

The Discursive Construction of Jews and Christians in the Qur'ān: A Case Study on Al-Baqara

Authors : Maryam Ayad

Abstract : The Qur'ān, the main source of Muslims' religious beliefs, shows a complex view mixed with mercy and violence towards Jews and Christians. The aim of this paper is to investigate the dominant cognitive infrastructure behind the Quranic discourses of violence and mercy towards Jews and Christians. The paper focuses on 54 verses with definite references to Jews and/or Christians in Surat al-Baqara. Adopting Teon Van Dijk's method of critical discourse analysis (CDA), these verses are examined based on 13 linguistic microstructures. The preliminary results show that there are diverse discourses on Jews and Christians competing to gain the dominant power in the Surah. Furthermore, the violent discourse becomes more dominant and prominent as we move from the realm of explicit meanings of the text to that of figurative, implicit, and metaphorical meanings.

Keywords : The Qur'ān, Jews and Christians, CDA, the others, inter-religious relations, Al-Baqara

Conference Title : ICAIS 2025 : International Conference on Arabic and Islamic Studies

Conference Location : Lisbon, Portugal

Conference Dates : April 10-11, 2025