

## B-2: Metaphor

Page	Discussion	Read
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From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

### Definition

A metaphor is a rhetorical device which is derived from the “**effective simile**” which consists of the likened-to and the likened only. To make a metaphor, either the likened-to or the likened is omitted.<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup>

### Example

سليم أسد.
Salim is a lion.
...becomes...
دخل أسدُ الغرفة.
A lion entered the room.

### Types of metaphor

The types of metaphor include:

#### 1) Explicit metaphor (*al-isti'āra al-taṣrīḥiyya*)

As in the example above, the likened-to is omitted in the explicit metaphor, and only the likened is mentioned.

#### 2) Implicit metaphor (*al-isti'āra al-makaniyyah*)

In the implicit metaphor, the likened is omitted and something contextually symbolic from it is mentioned instead.

زأر الملك على الجموع.
The King roared at the crowds.

#### 3) Enhanced metaphor (*al-isti'āra al-murashshaḥa*)

An enhanced metaphor is an implicit metaphor with additional description of the likened.

زأر الملك على الجموع وصعد إلى المنصة جلاله.
The King roared at the crowds as he majestically ascended to the podium.

#### 4) Naked metaphor (*al-isti'āra al-mujarrida*)

A naked metaphor is an explicit metaphor which is enhanced with lexical items appropriate to the likened.

دخل أسدُ الغرفة وكان يرتدي بدلة راقية.
A lion entered the room and he was wearing an classy suit.

#### 5) Absolute metaphor (*al-isti'āra al-muṭlaqa*)

An absolute metaphor is an explicit metaphor which either does not include any lexical items relevant to the likened or the likened-to, or includes items which are relevant to both.

#### 6) Proverbial metaphor (*al-isti'āra al-tamthiliyya*)

A proverbial metaphor draws attention to received wisdom in an allegorical way.

### See also

- 👉👉 B-1: Simile

### References

- ↑ Hussein Abdul-Raof, *Arabic Rhetoric: A Pragmatic Analysis* <sup>PDF</sup> (Oxford: Routledge, 2006), 218-225, *ISBN 9780415386098*. DOI: [10.4324/9780203965399](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203965399) <sup>↗</sup>
- ↑ Ayman Amin Abd Al-Ghani, *Al-Kāfi fī al-Balāgha: Al-Bayān, wa al-Badi’ wa al-Ma’ānī* (Cairo: Dār al-Tawfīqiyya lil-Turāth, 2011), 67-86.
- ↑ W. P. Heinrichs, ‘Metaphor’, in *Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature* <sup>↗</sup>, ed. Julie Scott Meisami and Paul Starkey (London: Routledge, 1998), 522-524, *ISBN 0415068088*.
- ↑ Udo Simon, ‘*Isti’āra*’ <sup>↗</sup>, in *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics Online*, ed. Lutz Edzard and Rudolf Erik de Jong (Leiden: Brill, 2011).

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**Permanent page link:** <https://doi.org/10.64393/balagha.Q57>



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