

CF-5: Digression

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Definition

The communicator mentions one topic, then leaves that topic and mentions something else which may be the opposite or contrasting to the original topic, then returns to complete the original topic.^{[1][2]} The rhetorical effect is particularly pronounced when the digression has an ironic, sarcastic, or praising intent.^[3]

Example

أنا أحب بيرمنغهام، إنها مدينة رائعة. ليست مثل لندن حيث الناس بائسون دائمًا. يوجد في بيرمنغهام الكثير من المساحات الخضراء والناس سعداء.

I love Birmingham, it's a great city. It's not like London where the people are always miserable.
Birmingham has a lot of green spaces and people are happy.

Explanation

The communicator praises Birmingham, then digresses to talk of the problems of London, then returns to talk about Birmingham. The digression has a critical tone against London, which emphasises the contrast with Birmingham.

See also

-  [CF-6: Rhetorical Branching](#) where the communicator starts a new topic linked to a previous one and does not return.
- [Excursus](#)

References

- ↑ Hafnī Nāṣif, Muḥammad Diyāb, Sultan Muḥammad and Muṣṭafā Ṭammām, *Durūs al-Balāgha* (Beirut: Dār Ibn Ḥazm, 2012), 109, ISBN 9786144162798.
- ↑ Aḥmad al-Hāshimī, *Jawāhir al-Balāgha fī al-Ma 'ānī wa-al-Bayān wa-al-Badī'* (Windsor: Hindāwī Foundation, 2019), 364-365, ISBN 9781527316386.
- ↑ W. P. Heinrichs, 'Rhetorical Figures', in *Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature*, ed. Julie Scott Meisami and Paul Starkey (London: Routledge, 1998), 658, ISBN 0415068088. DOI: 10.4324/9780203020425

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

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