



Al-Mantiq

Lesson 24

The Semiotics (مباحث الألفاظ)

The four modes of existence

Modes of Existence

There are four modes of existence: Two of them are actual modes of existence, while two of them are only contractual;

- 1) External existence (الوجود الخارجي)
- 2) Mental existence (الوجود الذهني)
- 3) Vocal existence (الوجود اللفظي)
- 4) Written existence (الوجود الكتابي)

Vocal Existence (الوجود اللفظي)

The human being is a social being by nature, therefore he needs a way of conveying his thoughts and making his thoughts understood to others. Allah has blessed the human being with the power of words and speech.

The [semiotic] relationship unites the vocal expression and the meaning, making it like a single entity. If one finds the expression, it is as if one finds the meaning. For this reason, we say “the existence of the vocal expression is the existence of the meaning.”

There is a very strong relation between the word and its meaning and this strong relation comes through the knowledge about coinage and the excessive use of the word in that very meaning.