Cohesion in the Holy Quran

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Abstract

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Cohesion, an essential and integral component of discourse, is concerned with the linguistic features which give texture and unity to a text. What prompted this study is the researcher's interest in cohesion in general, and a desire to show how the Holy Quran displays some of the most commonly recognized linguistic devices of cohesion. Having surveyed a fairly representative body of relevant literature, the researcher laid down a blueprint of the scheme of this thesis to cover the grammatical and lexical devices of cohesion including reference, substitution, ellipsis, comparison, sense relations, and collocations.

The method used by the researcher is descriptive; that is, the entire text of the Holy Quran is used as data for establishing the chief cohesive devices discussed in the literature on language and linguistics, especially under discourse analysis. The researcher selected verses from the different chapters of the Holy Quran that are rich in lexico-grammatical cohesive devices and commented on them. Finally, a whole Surah of the Holy Quran, namely Al-Hujurat (Chapter 49), was selected for systematic investigation of cohesive ties.

It turned out that in respect of this Surah and the different verses studied from other chapters as well, the most common type of cohesion pertained to pronominal reference in first place, lexical cohesion in second place, and conjunctions in third place. Substitution, ellipsis, comparative and demonstrative reference tend to be the least frequent devices of cohesion in the Holy Quran.