

Page Discussion

From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

Also known as **Antonymy**, المطابقة, المقابلة and تضادّ

### Definition

Two **antonyms** appear together, such as “big” and “small.” The two words may be allegorical or non-allegorical.

The antithesis construct may be either non-negated antithesis using direct opposites such as “true” and “false,” or negated antithesis using negation of the same word (such as “true” and “not true”). The antithesis may occur between two nouns, two verbs, two particles, or any combination of these. Multiple antithesis may occur where two or more antonyms or antonymic phrases appear together.<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup>

## Example

فَلْيُضْحَكُوا قَلِيلًا وَلْيَبْكُوا كَثِيرًا جَزَاءٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ

Quran 9:82

So let them laugh a little—they will weep much as a reward for what they have committed.



### Explanation

There is a semantic opposition between *yadhakū* (laugh) and *yabkū* (cry), and between *qalīlan* (a little) and *kathīr* (a lot).

## See also

-  CB-2: Colour Contrast

## References

1. ↑ Hussein Abdul-Raof, *Arabic Rhetoric: A Pragmatic Analysis*  (Oxford: Routledge, 2006), 245–246, ISBN 9780415386098. DOI: [10.4324/9780203965399](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203965399) ↗
2. ↑ Hussein Abdul-Raof, *Arabic Rhetoric: A Pragmatic Analysis*  (Oxford: Routledge, 2006), 252–254, ISBN 9780415386098. DOI: [10.4324/9780203965399](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203965399) ↗
3. ↑ 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](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203020425) ↗
4. ↑ Aḥmad al-Hāshimī, *Jawāhir al-Balāgha fī al-Ma'ānī wa-al-Bayān wa-al-Baḍī'* ↗ (Windsor: Hindāwī Foundation, 2019), 365–366, ISBN 9781527316386.

Categories: Arabic Rhetorical Devices | Linguistic Embellishments ('ilm al-badī') | Contrasts &amp; Inversions

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## الطباق

## CB-1: Antithesis

**Category** Linguistic Embellishments  
(‘ilm al-badī‘)

Subcategory	Contrasts & Inversions
<p><b>Contrasts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contrast in <b>voice</b> (e.g., <i>loud</i> vs. <i>soft</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>pitch</b> (e.g., <i>high</i> vs. <i>low</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>tempo</b> (e.g., <i>fast</i> vs. <i>slow</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>timbre</b> (e.g., <i>brass</i> vs. <i>strings</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>texture</b> (e.g., <i>thick</i> vs. <i>thin</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>color</b> (e.g., <i>bright</i> vs. <i>dull</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>shape</b> (e.g., <i>round</i> vs. <i>angular</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>size</b> (e.g., <i>large</i> vs. <i>small</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>weight</b> (e.g., <i>heavy</i> vs. <i>light</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>temperature</b> (e.g., <i>hot</i> vs. <i>cold</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>humidity</b> (e.g., <i>wet</i> vs. <i>dry</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>light</b> (e.g., <i>bright</i> vs. <i>dim</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>darkness</b> (e.g., <i>dark</i> vs. <i>light</i>)</li> 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<i>deep</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>width</b> (e.g., <i>wide</i> vs. <i>narrow</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>narrowness</b> (e.g., <i>narrow</i> vs. <i>wide</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>height</b> (e.g., <i>tall</i> vs. <i>short</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>shortness</b> (e.g., <i>short</i> vs. <i>tall</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>length</b> (e.g., <i>long</i> vs. <i>short</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>shortness</b> (e.g., <i>short</i> vs. <i>long</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>width</b> (e.g., <i>wide</i> vs. <i>narrow</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>narrowness</b> (e.g., <i>narrow</i> vs. <i>wide</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>height</b> (e.g., <i>tall</i> vs. <i>short</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>shortness</b> (e.g., <i>short</i> vs. <i>tall</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>length</b> (e.g., <i>long</i> vs. <i>short</i>)</li> <li>Contrast in <b>shortness</b> (e.g., <i>short</i> vs. <i>long</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inversions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inversion of <b>voice</b> 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**Synonyms**      **Antonymy**

## المقابلة

المطابقة

تضاد

**Balagha-Corpus.com** 

**Corpus data**      [See examples ↗](#)

**Balaghascore.com** 

Code CC-1 OpenAlex ID W4415372292 [↗](#)

**BalaghaBase.org** 

Code [Q69](#) 

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