



# B-5: Implicit Reference

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## 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.<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup>

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## Example

سلیم لسانه طویل.

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

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- ↑ 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 ↗
- ↑ Ahmad al-Hāshimī, *Jawāhir al-Balāgha fī al-Ma'ānī wa-al-Bayān wa-al-Badi'* ↗ (Windsor: Hindāwī Foundation, 2019), 345–360, ISBN 9781527316386.

**Categories:** Arabic Rhetorical Devices | Figurative Speech ('ilm al-bayān)**Permanent page link:** <https://doi.org/10.64393/balagha.Q60>