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Directional Opposites as Utilized in Religious Texts

A paper
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by

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۞ وَتَرَى ٱلشَّمْسَ إِذَا طَلَعَت تَّزَٰوَرُ عَن كَهْفِهِمْ ذَاتَ ٱلْيَمِينِ وَإِذَا غَرَبَت تَّقْرِضُهُمْ ذَاتَ ٱلشِّمَالِ وَهُمْ فِي فَجْوَةٍ مِّنْهُ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ ءَايَٰتِ ٱللَّهِ مَن يَهْدِ ٱللَّهُ فَهُوَ ٱلْمُهْتَدِ وَمَن يُضْلِلْ فَلَن تَجِدَ لَهُۥ وَلِيًّا مُّرْشِدًا

﴾١٧﴿   سورة الكهف

صدق الله العظيم

In the Name of Allah , Most Gracious, Most Merciful

17. Thou wouldst have seen The sun, when it rose, Declining to the right From their Cave, and when It set, turning away From them to the left, While they lay in the open Space in the midst Of the Cave. Such are Among the Signs of God : He whom God guides Is right guided ; but he Whom God leaves to stray,— For him wilt thou find No protector to lead him To the Right Way.

Allah spoke the truth

(Ali, 1946: 732)

Dedication

To

my beloved parents

without whom none of the successes over the years would be possible

my lovely wife

I am truly thankful for having you in my life

, my sweet daughter, and my brother

Finally , to my esteemed supervisor Asst . Lect . Taif Hatem Shardaghly

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Abstract

This study explores the use of directional opposites in selected religious texts; It aims at 1. Identifying the type those directional opposites classify to. 2. Revealing the most dominant type of directional opposites in surah Al-khaf (The Cave). Consequently, It hypothesizes that 1- Directional opposites are that type of binary contrast. 2- Antipodal opposites are the dominant type in surah Al-khaf (The Cave). It has arrived at the following conclusions: 1- Directional opposites are that type of binary contrast. They refer to opposite directions on an axis. 2- Antipodal opposites are the dominant type in surah Al-khaf (The Cave).

Key words :   opposition , directional opposites, religious text.

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 The Problem

Language is a complex but fundamental human skill, the goal of communication among individuals. In language, binarity is the fundamental concept, a cornerstone of all things; it is the universal law of life. Its dialectics of duality – are the basis of conceptual and linguistic categories.

The binary opposition is exhibited at all linguistic levels. For example, on phonetic and phonological levels - there are oppositions of voiceless and voiced sounds and hardness – the softness of consonants; on the lexical level - there is an opposition of antonym; on morphemic and word-formation level - there is an opposition of root and affix morphemes; on grammatical level - there is an opposition of grammatical meanings and forms within the frame of grammatical category.

Directional opposites are a powerful and enduring element of many texts, offering a way to explore complex spiritual and philosophical concepts through vivid and contrasting imagery. This paper tries to answer these questions :

1 . In which type do directional opposites classify?

2. What is the most dominant type of directional opposites in surah Al-khaf (The Cave)?

1.2 Aims

It aims at:

1. Identifying the type those directional opposites classify to.

2. Revealing the most dominant type of directional opposites in surah Al-khaf (The Cave)?

1.3 Hypotheses

A possible hypothesis for the study of directional opposites in religious texts could be:

1- Directional opposites are that type of binary contrast.
2- Antipodal opposites are the dominant type in surah Al-khaf (The Cave).

1.4 Procedures

The procedures followed in this study include the following:
1- Presenting a theoretical background about Opposition.
2-) Using Lyon's (1977) categories of Opposition in the text analysis.
3- Analyzing selected texts in Glorious Quran.
4. Discuss the findings of data analysis to draw some conclusions.

1.5 Limits

The study is limited to analyzing types of directional opposites in Surah Al-kahf (The Cave) .

1.6 Value

This study is hoped to be of value to those interested in linguistics and literature studies. The study of directional opposites in religious texts holds significant value for several reasons; religious texts have played a central role in shaping the beliefs, values, and practices of different cultures and traditions. It provides a framework for understanding complex ideas and concepts simply and intuitively. It also benefits for students to enhance their information about the Glorious Quran.

Chapter Two

Theoretical Background

2.1 A spotlight of Opposition

According to Cruse (1996:171), the term opposite refers to the semantic relation between antonyms pairs; that is, antonyms are understood to have meanings that are opposed to one another in a given context.

