

# CE-3: Semantic Grouping

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From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

Also known as [al-Tanāsub](#), [al-I'tilāf](#) and [al-Tawfiq](#)

## CE-3: Semantic Grouping

**Category** Linguistic Embellishments ('ilm al-badī')**Subcategory** Grouping & Distinguishing**Synonyms** [al-Tanāsub](#)[al-I'tilāf](#)[al-Tawfiq](#)[Balaghahscore.com](#)**Code** CB-1[BalaghahBase.org](#)**Code** Q83[OpenAlex.org](#)**ID** W4415388529[Cite this page](#)**DOI** 10.64393/balaghah.Q83[Download PDF](#)

## Definition

This is a rhetorical device where multiple, often related or similar, qualities or details are grouped together to enhance emphasis or create a rich, detailed picture. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

There are several types of semantic grouping.

### 1) Descriptive (تعدد وصفي)

Listing qualities or features that contribute to an overall impression.

#### Example

يقع هذا البيت في حي رائع، في حالة جيدة لعمره، قريب من مدرسة متميزة، والسعر معقول. هو مناسب تماماً لنا!

This house is located in a great neighbourhood, in good condition for its age, close to an excellent school, and the price is reasonable. It is perfect for us!

#### Explanation

The communicator lists several different but thematically related qualities of the house which contribute to a single point: the house is desirable.

### 2) Semantic (تعدد معنوي)

Listing conceptually or thematically related ideas, often to amplify moral, emotional, or theological messages.

#### Example

كَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ كَانُوا أَشَدُّ مِنْكُمْ فُتُوحَةً وَأَنْتَرُ أَزْلَادًا وَأَوْلَادًا

Like those before you: they were **stronger** than you, and had more **wealth** and **children**...

Qur'an 9:69

#### Explanation

The joining of strength, wealth, and children shows semantic association, building emphasis through related terms.

### 3) Imagistic (تعدد تصويري)

Using rich, often poetic, similes or metaphors from the same semantic domain.

#### Example

(...emaciated camels) like curved bows, nay, like the arrows, when whittled sharp, nay, like the bowstrings.

- Al-Buhturi

#### Explanation

Emaciated camels are described with three related similes from the same semantic domain (archery): like curved bows, like sharpened arrows, and like bowstrings.

### 4) Contextual/Associative (مراجعة النظر)

The joining of semantically or contextually linked terms to preserve coherence, harmony, or appropriateness in meaning, to emphasise their connectedness. [\[3\]](#)

#### Example

إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا

"Indeed, Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing."

Qur'an 4:58

#### Explanation

The words "Samī'" (All-Hearing) and "Baṣīr" (All-Seeing) are contextually paired because they refer to two complementary modes of divine perception —hearing and sight from the same semantic domain (perception/sensory awareness), making them rhetorically harmonious and theologically balanced.

#### See also

- [CE-2: Syntactic Grouping](#) where the lexical items are connected by a syntactic rather than semantic relationship.

#### References

- ↑ Hafni Nasif, Muhammad Diyāb, Sultan Muhammad and Muṣṭafā Tamnāmā, [Durūs al-Balaghah](#) (Beirut: Dār Ibn Ḥazm, 2012), 108, ISBN 9786144162798.
- ↑ W. P. Heinrichs, 'Rhetorical Figures', in [Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature](#), ed. Julie Scott Meisami and Paul Starkey (London: Routledge, 1998), 658-659, ISBN 0415068088. DOI: 10.4324/9780203020425
- ↑ Ahmad al-Hāshimī, [Jawāhir al-Balaghah fi al-Mā'ani wa-al-Bayān wa-al-Badī'](#) (Windsor: Hindawi Foundation, 2019), 367, ISBN 9781527316386.

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