# SYNTAX AND EPISTEMOLOGY <br> IN THE KITĀB AI-TARBİ WAI-TADWIR OF AL-JĀḤIZ 

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Ph.D 1983

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#### Abstract

\section*{ABSTRACT}

This thesis contains eleven chapters: introduction, nine chapters on various aspects of the Kitāb At-Tarbi ${ }^{\text { }}$ Wa-t-Tadwir of Jāhiz, and conclusion. The Arabic text referred to is Charles Pellat's edition (Damas, 1955), which has been photocopied and added as appendix.

The Introduction discusses the form known as adab, and Chapter One deals with Jahiz's version of it in this risāla. Using syntagmatic analyses, and the identification of registers of discourse, an overall coherent texture is postulated.

Chapters Two and Three analyse the structure of passages of direct discourse, worded either by question or by report. Syntactic patterns are compared, as are semic fields, in an approach which will be followed throughout the thesis.

Chapters Four and Five isolate sections identified as indirect discourse, as argumentation presented through the problems of language.

Chapters Six, Seven, and Eight deal with the intrusion of recipient, author, and text, and postulate a sophisticated literary function for these elements.

In Chapter Nine, on the basis of the primary identifications, the textual interdependence of discourse registers is treated by comparison with that in other literary forms, both ancient and modern.

In the Conclusion, based on the re-assembling of elements isolated in the analyses of Chapters One to Eight, the function and raison d'etre of this particular form is presented as a hypothesis about its relationship to expression of paradigmatic change.

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## Introduction

## THE RISALA

### 0.1 Reference

The text I will analyse here is Charles Pellat's edition of Le Kitāb at-Tarbi' wa-t-Tadwīr de Ğāhiz, ${ }^{1}$ published in 1955. At the end of his introduction to this text, Pellat deplores the fact that no intelligent writers 'aient point songé à s'interroger sincèrement et à fournir des réponses raisonnables aux questions de Ǧāhiz'. ${ }^{2}$ He identifies these questions as 'des problèmes les plus delicats qui se posent à la conscience d'un musulman rationaliste du IIİ s. de l'Hégire. $^{3}$ Hence, what is implied are questions to which there are answers: problems of reference and identity.
0.1.1 Title - Recipient - Text

At their most superficial, problems of reference and identity arise in connection with title, recipient (of the 'letter') and textual variants. Pellat is not happy with the title, having seen it corroborated nowhere else. As for the recipient, Pellat takes Jahiz's information in the ic text at face value, and scrapes together historal anecdote for further clarification. The textual variants might be

```
    I will refer to this text as the risàla (letter) and will
use the most simplified English transcription of the author's
name, viz. Jahiz.
    Pellat's introduction to the text, p. XVII.
    Ibid., p. X.
```

explained, as might the title, he thinks, by the whimsy of copyists; at any rate, the variants are appended as footnotes.

The major reference problem, however, concerns the material of the text itself, and what Pellat considers the main themes of the text: the questions posed. He provides, thus, an extensive index of proper names deriving from 'le vieux fonds bedouin de legendes explicatives ou merveilleuses . . . les legendes empruntees aux religions scriptuaires . . . mythes inventes par des Musulmans zéles, le folklore Yemenite . . . les croyances mazdeenes et manicheennes . . . le magie chaldénne . . . la mythologie shi'ite . . .'1

Much of this material is treated by Pellat as potential accretions to an earlier, purer Islam. He explains its appearance as reflecting various groups' concern with their political position ('Adnanite supremacy), ${ }^{2}$ religious orthodoxy ('pour expliquer quelques obscurités du Coran et de la Sunna'); ${ }^{3}$ or scientific competence ('problèmes qui se presentent à l'esprit des Musulmans enclins à s'interroger sur les mystères de la Nature). 4 Represented here, then, are elements for contexts in which legitimacy or order may be found.

Reference problems, however, run into identity problems in his glossary of common nouns, as these issues slide into the definitions of words. Thus, many of the problems highlighted are those assumed to separate a man of Mu'tazili views (author) from a man of Shi'i views (recipient). For instance, both the entry on the 'long-lived' (المعـّرن () and

Ibid.
Ibid., p. XIV.
that on 'metamorphosis' ( مسخ ) are connected by Pellat with the mythology of the life and death of Shi"i imams.

### 0.1.2 Author

There are two ways of approaching this problem of identity or definition of words. The first involves certain assumptions about the author which lead to an appropriate reading of his text. The second requires an investigation of the text itself, and its internal dynamics. Taking the first approach, Pellat, a known expert on Jahiz, sees several of his characteristics in this text: as rationalist and sceptic (though not very original because influenced by the Greeks), ${ }^{1}$ he puts in question as much as possible; also, as competent ironist, he paints a portrait (of the recipient) worthy of La Bruyère. ${ }^{2}$

However, this ironic style creates disorientation, by the impression of multiple registers of discourse. Specifically, the whole 'debate' with the recipient of the letter is seen by Pellat as one of 'deux parties qui s'imbriquent l'une dans l'autre sans aucun plan preconçu, sans aucun ordre visible'. ${ }^{3}$ More generally, not only is Jahiz reputed to have a style in which 'le coq a l'ane fait partie de sa manière', ${ }^{4}$ but Pellat feels that in this text, he wrote 'au fil de la plume et accumulant les idees qui lui viennent à l'esprit'. 5
$0.1 .3^{\prime} \mathrm{Adab}^{\prime}$
In fact, Jahiz is characterized as being, perhaps, the

| 1 | Ibid., p. XVI. |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | Ibid., p. X. |
| 3 | Ibid., p. XIV. |
| 4 | Ibid., p. V. |
| 5 | Ibid., p. XIV. |

originator of the genre called 'Adab', whose style is considered an amassing of a 'variety' of elements in 'random' order,' and which 'does not require the taking of a stand'. ${ }^{2}$ So, on the one hand, there are the views of Jahiz here, but, on the other hand, this type of text, by its excess of referential elements, apparent lack of subordination, and unsteady semantic focus, cannot represent views.

Pellat's solution is to establish his own focus, by hierarchies of reference and relationship, indicating the areas of primary concern, 'le texte essential, les questions, qui constituent la raison d'être du Tarbi*'3 with a heavy vertical line, those of questionable authorship with a dotted line, and those of 'neutral' standing with no mark at all. This leads to an admittedly partial text, ${ }^{4}$ along the following lines:

```
author -> 'view' -> signification of words = 'excess'
words -> partial text
```


### 0.2 Identity

### 0.2.1 Signification

Taking the words and their signification as the vital link in the above equation, and approaching the text instead through its internal dynamics, in order to arrive at signification, the question arises: which dominates, a word or its context? Examples from a few 'neutral' paragraphs at

[^0]the end of the risäla indicate that there are obvious glossary problems in this edition, and criteria of definition are unclear.

### 0.2.2 Definition

(a) word and different contexts: $\S 196$, word ( شكل) use in § 196: (أشكل وأضدّاد)
glossary definition for § 196: 'forme, genre'
glossary definition for $\S 72$ : 'ressemblance'
my comment: by context (paired opposition with 'contraries') definition for $\S 72$ is more appropriate.
(b) word and pairing context: § 198, words (جليل) (دقيق) use in § 198: (والدقيق النى لا يكاد يفهم والجليل النى لا يلقى الفهم () glossary definitions for § 198:
'transendant, inaccessible' (جليل)
'subtil, delicat' ( دقيق)
glossary comment for 8198 , under ( P ): 'opp. à ( دقيل)' my comment: this (pairing) context might imply opposition, but the definitions do not.
(c) word and wrong context: § 199, word (شيب)

glossary definition for § 199.: 'devenir blancs, chevaux' (一七 (
my comment: from this context lof opposition to 'unmixed') a preferable form is: 'to mix'
(

These problems in the glossary seem to stem from assumptions that definitions of words are either static, or determined by a style which automatically pairs by opposition or identity, or of little significance, since they appear
in paragraphs which are not considered of major interest. In the above examples, I purposely chose words from 'neutral' paragraphs to underline the fact that signification of words in a text depends on their use in the whole of that text (syntagmatic relationships), as well as the nuances they may have carried with them into that text (paradigmatic relationships). This means looking at overall syntactic manipulations and consequent semic fields, and so I propose to use 'structuralist' principles for my analysis.

### 0.2.3 Structuralism

This approach will be based on principles drawn from: Saussure, Jakobson, Valery, and Todorov, in the following way:

From Saussure's principles, I take the idea of the arbitrary linguistic sign: 'The bond between the signifiex and the signified is arbtrary ${ }^{1}$ -
also, the idea of signification by opposition:
'Language is characterized as a system based on the opposition of its concrete units, ${ }^{2}$ -
and the primacy of syntagmatic relationships: 'In fact, spatial coordinations help to create associative coordinations. ${ }^{3}$

From those of Jakobson, I extend Saussure's linguistic axes, of the syntagmatic and paradigmatic, into conceptual axes: the axis of 'combination' related to 'discours contextuel', the axis of 'selection' related to 'operations
F. de Saussure, A Course in General Linguistics (New York, 1966), p. 67. 2

Ibid., p. 105.
3
Ibid., p. 128.
metalinguistiques'. 1
From a reflection by Valery, I extend principles of language into literature: 'La litterature est, et ne peut pas être autre chose qu'une sorte d'extension et d'application de certaines propriétes du language'. ${ }^{2}$

And, finally, from Todorov, I adopt a particular manner of negating the form/content dichotomy: 'Le langage . . . est à la fois mediateur et mediatise'. ${ }^{3}$

In this way, I intend to use the 'particular' ${ }^{4}$ style of Jahiz to analyse his risāla.

[^1]
## Chapter One

## THE CASE - I: THE WORLD

### 1.1 Statement

As mentioned in the introduction, the genre called 'Adab' is a problematical one, and is probably best translated as 'belles-lettres'. Unfortunately this term is accompanied by an aura of ephemera, and in the Arabic version, the impression is often that what statement there is vacillates between antonymies, becomes bogged down in repetitions, and ends up $\not \underset{\text { ìs }}{ }$ stasis. Therefore, one of the first problems I want to consider is style and argument, taking a passage between pages 65 and 70. ${ }^{1}$ This deals with the 'argument'
 sure feel for the language, in dividing the text into paragraphs, marks out, here, 9 discursive units (§§115-123), 5 of which examine the argument from one point of view, 4 from another.
1.1.1 Stasis
(a) antonymy

In the first 5 paragraphs, 115-119, there is an impression of stasis because of Jahiz's use of a large number of evenly balanced opposing terms. Paragraph 116 is a good example, the first half contains antonymial nouns:

```
affluence (غنى) vs need (حاجه)
```

From now on, I will refer only to paragraphs, not to pages.

| recuperation ( جما) | vs. | fatigue (نصب) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| love ( محبّب) | " | hatred (مبغضة) |
| comfort ( ${ }^{\text {c }}$ ) | " | affliction (بلاء) |

The second contains antonymial verbs:

| distinguish from it | vs. | share with it (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ( با ينه ) |  |  |
| to relax (نرغ) | " | to exert oneself (تشاغل) |
| to jest (هـزل) | " | to be serious (جّل) |
| aggrandize (\%) | " | debase (تلّل) |
| to rest ( استرا) | " | to toil ( كّ ) |

This impression of staťis is reinforced by Jahiz's use of redundant synonyms or outright repetitions, to provide a neutral ground for the antonymial elements. An example of this can be seen in paragraph 115:
to go along
ways (bرق )
different (
to claim (زع (ز)
all (جمیع)
two halves (نصفان)
$=\quad$ to go $($ ( هـب)
" senses (نـ)
" opposing ( متضادة)
" to claim ( $ز$ )
" all (ج )
" two parts (مقسومان)
1.1.2 Movement
(a) synonymy

However, it is also by synonymy that Jahiz dissolves ${ }^{1}$ stasis, and furthers the argument, enlarging the space of each contested word, or pair of words, by their association with others. This is sometimes done by infection through contiguity, as in the following ways:

[^2]by a shared (identical) complement:
§116: 'joking' ( $\tau^{l}{ }^{\prime}$ ) $)$ is called 'recuperation' ( f )
§118: 'permissible' ( $\tau^{\text {¢ }}$ ) is called 'recuperation'
( ج-ما
by a shared (synonymous) verb:
§119: 'remembering' (j) - 'to be wretched' (شقى)
'seriousness' (
by a shared (identical) association:

'withholding and spending $\rangle$ - 'path' ( سبيل)
(ألفتع والبـنل )
(b) analogy

Jahiz, sometimes, on the other hand, brings about this synonymity by infection through analogy:
explicit, by the particle 'just as' (ك):
§118: 'joking has its place - just as - seriousness has its place (.... (إن المنَ في موضعه كالجّدّ في بوضعه) just as ( 5 ) . . .
withholding has its validity - as - spending has its validity' (الهتع في حقّه كالبنذل في حقّــه
implicit, by the phrase 'and on that' (ولى نلك):
§119:'seriousness' vs. 'joking'
(الـجـدّ)
'spending ${ }^{\prime}$
(البذل )
'contraction' (القبض)
(المنز)
vs. 'withholding' ( وعلى ذلك () اسبيل () (الهنع) 'path'

(c) space

So Jahiz advances the argument, by enlarging the space of words that at first seemed static and univocal in their
antonymial pairings. However, each paragraph here has a version of stasis at the end, precisely in the enlarging of space, there occurs the collapse of antonymies. Schematically, it appears thus:
§115: Jahiz's way:
all sides will be heard, $\mathrm{X}^{\prime} \mathrm{s}$ as well as $\mathrm{Y}^{\prime} \mathrm{s}$
§116: way of the world:
people only do $X$ to achieve $Y$
(§117: order:
can $X$ affect $Y$ ? $)^{1}$
§118: God's way:
X has become like Y
§119: way of Nature:
X co-exists with $Y$
It is clear that in all of these paragraphs, with perhaps the exception of $\$ 117, \mathrm{X}$ and Y co-exist.

### 1.2 Registers of Discourse : Case

As mentioned in the introduction, one of the disorienting aspects of the risāla is the impression of different registers of discourse, and the further problematic of their interdependence. I intend to treat this in a positive manner, attempting an identification of these different registers in terms of Andre Jolles' 'Simple Forms',' with the idea that it is these identifications which will then clarify dependencies of discourse, and eventual signification. ${ }^{3}$ Thus, excess and limit, see below: 6.2 hyperbole, blame, and act, see below: 7:4 causality and contiguity, see below: 5.2.2.
A. Jolles, Formes Simples (Paris, 1972).

3 I also intend to indicate, by occasional footnotes, various recurrent elements which create discourse dependencies.
before any further analysis of the collapses just described and the associations which make them possible, one should consider the overall form of argument here. Collapse does not appear in the next four paragraphs; the material there is anecdote, and the paragraphs do not conclude in terms of general principles, but in terms of specific testimony. Paragraphs 115 to 123 thus seem divided by their nature at paragraph 120; however, they belong together as two different points of view within the 'simple form' Jolles calls the Case. 1

### 1.2.1 Evaluation

In the Case, issues, or antinomial terms such as those mentioned earlier, are set up in opposition and evaluated. An appropriate vocabulary emerges in the following paragraphs: §117:
'in these scales' (فـن الونز)
'in this estimation' (
'overstepping the extent' ( مجا (مزة القدر)
'cutting between' (قاطع بين (
§118:
'balancing between' (عدّل بين)
\& 117 'equals it' (olg (س)
'differs from it (باينه)
Furthermore, it is one of the characteristics of the Case that this is a quantitative evaluation, 'le cas . . . mesure des quantités, ou plutôt, elle les pèse'. ${ }^{2}$ Evaluative vocabulary is thus matched by quantitative vocabulary:

1 Op. cit.
2 Ibid., p. 140.
§115:
'most of it' (أكثره ()
'least of it' (أقلّه (ا)
'two parts' ( مقسوهان)
'two halves' (نصفان)
§116:
'surplus' ( فضل)
§117:
'excess' (إفراط)
§120: a vertiginous repetition of:
'sums' (جـل)
'unit' (بعض)
'masses' ( ( ${ }^{\circ}$
'multitude' (جمهر)
'all' (جمیع)
1.2.2 Norms

Another characteristic of the Case is the norms it sets up to evaluate these antonymies. When writing of stories in which evaluation of a case is difficult, Jolles says, '. . . on rélame pourtant des normes: le domaine des sensations, du sentiment, du gôut'. ${ }^{1}$ Here, 'sentiment' appears only rarely, as in
§116: 'hate' المبغضة) vs. 'love' (المحّبّة)
'Gôut' appears only in the extended understanding of:
§116: beauty of state' (حسن الحال)
§117: ludicrous repetitions of: 'ugly' ( قبت ) and 'uglier' (أقبح

It is by the norm of 'sensation' that most evaluation is made, as seen in the rich vocabulary listed under 'antonymy' (1.1.1).

Ibid., p. 153.

These norms are used for the evaluation of the merits of 'joking' and 'seriousness', of their share of:
§115:
'good' (الخير)
'evil' (الشرّ (الر)
For this, there is:
§116:
'a defender' (
'a preferrer' (مضـ)
§118:
'recompense' (المثوبة)
Were there not:
§119: God's provision of:
'the correct . . . the real . . . the true
( الصواب.... الصد ق .. . الحق )
'purely . . . simply . . . broadly
( مخصا . . . . . . . صر فا
'surely the masses would perish' (لهـلك العوّام)
'and the order of the elite would fade away 1 (وانتقض الخواّص )

### 1.3 Witness

### 1.3.1 Internal

Despite this lexical mixture of the judicial and moral, this is not argumentation of an either/or type. On a cosmic level, the way of the world (end §116) and the way of nature (end \$119) by association, support the order of God, the moral order. This type of synonymy allows collapse of

[^3]antonymies at all levels. Hence, for instance, in paragraph 119, the fact that a 'stream' (هجرى) (world of nature) is of constant 'expansion' and 'contraction' implies that in its relationship to 'joking' and 'seriousness' (world of discourse) and 'withholding' and 'spending' (world of culture), their oppositions may, equally, co-exist. This sense of order in balance, not in exclusion, 1 is the 'morale Equilibriste' which Jolles identifies as 'casuistics', or the use of the case in moral theology, . . . l'opposition me parâit nette entre cette morale et une scolastique qui cherchait, autant que possible à appréhender les vertus et les vices comme objets, et il me parâit tout aussi net que cette evaluation se voulait parfaitement humaine. ${ }^{2}$

### 1.3.2 External

Casuistics had as one of its main tenets that of 'probabilism', and in a passage from I. von Döllinger cited by Jolles, it is clear that in the absence of absolute certainty, probabilism recognized external as well as internal argument: '. . . c'est à dire sur l'autorité des gens considérés comme competents'. ${ }^{3}$ Thus, this is the other point of view; paragraphs 121 to 123 will argue it from external witness. ${ }^{4}$ Though these later paragraphs might at first look like arbitrary anecdote, there is progression in the argument, which can be seen if one follows it paragraph by paragraph, extracting, again, the antonymies, the particular conceptual oppositions.
(a) general-particular

These conceptual oppositions differ from the preceding For exclusion by reduction in argument, see below: 5.3.1. Jolles, op. cit., p. 155. Ibid., p. 156. For another manifestation of this, see below: 3.2.
antonymial pairs in that they are not explicit, but they are none the less operative. Paragraph 120 is a transitional paragraph, marking the switch from argument by internal merit to that of external witness. Jahiz sets up the general claims of people, and then exposes his own individual claims:
( أقاويل القوم • • •نزعم )

He scrambles, by repetitions, words for general and particular:
(جملة . . . . . . . . . . . عغضّمّ
and then caps this by two single lines from anonymous poets. Thus, from the general consensus there is movement to particular testimony.
(b) Arab-Islamic

In the next paragraph, the contrast is again between the general, many groups (Arab) and the particular, one leader (Muhamad), with the added issue of the relationship between name and event. If (otherwise) anonymous groups were given sobriquets for scowling and laughing (unattested event), what about Muhammad, who joked (attested event) but was not named a 'great joker' $\left(\tau^{[j}\right)$ ? This is followed by the attested, three obscure jokes by Muhammad. From the unattested event there is movement to the attested event.
(c) public-private

The next paragraph, 122, follows up the previous mention of community leaders and is more specific. Event is broken down into public versus private, leaders broken down into virtuous versus un-virtuous. Commentary moves from the general mention (unnamed event) of 'Ali, to the specific quote (named event) by al-Hajjaj. At the end of this paragraph there is the type of collapse seen before, that of indulgence: Jahiz points out that he has included all manner
of men in his argument for joking.
(d) world-leader-community ${ }^{1}$

This spirit of indulgence is what will now be elaborated in the next paragraph, 123, and it is worth more detail, albeit schematic, ${ }^{2}$ as it is a good example of the way the argument progresses in this section.

1 norm of sensation: ease-unrestraint

2 order of nature:
branch-bough
3 Muhammad-concepts-general
positive: magnanimous religion
negative: contradiction-harshness
4 Muhammad-words-indirect
(a) general implementation:
spread peace-good tidings
(b) specific implementation:
exchange visits-shake hands-exchange presents
5 Muhammad-acts-general
laugh smilingly-not disapprove, laughingly
6 Muhammad-words-direct:
be courteous to companions
time of eating, drinking, diversion
7 Muhammad-acts-specific
his family: not reprove servant girl's drumming his 'origins': not reprove Arab (named) tracking

8
order of nature - nature of Arab (unnamed): honey
For community as brotherhood, see below: 3.2.2.
Normally, I expect to provide the Arabic words from the text for my intentionally literal translations, but here supplying the Arabic would be tantamount to recopying the whole paragraph.

Thus, in these last paragraphs of external witness, anecdote not only cannot be confused with stasis, but its argument can be seen to move from the general (joking) to the particular (jokes), from the unattested event (laughing) to the attested event (laughed), from the Arab (poets, groups) to the Islamic (community leaders, Muhammad), all developed as witness for the side in a certain 'case'. 1 Also, it is interesting to note that though there are textual variants for the last word in the second section, 'honey' (العسل) seems appropriate to me, as it brings the discussion full circle back to nature, and is a second statement on mutual compatibilities, already seen in the paragraphs of internal witness, viz. nature-man-God.

In conclusion, the 'joking' versus 'seriousness' issue which might at first seem repetitious in its terms and static in its argument ('Adab' problem) is, rather, a dynamic argument. The first part is 'case' by internal evidence, argued through explicit antonymial elements whose scope is expanded by the infections of synonymy, and whose conclusions are in line with generalist principles of endoxy, 'the way of the world'. The second part is 'case' by external witness, argued through implicit contrasts whose scope is contracted toward the specific: time, place, person, event, the particularist bases of 'orthodoxy', the path of Islam. The linguistic manipulations and conceptual subordinations identified here in the register of 'case' will be studied in every chapter as manifestations of other registers.

1 To be compared with the trajectory of 'historical' data on the subject of singing girls: A.F.L. Beeston (ed), The Epistle on Singing Girls by Jahiz (Warminster, 1980).

## THE RIDDLE

### 2.1 The Questions

The questions in this text have already been mentioned in connection with index and glossary, reference and identity. Pellat sees them as a problem of identification and differentiation. In other words, addressing himself ostensibly to correction of the recipient of the letter, Ahmad 'Abd al-Wahhab, ${ }^{1}$ a known Räfiḑite, ${ }^{2}$ Jahiz would identify heterodox Shi'i material in order to disparage it. However, from the index and glossary, it is clear that considerably more than merely Shi"i material is treated in these questions, and it becomes difficult to know how to deal with these dangling facts and figures, this plethora of anti-information.

### 2.1.1 Information - Litany - Category

There are several possible approaches and as examples I will use two blocks of paragraphs: $\{\$ 63$ to 77 and $\$ 33$ to 138, following themes in their argument, as well as the switches within or between discourse register. The initial approach to this material might be to see it as simple transmission of information. Thus, in the first sequence of paragraphs the main subject is varieties of divination, and the main questions asked are: 'who' and 'what'. Because the

```
1 Referred to from now on as A.W.
2
    Pellat, op. cit., p. XVI.
```

names and terms have become no less arcane with time, one is immediately dependent on Pellat's index and glossary. However, here one is struck by the fact that the ever-present authority for Jahiz's material is Jahiz himself, mainly from another work, K. al-Hayawan. In fact, Pellat cites a passage there in which Jahiz states that these works are complementary. ${ }^{1}$ Of course, there are also later authorities who use this material, but one cannot be sure that their source was not also Jahiz. Finally, there is the simple fact that there are many terms which Pellat was never able to trace at all. Thus, as information, this material is problematical, but there is another approach to these questions. The litany of names of people and things, supposedly replying to 'who' and 'what' has conjuring power. These have been named, therefore they exist. ${ }^{2}$ They are also presented as names about whom one might make some judgement:
§63: 'where was . . . with respect to . . .'
( أين كان • • • ب • . )
or about which the letter's recipient has already made some judgement:
§63: 'why did you decide in favour of . . .'
(. . . J. . . . ولمُ فضيت )

This relationship, of course, would lead one to think that the issue figured in the 'Shu'ubi' controversies, but this must be considered by those who turn their attention to the paradigmatic, the non-linear, open-ended, unordered associations outside the text.

My approach here is limited to the syntagmatic: the

[^4]linear, limited, 'ordered' exposition of the text. Within these limits, however, there is also the possibility that Jahiz, thought to be 'Greek influenced', was formulating some set of categories. Is there an attempt to arrive at an essence of things through their classification in the text? ${ }^{1}$ For this particular set of paragraphs, that hypothesis is unlikely. Since the category replying to 'who' is generally individual diviners, demons and legendary figures, and the category replying to 'what' is methods of divination, kinds of demons and relics of legendary figures, one can discern some genus/species relationship, but it is at best evanescent.

