I. Record Nr. UNINA9910807383403321

Titolo Empirical approaches to linguistic theory [[electronic resource]]:

studies in meaning and structure // edited by Britta Stolterfoht, Sam

Featherston

Pubbl/distr/stampa Berlin; Boston, De Gruyter Mouton, 2012

ISBN 1-283-85682-4

1-61451-088-1

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (360 p.)

Collana Studies in Generative Grammar [SGG];; 111

Classificazione ER 760

Altri autori (Persone) StolterfohtBritta <1970->

FeatherstonSam

Disciplina 401

Soggetti Linguistics

Linguistic analysis (Linguistics)

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

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Sommario/riassunto

The mental representation of language cannot be directly observed but must be inferred and modelled from its effects at second hand. Linguists have traditionally responded to this in two ways, either going for a fairly data-light approach and valuing theoretical creativity, or pursuing just those goals for which data is available and trusting to data-driven descriptive work. More recently, advances in technology and experimental techniques have made data gathering easier and more accessible, so that a theoretically informed but empirically based approach is rapidly growing in popularity. This synthesis permits linguists to combine the intellectual hypothesis generation of the theoreticians with the ability to deliver hard answers of the empiricist. This volume is a collection of papers in this direction, using mostly experiment methods to yield insights into syntactic and semantic structures, language processing, and acquisition. Papers report corpus data, neurological investigations, child language studies, and fieldwork from minority languages.