

A-4: Prohibition

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From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

Definition

The role of the prohibitive is to communicate a compelling prohibition. The prohibitive may be recognised by the use of *lā* and the present tense in the jussive mood.

For rhetorical purposes, the prohibitive may be used for purposes other than prohibition.^{[1][2][3][4]}

Examples

1) To supplicate

رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِنْ نَسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا

“Our Lord! Do not punish us if we forget or make a mistake.

Quran 2: 286

2) To threaten

لا تستخدم حزام الأمان.

Do not use a seatbelt.

(Implied threat of harm in the event of an accident)

3) To express sarcasm

لا تمارس الرياضة لأن صحتك ليست مهمة.

Don't do any exercise, because your health is not important.

4) To guide

لا تضيع وقتك

Do not waste your time

5) To challenge

لا تحاول الحصول على درجات أفضل من أخيك.

Do not try to get better grades than your brother.

6) To rebuke

لا تفخر كثيراً بإنجازاتك.

Do not be so proud of your achievements.

7) To express a desire

يا نقودي، ابق في جيبتي

Oh money, stay in my pocket!

References

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- ↑ Ayman Amin Abd Al-Ghani, *Al-Kāfi fī al-Balāgha: Al-Bayān, wa al-Badiʻ wa al-Maʻānī* (Cairo: Dār al-Tawfīqiyya lil-Turāth, 2011), 336-339.
- ↑ Hafnī Nāṣif, Muḥammad Diyāb, Sultan Muḥammad and Muṣṭafā Ṭammām, *Durūs al-Balāgha* [↗] (Beirut: Dār Ibn Ḥazm, 2012), 32-33, *ISBN 9786144162798*.
- ↑ Basil Hatim, *Arabic Rhetoric: The Pragmatics of Deviation from Linguistic Norms* [↗], LINCOM Studies in Communication 04 (Munich: Lincom Europa, 2010), 159-161, *ISBN 9780415386098*.

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