

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791908103321
Autore	Grosz Patrick Georg
Titolo	On the grammar of optative constructions [[electronic resource] /] / Patrick Georg Grosz
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; Philadelphia, : John Benjamins Pub. Co., 2012
ISBN	1-283-53946-2 9786613851918 90-272-7345-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (358 p.)
Collana	Linguistik aktuell/linguistics today (Ia) ; ; 193
Disciplina	415/.6
Soggetti	Grammar, Comparative and general - Mood Grammar, Comparative and general - Subordinate constructions Grammar, Comparative and general - Subjunctive Grammar, Comparative and general - Tense English language - Grammar, Comparative German language - Grammar, Comparative
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Thesis (Ph. D.)--Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2011.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	On the Grammar of Optative Constructions; Editorial page; Title page; LCC data; Table of contents; Acknowledgments; Abbreviations; Introduction; Prolegomena; 2.1 Optatives - definitions and illustrations; 2.1.1 Optative basics: Introducing if-, that- and V1-optatives; 2.1.2 If-optatives are not optative conditionals; 2.1.3 Cautionary remarks on optative mood and clause type; 2.1.4 Interim summary and terminological clarifications; 2.2 Dispelling the idiom hypothesis; 2.3 The next of kin - introducing polar exclamatives; 2.4 Interim summary; The core analysis 3.1 The EX-Op analysis: A bird's-eye view3.1.1 The aim of this project; 3.1.2 The system in a nutshell; 3.1.3 On the cognition-emotion dichotomy; 3.1.4 The views of others: How to classify this type of analysis; 3.2 The EX-Op analysis: A worm's-eye view; 3.2.1 In a nutshell; 3.2.2 Introducing EX; 3.2.3 The role of particles in exclamations; 3.2.4 The role of mood in exclamations; 3.3 Summary and road map; The source of desirability in optatives; 4.1 On

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Sommario/riassunto

This monograph is one of the first theoretical studies of optatives. Optative constructions express desire without an overt lexical item that means 'desire'. The author specifically investigates optatives with the syntax of embedded clauses that contain prototypical particles such as 'only'. He rejects the view that optativity arises compositionally from the standard semantics of embedded clauses and prototypical particles. The following system is proposed: Desirability is due to a generalized scalar exclamation operator EX. Furthermore, clausal properties such as factivity/counterfactuality a