

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910955663103321
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Titolo	The art of nonconversation : a reexamination of the validity of the oral proficiency interview // Marysia Johnson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2001
ISBN	9786611730253 9781281730251 1281730254 9780300129441 0300129440
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (256 p.)
Disciplina	418/.0076
Soggetti	Language and languages - Ability testing Oral communication - Ability testing Communicative competence - Testing
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 (p. [213]-226) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Chapter 1. Overview of the Book -- Chapter 2. The Genesis and Evolution of the OPI System -- Chapter 3. A Critical Appraisal of the OPI -- Chapter 4. Theoretical Bases for Investigating the OPI Speech Event -- Chapter 5. A Discourse Analysis Study of the OPI -- Chapter 6. Native Speakers' Perceptions of the OPI Speech Event -- Chapter 7. A Prototypical Model of the OPI Communicative Speech Event -- Chapter 8. Communicative Competence versus Interactional Competence -- Chapter 9. The Practical Oral Language Ability: The Application of Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory to Language Testing -- Appendixes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) is a widely accepted instrument for assessing second and foreign language ability. It is used by the Foreign Language Institute, the Defense Language Institute, Educational Testing Service, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, and at many universities in the United States. The Art of Non- Conversation examines the components of speaking ability and asks

whether the OPI is a valid instrument for assessing them. Marysia Johnson applies the latest insights from discourse and conversational analysis to determine the nature of the OPI's communicative speech event and investigate its construct validity within Messick's definition of validity. She discusses models of speaking ability—several communicative competence models, an interactional competence model, and a model of spoken interaction based on Vygotsky's sociocultural theory of learning. Finally she proposes a new model to test language proficiency drawn from sociocultural theory, one that considers language ability to be reflective of the sociocultural and institutional contexts in which the language has been acquired.
