

# Exploring the Discourse Structure of Prophet Sulaiman's Story in the Surah An-Naml Based Signs in Michael on Meaning-Making Holliday's Theory<sup>1</sup>

Touraj Zinivand<sup>2</sup>

Somayyeh Soulati<sup>3</sup>

Shiva Sadeghi<sup>4</sup>

## Abstract

Part of the Qur'anic Surah An-Naml narrates the rule and the great realm of Prophet Solomon, who subdued the jinns and humans, birds and the wind. Considering the importance of modern theories in a better grasp of texts, in the present descriptive-analytical research, we studied the ayahs in question drawing on Halliday's three meta-functions as meaning-making signs in his functionalist theory. This study thus aimed to analyze the narrative structure of the Qur'anic story mentioned and to test the applicability of the aforementioned theory investigating Qur'anic data. The results show that at the ideational level, the material process is the most frequent process used in the text. In most clauses, Prophet Sulaiman (AS) has the role of actor whose "aim" is putting an end to the straying of the people of Sheba. The transfer of the concepts from Prophet Sulaiman is made possible based on indicative and imperative moods which indicate the certainty of his attitude toward those working under his reign. Most clauses begin with compound thematic structures that are starting points suitable for imparting the message and that have contributed to the cohesiveness of the text. Moreover, among the elements of cohesion, references, repetition, antonyms and additive conjunctions are of high frequency and have had a dramatic effect on highlighting the characters and the coherence and breadth of the clauses.

**Keywords:** *the Holy Qur'an, Surah An-Naml, Prophet Sulaiman's story, discourse analysis, Halliday's theory*

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2. Corresponding author: Associate Professor, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Razi University; Email: t\_zinivand56@yahoo.com

3. PhD Student of Arabic Language and Literature, Razi University;  
Email: Solatis10@yahoo.com

4. Faculty member of Payame Noor University; Email: sh.sadeghi11@gmail.com