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Communication Strategies for Islamic Diplomatic Discourse: A study in the Correspondences of Omar Ibn Al-Khattab

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Abstract

This study sought to reveal the communication strategies used in Islamic diplomatic discourse, by applying to a sample of diplomatic correspondences that took place during the era of Omar Ibn Al-Khattab. In its theoretical framework, the study was based on the Karl Deutsch's model of political communication, and Ruller's situational model of communication strategies. Also, it relied on the qualitative and historical approaches because they are appropriate to the nature of the subject of the study. It used the discourse analysis tool. The study sample was represented in four correspondences that took place within the framework of diplomatic relations in that period, and it was identified in two of the letters (diplomatic notes) sent by Omar Ibn Al-Khattab, as well as two of the most important diplomatic treaties that Omar Ibn Al-Khattab concluded during his reign with the people of other countries. the most important results of the study were:

- Omar Ibn Al-Khattab was ahead of his time, as he used all the diplomatic means of communication that were available to him at that time. He used in his diplomatic speeches communication strategies in their today's meaning such as strategies of media and persuasion, and building consensus. His messages and treaties had a tight artistic structure characterized by coherence, brevity, and clarity.
- The diplomatic discourse of Omar Ibn Al-Khattab considered the social, cultural, and psychological differences between the recipients, as it was based on logical proof paths rather than emotional paths, and this lines with the nature of the diplomatic discourse, which is largely subject to international laws and considerations.
- The effective forces in most of Omar Ibn Al-Khattab's diplomatic speeches were determined as positive effective forces, which were represented in the person of the ruling Caliph, the people of other countries, the legal rulings, as well as the international norms and traditions in force at that time.

- It became clear that Omar Ibn Al-Khattab cared about establishing values and principles that we can benefit from at the present time in improving the performance in the field of administration and diplomacy, such as upholding the value of tolerance and forgiveness when able, rejecting violence, racism and hate speech, and emphasizing the principle of work specialization, investing the latent energies, and rejecting favoritism.

Keywords: Communication Strategies - Diplomatic discourse - Caliph Omar Ibn Al-Khattab.