Studies that focus less on the linguistic elements of the opposition and more on their broader significance, such as politics, media, and cultural studies, tend to use terms such as 'polarization,' 'dichotomy,' and 'difference.' (Davies , 2007: 21)

Although the choice of which to choose partly depends on the extent to which the study is linguistic, this would be fine if the terms listed above were perfect synonyms and could be used interchangeably when the mood suited(ibid.).

However, their meanings vary according to the writer. So when trying to provide a solid definition of what opposition might be - i.e., whether a pair of words (or phrases) are being treated as what is to be regarded as opposites - it is difficult to know if the conditions that apply, for instance to an X/Y pair being 'antonyms' in one study are the same as those being for example treated as 'oppositions' in another.

Lyons (1977: 270) notes that "antonymy" is the "standard technical term for oppositeness of meaning" but later decides to limit the term to gradable opposites rather than non-gradable "complementariness." .

Cruse (1986:204) cites Lyons's observation that the term 'antonymy' 'will be used with the restricted sense defined by Lyons, rather than its other most frequently encountered sense as a cover term for all types of the lexical opposite.'

As for Lobner (2002: 88), two expressions are antonyms if they imply two opposed extremes from a spectrum of possibilities, confining them to gradable opposites, with oppositions serving as the umbrella term (ibid . 87).

Kreidler (1998: 100), however, utilizes the term 'antonymy' to cover most sorts of opposition, including converse, gradable, and complementary oppositions (the latter he labels as 'binary' and 'non-binary' antonyms, respectively).

Fellbaum (1995), in an article entitled 'Co-occurrence and Antonymy,' also seems to use the terms 'opposite' and 'antonym' interchangeably, regardless of their potential for gradability.

She explains, for instance, how 'dead and alive are contradictories, whereas hot and cold are gradable' (1995: 285), while 'there are many antonymous pairs that denote opposing or complementary states or properties: life-death, beauty-ugliness…' (1995: 284). She also seems to use the terms 'semantic oppositions' and 'semantic relations of antonymy' to mean the same thing.

Justeson and Katz (1991) titled their piece "Redefining Antonymy" and appear to use the term "antonymy" to refer to opposites in general. Consistently, Jones(2002: 1-2) defines "antonymy" as all opposites.

Murphy (2003:9) calls' antonymy' a 'subtype of contrast in that it is contrast within a binary paradigm.'

She distinguishes between 'binary opposition' (antonymy) and 'contrast sets,' the latter existing in groups of more than two, such as solid/liquid/gas' or color sets, such as the primary colors of the rainbow. She, like Jones, classifies gradable opposites and non-gradable complements under the term' antonymy.' (ibid.).

