

# **Semantic Network of Preposition “On” in Quranic Discourse Based on Prototype Theory**

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## **1- Introduction**

Prepositions are amongst the multi-meaning and very flexible words in the language of the Quran with extensive concepts. It is clear that God has bestowed on this attribute to convey his purpose. The application of the prototype theory to the analysis of the focal meaning and the radial meanings of these letters can certainly provide a coherent semantic network for each of them. Accordingly, the purpose of this study is to explain the focal meaning of the word "on" as one of the most widely used letters in the Quran with a cognitive approach. This will be achieved after identifying the trajectory and the Landmark which proves the existence of a coherent network of concepts that are linked to the prototype.

## **2. Questions and hypotheses**

The most important questions and hypotheses of this research are:

1. What is the focal meaning and radial meanings of *On* in Quranic discourse?
2. How the relationship between the focal meaning and the radial meanings of “On” in the form of a meaningful network can be explained?
3. How the contrast between traditional and cognitive look at the *Prepositions* of the story is explained?

The hypotheses are as follows:

- The focal meaning of “On”, as in traditional sources, is "superiority".
- The focal meaning of "superiority" is the core of the semantic network of the word "On". Other distinct meanings of "On" are connected to the central core with the help of two "compromise and contradictory" clusters.
- The semantic network model in the cognitive perspective has confirmed the multidimensional problem of letters in classical sources, but the example template points out that the radial meanings of a letter must be coherent with a focal meaning. According to this model, existence of a letter instead of another letter is rejected because of its lack of semantic communication.

## **3. Research Innovation**

What distinguishes this study from the views of traditional trainers is that modern linguistics for each of the superscripts considers a central or focal meaning

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that is called the supreme example, and another meaning that is related to this sense, is in fact its expanded or metaphorical meaning. They create a coherent semantic network for each of these letters. However, in the traditional perspective, there is no coherence between the meanings for a term with its initial meaning.

#### **4- Method**

Based on the belief that the prepositions are a rich source in the methodological understanding and interpretation of the Quran, the present study seeks to rely on a descriptive-analytical method regarding the multidimensional theory of these letters by considering the basic elements of this approach such image schema, prototype pattern, trajectory and landmark .The semantic network provides a coherent semantic meaning for this letter in the Quranic verses.

#### **5- Results and Discussion**

The Quranic data review points out that the focal meaning of the Jar letter 'On', is 'superiority'. This meaning is the central core of a coherent semantic network, consisting of twelve radial meanings in two semantic clusters (compromise and contradictory) based on the first meaning. It should be noted that, using the cognitive model of the prototype, replacement of On into the *Prepositions* "men", "fi", "baa" and "laam" in the Quranic discourse was distorted.

**Keywords:** Semantic network, Prototype theory, Radial category, On preposition, Quranic discourse.