

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910810253203321
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Titolo	Appositive relative clauses in English : discourse functions and competing structures // Rudy Loock
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; Philadelphia, : John Benjamins, 2010
ISBN	1-282-55866-8 9786612558665 90-272-8845-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (247 p.)
Collana	Studies in discourse and grammar (SIDAG) ; ; .22
Disciplina	425
Soggetti	Grammar, Comparative and general - Relative clauses Discourse analysis English language - Semantics
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 index.
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Sommario/riassunto

This book sheds new light on Appositive Relative Clauses (ARC s), a structure that is generally studied from a merely syntactic point of view, in opposition to Determinative (or Restrictive) Relative Clauses (DRC s). In this volume, ARC s are examined from a discourse/pragmatic point of view, independently of DRC s, in order to provide a positive definition of the structure. After a presentation of the morphosyntactic, semantic and pragmatic characteristics of ARC s, a taxonomy of their functions in discourse is established for both written and spoken English based on the results of a corpus-based investigation. Constraints are then defined within an information-packaging approach to syntactic structures to show why speakers choose ARC s over other competing allostructures, i.e. syntactic structures that fulfil similar discourse functions (e.g. nominal appositives, independent clauses, adverbials, noun premodifiers, topicalization). The end result is a deeper understanding of the richness of ARC s in their natural contexts of use.
