A New Reading of Formalism in
Light of Formation Approach in Sociology:
An Aesthetic Study of Surah Al-Kawthar

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Abstract

There is a close relationship between each society's language structures on one hand and its cognitive, intellectual and cultural patterns on the other so that it can be said in many cultures language plays the main role in recognizing cultural issues. In fact, in such cultures without knowing language one fails to know cultures. This kind of research into the construction and texture of the text aiming at recognizing linguistic and social culture is somehow new.

Formalism is a school of literary criticism that contrary to the other schools does not pay attention to historical, political, sociological, and psychological views in its attempt to understand the meaning of the text. However, this not means that the language and the text have no relation to the socioculture of the text but (in other words) this kind of review and criticism of the text is another manifestation of valuing the text's socioculture, because Formalism believes that the main and high purpose of the text is directing the society and its culture. This belief can be seen in line with the formation approach in the theories of sociology and political sciences.

This present article, based on this approach (Formalistic and formation) reviews Surah Al-Kawthar and according to an analysis of linguistics categories attempts to create this Surah's semantic centrality, because this study sees text as the main aspect of the Islamic culture. At the end of the study it is shown that according to Formalistic and formation approach, the main aspect of Surah Al-Kawthar is the Prophet's continued generation.

Keywords: linguistic analysis, culture and language, Formalism, formation, Al-Kawthar

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