

CF-9: Anticipatory Closure

Page

Discussion

Read

From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

Definition

A rhetorical device in which the speaker introduces an early phrase that guides or prepares the listener for the final word of a clause or rhyme of the verse, thus enhancing rhythmic harmony and closure. This rhetorical pre-emption or foreshadowing guides the listener's expectation.^[1]

Example 1

وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ الْغُرُوبِ.

And glorify the praise of your Lord before the rising of the sun and before its setting.

[Qur'an 50:39](#)

Explanation

The phrase “قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ” sets up a rhythmic and thematic expectation, fulfilled by “قَبْلَ الْغُرُوبِ”.

Example 2

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُظْلِمَهُمْ وَلَكِنْ كَانُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ.

And Allah was not to wrong them, but they wronged themselves.

[Qur'an 29:40](#)

Explanation

The structure “وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُظْلِمَهُمْ...” anticipates a contrastive resolution, which arrives with “وَلَكِنْ كَانُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ...”.

References

- ↑ Aḥmad al-Hāshimī, *Jawāhir al-Balāgha fī al-Ma‘ānī wa-al-Bayān wa-al-Badī‘* [↗](#) (Windsor: Hindāwī Foundation, 2019), 367-368, [ISBN 9781527316386](#).

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Linguistic Embellishments ('ilm al-badī')

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