### 2.1.2 Deciphering

There is yet another approach to these questions syntagmatically; that is, not as background for an order of categories, but as an order of its own. Jahiz seems to be answering his own questions as he proceeds. First of all, the dominant subject matter of this section is divinations, or deciphering, a particular way of going about knowing things. Secondly, though this is treated in terms of simple identifications ('who'/'what') such identification is actually put in question in three ways.
(a) ambiguity

One of these ways lies in ambiguity of identities. In paragraph 73 there is a series of things which are hybrids: within and between the animal and plant kingdoms:
( نـسنا
in other words: $X$ plus $Y$
In paragraph 70 , it is a matter not of double form, but of For classification, see below: 5.3.1(c).
change of form, where there are different types of change:
'materializing' . . . 'changing colour' ( تلّون ...
and demonic changes:
'the transformation of Iblis into the form of . . . and the form of' (. تحوّل البليسفي صورة . . . وفي صورة. in other words, $X$ into $Y$

Sometimes this identity problem is even articulated on the basic level of polysemy:
§63: 'Ŝiqq' as proper noun (شـق )
§64: 'Siqq' as common noun 'hemisphere' (شق)
in other words, $\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{x}$ ?
(b) redundancy

A second way in which identities are undermined is in auditory redundancies, resulting from the slurs of homophony. Congruence of sound puts in question (in)congruence of sign:
§66:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { يعـوث ويعـوق } \\
& \text { بين مناة . . • بين مناف } \\
& \text { برهوت وبلهوت }
\end{aligned}
$$

§69:
في شيلايا والولايا
§63:
الز باء . . . سبأ

Even if it is granted that some of these are folk homophonies which Jahiz used, their sing-song effect is anyway quite apparent, and tends to dissolve individual identities.

## (c) collapse

The third way in which identities are undermined is by collapse and inconsequence. In paragraph 73 , this is done $b^{Y} \neq$ anticlimax: the paragraph begins with questions on hybrids, proceeds through strange events of nature, signs
by wild animals, knowledge of the occult, to a last question about the acts of two domesticated farm animals.

Anticlimax appears again in paragraph 77; the sequence consists of questions: to identify names, to identify qualities, to identify species, to identify reasons, then to identify the difference between two homophonous things:
'the dish and the glass' (الطأسوانأس)
Pellat himself says this must be a 'jeu de mots'.
Paragraph 66 also concludes with a dead-end, instead of loss of identity by collapse in similar sound, it presents loss of identity - by similar effect - for one thing. After questions on names of ancient idols, places, things, treasures, fame, Jahiz turns to the paradox of:
'that wealth which, he who takes of it repents, and he who leaves it alone repents'

2.2. Register: The Riddle

### 2.2.1 Catechism

This enigmatic phrase is useful for conjecture on the discourse register of these paragraphs. Questions in terms of deciphering identities have been largely unrewarding, and may cover another type of interrogation, another level of inquiry. There are two main points Jolles makes about the Riddle. The first is that it is a matter of catechism; there is a knowledge already extant, 'le savoir comme possession' ${ }^{2}$ and it is up to the questioned to show himself master of it to the questioner. This 'savoir' is ostensibly the aim of the search, but even more so is the master of it,
as Claude Brémond writes, 'l'enquête ici . . . consiste à chercher, non la vérité d'une chose, mais la personne qui sait la vérité des choses. ${ }^{1}$ So, when Jahiz announces, in paragraph 4:
'that I ask him hundreds of questions, jestingly, and let the people know the extent of his ignorance . . .'
(بأن أسأله عن مائة هسألة أهزأ فيهـا وأعرّف الناس مقد ار جههله )
it means that if one person is shown to be ignorant, the other is not, and attention is solicited for answers by Jahiz, as much as questions to A.W.

### 2.2.2 Language

Jolles' second point about the Riddle is that this knowledge is articulated through a special language. He quotes Porzig who differentiates between a common language in which things are understood as phenomena (a foot is an appendage) and a special language in which their function must be detected (a foot functions as support). ${ }^{2}$ Though Aristotle commented on the affiliation between metaphor and riddle, 'on peut tirer de bonnes metaphores des enigmes bien faites, car les métaphores impliquent des enigmes' ${ }^{3}$ probably on the basis of their common ground in polysemy, the element of resemblance is lacking here. As C.F. Menestrier writes, 'c'est à dire qu'elle cesse d'être ressemblance parce que d'abord on $y$ decouvre des repugnances et des contrarietes, en quoi consiste le mystère des enigmes. ${ }^{4}$ In other words, 1 C. Bremond, 'Pourquoi le poisson a ri', Poetique, 45 (Paris, 1981), p.12.
there is a deliberate discrepancy between the ostensible level of address in a riddle and its special one. It is, therefore, possible that in this case 'question' itself floats up from phenomenon: 'who is . . .' to function 'how is . . .' Testing this hypothesis, is a first reading, as phenomenon, undermined, and, if so, is a second reading, as function, suggested?

Both implicitly and explictly Jahiz undermines the interrogative 'who'. Among the ways mentioned above, is anticlimax at the end of sequences? In paragraph 63, for instance, he asks about the figures who built the great monuments, the sequence then goes on to those who tell about such things: poetesses, historiographers, genealogists, then dissolves in a homophony, and finally ends with trackers and guides: from monument to mark in the sand; the real question is, how are these things known?

This is implicitly stated, but two paragraphs later, in $\oint 65$, Jahiz is quite explicit. Here, he pursues the problem of knowledge of an identity in connection with the identity of the letter's recipient, A.W. This begins with identity as defined through A.W.'s emotions:
'you feared to be Ibn Sa'id . . . you hoped to be the Dajjal'
(خفت أن تكون ابن صائد . . . رجوت أن تكون الدجّال )
but produces immediate confusion as Ibn Sa'id was called the Dajjal (collapse: two names, one identity). This presentation of mental confusion proceeds through general doubt, Jahiz's doubt, a positive statement: of a negative identity, and concludes with Jahiz's suppositions.

This disparagement of A.W.'s way of knowing things continues in paragraph 67, but is argued in different terms. As
will be mentioned later, ${ }^{1}$ one of the narrative feints Jahiz uses is a suden switch of discourse register. Here, the linguistic features indicate a resumption of the 'case': it is a series of statements containing coordinations by 'as' ( L ) and subordinations by 'so' (i) and 'until . . . became () containing 'who'/'what' questions. Its function here is to underline the fact that what is being argued is a question of knowledge and its bases. The subject is comment on A.W.'s knowledge of the correct from the false by dint of having seen ${ }^{2}$ mankind since 'created' ( من خلقور) and things both 'unmixed and mixed' (خالصة ومهزوجة). Jahiz's irony indicates that he does not consider such empiricism ${ }^{3}$ any more conclusive than identifications by reply to 'who'/'what'.

### 2.3 Answers

### 2.3.1 Criteria - Logic - Allusion

If the subject of deciphering and interrogation by 'who'/ 'what' are dead-ends, one might ask whether Jahiz presents an alternative catechism, in an alternative language. Because of its insistent questions, the paragraphs 133 to 138 seem similar to the first set (63-77). However, it is clear that in many ways they are different. First of all, questions by 'how'/'why' take precedence over 'who'/'what'. Secondly, the criteria of permissibility and possibility appear:

1 See below: 7.3.1.
2 For a delightful modern version, see the 'testimony of Qfwfq in Cosmicopics, by Italo Calvino.
§136:
'how was it allowed' (كيف سا
'is it permissible' (هل يجوز)
'possible' ( أك )
Thirdly, conclusion is reached by logical argument and consequence:
§136: 'despite' (ع)
§138: 'so . . . so . . .' (. . . . . . .)
The fourth difference is that in this section, there is more alluding to people and less naming than in the other part. The question of context in the Riddle is an interesting one, for it is precisely lack of context which creates ambivalence of interpretation, and this appears in two different ways here. The staccato series of reference (and their confusion of identity) in the first part, unconnected to any context, ends by creating an impression of the comic and inconsequential. In the second part, on the other hand, what is stressed is consequence, and so the missing referential items beg to be supplied, in order precisely to create meaning by context.

A further difference is the fact that the general subject treated here is not diviners, but prophets. Also, instead of ambiguity by confusion of identities (hybrids, changes of form, homophonies, dead-ends) there is choice, which lies in conceptual subordination. Briefly and schematically, one finds the following oppositions:
§133: tricks
§134: names - no beliefs vs. beliefs - no names
§135: the correct - acceptance vs. signs - withdrawal
§136: prophet
§137 communal religion
§138 religion
vs. individual belief
vs. violence

### 2.3.2 Recognition

What is evident in these choices is that there are two criteria implied. First, there is the accomplished event, in the sense of 'the way things are'. This underlies argument by number in paragraph 136 , by situation in 137 , and by state precedent in 138. Secondly, this event is communally realized, as seen notably in paragraphs 135 and 137. Furthermore, paragraph 137 is a good example of its embedding: from questions of 'how' and 'why' one hears mention of ancient peripheral Arab kingdoms and religions (of the Book and otherwise), then mention of Central Arab groupings according to patterns of veneration vis-à-vis Mecca, then mention of no such communal groupings for those of Dahri (eternalist/materialist) beliefs no nation, no prophet, no king: only the dead-end of the anomalous.

Initially, this discourse seemed one of reference, multiple facts and figures to be identified and differentiated. In the two passages I have analysed here, I would suggest that it is meraly an epistemological search, not a factual one, and the latter serves as foil for the former. In one language of the Riddle, Jahiz treats the problem of deciphering negatively, limiting his questions to identifications of phenomena, through 'who'/ 'what', and to lists with dead-end conclusions, readings by individuals on individuals. In the other language of the Riddle, he treats the problem of recognition positively, extending the questions to conceptual justifications by 'how'/'why', and to conclusions by logic: the 'historical' realizations of collective memory.

## Chapter Three

MEMORABILIA

### 3.1 Quotation - Controversy

The same use of reference, exhibited in facts and figures in the Riddle, occurs in Jahiz's use of quotations. They usually appear as support in 'controversy', and as quotations of others play a powerful role as witness, so it is worth analysing two separate manifestations of this in the text, namely, in paragraphs 5-8, and 190-194. I intend to look, briefly, at this manifestation of authority as a problem of source inside and outside the text, then to analyse the exposition of argument by such quotations, and, finally, to identify their discourse register.

In the first section (paras 2-8), the ostensible use
of controvify is a deficiency of A.W., in this particular case, his 'devotion to dispute' ( ${ }^{(1)}$ ). The failings of A.W. are, from the very first paragraph, the point of departure of the whole risàla, but this section, by going into the problem of 'dispute' through quotation affects a transition from concern with A.W. to concern with issues per se.

At the end of the risāla, the second section (paras 190-194) is, again, inspired by deficiency in A.W., this time his ignorance. Jahiz presents as 'conclusion'
 questions (viz: quotations) are followed by further reference
to controversy (para. 196) (قد اختلفوا) and A.W.'s obtuseness (غموضه عليك) and so bring one full circle back to A.W. as focus.

### 3.2 Community

### 3.2.1 Authority

(a) Jahiz's sources

For the first section, I will give the sources of almost each quote as I present the development of argument, paragraph by paragraph. The relationship of argument and source is not without interest here. On the whole, there is a selection of unnamed 'poets', and named early community figures, in other words: sources of Arab and Islamic tradition.
(b) Pellat's sources

It would be safest to think of these quotations as, above all, exemplary, if one considers the difficulty Pellat had in corroborating them. This is the result of his research:

Paragraph 5: some of the anonymous quotes were left out of other editions of the risala; one is cited in Maidani, and those with named sources are either to be found only in other writings of Jahiz, or were not found by Pellat. Paragraph 6: all of the sources here are unnamed, and of these quotes one is undiscovered, one found in Jahiz, two cited by Maidani, and one by Tha'alibi.

Paragraph 7: all were undiscovered, except one - in Jahiz, again.

Paragraph 8 very definitely quotes Surah 96 , verse 19, but all the other quotes were undiscovered.

It is quite clear that the only quotes Pellat did find cited outside Jahiz's works were those of the anonymous $(\S 5, \S 6)$ and the poets $(\S 6)$.

### 3.2.2 Argument

The quotes in these paragraphs are elicited by a dispute
keyword: in this section, it is 'discord' ( ${ }^{〔} 1$, ${ }^{\prime}$ ). Because of this repetition of a word, it may initially seem that argument does not advance. However, the semic field is constantly enlarged by synonymic contagions, a phenomenon already discussed in Case I. Though separation by paragraph is only a convenience, in each one there is a perceptible change of emphasis or focus. Therefore, I will present each paragraph as argument in changing terms, with antitheses to be regarded as its positive and negative poles, and accretion of synonyms on both sides, moving the argument from one field to the next.

## §5:

argument in terms of man's relation to man
keyword: 'dispute' ( ${ }^{(6)}$ ) negative positive

## anonymous sources:

synonyms for dispute, synonym for brotherhood:
enmity and power:

```
'be strong', 'dis-
'your brother'
    (أخوك)
    'argue'
(جادل (احی الخـلاف عز))
```

named sources:
identical semes:
Prophet: 'he doesn't 'my companion'
haggle and dispute'
(لا يشاري ولا يماري )

```
'Uthman: 'don't dispute 'friend'
    and haggle'
    (صد يق )
    (لا تهاري ولا تشاري
```

Ib Ab Layla: 'I don't dispute'
'friend'
(صد يق )
'my brother' (أخي )
Ib 'Omar: 'dispute'

```
( \({ }^{\circ}\)
This paragraph is interesting in its different approaches according to source. The first, anonymous, sources do not actually use the keyword, but synonyms of it. Also, except for the last anonymous one, none of these cite any 'positive' element. It is in the quotes by named sources that some form of keyword is consistently used, and it is here that there is the accumulation of 'positive' elements which constitutes an image of brotherhood or community.
§6:
argument in terms of: behaviour of men/animals
keyword: 'disagree' (خلاف)
sources: anonymous
negative
variations of
'disagree'
(خلاف، خالف، أخلف)
positive
no particular alterffive, but 'associate'

In this paragraph, all quotes are lines of 'poetry', and present comments by the unknown on the unknown. Absence of particular person, place and time puts emphasis on events, and this is appropriate to animals as well as to men. In this case, event is unacceptable behaviour. It is to be noted that the overall keyword 'dispute' appears only once,
and it is its synonym, 'disagree' which appears here in various forms. Also, there are, essentially, no 'positive' elements here. In these two features, the anonymous quotes here resemble the anonymous quotes in the previous paragraph. § 7 :
argument in terms of man's relation to virtue keyword: 'dispute' ( \({ }^{c}\). \()\)
sources
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline & negative & positive \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
Zuhair \\
al-Babi
\end{tabular} & \[
\begin{array}{r}
\text { 'sectarians' })(\text { أصحا ب-الأ هـوا })
\end{array}
\] & - \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
- Umar \\
ibn \\
'Abdul \\
Aziz
\end{tabular} &  & 'his obligation/religion'
( لـنه ( \({ }_{\text {( }}\) ( \\
\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\begin{tabular}{l}
©Umar \\
ibn \\
Hubaira
\end{tabular}} & 'dispute' (ألمرا & \begin{tabular}{l}
'oh God, I take refuge in you' \\
(اللهه أعون بك من )
\end{tabular} \\
\hline & 'persistence' ( اللحبا) & 'its good' ( خـيهه) \\
\hline \multirow[t]{9}{*}{\begin{tabular}{l}
one of \\
the \\
famous
\end{tabular}} & 'dispute' ( \({ }^{\text {(1) }}\) & \begin{tabular}{l}
'oh God, I take refuge in you' \\
(اللههم أعون بك )
\end{tabular} \\
\hline & 'its bad influence'
( سوء أثره ) & 'its good' (خيره) \\
\hline & (evil effects on) : & 'manliness' ( المروa) \\
\hline & & 'affection' () \\
\hline & & 'friendship' (الصداق) \\
\hline & (transformations of): & 'concise' ( \\
\hline & & 'mild' (حلما) \\
\hline & & 'wary' ( \\
\hline & & 'truthful' ( \(ص\) ) \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

For brevity, I have not listed all the elements on the 'negative' side, it being assumed that 'dispute' is the main factor. The interest here lies, rather, in the list of
'positive' elements. First of all, there is the introduction of 'religion' and 'refuge in God'. Secondly, there is a list of virtues, most of which are associated with the Arab tradition of behaviour and language, and which, again, stress communal virtues.
§8:
argument in terms of man's relation to God keyword: 'dispute'
sources:
negative
Quran
Jahiz 'anger' (الغضب)
Luqman 'dispute' ( \({ }^{\prime \prime}\) )
Other 'dispute' ( \({ }^{〔}\) مر) 'wisdom' (حكة)
Ash-
Sha'bi
Hassan 'disputing' (يماري) 'wisdom' ( حكمة)
a 'exchange of
fighter
views'(تفات (الرأى)
Ishaq 'disagreement' (لخالفا)
al-
Mawsili
In this paragraph, the previous mention of religion is continned in commentary by Jahiz and by citation of a Quranic quote. \({ }^{1}\) Then there is testimony by Luqman, a mythical Arab figure, demonstrably handing down wisdom: from father to son. The following authorities are Islamic traditionists and jurists, and a court musician, in other words, those who hand down for the purposes of religion and law, or of art. The new element in the argument is 'wisdom', this is For context of quote, see below: 3.4.
explicit in the word, used three times, though only twice as a clear positive option. Then, it is implicit in the worldly tone of compromise which usually pervades 'wisdom literature' and appears here in the attitude of the jurist who does not dispute the reception of his opinion, the Qurashi who avoids possible controversy, and the musician who argues for moderation.

\subsection*{3.3 Knowledge}

\subsection*{3.3.1 Authority}

For this second section of quotes, I will not identify each source. The category is that of Greeks, in their global capacity as wise ancients. Though Jahiz does attribute almost each quote to a named individual, his attributions and phraseology sometimes differ from analogous material in the Muntakhab Siwan al-Hikmah of Abu Sulaiman as-Sijistani. \({ }^{1}\) However, the question here is not that of accuracy, but rather, of utility: what purpose is served by the Greeks as authenticating category? I regard this material, again, as above all exemplary, and feel the question cannot be answered until the material itself is analysed. I will proceed, as hitherto, to present argument in terms of accumulation of semic elements.
3.3.2 Argument
§ 190 :
argument in terms of knowledge and virtuekeyword: 'knowledge' (علم )
negative
'ignorant' (جاهـل)

\section*{positive}
'I know' (أعلم) 'bodies of knowledge' (علم)
'knowledge' (علم)
'learned man' (عالم)
```

'virtue' (فضيل)
'just' (منصi)

```
    'stubborn' ( نـ

This paragraph begins the second section with a bland aphorism on 'life', just as the initial स \({ }^{2}\) ragraph in the first section had begun with anonymous worldly wisdom. However, the subsequent quotes here use versions of the keyword 'knowledge' (علم) over and over, even in contradictory statements which only serve to emphasize it. Unlike the keyword of the first section, this one has value as a 'positive' element, but this is just a change of focus. Moreover, there is liaison between the two sections in that the 'stubborn' which appears here can be related to 'dispute' and its synonyms from the first section.
§191:
argument in terms of search for knowledge
keyword: knowledge
negative
positive
```

'action' (الع-)
'truth' (لحق)
'good' (الخير)
'beauty' (الحسن)

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'evil' (الشرّر)
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'abstinence' (lهـهد)
'lack' ( نتصان)
'excess' (زيادة)
'stubbornness' (المعاندة)
'caused' (بحلوب) 'causing' (جالب)
'dominated' (هنـوب) 'dominating' (غالب)
'searching' (
'guiding' (مرشد)
'preferable to me' (أحببليّي)

```

The scope widens in this paragraph, as good and evil, truth and the beautiful, fill out the opposition of knowledge and ignorance. The subject is 'search for knowledge'( and intent is involved through preference and motivation. One of the most striking features is emphasis on action; \({ }^{1}\) not only is the word used over and over, and implicit in 'search', but the active participle is given positive value as against the passive
§192:
argument in terms of types of knowledge
keyword: knowledge

\section*{negative}
'its ignorance' (جهله)
'its opposition' (خلافه)

\section*{positive}
'spiritual knowledge'
(الحـلم الالهي )
'cognition of the beneficial'
( معـرفة الإصلاح )
'cognition of the One'
(معرفة الواحد )

In this paragraph, intent is again presented, here in terms of 'longing' (في ( L ). Furthermore, knowledge is posited as necessary. The new element is varieties and hierarchies of 'knowledge', and there is introduction of the synonym: 'cognition' (معرفة). It seems clear that in this context, the lexeme (علم) is spiritual 'knowledge' not 'science'. For this reason, I prefer to translate (ll) as a 'percipient' man, rather than accept Adad's 'un homme raisonable'. 1 I think Mohammed Arkoun's reading of the verb (عقل) is apropos here: 'reconnaître . . . l'esprit réféchit - au sens propre - des vérités déjà données . . . l'intelligence est tournéevers ce qui est đéjà énoncé ou vécu. \({ }^{2}\) What is involved is man's reflection on a religious 'knowledge' which has been revealed.
§193:
argument in terms of survival of knowledge keyword: knowledge

\section*{negative}
'nature' (الطبيعة)
'appetite' (الشهور)
'deficiency' (النتص)
'derangement' (الجـبال)
'domination' (الغـلبة)
'dominated' (مغلوب)
'overwhelmed' (مغهور)
'revolt' (الانتقاض)

Here, the idea of motivation is further compounded by the introduction of 'nature' and 'appetite'. Again, it is to
'value' (هنفعـة)
'nobility' (شرف)
'economy' (اقتصاد )
'consequence' (الحاقبة)
'understanding' (فهم)
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p.

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be noted that the passive participle has a negative role. The word 'cognition' is given more prominence than 'knowledge', and 'understanding' (فهم) is used as a synonym. Search for knowledge has broadened out here to problems of its maintenance within man (despite 'appetite') and within the world (despite 'domination').
§194:
argument in terms of recompense of search
keyword: 'knowledge'.
negative
positive
```

