

THE CONCEPT OF DOUBT AND CERTAINTY IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC SELECTED TEXTS: A CONTRASTIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Meaning plays an important role in communication between people. Feelings have a significant effect on this meaning. This paper deals with the concept of Doubt and Certainty in both English and Arabic. The research attempts to answer the following:

How do English and Arabic languages express the concept of Doubt and Certainty? What are the similarities and differences between them? How is the concept of Doubt and Certainty expressed in “The Great Gatsby” by F. S. Fitzgerald? How is the concept of Doubt and Certainty expressed in “Children of the Alley” by Naguib Mahfouz?

*This paper aims at: Identifying the ways through which English and Arabic languages express the concept of Doubt and Certainty, finding out the similarities and differences between them, and determining the concept of Doubt and Certainty in selected texts from “**The Great Gatsby**” by Fitzgerald, and Naguib Mahfouz's “**Children of the Alley.**”*

It is hypothesized that there is a concept of Doubt and Certainty in both languages; each language deals with this concept in its own ways. Fitzgerald in “The Great Gatsby” and Mahfouz in “Children of the Alley” express this concept particularly through the use of verbs phrases.

The procedures of this paper include: First, presenting a survey of verbs as a part of speech in English and Arabic. Second, the notion of Doubt and Certainty is illustrated with its representations in both languages by, third, making comparison between them.

Fourth, a practical part has been made by analysing some of these verbs in selected texts from Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby', as well as Mahfouz's 'Children of The Alley' 'أَوْلَادُ حَارَتْنَا'. The result of this paper will hopefully benefit readers by clarifying the ways through which English and Arabic grammarians deal with the verbs of Doubt and Certainty so as to encourage researchers to tackle this topic from various viewpoints.

KEYWORDS: *Doubt, Certainty, Modality, Verbs of Sense, Heart Verbs*