

## Interaction between analogy, mental spaces, and metaphor in the Holy Qur'an

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The investigation of religious discourse in general and the Qur'an in particular mainly focuses on studying metaphor (Balaban, 1999; Charteris-Black, 2004; Shokr Abdulmoneim, 2006; Golfam et al., 2008). The talk addresses the interaction between analogy (Gentner, 1982, 1999, 2002), mental spaces (Fauconnier, 1994; Fauconnier and Turner, 2002), and metaphor (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980; Gentner, 1988) in the Qur'an, the Holy Book of Muslims. The Qur'an reveals a division of labor and collaboration between analogy, mental spaces, and metaphor, whereby analogy anchors A and B, the two knowledge domains to be analogized, in discourse; an input space of B is opened, spelling out the features of the source space to be mapped onto those of A, the target space; metaphoric processing is then undertaken to spell out the entailed correspondences between A and B through the inferences that arise in and by the input space B. In other words, analogy and mental spaces are overtly spelled out while metaphor remains covert, thus requiring the collaboration of the reader to spell out the entailed correspondences. One of the theoretical consequences of the talk to be emphasized is the fact that metaphor and analogy on the one hand, and metaphor and mental spaces on the other, are complementary and not alternative cognitive structures for human understanding and cognition (Fauconnier, 1994; Gentner, Bowdle, Wolff, and Boronat, 2001).

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