'longing' (رغبة)
'fear' ( رهبة )
'competitiveness' ()
'competitiveness' (

```
'utilization' (انـتفاع)
'in deference to knowledge'


This paragraph is one long quote, expanding the idea of intent; and taking this to the logical conclusion of proper utilization of knowledge according to proper motivation in its search. Thus, as in the previous paragraph, search is related to manifestation in the world of the 'knowledge' in question.

\subsection*{3.4 From Community to Knowledge}

The semic field in the first section of paragraphs is expanded to one in which 'dispute' is presented as threat both to man's relation to man, and to man's relation to God. Accompanying this is positive emphasis on traditional Arab virtues, a sense of communal interdependence, and compromise through wisdom.

In the last section of paragraphs, the consensus of
quotes by the (wise) Greeks turns the seemingly neutral word 'knowledge' into spiritual knowledge which requires active search and pure intent.

What is presented in these two sections of quotation is essentially images which will be associated with the 'forbearance' (حلم) of Arab society, and the 'knowledge' (علم) of Islam, through 'wisdom' and appropriate authorities, one leading to the other.

The Quranic quote (96:19) in paragraph 8 in some sense serves as a link in this chain. As noted, most quotes are elicited through a common keyword, but in this case that is not so. What does seem of relevance is that in the same surah there are two preceding verses thematically connected to these paragraphs:
v.2-5: '. . . God has taught men by the pen what he did not know' ( . . . الني عاّم بالقلم علّم الانساهما لم يعـم )
v.6: 'Surely, man exceeds the proper bounds'(Blachère \({ }^{1}\) and Kasimirski: \({ }^{2}\) 'is rebellious')
(كلّا إن الانسان ليَطْنَم)

It thus seems clear that Jahiz is adducing this reference to leave off discord, and turn to the knowledge God has revealed. It seems just as clear that the two sets of quotations Jahiz uses serve to substantiate and authenticate this.

\footnotetext{
1 R. Blachère, Le Coran (Paris, 1957), p. 658.
2 Kasimirski, Le Coran (Paris, 1970), ad loc.
}

\subsection*{3.5 Discourse Register}

\subsection*{3.5.1 Wisdom}

Having hypothesized this relationship between the two sections of quotes, based on development of argument by expansions in the semic field, I will now, briefly, consider features of syntax in connection with identification of the discourse register.

As pointed out, each section begins with aphoristic quotes of the traditional 'wisdom' type. In paragraph 5: prescriptions for behaviour in the world:
'show enmity to him who insults you'
(عادِ إلي من لاحـاك )

In paragraph 190: description of the situation in the world: 'life is short, art is long . . . '
(العسر قصيروالصناعة طويلة . . . )

These are close to the types of Arab proverb set out in the collection made by J.L. Burckhardt \({ }^{1}\) and meet several of the criteria for proverb or maxim in Jolles' chapter 'Locutions': 'distinction des termes dans les classements', 'juxtaposition dans les correlations'. Jolles adds that 'la pensée conceptuelle est précisément l'obstacle devant lequel cet univers se dresse'. \({ }^{2}\)
(a) the conceptual

However, the following quotes in each section, and especially their cumulative effect, present greater complexity. The conceptual is not avoided. This is even visible syntactically, in each paragraph. For instance, paragraph 7, which begins with a short, terse question-answer of a catechistic

\footnotetext{
\(\overline{7}\) J.L. Burckhardt, Arabic Proverbs (London, 1980). 2 Jolles, op. cit., p. 125.
}
type:
'where did dispute sprout up? - among the sectarians'
(أين نبت المراء
expands into quotes feeding off their own phraseology, adding new elements and increasing in complexity:
'so it . . . (effects) . . . until it . . .
(transformations) . . .'
(فإنّه • • حتى . . . . يصير • . : )

In the last section, throughout the paragraphs there are instances of complex phrasing, with the complications of:
§191: 'might be' (قد يكون)
§192: 'if it were not for' (ل) لا لا لtc.
Also, contradiction does not just figure in the oppositions of words, like typical proverbs, but in conceptual subordinations such as in paragraph 5:
'will not attain the right . . . even if he is in
the right'
(لا يصيب . . . حقيقة . . . وهو بحقّ )
and in the last section, there is contradiction in word, phrase, and in statement (especially \(\bar{\delta} 190\), 193).
(b) the experienced

The contradiction of statement in the last section lends a lively feeling to the quotes, as if they were part of an ongoing dialogue. The counterpart to this in the first section is reliance on report as immediate statement, seen in the predominance, from the second part of paragraph 6 on, of 'he said' (قال) rather than 'the saying of' (قَّلْ). Jolles emphasizes this aspect of the 'locution' and calls it 'la disposition mentale de l'experience', and goes on to say 'on isole un fait . . . et on l'enfile sur le collier de l'expérience'. \({ }^{1}\)
(c) the moral

Jolles proceeds to say, 'l'univers de l'empirisme ignore la morale'. \({ }^{1}\) However, syntactically and semantically, the paragraphs do not fit this description. First, syntactically, the quotes in their cumulative effect contain more conceptual subordinations than simple juxtapositions; they imply moral resolution. Secondly, in terms of their semantic features, this resolution is demanded. In the first section, the personal experiences are not without cautionary intent ( \(\$ 5, \S 8\) ), and there are admonitions for the future by citation of positive values (\$7) or of negative behaviour (§6). Moral and prafarences are
prescription explicit in the second section in such formulae as 'better than' (خير من) in paragraph 190, 'more dear to me' (أحتب إليّي) in paragraph 191, etc. This, then, is a conceptual and moral universe in which right behaviour (avoid discord, seek the knowledge God has revealed) is indicated.

\subsection*{3.5.2 Documentary}
(a) exempla - the event

Writing about exempla, Stierle quotes material which is relevant here. First, on event as moral catalyst, he quotes Neushäfer, 'car seul le particulier et l'unique peuvent soulever des problèmes et non le général ou ce qui ne change pas'. \({ }^{2}\) Secondly, on personal implication by event, there is this comment from Montaigne, 'l'instant dramatique . . . implique la categorie de la responsabilite'. \({ }^{3}\) Thirdly, this

\footnotetext{
1 Ibid., p. 127.
2 Quoted in K. Stierle, 'l'Histoire comme Exemple, l'Exemple comme Histoire', Poétigue, 10 (Paris, 1972), p189. 3

Ibid., p. 182.
}
responsibility operates at all levels in the paragraphs: man to himself (last section), to his fellow man, and to God (first section) and is articulated in ideas conceived as oppositions. Hence the relevance of H. Friedrich, 'l'exemple designe toutefois moins des types moraux que bien des relations morales. Ce sont les rapports du bien et du mal, de l'intelligence et de la naivete. \({ }^{1}\) In the first section, the first of these oppositions could be seen in the following:
'dispute' (الـراه، \(ا\) (أخي .. and the second, in the second section:
'ignorant' (جاهل) vs. 'learned' (عالم) (b) memorabilia - the norm - the authority

Jolles does have a 'simple form' which embodies both the world of experience and that of moral choice. He calls it 'memorables' and its features are the single event, oppositions, dispersion of statement but cumulative significance, a 'forme dans laquelle tous les details reels sont rapportes les uns aux autres et à un ordre superieur dans une relation significative'. \({ }^{2}\) This type of exempla is what J. Wansbrough calls 'documentary', 'the production of materials to supply paradigms, prescriptions, in brief, normative patterns of conduct for the community whose genesis was being defleted. \({ }^{3}\)

As noted in the beginning, this normative material is presented as part of the problematic of A.W.: he is being lectured to, and there is a coincidence here to the issues raised in the traditional 'wisdom' literature of Israel.

The initial fault, of disputatiousness, is related to the stubbornness \({ }^{1}\) and quarrelling \({ }^{2}\) which were topics in this literature. Also, the concluding charge, of ignorance, can be understood, as it was by these counsellors, as ignorance of 'God-given laws', \({ }^{3}\) those which should constitute society's norm.

Of final interest in this discourse register is the role of legitimizing authority. I have pointed out that it is only in the quotes of the anonymous in the first section that no positive moral values are adduced. Consequently, it is the two main groups, named (Islamic) community figures, and Greeks, who provide moral admonition, and they can be regarded as two parts of the Islamic heritage. Through quotation, Jahiz corroborates this wisdom by (1) exempla which exist in time and place, the lived experience of event (section 1) and (2) also by exempla: beyond time, place and event, witness by personal reflection, for universal validity (section 2). As Mohammad Arkoun writes, 'les aphorismes . . . expriment les valeurs morales consacrés par les experiences des nations et rehaussees par l'autorite des sages, des mystiques, des grands princes. \({ }^{4}\)

However, it is true that much of the material in the first section exists in terms of partial reference within the text (allusion to unspecified persons in paragraph 5, allusions to unspecified issues in paragraph 7) and
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    P.A.H. de Boer, 'The Counsellor', Wisdom in Israel
    (Leiden, 1960 ), p. 50.
Ibid., p. 136.
M. Arkoun, op. cit., p. 209.

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non-corroboration outside the text. \({ }^{1}\) In other words, the authorities for the wisdom cited legitimize that wisdom, but that wisdom also legitimized those events, those authorities. Thus, the problem of reference here, similar to that in the Riddle, is not merely one of accumulation of material for authority, but also identification of that authority: collective memory in the Riddle, personal witness in Memorabilia.

\footnotetext{
As mentioned above (3.2.1), quotes by the named authorities here are only found in Jahiz.
}

\section*{Chapter Four}

\section*{THE CASE - II: THE SUPRA-SENSORY}

In the Riddle and Memorabilia, I have analysed Jahiz's use of question and quotation as epistemological tools. I would now like to look at his reflections on the world as 'rationaliste' \({ }^{1}\) exposition. In the first treatment of the Case, I dealt, briefly, with Jahiz's approach to the order of the world: the congruity between the order of nature and the order of God. In this second treatment, I would like to examine his approach to systems, the supra-sensory \({ }^{2}\) world of mathematics, music, memory and language. This will be a question of external witness: what is known and how, leading to that of internal witness: how it is stated.

In the supra-sensory, one might expect some 'logical is represented as having relationships' and, thus, knowledge as Plato conceived of it. \({ }^{3}\) However, it is difficult at first to see what epistemological bases Jahiz might be presenting, for two reasons. One, the enquiry in this section of paragraphs 141 to 155 is usually by questions, a few scattered alternatives, and little apparent thematic development. Two, the questions about 'origins' of things are often of the 'who . . . when - . . where' type seen in the Riddle, and involve reference to things unknown to us now, or arkane even then. Furthermore,
\(\overline{1}\) Pellat, op. cit., p. X.
2 I.A. Richards, Principles of Literary Criticism (London, 1976), p. 29.

3 R. Shattuck, Proust (Glasgow, 1979), p. 143.
the overall context is mock consultation of A.W., in controversy over these subjects. These are the recurrent obstacles in the risāla: subversion by an apparently superficial approach, and distraction by attack on A.W.

Notwithstanding this initial resemblance to the discourse register of the Riddle, striking in this section is the consistent interweaving of 'who' with 'why', and also the interdependence of the systems under discussion. Examples of these features are found in paragraph 148:
the question of 'who':
'and who was the first person who counted to ten?'
(وهن أولّ من علّ إلى عشرة )
the question of 'why':
'and made ten the end and extreme limit'
(وجـعـل العشرة هنتههى وغاية )
and §149:
interdependence of systems:
'and his saying "man is ten things"
(قوله إن الخْنسان عشرة أشـياع )

\subsection*{4.1 Origins}

\subsection*{4.1.1 Arkane - East}

The first point of note about 'origins' is that they are often stated in terms of foreign names, constituting a body of knowledge removed in time and space. For instance, on mathematics and notation, one finds these 'Eastern' references in paragraph 147:
time: 'how long ago was the computation of al-Hasmirj produced?'

person: 'who was the originator of the ciphers of Hind?'
(ومن صاحب خـطوط الهـنـد )
place: 'and where did a people write the Sind-Hind and the Arkard?'
(وأين كتب قوم صنعة السند هنـد والاگكـد )

\subsection*{4.1.2 Arkane - West}

The second point is that 'origin' is often stated in terms of precedence, some prior excellence or inventiveness, and in paragraph 150 this is in reference to 'Western' sources, the Greeks:
in excellence: 'what was the position of Euclid and Mirsutus with respect to Pythagoras?'
(أين كان آليدس وميرسطوس من فيثاغو رس )
'and their students with respect to his?'
(وأين تلامذتهـا من تلامن ته )
in invention: 'and did you not attribute to Euclid the making of barbitons and harps?' (وهـّا قدمتم اقليدسع صنعة البرابط والـعـازف)

\subsection*{4.1.3 Arkane - 'Hidden'}

The third point about enquiry into 'origins' is that the question is often posed by implying a 'hidden' aspect, be it blatantly concrete or totally abstract. This is expressed in paragraph 141 in terms of words, and I will list the questions by hierarchy of abstractness.
thing is hidden - physically - not seen
'and what is the "presence" that was in the ark?'
(وما السكينة التي كانت في التابوت)
meaning is hidden - physically - not heard (and 'foreign')
'what is the interpretation of "murmuring"?'
meanings are hidden - foreign - not understood
'what is "an-nirnijat" and . . . "taujiya"?'
(ما النيرنججات . . . و .ا التوجية )
significance is hidden - message is ambiguous - no relevance
'that wealth which, he who takes of it repents, and he who leaves it alone repents' (see \(\S 66,2.1 .2\) ) significance is hidden - message is missing - no reference
'and inform me about the saying of Khalil on ancient fantasy' (وخبّني عن قول الخليل في الوهم القلدم (
The question is, basically, what system (if any) determines meaning and significance? Though Jahiz goes on to discuss those systems one might think of as non-dependent on language (mathematics and music), it is consistently by means of words as a designating mechanism, the syntagm as an identifying tool, and the paradigm as one of extrapolation.

\subsection*{4.2 Systems}

\subsection*{4.2.1 Mathematics}

The first questions explicitly posed in terms of system in mathematics are about its decimal base, and in paragraph 148 Jahiz presents this choice of arguments:
analogy: 'then broke down by tens that which was more than its numbers, because the fingers are ten'
(ثم كسرعلى العشرة هما د ون اعداد هـا لأن الأصا بع عشرة )
observation: \({ }^{1}\) 'or did he see that multiplication would never be by anything but tens?'
(أ رأى أن التضعـيف ابلا لا يكون اللا للعشرات)
report: 'or the first saying, "all things are by tens"'
(أم القول الاوّل "الاشياء كلها عشرات" "

In paragraph 152, designation of another base number is considered, and the problem is stated slightly differently. The number is 16 , and constitutes the range of all tonal possibilities. Is its derivation form:
the mind: 'because he did not know any more than (ألأنّه لم يدرك أكثر هنهـا) (
the world: \({ }^{1}\) 'or because there is no more in creation than what he knew?'
(أم لأنّه ليسن في الخلقة إلآ ما أدرك )

\subsection*{4.2.2 Music}

As stated above, these supersensory systems are shown to be interdependent, and in paragraph 152 the internal workings of the tonal system are explained by mathematics. In this case, it is multiplication which determines relationships, leading to particular designations, as follows:
'mathna' = 2 x 'zir'
'mathlath' = \(2 \times 2\) x 'mir'
'tam' = 3 x 2 x 'mir'
Another aspect of interdependence of systems appears when Jahiz asks about musical-physical-emotional correspondences, in terms of their original designations as such:
§152: 'why did he make \(\underset{\text { e }}{\mathrm{X}}\) (correspond) to Y ?'
(ولمَ جعل الرعب: للسـوداء )
§152: 'and (he make) \(Z\) (correspond) to Y ?' (والبّ للسود اء )

\footnotetext{
On properties as opposed to our experience of them, see I.A. Richards, op. cit., p. 29.
}

The next questions in this paragraph are on the same subject, but clearly posit a system of analogy.

In the beginning, it is implicit:

'and the "zir" is delicate, fiery, light'
(والزير لطيف نارى خفيف )

At the end, it is explicit:

is like

'and the "bamm" is like the earth' (والبّ كالأضض one
However, use of analogy from/system to another can complicate designation. Just as in paragraph 152 names of strings were described from emotional states via relationship - with the humours, so in paragraph 153 tones have a transforming effect on the emotions, with subsequent vocabulary problems:
music - designation in language:
'and why did he claim that there are tunes which disturb and dismay?' (ولمَ زعم أن من اللاحون .ا يقلق ويفرق ) change of music - mathematics visible - change in language:
'so if one increases it one destroys, and if one strengthens one kills' (فان زيد فيه نقض وأن قوى قتل) change in music - mathematics invisible - change in language: metaphor:
'just as deadly poisons are described'
(a) music and language

In this way, one reaches a problem which is really a problem of system in language, not in music, namely that one effect can be described in antithetical terms:
§153: 'and made a simple tune that kills by melting, and made a tune that kills by freezing'
(فجعـل لحنا هطلقا يقتل باعازذابة وجعل لحنـا يقتل بالإجماد )

So, from the problem of designation of tones and tunes, one slides into the recurrent linguistic problems of:
polysemy: 1 word: kill
2 meanings: music - poison
synonymy: 2 words: melt - freeze
1 meaning: kill
(b) music and attribution

At the other end of the scale of designation in music, there is attribution. It is also an 'origins' question, but stated in terms of typologies. It appears in paragraph 151 in reference to types of songs. The suggestion is that a name may come from:
a person: (ll) or a type (by profession): (الركبان)
a place: (اليمن)
a type (by status): (الفتيان)
(c) music and anecdote

The problem of attribution, still under the rubric of music, appears also in connection with origins or instruments. In paragraph 154, on the subject of the 'ūd, Jahiz quotes a 'saying' (قول) which can be presented, schematically, this way:
\begin{tabular}{lll} 
name: correspondence & name: in " \(\overline{\mathrm{u} d}\) & name: in son \\
\hline from: nature & chest & thigh \\
culture & pitcher & leg
\end{tabular}
name: correspondence name: in ind name: in son
from: culture - no story - bridge - story - foot
\begin{tabular}{lll} 
culture & pegs & fingers \\
culture & strings & sinews, veins
\end{tabular}

In other words, the forms in the instrument are attributed on the basis of resemblance, but names are not. If there were stories about their etymology, they do not appear here; 'lost' with usage, they fall into the category of catachresis.

\subsection*{4.2.3 Words}
(a) designation

This problem of derivation of words appears as an issue on its own, and though it is, again, phrased in terms of 'origins', Jahiz presents it in the very concrete forms of spelling and articulation. The first instance is in paragraph 144:
'and why did balgham (phlegm) with a "b" become more appropriate than with a "t"?"
(ولز صار البلغتم بالباء أولى هنـه بالتاء )
'and why was atribile with a "g" more appropriate than with an "h"?"


Pellet provides a chart in the glossary showing traditional correspondences (briefly mentioned above in relation to music) but it cannot be pure coincidence that these pairs of letters, in their Arabic spelling, are homologous, were it not for the diacritical points. The question remains posed as a choice between correspondence or designation, arbitrary or otherwise.
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1 Pellat, op. cit., p. 112.

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The second question about origins of words (and their letters) appears in paragraph 147, as Jahiz begins to consider mathematics and, hence, mathematical and scientific terms:
'and who called algebra algebra, and a square root
square root and ammonia ammonia?'
(ومن سّيّع الجبر بالجبر والجنر بالجنر والنشانر بالنشانر)

The wording of the question with 'who' distracts attention from its formulation. In the previous question on pairs of letters as written, they were almost homologous. Here, in this sequence of terms, as spoken, they are not quite homologous, but certainly alliterative, as follows:
\[
\begin{array}{llll} 
& \ddots & \rightarrow & \\
\nu & j & \rightarrow & \\
ر & j & \text { ش } & \text { ش }
\end{array}
\]

It•is, as will be pointed out, \({ }^{1}\) one of the many games Jahiz plays with the identity of things, language not the least of them.

In the same paragraph, 147, still ostensibly concerned with mathematics, Jahiz poses the following origin/designation question:
'and the akdariya, from what is it derived?'
(والأكدرية : من أي شي: اشتقّت)
If Pellet's reading is correct and this is a particular problem in female succession, the question could be schematized thus:
lineage in language - the word 'akdariya'
lineage in life - the phenomenon referred to
lineage in discourse - the reference to this

See below: 5.2.1 and 8.2.
(b) sequence

When Jahiz discusses sequences of words, his first reference in this section is the eliptical one on 'ancient fantasy' (see above: 4.1). This is followed by questions about the genesis of poetry in terms of:
the unconscious: 'on your saying about the poetry that we recite in sleep' (عن قولك في الشعر النى ننشده في المنام )
the conscious: 'the poetry that we invent from exchange of speech and weighing of matters'
also: the unacknowledged: 'is not blamed and is not thanked'
(ولا يلام ,ولا يشكر)
(c) memory

This contrast of the unconscious and conscious is further elaborated in paragraph 143, in terms of spontaneity and effort in memory. This is then reinforced by rephrasing in opposite terms, those of forgetting:
'why do we begin to forget a line from a poem, and a verse from a whole chapter (Scripture), or a word from all of a sermon?'


The problem of memory (التذكّر) is then extended to that of memorization (الحفظ) in paragraph 144. Following the discussion of appropriateness of letters (see above: 4.2.3(a)) and the possibilitiy of someone's inability to memorize:
'the heart resisting memorization'
(القلب الـانع من الحفظ )
the question of reasons, and thus of system, is posed in these terms:
'and is there any alternative to truth from specific causes and particular reasons, and if not, then it would be conceivable that this poem should be forgotten instead of that one'
(وهل بّّ للحقيقة بن خصائص أسباب وأعيان عِلَ ولآلا فقد يجوز أن
تُنسَى هـذه القصيدة بدل تلك )

In other words, if memory cannot be commanded by effort, and the derivations of spellings and words are nebulous, how is it that we remember them, and that what we remember is, somehow, appropriate?

To this point, most of the examples of sequences of words have been in connection with poetry, but Jahiz also disaggregates sequence, to specify:
§144: 'some of them are better at memorizing meanings and some are better at memorizing expressions'
(وبعضهم أحفظ للمعاني وبعضهم أحفظ للالفاظ )
and: 'and why did some people become better at memorizing genealogies and some of them better at memorizing chains of authority?'


This last question concerns lineage of people and lineage of stories. If one adds this to the problem of derivation already mentioned, one gets the following table:
noun lineage story
\begin{tabular}{llll} 
'akdariya' & common & \(\mathbf{x}\) & \\
succession & & \(\mathbf{x}\) & \(\mathbf{x}\) \\
genealogy & proper & x & \\
authority & & x & x
\end{tabular}

The important and constant element here is lineage, the transmission of the known, of syntagmatic associations.

\subsection*{4.3 Syntagms}

Jahiz's approach to the supra-sensory has been fairly consistent, beginning with questions about 'origins', followed by questions about how systems operate. However, the arbitrary has often predominated over the systematic (see Chart I), and this is because of the mechanics of language. His questions on language coincide with reflections on memory, a subject on which, precisely, there are two major theories, that of the systematic, and that of the arbitrary. Briefly summarized, Plato's theory is that knowledge is based on a 'réminiscence' \({ }^{1}\) of 'logical relationships'.'. For Bergson, memory is of two types: one, memory of habit, two: spontaneous memory which 'disturbs the equilibrium of established habit and brings back the complete image of a past moment, still stamped with a date and place'. \({ }^{3}\)

Since it has been noted that in this section there have been few 'logical relationships', rather a predominance of seemingly arbitrary designations and associations, it is more appropriate to analyse Jahiz's material by consideration of the syntagmatic axis, common both to Bergson's 'memory of habit' and to his 'spontaneous memory'. The associations of the syntagmatic are realized here in lists, associations, and anecdotes.
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Platon, Ménon (Paris, 1967), p. 371.
Shattuck, op. cit., p. 143.
Ibid.

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\subsection*{4.3.1 Lists}

The lists can be broken down into various types (see Chart III). First, there are those which are cumulative and consist of many words in the same category. Then, there are lists which are used to determine rank within a category. Next, there are lists with constitute a picture, by combining categories, and last, there are those which contrast categories. I will give one or two examples of each.
(a) cumulative

An example of the cumulative list is found in paragraph 141, in which the elements are of the arkane type. Not only is their significance 'hidden', but often they, themselves, are hidden (the object in the ark). This attribute, the arkane, is to be found in practically all the cumulative lists. They construct syntagmatic associations whereby one element, if remembered, will evoke another; it is here the synonymic slide of the arkane.
(b) rank

The second type of list is that of ranking, the question of origins leading to that of originator in time, or exemplum in quality. The latter is the type found in paragraph 151, on well-known musicians. This ranking is like the cumulative lists in that by their association, it is assumed that these people are all in the same category; on the other hand, ranking may lead to dissociation, the competition which evokes a story (of which more below, 4.3.3).
