatical refinement -- Chapter 3. Where should annotation stop? -- Chapter 4. Grammar without grammaticality -- Chapter 5. Replies to our critics -- Chapter 6. Grammatical description meets spontaneous speech -- Chapter 7. Demographic correlates of speech complexity -- Chapter 8. The structure of children's writing -- Chapter 9. Child writing and discourse organization -- Chapter 10. Simple grammars and new grammars -- Chapter 11. The case of the vanishing perfect -- Chapter 12. Testing a metric for parse accuracy -- Chapter 13. Linguistics empirical and unempirical -- Chapter 14. William Gladstone as linguist -- Chapter 15. Minds in Uniform: How generative linguistics regiments culture, and why it shouldn't -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Grammar is said to be about defining all and only the 'good' sentences of a language, implying that there are other, 'bad' sentences - but it is hard to pin those down. A century ago, grammarians did not think that way, and they were right: linguists can and should dispense with 'starred sentences'. Corpus data support a different model: individuals develop positive grammatical habits of growing refinement, but

nothing is ever ruled out. The contrasting models entail contrasting pictures of human nature; our final chapter shows that grammatical theory is not value-neutral but has an ethical dimension.
