



Al-Mantiq

Lesson 34

The Divisions of Words

Monosemic and Polysemic or Homonymous

(المختص و المشترك)

The Divisions of Words (تقسيمات الألفاظ)

The most important matter in words after *dalalah* is the general divisions of words, the most important of which is that the word divides into three groups. Sometimes, it is discussed as a single word, sometimes multiple and sometimes as an absolute word, regardless of singularity or multiplicity.

Monosemic:(المختص) A word which has only one specific meaning associated with it, such as animal (حيوان).

Polysemic or Homonymous (المشترك): This kind of expression possesses multiple meanings, and it is correct to use this word for all of these meanings; such as 'ayn' (عين) which has many meanings: eye, well, gold, spy etc. and it is coined for each without any order known.

Conditions of Polysemic or Homonymous (المشترك):

1. There is just one word.
2. It has different meanings.
3. It is coined for all the meanings independently.
4. We don't know which coinage precedes the other.
5. The person who coined did not consider the relation between the meanings.