(c) picture

The third type of list mixes categories in associations which constitute a composite picture of persons, time and place. Paragraph 155 is a good example of this. The
categories of book (book K and book T ), persons (Mutakallim vs. Manichean), places (Siraf, Byzantium), time (descent of Jupiter), are all mixed in such a way that Mutakallim stands out against a background of 'the other', again the arkane.
(d) differential

This defining of 'the other' by lists is underlined by contrast with instances in which association is stopped in some way, and the elements are made to stand out on their own. An example is in paragraph 143 in which the elements can be regarded as:
'poem' ( ق \(_{\text {( }}^{\text {( }}\) )
'chapter' (of scripture) (سورة)
'sermon' (خطبة)
in other words: literature, which might be forgotten: poetry
poetry/prose
prose
which represent:
Arabic language
Arab/Islamic link
Islamic exhortation
On the one hand, these seem to be choices; on the other, they constitute an associative picture by specifying the range of possibilities, or range of experience.

\subsection*{4.3.2 Anecdote}

Besides these variations on association by lists, there is association by anecdote and story. Anecdote arises where there is action as well as people involved and a good example of this is in paragraph 145. It is a
fairly striking example because of the challenging formulation by negative question, and the negative behaviour referred to:
'why did you not beat the Samaritan and not bite and hurt Mani?'


It will be noticed that such anecdotes and some instances of 'the saying' (القُول) beg to be completed, to be put in context, for a story to be told. 1

\section*{4.3 .3 story}

Story, in the examples here, is self-contained and supplies all its own answers, usually giving some allusion to reasons for action or even alternatives. In paragraph 154, for example, a 'saying' introduced a story in the sense that it not only attributes the making the invention of the 'ūd to Lamak, but establishes a reason for its form, the resemblance with his son.
'Lamak made the "una in the image of the thigh of his son' In paragraph 150, a ranking list is followed by a story about a killing, with a certain amount of complexity by two potential breaks in the action. One is the condition of superiority which should have inhibited this:
'and why did he kill him as he was above him in . . .'
(,ولم' قتله وهـو فوقه في • . . )

The other is change of mind:
'and why did Sabur (Pellat: Chosroès) desist from his killing after his decision to kill him?'
(ولرُ عفا سا بور عن قتله بعـد إقراره بتتلهه )

Basically, in this section, Jahiz has been dealing with epistemology as applied to supra-sensory systems. It is not an easy subject, as shown in St. Augustine's description:

The memory also contains the innumerable principles and laws of numbers and dimensions. None of these can have been conveyed to it by means of the bodily senses, because they cannot be seen, heard, smelled, tasted or touched. I have heard the sounds of words by which their meaning is expressed when they are discussed, but the words are one thing and the principles another . . .

\subsection*{4.4 Syntagm and Paradigm}

Essentially, Jahiz has been dealing with the same problems: memory, knowledge, and the gap between words and principles. Discourse necessarily fills this gap, however, and it is clear that Jahiz's exposition shows the use of its two associative principles: syntagmatic and paradigmatic. These are even stated as alternatives. Thus, in paragraph 148, on the origin of the decimal system, there is the choice between the syntagmatic; the 'saying' that . . . or the paradigmatic: the analogy between numbers and fingers.

\subsection*{4.4.1 Report}

To make this clearer, \(I\) will give further examples of both choices, though analogy (the paradigmatic) will be dealt with more thoroughly below, in Case III - The Sensory. On the whole, in this section, the syntagm predominates, displayed, on one level, in the various lists. That the elements are often introduced by question should not deceive; there is an answer, which is the constitution of the list itself. Then there is a second constitution of the 'known', through a question and answer mechanism which uses the 1 St. Augustine, Confessions (Harmondsworth, 1982), p. 219.
eliciting word 'the saying' (القول). In this section, there are three different ways in which it operates as an identifying tool: statement of the known, recounting of the known, and reference to the known.

In paragraph 149, systems are under discussion and 'saying' is used here to state the first principle, thus:
'Fazari's saying, "the mind is spherical"'
(قول الفزاري إن العقل كُي )
In paragraph 154, 'saying' is used in connection with Lamak and the 'ūd. It does not state a principle, rather it sets in motion a story:
'What do you say about their saying "Lamak made the
"ūd • . "' (

Thirdly, it appears as eliciting reference at the end of cumulative lists, both in] paragraphs 141 and 146, phrased in terms of a question deliberately begging the (known) answer: \({ }^{1}\)
§141: 'tell me about Khalil's saying on ancient fantasy' ( وخبرني عن قول الخليل في الوهم القديم )
§146: 'and about their saying "so and so prayed in greatest the name of God the Almíghty"'
(وفي قو لهم دعا فلان باسم اللّه الأعظم )

\subsection*{4.4.2 Resemblance}

The analogies Jahiz uses in this section range from the concrete to the abstract, and most are in some way based on human experience. First of all, there are situations of analogy understood as such in the sense that correspondence

1 That this system works well is evident in Pellat's suggestion that one look in Jahiz's K: al-Hayawan for the 'answers' to many of his questions, op. cit., p. XVI.
is implied, a correspondence by resemblance to the human. Here, they all depend on the (transforming) verb 'to make' (جعل) .
§154: 'and that he made the chest the thigh'
(وأنّه جعـل الصدر الفخذ )
§148: 'and made the limits of numbers ten tens'
(وجعل غايات الأعداد عشر العشرات)
§152: 'and made the zir/the bile'
Prom (وجعل الزير للصفرا")
Then there are explicit analogies of which there is an example in paragraph 153, which shows the usual relationship of concrete to abstract called literal to figurative.
'and why did he describe tunes by freezing and melting just as lethal poisons are described?'

There are, of course, other analogies here, but in the realm of human experience one of the more abstract is extrapolation on the basis of similarity of problem. It is exhibited in paragraph 144, and via memorization, links one learned skill with another:
'. . . better at retaining expressions, and why do we not begin to forget swimming though we learned it by acquisition'
(أحفظ للألفاظ ورُمَصرنا لا نتسى السباحة وبالاكتسا بعرفنا ها )
The most abstract type of analogy here is that which transfers individual experience onto the level of the general, such as in paragraph 144:
'and the usual way of things is that the acquired is forgotten and ignored and . . .'
(والعـاد ة أن الككتسبب قد "نْسى ويتهـل و. . . )

If general commentary on life is assumed to be based on particular experience, particular experience assumes a person, time, place and event. Moreover, if Plato is correct that knowledge is based on a reconciliation between 'past and present experience' \({ }^{1}\) one must first know what the elements in that past experience are, in order to recognize resemblances and make the analogy with the new, present, context. In other words, one must have the syntagmatic associations first, in order to proceed to the paradigmatic ones.

\subsection*{4.4.3 Precedence}

There is another reason why the syntagmatic must precede the paradigmatic, and that is that it has a determinate order, in contrast to the indeterminate order of the paradigm. Jahiz has illustrated this in several ways already. mentioned; they are:
§148: human from ten
§149: ten from human
§152: tones from emotions
§153: emotions from tunes
Thus, if one is looking for 'origins' using analogy, one can go in either direction.

On the other hand, using the process of association by naming, listing, fixing by report, in time, place, and making more vivid by event and the problematical, one constitutes experience (if only vicarious) by which one recalls the 'forgotten' elements and can then make the analogy between past and present.

At the beginning of the syntagmatic, however, is that first mechanism: designation. For this reason, Jahiz does not merely ask the names of the 'original . . .' but also about the relationship of signifier to signified: words and their spelling (§144), their designation (§147), derivation (§147), application (§153), and retention in the memory (§143). In all these cases, the answer is, by contiguity, found in the contexts in which he situates them, himself. For instance, by asking about the interpretation of 'murmuration' in a paragraph full of arkane terms, it cannot but be thought of as also something arkane. Again, by asking about correspondences in musical terms, he presents a small exposé of these correspondences, namely himself. In.terms of 'Case'; argument about the world, the first of these is internal witness by linguistic manipulation, the second, external witness by conceptual subordination.

Thus, his questions should not be taken at face value only and he might agree with 'some . . . critics' ( بعض . . . . لنقّاد. he cites in another work of his, al-Bayan wa-t-Tabyin:
'and these concepts only come alive through their mentioning them, their stories about them, and their use of them \({ }^{1}\) واوّمّا تحيا تلك الـعاني في ذكرهم لها , اوخبارهم عنهـا , استعـمالهم, ايُها )
These may be regarded as lists, stories, and analogies. So, in the context of speculation on supra-sensory systems, Jahiz's speculation on the epistemological role of attribution and predication implicitly concludes that it is the series

\footnotetext{
1
Jahiz, al-Bayan wa-t-Tabyin (Beirut, n.d.), p. 54.
}
of attributions, the syntagm, which is actually the first step in predication.
CHART I
THE SUPRA-SENSORY
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{AS ARBITRARY} & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{AS SYSTEM} \\
\hline § Origin & Operation & Origin & Operation \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
142 poetry: \\
unconscious generation
\end{tabular} & & & \\
\hline 143 & \begin{tabular}{l}
thing: \\
spontaneous evocation
\end{tabular} & social discourse & \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
144 letters: \\
unexplained correspondence
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{l}
memorization: \\
unexplained retention
\end{tabular} & - & effort \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
147 terms: \\
explained<designation
\end{tabular} & & \(\cdots\) & \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
148 decimal: \\
unknown derivation
\end{tabular} & & human: correspondence & mathematic: relationship \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
152 tones: \\
unknown derivation
\end{tabular} & & human: correspondence & mathematic: relationship \\
\hline 153 tunes: & language: correspondence & & \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
154 instrument: \\
'their saying . . .'
\end{tabular} & & & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
CHART II
THE WORD
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{SIgnifier} & SIGnIfied & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{Signification} \\
\hline § & letters & sound & reference & 1inear-sequence & extralinear-analogy \\
\hline 141 & & & - أوريل & النينجات . . . & \\
\hline 142 & & نتشده & الشعر & & . . . . \\
\hline 143 & & & الشي؛ & * . & \\
\hline 144 & & & & تصيدة. . . . & \\
\hline 145 & & & Quranic quote & الساري & كذلك ال. . . . والعادة \\
\hline 146 & & & & |- آف. . . & \\
\hline 147 & & الجبر . & ¢ (ت) &  & \\
\hline 148 & & & & |الترل الـ . . . . & \\
\hline 149 & & & & | & كنما . . فأك* \\
\hline 150 & & & & |'أتليدس . . . & \\
\hline 151 & & & الركبانية . . . للركبان & مند & \\
\hline 152 & & & الرعب للسود1 & & \\
\hline 153 & & &  & & \\
\hline 154 & & & الصدر النخذ &  & 1. \\
\hline 155 & & & & |كتاب كارناكه . & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
CHART III
THE SYN'AGM
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline § & cumulative & rank & picture & differential & anecdote & story \\
\hline 141 & \begin{tabular}{l}
arkane: \\
words
\end{tabular} & & & & & \\
\hline 142 & & & & literature & & \\
\hline 144 & & & & lineages & & \\
\hline 145 & arkane: words & & & & A.W.: action & \\
\hline 146 & & & books, people & & Quranic quote saying & \\
\hline 147 & arkane: knowledge & & & & & \\
\hline 150 & & mathematicians musicians & & & & music: ruler \\
\hline 151 & & singers & \begin{tabular}{l}
musical \\
attributions
\end{tabular} & & & \\
\hline 154 & & creators of instruments & & & saying & son: instrument \\
\hline 155 & & & \begin{tabular}{l}
arkane: \\
thing, time, place
\end{tabular} & & & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{Chapter Five}

THE CASE - III: THE SENSORY

\begin{abstract}
As mentioned in The Case - II, Jahiz is known as a 'rationaliste', one whose scepticism led him to prefer scientific to mythological explanations. 1 I would therefore now like to consider his approach to problems of phenomena, the world of sense perception, as set out in paragraphs 161 to 178. This is, again, a problem of external witness: what is observable in nature, and internal witness: how it is described.
\end{abstract}

\subsection*{5.1 Knowledge - Perception}

The paragraphs from 161 to 178 may at first appear to lack a common theme; three main divisions may be noted: one on knowledge \((\S 161-164,176,177)\), one on \(A . W\). and text ( \(\$ 165,166\) ), and one on sense perception ( \(\$ \$ 167-175\) ). A thematic coherence does emerge, however, the main issues being joined in the initial sentence:
§161: 'and I, may \(I\) be your ransom, know that \(I\) hear, but I do not recognize the modality of hearing'


There is, thus, the problem of knowing and recognizing, that of the protagonists, Jahiz and A.W., and the problem of the senses. Language and text, search and site, are connected

\footnotetext{
1 Pellat, op. cit., p. XVI.
}
issues but will only be mentioned in passing here, and the main focus will be on sense perception as epistemological tool.

Let it be noted that the focus on A.W., which invariably appears in every discourse register, is specified in paragraph 166, and can be related to the rest of the section in the following ways. First of all, form, conflicting images, truth and illusion will be treated here. Secondly, the person, physically, as sensor, sensing, and sensed is one of the main areas of investigation.

\subsection*{5.2 The World}

\subsection*{5.2.1 Resemblance}

The senses per se are usually only implied, but in the first paragraph, 161, they are mentioned explicitly. In this paragraph, also, one finds the problem of resemblance, stated through its recurrent confusions, that of site and identity.
'. . . or whether the seat of recognition is in . . . and some might argue for the brain because all the senses are in the head'
الـرأس (أم

Later, paragraph 170 puts in question the confusions of: sensor - sensing:
' and the sentient soul is not if andy way aware of any of its senses'
(والنغس الحتّا سة لا تـرك بشي" بن الحـواسّ )
sensor - sensed:
'Thus it is with the sensor and thus it is with the sensed'
(كن لك الحسّاس وكن لك المتحسورى )
(a) polysemy

The sense Jahiz deals with preponderantly is the visual, but he does include two brief references to the aural, giving as examples confusion about the provenance of a sound, or about its manifestation.

175: provenance:
'and perhaps the noise/voice of thunder is the noise/voice of the scolding of an angel'
(ولعـل صوت الرعد صوت زجر هلك )
173: manifestation:
'the water goblet, how does its noise/voice increase without an opening, as the noise/voice must have air'
(عّس الهاء كيف اشتـّلّ صوته بلا باب والصوت لا بدّ له من الهـواء )

In both of these cases, it is clear that speculation is extended by language, here the polysemy of (صوت) which allow anthropomorphic analogy.

It is, however, in the area of visual perception that Jahiz considers and reconsiders the problem of knowing by the senses. Here, also, he will include instances of the extensions possible through polysemy. Thus, in the opening paragraph, 161, there is use of the word 'eye/source' (عين) as:
a site of vision:
'and the eye is its door and path'
(والعـين با به وطريقه )
and in the concluding paragraph, 178, there is use of this word as:
a site of reflection:
'just as the eye of the sun is a disc for the light' (كما أن عين الشمس قرص للضياء )

On the subject of the eye, reference should be made to the schematizations of Charts I and II. Chart I presents perceptual confusions with the eye as their focus; Chart II the eye as medium of analogy.

Besides these instances of extension, or confusion, by polysemy, the visual subjects: colours, forms, reflections, and images are almost interchangeably referred to here. Thus I will treat resemblance in terms rather of the visual problems presented, variations on the problems of identity and site mentioned above. For identity, these will be: levels, representation, and reality; for site: confrontation and collapse. For instance, rarely is identity phrased in such a simple way as this question in paragraph 173:
'and tell me about the colour of the peacock's tail'
(وخبرني عن لون نـنب الطاووس)

However, considering the complexity of the peacock's tail, this question is, of course, deceptively simple, and many of his questions that are worded so simply are about things that are in some way illusory (§172: mirage, echo, rainbow). (b) levels

Most of his questions are worded in a more complicated way, and good examples are two treatments at levels of the visual, in paragraph 170; in the first he concentrates on the representative surface, in the second, on the represented image.
> 'and were it not for our mention of the iron surface, or what air is behind it, or what viewing is in front of it, all that would be one body with its colour'
> (وسواء ذكرنا صغيحة الحد يد أ ما خلفها ملها من الههواء وما قد امها من الفرجة كل (لك جسم ذر و لون )

This can be schematized in the following way, representative surface:
signifier
\begin{tabular}{ccc} 
viewing & surface & air \\
\(\psi\) image & image & image \\
& colour \\
& signified & \\
& &
\end{tabular}

In the same paragraph, before his 'explanation' above:
'and did the colour which represents your colour cancel the colour in the mirror?'
(وهـل أ بطل نلك اللون الذى هـو في ثثال لونك لون المرآة)
this may be schematized also, representative image:

(c) representation

Jahiz sometimes words such questions solely in terms of representation, the image ( \(ص\) ) without trying to disentangle its levels, as in paragraph 169:
'and did this seen image cancel the image in its place in the mirror?'
(وهـل أبطلت تللك الصورة المرئية صورة مكانهـا في المرآة )
However, he cannot resist reminding the reader of the illusory qualities in mental representation of visual data, as in paragraph 174:
'and we also say that we cannot see an elongated variegated village from afar except as round'
( ونتول أيضا ان كنّا لا نرى القرى المستطيلة البنيان المـختلفة الشكل بن البعد الآ مستد يرة )

This illusion can lead to far-fetched analogies, such as:
'so perhaps the sun is cruciform and the stars square'
(فلعـلّ الشمس هصلبة والكواكب مربّعـة )
(d) reality

Twice Jahiz poses the question of the reality of mental representations, one with reference to 'image' (صورة), once with reference to 'colour' (لون):

169: image: in the mirror:
'is it an accident or an essence, or a thing and reality, or illusion?'
(أعرخن أم جوهر أم شيء وحقيقة أم تخييل )
173: colour in the peacock's tail:
'what is it, do you say that it does not have reality, but only changes colour on confrontation, or do you say that there is colour there in its own right and the rest is illusion?'
( ) والباقي تخييل )
(e) confrontation

The other principal question under the rubric of resemblance is that of site. If images are indistinguishable as identities, are they also indivisible in site? This is related to the problem of reality, and to whether they are bodies, and if not whether they must come from somewhere else, the suggestion being 'confrontation' (بلم (ب) . Jahiz presents the problem in two different ways: first, one site of confrontation and the choice between an image or a 'confrontation'; second, two images seen, but only one site of confrontation.

Thus, in \(\S 168\) : image or 'confrontation':
'just as he who confronts the pupil sees the image of a person and there is no image there, but only in confrontation'
(كما يرى من قابل الحدقة صورة انسان وليس هناك صورة انّما هـو
شئ يوجد عند الـقابلة )
and in § 172: two images:
'and what do you say about the band of red and the band of green and how do they differ, as the air is the same and what confronts them is the same?'
واحد تقول في طما ويقة الـحمرة وفي طريقة الخضرة وكيف الختلفتا والهدواء
(f) Collapse

The most complex situations are worded in such a way that identity and site are inextricable, and these are schematically presented in Chart I. Suffice it to say here that these concern confusion of seer and seen in the mirror \((\$ 169,170)\) and that of seeing, seer and seen in the pupil (§168). Thus, man may be the subject (face), the object (image), and the surface of encounter (pupil) as well as the means of vision (pupil). The intermediary, the surface, the signifier, is quite arbitrary; it can be a sword or stagnant water (\$167), but the phenomenon of resemblance is a kind of telescoping, in which the separateness of these elements is lost on the observer, in a confusion of mirror images.

\subsection*{5.2.2 Contiguity}

This telescoping seems to be what Jahiz is indicating here; on the other hand, when he considers contiguity, separateness of identities is implicit: in question is their relation to one another, the effect things have on one another
by touching in space, or sharing the same space. Paragraphs 169 and 170 contain most of the semic possibilities in a range from positive (creation) to negative (cancellation), schematically presented (disregarding, for the moment, interrogative and negative syntax):
§169
cause, create
( ولّد ) (أوجب)
touch

act on
(يعمل في )
cancel
(أبطلل (
§ 170
cancel
(أبطل )
act on
(عمل في)
its scope
(حيز)
touching
(
continuous
( هتصّل (
collision
(مصارم)
(a) cancellation

As seen in this schema, moving from paragraph 169 to 170, causation disappears and there is refinement of contiguity, not only variations of touching, but the idea of a shared site. Basically, there are two questions here: one, whether things can have an effect on one another if they do not touch; and two, the recurrent problem of two things in one site and the proposal that one must cancel the other, phrased here in the 'realist' terms of image and body: \({ }^{1}\)
'and if it did not cancel it, then there are two images in one body'
(فإن لم يكن أبطله فهـاك إن ن صورتان في جسم واحد )
(b) alternation

In paragraphs 175 and 178, Jahiz proposes another solution to this problem of two things on one site, that of alternation. With reference to the tides, it is a question of alternate forces:
§175:
1. . . that ebb and flow are from the same attractions when (the moon) pulls and when it pushes'
(انّ الـّد والجزر بن نفس الجوانب إنا جنذ وإذا دفع)

With reference to light, it is phrased in terms of body and attribute:
§178:
'is it a body found on the disappearance of light, or by the interpretation of our saying "darkness" do we only mean the repulsion of the light, and if darkcreeping ness is an attribute, do you then see it tanked into the earth and concealed during the diffusion of light?'
(أجسم موجود عند زوال الضوء ام تأويل قولنا ظلام انـّما نبريد به
دفع الضوء فإن كان الظلام معنى أفتراه انتمع في الأرض وكمن عند
(c) contradiction

Whether darkness is a body or an attribute, it is still substantial enough to require alternation with light, and if not, the problem of self-contradiction might be posed, thus:
§178:
'and if it is independent, why are they not mutually
contradictory, and if they interfere with each other then how do we not see both of them in the vision of the eyes?'
(وان كان قائما فكيف لم يتتافيا وان كان قد تداخلا فكيف لم نجدهـا على هنظر الاعين ) This is the problem which appeared at the beginning of the section, the problem of the reflection of two things on one surface, and of the surface, again, at the conclusion of the section as the personal image: one's eyes.
(d) concurrence

The option in acceptance of collapse in the resemblances of mirror images (see above: 5.2.1(f)) is to accept dual images, or dual perceptive faculties, and this also is not without its confusions.
§168: dual images:
'and why do some mirrors show the face and the neck and show the head inverted?'
(ولم صار بعض المرائي يرى الوجه والقفا ويرى الرأس منگّا )
§170: dual faculties:
'and how do we see the difference, how is it, as rays are colour and white, and the sentient soul does not grasp anything about the senses?'
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { (وكيف نرى المخالف وكيف والشعاع لون وبياض والنفس } \\
& \text { الحّساسة لا تدرك بشثي" من الحـواسّ ) }
\end{aligned}
\]
(e) subjectivity

Thus Jahiz, on the phenomena of nature, indicates explicitly and implicitly where confusions can arise in dependence on sense perception: we 'see' and estimate, but there will always be discrepancies. Some of these arise
naturally from our position as subject: sense perception is confused if there is too little removal in space of subject from object (the baroque image of the pupil) and also vulnerable if there is too great a removal in space (judging the shape of the stars, the origin of thunder, etc.).

\subsection*{5.3 The Word}

So far, I have looked at the questions in this section in terms of the scientific: problems and proposed solutions. However, as was observed in The Case - II: Supra-sensory, there seem to be no proposals in a systematic sense. If sense perception is difficult to comprehend and describe, one is led to the problem of the expressive capacity of language, in order to analyse more fully its epistemological bases. I will briefly consider syntactic manipulations and semic fields, and begin by comparing Jahiz's approach with his near contemporary, al-Kindi (Jahiz: d. 868, Kindi: d. 873) known as one of Islam's first speculative philosophers. The subjects he treats are often.the same as those of Jahiz. He treats the problem of 'essence' and 'accident' (Jahiz, §169-5.2.1(d)) and, considering 'body' must make reference to 'length' and 'width' (Jahiz: A.W.). Thus, it is clear that so far as subject is concerned, Kindi deals with these issues as abstractions, while Jahiz purposely mixes the abstract and the concrete. 1

\subsection*{5.3.1 Syntax}

It is in the area of syntax that Jahiz and Kindi most blatantly diverge. Kindi's syntax aims at a definition of 1 See below: 10.1 .2 for this form of 'Aufhebung'.
things, a reduction of possibilities, in an attempt to identify final oppositions, to force a choice one way or another. He presents a situation, worded in negative and positive terms, thus:
```

