Referent

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From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

In linguistics and rhetoric, a *referent* is the actual person, object, idea, or concept that a word or phrase refers to in a given context. It is the real-world entity that a linguistic expression points to, beyond its grammatical or semantic properties.

Example

رجع الطالب إلى كتابه.

The student returned to his book.

Explanation

The referent of the personal pronoun hu is al-ṭālib.

Category: Glossary of Terms

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This page was last edited on 16 April 2025, at 11:12.