1. Record Nr.   UNINA9910825566803321

Titolo	The paradox of grammatical change : perspectives from romance / / edited by Ulrich Detges, Richard Waltereit
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia PA, : J. Benjamins Pub. Co., c2008
ISBN	1-282-15229-7 9786612152290 90-272-9163-2
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	252 p
Collana	Amsterdam studies in the theory and history of linguistic science. Series IV, Current issues in linguistic theory, , 0304-0763 ; ; v. 293
Altri autori (Persone)	DetgesUlrich WaltereitRichard
Disciplina	440/.045
Soggetti	Linguistic change Grammar, Comparative and general Romance languages - Grammar, Historical
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.
Nota di contenuto	The Paradox of Grammatical Change -- Editorial page -- Title page -- LCC data -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- REFERENCES -- SYNTACTIC CHANGE FROM WITHIN AND FROM WITHOUT SYNTAX -- 1. The problem: The locus of syntactic change -- 2. The rise of French est-ce que as an interrogative particle: a pragmatically motivated syntactic change -- 3. Shift of grammatical function in Spanish presentational constructions: a syntactic change caused by syntactic factors -- 4. Conclusion -- REFERENCES -- Secondary Literature -- Old French Texts -- ON EXPLAINING THE RISE OF C'EST-CLEFTS IN FRENCH -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The grammar of c'est-clefts in French -- 3. On the alleged trade-off between clefting and focus in situ -- 3.1 Clefts in speech and in writing -- 3.2 Implications for diachrony -- 4. Syntactic motivations for the rise of c'est-clefts in French -- 4.1 Discourse-governed constituent order from Latin to Modern French -- 4.2 Corpus evidence -- 5. On explaining clefting 'beyond necessity' -- REFERENCES -- Corpora -- Further References -- THE ROLE OF THE PLURAL SYSTEM IN ROMANCE

Sommario/riassunto

This article investigates whether evolutionary accounts can offer new insights into the paradox of language change. Specifically, I will examine three recent influential accounts (Haspelmath 1999, Keller 1994, and Croft 2000). As they contain a broad spectrum of positions on the relations between language and biology, they can be divided into metaphorical, biologistic and generalized views. Cross-cutting these, two types of evolutionary accounts are distinguished, which I call adaptive and two-level views, respectively. I critically evaluate their potential to provide satisfactory explanations for various types of

change, drawing on examples from Romance and Germanic. Finally, I propose a revised explanation scheme which brings together the two-level approaches with theoretical distinctions and explanatory factors that have been suggested in earlier non-evolutionary frameworks, so that a more comprehensive view of language change can be obtained.