

Old Arabic Rhetoric and Poly-Meaning Problem

The study takes care of an important and complex problem, usually called poly-meaning. This term means, obviously, that every signifier, as the modern perspective assures, has many meanings in the same time, in contrary with the usual doctrine that supposes that every signifier has one intended meaning only. The study discusses this problem, besides it discusses the situation of old Arabic rhetoric about the problem. For this reason, the study plan, after defining the term which the problem depends on, has recalled a data of Arabic rhetoric represent the top of its climax. The study throw light on Abd-El-Kaher Al-Gorgany's theory, specially what he called meaning of meaning. The study, also, looks at Al-Zamakhshary and his discrimination between the real meaning and the metaphoric one. The discussion decides that the old rhetorical theory is a mono-meaning, or, for the best, is a dual-meaning theory. But the study, by using a rich data of linguistics, explains that every signifier, including the literary and artistic one, is full of meanings that work together in the same second. Practically, there are some examples, explained and discussed, in the study to prove the idea, and to numerate many meanings in every signifier in the level of language generally, and in the level of rhetorical and literary writing specially.