

The semantics of frustration (*Ihbat*) in the Quran focusing on syntagmatic & paradigmatic relations

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(Date of Receipt: 6 August 2016; Date of Acceptance: 4 October 2016)

Abstract

The concept of "frustration" is one of the important concepts in the Quran. This study has a semantic perspective to this word and has been composed to explain the word "frustration", to discover the semantic layers and to extract the semantic components out of the holy Quran on the basis of new methods of semantics. Having a semantic look at the word with descriptive approach focusing on concurrency and syntagmatic & paradigmatic relations, it can be said that the word "frustration" semantically has a close relation to the concept of "torment", in a way that it can be selected as the original alternative for "frustration". To put it another word, frustration of man's deeds can be considered torment which is caused by a number of factors like unbelief, denying divine verses and the Resurrection, killing of the prophets and those who order justice, blocking the way of God, and so forth and those who are frustrated deserve God's torment and will be left helpless both in this world and hereafter and this is a great loss. In addition to the concept of "torment" other concepts such as falsification, loss, and misdirection are in some cases relatively synonymous with the concept of "frustration" and can replace the word "frustrate" in some common forms of meaning.

Keywords: frustrate, Holy Quran, semantics, syntagmatic & paradigmatic relations, torment.

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A review of *Tinat* in the viewpoint of Allameh Tabatabaei

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(Date of Receipt: 7 August 2016; Date of Acceptance: 25 December 2016)

Abstract

One of the Shi'a teachings discussed in the exegeses of the Quran is *Tinat*. This teaching explains the different creation of human beings in the creation and speaks of the relation between belief and unbelief and *Tinat*. In the first glance, it seems that this teaching refers to the essential happiness and unhappiness of human and denies his free will in determining his fate and consequently implies inclination toward determinism. Many Shi'a traditionalists and interpreters have explained the contents of these hadiths and have resolved their problems. Outlining a comprehensive schema based on the principles of the Sadra's Transcendent Philosophy, Allameh Tabatabaei has analyzed the content of this teaching. Construing the term Tin (Clay) as a celestial matter that constitutes first the human body and from which human soul arises next, he considers its influence on men's happiness and unhappiness as it requires, not implying determinism. Exploring Allameh Tabatabaei's analysis, this paper explains its bases and finally assesses his resolution for the problems.

Keywords: Allameh Tabatabaei, determinism, essential happiness and unhappiness, Tafsir Al-Mizan, *Tinat*.

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The reasons of not mentioning “Bismi-llāhi r-rahmāni r-rahīm” at the beginning of the Quranic chapter of al-Barā’ah focusing on the chapter's content

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(Date of Receipt: 8 October 2016; Date of Acceptance: 20 December 2016)

Abstract

The only Quranic chapter that does not begin with the verse “Bismi-llāhi r-rahmāni r-rahīm” (“In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful”) is al-Barā’ah. Different reasons have been cited for not mentioning this verse. The present study seeks to examine the matter of not mentioning Basmalah at the beginning of the al-Barā’ah chapter. To this end, different viewpoints were examined and the external evidences surrounding the chapter including both circumstances and the atmosphere of revelation have been considered. The Tabūk battle was the major event in the year 9 AH. The different behavior of the Prophet's companions at the time of this battle was an indication of the existence of two groups of the faithful and the hypocrites. The year 9 AH was a turning point in the history of the Arabian Peninsula. Most people's inclination toward Islam was for political, security, and economic reasons. Their approach to Islam was based on their interests. The predominant feature was unbelief under the guise of faith, i.e., hypocrisy. This is also evidenced in the chapter's content. The Basmalah mentioned by God Almighty at the beginning of every Quranic chapter is a way of inviting people to benefit from God's general and specific mercy. However, the barrier of unbelief created by hypocrites prevents God's mercy to reach them. In another word, the operation of hypocrites and their innate desire is to cut their ties with God and the Islamic community and because of their behavior they have been deprived of God's mercy.

Keywords: Al-Barā’ah Chapter, Basmala, Holy Quran, hypocrisy, unbelief.

