

B-5: Implicit Reference

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Discussion

Read

From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

Definition

Implicit Reference (*Kināya*) is the use of a descriptive word or phrase which alludes to the intrinsic characteristics of a thing, in place of the real name. Although the connection between the implicit reference and the real word is allegorical, it must be possible for the implicit reference to be literally true as well, which differentiates it from [metaphor](#).^{[1][2][3][4]}

Example






سليم لسانه طويل.

Salim’s tongue is long.

Explanation

Describing Salim’s tongue as being long implies that he talks a lot, or that he has vulgar or deceitful speech. However, it could also mean that his tongue is literally quite long.

References

- ↑ Hussein Abdul-Raof, *Arabic Rhetoric: A Pragmatic Analysis*  (Oxford: Routledge, 2006), 233-238, [ISBN 9780415386098](#). DOI: [10.4324/9780203965399](#) 
- ↑ Ayman Amin Abd Al-Ghani, *Al-Kāfi fī al-Balāgha: Al-Bayān, wa al-Badiʻ wa al-Maʻānī* (Cairo: Dār al-Tawfīqiyya lil-Turāth, 2011), 93-106.
- ↑ W. P. Heinrichs, ‘Rhetorical Figures’, in *Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature* , ed. Julie Scott Meisami and Paul Starkey (London: Routledge, 1998), 661, [ISBN 0415068088](#). DOI: [10.4324/9780203020425](#) 
- ↑ Aḥmad al-Hāshimī, *Jawāhir al-Balāgha fī al-Maʻānī wa-al-Bayān wa-al-Badīʻ*  (Windsor: Hindāwī Foundation, 2019), 345–360, [ISBN 9781527316386](#).

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الكناية

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