'either . . . or . . . and if it is not . . . then
it is . . . ${ }^{1}$

```

Then, as solution, by the law of contradiction, he comes to a conclusion recurrent in his First Philosophy:
in terms of negative-positive:
'then it is not itself, and it is itself, and that
is an impossible contradiction \({ }^{2}\)
(فهـو لا هـو وهـو هـو وهان خلف لا يهكن )
or in terms of antithetical qualities:
'so the part resembles the whole; that is an impossible contradiction' \({ }^{3}\)

فالجز, مثل الكّل هـنا خلف لا يمكن )
Kindi's style is not totally without the elasticity of analogy, but he uses it rarely. It appears sometimes in visual images 'like a bat' (كالخظّاش), 4 or through simple endoxy: 'just as we say . . .' (كما نقول). \({ }^{5}\)
(a) analogy

On the whole Jahiz's argumentation is more elastic, and there are the same two areas to examine: one, the frequency and use of analogy; two, the way in which choices are presented, in other words, means of extension, and
```

al-Kindi, First Philosophy (Cairo, 1948), p. 77.

```
means of reduction of argument.
Jahiz uses analogy more frequently, both in implicit and explicit forms. There are two implicit kinds, one:
similar syntax and/or expression for different problems:
verb a - subject a: problem x
verb a - subject \(a\) : problem \(y\)
so, in §161:
'I know that I hear, but I do not recognize the modality . . .'
'I know that I see, but I do not recognize the modality . . .'
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { (أعلم أنيّي أسمع ولا أعقل كيفية . . . } \\
& \text { (أعلم أنّي أبصر ولا أعقل كيفية • • ) }
\end{aligned}
\]
the other:
repeated use of a particular expression for a series
of questions; in this case, the recurring expression is:
'tell me about . . . how . . .'
(خبّرني عن • • . كيف )

This expression may sound rather meaningless in its banality, but it is noticeable that it recurs only in certain forms of discourse. In paragraphs 165 and 166, for instance, which seem to interrupt and change the subject, this expression is absent, and instead explicit analogy is used, here through the expression: as/similar to (مثل)
§165:
'and had they looked into it as I did'
(ورأو| فيه ثثل رأبي
§ 166 :
'but you had permitted (questions) similar to those of Hermes ( ولكنك قد أنتـت في هثلها لهرمس ()

Furthermore, marking a separateness of these paragraphs, this expression, 'similar to', does not reappear in the following paragraphs; the elements are related by another explicit analogical expression: 'thus it is' (كذلك): §167:
'mirror . . . and thus it is with every smooth polished' (وكن لك كل أملس صقيل (

For Jahiz's use of analogy through visual metaphors, see the schematizations of Chart II, particularly those perennial images Derrida calls 'l'oeil métaphorique' \({ }^{1}\) and 'I'héliotrope'. \({ }^{2}\)
(b) choice

If analogy extends Jahiz's arguments in this section, what devices does he use to restrict inquiry, to bring about choice? Despite the fact that many questions are asked, and many proposals put forward, one may say that he groups his choices either by twos, or (less frequently) by threes. Choice by two occurs in the following ways:
between negative and positive:
§164: 'do they express what they do not know, or express what they do know?'
(ينطقان بها لا يعلهان أم ينطقان بـا يعلهان )
between two antithetical terms:
§162: 'is it by necessity or acquisition?'
(أباضطرار أم باكتساب)
between two pairs, whether synonymous:
§164: 'by experience and deduction

\footnotetext{
J. Derrida, 'La Mythologie Blanche', Poetique, 5 (Paris, 1971), p38.

2 Ibid., p. 35. For more on Jahiz's use of analogy through images, see below: 8.4.1.
}
and by perfect material and excellent instrument'
\[
\begin{array}{r}
\text { (أ بتجربة واستتبات تمأر أداة وكمال Tلة ) }
\end{array}
\]
or antithetical:
§169: 'accident or essence

> or a thing and reality, or illusion'


Choice between three alternatives is more rare, but occurs in terms which seem to be legitimate choices, not just automatisms of the antithetical.
§175: on the tide's ebb and flow:
'an angel . . . attractive force . . .
sympathetic force'
( ملك . • . الجوان ب . . • جن ب للماء )
§178: on the nature of darkness:
'a body . . . an attribute . . . a disc . . .'
(جسم • • • معنى • • قرص )
(c) contradiction

Though at times this syntax seems hardly more expansive than that of Kindi, striking is the fact that there is never a conclusion, by definition, that something must be either A or non-A. \({ }^{1}\) The law of contradiction and its corollary, the law of the excluded middle, are not brought to bear by Jahiz. On the constructions of this law, he might agree with the authors of Histoire de la Logigue that, 'toutes les difficultes s'Evanouissent, en effet, si l'on prend garde

\footnotetext{
1 Though Adad feels he can detect Jahiz's preferences, i.e. on the theory of ebb and flow, op. cit., note p. 308, I cannot say they are clear to me.
}
de ne pas oublier que les objets etudiés peuvent ne pas exister'. 1

\subsection*{5.3.2 Semantics}
(a) universe

It has been pointed out that Kindi treats subjects similar to those of Jahiz, but on an abstract plane, and that he presents these largely in antithetical terms (partwhole). In contrast, Jahiz's semic field is wide, concrete, abstract, and variegated. It is not merely that most concentric world, focused in the pupil, but it is one in which the whole universe plays a part. The four elements of the medieval order, fire, water, air, and earth, are present here, in relationship to the seen. For instance:
fire and water: antithetical surfaces of reflection: §167
air: exists behind the surface of the seen: \(\$ \$ 170,172\) earth:
a place of wandering: \(\$ 163\)
a site of illusion: §174
a site of recognition: \(\$ 176\)
The four elements are also presented in two other capacities: as site of sympathies, \({ }^{2}\) and of knowledge. For instance,
sharing an element can lead to effect on action:
§175: moon = water = tides
an element can be a site for knowledge:
§176: tracking: water, air, earth
1 M. Boll and J. Reinhart, Histoire de la Logique (Paris, 1980), p. 88.

2 For antipathy, see below: 6.3.2.
an element can be a knowing entity:
§163: wind of Solomon
§173: goblet of water
(b) knowledge

In this section Jahiz actually presents more options than merely knowing by nature or through mature. The alternatives are:
learning: recognition of marks:
§176: 'it will belong to him who 1 has learned and not to him who has not learned
science: experience and deduction:
§164:
(بتجربة واستتباط )
philosophy: necessity and acquisition:
§162:
(باضطرار أم باكتنسلانب)
religion: supplication and search:
§163: (ارتفاع اذكر
supernatural: inspiration and the extraordinary:
§164
(الإلهام والإخراج
wonder and text

 في العـلم رغبتي . . . وكانـوا قرأوا كتابي إليك . . . )
(c) recognition

These bodies of knowledge are mentioned in passing in this section; they help to set up the basic problem which is about 'seeing', and interpreting what one sees. There is perceptible movement of emphasis from the senses to language, in the following terms:

\footnotetext{
1 For the levels of commentary here, see below: 8.1.1.
}

\section*{recognition by:}
senses: §161
marks: §176
oppositions: \(\$ 177^{1}\)
interpretations: §178
5.4 The World - the Word

\subsection*{5.4.1 Relationships}

The perceptual world and its relationships, the mark and its interpretation, are ordering principles of a world Jahiz describes, and which Foucault analyses in The order of Things. It is one in which things operate by similitudes of different kinds.
'aemulatio' - 'There is something in emulation of the reflection and the mirror. \({ }^{2}\)
'convenientia' - 'This word really denotes the adjacency of places . . . their edges touch . . . In this way, movement, influences, passions, and properties too, are communicated. \({ }^{3}\)
sympathies - 'sympathy transforms. It alters, but in the direction of identity. \({ }^{4}\)
analogy - 'it makes possible the marvellous confrontation of resemblances across space. \({ }^{5}\)

This seems similar to Jahiz's world of resemblance, contiguity,

1 For knowledge by oppositions in language, see below: 6.2.3.
M. Foucault, The Order of Things (London, 1974), p. 19.

Ibid., p. 18.
Ibid., p. 23.
Ibid., p. 21.
and sympathies in the seen, and his use of analogy for the said. \({ }^{1}\)
5.4.2 Mark - Word

However, as Foucault points out, in trying to find the marks of resemblances between things, 'superimposition necessarily includes a slight degree of non-coincidence'. 2 Even in terms of modern science, Thomas Kuhn writes, 'No process disclosed by the historical study of scientific development at all resembles the methodological stereotype of falsification by direct comparison with nature. \({ }^{3}\) What Jahiz shows in this section is that what cannot be known for certain by the senses may nonetheless be expressed by words. If it seems physically impossible for two images to be in one place at once, it is not impossible in metaphor and analogy, to say two things at once. In Chart II: Analogy, it is clear that in many paragraphs a sense perception problem can only be expressed in this way. Language belongs to world and word. As Fouç̛ult writes,

There is no difference between the visible marks that God has stamped upon the surface of the earth, so that we may know its inner secrets, and the legible words that the Scriptures have set down in the books preserved for us by tradition. 4

He goes on to say, 'In other words, "divinatio" and
"eruditio" are both part of the same hermeneutics. 5
```

1 This also corresponds to Jakobson's linquistic axis of
coherence, see above: 0.2.3.
2 Foucault, op. cit., p. 39.
3 T. Kuhn, The Structures of Scientific Revolutions
(Chicago, 1970), p. 77.
4 Foucault, op. cit., p. 33.
5
Ibid., p. 34.

```
5.4.3 Interpretation

Hermeneutics, of course, implies not just 'reading' but the interpretative step. As Foucault adds, 'Furthermore, language gives rise to two other forms of discourse which provide it with a frame; above it, there is commentary . . . and below it, the text. \({ }^{1}\) Kuhn even extends this to science: 'Science students accept theories on the authority of teacher and text, not because of evidence. \({ }^{2}\) Therefore, it is not at all surprising that many of the analogies Jahiz gives are preceded by the expression: 'the saying' (القرل \({ }^{3}\) and that the subsequent demand for authority is to ask for interpretation of a saying:
§178: 'or by the interpretation of our saying darkness, do we either mean . . .'

The word is, like the surface of the mirror, only an arbitrary element between the signifier and the signified. It is a social convention which needs interpretation, which has no meaning out of context. \({ }^{4}\)

\footnotetext{
1 Foucault, op. cit., p. 42.
}

CHART II
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{ANALOGY} \\
\hline \(\S\) & Problem & Language & Analogy \\
\hline 161 & ```
problem = site = person
interior (2 in 1) perceiver = perceiving
``` & القول & ```
site of mind: brain = site of colour:
    person
heart: its door +"path = eye: door +
    path
``` \\
\hline 168 & \begin{tabular}{l}
problem \(=\) site \(=\) pupil \\
interior (2 in 1) perceiving = perceived
\end{tabular} & قول من & \[
\text { earth: moon }=\text { confrontation }=\underset{\text { pupil: }}{ } \begin{aligned}
\text { image }
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline 174 & ```
problem = form
exterior
    perceived = X?
                = Y?
``` & نقول & villages: form = stars : form \\
\hline 175 & ```
problem = causation
exterior Z }->\mathrm{ tides
    X }->\mathrm{ tides
    Y }->\mathrm{ thunder
``` & قولج & ```
angel: tides = angel: arranger
moon: water = tides: water
noise: thunder = voice: angel
``` \\
\hline 178 & \begin{tabular}{l}
problem \(=\) site \(=\) earth \\
exterior (2 in 1) \(X\) is what? \\
\(Y\) is where?
\end{tabular} & قولنا & \[
\begin{aligned}
\text { earth: darkness }= & \text { eye of sun: } \\
& \text { light }
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{JOKE - I: EXEMPLIFICATION}

The material of the risala, the questions (Riddle), quotations (Memorabilia), the phrasing of its speculations on the world (Case I, II, III), are all intermittently disrupted in ways attributed to Jahiz's 'particular style' of 'coq-à-l'ane'. 1 I intend to analyse these disruptions in terms of an epistemological search, here, that of identifying the norm through exemplification, syntax, and semantics. Joke I, II and III display this by relations between words and contexts, in excess, dislocation, and ambiguity.

\subsection*{6.1 Identity - Controversy}

\subsection*{6.1.1 Reference}

As mentioned in the introduction ( \(\gamma .1 .1\) ) the identity of the addressee of the risāla is not certain. Nevertheless, both Pellat and Adad have tried to situate him in historical terms. Pellat writes:
[Jahiz] . . . ne jette qu'une clarté insuffisante sur son identite. Il en ressort principalement qu'Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab était très agé, résidait a la Mekke après avoir véu dans la familiarite du vizier Ibn az-Zayyat, manifestait son predilection pour le
 discussion. \({ }^{2}\)

Adad writes, 'Al-Gahiz, quant a lui (A.W.), ne nous parle que d'un polemiste detestable, laid physiquement et
```

1 Pellat, op. cit., p. VII.
2 Ibid., p. X.

```
moralement mais bouffi de pretention qu'il est devenu urgent de remettre à sa place. \({ }^{1}\) Taken as address to an unattractive 'real' person, this discourse register could be seen as vituperative and gratuitous.

\subsection*{6.1.2 'Preuves hors technique'}

Though historical verification of A.W.'s identity may be difficult, it does not mean that his importance is negligible. In terms of rhetoric, argument depends on 'preuves techniques' and 'preuves hors technique', \({ }^{2}\) in other words, internal and external witness. A.W. plays a role in both these: first, as adversary in the risala, with a 'name' to represent his discourse (external); second, as subject, a character to be portrayed in particular terms (internal). These are the two aspects Abd El-Fattah Kilito describes in his article 'L'Auteur de Paille', 'Il est . . . necessaire de choisir soigneusement le nom qui couvrira le discours et fixera l'attitude que le récepteur doit adopter à son Egard. \({ }^{3}\) Thus, for Jahiz's 'questions' a 'respondent' must be created. Second, with reference to hadith literature, Kilito writes: 'l'authenticité . . . dépendera du jugement que l'on portera sur l'integrite morale de ceux qui le transmettent. \({ }^{4}\) The respondent must be presented in unflattering terms; by maligning the author of a discourse, one maligns that discourse.
```

1 Adad, op. cit., p. 269.
2 M. Dufour, 'Analyse du livre II', Aristote, Rhetorique (Paris, 1967), II,p.15.
3 A. Kilito, 'L'Auteur de Paille', Poetique, 44 (Paris, 1980) , R 400 .

### 6.1.3 'Preuves techniques'

This phenomenon of maligning a discourse through its author extends, of course, to a wider field than that of hadith literature, as is clear in the poet $\hat{f} i c$ genres of praise and blame through boast (فخر) and satire ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ). Furthermore, the topoi are stock perennial versions of the acceptable-unacceptable. As Aristotle writes, 'Ce qui n'est pas un exces est un bien, et ce qui est plus grand qu'il ne faudrait est un mal.' ${ }^{1}$ On cannot blame A.W. if he is short, but one can if he is excessively short, and his counterclaim is equally excessive. Thus, the terms of debate are found in Jahiz's first sentence: claim and excess:
§1: 'Ahmad ibn 'Abdul Wahhab was excessively short, and he claimed that he was excessively tall' (كان اححن بن عبد الوهـاب مغرط القصر ويّّعى انّه مغرط الطول )
also in
§2: claim and ignorance:
'and his claims to types of knowledge in proportion to his ignorance of them'
(وكان ادّعاؤه لأصناف العـلم على قدر جهـله بها )
§1: age and quanjity:
'and he was very old'
(وكان كبير السن )
§2: contentiousness and quantity:
'and he was very contentious'
(وكان كثير الاعتراض )

Thus, by internal exposition, A.W. becomes immediately the focus for the ideas of controversy and extreme.

### 6.2 Semantic Focus - Semantic Slide

This technique establishes an unattractive adversary, and, by extension, one of dubious reliability. Since it cannot be proved that A.W. was short or tall, let alone old, ignorant, and contentious, instead of considering the argument unimportant for lack of external reference, it should be viewed as one with its own internal dynamics. Jahiz's language is never gratuitous, he is a serious styleist and polemicist. The risāla is an almost Proustian complex of lexical and semic appearances, disappearances, and reappearances. Through A.W., excess has been established as initial focus, but it emerges that excess is not limited to A.W., let alone his physiognomy; Pellat's glossary includes lexical references by paragraph through which one can follow such semic movement. 1 I will scan the risala for use of the word 'excess' and its synonyms, or antonyms, to identify semantic focus by following semantic slide.

### 6.2.1 Excess

The lexeme 'excess' (إفراط) appears in various grammatical forms in connection with the described, the describer, and the description.
(a) described:
§1: physiognomy of A.W. (see above)
§18: physiognomy of others:
'So Muhammad claimed that he only exceeded in
elegance . . . because the excess of his
height . . .
(إذ زعم محمد انه انما أفرط في الرشاقة . . . لأن افراط طوله )

[^5] 19/37/47/84/86/88/89/95/96/105/108/111/113/117/128/136/137/ 144/158/159/179/187/198/202/203.
'and Ahmad claimed that he only exceeded in width . . . because the excess of his width . . .'
(وزعم أحـدل انهه إنـما أفرط في العرض . . . لأن إفراطعرضهه )
§108: physiognomy per se
'and he whose beauty has the flaw of excess'
(فهن كان عيب حسنـه الإفر|ط)
(b) describer:
§98: Jahiz: emotion
'and the excess of my unease' (وافرا هـلعي )
§105: Jahiz: style
'so do not wondex . . . that I am excessive'
(فلا تعـّتِب • • . أني بفرط)
(c) description:
§117: style per se
'and seriousness invites excess'
(فالجـد داعية إلى الافراط)

### 6.2.2 Surpassing

It is in this same paragraph, 117, that a synonymic slide is made; the lexeme 'excess' is echoed by that of 'surpassing' ( $;(-)$ and does not reappear. To identify in what ways its semic value is replaced and/or extended, I will follow the use of 'surpassing', which appears also in connection with: described, describer, description.
(a) described:
§19: physiognomy: specific
'width which surpasses the measure'
(عرض مبـاوز للقدر )
'height which surpasses the goal'
(وطول بجاوز للقصد )
§19: physiognomy: general
'. . . the body surpasses good measure and
surpasses good proportion . . . and surpasses good proportion
(خر الجسد من التقدير وجاوز التعـد يل . . . ولن جاوز التعد يل . . . )
(b) describer-description
§84: Jahiz: emotion-style
'I was apprehensive about surpassing its measure'
(واشفقت من الـجأوزة لقدره )
§105: A.W.: emotion-style
'and he dislikes exaggeration' ${ }^{1}$
(ويرغب عن التجـوّز )
(c) description:
§117: style per se
'just as joking invites the surpassing of measure'
(كما أن الـزاح د اعية إلى بجاوزة القدر)

Briefly stated, 'excess' and 'surpassing' have been used synonymously, applied to appearances, (the described) ranging from the specific focus of $A . W$. to abstract quality (see Chart I). Also, by means of the describer, they were both applied to modes of description (see Chart II).

There are differences in their use, however. 'Excess' is usually employed with claims or allegations, and flaw. 'Surpassing', on the other hand, is always bounded (except in the fifth form used above) by some limit, some criteria, however vague the terms may be (see Chart III).

There is one instance in which the boundary to 'surpassing' is not a vague 'measure' (قدر) or 'limit' ( حلّ),

[^6]but rather, description:
§13: word: per se
'and extravagance is that which surpasses generosity' (والسرف .ا جاوز الجود )
6.2.3 Mistake

The semic field of 'surpassing' is further extended from its association with 'excess' to an association with 'mistake' ( خطأ ), notably on the subject of 'joking'.
(a) description-describer:
§84: Jahiz: emotion-style
'and I was apprehensive about surpassing its measure [see above] as joking is a chapter in which abbreviation is not to be feared, and mistake in it is not in the direction of inadequacy'
(والمزاح باب ليس الـخـوف فيه التقصير ولا يكُون الخطأ فيه

من جههة النتصان )
This is followed by two more associations of 'joking' and 'mistake':
(b) description:
§84: style
'because it is a category the basis of whose establishment is mistake'
(لأنّه باب أصل بنائه على الخطأ )
§96: style
'mistake is faster to (appear in) joking'
(ان الخطا إلى المزاح أسرع)
'Joking', of course, has to do with Jahiz's description of A.W., and in paragraph 89 this connection is made:
(c) description - described - describer:
§89: Jahiz's style - Jahiz's perception
'and if I made a mistake, I did not make a mistake about anything but you'
(وإن كنت أخطأت فلم أخطىء إلّا لك )

In paragraph 86 , both 'surpassing' and 'mistake' are used on this subject: intermingling of description-perception:
(d) description-describer:
§86: A.W.'s discourse - Jahiz's perception
'and if I had not . . . and not surpassed the limit . . . so, by what would I know . . . and if I had mistaken the way, and surpassed the limit of good measure'
(وان كتت لم • . . ولم أتجاوز حد . . . فبما أعرف . . .
وان كـت قد أخطأت الطريق وجاوزت حد الدقدار )

In paragraph 202, Jahiz's whole text is perhaps mistaken, due to inadvertence of perception.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\S 202: & \text { Jahiz's text - Jahiz's perception } \\
& \text { 'and if we [sic.] made a mistake, it was not }
\end{aligned}
$$ from . . .'

(وان كنا قد أخخطأنا فـا من . . . )

Jahiz's ability to describe A.W. is thus interwoven with his ability to know, to perceive what he is (§89) and what his discourse is (§86). Thus far, his use of the word 'mistake' has been either in connection with its role in 'joking', or in his own 'mistaking'. Thus, mistaking on his part, the ambiguity of whether it is in his description or in his perception, is pivotal in carrying the word from the context of style to that of the epistemological:
recognizing the bases of mistake. In this area, Jahiz presents three possible approaches: the perceptual, the dialectical, and the exemplary; in other words, external witness by sense or exemplum, or internal witness through conceptual oppositions, and these appear in the following ways:
(a) perception:
§16: senses: specific
'on my life, surely eyes can be mistaken'
(ولعـهري إن العـيون لتخطى (
§17: senses: general
'despite the mistake of the senses'


The perceptual and the exemplary are mixed in our perception of'others' behaviour:
§88: apprehension: behaviour
'and of the motives of mistake with regard to it . . .'
( من لواعي الخطأ إليه . . . )

Another combination, the perceptual and dialectical, appear together in paragraphs 179 and 128. In paragraph 179, Jahiz posits knowing pleasure without knowing pain: (b) perception - dialectic:
§179: sensations - oppositions
'and if that were permissible, then he who is ignorant of the mistake would know what is correct'
(ولو جـاز نلك لُعرف الصـواب من يحهـل الخطأ )

In paragraph 128, he posits knowing physical qualities by antonyms:
§128: qualities - oppositions
'the mind does not mistake it and the senses do not lie about it'
( . . . لا Vt يخطي" فيه الذهن ولا يكن ب فيه الحس )

In paragraph 11, he posits knowledge of the abstract, ie. truth, through knowledge of synonyms and antonyms:
§11: abstractions - oppositions
'and he who does not know the mistake is ignorant of what is correct'
(ولا يعـرف الخطأ من يجهل الصواب)

In paragraph 128, Jahiz notes, specifically, in what areas mistake is likely to arise:
§128: mistake of the senses (خطا الحس ( mistake of the imagination mistake of opinion

The examples above from paragraphs 16/17/128/179 are evidence of the first; the examples, below, in paragraphs 136/137/ 198/203 are evidence of the third. 1
(d) exemplum: ${ }^{2}$
§203: mistake:
'for mistakes are numerous and overflowing . . . and the correct few and special'
(فلن الخط|| كثير غامر . . . والصواب قليل خاص.)
§136: rebellion
'and how did it happen that the prophet, according to you [pl.], rebelled and did not err, and the imam did not rebel and did not err' (وكيف صار النبي عندكم يعصي ولا يخطي "ولامام لا يعصي ولا يخطى" )

For the second: imagination and mistake, see below: 8.3. For similar partial reference, see above: 3.5.2.
§198: expectation
'whoever mistakes them and expects is in a worse situation than he who does not mistake them and does not expect'
(فمن أخطأهـا وانتظركان أسوأهـالّا من لم يخطءهـا ولم ينتظر )
§137: 'evangelicum' ${ }^{1}$
'and we have learned that it is not permissible for a materialist/eternalist to become a prophet'
(وتد علمنا أنه لا يجوز أن يتنبأ د هـري

### 6.2.4 Permissible

Both in paragraph 179, which deals with sensations as oppositions, and in paragraph 136, which deals with actions as oppositions, the word 'permissible' ( يجوز) was connected to 'mistake' in hypothetical opposition. Turning from synonymy to antonymy, does 'permissible' in its sense here emerge as a more specific criterion than the 'limit' words used to block 'surpassing'? It is used in the following ways:
(a) the world:
of nature:
§47: physical behaviour
'is it permissible that something act on something without its being acted on'
( وهـل يجوز أن يعـل شيّ في شيَ إلاّ والأخر بعـل فيه )
§179: sensation (see above)

[^7]of men:
§159: social behaviour
'on that which it is not permissible to correspond'
( لـيجوز الـماتبة
§136: religious behaviour
'and/it is) permissible for a prophet to be an unbeliever'
(وهـل يجـوز أن يكفر نـبيّم )

1. . Ppd that was not permissible in a single imam ${ }^{\prime}$
(و لمُ يـجز ن لك في إمام واحــ )
(b) the word
§12: the hermetic:
'and what is the obscure which it is not permissible to separate from its obscurity'
(وما المستغلـق النى لا يجوز أن يفارقه استغـلاقه )
§19: the attribution:
'surely if this description is permissible'
(ولئن جاز هـن الوصف )
§144: the learned:
'and if not, it would be permissible that this qasida be forgotten instead of that one'
(وإلّ فقد يجوز أن تتسبى هـن ه القصيدَة بدل لك )
§187: the 'said':
'and is their saying about . . . permissible'
( ) • • بهـل

The range here, from nature to discourse, is very wide, but from a semantic point of view, the word 'permissible' seems to convey the acceptable, the norm.

Also striking in these instances of 'permissible' is
that the syntax is consistently interrogative, hypothetical or negative. (See Chart IV.) There are only two cases in which the syntax is positive, and in these the word is to be understood, rather, as 'going through'. They are the following:
§111: 'and you [A.W.] go through the utmost limit'

> (وانت تجوز الغاية computation (
§37: 'and you have gone through the number of Bawarat'
(وجزتُ حساب الباورات)

It is clear that both could also be translated as 'surpassing'. If 'surpassing' and 'permissible' can be confused, limits vague, and 'excess' seemingly unblocked, the idea of positive criteria remains in abeyance. 1

### 6.3 Exemplum - Text

It is the negative semes which dominate in this discourse register. Conspicuous are the mechanisms by which associations are made, and the particular area of emphasis, of cumulative focus. First, there is the ambivalence of the describer's role. Some semes related to the respondent (A.W.) are shared by the questioner (Jahiz). With reference to irony and satire, Jolles writes, '. . . la parenté entre le moqueur et l'objet de sa moquerie peut amener ceux-ci à s'identifier de plus en plus. ${ }^{2}$ However, in the uses of 'surpassing' and 'mistake' the syntax of the hypothetical exculpates Jahiz. (See Chart V.) Second, these words are applied in contexts ranging from the very concrete to the very abstract, a movement which begins at one level with

1 For other positive criteria, see above: 3.2.2. 2

Jolles, op. cit., p. 203.
the described (A.W.) and concludes at another with description per se (text). Furthermore, this coincidence in the realm of 'excess' (A.W.: §1; text: §105) makes it clear that this discourse register is about 'excess', and is, itself, excessive.

### 6.3.1 Joke

(a) negative

It is the discourse register of the Joke ( $\left.\tau^{(1)}\right)$, and another instance of the coincidence of 'mediatise' and 'médiateur'. As Jolles writes, 'le comique ne s'oppose pas au blâmable ou à l'insuffisant, mais au sévère'. ${ }^{1}$ Accordingly, argument in terms of the 'case' ${ }^{2}$ is on the merits of 'joking' versus 'seriousness' ( الجّلّ ) Furthermore, in this register, one does not have one element without the other. As Erasmus writes in his introduction to Eloge de la Folie, 'rien n'est plus spirituel que de faireservir les frivolités à des choses serieuses'. ${ }^{3}$ This is a moralistic genre, and its negative side is creation of characters as exemplifications. Erasmus proceeds to describe various excessive characters, as a foil for his serious alternative, one who would undertake a basic re-cognition of the Scriptures. Molière also exposes a range of excessive characters, and ironically it is Tartuffe, the excessive, who is memorable, not Cleante, the moderate.
(b) positive

This is the positive, or creative, side of the Joke. Jolles points out that the comic author, 'essaye de denouer

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1 Jolles, op. cit., p. 204.
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et de défaire l'élement blâmable . . . il réussit . . . à transformer et même à nouer ces mêmes caractères en formes Elémentaires très positivement individualisées. ${ }^{1}$ So, A.W. comes to exist, as an historical persona. Nonetheless, the topoi in which he is described are transferable. ${ }^{2}$ Thus, when Irenaeus writes about the (heretical) Gnostic, it is in these terms, 'He walks with a strutting gait and a supercilious countenance, possessing all the pompous air of a cock. ${ }^{3}$ In a similar manner, in paragraph 6, Jahiz refers to A.W. with these lines of 'poetry':
§6: 'more stubborn in his stubbornness than the beetle and more haughty when he walks than the crow'
وأزهـى إن هامشَى من غُراب )
6.3.2 Norm
(a) negative

In this discourse register, no matter what type of character is created, the transportable topoi are invariably phrased in terms of excess, of going beyond. At the end of the Eloge, Erasmus has Folly say, 'mais depuis longtemps, je m'oublie et j'ai franchi toute borne'. ${ }^{4}$ This idea of surpassing the limits of the acceptable can also be seen in terms of mistake. Elaine Pagels observes that the New Testament word for $\sin$ is 'hamartia', missing the mark. ${ }^{5}$ This is also an image Jahiz uses, as follows:

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Jolles, op. cit., p. 206.
See below: 9.1.2.
Quoted in E. Paglefs, The Gnostic Gospels (New York), p. 39.
Attributed to Lucian in Erasmus, op. cit., p. 94.
Pagels, op. cit., p. 123.
```

§19: 'and when width does not hit with its arrow . . . surpasses good proportion'
(ومتى لم يضربا لـعرض بسمهمه • • . وجاوز التعـل يل )

This is even more clear in the sense that the condtant antonym here for 'mistake' is 'correct' whose verbal form means 'to hit the mark':
§202: 'for if we hit the mark, it was the correct we were aiming at, and if we were mistaken . . .'
(فإن كنّ أصبنا فالصوابأردنا . . . وأن كنّا أخطأنا . . . )
(b) positive

The goal, the measure, etc. are the terms used to limit 'surpassing' in the risāla. It has been pointed out that they seem vague and abstract, but they do state that there is a norm, and beyond that there is the ab-normal, the excessive. Defining who is outside the norm is, customarily, the way in which the norm defines itself, not the other way around, as shown in The Gnostic Gospels. When Jahiz lauds the method of 'knowing the correct by knowing the mistake' (paraphrase: §11) he is not just writing about its advisability in the abstract, but is exemplifying this through A.W.: a figure excessive in size, age, ignorance, and contentiousness. This is neither vituperative nor gratuitous; one makes ridiculous in order to establish an alternative, a new norm, with its concomitant vocabulary: 'excess' is/is not 'permissible'.

