

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910958944803321
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Titolo	Understatements and hedges in English // Axel Hubler
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; Philadelphia : , : J. Benjamins, , 1983
ISBN	1-283-35947-2 9786613359476 90-272-8033-9
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (202 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Pragmatics & beyond, , 0166-6258 ; ; 4:6
Classificazione	HF 117
Disciplina	420.1/9 420.19
Soggetti	Figures of speech Understatement English language - Spoken English National characteristics, English English language - Syntax
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Revision and translation of thesis (Habilitation)--University of Duisburg, 1981.
Nota di bibliografia	Bibliography: p. [183]-192.
Nota di contenuto	UNDERSTATEMENTS AND HEDGES IN ENGLISH; Editorial page; Title page; Table of contents; PREFACE; 0. INTRODUCTION; 1. GUIDELINES TO UNDERSTATEMENTS AND HEDGES; 1.1. The sentence and its negatability; 1.1.1. Projective character of sentences; 1.1.2. Negatability of sentences; 1.2. Liability constraints of the sentence; 1.2.1. Liability constraints and argumentation basis of the sentence; 1.2.2. Liability and indetermination; 1.2.3. Specification of the concept of indetermination; 1.3. Working definition and working perspective; 2. PHRASTIC INDETERMINATION AS A DEVICE FOR FORMING UNDERSTATEMENTS 2.1. Negation of predicates 2.1.1. Negation; 2.1.1.1. Kinds of negation; 2.1.1.2. Semantics of negation; 2.1.2. Predicates; 2.1.2.1. Delimitations; 2.1.2.2. Scalability of adjectives; 2.1.2.3. Scalability of verbs and nouns; 2.1.3. Negative predications; 2.1.3.1. Affixal negation of predicates; 2.1.3.2. Free-morpheme negation of predicates; 2.1.4. Summary; 2.2. Detensification of predicates by grading adverbs; 2.2.1.

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Sommario/riassunto

The goal of this monograph is a comprehensive analysis of understatements and other forms of non-direct speech (hedges) in modern English. It is based on a multi-level approach, including philosophical, cultural, and socio-psychological arguments. The main part consists of an investigation of the linguistic restrictions for understatements and hedges to be formed by means of the following grammatical categories: negation of predicates, gradation of predicates, modalization of affirmative sentences by means of parenthetical verbs, modal adverbs, modal verbs, and questions.
