1.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910778513903321
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	Titolo	The legacy of the Kitab [[electronic resource] ] : Sibawayhi's analytical methods within the context of the Arabic grammatical theory / / by Ramzi Baalbaki
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boston, : Brill, 2008
	ISBN	1-282-39927-6 9786612399275 90-474-4230-X
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (350 p.)
	Collana	Studies in Semitic languages and linguistics ; v. 51
	Disciplina	492.75
	Soggetti	Arabic language - Grammar - History
	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. ([307]-319) and index.
	Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / R. Baalbaki Chapter Two. Fundamental analytical tools in the Kitb / R. Baalbaki Chapter Two. Fundamental analytical tools in the Kitb / R. Baalbaki Chapter Three. Sbawayhi' s analytical methods / R. Baalbaki Chapter Four. Comparison with subsequent authors / R. Baalbaki Bibliographical references / R. Baalbaki Indices / R. Baalbaki.
	Sommario/riassunto	This book is a comprehensive study of the Kitb of Sbawayhi (d. 180/796), undoubtedly the most authoritative work in the long history of Arabic grammar. It carefully examines the methodological concepts and methods that underline Sbawayhi's analysis of Arabic and the way in which these methods evolved at the hands of later grammarians. Placing the Kitb within the context of early Arabic philological activity, this book analyzes a wide range of its passages and demonstrates the coherency of its author's system of grammatical analysis and the interrelatedness of his analytical tools and notions. In particular, Sbawayhi's huge influence on the overall Arabic grammatical tradition is highlighted throughout the book. This notwithstanding, it is argued that most later grammarians largely neglect the semantic dimension which vividly features in Sbawayhi's approach to language as a social behavior and his reconstruction of the internal thinking of the speaker and the listener.