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### ANTONYMS IN THE STUDIES OF MODERN SCHOLARS

By

Malak Mohammad Hasan Esmael

#### Supervisor

#### Dr. Esmael Ahmad Amayreh

#### Abstract

This study deals with the phenomenon of antonyms in the literary studies of modern scholars. The phenomenon has been discussed by orientalists as well as Arabs. The discussion has appeared in the form of books dedicated only for studying this phenomenon, in the form of dictionaries in which antonyms are arranged alphabetically, in the form of chapters which appear in the middle of books or in the form of research papers and articles published in different magazines. Generally, the orientalists and many of the modern Arab scholars who followed their way tend to deny that there are antonyms or to say that we do not have many examples; for antonyms, for the orientalist Jese, do not exceed twenty two examples believing in the original meaning of the word, and it is even less than this according to Hershfield.

The study has shown that the modern Arab scholars who have dealt with this phenomenon like Abd Al-Wahed Wafi, Dr. Ebraheem Anise, Mohammad Hussein Al-Yaseen, Mohammad Noor Al-Deen Al-Monjed, Dr. Hussein Nassar as well as others have followed the traces of orientalists because they tended to reduce antonyms or to deny them completely as Abd Al-Fattah Badawi did.

Some researchers make this study expand to exceed the old concept which was drawn by Sybawyh who defines the antonym as giving the word to two opposite meanings like the word "Saleem" which means the healthy person and the bitten by a snake.

Other researchers did not make their study expand. They added opposites into antonyms like the writers who composed the dictionaries like Ayda Dakramanji, Raji Al-Asmar, Michael Morad as well as others.

Most scholars who wrote elaborately about antonyms are Mohammad Bin Mohammad Al-Samawi Al-Yamani in his encyclopedia entitled "The Arabic Encyclopedia for Studying Antonyms and Linguistic Miscellany". He made every thing that was included in the books of antonyms and the antonyms that were mentioned in the dictionaries antonyms in which the writer has left the original meaning of the word.

Moreover, he believes in all factors that led to the presence of this phenomenon like the factor of figuration, morphological reasons, phonetic reasons and social reasons.

As we observe, what was included in this study is a support for the phenomenon of antonyms done by those who wrote about it in the poetry of Aby Tammam like Sawsan Lababidi and Mona Al-Sahili. They followed a procedure that elevates this phenomenon in language and sees that it gives an interpretation for existence, and an entire look that interprets the different types of life.

This study has ended by giving a broad concept that includes the old one that was drawn by Sybawyh which also includes antithesis, the single word, the expression, figuration and that it has types like linguistic, critic, literary, intellectual and philosophic opposites. The study was far from putting emphasis on the old concept and it emphasized the broad concept and accepted all the factors that led to the appearance of this phenomenon because denotations are in a continuous progress and it is difficult to focus on one specific limited time.

Moreover, this study has shown that the broad and most significant works in studying antonyms is a book writing by Mohammad Hussein A-Yaseen entitled "Antonyms in Language", considering different subjects like comprehension, studying this phenomenon in its different references, knowing the books that have dealt with and analyzed it as well as considering the efforts of the modern scholars who studied it like orientalists and Arabs. But, in fact, Mohammed Hussein al-Yaseen has limited his predecessors: Arabs and orientalists when he denied antonyms or reduced their number in language believing only in the old concept which was drawn by Sybawyh

The study has shown that many of the works of modern Arabs who studied this phenomenon repeat themselves without adding any new ideas. Antonyms, in the point of view of this researcher, is a property of Arabic language and a proof that it has flexibility and certain abilities and an indication of the richness of this language and that it is not a fault in Arabic as some ancient and modern scholars believed.

This study has a preface and two chapters. The preface discusses the importance of antonyms and the wide discussion of them by ancient and modern scholars. Those scholars have composed more than thirty books in addition to chapters written especially for discussing this phenomenon in different books.

The preface has also included a reference to the efforts of some of the modern scholars like the efforts of Mohammad Hussein Al-Yaseen, Mohammad Noor Al-Deen Al-Monjed and Hussein Nassar.

The preface has also shown a group of issues that researchers wanted to analyze. In addition, it included the old concept as it was seen by Sybawyh and the new one which the researcher has chosen to discuss. The new concept believes that antonyms should be studied in a broad and a wide way and that this phenomenon is not a part of the word which has more than one meaning.

The first chapter includes two sections. The first section is about the books that studied linguistic antonyms and it has four topics.

The second section is about the dictionaries that were composed by the modern scholars about antonyms and it has five topics.

The second chapter has three sections. The first section is about antonyms in the Holy Quran and it has two topics.

The second section is about literary and critic antonyms and it has two topics.

The third section is about antonyms which appear in the middle of books.

The researcher has chosen some books that were not given apparent focus by writers who wrote about antonyms.

Some orientalists as Abel, Vail, Ghost, Kohen, Jese, Blasher, Noldeka, Hershfield, Radslope and some of the modern researchers like Abd Al-Fattah Badawi, Ebraheem Al-Samerai, Tawfeeq Mohammad Shaheen and others were not given a special discussion in this thesis because the books which the researcher has shown and analyzed have discussed the works of those writers in details.