2.2 Lyon's Classification

Lyon employs the umbrella term 'contrast' to encompass all potential claims to oppositional status and classifies this into 'binary contrasts' and 'non-binary contrasts.'
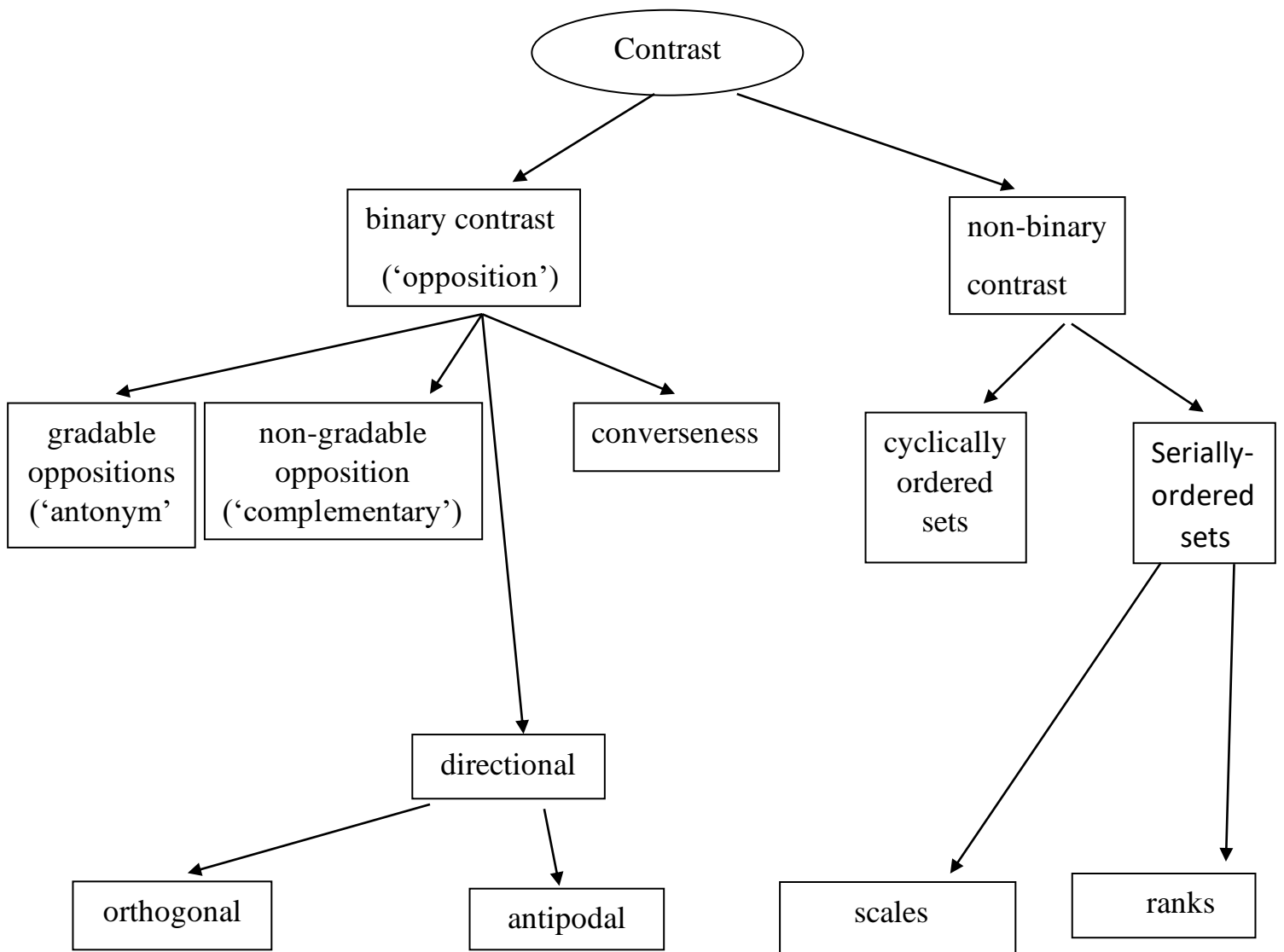

Figure (1) A diagrammatical representation of Lyons (1977) categories of opposition

2.2 .1 Binary Contrast (Opposition)

A binary opposition (also called a binary system) is a pair of related terms or concepts that are opposite in meaning. "Binary opposition" refers to a system of language and/or thought in which two theoretical opposites are strictly defined and set against one another.

It is the opposition of two mutually exclusive terms such as on and off, up and down, left and right. Binary opposition is an important concept in structuralism, which sees such distinctions as fundamental to all language and thought. In structuralism, a binary opposition is seen as a fundamental organizer of human philosophy, culture, and language (Baldick, 2001:27).

2.2.1.1 Gradable Opposition (Antonym)

A gradable antonym is one of the pairs of words with opposite meanings where the two meanings lie on a continuous spectrum. Gradable antonyms are usually pairs of adjectives that can be modified by adverbs like very, quite, and extremely. Hot and cold are two meanings on opposite ends of the spectrum. For example "The weather is hot or cold". As th concepts of hot and cold are gradable, they can be qualified by saying "extremely hot," "rather hot," or "very cold" (Cruse, 1986, 205).

Gradable antonymy is the commonest type of antonymy. The antonym pairs like *hot/cold, big/small* and *tall/shor*t all belong to the gradable antonyms. they are mainly adjectives(Hu 2001,164).

2.2.1.2 Non- Gradable Opposition ('Complementary')

Non-gradable oppositions, also called (Complementaries) are defined as pairs that entirely bisect a domain; therefore, there are no existing situations where neither of them is true, nor are there intermediate values between them. They are contradictory in that the denial of one member automatically entails the assertion of the other (Cruse 1986:246).

According to Lynne (2010:120), complementary (also called contradictory) antonyms are those for which the assertion of one entails the negation of the other and vice versa.

