

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910965539803321
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Titolo	Linear unit grammar : integrating speech and writing // John McH. Sinclair, Anna Mauranen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : J. Benjamins Pub., Co., c2006
ISBN	9786612155185 9781282155183 1282155180 9789027293060 9027293066
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	xxi, 185 p
Collana	Studies in corpus linguistics, , 1388-0373 ; ; v. 25
Altri autori (Persone)	MauranenAnna
Disciplina	415
Soggetti	Grammar, Comparative and general Language and languages
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 index.
Nota di contenuto	Linear Unit Grammar -- Editorial page -- Title page -- LCC data -- Table of contents -- Dedication page -- Acknowledgements -- Preamble -- Introduction -- A. Preliminaries -- 1. Setting the scene -- 2. Background -- 3. Data description -- B. Analysis -- 4. System of analysis -- 5. Step 1: Provisional Unit Boundaries -- 6. Step 2: Types of chunks -- 7. Step 3: Types of organisational elements -- 8. Step 4: Types of increments to shared experience -- 9. Step 5: Synthesis -- C. Theory and follow-up -- 10. The example texts analysed -- 11. Theoretical synopsis -- 12. Looking ahead -- Appendix -- Bibliography -- Index of names -- Index of subjects -- The series Studies in Corpus Linguistics.
Sommario/riassunto	People have a natural propensity to understand language text as a succession of smallish chunks, whether they are reading, writing, speaking or listening. Linguists have found that this propensity can shed light on the nature and structure of language, and there are many studies which attempt to harness the potential of natural chunking. This book explores the role of chunking in the description of discourse, especially spoken discourse. It appears that chunking offers a sound

but flexible platform on which can be built a descriptive model which is more open and comprehensive than more familiar approaches to structural description. The model remains linear, in that it avoids hierarchies, and it concentrates on the combinatorial patterns of text. The linear approach turns out to have many advantages, bringing together under one descriptive method a wide variety of different styles of speech and writing. It is complementary to established grammars, but it raises pertinent questions about many of their assumptions.

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