

Investigating Verbal Similarities of the Holy Qur'an based on Hermeneutic Literary History Approach

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Abstract

Today, one of the new approaches to literary critique is the approach of literary history of hermeneutics that emphasizes the history of "text readers" or "the history of literature of the audience" instead of the history of the author and the text. According to this approach, the literary historian, rather than focusing on the context of the creation of the text, focuses more on the conditions for the understanding and the reception of the literary text. Thus, this approach concerns itself with the writing of the story of a text after its birth and then studying its trajectory throughout the history.

On the other hand, there are Qur'anic ayahs known as verbally similar (or verbal *Mutashabihat*) that have similar words that are surprisingly similar to each other in various respects. The present research seeks to answer the question of how these ayahs played a role in different historical situations and how has their historical presence been? In fact, how are the text of these ayahs related to the taste ruling over different periods? Does the text of these ayahs ask different questions in different eras? Have different generations raised new questions in their dialogue with these ayahs?

The study of the literary history of hermeneutics of these Qur'anic ayahs indicates that the people of each period, according to their temporal and spatial conditions, as well as their expectations from the sacred text of the Holy Qur'an, have had different perceptions from such ayahs through which different approaches to and various readings of these ayahs have emerged. The present paper reviews and examines the approaches to dealing with these ayahs, and then classifies readers based on the type of their reading of these ayahs.

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