Record Nr. UNINA9910791907803321 The dialect laboratory [[electronic resource]]: dialects as a testing **Titolo** ground for theories of language change / / edited by Gunther De Vogelaer and Guido Seiler Amsterdam; ; Philadelphia, : John Benjamins Pub. Co., 2012 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-283-53947-0 9786613851925 90-272-7347-2 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (304 p.) Collana Studies in language companion series (slcs); ; 128 Altri autori (Persone) De VogelaerGunther SeilerGuido 417 Disciplina Soggetti Dialectology Dialectology - Methodology Language and languages - Variation Linguistic geography Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Table of contents; The Dialect Laboratory; 1. About this book; 2. Contributions of dialect evidence to hypotheses of historical linguistics: A synopsis: 2.1 Dialect evidence in the context of the Neogrammarian Hypothesis: 2.2 A structural dialectology is possible: 2.3 Sociolinguistics and change; 2.4 The discovery of dialects by generative linguistics; 2.5 Usage-based and evolutionary approaches; 2.6 Dialects in an emerging sociolinguistic typology; 3. This volume; 4. Open questions; References; The evolutionary-emergence model of language change; 1. Introduction 2. Background: Existing models of language change 3. Introducing the evolutionary-emergence model; 3.1 Emergence at the level of the utterance, speaker, and community; 3.2 Emergence at the levels of norms and fashions; 3.3 Summary of the model; 4. Testing the evolutionary-emergence model: TRAP-retraction and the LOT~THOUGHT merger in Southern Illinois English; 5. Conclusion; References; Dialect data, lexical frequency and the usage-based

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Sommario/riassunto

Much theorizing in language change research is made without taking into account dialect data. Yet, dialects seem to be superior data to build a theory of linguistic change on, since dialects are relatively free of standardization and therefore more tolerant of variant competition in grammar. In addition, as compared to most cross-linguistic and diachronic data, dialect data are unusually high in resolution. This book shows that the study of dialect variation has indeed the potential, perhaps even the duty, to play a central role in the process of finding answers to fundamental questions of the