Semantically, complementary antonymy is a term whose meaning is the complement of another term in either-or fashion, one of a pair of words wherein affirmative use of one entails the negative of the other with no gradability. As in this sentence   "that integer is even," it implies that "that integer is not odd"; likewise, the following sentence, "that integer is odd," means "that integer is not even."

2.2.1.3 Converseness

The phenomenon of converseness is instantiated by examples such as 'husband' and 'wife', whereby 'X is the husband of Y' logically involves 'Y is the wife of X'. Lyons says that these are 'especially common in areas of the vocabulary having to do with reciprocal social roles' such as 'doctor' / 'patient', or 'father' / 'son'(Lyons ,1977: 280)

Converses or relational antonyms are word pairs that describe a connection from opposing perspectives, such as parent/child or borrow/lend(Web Source 1) .This type of relationship is known as a

converse relation. Converses can be understood as a pair of words in which one word implies a relationship between two objects, and the other implies the same relationship when the items are inverted(ibid.) .

2.2.1.4 Directional Opposition

According to Lyons(1977: 281), directional opposites involve 'the implication of motion in one of two opposed directions for a given place, P' such as 'up' / 'down' and 'come' / 'go.'

He distinguishes, however, between those like 'up' / 'down,' which are based on both directions moving away from a fixed-point P, and pairs like 'come' / 'go' and 'arrive' / 'depart' which involve on the one hand movement towards P ('come' / 'arrive') and on the other movement away from P ('go' / 'depart')(ibid.).

Also, He subdivides these last two examples into 'deictic' and 'non-deictic' opposites. In other words, 'come' / 'go' involves movement towards or away from P from the perspective of a speaker - located as the 'deictic center' - who themselves have a certain distal or proximal relationship with P (ibid.).

So the statement "he went to Huddersfield last night" assumes the speaker was not in Huddersfield when the statement was made, whereas "he came to Huddersfield last night" does assume this. The pair "arrive" and "depart," however, act differently in that we can say "he arrived in" or

"he departed from" Huddersfield last night, regardless of whether the speaker was in Huddersfield or not at the time of the utterance(ibid.).

2.2.1.4 .1Types of Directional Opposition

2.2.1.4.1.1Antipodal Directions

Antipodal opposites are those in which one term represents an extreme in one direction. In contrast, the other term denotes the corresponding extreme in the other direction(Cruse 1986:223) .

Pairs of opposites encapsulating the notion of upwards/downwards extremities are source/mouth, peak/foot (mountain), and head/ toe. Other analogous pairs that extend the idea are maximum/minimum and full/empty(ibid.).

Antipodals, pairs of words which describe opposite ends of some axis, either literal (such as "left" and "right," "up" and "down," "east" and "west") or figurative or abstract (such as "first" and "last," "beginning" and "end," "entry" and "exit") (Web Source 2).

2.2.1.4.1.2 Orthogonal Directions

Orthogonal" means "perpendicular." The term orthogonal is derived from the Greek orthogonios ("ortho" meaning right and "gon" meaning angled) (Web Source 3). It relates to, consists of, or involves right angles between directions. Such as (north/west),(south/east)

2.2 .2 Non-binary contrast

In Brief, this type includes such contrasts (for example, the contrasts which hold between each of the set of colour words and every other member of the set),days of weeks{'Sunday', 'Monday', . . . , 'Saturday'}, days of year {'January', 'February', ..., 'December'} or even {'rose', 'peony',

'tulip', 'delphinium', etc.}. According to Lyon's classification, It includes cyclically ordered and serially-ordered sets.

2.2.2.1 Cyclically Ordered Sets

A ternary relation [a, b, c], meaning "after a, one reaches b before c." For example, [June, October, February], but not [June, February, October]. A ternary relation is called a cyclic order if it is cyclic, asymmetric, transitive, and connected.

The most obvious examples of cyclical sets, or cycles, are to be found among words that denote units or periods: (spring, summer, autumn, and winter)(Web source 4).

In addition , The relationship of sense which holds between lexemes in many member sets such as {'Sunday', 'Monday', .. ., 'Saturday'} may be described as incompatibility.

Incompatibility A term used in semantics as part of the study of the sense relations between lexical items. It refers to sets of items where the choice of one item excludes the use of all the other items from that set (unless there is to be a contradiction)(Crystal,2008 :240).

