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Sommario/riassunto

Popular readings of Johnson as a dictionary-maker often depict him as a writer who both laments - and attempts to control - the state of the language. This book looks at the range of Johnson's writings on, and the complexity of his thinking about, language and lexicography, not least with reference to the difficulties of power when exerted over the 'sea of words'. Paying close attention to Johnson's attitudes to language change, loanwords, usage, spelling, history, and authority, this volume engages with the evolution of his ideas about the nature, purpose, and methods of lexicography.
