

Importance of Arabic Rhetoric and its Studies in Nigeria

Idris Abubakar Argungu, Dr. Muhammadu Garba Wali

Department Of Arabic, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto Nigeria

*Corresponding Author:

Idris Abubakar Argungu

Email: abubakaridrisarg1@yahoo.com

Abstract: This paper is aiming at highlighting on importance of Arabic Rhetoric “Balaga” and its crucial roles in creating mutual understanding in human communication. Speech as sources of building structures for impacting information in every language it is necessary to plan how to transmit message so that it can reach decoder in right manner to be understandable and satisfy. Rhetoric is one of the important equip by which such can done it is that role this paper attempted to give hint on as follows.

Keywords: Arabic Rhetoric, Balaga, human communication.

INTRODUCTION

The word “Balaga” in Arabic Language literary means communiqué or bulletin or statements or declaration or release. But its technical meaning refers to eloquence or good style in approaching rhetorically.

For this “Balagiyyu” in Arabic means rhetorician who has esteem oratorship in his approaches while sending messages from decoder.

Arabs were experts with such criteria since pre-Islamic period “Jahilliyya” that one can be witness in their poems and prose.

Rhetoric was consider as one of competition fields during Jahilliyya period, they use to gather at their famous trade fair with different tribes gather as spectators of their tribal poets for jubilating for winners in higher marks while asses by referees of the field.

Among the popular referees are Nabiga and Hinsu’u as well as popular fairs are Ukaz and Zumajanna [1].

Development of Rhetoric in Islamic Period

Qur’an as main source of Islam was revealed in Qurraish dilate with full eloquence and good styles it was through its approaches Arabs could got esteem ability of upgrading rhetoric by classifying it into three area as follow:-

1. **Albayan:** This means the area of rhetoric that deals with simile, tropes, metaphor, metonymy or antonomasia in approaches [2].
2. **Alma’aney:** It is an area that deals with commands interrogation, abbreviation, expatiation or prolixity

and parity of speech as well as it deals with stylistic in forming sentences in Arabic language [3].

3. **Albadi’u:** This area deals with attraction of words such as anagram of words or meanings, mispronunciation, perversion, pairing, rhyme, inlaying, equation of words or their equivocation or nappy in poem words or embroidery of words in poem or prose in its like.

For meaning in particular, Albadi’u deals with some attraction views such as hiding, ambiguity or utilization, digression, annihilating, antithesis, surveillance in speech, embedding, expansion in explanation, or abstraction in it and its like twining, or separation of points of views, exaggeration in it and its like.

For this, one can realize from such three areas of this field that almost language and its comprehension rely on rhetoric [4].

Origin of Arabic Rhetoric

At extensive drilling in studies of Balaga one can reason that the three areas can be gathered to give us the following abilities while studying or using Arabic Language.

- Observing basic area in any text one may come to across in his studies or any speech listen to, fair him to get the exact meaning at this point one must poses the knowledge about the rules of syntax, morphology, vocabulary, and structure.
- It will prevents a reader or speaker or listener for occurring in mistakes in understanding.
- It prevents writer or speaker from forming wrong speech.

- It gives and provides ability of word selection to construct amicable sentences to attract attentions.
- Rhetoric gives ability of embedding speeches and good presentation with well efforts.
- It beautify meaning for mutual understand, attraction of structure in communication and transmitting information or expressing views [5].

These are origin of Arabic Rhetoric by which one may understand its importance as tool of reading, listening, saying and writing.

Studies of Arabic Rhetoric in Nigeria

As we can learn from different source and references that the language of Arabic came to Nigeria between 11th and 14th centuries together with Islam, and first area to practice this religion found it necessary to learn Arabic for them to comprehend the holy Qur'an it was through that Arabic language spreaded fastly in the area known today as Nigeria. For this all the fields of Arabic language became familiar to citizens at early stage before the arrival of any foreign language.

Among the factors that strengthen the learning of Arabic language in Nigeria are travelling to holy land (Makka) by Muslims of the area to perform pilgrimage. Its through this journey the travelers use to study this language on their way; to and from as the journey was by road.

This contributed a lot for the study of this language, as well as the coming of some Arabs scholars such as Imams Suyudr and Almagi those who visited Kano and Katsina and though the citizens the language and religion instruction [6].

Another factor was the revival of Islam that took place in 1804 in Nigeria under leadership of sheikh Usman Ibn Fodiyo standardize the position of learning Arabic language as Islamic religion became the mode of life and Arabic as national language for a century.

For this, learning of fields of the language became necessary on the citizens it was through that the studies of rhetoric advanced in Nigeria.

Among those who concentrated on this field are Shekh Abdullahi Fodiya, Sultan Muhammad Bello, Sheikh Mustapha Attauridi, Nana Asma'u Usman Ibn Fodio and many others, it was through their effort rhetorical studies get ground in the area known as Nigeria today.

After the period of Jihadees (1804-1900) some Nigeria scholars should made their effort in the fields of Arabic rhetoric and produce valuable books for the studies of it through Arabic literature, among them are

Dr. Wazir Junaidu, Sheikh Nasir Kabara, Sheikh Abubakar Ikororo and Sheikh Adamu Abdullahi Ilori.

But this time around who became popular in this field is Professor Baqi Shu'aibu Agaka who wrote some three valuable books namely, Asalibun Balagiyatun, Albalagatul Quraniyya and Adabul Islamiya fi diwanil Ilori [7].

These books proved that Nigerians have much effort on the studies of Arabic rhetoric due to its importance in the studies of Arabic language.

CONCLUSION

From this write up we can see how importance rhetoric is in the fields of the studies of Arabic language, the paper highlight on the definition of rhetoric and how it commenced and developed in Arabs as well as its importance by origin of the areas it works in language.

The paper concluded with how Nigerian their effort on the studies of Arabic rhetoric from 14th century up to date due to its importance as the way of comprehending Arabic and creating understanding listening, writing and speaking.

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