The Characterization Pattern of the Stories of Prophets in the Holy Qur'an Based on Rimmon-Kenan's Approach

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Abstract

Characterization as one of the main narrative elements deals with the selection, arrangement, introduction, and the roles of characters in stories. Using Safavi’s translation of the Qur'an, this article attempts to study the characterization of the stories related to our Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and other prophets in the Qur'anic text. The findings of this study show that: 1) Although the application of all the methods offered by Rimmon-Kenan is visible in the characterizations of the Qur'an, the defect of this theory is ignoring characters' motivations in doing actions in analyzing the characters in the Qur'anic stories. 2) The indirect presentation has been used more frequently than direct presentation. 3) Among the different methods of the indirect presentation, action and speech have respectively been used more than others. 4) Non-habitual actions are more common than habitual ones. 5) Nearly one third of the Qur'anic characterization is related to introducing God and His attributes. 6) Speech becomes less important in characterization in the stories of our Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in comparison with the stories of other prophets.

Keywords: characterization, direct presentation, indirect presentation, Rimmon-Kenan

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