$\overline{I I}$ Jप甘HZ

CHART III

| s | described | describer | description | action |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 13 |  |  | * والسزف |  |
| 19 |  |  |  |  |
| 84 |  | اششفقت من الدجاوزة لقدره |  |  |
| 86 |  |  |  |  |
| 105 |  |  |  |  |
| 113 |  |  |  | ـنازل لا يجاوزها |
| 117 |  |  | مترّضا لدجازوز القدر <br>  |  |
| 158 |  |  |  | وارة العقرب עا تكاد تجاروهِا |

CHART.IV

| permissible' |  |  |  | as: 'fraud through' |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| § | interrogative | hypothetical | negative | positive |
| 12 |  |  | الكستغلق الذى لا يجرز أن |  |
| 19 |  | ولئن جاز هـن ا الوصف |  |  |
| 37 |  |  |  | وجزت حساب . . |
| 47 | هـل يجوز أن |  |  |  |
| 111 |  |  |  | ,انت تجوز الغاية |
| 136 | هـل يجوز أن |  | ولم يجز |  |
| 137 |  |  | لا يجوز أن |  |
| 144 |  |  |  |  |
| 159 |  |  |  |  |
| 179 |  |  | لا يجوز المكاتبة |  |
| 189 | هـل يجوز قولهم |  |  |  |

CHART V

Jahiz's involvement: hypothetical: the Describer

| § | Surpassing | Mistake |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 84 | ابففت من المجاوزة لقد |  |
| 86 | فإن كنت . . . . ولم اتجاوز حد ولن كـت . . . . وجاوزت حد | ران كنت قد أخطأت الطريق |
| 89 |  | وان كنت أخطأت فلم أخطى ¢إلا |
| 202 |  | فإن كنّا قد أخطأنا |

Chapter Seven

## JOKE - II: SYNTAX

### 7.1 Different Contexts - Different Words?

Joke-I was an analysis of the role played by a word, namely, 'excess', both in its linear infections by synonymies and atonymies, and in its non-linear implications, namely, its semantic possibilities in different contexts, its use of polysemy. In Joke-II I will concentrate on contexts themselves, on the syntactic patternings which cause semantic change, using terms borrowed from classical rhetoric, and principles inherent in structuralism.

The fact that a word can have a quite different impact, or connotation, in different contexts is a commonplace, but often the analysis of this has focused on the word, not the context. As Max Black writes, '. . . it would be good to understand how the presence of one frame can result in metaphorical use of the complementary word, while the presence of a different frame for the same word fails to result in metaphor. 1

When translating, faced with the repetition of the same words, not exactly metaphorically changed, but transformed in their impact by use in different contexts (as was 'excess'), one could try to translate by use of different words in different contexts. This Adad does, in a passage

[^8]extending from paragraph 90 to 102.1 One can understand why he does, as the passage is one of gargantuan hyperbole, largely using repetition of identical words in the first part, synonyms in the second part, and constantly contrasting these with antonyms. It not only seems tiresome, but does not look like a coherent argument; it is full of what are known as 'empty rhetorical flourishes'.

### 7.2 Rhetoric or 'Ecart'

I would like to look at the question of whether the words in this passage do present an argument by looking, precisely, at their contexts (Black's 'frames'), or more specifically, the syntactic manipulations of context which are known as 'rhetorical'. A style of constant repetition and contradiction can be treated in two ways. One, it can be regarded as 'rhetorical', brimming with nameable devices. Two, it can be regarded as language's self-conscious reflection on the problem of expression itself.

The first point of view (realist) is a classical view, based on the idea of sense by essence, not relation. ${ }^{2}$ It assumes a reality which transcends language, and which language can state simply and directly if it so chooses. To choose not to, is to choose to substitute other words for the 'real' one, or to speak in a detour which adds 'une noblesse, une force, une grâce'. ${ }^{3}$ Thus, assuming a first 'real' meaning for a word implies that the choice of any other is an intentional fault, that rhetoric has its bases in conscious linguistic anomalies. This fault, to put it 1 See below: 7.5.

Aristotle, The Ethics of Aristotle (London, 1955), p. 32. P. Fontanier, Les Figures du Discours (Paris, 1968), p. 223.
another way, is subversion of the assumed coincidence of sign and sense, and, by extension, of the juxtalinearity of phrases with their thought.

The second point of view (nominalist, or structuralist) does not assume this original coincidence and juxtalinearity, but rather postulates that its absence constitutes, precisely, the nature of language. Saussure's arbitrary linguistic sign ${ }^{1}$ seeks its sense not in essence, but in relation. When Genette writes about the the 'synechdoche': sail, for ship, he points out that by this choice the sign is now ambiguous, not unambiguous, concrete, not abstract, and motivated, not arbitrary. ${ }^{2}$ Figure, for him, is thus not 'substituted' sign, or 'détour' in discourse, but the gap, the 'écart entre le signe et le sens'. ${ }^{3}$ It is on this 'ecart' which I will concentrate in discussing syntax in the risala.

### 7.3 Terms or Manipulations

Starting from the idea that sign and sense never coincide, and that a 'rhetorical' style is one of the most flagrant statements of language about its own 'fault', I will, however, use Fontanier's classical terms, simply because they are a way of signalling the multiple operations of 'écart', giving names to 'substitutions'. However, I prefer Artistotle's 'lengthened or contracted or altered', 4 and will use those terms also, as they convey an idea of internal manipulation, rather than substitution. For this

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Saussure, op. cit., p. 67.
G. Genette, Figures I (Paris, 1966), p. 219.
Ibid., p. 209.
Aristotle, Poetics (New York, 1969), p. 98.
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analysis, I will treat two areas, depending on whether a word, or a whole passage, is under threat of visible écart. Thus, if predication is equivalent to $A=B$, then in the first case, the word, $A$ or $B, i s$ under threat; in the second case, A, $B$, and $=, i . e$. their relationship, is under threat.

### 7.3.1 Integrity of passages

It is the second case, the integrity of passages, that I will discuss first. Assuming that a passage normally consists of statements aiming at clear attribution and predication, what one finds in this series of paragraphs are the 'delays', not unlike those described by Barthes in his analysis of 'realist' narrative,' what Fontanier would call a 'détour'. There is 'delay' by jumbling: (a) the persons in the discourse, (b) the subject of the discourse, (c) the tone of the discourse. Examples of these can be seen in the following phrases; Fontanier's terms appear in quotation marks, ${ }^{2}$ alongside occasional reference to their Arabic equivalents, in parentheses.
(a) jumbling of persons:
'communication' - comment to other: )
§90: 'so how . . .?' ) (التغات ( ${ }^{3}$.
'apostrophe' - participation of other: ) §93, 94: 'so praise be to him who . . .'
'exclamation' - comment to and participation of
other: (لهتافا)
§92: 'may God grant you long life . . .' . ابقاك الله
1 R. Barthes, $\mathrm{s} / \mathrm{z}$ (New York, 1971), p. 75.
2
Terms found on the following pages in Fontanier: 414, $371,370,366,372,386,367$.
3 Arabic terms here apud, J. Hajjar, Traité de Traduction (Beirut, 1977).
(b) jumbling of Subject:
'correction' - better subject: (الا ستدراك )
§100: 'no, rather, where is . . .' . . لا لا لا different levels of subject (specific to general) by: (الكُالم الجامع)
'interruption' - intervening subject:
\$90: 'and so it is favour . . .' . . . فإن النعسة
'Epiphonème' - concluding subject:
§102: 'and thus it is that beauty . . .'
(c) jumbling of tone:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 'interrogation' - false questioning: (الا ستفهام لغـير الاستفهام () } \\
& \text { §100: 'and where is beauty . . . if not in you } \\
& \text { and • . . اين الحسن • . . إلاّ فيك و. . }
\end{aligned}
$$

This last is, of course, the (in)famous 'rhetorical question' which dominates the risāla, and is prevalent in most hortatory literature, such as this passage from Bossuet: 'Est-ce lui? Est-ce lui? Est-ce là cet homme qui . . . C'est lui . . . 1

These 'delays' operate upon the integrity of the verbal equation: what is included in it, and how it is being stated. They are brief examples of a constant phenomenon in the risala: apparent stops, starts, and switching of discourse. In other words, the 'fault' is the threat of a whole other discourse taking over. By analogy with Aristotle's categories of change (albeit to a word), the first two (persons and subject) can be related to 'lengthening' and the third (tone) to 'alteration'. These operations, then, are based on

[^9]syntactic manipulation of context; a threat of change of context is a threat to semantic integrity, the frail liaison between sense and sign.

### 7.3.2 Integrity of words

This force of context is all the more obvious when one deals with sign-sense liaison in individual words. The manipulations that I will deal with here are via: (a) repetition (تكرار), (b) synonymy (تـرادف), (c) antithesis (bبا (b), (d) comparison (تشباه) , (e) hyperbole ( (f) irony (تهr).
(a) repetition

Though I will generally adduce only one example of each, it is worth looking at two examples of repetition, as they illustrate two different possibilities in this deceptively simple figure, whose formula might be represented as:
A...A...A... The first type can be seen in the following phrases, from paragraph 97:
'because joking is among those things that are some-
times ugly and sometimes beautiful, and injustice cannot be sometimes ugly and sometimes beautiful'

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { (ان المزأ هـ با يكون مرة قبيحا ومرة حسنا والظلم لا يكُون مرة قبيحا } \\
& \text { ومرة حسنا ) }
\end{aligned}
$$

The effect here is that repetition of the same words, in different contexts, brings into question the continued identity of those words.

The second example is in the serial repetition of words, such as the particle 'that' (أنّ) used seven times in the first half of paragraph 95, or the interrogative 'is . . .' ( 0 ) appearing sixteen times in paragraph 98. This is like Bossuet's 'Quelle ardeur, quelle impatience, quelle
impetuosite de desirs! Cette force, cette vigueur, ce sang chaud . . . 1 What happens is that Bossuet and Jahiz are introducing more and more new elements under cover of the same particle. Thus, though they deal differently with repetition, neither passage represents stasis in one semic field but, rather, expansion to another.
(b) synonymy

There is a similar manipulation with synonymy, whose formula could be represented thus: $A^{1} \ldots A^{2} \ldots A^{3}$. By being put into a list, the synonyms look in danger of reduction into the same, many words for one sense. A version of this is a figure Fontanier calls 'gradation' (ترتيب), and in paragraph 94, there are at least two gradations: one series of decrescendo, from harsh to soft, the other crescendo, from soft to harsh. The first has to do with A.W.'s pardon of a sinner:

Adjectives:
wifful (المتعـّد )
persistent (المصر)
manifest (المبادي)
remiss (لمتهاون (ل)

Verbs:
forgive (يعفو عن
dislike punishing (تتجافي عن عقاب)
disregard (تتغافل عن)
pardon (تصفح عن)

The second concerns A.W.'s increasing power to dispose:
except to you (الّالك)
except from you ( إلّا منك)
except for your discipline (اللاّ من تأديبك)
except for your setting straight (
your obedience (bاعتك)
your sufferance (احتمالك)
your requirements (ما يجب لك)
1 Cited in Desgranges, op. cit., p. 252.
your exhaltation ( تع⿰丬يك )
Thus, instead of collapse into the same by listing in synonymy, movement is made across a scale of possibilities, almost between oppositions.

## (c) antithesis

Outright oppositions, of course, abound, but their forms do not always have the same effect on the sign-sense liaison. It is, thus, worth looking at two different forms of 'antithèse'. The first is in paragraph 90:
'. . . so do it for (good) praise, and if you do not do it for (good) praise, so do it for (good) custom, and if you do not do it for (good) custom, so . . .' (فافعله لحسن الأحد وثة فإن لم تفعل نـلك لحسن الأحد وثة فعد إلى حسن العادة وان لم تفعله لحسن العادة . . . ) The antithesis is hidden in repetition of words, but what it consists of is taking one set of words and using them in different contexts (here: positive and negative), in a visibly onward moving argument. The formula is:
(A) context 1 - versus - (A) context 2; it is implied that A may not remain the same in two different contexts; it may have two meanings. This is the threat of expansion of a word, or polysemy.

An example of another type of 'antithèse' is in paragraph 91, and is the kind in which two opposifng words are joined by one context: i.e. (A vs. B) context. Here, the opposing semes 'I' (we) and 'you' are contrasted in similar grammatical situations, starting with their use with particles:

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'that I - with you'
```

'to me - against you'
عليك
'for me - on your part' عندك
لي
عنيّ
عنيّ
'between us - between you'
بينك
بينك بينـا
'our worth - your worth' قد رك أقنا
'we harm - you pardon'
تسئ تعـفر

```
with nouns:
and verbs: The sequential pairing of these antithetical semen (I-you) results in the impression of an opposition under threat, the threat of a contraction in which two differing things may come to mean one, and the sign lose its individual sense; it is the threat of a-semy.
(d) comparison

There is also frequent use of the figure 'comparison', 1 well exemplified in paragraph 93. Here, it appears in lists, as the formula \(A / B\) :
'your supposition - more powerful than - our certainty' (ظنّك أقوى من يقيننا )
'your intuition - more well established than - our eye witness' (وفرسُسْتك أثبت من عياننا ()
'your abstention - preferable to - our pains'
(ونوك ارجح من جههدنا )

Here, the sense of comparison, with its claims of: bigger, better, is in direct contradiction with the sense of the preceding signs, which are all on the insubstantial, ephemeral side. The signs, in this context, threaten their own sense: there is, again, potential a-semy.
(e) hyperbole

This threat of a-semy turns up in all the long lists of
1 For comparison and context, see below: 8.4.1.
exaggerated virtues of A.W.,' the figure known as 'hyperbole', and whose formula is: \(A^{*}=B\). One is at times faced with a frenetic piling up of these attributes, but there is usually always some indication of their absurdity. Such a technique can be seen in paragraph 99, whose increasing abstractness of praise ends in \({ }_{\mathrm{a}}^{\mathrm{n}}\) meaningless statement:
'and do you have something which goes beyond something or something which goes beyond it, or (as is) said: "if it were not thus, it would be better" or "if it were thus it would be more perfect"' \({ }^{2}\)
أحسن أو لو كان كنا لكان أتمّ )
(f) irony

An example such as this makes it obvious that the panegyric in question is ironic. The generic term for this in Arabic is (تهر) , and this species has its own name: 'confirmation of blame through that which resembles praise' (تأكيد النّم بما يشبه المدَ ( ) As Fontanier puts it, 'l'ironie consisted à dire par one raillerie, our plaisante, our sérieuse, le contraire de ce qu'on pence'. \({ }^{3}\) At a more analytical level, irony seems to be a good example of Cohen's definition of 'figure'. 'La figure est un conflit entry le syntagme et le paradigme, le discourse et le système'. \({ }^{4}\) The syntagm which states that A.W. is perfect is contradicted by the

1 Pellat mentions in his introduction, p. XIV, that anthologists later took these as models of panegyric. 2

I do not agree with Adad's version for this paragraph, neither for the beginning, where he says one must 'subtract' from A.W. in order to speak, nor at the end, in which he makes this second clause ('or if it . . .') negative also, thus losing all the pungency of the paradox.

Fontanier, op. cit., p. 145.
J. Cohen, Structure du Langage poétique (Paris, 1966), p. 126 .
paradigmatic understandings of 'A.W.' or of 'perfect'. Like the 'rhetorical question', this reversal of predication is standard in hortatory literature. Furthermore, in irony, though one may say the negative through the positive, one is usually saying both things; it is 'l'oscillation entre les extrêmes et le mouvement dialectique de contraire à contraire qui fait tout le jeu'. \({ }^{1}\) Here, the oscillation might be between the adjectives (perfect-imperfect), the copula (is-is not), or the subject (A.W.-X)

\subsection*{7.4 Semantic Blocks}

One cannot analyse further by remaining simply in statement as witness, here, contextual manipulations through features of syntax. Some brief analysis of these paragraphs in terms of witness by statement is in order. Looking at broad semantic values in the passage, they seem to form three separate blocks: \(\$ 92-95,96\) and \(97,98-102\), moving from concentration on the problem of the act, to that of attribution, to that of essence. (See Chart I.) Pellat's edition acknowledges division, but he considers \(\$ 96\) and 97 part of an 'original' text, and the others 'interpolations'. \({ }^{2}\) I would argue that through textual self-reference§§96 and 97 constitute definite liaison between the 'interpolated' paragraphs.

\subsection*{7.5 Act - Attribution - Essence}

Though in paragraphs 90 to 96 , the main subject seems to centre around the act, via the choices: punish-pardon,

\footnotetext{
1 V. Jankélévitch, L'ironie (Paris, 1964), p. 54. 2 See Pellat's note (1), p. VII.
}
the themes of act, attribution, essence, appear and disappear in most of the paragraphs, thus, in paragraph 91: act - attribution:
'and among your attributes is that you act, and among our attributes is that we attribute \({ }^{1}\)
(ومن صفاتك أن تفعـل ومن صفاتا ان نصف )
essence:
are/were
'you wou'ld ble like him who . . .' (كنت كن )
'you would become like him who . . .' (صرت كمن)
Paragraph 93 joins the first two again, thus:
act - attribution:
'and praise be to him who made . . . your act in accordance with your speech'
(فسبحان من جـعل • • • وفعلك وفق قولك )

From 'our speech (description)' to 'your speech', speech per se is an issue here.

In paragraphs 96 and 97, it is with this issue of speech as attribution that the discourse will cut off from one subject and re-orient itself to another, namely, from act: as 'punish-pardon', to the verbal side of this: 'blamepraise', and reference switches from A.W., to author and text. This will be reference to the author's use of blame in joking (Jahiz on A.W.'s shape) and its use with regard to joking itself. \({ }^{2}\)
§96: 'so as for my mentioning build and shape . . . and what separates us and you in that . . .' (فأما ذكري القن والخرط وما بيننا وبينك في ذلك )

\footnotetext{
1
See above: 7.1; Adad translates these three forms of 'attribute' by 'qualités . . . charactérisé . . . louange' thus erasing the visibility of the sign.
2 See below: 10.1.2 on textual layering: here, it is: in blame on 'blame' by blame etc. ( . . . تأكيد الن ب بعا) similar to that used with 'excess', above: 6!3.
}
§97: '(joking) . . . so if it is to be blamed . . .'
(المزا(ح . . . فأما أن يذّمّ )

This is interspersed with reflections on discrepancy between 'form' (لفظ) and 'content' (معنى) which cannot help but highlight the idea of irony. There is also commentary on 'excess' and 'mistake' 1 to be related to Jankélévitch's observation that irony is 'un savoir extra-lucide et si mâitre de so qu'il se rend capable de jour aver l'erreur.'2 The schema for interference of text in paragraphs 96 and 97 could be roughly presented in this form, which shows text as medium in change of subject:
\begin{tabular}{l|l} 
person: \\
blaming
\end{tabular}\(\rightarrow\left|\begin{array}{c}\text { text: } \\
\text { blaming } \\
\downarrow \\
\text { blamed }\end{array}\right| \rightarrow\) person:

The subject of attribution continues into 898 ; through, ostensibly: A.W.: he appears in a list which moves from overstatement ((no) limit: غاية) to understatement (gesture: - (إشارة
'is not the limit of the beautiful, description of you
وهـل غاية الجميل الاّ وصفك
'is not adornment of eloquence, praise of you
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { وهـل زين البليغ اللاّ هد حك } \\
& \text { غرض سواك } \\
& \text { مثل غيرك } \\
& \text { رجز الاّل فيك } \\
& \text { الاّ بذكرك } \\
& \text { الأأبصار الاّل عليك } \\
& \text { الإِشارة الاّ لك }
\end{aligned}
\]
'objective except you
'example other than you
" "rajaz" (metre) except in you
'except by mention of you
'glances on any but you
'gesture to anyone but you'
```

1
See above: 6.2.
Jankélévitch, op. cit., p. 59.

```

Thus the series ends in the silent, perfection such that it stills the word.

Perfection as a problem of speech, a problem for the describer, appears in the next paragraph, 99. As already mentioned (see above p. 131, note 2) I disagree with Adad's reading of this. I read it as further irony: the necessity of keeping A.W. in mind, as model, in order not to put speech itself in question. In the second part of the paragraph, there is more hyperbole, leading to phrases that say, essentially, nothing.
§99: 'and what matter of yours has no limit, and what thing from you is not the ultimate, and do you have in you any thing which goes beyond something, or something which goes beyond it . . .' (وايّ أ مرك ليس بغاية؟ واي شيءّ هنك ليس في النها ية؟

This ends in the meaningless statement quoted under hyperbole, another instance of collapse in silence.

The ending of both of these paragraphs \((98,99)\) suggests the attribute 'ineffable', which seems a possible reading, considering, briefly, those suggested in the subsequent paragraphs:
§100: immutable
§101: invisible
§102: incorruptible
It is obvious that these are a little farfetched for any mortal, let alone A.W. As Gracian writes about 'figures par exageration':

C'est pau que de parker du possible si on ne transcended pas à l'impossible. Les autres figures disent ce que est, celle-ci, ce quip pourrait être, et ne seen contented
même pas, puisqu'elle a l'audace d'unir les contraires. \({ }^{1}\) Expression via contraries gives one two choices: either both contraries are valid, \({ }^{2}\) or one is a mistake. The double level of irony seems to pose this question. If one adds hyperbole to this, one gets the following schema:


So, as well as irony about A.W., this series of paragraphs involves the problem of attribution, per se, and what \(I\) have emphasized is that this is matched by its exposition: the problematic of the relationship of sign to sense, showing up in 'rhetorical' devices, or: syntactic subversions of semantic values.
CHART I
By semes
(* appears in multiple instances)
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{ACT} & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{attribute} & Essence \\
\hline \(s\) & action & punish-pardon & blame-praise & describe & state \\
\hline 90 & * ف &  & & فص, & \\
\hline 91 & * & * عقابح & & * \(ص\), & \\
\hline 92 & & عter & ¢ & & \\
\hline 93 & * & عهع عتب & & \% & \\
\hline \(\underline{94}\) & & ع، & & & \\
\hline 95 & & \begin{tabular}{l}
* \\
عور* شفيع ع عقاب
\end{tabular} & & & \\
\hline \(\underline{96}\) & & 过 &  & كام /لفظ وبغنى /جد وهزل & \\
\hline 97 & & & , &  & \\
\hline 98 & & & \(\tau^{\text {د }}\) & 迷 & \\
\hline 99 & & & & *ing/ /75 & \\
\hline 100 & & & & & * \\
\hline 101 & & & & & - \\
\hline 102 & & & & & * \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Chapter Eight

JOKE - III: SEMANTICS

The double level of representation depicted in the irony of Joke - II, an 'is' which 'is not' possible for A.W., puts 'zero degree' attribution and predication in question. For Jahiz's reflections on the referential power of words, Joke - III will focus on the interrelationships of certain recurrent words and their contexts, as well as semantic ambiguity and how it is blocked, keeping in mind Jolles comment on the Joke, '. . . l'univers de comique est un univers où les choses se nouent en se defaisant ou en se dénouant'. \({ }^{1}\)

\subsection*{8.1 Collocation}

Despite disparagements of the coherence of Jahiz's style, such as Beeston's, 'a corruscation of associated ideas often with only the slenderest logical connection between them', \({ }^{2}\) there are definite patterns which emerge in Jahiz's use of words. To take a specific example, I will examine the use of the semes 'wonder' (عجب) and 'strange' (غريب). Considering the plethora of information in the risāla on the marvelous in mythology and nature, it is interesting to note that the semes mentioned do not occur in these contexts. Rather, this 'strange/wonder'
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1 Jolles, op. cit., p. 207 (my italics).

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2
A.F.L. Beeston, op. cit., p. 2.
pair occur almost always in the following two contexts: first, description of A.W., second, reference to description itself, or what \(I\) will refer to as text; it is only at the very end of the risāla that there is a change of context.
8.1.1 A.W. - Wonder - Text

Enough has been said about the role of A.W. as foil: for 'excess' and 'mistake' in Joke - I, and the selfcontradictory operations of irony in Joke - II. Suffice it to point out that in connection with the semes in question, the initial focus is, invariably, A.W. In this first example, antithetical attributes are presented, and the whole statement is in terms of hyperbole:
§9: A.W. - 'strange'
' and that you have the pure, and they have the mixed; this is equal to the strange which we do not know, and the amazing which we cannot attain' وأن لك الصافي ولهم المشوب هـنا سِوى النغريب الني لا نعـرفه والبديع الني لا نبلنه

In the next case, antithetical attributes (in terms of poetry) are joined to create an anomolous situation, deriving from use of the analogy: A.W. = poetry
§15: A.W. - 'strange' - poetic metres (text)
'and from among the strange (things) which you were given and the amazing with which you are graced . . . you are the "extended" and you are the "wide" . . .'
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { ومن غريب ما أعططيتُ وبد يع ما أُيتُ . . . . فأنت الدد يد } \\
& \text {. . . }
\end{aligned}
\]

In paragraphs 17 and 31 , poetry is cited, ostensibly, again, to describe situations analogous to that of the 'wonder' of
A.W.; these will be noted below, in 8.3 .1 and 8.2.4 respectively, let it merely be stated here that they are further collocations of: A.W. - wonder - text (poetry).

