Record Nr. UNINA9910822728603321 Autore Mel'cuk Igor A Titolo Communicative Organization in Natural Language. The semanticcommunicative structure of sentences Philadelphia, PA, USA, : John Benjamins Publishing Company, 20010901 Pubbl/distr/stampa John Benjamins Publishing Company **ISBN** 1-282-16001-X 9786612160011 90-272-9483-6 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (408 p.) Collana Studies in language companion series Communicative organization in natural language Disciplina 401/.43 LANGUAGE ARTS & DISCIPLINES Soggetti Linguistics / Semantics Grammar, Comparative and general - Sentences Semantics Philology & Linguistics Languages & Literatures Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Nota di contenuto Communicative Organization in Natural Language -- Editorial page --Title page -- LCC data -- Contents -- Introduction: Six Basic Questions Answered -- Chapter I. General Characterization of the Semantic-Communicative Structure of Sentences -- Chapter II. Basic Categories of Semantic-Communicative Structure -- Chapter III. Sem-Comm-Oppositions: Linguistic Comments and Illustrations -- Bibliography --Subject Index -- Name Index -- Language Index -- The STUDIES IN LANGUAGE COMPANION SERIES (SLCS). Sommario/riassunto The book defines the concept of Semantic-Communicative Structure [= Sem-CommS]-a formal object that is imposed on the starting Semantic

Structure [= SemS] of a sentence (under text synthesis) in order to turn the selected meaning into a linguistic message. The Sem-CommS is a system of eight logically independent oppositions: 1. Thematicity (Rheme vs. Theme), 2. Givenness (Given vs. Old), 3. Focalization

(Focalized vs. Non-Focalized), 4. Perspective (Foregrounded vs. Backgrounded), 5. Emphasis (Emphasized vs. Non-Emphasized), 6. Presupposedness (Presupposed vs. Non-Presupposed), 7. Unitariness (Unitary vs. Articulated), 8. Locutionality (Communicated vs. Signaled). The values of these oppositions mark particular subnetworks of the starting SemS and thus allow for the distinction between sentences such as (a) A man killed a dog vs. The dog was killed by a man, (b) John washed the window vs. It was John who washed the window or (c) It hurts! vs. Ouch! The proposed Sem-Comm-oppositions are conceived as an attempt at sharpening the well-known notions of Topic ~ Comment, Focus, etc. Possible linguistic strategies for expressing the values of the Sem-Comm-oppositions in different languages are discussed at some length, with linguistic illustrations.