Color terms provide a well-studied example: to say the car is red excludes the car is green/blue, etc. – and the set of items which contrast in this way are said to be incompatible (ibid.).

Incompatibility has been less investigated than other sense relations (such as antonymy and synonymy), but some linguists have pointed to the existence of different types of many-member (as opposed to binary) sets,

such as ranks (e.g. military), scales (e.g. value judgments) and cycles (e.g. seasons)(ibid.).

2.2.2.2 Serially-Ordered Sets :

In a serially ordered set there are two outermost members (if the set is determinate), and all other lexemes in the set are ordered between two others; in a cyclically ordered set every lexeme is ordered between two others.

There are two kinds scales and ranks. As for the scale {'hot', 'warm', 'cool', 'cold'} is rather unusual in English in that it contains an outer and an inner pair of antonyms, 'hot': 'cold' and 'warm' :'cool'.

However, as Lehrer points out, when they are implicitly graded with respect to some temperature norm for food or whether they "contrast in a way similar to incompatible terms" (1973: 28). The outermost members of a scale (e.g., 'freezing' and 'boiling' in the set {'boiling', 'hot', 'warm', 'cool', 'cold', 'freezing'}) may be described as scalar opposites.

While ,ranks exhibit the principle of serial ordering in a stricter form; butthey are less characteristic of the non-technical use of language. One of Trier's examples of a lexical field falls into this category: sets of lexemes used for grouping examination candidates according to their performance. If the convention accepted by the examiners is that every candidate will be classified in terms of the rank {'excellent', 'good', 'average', 'fair', 'poor'}, these lexemes will be construed as a serially ordered set of incompatible and ungradable terms; and the sense of any lexeme will be determined by its position in the rank (Hurford, 1975 :235)

The set of lexemes used to describe differences of military rank provides another example: within the set {'field marshal', 'general', . . . , 'corporal', 'private'}, as they are applied with respect to the British army, the outermost members 'field marshal' (a phrasal lexeme) and 'private' are rank opposites(ibid.).

Numerals, in English {'one', 'two', ..., 'twelve', ..., 'hundred', 'thousand', 'million', 'billion', . . . } , also constitute a rank, which has the interesting property that it has its own sub grammar according to which an infinite set of lexically complex expressions may be constructed(ibid.) .

Chapter Three

Text Analysis

Antipodal

Text 1

﴿۞وَتَرَى ٱلشَّمْسَ إِذَا طَلَعَت تَّزَٰوَرُ عَن كَهْفِهِمْ ذَاتَ ٱلْيَمِينِ وَإِذَا غَرَبَت تَّقْرِضُهُمْ ذَاتَ ٱلشِّمَالِ وَهُمْ فِي فَجْوَةٍ مِّنْهُ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ ءَايَٰتِ ٱللَّهِ مَن يَهْدِ ٱللَّهُ فَهُوَ ٱلْمُهْتَدِ وَمَن يُضْلِلْ فَلَن تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا مُّرْشِدًا ﴿١٧﴾﴾ سورة الكهف

17. Thou wouldst have seen The sun, when it rose, Declining to the right From their Cave, and when It set, turning away From them to the left, While they lay in the open Space in the midst Of the Cave. Such are Among the Signs of God : He whom God guides Is right guided ; but he Whom God leaves to stray,— For him wilt thou find No protector to lead him To the Right Way. (Ali, 1946:732)

The Companions of the Cave, may Allah grant them sleep and protect them. When the sun rises, it tilts to the right from them, and when it sets, it turns northward from them, so the sun's heat does not harm them, and the air does not cut off from them. In the above text " ٱلْيَمِينِ" and "ٱلشِّمَالِ" are antipodal .

Text 2

وَتَحْسَبُهُمْ أَيْقَاظًا وَهُمْ رُقُودٌ وَنُقَلِّبُهُمْ ذَاتَ ٱلْيَمِينِ وَذَاتَ ٱلشِّمَالِ وَكَلْبُهُم بَٰسِطٌ ذِرَاعَيْهِ بِٱلْوَصِيدِ لَوِ ٱطَّلَعْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ لَوَلَّيْتَ مِنْهُمْ فِرَارًا وَلَمُلِئْتَ مِنْهُمْ رُعْبًا ﴿١٨﴾ سورة الكهف

18. Thou wouldst have deemed them Awake, whilst they were asleep, And We turned them On their right and on Their left sides : their dog Stretching forth his two fore-legs On the threshold : if thou Hadst come up on to them, Thou wouldst have certainly Turned back from them in flight, And wouldst certainly have been Filled with terror of them. (Ali, 1946:733)

In the interpretation of the above Texts, the person who looks at the Companion of the Cave thinks that they have awakened. At the same time, they are asleep because their eyes are open, and it is from Allah ُ s ability and generosity to them. In the above text " الْيَمِين" and "الشِّمَالِ" are antipodal .

