Chatti, Saloua

Arabic logic from al-Fārābī to Averroes. A study of the early Arabic categorical, modal, and hypothetical syllogistics. (English) Zbl 1441.01001


A meticulous, definitive study of the categorical, modal, and hypothetical syllogistic of al-Fārābī, Avicenna, and Averroes, in which the emphasis is on the extent to which these logicians bring new approaches to Aristotelian themes. The conclusion is: (i) that al-Fārābī is faithful to Aristotle, never uses reductio ad absurdum in his proofs of the syllogistic moods, follows Alexander of Aphrodisias in providing more precise definitions than those of the Stagirite, endorses the view that affirmative quantified propositions have – unlike the negative ones – an import; (ii) Avicenna presents the most original theory, containing “many new distinctions and precisions that are not found in Aristotle or even in his commentators’ texts or in al-Fārābī’s ones”; (ii) Averroes presents a theory based on Aristotle, rejecting “many of the improvements made by his predecessors and even the Greek commentators”.

Reviewer: Victor V. Pambuccian (Glendale)

MSC:
01-02 Research exposition (monographs, survey articles) pertaining to history and biography
01A30 History of mathematics in the Golden Age of Islam
03-03 History of mathematical logic and foundations

Keywords:
Aristotle; Alexander of Aphrodisias; syllogism

Biographic references:
al-Fārābī, Abū Naṣr; Avicenna; Averroes

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