

Perceiving Text-Worlds as a Cognitive Mechanism to Understand Surah Al-Kahf

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Abstract : Using Text World Theory (TWT), we attempted to understand how mental representations (text worlds) and perceptions can be construed by readers of Quranic texts. To this end, Surah Al-Kahf was purposefully selected given the fact that while each of its stories is narrated, different levels of discourse intervene, which might result in a confused reader who might find it hard to keep track of which discourse he or she is processing. This surah was studied using specifically-designed text-world diagrams. The findings suggest that TWT can be used to help solve problems of ambiguity at the level of discourse in Quranic texts and to help construct a thinking reader whose cognitive constructs (text worlds / mental representations) are built through reflecting on the various and often changing components of discourse world, text world, and sub-worlds.

Keywords : Al-Kahf, Surah, cognitive, processing, discourse

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