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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Figuration and language history: Universality and variation -- Four guidelines for diachronic metaphor research -- Lost in transmission? The sense development of borrowed metaphor -- Loss of prototypical meaning and lexical borrowing: A case of semantic redeployment -- A complex adaptive systems approach to language, cultural schemas and serial metonymy: Charting the cognitive innovations of 'fingers' and 'claws' in Basque -- The interface between synchronic and diachronic conceptual metaphor: The role of embodiment, culture and semantic field -- The pivotal role of metaphor in the evolution of human language -- Two counter-expectation markers in Chinese -- The emergence of diathesis markers from MOTION concepts -- 'Better shamed before one than shamed before all': Shaping shame in Old English and Old Norse texts -- The conceptual profile of the lexeme home: A multifactorial diachronic analysis -- Cognitive patterns in Greek poetic metaphors of emotion: A

diachronic approach -- 'Thou com'st in such a questionable shape':  
Embodying the cultural model for ghost across the history of English --  
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Sommario/riassunto

This volume offers new insights into figurative language and its pervasive role as a factor of linguistic change. The case studies included in this book explore some of the different ways new metaphoric and metonymic expressions emerge and spread among speech communities, and how these changes can be related to the need to encode ongoing social and cultural processes in the language. They cover a wide series of languages and historical stages.

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