



## The dialect laboratory : dialects as a testing ground for theories of language change /

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Monografía

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

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**Contenido:** 1. About this book; 2. Contributions of dialect evidence to hypotheses of historical linguistics: A synopsis; 2.1 Dialect evidence in the context of the Neogrammarian Hypothesis; 2.2 A structural dialectology is possible; 2.3 Sociolinguistics and change; 2.4 The discovery of dialects by generative linguistics; 2.5 Usage-based and evolutionary approaches; 2.6 Dialects in an emerging sociolinguistic typology; 3. This volume; 4. Open questions; References; The evolutionary-emergence model of language change; 1. Introduction 2. Background: Existing models of language change 3. Introducing the evolutionary-emergence model; 3.1 Emergence at the level of the utterance, speaker, and community; 3.2 Emergence at the levels of norms and fashions; 3.3 Summary of the model; 4. Testing the evolutionary-emergence model: TRAP-retraction and the LOT~THOUGHT merger in Southern Illinois English; 5. Conclusion; 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

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