Text 3

أَمَّا ٱلسَّفِينَةُ فَكَانَتْ لِمَسَٰكِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ فِي ٱلْبَحْرِ فَأَرَدتُّ أَنْ أَعِيبَهَا وَكَانَ وَرَاءَهُم مَّلِكٌ يَأْخُذُ كُلَّ سَفِينَةٍ غَصْبًا ﴿٧٩﴾ سورة الكهف

79. " As for the boat, It belonged to certain Men in dire want : They plied on the water : I but wished to render it Unserviceable, for there was After them a certain king Who seized on every boat By force. (A. Yusuf Ali, 1946:751)

The ship that Al-Khidr عليـه السـلام) (broke was for needy people who did not have enough to meet their needs. They work on it in the sea in pursuit of live hood. So, he wants to defect it with that breach because a king takes every good ship by force from its owners. The word(وَرَاءَهُم)   refers to the direction.

Text 4

وَأَمَّا الْجِدَارُ فَكَانَ لِغُلَامَيْنِ يَتِيمَيْنِ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ وَكَانَ تَحْتَهُ كَنْزٌ لَهُمَا وَكَانَ أَبُوهُمَا صَالِحًا فَأَرَادَ رَبُّكَ أَنْ يَبْلُغَا أَشُدَّهُمَا وَيَسْتَخْرِجَا كَنْزَهُمَا رَحْمَةً مِنْ رَبِّكَ ۚ وَمَا فَعَلْتُهُ عَنْ أَمْرِي ۚ ذَٰلِكَ تَأْوِيلُ مَا لَمْ تَسْطِعْ عَلَيْهِ صَبْرًا ﴿٨٢﴾

82. " As for the wall, It belonged to two youths, Orphans, in the Town ; There was, beneath it, A buried treasure, to which They were entitled ; Their father Had been a righteous man : So thy Lord desired that They should attain their age Of full strength and get out Their treasure—a mercy (And favour) from thy Lord. I did it not of my own Accord. Such is the

interpretation Of (those things) over which Thou wast unable To hold patience." (Ali, 1946:752)

In the story of Al-khidr with Moses, Moses repaired the wall for two young orphan boys whose father had died, and there was a treasure under the fence. Allah wanted them to grow up until they reached adulthood to take this treasure . So , the word " تَحْتَهُ "is an antipodal direction .

Text 5

عِندَهَا قَوْمًا ۗ قُلْنَا يَٰذَا ٱلْقَرْنَيْنِ إِمَّآ أَن تُعَذِّبَ وَإِمَّآ .حَتَّىٰٓ إِذَا بَلَغَ مَغْرِبَ ٱلشَّمْسِ وَجَدَهَا تَغْرُبُ فِي عَيْنٍ حَمِئَةٍ وَوَجَدَ أَن تَتَّخِذَ فِيهِمْ حُسْنًا ﴿٨٦﴾ سورة الكهف

86. Until, when he reached the setting of the sun, he found it setting in a murky spring, and he found a people in its vicinity. We said, "O Zul-Qarnain: you may either inflict a penalty, or else treat them kindly." (A. Yusuf Ali, 1946:754)

Dhul-Qarnayn took a path until he reached the farthest part of the earth he could walk in from the direction west where he found infidels people. مَغْرِبَ ٱلشَّمْسِ)refers to the direction .

Statistical Analysis
The Overall Frequency and Percentages of directional opposites

Type	Frequency	Percentages
antipodal	7	100%
orthogonal	0	0%

The table shows that antipodal scores (7) frequency with (100%) percentages , while orthogonal scores (0) frequency with (0%) percentages . As a result , antipodal gets the highest percentages .

Chapter four

Conclusion

The study has arrived at the following conclusions:

1- Directional opposites are that type of binary contrast. They refer to opposite directions on an axis .

2- Antipodal opposites are the dominant type in surah Al-khaf (The Cave).

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