



## Metaphorical Blends of Love in the Book *Fiqh Al-Eshq* [Understanding of Love] by Youssef Zidan: Fauconnier and Turner Conceptual Blending Theory

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### Introduction

Love, as portrayed in mystical and Sufi works, is a concept far intricate than love in ordinary language and thought. Yusuf Ziedan, a renowned Egyptian author and novelist, has extensive works and research in the realms of Sufism and mysticism, with one of his notable works being "The Jurisprudence of Love." Given the abundant use of novel and beautiful metaphors related to the theme of love in this book, it provides an opportunity for exploration from the perspective of the theory conceptual blending. This study aims to analyze the conceptual blending of the metaphorical concept of love in "The Jurisprudence of Love" using the framework of the theory of conceptual blending by Fauconnier and Turner. The investigation also aims to familiarize the reader with various aspects of love and the author's mystical perspective, shedding light on the formation of the meaning of this concept through the explained theory.

### Methodology

Considering the complexity of the human mind, Fauconnier and Turner introduced the theory of conceptual blending as a broader and more comprehensive model than Lakoff and Johnson's conceptual metaphor, explaining the formation of more complex concepts and going beyond the dual-domain nature of metaphors. They proposed a networked mental space for the human mind. According to this theory, meaning construction involves two main stages: 1) constructing mental spaces and 2) creating mappings between the created mental spaces (Fauconnier and Turner, cited in Roshan and Aardabili, 2016: 176). In their proposed metaphor framework, four mental spaces play a role, including a common space, two input spaces, and a blended space. The processes of selection, completion, and elaboration or execution control the meaning construction operations.

### Discussion and Results

Based on the theory of conceptual blending, the meaning of love is created in combination with non-love concepts, and the predicted mechanism of the theory is observable in the available data. The dimensions of meaning are clearer in the analyses of conceptual blending compared to a mere metaphorical analysis. In the metaphor, mappings from the source domain to the target domain occur unilaterally without specifying the role of the target domain in this semantic reconstruction. In this research, the role of the target domain or the input space 2 is to deliver the content of the target to the source content, and other mental spaces or conceptual domains are unified in the input space 1.

## Conclusion

The results of the research indicate that the blend of non-love and love in each case presents a unique and temporary configuration of the conceptual structure of love. In these metaphorical blends, multiple spaces are combined to complement the meaning of love from various perspectives with the help of the audience's background knowledge. Most of the vocabulary formation belongs to the intrinsic spaces of fire, water, food, light, etc. These vocabularies stimulate the intrinsic spaces in the mind related to love. The relationships between the source spaces and the target space of love are analogical. Elements present in the blended spaces often enter from the source domains. In general spaces, as predicted by the theory, elements, relationships, and features are present, sharing more aspects between the two input spaces. Although potential input spaces have many features that can be blended together, according to the principle of floatation, many features are not elicited in this process and remain floating, not entering the blended spaces.

**Keywords:** *Cognitive Semantics, Conceptual Blending, Foucault and Turner, Love, Yusuf Ziedan, The Jurisprudence of Love.*

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