

Implication of Communication in 8 Political Letters of Nahj al-Balagha in the Light of the Principle of Cooperation



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Abstract

Communicative implication is a pragmatic approach that examines meaning through the use of language. This theory goes beyond the structure and components of language, exploring the role of language in the context, surrounding conditions, and the relationship between the speaker and listener. The theory of communicative implication is based on the principle of cooperation proposed by Paul Grice, which asserts that participants in discourse must adhere to certain rules. These rules include: the rule of quantity, the rule of quality, the rule of relevance, and the rule of manner. Observing these rules leads to a balance between the literal meaning and the implicit meaning of a discourse. However, when any of these rules are violated, the speech leans toward its implicit and hidden meanings. Nahj al-Balagha uses dynamic discourse, where language is employed functionally and communicatively. Therefore, understanding its meanings requires careful consideration and an appropriate theoretical framework. This article aims to explore the implicit intentions and meanings in the political letters of Nahj al-Balagha by applying the analytical descriptive method and using the four rules of Grice's principle of cooperation. The study investigates how the letters employ these communicative strategies and the resulting implicit meanings that violate the cooperation principle. One of the key findings of this research is that the language in Imam Ali's letters is not just a collection of sentences and parts of speech, but serves a practical communicative role, revealing implicit intentions. These implicit intentions are expressed using a suggestive strategy that violates each of the four rules: quantity, quality, relevance, and manner. This violation generates meanings that are not explicitly stated, such as threats, warnings, guidance, and reminders, which are conveyed indirectly and require interpretation.

Keywords: Imam Ali (AS), Nahjul-Balagha, pragmatics, intentionality, Paul Grice.

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