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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910972258503321 |
| Titolo | Deconstructing Creole / / edited by Umberto Ansaldi, Stephen Matthews and Lisa Lim |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Philadelphia, : J. Benjamins Pub. Co., 2007 |
| ISBN | 9786612154515 9781282154513 1282154516 9789027292391 9027292396 |
| Edizione | [1st ed.] |
| Descrizione fisica | ix, 290 p |
| Collana | Typological studies in language, , 0167-7373 ; ; 73 |
| Classificazione | EE 1650 |
| Altri autori (Persone) | AnsaldiUmberto MatthewsStephen <1963-> LimLisa |
| Disciplina | 417/22 |
| Soggetti | Creole dialects Typology (Linguistics) |
| 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. |
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Sommario/riassunto

Deconstructing Creole is a collection of studies aimed at critically assessing the idea of creole languages as a homogeneous structural type with shared and peculiar patterns of genesis. Following up on the critical discussion of notions of 'creole exceptionalism' as historical and ideological constructs, this volume tests the basic assumptions that underlie current attempts to present 'creole structure' as a special type, from typological as well as sociohistorical perspectives. The sum of the findings presented here suggests that careful empirical investigation of input varieties and contact environments can explain the structural output without recourse to an exceptional genesis scenario. Echoing calls to dissolve the notion of 'creolization' as a special diachronic process, this volume proposes that theoretically grounded approaches to the notions of simplicity, complexity, transmission, etc. do not warrant considering so-called 'creole' languages as a special synchronic type.
