

An Analysis of Qur'anic Stories Using Greimas's Actantial Model¹

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Abstract

Analysing and revising Qur'anic stories by means of new theories can be effective in more developed recognition and deeper understanding of the Holy Qur'an. The present descriptive-analytical study aimed to analyse the Qur'anic stories comprising the stories of Prophet Joseph (PBUH), Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH), Prophet Jonah (PBUH) and Prophet Jacob (PBUH) drawing on Greimas's actantial model. In so doing, the narratives mentioned were categorized, then the characters in each narration were reviewed and analysed. Six major roles or as Greimas puts it 'actor' were extracted in the narratives. The actors consisted of sender, subject, object, helper, receiver and opponent. This findings show that the structure of many Qur'anic stories can be reviewed using Greimas's actantial model, the general principles of this model are fully in line with the Qur'anic stories and the results are analogous with Greimas's achievements in the study of personality as one of the main elements of stories.

Keywords: Greimas's actantial model, narrative, the holy Qur'an, Qur'anic stories

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