

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789094003321
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Titolo	Koineization in medieval Spanish / / Donald N. Tuten
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; New York : , : Mouton de Gruyter, , 2003
ISBN	3-11-090126-9
Edizione	[Reprint 2012]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (355 pages) : maps
Collana	Contributions to the Sociology of Language [CSL] ; ; 88.
Classificazione	IM 1725
Disciplina	467/.01
Soggetti	Sociolinguistics - Spain Spanish language - To 1500 - History Spanish language - To 1500 - Variation Spain Civilization 711-1516
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [302]-331) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Acknowledgements -- Contents -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. Koines and koineization -- Chapter 3. The Burgos phase -- Chapter 4. The Toledo phase -- Chapter 5. The Seville phase -- Chapter 6. Conclusions -- Maps -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	How and why do changes happen when and where they do? Is it possible to explain changes that occurred centuries ago? These are the central questions addressed in this book, in which the author argues that the development of numerous features of medieval (and modern) Spanish can best be explained as the results of koineization, a process in which mixing among speakers of different dialects leads to the rapid formation of a new mixed and generally simplified variety. The book includes a complete introduction to koineization and detailed study of three stages of dialect mixing in medieval Spanish.