

Summary

This dissertation is entitled “Al-Balawi’s Alif Baa (529 – 604 A.H): A Textual Criticism and study”. The textual criticism is based on two copies of the original manuscripts of the book which was written in 603 A.H, the 1867 edition of the book, and Mona Ti'ma’s University of Damascus MA thesis entitled “Alif Baa by Yusuf bin Muhammad Al-Balawi, Part 2: A Study and a Textual Criticism”.

The researcher presents Al-Balawi’s biography, his works, and his trips in search of knowledge. She then describes his tutors, his students, and the cultural and political age he lived in. Next, she analyzes how the author pictured and criticized the people of his community. She also refers to the sources he used, some of his opinions, and his intellectual orientations.

Finally, the researcher analyzes the author’s method of presentation and his prose and poetry style. With regard to the nature of the book, the researcher concludes that the book is not only a literary text in the traditional sense of the word, but also an encyclopedic, fictional, and educational text with a linguistic dimension.