

CG-9: Abstraction

Page

Discussion

Read

From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

Definition

This is the abstracting of a general attribute from an individual, using an explicit abstraction formula: "In [the individual] I have [an abstracted trait]". For example: "In my neighbour, I have a true friend." The construct specifically includes prepositions like "li" (لـ) or "bi" (بـ) to indicate that an idealized trait or role exists within the subject.^{[1][2][3]}

Example

فلئن بقيت لأحينٍ لغزوةٍ نحو الغنائم أو يموتَ بي كريمٌ

Should I stay alive, I will embark on a raid... unless [in me] a noble man should die.

- Qatāda ibn Maslama al-Ḥanaḩī

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), 659, [ISBN 0415068088](#). DOI: [10.4324/9780203020425](#) [↗](#)
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Aḥmad al-Hāshimī, *Jawāhir al-Balāgha fī al-Ma‘ānī wa-al-Bayān wa-al-Badī‘* [↗](#) (Windsor: Hindāwī Foundation, 2019), 371, [ISBN 9781527316386](#).

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