

CF-4: Parallelism

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Definition

The communicator repeats the lexical, syntactic, or rhythmic structure of a sentence or phrase across two or more phrases, clauses, or sentences to create semantic balance, assonance, rhyme, or rhetorical emphasis.^{[1][2]}



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Types of parallelism

1) Lexical parallelism

Repetition of word forms or vocabulary across phrases (e.g. he came, he saw, he conquered).

Example

He came, he saw, he conquered.

2) Syntactic parallelism

Matching sentence structures (e.g. To err is human; to forgive, divine).

Example

To err is human; to forgive, divine.

3) Phonetic parallelism

Use of similar sounds for musical effect (e.g. alliteration, rhyme).

Example

إِنْ شَكُّ الرَّمَانُ حَوَّلَنَا فَأَنَا لَهُ حَمَانٌ

If time is treacherous, then I am treacherous towards it..

4) Al-Muzāwaja

A conditional form of parallelism in which the protasis (condition) and apodosis (result) each contain two or more paired elements, often mirroring each other in meaning and structure.^[3]

Example

When they fight each other and their blood flows abundantly, they remember they are relatives and their tears flow abundantly.

- Al-Buhturī ↗

References

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- ↑ W. P. Heinrichs, 'Rhetorical Figures', in *Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature* ↗, ed. Julie Scott Meisami and Paul Starkey (London: Routledge, 1998), 659, ISBN 0415068088. DOI: 10.4324/9780203020425 ↗
- ↑ Ahmad al-Hāshimī, *Jawāhir al-Balāgha fī al-Ma 'ānī wa-al-Bayān wa-al-Badī'* ↗ (Windsor: Hindāwī Foundation, 2019), 372, ISBN 9781527316386.

Categories: Arabic Rhetorical Devices | Linguistic Embellishments ('ilm al-badi') | Paragraph Structure & Flow

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