Paragraph 104 is one of the most explicit instances of text as mediator, through analogy, between description of one physical 'wonder' and another:
§104: A.W. - 'strange and wondrous': mosque -
text: Jahiz's
'"strange beauties we do not know, and wonders of manufacture we have not met" . . . that is a topos stolen from me in description of you, and taken from my books in your praise'
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { (غرائب حسن لم تعـرفها وعجائب صنعـة لم تـقفعليها • • • فان }
\end{aligned}
\]

The idea of people's wonderment is also presented in connection with different types of text:
§105: A.W. - text: Jahiz's - listener's 'wonder'
'so do not wonder 0 listener . . . that I am
excessive, for if you saw him . . .'
(فلا تعجب|ٔيها الساهع • • • أني مفرط فإنا رأيته )
§165: text: Jahiz's - people's 'wonder'
'and people might wonder at my verbosity'
(وتد تعـجـب ناس من إطالتي )
§82: text: discourse of M.. - wonder: Jahiz's
' and I used to wonder at Muhammad ibo Abdul
Malik. . . who never said after . . .'
وقد كَتـت أتعجّجّب من هحـهد بن عبد الهلك . . . لم يتل قط . . . .
§204: wonder: Jahiz's - the extraordinary
'and I used to wonder about everything that
departed from the ordinary'
```

    §204: wonder: Muhammad's - wondrous: their saying:
    (contd)
(Quran: 13.5)
'and if you (Muhammad) wonder, then wondrous is
their saying . . .'

```
                    (وإ تحجب فعج (G)
                            wonder: Muhammad's - wondrous: (God's act)
                                    (Quran: 37.12)
            'rather, you wondered and they mocked'
                    (بل عجبـت؛ ويسخرون (

The implications and references here will be discussed below: 8.4.2. Suffice it here to point out the many levels of text at which this collocation with 'wonder' is made. The last two examples concern text at the level of expression, and of word.
§182: text: discourse - 'wonder' of 'magic' 'as he heard a man talking about amazing, wondrous, delicate, subtle discourse'
(وسمع رجلا يتكلمّ بكلام بليغ عجيب لطيف رقيق )
§28: text: expression - 'wonder' of subtlety 'and the most wondrous of expressions, according to you is (that which is) subtle, and sweet and light and easy'
(أعججبالألفاظـعندل، ما رقّ ونـبـ وخنّ وسهل )
8.1.2 A.W. - Sign - Text

Another pattern that emerges in the risāla is the collocation of 'wonder' and text with 'sign' (ليل), 'proof' (برهـان),'beacon' (آی), and 'witness' ( شـها ). Again, the first instances of this involve reference to A.W.
§17: A.W. - 'wonder' - 'beacon' 'and were there no other wonder in you but that
you were the first whom God made to worship him with steadfastness despite the mistake of the senses . . . you would have been in your tallness a beacon to the wayfarer'
(ولو لم يكن فيك من العجـب إلآل أنّك) أوّل من تعبّبه اللّه بالصبر على خطأ الحس • • • لقد كنت في طولك آية للسا بلين ) §13: A.W. - 'proof' and 'witness' - text: Jahiz's 'and is there on earth any . . . clearer proof or more reliable witness than my witnessing to what you claim about yourself' (وهـل في الأرض • • • ودليل أوضح وشاهد أصد ق بن شـاهـي

على ما آدعيتُ لنفسك ) As with paragraphs 17 and 31 , and the use of poetic quotes for analogy with the 'wonder' of A.W., paragraph 25 refers to poetic quotes in paragraph 24 as 'proofs' and 'signs' for A.W. These quotes will be discussed below in 8.4.1.

Finally, there are instances in which 'sign' concerns text in the sense of expression and style.
§103: proof and sign - text: poetic imagery - A.W. 'and if it were not that we cannot say . . . in description of praise: "he is more handsome than . . ." there would be in that shining proof and clear sign'
(ولو لم يكن إلآ أنّا لا نستطيع أن نقول • . . عند الوصف والـد حة هـو
أحسن بن القمر. . . هان في ذلك البرهان النيّر والد ليل البيّن )
§116: sign - text: discourse of joking
'and of the merits of joking is that it is a sign to well-being'
(ومن فضائل المزَ أنه د ليل على حسن الــال )

This last use of 'sign' occurs in a paragraph in which
'joking' is treated in terms of the Case, with the concomitant vocabulary of 'defender', 'preferer', etc.; in other words, it resembles personification, a type of metaphorical language. Though there may seem little metaphor in the risala if it is understood in terms of rhetoric as 'a trope . . . a deviation', 1 there is constant analogy, using the mechanics of what Ricoeur calls 'semantic' metaphor, 'a phenomenon of predication, an unusual attribution precisely at the sentence-level of discourse'. \({ }^{2}\)

The question here is to what extent the mechanics of language encourage this, and to what extent Jahiz takes advantage of it. The slides of reference noted in connection with the words 'wonder/strange' and 'sign' involve text, and its expressive mechanism. In the introduction, with respect to reference and identity, the question was posed as to how one arrives at definitions in a text like this, and it was posited that assuming an authorial point of view constitutes a reduction of possibilities. \({ }^{3}\) Furthermore, within the thesis, I have insisted on expansion by the polysemy of textual layering and the synonymy of cumulative citation. Here, I intend to consider briefly (1) single instances \({ }^{4}\) of signification in which word as ontological referent is put in question, and (2) what methods Jahiz uses to stabilize such semic wandering.

\footnotetext{
1
P. Ricoeur, The Rule of Metaphor (London, 1978), p. 44. 2

Ibid.
3 See above: 0.1.3.
4 All examples here (with the exception of \(\S 21\) ) are from paragraphs cited in connection with the 'wonder' or 'sign' collocation, viz. \(\$ 9 / 15 / 17 / 31 / 104 / 105 / 165 / 82 / 204 / 182 / 28 / 13 /\) 25/24/103/116/205/207.
}

\section*{8. 2 Identity}

\subsection*{8.2.1 Essence}

The nature of a thing in itself, whether it is a whole or a sum of parts, is posed in the Damascenes' questions on the 'wonder' of their mosque:
§104: reference - whole/part
'we do not know whether the essences of its parts are nobler as essences, or whether it is the composition of its pieces as compositions of pieces'
(وما ند رى أجواهر هقطهاتها أكم في الجواهر أم تنضيد أجزائه
في تنضيدات الأجزاء )

\subsection*{8.2.2 Antonymy}

Whether a thing itself can simultaneously contain antithetical attributes is a question posed after analogy has been drawn between A.W. and poetry:
§15: reference - antithetical attributes \(0!\)
'so what poetry, to be able to combine all the metres, and \({ }_{\wedge}\) what individual, to be able to combine roundness and tallness'
(فيا شعـراً جمع الأعاريض ويا شخصًا جـمع الا ستدارة والطول )

\subsection*{8.2.3 Synonymy}

Synonymy operates at various levels, from definitions such as that cited below, to the associations of implicit analogy made through citation of quotes, to be discussed below: 8.4.1.
§13: reference - referent plus
'know that envy is the name of that which surpasses competition'
(إعلم أن الـحسد اسمّ لـا فضـل عن الـنافسة )

The question of semic constancy of a word in different contexts arises often, and in the following case involves the transformation of fault to virtue by analogical transfer:
§31: reference - referent transformed
'and there is no fault in her other than the yellow of her eye; thus it is with mature birds who are yellow of eye'
(ولا عيب فيها غير شكلة عينها كن للعبا ق. الطير شكل عيونهـا )
8.3 Mistake

\subsection*{8.3.1 Via language}

This ambiguity of the seme is inherent in language; \({ }^{1}\) context change may even require change of word, as is evident in the quote Jahiz uses in connection with truth and the outward appearance of A.W.:
§17: reference - referent denied
'she got fat and her calves changed, her fatness was not fatness, and her hump was not a hump' ' (سمنتٌ واستحشَ أكرعُـهـا لا النيّ نيّ ولا السنام سنام )
Granted this referential inadequacy, one bridges the gap by reference to something else; this is the conscious choice of style, or, as Genette would say, the 'motivated' sign. \({ }^{2}\)

\subsection*{8.3.2 Via style}

In the same paragraph, there is an instance of this choice in simple comparison to a known image:
§17: reference - referent renamed:
'her limbs got thin at the middle of her belly,
1 See above: 7.2.
a hump like the tiled castle of al-Hajiri'

What is interesting is that not only does Jahiz highlight the problem of mistake of word and reference here, but the quotes are used between two references to 'mistake'; of the eyes, and of the senses or, a further problem, that of epistemological reference.

\subsection*{8.4. Context}

\subsection*{8.4.1 Endoxy}

In the 'figure' comparison, the choices are usually through reference to the 'known', the pool of endoxy whether it be by proper noun or by stock image. Thus, when A.W. compares himself, it is to a long list of personages:
§21: reference - referent by name: 'and those who resemble you in shortness are many . . . and I have often seen you justify yourself by citing . . . (list of proper names)' \({ }^{1}\)

On the other hand, when Jahiz himself posits the problem of comparing A.W., he cites a long list of (by now?) stock images:
§103: reference - referent by picture
'. . . he is handsomer than the moon . . . as
if his neck were a silver ewer . . .'


The question of whether these are stock images, cliches, is not unimportant, because if they are clichés, they are a powerful blocking mechanism to semic wandering; they cannot

This list of proper names is so convincing that designation acts on attribution: so for those persons historically unidentified (i.e. Aufa ibn Zurara) Pellat's identification is 'il ressort du texte qu'il etait de petite taille' index, p. 6, and see above: 4.3.1.
be changed by context. As Riffaterre writes,
alors que pour tout procede de style, la valeur et le sens sont entièrement déterminés par le contexte, le cliché est exceptionnel en ceci que sa structure le prédestine à certaines fonctions quel que soit le contexte ou il parâ̂t. 1

In this connection, one might ask just how standard are the images cited in serial analogy, i.e. the phenomenon of multiple quotes centred around a keyword? An example may be taken from those in \(\S 24\) cited in paragraph 25 as 'clear proofs' for A.W. (براهينك الواضحة ) :
§24: in the 'case' for 'wide':
four 'poetic' quotes:
'as if the land of God, though it is wide, were a hunter's snare to the fearful wanted man'
(كأن بلاد اللّه وهي عريضة على الـخائف الـطلوبكنّة خابل )
'and in the wide world there is a way for man'
(. . . .وفي الأرض للمرء العـريضة هذهب؟)
'do not you two envy me, may God bless you, on this earth with all its width to make room for me'
(لا تحسداني بارك اللهّ فيكما على الأرض ذات العَرْض تُوسعـا ليا )
'we traverse the earth and we encounter the earth, surely the country has overwhelmed us with width'
(تتضَ أرضْا ونـلاقي أرضًا إن البلاد غلبتتا غرضًاً )

Thus, the word 'wide' has made its 'case' in its different forms, as adjective, noun and adverb. All these attempts to define the attribute 'wide' with reference to A.W. have involved another semantic focus (and synonymic associations), that of the world, and its status as asylum. This is underlined by the last 'proof', the Quranic quote (57.21):

\footnotetext{
1 Riffaterre, Essais de Stylistigue Structurale (Paris,
} 1971), p. 181.
'and a garden whose width is like the width of the heavens and the earth'
( وجّنّة عرضها كعـرض السماء والأرض )

This is ultimate width and ultimate asylum. No matter how flat the reference, or standard the image, by serialization in quotes there is almost always semantic expansion. Paradoxically, situation in a quote, in a 'known' image, also acts as semantic stabilization.

\subsection*{8.4.2 Orthodoxy}

Thus, it is in citation of text that semic wandering is most particularly fixed, and Jahiz gives examples of this in connection with further Quranic quotes; another way in which orthodoxy defines itself \({ }^{1}\) is through specification of allusion. In both of the paragraphs to be cited there is an example of potential semic wandering, and an example of semic stabilization by context.

In paragraph 182, semic wandering is represented in Jahiz's choices for how a word may be understood:
§182: reference - polysemy:
'and people said, "surely he is uglier than
magic" when they meant the same topos to which it is compared, and the topos attributed to it, and magic itself'
 , الهعـنى الهحمول عليه والسـحر نفسهه )

Just before this, however, he gives an instance in which vague reference is made precise by its contextualization as synonym in a series:

\footnotetext{
For another version of definition, see above: 6.3.2.
}
§182: reference - synonymy:
'and God has mentioned sorcerers in the Quran and informed about Harut and Marut and reported on the "spitters on knots"' (113.4)
(وقد ذكر اللّه السحرة في القتران وأخبر عن هاروت؛ وماروت: وخبّرعن "النفّاثات في العـقل " )
In paragraph 204, there is an instance of possible semic wandering through multiple uses of the same word, and Jahiz's explicit reflection on this. Then he proposes two ways in which this might be blocked: first, by syntactic manipulation of language, second, by concurrent contextualization in sacred text.
§204: reference - wandering
'I used to wonder . . . wondrous . . . . wonderful
. . . wondrous . . .'
(
Jahiz's comment:
'by the entry of all of them (extraordinary things) into the category of the wonderful, they all leave the category of the wondrous'
(فبدخول كلّها في باب التعتجب خرجت بأجمعـها من باب العجبب )
reference - fixed by opposition: (and context)
'"rather you wondered, and they mocked"' (37.12)
("بل عججبت ويَّخرون " )
reference - fixed by context:
'"and if you (Muhammad) wonder, then wondrous is their saying"' (13.5)
(وان تع-جبٌ فعجبٌ قولهم) (
This is a very laconic reference, but the combination of these two Quranic allusions rounds out the implications of
the word 'wonder'; this is based on their contexts.
The contexts of these two Quranic citations are the following:

The rest of verse 5, 'their saying' is:
'when we were dust we would surely be in a new creation'
(. • • إنا كنّا ترابا لفي خلق جد يد )

The part of verse 11 directly preceding 12 is:
'we created them from firm clay' (إنا خلقتاهم eن طين لازب) Thus, identification of 'wonder' is: creation of man from clay, and re-creation from dust.

From the point of view of subsequent Islamic literature, it is interesting to see how fixed the definition remains. There seem to be two ways in which this seme can be regarded: as wonder in the world through God's creation, and as historic vindication of Islam and the Arabs' mission. The first can be seen in Mohammad Arkoun's comment, 'le merveilleux litteraire . . . se nourrit des examples nombreux par lequels le Coran cherche à exciter l'emerveillement ('ajab) de l'homme devant les merveilles de la creation'. 1 The second emerges from Andre Miquel's analysis of a tale from the thousand and one nights: 'Mais le vrai merveilleux, c'est le miracle que Gharib réalise et sur sa destinée et sur celle du monde . . . à cette histoire d'arabes triomphants . . . car le merveilleux, c'est que cette histoire ait existe. \({ }^{2}\)

There is, thus, transition from 'wonder/strange' as description of the physical reality of A.W. to that of God's

1 M. Arkoun, 'Peut-on Parler de Merveilleux dans le Coran?', L'Etrange et le Merveilleux dans L'Islam Médiéval (Paris, 1978), p. 2.
A. Miquel, Un Conte des Mille et Une Nuits; Ajib et Gharib (Paris, 1977), p. 290.
creation. Included is the wonder of text itself as sign, and of language which allows expression of such 'wonders'. Without specific textual grounding, words can continue to float in what I have called partial reference. \({ }^{1}\) Jahiz has used both mechanisms in the risala, and the next instances of 'wonder/strange' at the end of the risãla seem, in counterpoint to the Quranic quotes, purposely ambiguous. §205: 'and know that there remains no more of a devastating wonderer than the share of the tongue, and no more of a devastating listener but the portion of hearing'


\(\S 20 \not 7\) : 'so the correct today is strange, and its master is unknown, and the wonder is among those who are correct though obscure, and speak though forbidden' (فالصواب اليوم غريب وصاحبه •جهـول فالیجب مبن يصيب وهو مغـهور ويقول وهـو منـوع) 'so if you have been just, so you have done the strange thing' (فإن أنصفتـ فتد أغربتت)

For this reason, I detect an irony in the over-specification of Add's translation for the first part of the second quote: 'La raison (-! ! - الصو) de nos jours, est quelque chose de proscrit (! غريب). . \({ }^{2}\)

In Joke - I, I analysed Jahiz's use of a word in differen contexts, the plays of polysemy. In Joke - II, on the other hand, I examined the problem of differing contexts, creations of polysemy (or a-semy) by textual manipulation.

\footnotetext{
See above: 3.5.2.
2 Adad, op. cit., p. 319.
}

Finally, in Joke - III, it emerges that if it is this possibility of polysemy, of ambiguity, in words, which is necessary to attribution and predication, at some point that ambiguity must be blocked. This is the function of context: of text, serial texts, and most particularly, a sacred text.

\section*{LITERARY TYPOLOGIES}

So far, I have taken each of Jahiz's registers of discourse, whether insistent questioning (the Riddle), Accumulation of citations (Memorabilia), argument and speculation (the Case), or ironic address (the Joke), as exemplifications of one of Jolles' 'Formes Simples'. As this may appear to be tacit agreement with Pellat and others that there is some difficulty in conceiving of the risāla as a coherent whole, I would now like to identify various literary typologies to see if the risäla fits any of these patterns, and will mention, by chapter, those discourse registers most closely implicated.

I will, thus, consider the risāla in terms of three typologies, based on aspects isolated by Pellat and Adad. Because of the controversy which Pellat sees as its base, I will discuss it first in terms of presentation of 'fact' (Rhetoric); because of the question of occasion and recipient, I will then discuss it in terms of fiction ('Histoire'), and because of the question of idiosyncracy of style, I will, finally, discuss it in terms of non-fact, non-fiction (Mannerism). In each section, I will rely on commentary by one critic, and occasional comparison with homologous models.

\subsection*{9.1 Fact}

\subsection*{9.1.1 'Enonce'vs. 'Enonciation'}

The problem with this text as argumentation is the assumption that it is a personal and idiosyncratic statement of a more general argument, in defence of Islam, or some contemporary form of it. The issue thus becomes similar to that of figurative versus literal speech, metaphorical versus 'common' usage: viz. the first 'common' form of statement onto which Jahiz has appended his idiosyncratic style. It is the opposition of what the French call 'l'énoncé and 'l'enonciation', and can be seen in the terms of opposition associated with rhetoric and its decline:
\begin{tabular}{lll} 
Barthes: & 'évidence' & vs. \\
Foucault: langage'1 \\
" 'pensée' & vs. & 'parole' 2
\end{tabular} By these standards, anything explicitly persuasive, blatantly 'literary', and identifiably 'transportable' is to be shunned by pure thought in search of itself and its 'factual' bases. 4

There has been, however, modern re-appraisal of the validity of these oppositions and as a practising jurist, Charles Perelman has written on the indissolubility of argumentation and language in terms which enable one in turn to compare the risāla with rhetoric. The resemblances are many and obvious, so here I will merely isolate those points of particular relevance to the discourse registers analysed, and summarize them under the headings: (1) witness,
(R. Barthes, 'L'Ancienne Rhetorique', Communications
(Paris, 1970), p. 192 .
2 M. Foucault, L'Ordre du Discours (Paris, 1971), p. 74.
3 Ibid.
4 G. Genette, Figures II (Paris, 1969), p. 40.
(2) statement, and (3) rhetor.
9.1.2 Witness

Witness figures as premise, apud Perelman: what is thought to have been experienced and already generally accepted as authoritive. \({ }^{1}\) As isolated in the discourse registers, this is:


\subsection*{9.1.3 Statement \({ }^{5}\)}

No matter how authoritative the witness, Perelman's main point is that argumentation's real basis is in the 'elaboration d'un langage adequat'. \({ }^{6}\) Precedent is based on enumerations and associations of elements, as 'la choix de certains éléments leur donne une présence \({ }^{8}\). Analogies are imaginative as well as argumentative, 'elles servent tantôt à structurer une réalité inconnue tantôt à prendre position a son egard. \({ }^{9}\) Thus, one sees in the risäla:

Case II: 'presence' in syntagm
Case III: 'structure' in analogy
1 Ch. Perelman, L'Empire Rhetorigue (Paris, 1977), p. 36.
2 Ibid., p. 38.
3 Ibid., p. 39 .
4 Ibid., p. 38 .
5 Witness and statement have already been mentioned in
Aristotelian terms: 'preuves hors technique', and 'preuves
techniques' respectively, see above: 6.1.2, 6.1.3.
6 Perelman, op. cit., p. 22.
7 Ibid.
8 Ibid., p. 49.
9 Ibid., p. 66.

In rhetoric, of course, the motivating force is controversy, and the speaking voice is partisan. The exercise lies in transformation of the partisan into the norm, and here there is a very delicate balance to be kept by the rhetor. He may adduce authority (the 'witness' already mentioned) with no reluctance to name it as such, viz. Jahiz's:
'and the saying of' ( )
'and he (the poet) said' ( وقال)
He may explicitly present his text not only as party to, but as silencer of, dispute:
§11: '. . . and when you know that, you will be delivered from us as we hope to be delivered from you'
 He may also, through coincidence of 'énonciation' and 'énoncé' admit his own complicity in the case in the following terms:


\subsection*{9.1.5 Subversion}

As accuser, he may make it very clear that the defender is not the site of norm:
A.W. is 'excessive' Joke I\% 'text is excessive'
A.W. is 'blamed' Joke II: text is 'blamed'

However, the syllepsis that is apparent above (A.W.:text) puts authorial voice in question also. Added to this are tacit admissions of authorial
'surpassing' Joke I
'mistake'
"

Not only does Jahiz undermine the authorial voice (Joke I), but also syntax (Joke II) and sign (Joke III). By language, then, the focus of norm is confused, and this subversion of authorial voice taints the risala as argumentation. The 'enonciation' puts in question the 'enoncé'.

\subsection*{9.2 Fiction}

\subsection*{9.2.1 Representation vs. Narration}

In this typology, the oppositions lie in representation and narration, paradigm and syntagm, or what K . Stierle calls 'exemple' and 'histoire'. The French word 'histoire' is nicely ambiguous. Thus, A.W. may be a person with an identity in history (i.e. a defender in a rhetorical battle) or a fictional character whose story is being told. These are both figures of anecdote, of that particularity of experience which Stierle sees as catalyst in development of fiction, from the univocity of 'exemple' to the equivocity of 'histoire'. \({ }^{1}\) Since A.W. has been taken seriously as individual, \({ }^{2}\) I intend briefly to examine the elements emerging in the first paragraphs, 1 to 14 , which constitute: (1) his persona, (2) his world, and (3) his society.

\subsection*{9.2.2 Persona}

Though paragraphs 1 to 3 deal with the rhetoric of claim and counter-claim, these claims concern that first, basic, fictional motif, the physical looks and age of the protagonist. The opposition of 'reality' and fiction is immediately introduced, as Jahiz prefaces his epithets on A.W. with the verb 'to be' (كان) and A.W. on himself with the verb 'to
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1 K. Stierle, op. cit., p 187.
2 See above: 6.1.1.

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claim' (ادّعى). In other words, it is a fiction about a fiction.

\subsection*{9.2.3 The World}

As amply demonstrated in previous chapters, the persona of A.W. is one of aberration, of excess in physique and in beliefs. Furthermore, the ancient idea that law (norm) has its foundation, not merely in convention, but in Nature, \({ }^{1}\) means that Nature itself is disturbed by such aberration. A.W. is presented as abnormal, so the space he creates around himself must also be abnormal. Thus, in these first paragraphs, there exists a situation of imbalance of which A.W. is the centre.
§10: unbalanced emotions:
'and what is this envy which grieves you.' (وما هنا الحسد الني أُكْــك ) inappropriate actions:
'and have you seen a worse deal and a weaker power than one who runs a thoroughbred with a half breed'
(وهـل رأيت أخسسر صفتة ولا أوهن قوة مهن يجرى العتاق مع الكوادن ) upside-down situation:
'and have you exaggerated . . . and created renown for the obscure'
(وهـل زدت) • .وأنشاتُ للـخا مل زكرًا )

\subsection*{9.2.4 Others}

Though these descriptions are absurd in their extremes, they present two of the basic elements of fiction, man and his situation. The third element, a necessary dynamic in 1 Cicerón, Des Lois (Paris, 1965), p. 136.
the creation of story, is the encounter with others. This is present in the risàla from its inception. First, in paragraph 4, Jahiz reveals that his stand also represents that of others:
§4: 'when our patience began to wear'

> (لـّا طال اصطبار ( )
and that he will present evidence to the largest possible society:
'to the settled and the nomadic' (للحاضر وlالبان)
Second, this is considerably reinforced in paragraph 14, which introduces the opinions of others on A.W.:
§14: 'and they had known . . . that you have, along with length of thigh when mounted, length of back when sitting'
(وقد علموا . . أن لك مع طول الباد كـا طول الظهر جـالـشا")
Furthermore, this is given greater dramatic possibilities by including direct speech of \(A . W\). rejecting the view of society:
'and what do \(I\) care if people see me as wide as, in
God's eyes, I am tall and handsome'
(وْا علىّ أن يراني الناس عريضا . . . وأنا عند اللـه طويل جـميل )
However, A.W. is never anything but 'wide'; the question is not one of anecdote and individual transformation, but of the space between extremes. Excess in persona leads to aberration in the world, and to contention with others. This is a clear scheme of anti-'imitatio', of exemplum reversed.

