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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction -- Chapter 1: Deconstructing the native speaker -- Chapter 2: Nativity and the nation state -- Chapter 3: Antiquity and the absence of ethnolinguistic nationalism -- Chapter 4: From sermo patrius to lingua materna -- Chapter 5: Abstracting the secular: Ethnolinguistic nationalism in the eighteenth century -- Chapter 6: Reconstructing Eden: Genealogies of language in the nineteenth century -- Chapter 7: Scholarship in the maternal arboretum of language -- Conclusion -- Backmatter
Sommario/riassunto	This monograph examines the ideological legacy of the the apparently innocent kinship metaphors of "mother tongue" and "native speaker" by historicizing their linguistic development. It shows how the early nation states constructed the ideology of ethnolinguistic nationalism, a composite of national language, identity, geography, and race. This ideology invented myths of congenital communities that configured the national language in a symbiotic matrix between body and physical environment and as the ethnic and corporeal ownership of national identity and local organic nature. These ethno-nationalist gestures informed the philology of the early modern era and generated arboreal

and genealogical models of language, culminating most divisively in the race conscious discourse of the Indo-European hypothesis of the 19th century. The philosophical theories of organicism also contributed to these ideologies. The fundamentally nationalist conflation of race and language was and is the catalyst for subsequent permutations of ethnolinguistic discrimination, which continue today. Scholarship should scrutinize the tendency to overextend biological metaphors in the study of language, as these can encourage, however surreptitiously, genetic and racial impressions of language.
