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References; Dialect data, lexical frequency and the usage-based approach; 1. The contribution of dialect data to theories of language change; 1.1 The generative tradition
 1.2 Usage-based theories of language structure and language change
 2. The North Mid C dialect area; 3. Sound change and lexical frequency;
 4. Frequency effects in the North Mid C dialect; 4.1 Measuring lexical frequency; 4.2 Lexical frequency and th-fronting in the North Mid C dialect; 4.3 Lexical frequency and BIT variation in the North Mid C dialect; 5. Conclusions; References; Dialect areas and linguistic change;
 1. Introduction; 2. The Standard Spanish paradigm and the dialect phenomena known as leísmo, laísmo and loísmo
 3. Ibero-Romance dialect grammar in the Audible Corpus of Spoken Rural Spanish 4. The paradigms in the North; 4.1 The Eastern Asturian paradigm; 4.2 The Basque Spanish paradigm; 4.3 The Cantabrian paradigm; 5. The Centre paradigms; 6. Discussion and conclusions; 6.1 The paradigms from a linguistic and social typology perspective; 6.2 Diffusionist models and historical reconstruction; 6.3 Final conclusions; References; The role of implicational universals in language change; 1. The sedentary-Bedouin split in dialects of Tunisian Arabic; 2. Data
 3. The connection between pronominal and verbal marking 4. Contact-induced change; 5. The search for explanation; 6. A proposed hypothesis; References; On the genesis of the German recipient passive - Two competing hypotheses in the light of current; 1. Introduction; 2. Two competing hypotheses on the genesis of the recipient passive; 3. Results and problems of historical corpus analyses; 4. Kriegen in the light of current dialect data; 5. Summary; References; Paths to tone in the Tamang branch of Tibeto-Burman (Nepal); 1. Introduction; 1.1 Reconstruction and variation inter- or intra- dialect
 1.2 Intermediate or unstable stages and general linguistics

Sommario/riassunto

Much theorizing in language change research is made without taking into account dialect data. Yet, dialects seem to be superior data to build a theory of linguistic change on, since dialects are relatively free of standardization and therefore more tolerant of variant competition in grammar. In addition, as compared to most cross-linguistic and diachronic data, dialect data are unusually high in resolution. This book shows that the study of dialect variation has indeed the potential, perhaps even the duty, to play a central role in the process of finding answers to fundamental questions of the