1. Record Nr. UNINA9910809436803321

Titolo	Current trends in contrastive linguistics : functional and cognitive perspectives / / edited by Maria de los Angeles Gomez Gonzalez, J. Lachlan Mackenzie, Elsa M. Gonzalez Alvarez
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; Philadelphia, : John Benjamins, c2008
ISBN	1-282-10472-1 9786612104725 90-272-8968-9
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	xxi, 333 p. : ill., map
Collana	Studies in functional and structural linguistics, , 0165-7712 ; ; v. 60
Altri autori (Persone)	Gonzalez AlvarezElsa GonzalezMaria de los Angeles <1971-> MackenzieJ. Lachlan
Disciplina	410
Soggetti	Contrastive linguistics Grammar, Comparative and general - Phonology, Comparative
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Current Trends in Contrastive Linguistics -- Editorial page -- Title page -- LCC data -- Table of contents -- Contributors -- Abbreviations used in glosses -- Introduction -- 1. Grammatical categories in contrast -- 2. Contrastive linguistics and corpus studies -- 3. Meaning and cognition from a contrastive perspective -- Acknowledgments -- References -- Part 1 . Grammatical categories in contrast -- Ways of impersonalizing -- 1. Introduction -- 2. What is a third person plural impersonal construction? -- 2.1 Vague vs. impersonal reference -- 2.2 Impersonal vs. generic -- 2.3 The commonality of 3pl impersonals -- 3. The referents of the 3pl -- 4. Verbal impersonals -- 4.1 Reflexive impersonals -- 4.2 Participle impersonals -- 4.3 Agentless passives -- 5. Concluding remarks -- References -- Construing reference in context -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Context and the construal of reference -- 3. Structures -- 3.1 Finnish -- 3.1.1 Passive in Finnish -- 3.1.2 Zero person construction in Finnish -- 3.2 French -- 3.2.1 Passive in French -- 3.2.2 The pronoun on in French -- 4. Functions -- 5. Data -- 6. Non-specific reference forms in CMC -- 6.1 Non-specific reference in

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Sommario/riassunto

Drawing on data extracted from the British National Corpus and the Corpus de Referencia del Español Actual in conjunction with elicitation data from native speakers, this chapter constitutes a first step towards a constructionist, usage-based analysis of secondary predication with verba dicendi et declarandi (e.g., say, declare,decir 'say', declarar 'declare') in English and Spanish. Within this environment (the "declarative subjective-transitive" construction), at least three lower-level (i.e., item-specific) configurations can be posited in the light of coercion via a reflexive pronoun, an imperative form and the passive voice in both languages. While there is a considerable degree of similarity regarding the inventory of matrix verbs as well as the specific combinations attested in these three environments in English and Spanish, the symmetry is nonetheless far from perfect, thus corroborating the language-specific nature of constructions (Croft 2003).