

The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

A source-grounded reference resource for the definition, classification, and reproducible identification of rhetorical devices in Arabic.

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DOI: [10.64393/arabic-rhetoric](#) [GitHub](#) [Blog](#)



Arabic Rhetoric

Arabic Rhetoric (al-balāgha) is the Arabic rhetorical tradition concerned with the effective, expressive, and aesthetically powerful use of language. It encompasses a wide range of linguistic and literary phenomena, including sentence construction, figurative expression, semantic relationships, wordplay, sound patterning, and other forms of linguistic embellishment.

The **Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric** documents these phenomena as identifiable [rhetorical devices](#).

- [About Arabic Rhetoric](#)
- [Glossary of Terms Related to Arabic Rhetoric](#)
- [Books about Arabic Rhetoric](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

How the Encyclopedia Works

The **Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric** uses an explicit methodological framework to support the consistent and reproducible definition, classification, and identification of Arabic [rhetorical devices](#).

1. **Model for Rhetorical Action** — provides the theoretical foundation for the Encyclopedia by defining [rhetorical action](#) and the relationship between communicative intent, linguistic operation, cognitive relationship, and pragmatic effect.
2. **Seven Design Principles** — govern how rhetorical devices are conceptualised, defined, and classified.
3. **Criteria for Inclusion** — determine whether a candidate rhetorical device qualifies for inclusion in the Encyclopedia.
4. **Principles for Identifying Arabic Rhetorical Devices** — provide the operational framework for identifying rhetorical devices in texts.

The resulting inventory of rhetorical devices is periodically released in stable, time-stamped, and citable form as the [Arabic Rhetorical Device Taxonomy](#).

Explore the Encyclopedia

Browse the Encyclopedia's rhetorical devices, taxonomy, and research resources.

- [Browse Arabic Rhetorical Devices](#) — explore the Encyclopedia's complete structured inventory of rhetorical devices.
- [Device Subtypes](#) — browse recognised subtypes.
- [Arabic Rhetorical Device Taxonomy](#) — access stable, time-stamped, citable releases of the device inventory.
- [Research Applications](#) — explore applications in linguistic, literary, corpus, and computational research.

Explore Arabic Rhetoric by Concept

Start with a familiar rhetorical concept and discover how it is analysed within Arabic rhetorical theory. These concept guides are **gateways into the Encyclopedia's taxonomy**, not additional rhetorical devices.

Tapinosis CONCEPT GUIDE How Arabic rhetoric analyses the attribution of human actions, qualities, or capacities to non-human or abstract entities.	Personification CONCEPT GUIDE How Arabic rhetoric analyses the attribution of human actions, qualities, or capacities to non-human or abstract entities.	Addressing the Non-Human CONCEPT GUIDE How Arabic rhetoric analyses speech directed at animals, objects, places, abstract entities, and other non-human.
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principally through [metaphor](#) (*isti'āra*),
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abstract entities, and other non-human
addressees — principally through the
[Vocative](#), often combined with other
sentence types and figurative operations.

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