

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910828824303321
Titolo	Cross-linguistic aspects of processability theory // edited by Manfred Pienemann
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : J.Benjamins Pub. Co., 2005
ISBN	1-282-15620-9 9786612156205 90-272-9391-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (318 p.)
Collana	Studies in bilingualism, , 0928-1533 ; ; v. 30
Altri autori (Persone)	PienemannManfred <1951->
Disciplina	401/.93
Soggetti	Interlanguage (Language learning) Second language acquisition Psycholinguistics
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 indexes.
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Sommario/riassunto

Seven years ago Manfred Pienemann proposed a novel psycholinguistic theory of language development, Processability Theory (PT). This volume examines the typological plausibility of PT. Focusing on the acquisition of Arabic, Chinese and Japanese the authors demonstrate the capacity of PT to make detailed and verifiable predictions about the developmental schedule for each language. This cross-linguistic perspective is also applied to the study of L1 transfer by comparing the impact of processability and typological proximity. The typological

perspective is extended by including a comparison of different types of language acquisition. The architecture of PT is expanded by the addition of a second set of principles that contributes to the formal modeling of levels of processability, namely the mapping of argument-structure onto functional structure in lexical mapping theory. This step yields the inclusion of a range of additional phenomena in the processability hierarchy thus widening the scope of PT.
