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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Theoretical preliminaries -- Methodological preliminaries -- More-support in phonology -- More-support in morphology -- More-support in the lexicon -- More-support in syntax -- More-support in semantics -- More-support in pragmatics/iconicity -- The emergence of more-support in diachrony -- More-support in British and American English -- Conclusion -- Theoretical implications and outlook -- References.
Sommario/riassunto	This book provides the most comprehensive account so far of novel and hitherto unexplained factors operative in the choice between synthetic (prouder) and analytic (more proud ) comparatives. It argues that the underlying motivation in using the analytic variant is to mitigate processing demands - a compensatory strategy referred to as more -support. The analytic variant is claimed to be better suited to environments of increased processing complexity - presumably owing to its ability to facilitate early phrase structure recognition, the more transparent one-to-one relation between form and function and possibly because the degree marker more can serve as a structural signal foreshadowing cognitive complexity. A bird's eye view of 24

determinants reveals that the processing effort which triggers the analytic comparative emanates from structures that are phonologically, morphologically, syntactically, lexically, semantically or pragmatically complex. By bridging the gap between corpus-based variation research and psycholinguistic and typological approaches, the book breaks new ground in uncovering the functional motivation behind the continued variability of synthetic-analytic contrasts.

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