

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910809715603321
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Titolo	Speech, memory, and meaning : intertextuality in everyday language // by Boris Gasparov
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; New York, NY, : De Gruyter Mouton, 2010
ISBN	1-282-71599-2 9786612715990 3-11-021911-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (317 p.)
Collana	Trends in linguistics. Studies and monographs ; ; 214
Classificazione	ER 960
Disciplina	410.1
Soggetti	Competence and performance (Linguistics) Communicative competence Speech acts (Linguistics) Memory Intertextuality
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.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Chapter 1. Introduction. Intertextuality, dialogism, and memory: The fabric of linguistic creativity -- Part I. The Vocabulary -- Chapter 2. A coat of many colors: Speech as intertextual collage -- Chapter 3. The principal unit of speech vocabulary: The communicative fragment (CF) -- Chapter 4. Integral meaning -- Part II. From the vocabulary to utterances -- Chapter 5. The axis of selection: From the familiar to the new -- Chapter 6. The axis of contiguity: Shaping an utterance -- Chapter 7. Categorization -- Chapter 8. Conclusion. The joy of speaking: Creativity as the fundamental condition of language -- Backmatter
Sommario/riassunto	The book pursues a usage-oriented strategy of language description by infusing it with the central concept of post-structural semiotics and literary theory - that of intertextual memory. Its principal claim is that all new facts of language are grounded in the speakers' memory of previous experiences of using language. It is a "speech to speech" model: every new fact of speech is seen as emerging out of recalled fragments that are reiterated and manipulated at the same time. By the

same token, the new meaning is always superscribed on something familiar and recognizable as its (more or less radical) alteration. The model offers a way to describe the meaning of language as an open-ended process, the way the meaning of literary works is described in modern literary criticism. The basic unit of the intertextual model is the Communicative Fragment (CF). A CF is a fraction of speech of any shape, meaning, and stylistic provenance, which speakers recognize and, as a consequence, treat as a whole. Its chief attributes are a prefabricated shape, an integral meaning (i.e., perceived as a whole whose scope always goes beyond the analyzable), and a specific communicative "texture" alluding at a speech genre, a tangible speech situation, and profiles of the speaker and the implied addressee. Although a CF has a recognizable shape, it is not as definitively set as that of stationary linguistic signs (words and morphemes). A CF can be tempered with, truncated or expanded, adapted to and fused with other CFs. The book describes in detail typical devices by which speakers manipulate their resources of linguistic memory, whose ever-new constellations in speech create infinite possibilities for new variations and shades of meaning. The book is of interest to linguists in such diverse fields as Cognitive Linguistics, discourse analysis, functional linguistics, language pedagogy, translation studies, semiotics, and the philosophy of language.
