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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

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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, biologicistic 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.
