Record Nr. UNINA9910827065903321 Modality and theory of mind elements across languages / / edited by **Titolo** Werner Abraham, Elisabeth Leiss Berlin; ; Boston, : De Gruyter Mouton, c2012 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-283-85771-5 3-11-027107-9 3-11-027108-7 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (470 p.) Collana Trends in linguistics. Studies and monographs, , 1861-4302; ; 243 Classificazione ET 660 Altri autori (Persone) AbrahamWerner LeissElisabeth Disciplina 415/.6 Soggetti Modality (Linguistics) Cognitive grammar Grammar, Comparative and general - Aspect Grammar, Comparative and general - Mood Grammar, Comparative and general - Tense Language and languages - Philosophy Typology (Linguistics) Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto pt. 1. The foundation: speaker and hearer deixis, shifter, and double displacement -- pt. 2. Instances of deixis and origo in sundry languages. Sommario/riassunto Modality is the way a speaker modifies her declaratives and other speech acts to optimally assess the common ground of knowledge and belief of the addressee with the aim to optimally achieve understanding

and an assessment of relevant information exchange. In languages such as German (and other Germanic languages outside of English), this may happen in covert terms. Main categories used for this purpose are modal adverbials ("modal particles") and modal verbs. Epistemic uses of modal verbs (like German sollen) cover evidential (reportative) information simultaneously providing the source of the information. Methodologically, description and explanation rest on Karl Bühler's

concept of Origo as well as Roman Jakobson's concept of shifter. Typologically, East Asian languages such as Japanese pursue these semasiological fundaments far more closely than the European languages. In particular, Japanese has to mark the source of a statement in the declarative mode such that the reliability may be assessed by the hearer. The contributions in this collection provide insight into these modal techniques.