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Nota di contenuto	STRATEGIES AND STRUCTURES THE PROCESSING OF RELATIVE CLAUSES -- Editorial page -- Title page -- Copyright page -- PREFACE -- Table of contents -- CHAPTER ONE. INTRODUCTION -- Preliminaries -- Processing Considerations -- Goals -- Preview -- CHAPTER TWO. COGNITIVE STRATEGIES -- Introduction -- Production and Comprehension -- Cognitive Strategies: An Early Perspective -- Strategies and Structures -- Parsing Strategies -- Some Sentence-Level Strategies -- Relative Clause Strategies -- Discourse Strategies -- Summary. -- CHAPTER THREE. RELATIVE CLAUSES -- Introduction -- Relative Clause Structures -- The Choice of Relative Clauses -- Independent Variables -- Stimulus Materials -- Predictions -- Research Methodologies -- CHAPTER FOUR. STUDIES IN RELATIVE ACCEPTABILITY -- Grammatically and Acceptability -- Acceptability and Processing Ease -- Predictions -- Experiment One: Category Judgements -- Experiment Two: Scaling Judgements -- Experiment Three: Rank Ordering Judgements -- Summary and Conclusions -- CHAPTER FIVE. STUDIES IN COMPREHENSION AND PRODUCTION -- Introduction --

Experiment Four: Visual Display -- Experiment Five: TV Presentation --
Conclusions -- CHAPTER SIX. STUDIES IN TEXT ANALYSIS --
Introduction7 -- The Texts -- Results -- Conclusions -- CHAPTER
SEVEN. STUDIES FROM OTHER LANGUAGES -- Introduction -- Studies in
Japanese and Korean -- Studies in Ukrainian -- Summary -- CHAPTER
EIGHT. CONCLUSIONS -- Introduction -- General Results -- On the
Nature of Strategies -- Modularity -- Conclusions -- REFERENCES --
APPENDIX A. STIMULUS MATERIALS FOR EXPERIMENTS 1 AND 2 --
APPENDIX B. STIMULUS MATERIALS FOR EXPERIMENT 3 -- APPENDIX C.
EXPERIMENT 1 INSTRUCTIONS -- INDEX -- The series Current Issues in
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Sommario/riassunto

In this monograph, the nature of processing strategies is explored in some detail, with an attempt to cut through the maze of often contradictory and confused proposals concerning the nature and form of various strategies. Once a preliminary conception of the nature of cognitive strategies and a hypothesis of how they interact with linguistic structures has been reached, it will be explored how such strategies are employed by examining experiments which address the role played by certain of these strategies in the comprehension and production of sentences. The authors draw a distinction between a strategy on the one hand and a grammatical structure on the other. They argued that, in principle, strategies ought to be formulated as language-independent, cognitively based operations which are involved in cognitive domains other than language, but which, in language processing, interact with language-specific structures to facilitate processing. Moreover, strategies are not linguistic rules, since, unlike rules, they permit exceptions and express tendencies rather than firm yes-no choices.