\subsection*{9.2.5 Polarization}

As pointed out in Joke II, \({ }^{1}\) through irony there is concurrence of negative and positive, of identity and difference. The first aspect of this is obverse representations. If one were to take the concept of 'imitatio' by identity in Stierle's 'exemple', and by analogy in Auerbach's 'figura' \({ }^{2}\) and add the reversals effected by irony, one would get the following concurrent representations in the risāla:
\begin{tabular}{c|c|c}
\begin{tabular}{c} 
irony \\
(reversal)
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{c} 
'exemple' \\
(identity)
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{c} 
(analogy)
\end{tabular} \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{c} 
negative \\
\(\downarrow\)
\end{tabular}\(\rightarrow\) & marvel: of A.W. & width: of A.W. \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{c}
\(\downarrow\) \\
positive \(\rightarrow\)
\end{tabular} & marvel: \begin{tabular}{l} 
God's \\
creation
\end{tabular} & attibute: God's \\
space
\end{tabular}

The second aspect of the concurrence of postive-negative in ironic exemplum is that such non-individualized representation, most particularly representation through the grotesque attribute ('wide'), is an opening to relationships within the cosmos, and polarities of experience lost in later Realist literature. This is a point made by M. Bakhtine in his consideration of Rabelais and forms of the protonovel. \({ }^{3}\) Fiction here is constituted by extension in space, not change in time.

Thus, just as persuasion by rhetoric was subverted in the excesses of authorial voice, so the individual experience of 'histoire' is subverted in the polarizations of irony.

\section*{See above: 7.5.}

2 E. Auerbach, Mimesis (Princeton, 1974), p. 49.
3 M. Bakhtine, L'Oeuvre de François Rabelais (Paris, 1970), p. 319 .

\subsection*{9.3.1 'Represente' and 'Representation'}

There is a literary typology which accommodates the arguing voice and its self-derision, as well as the persona and his exemplification. It is a typology of layerings and concurrences, the coincidence of 'represente' and 'representation'. Its features are not dissimilar from those in the risāla, and there are Greek, baroque, and contemporary models to which I will briefly refer. I will call it Mannerist, and rather than try to duplicate the elegant definition of the genre given by Stefan Sperl, \({ }^{1}\) I would like to examine what \(I\) consider its dynamic principles:
(1) excess, (2) dislocation, and (3) ambiguity.

\subsection*{9.3.2 Excess}
(a) plethora

Excess occurs in two ways, in the multiplication of things stated, and the multiplicity of levels from which these are viewed. Joke - I deals with the theme of 'excess', symbolized from the start in exaggeration of physical attributes. The Riddle deals with the plethora of questions and subjects. These two elements are similar to Rabelais' presentation of Gargantuan body and Pantagruelic erudition, and are also found in the exhaustive references in Tristram Shandy.
(b) reference

The question of reference by citation has been mentioned in Memorabilia and Rhetoric in terms of legitimization, and in Joke - III in terms of semic expansion and textual blocking.

\footnotetext{
1 S. Sperl, 'Mannerism in Arabic Literature', Ph.D. thesis (University of London, 1977), pp. 261-76.
}

In the Mannerist model, its legitimizing role is selfconsciously displayed in layerings, in which the written authenticates the lived. An example is in this passage from Lucian's 'Icaromenippus', 'but as Homer says somewhere or other - having seen what was there, I suppose, just like me - "the Gods themselves" . . . \({ }^{1}\) This can be schematized as follows:
\begin{tabular}{c|c|c} 
implicit: reality & fiction & reality \\
\hline Homer says & + Homer saw & I say \\
\hline & I saw \\
(quote of \\
Homer)
\end{tabular}

In a similar way, the risala mixes the speech of 'he' and the speech of Jahiz, the witness of one with the witness of the other.

Furthermore, in the Mannerist style, the inside projection of reality by reference (source in text) is often as reliable as its outside projection (text as source). Not only does Pellat have trouble locating information outside Jahiz's own literary universe, Lucian's translator writes in a note, 'These events, in so far as they are historical, are not synchronous. For some of them . . . Lucian is our only sponsor. \({ }^{2}\) Of course, Rabelais and Lawrence Sterne are celebrated for their extravagant lists, which usually start with the known and, through analogy, create mythical universes. That Jahiz can be suspected of doing the same

Lucian, II (London, 1968), p. 315.
2 A.M. Harmon, trans. Lucian, op. cit., note 1, p. 295.
thing has been discussed in the Riddle, and in contemporary American literature the willed confusions of fact and fiction in text as source have engendered a style called 'faction'. (c) reflection

In addition to plethora in subjects and multiple layers of reference, excess, in the Mannerist style, exists on another level, that of reflections on the text. First, it takes the form of direct and indirect discourse within the text, beginning with a multiplicity of voices. In the risala, this can be observed within the discourse registers. For example, in Memorabilia, there is overlapping; the voice of 'he' is: (1) the voice of the poet, (2) the voice of the man of action (3.2), (3) the voice of the man of reflection (3.3).

Second, these voices are also set in opposition to each other, as in the 'I-you' voices: in Jahiz's questions (I) and A.W.'s answers (You), presenting the 'enigmes et plaidoyers' that Bakhtine cites as typical of the protonovel \({ }^{1}\) and that I have isolated as the different discourse registers of Riddle and Case.

Finally, in the autocriticism of the Joke is to be found the specific indirect discourse on direct discourse which is one of the constituents of Bakhtine's 'plurilinguisme', \({ }^{2}\) and at the base of the proto-novel.

\subsection*{9.3.3 Dislocation}
(a) contiguity: presence

Thus, from the 'excesses' of the protagonist, to a world of excesses: of sources and discourses, as commentary and 1 M. Bakhtine, Esthétique et Théorie du Roman (Paris, 1978), p. 415 .

2 Ibid., p. 410.
reflection on eath other, the question is, how is it ordered? Lack of distinct subordination in Jahiz's text has been commented on in Joke - II, and there are at least two ways of regarding these dislocations. The first is to find in stark juxtaposition a signalling of things, Perelman's 'moyen de créer une présence'. As observed in Case - II, floating elements, or enumerations and repetitions can be used for their own sake, for constitution of the syntagmatic list. (b) contiguity: absence

The other point of view on dislocation is one which misses the whole presumed to contain the parts. That this is a common attitude vis-à-vis the risāla has been amply discussed, but it is an attitude taken also vis-à-vis baroque and contemporary literature. Having chosen metonymy as one of the organizing principles of modern literature, David Lodge is forced into this hierarchical problem which, I think, might have been avoided had he chosen the larger syntagmatic principle: contiguity. He phrases the problem this way: 'A more radical way of denying the obligation to select is to exhaust all the possible combinations in a given field'. 1 (Here, the field is Beckett on shoes and socks; a similar exhaustiveness, on shoes, occurs in Tristram Shandy, p. 425.) This means that without the whole with which to relate the parts, Lodge is led to blame presentation of an absurd list on the concept of an absurd world. 'When reduced to only two variables (shoes and socks), permutation becomes simply alternation and expresses the hopelessness of the human situation. \({ }^{2}\)

1 D. Lodge, The Modes of Modern Writing (London, 1979), p. 230 .

2 Ibid., p. 231.
(c) interruption

Another aspect of dislocation is related to the levels of that direct and indirect discourse already noted under 'excess'. It is interruption by authorial commentary. In a Mannerist text, one is not merely assailed by abrupt disjunctions and endless enumerations, but one is usually also being told about this. Joke - I cites Jahiz's interjections on his interjections: his joking passages on his joking passages, and Tristram Shandy abounds in such commentary; viz. his digression on 'digression'. 1
(d) space

The problem is not that the parts do not find their place in a whole, it is, rather, that the subsumed whole is organized according to different principles from those of traditional argumentation, or narrative fiction. The principles are spatial, not logical or temporal. \({ }^{2}\) These are the relationships by contiguity or resemblance already mentioned in Case - III. They are those of a mental space; as in the mind, so in the text, one tends to forget that, 'tout est ici et maintenant'. \({ }^{3}\) Moreover, it is not certain how associations work in the mind. With regard to contiguity, this subject was introduced in the problem in Case II, and is wryly commented on by Sterne in his example of Trim's inability to recite the Fifth Commandment unless allowed to begin at the First. \({ }^{4}\)

This mnemonic mechanism is not merely a means of
1 L. Sterne, The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy (London, 1981), pp. 94-5.
2 T. Todorov and O. Ducrot, Dictionnaire Encyclopedique des Sciences du Langage (Paris, 1972), p. 377.
3 G. Genette, Figures I (Paris, 1966), p. 84.
4 Sterne, op. cit., p. 384.
recovering material, it is also one of semic expansion. \({ }^{1}\) In transitions by citation, it is a syntactic ploy by which either the word in a text, or the idea conveyed by a phrase is duplicated by reference \({ }^{2}\) and transformed in dimension by the 'outside' material. Thus, taking again one of Lucian's uses of Homer, \({ }^{3}\) one gets the following schema:

paradigmatic extension via Homer

\subsection*{9.3.4 Ambiguity}
(a) confusion

In Mannerism, what allows this traffic between contexts, the word to exist in the mind in all of its semic possibilities, is reliance on the basic ambiguity of the word, the sign, as arbitrary. Words are fixed by context, but if the contexts are 'spatial' ones, synchronic ones, not contexts of reductive logic, like that of rhetorical argumentation, nor contexts of development, like those of narrative fiction, some confusion is inevitable. As Sterne writes about Uncle Toby's 'confusion', 'What it did arise from . . . that is the unsteady uses of words which have perplexed the clearest and most exhalted understandings . . . 'Twas not by ideas by heaven! his life was put in jeopardy by words! \({ }^{4}\)
1 For instances in the risala of semic expansion by citation,
see above: 3.2 .2 and \(8 . \frac{1.1 .}{}\)
2 See J. Wansbrough on 'gezerah sahwah', Quranic Studies
(London, 1977), p. 167.
3 Lucian, op. cit., p. 301.
4 Sterne, op. cit., p. 108 .
(b) suspension

This confusion may arise from cases of semic suspension. Thus, there may be a hovering between semic possibilities of the kind discussed in the Riddle, in connection with Jahiz's use of 'collapses', when either the word or context does not provide semic clarity. Then there is the kind of suspension between poles, which allows ambiguity to stand, per se, in positive affirmation of both 'the tall' and 'the wide'. Finally, in the space of resemblance, there is the semic suspension which precedes the leaps made in comparison, metaphor, and analogy.
(c) relation

On the one hand, in analogy, a leap is made between one context and another, and ambiguity vanishes if the relation between these contexts is understood. Thus, as discussed in Case - I and Case - II, many of Jahiz's analogies are based on the 'first' context of observable evidence (the course of a stream, the number of fingers, etc.). On the other hand, analogy aims at extension, at introduction of extra-textual material, and this can be another manifestation of Bakhtine's 'plurilinguisme'. That a particular comparison can be made assumes another point of view, with all the ambiguity that entails.
(d) surplus

Furthermore, Mannerism often plays on the shock of the otherness of the added context, and refuses an apparent, straightforward subordination; then the problem is one of semic overadequacy. \({ }^{1}\) It may be for this reason that some critics have missed Jahiz's irony in the Eisala; there must

1 See above: 7.3.2.
be some recognition of interdependence of discourse registers in order to grasp the density of the risala. Irony is nothing if not a layering of understandings.
(e) repetition

Inversely, one may have multiple contexts which may or may not, themselves, be the same; repetitions of material which seem strangely alike, a device particularly evident in the novels and films of Robbe-Grillet. Thus, Jahiz presents and re-presents a limited quantity of elements. In the appearance and reapearance of the word 'excess', for instance, its semic value is changed by the different contexts in which it appears. But these contexts are also confused by sharing a similar seme.

\subsection*{9.3.5 'Hellenisation' - Islamisation}

In the discourse registers of the Joke, contexts seem to overload words so that the linguistic inadequacy in the Riddle seems to be matched by one of overadequacy in the Joke. The leap from context to context looks like one into excess, perhaps even into mistake, into some other voice, or language. When Bakhtine writes that the proto-novel emerges as a direct speech ('representé') being commented on by an indirect speech ('représentation'), 1 he adds that this is only possible in a cosmopolitan milieu,
car on ne peut objectiver son propre langage avec sa forme interne, sa vision du monde originale, son habitus linguistique spécifique, qu'à la lumière d'un langage autre, étranger mais presque aussi 'sien' que son langage propre . . . L'hellenisme créa pour tous les peuples barbares que lui étaient rattachés une puissante instance de langues étrangères qui fut fatale aux formes directes nationales du discours litéraire. \({ }^{3}\)
\(\overline{1}\) Bakhtine, op, cit., p. 409.
Ibid., p. 419.
Ibid., p. 420.

With reference to the risāla, how many languages, how many contexts are being presented here; does their plethora put the 'first' meanings of words in question; does the confrontation of one paradigm with many lead to a new paradigm? Is there a new awareness of words which arises in the suspension between contexts, in the breaking up or subversion of the known syntagm? I think this is the only valid way of asking how idiosyncratic Jahiz's style is.

\section*{Conclusion}

\section*{SIGNIFICATION}

\subsection*{10.1 Reference - Identity}

In conclusion, I would like to propose a schema for the production of signification inside the text. Why I have analysed the risāla by treating what \(I\) consider distinct registers of discourse has been explained, \(I\) hope, by situating it in the literary typology of Mannerism, in which different elements are purposely isolated to enhance their visibility. As noted in Chapter Nine, the irony would be that I might then seem to deny any interdependence of these discourses, and thus end up agreeing with Pellat that Jahiz's style is 'coq à l'âne'.'

I do not. I feel that the problem of reference and multiple discourse referred to in the introductory chapter is a problem of identity in terms of language: of signification and expression. I would, thus, like to conclude by looking, very briefly, at the following elements:
(1) antithesis, (2) polysemy, (3) synonymy, as they operate in the total risāla, and as they create interdependencies of discourse and signification, via the axes of the paradigmatic and the syntagmatic.

\footnotetext{
Pellat, ope cit., p. VII, on Jahiz's reputation of incoherence is perhaps due in part to copyists.
}
10.1.1 Antithesis

What one first notices in the risala (as discussed in Case - I) is the prevalence of antitheses on every topic. If these are associated with the various genres previously set out under literary typologies, one gets the following schema, in chart \(I\) :

CHART I
INCOHERENCE
\begin{tabular}{l|l|l}
\hline GENRES & ISSUES & ANTITHESES \\
\hline Rhetoric & Polemic & You vs. me \\
\hline 'Historic' & Attribute & Tall vs. wide \\
\hline Mannerism & Essence & To be vs. 'To be' \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
10.1.2 Polysemy
(a) association

The reader is shunted back and forth within the antitheses, and between their readings on several levels, so that there is an expansion of possible significations. This is due to polysemy, and it operates to foster associations within the text, and outside it. Taking an example from paragraphs 30 to 33, one finds the following antitheses, in Chart II.

There is the usual double level inside the text here, namely, A.W. as topic, or theissue, per se, as topic. The issue per se, of course, relates to discussions outside

the text; \({ }^{1}\) in this particular case, one can move from reflections on Wolfson's 'attribute' ( \(\left.{ }^{(2)}\right)^{2}\) to Wansbrough's 'polemic'. \({ }^{3}\) The mechanism is a form of polysemy called syllepsis, in which movement can be made from the most concrete understandings of a word to its most abstract.

\section*{(b) 'Aufhebung'}

Inside the text, it is this sylleptic association of such sectarian issues with the ludicrous persona of A.W. as controversial subject, which allows subversion of meaning, with the collapses and reversals of irony, a simultaneous association ( وصل) and disassociation ( لفـل ) of signification which could be called 'Aufhebung'. \({ }^{4}\) Every element seems to be presented in all seriousness in some discourse, only to be put in question in another, tying the discourses together with multiple dependencies, as seen, for instance, in Chart III (below, p. 174).

\subsection*{10.1.3 Synonymy}
(a) association

This sylleptic layering of the text and its simultaneous subversions could easily disorient the reader but for the fact that meaning nevertheless accumulates by related syntagms, by the constitution of a 'picture' \({ }^{5}\) through synonymies:

1 This (the paradigmatic) is the area \(I\) have purposely ignored in the thesis, insisting that amply primary signification exists within the text. I refer to it only in passing, now, as an area of subsequent interest, once internal textual dynamics have been considered.
2 H. Wolfson, The Philosophy of the Kalam (London, 1976), p. 19.

3 J. Wansbrough, The Sectarian Milieu (Oxford, 1978), p. 40.

4 See M. Seidler, 'Franz Kafka-ein Vortrag', in Die Pädagogische, Provinz 6 (1962), pp. 299-312, esp. 306-8. 5 See above: 4.3.1.

POLYSEMY: 'Aufhebung'

different ways of treating one problem.
For example, despite the antitheses, polysemies, and collapses noted here (and treated more fully in Case - I), various 'case' criteria are presented in the risāla: attestation by communal memory in the Riddle, and by personal witness in Memorabilia. Both of these suppose 'event'. Another element necessary to mark 'event' is constitution of time; and time is an image built up by Jahiz in, roughly, three ways.

First, for instance, as part of the constant reference to the age of A.W., there is mention of the 'long-lived
 Secondly, time exists implicitly in the encyclopaedic citations (tracked down by Pellat) from bedouin to Shi"i material,

CHART IV

SYNONYMY: Time
\begin{tabular}{l|l|l|l}
\hline\(\S\) & BY NUMBER & BY REFERENCE & BY DIFFERENCE \\
\hline 37 & \begin{tabular}{l} 
duration - number \\
(vague + unspec- \\
ified)
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{l} 
opposition to: \\
unnamed - named
\end{tabular} & act: God \\
\hline 38 & & \begin{tabular}{l} 
association with: \\
a-temporal + verbs \\
of time \\
comparison with: \\
persons \\
association with: \\
persons \\
association with \\
events: Book \\
Arab \\
(ahistory - history) \\
i
\end{tabular} & \\
\hline 39 & & & \begin{tabular}{l} 
disappearance \\
change \\
appearance \\
(peoples + \\
nature)
\end{tabular} \\
\hline \hline
\end{tabular}
presumably pre- to post-Islam, or: time situated by reference. Lastly, time can be associated with God's intervention, as in discussion of 'metamorphosis' ( \(\dot{c}^{m}\) ) (paras 44 and 204), or: time as difference. A brief look at paragraphs 37 to 39 shows these three principles embedded in the usual harangue of A.W., in Chart IV.

Thus, like the syntagm, time in the risala is unilinear and irreversible. A.W.'s great age brings him close to 'extinction' ( \({ }^{\text {( }) \text { (para. 54). The men mentioned in paragraph }}\) 33 are today's 'companions', and the metamorphosed creatures

CHART V

EPISTEMOLOGY - Order
\begin{tabular}{l|l|l}
\hline MYTHIC & NORMATIVE & HISTORIC \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l} 
Riddle \\
who-what-when-where \\
Memorabilia \\
wisdom
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{l} 
Case
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{l} 
Riddle \\
how-why
\end{tabular} \\
\hline outside time & Joke & \begin{tabular}{l} 
Memorabilia \\
brotherhood
\end{tabular} \\
\hline old 'known' & inside fiction & inside time \\
\hline \hline
\end{tabular}
will have to wait for the 'wonder' (عجب) of the final metamorphosis (see Joke - II, on para. 204).

Once more, moving outside the risāla into the paradigmatic, I might mention at least two readings of this phenomenon. On the one hand, one may see it, like Pellat, as material in the Sunni-Shi'i debate. \({ }^{1}\) On the other hand, if the Riddle deals with the mythic, and the Case with the normative, what remains to be dealt with is Islam as an historical 'event', as a 'superseding' of a 'superseded' system. \({ }^{2}\) For this, unilinear time is essential; God's revelation is diachronic. See Chart \(V\).
(b) dis-association

However, corresponding to subversion of polysemy by associations with A.W., there is similar subversion of
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1 See Pellat's note on {ilq p. 141.
2 Wansbrough, op. cit., p. 43.

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synonymy, namely, constant textual interruptions by mention of reader (A.W.), writer (Jahiz), and text (risāla).

These two subversions, ambiguity of paradigmatic associations, and intervention in syntagmatic associations, can be roughly represented as follows, in Chart VI:

\section*{CHART VI}

\section*{SYNTAX - Disorder}

INTERFERENCE BY PARADIGMATIC POSSIBILITIES
\begin{tabular}{c|c|c}
\hline & & \\
A.W. & A.W. & A.W. \\
\(\uparrow\) & \(\uparrow\) & \(\uparrow\) \\
size & age & knowledge \\
\(\downarrow\) & \(\downarrow\) & \(\downarrow\) \\
\((\) attribute & \(\downarrow\) & (time) \\
religion & \(\downarrow\) & (bases) \\
& history & epistemology \\
& & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

INTERFERENCE IN SYNTAGMATIC CONTIGUITIES

10. 2 Subversion - Cohesion

As noted in the introduction, these two elements, multiple levels and asides to A.W., have traditionally been regarded as disruptive of the coherence of the text. \({ }^{1}\) I regard them, on the contrary, as the text's primary cohesive

\footnotetext{
1 See, in my introduction, the reference to Pellat's, 'deux parties qui s'imbriquent l'une dans l'autre sans aucun plan préconçu, sans aucun ordre visible', p. XIV.
}
elements. Granted, they are 'subversive', and the literary function of this has been mentioned with reference to the Mannerist genre. It is upon subversion that predication depends, however, as noted in this reflection by Ricoeur:

The idea of category mistake brings us closer to our goal. Can one not say that the strategy of language at work in metaphor consists in obliterating the logical and established frontiers of language, in order to bring to light new resemblances the previous classification kept us from seeing? 1

It is this obliteration of previous classification which Kuhn sees in the paradigmatic changes of science. It is no less true for the formulation of Islam in ninth-century Baghdad, and can be found in the expressive roles played by ambiguity and contradiction, in the creation of 'category mistake'.

\section*{10:2.1 Ambiguity}

Ambiguity in layering of levels can ultimately put in question levels as hierarchical certainties; \({ }^{2}\) for instance: clear definitions of 'tall' and 'wide', or the categories of figurative and literal (see Joke - III on A.W. as 'wide' and the Quranic citation using 'wide').

\subsection*{10.2.2 Contradiction}

Contradiction by self-reference in a text is often play with the certainty of True-False, as in the famous 'All Cretans are liars' spoken by a Cretan \({ }^{3}\) (see Joke - I: . أنّي مغرط

Jung writes, 'Non-ambiguity and non-contradiftion are one sided and thus unsuited to express the incomprehensible. \({ }^{4}\)
```

1 Ricoeur, op. cit., p. }197\mathrm{ (italics mine).
2 See D. Hofstadter, Gödel, Escher, Bach (Harmondsworth,
1981), p. }15
3 Ibid., p. 17.
4 C.G. Jung, Psychology and Alchemy (London, 1974), p. 16.

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COHERENCE


Expression at all levels is, I think, the subject of this risāla: expression of what is known, how it is known to be so, and, perhaps, expression of the 'incomprehensible'. I think that, as Jahiz treats it here, it is syntax which determines epistemology, as set out in Chart VII.
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    I. Goldziher, A Short History of Classical Arabife Literature (Hildesheim, 1966), p. 82.
    2 G. von Grunebaum, Medieval Islam (Chicago, 1971), p. 251.
    Pellat, $o_{i}^{p}$ cit., p. VIII.
    Compare J.M. Cohen's introduction to Cervantes, Don Quixote (London, 1954), p. 17: 'My advice to anyone who finds himself bogged down by . . . is to skip it . . . then to read on from . . . to skip the . . . and to cut out the . . .'

[^1]:    1 R. Jakobson, Langage enfantin et aphasie (Paris, 1980), p.142. Quoted in Todorov, Poétique de la Prose (Paris, 1971), p. 32. Todorov, op. cit., p. 32.
    C. Pellat (ed.), The Life and Works of Jahiz (London, 1969), p. 18 .

[^2]:    1 For the recurrent ideas of dissolution, collapse, deadend, see below: 2.1.2(c), 7.3, and 10.1.2(b).

[^3]:    1 For imbalance and norm, see below: 6.3.2 and 9.3.2.

[^4]:    1 Ibid., p. XI.
    2
    See below: 4.1 and 4.4.4.

[^5]:    1 There are 31 paragraphs examined here: $1 / 11 / 13 / 16 / 17 / 18 /$

[^6]:    This an anomalous form; it does not fit the usual understanding of the fifth form (tolerate). I am using Pellat's translation; Adad gives 'metaphore'.

[^7]:    1 See above: 2.3.2 and J. Wansbrough, 'Concept of "a prophet for every nation"', Quranic Studies (Oxford, 1977), p. 54.

[^8]:    1
    M. Black, Models and Metaphors (London, 1981), p. 28.

[^9]:    1 Cited in Desgranges, Les Grands Ecrivains Français (Paris, 1948), p. 256.

