

CB-1: Antithesis

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From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

Also known as [Antonymy](#), [المقابلة](#), [المطابقة](#), [تضاد](#)



الطباق

Definition

Two [antonyms](#) appear together, such as “big” and “small.” The two words may be allegorical or non-allegorical.

The antithesis construct may be either non-negated antithesis using direct opposites such as “true” and “false,” or negated antithesis using negation of the same word (such as “true” and “not true”). The antithesis may occur between two nouns, two verbs, two particles, or any combination of these. Multiple antithesis may occur where two or more antonyms or antonymic phrases appear together.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

Example

فَلْيَضْحَكُوكُمْ قَلِيلًا وَلْيَنْكُوْكُمْ كَثِيرًا جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ

Quran 9:82

So let them laugh a little—they will weep much as a reward for what they have committed.

Explanation

There is a semantic opposition between *yadhakū* (laugh) and *yabkū* (cry), and between *qalīlān* (a little) and *kathīr* (a lot).

See also

- [CB-2: Colour Contrast](#)

References

- ↑ Hussein Abdul-Raoof, *Arabic Rhetoric: A Pragmatic Analysis* (Oxford: Routledge, 2006), 245–246, ISBN 9780415386098. DOI: 10.4324/9780203965399
- ↑ Hussein Abdul-Raoof, *Arabic Rhetoric: A Pragmatic Analysis* (Oxford: Routledge, 2006), 252–254, ISBN 9780415386098. DOI: 10.4324/9780203965399
- ↑ 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), 365–366, ISBN 9781527316386.

Categories: [Arabic Rhetorical Devices](#) | [Linguistic Embellishments \('ilm al-badī'\)](#) | [Contrasts & Inversions](#)

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