1. Record Nr. UNINA9910812445703321

Titolo Handbook of perceptual dialectology . Volume 1 / / edited by Dennis R.

Preston

Pubbl/distr/stampa Amsterdam;; Philadelphia,: J. Benjamins, c1999

ISBN 1-282-16267-5

9786612162671 90-272-9841-6

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (453 p.)

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Disciplina 417/.2

Soggetti Linguistic geography

Speech perception

Language and languages - Variation

Language awareness

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 HANDBOOK OF PERCEPTUAL DIALECTOLOGY; Title page; LCC page;

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Sommario/riassunto

Perceptual dialectology investigates what ordinary people (as opposed to professional linguists) believe about the distribution of language varieties in their own and surrounding speech communities and how they have arrived at and implement those beliefs. It studies the beliefs of the common folk about which dialects exist and, indeed, about what attitudes they have to these varieties. Some of this leads to discussion of what they believe about language in general, or "folk linguistics". Surprising divergences from professional results can be found. For the professional, it is intriguing to fi