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**Al-Rummānī's *Tashbīh* and its Influence upon
Pre-‘Abd al-Qāhir Rhetoric**

*Abdul-Karim Al-Hyari**

ABSTRACT

Through the analysis of his conception of *tashbīh* (simile) and its different aspects, the present article argues that the interchangeability of two things explicitly likened to each other is the notion which underlies al-Rummānī's chapter on *tashbīh*. It also concludes that - apart from his insistence that the word which indicates similarity be explicitly stated - this notion and such ideas derived from it are, although they appear otherwise, in line with the traditional literature on the figure. His ideas, which have failed to attract much attention in modern research, dominated (albeit not always accepted or properly understood) the rhetorical scene almost a century before being eclipsed by ‘Abd al-Qāhir's. The most prominent rhetoricians of that time were influenced by al-Rummānī, among them ‘Ali Ibn Khalaf who was his most adherent follower.

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