

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911145501903321
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Titolo	Modality and ellipsis : diachronic and synchronic evidence / / by Remus Gergel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; New York, : Mouton de Gruyter, c2009
ISBN	9786612425899 9781282425897 1282425897 9783110213362 3110213362
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (266 p.)
Collana	Trends in linguistics. Studies and monographs, , 1861-4302 ; ; 202
Disciplina	425
Soggetti	English language - Syntax English language - Ellipsis English language - Modality Grammar, Comparative and general - Ellipsis Modality (Linguistics)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [232]-256) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preface -- List of abbreviations -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Modals and ellipsis in the architecture of grammar -- 3. Towards an account of VP ellipsis -- 4. Modals and ellipsis in diachronic change -- 5. Modals and ellipsis in synchrony -- 6. Conclusion -- References -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Aspects of modality and ellipsis have become prominent in theoretical linguistics over the last years. What has remained under-investigated is the fact that modals tend to make excellent ellipsis licensors and, conversely, that many of the naturally occurring cases of ellipsis are licensed by modals. The book concentrates on the syntax of the modal auxiliaries with special focus on English and investigates the grammatical relationship with the process of ellipsis that interacts most relevantly with the modals in grammaticalized fashion by including a special emphasis on verb-phrase ellipsis. After a critical discussion of pertinent approaches in the two domains, the book focuses on

establishing the connection between the two areas by essentially drawing on the history of English and on observable effects in modern grammars, which it puts into perspective with semantically grounded features on the modals involved. Two major generalizations are proposed in the monograph. The first generalization concerns the treatment of the interaction between modals and ellipsis as determined by the features located in the licensing modal heads. To this end, the syntactic effects of the main semantic factors are explored in detail in English and partial effects obtaining in other languages are discussed. The second generalization concerns the syntactic component involved in ellipsis licensing. It is suggested that ellipsis types with the distributional features of verb-phrase ellipsis are licensed by interpretable features of the licensing head. The two generalizations are intertwined with one another and derive a series of further legitimate ellipsis licensors beyond the modals. The role of formal features that are interpretable is distinguished from agreement features, which are claimed not to be in charge of ellipsis licensing.
