Pragmatic Functions of the Interrogative

in the Holy Quran

By

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Abstract


This study aimed at investigating and analyzing the pragmatic functions of the interrogative in the Holy Quran from the perspective of Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis. The Holy Quran abounds with a good deal of interrogatives which serve various contextual meanings according to the speaker's intention.

To fulfill the aim of this study, the researcher collected and analyzed a wide variety of interrogatives from the Holy Quran. The researcher depended on both the situational and linguistic contexts in analyzing, interpreting and arriving at the pragmatic function intended by the speaker.

The findings of this study showed that the Quranic interrogatives can serve approximately thirty-seven different pragmatic functions according to context such
as commanding, wondering, threatening, reminding, rebuking, rejecting, and belying.

This study classified the pragmatic functions of the Quranic interrogatives according to Searle's classification of speech acts.

Moreover, the study highlights that the interrogative in the Holy Quran can be considered as an expressive and effective linguistic device in expressing various meanings encoded by the speaker and decoded by the addressee and the analyst.

Key words: pragmatics, speech acts, illocutionary force, pragmatic functions, situational context, linguistic context, lexical choices