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Resolution of superficial conflict between verses of Saif and Denial of Duress and its influence on the matter of freedom of religion

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(Date of Receipt: 12 November 2016; Date of Acceptance: 19 December 2016)

Abstract

One of the most important matters in the field of jurisprudence and exegesis of the Holy Quran is freedom of religion. According to the verses of denial of duress everyone is free to choose his religion but the Saif verses superficially state that the people are not free to choose their religion. One of the four following presumed relations is established between verses of Saif and denial of duress: 1. Verses of Saif abrogate the verses of denial of duress and therefore upon the revelation of these verses the rule of freedom of religion was abrogated; 2. Opposite of the former; i.e. upon the revelation of the verses of denial of duress the matter of choosing religion under duress was abrogated; 3. Verses of Saif particularize the general verses of denial of duress. Therefore, the people are free to choose their religion except in the cases determined by Saif verses; 4. Verses of Saif imply superficial duress and verses of denial of duress imply deep duress, therefore the people are deeply free but not superficially. Because of revelation of verse 29 of surah At-Tawbah after the verses of Saif which is the reason of freedom of religion for the people of the book on the condition of paying jizya (tax), the first assumption is dismissed; because it requires that verses of Saif themselves, after being abrogator, have been abrogated again. The second assumption requires priority of abrogator over the abrogated. In this study, the authenticity of the recent case has been argued through new and clear approach and proofs.

Keywords: Denial of Duress, freedom of religion, Jizya, people of the Book, Verses of Saif.

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Generality of sending the prophets in the Quran

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(Date of Receipt: 13 October 2015; Date of Acceptance: 5 March 2016)

Abstract

The exoteric meaning of some verses in the Quran shows that prophecy and sending the prophets covers all of regions of the world. In another word, prophecy is a comprehensive fact and includes all communities and nations. But this is incompatible with the historical facts, because the history speaks only about the existence of the prophets in the Middle East and there is no authentic historical report on the existence of the prophets in other regions and the great civilizations of the world. This incompatibility can be studied based on two approaches: historical approach and interpretative approach. Taking the second approach this paper discusses the matter that even if we accept the validity of the historical report that there was no prophet in other regions of the world, we can show that there is no inconsistency between the history and the word of the Quran. This paper aims to study three words “warner, community, and messenger” in these verses and to show that these three words, specifically the word “community” and the verses pertaining to the universality of revelation and prophecy can be interpreted so that they cannot be inconsistent with the history.

Keywords: community, conflict between Quran and history, messenger, universality of revelation, warner.

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The effect of context on translation and understanding of the Quran

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(Date of Receipt: 31 July 2016; Date of Acceptance: 20 December 2016)

Abstract

One of the ways to understand the true meaning of the Quran's words and combinations as well as its translation and true equivalents is paying attention to the context, since it determines the meaning. Context has many applications in the interpretation of the Quran, including its role in the interpretation of the word, determining the meaning of the sentence, the order of revelation of verses, recognizing Meccan and Medinan verses, determining the antecedent, understanding the omitted word or sentence, and determining the word's extension. The importance of this study is to reveal the value of the individual and combined words and sentences. It also warns the translator that for an accurate translation, he must consider theoretical principles and know the context, and they should choose, among multiple meanings, the one which is the main purpose of the speaker. Therefore, it is necessary to consider carefully syntagmatic of the words of the Quran, circumstances of revelation occasion, and combinations of the words. This study has tried to describe different kinds of contexts in a reasonable way relying on an analytic style. There are also analyses of samples of Quranic verses following each context, so that the translator and the reader are notified to the guiding lights, and the need to adhere to the rules and to regard the circumstances. The main results indicate that: The Quranic words and verses are systematically connected to each other, and the quality of their arrangement and vocabulary association gives a special meaning to it. Quran does not have a single-sided nature, and the angles of understanding the verses are different according to the revelation situation, the demands of the age, and the type of the speaker's speech.

Keywords: context, meaning, multiplicity of meaning, Quranic context, translation, word.

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Reviewing the nature of realism and its effects in the view of Quran and Hadith

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(Date of Receipt: 29 October 2016; Date of Acceptance: 8 December 2016)

Abstract

The religion of Islam always puts emphasis on realism and it forms one of its most essential principles. Accordingly it tries to teach humans to focus their attention on realities and to use them as a base for planning their efforts; since without knowing realities one cannot achieve ideal goals in the light of which human's prosperity is ensured. Therefore it is necessary to take step toward obeying the divine orders through identifying the nature of realism and its effects and, following that, to strengthen this important element and to create motives to proceed further toward growth and transcendence in order that the human finally obtains happiness and prosperity. This text, which has been compiled using library method of research, tries to explain the nature of realism and its effects and next to discuss the relation between the effects and their priority order.

Keywords: effects, instinct, natural disposition, realism.

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