

Allah SWT says in Surah Al Baqara Aya 136:

قُولُوا آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَمَا أُوتِيَ النَّبِيُّونَ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ

Allah SWT says in Surah Al Imran in Ayah 84:

قُلْ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَالنَّبِيُّونَ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ

Look at the two underlined words in Bold:

In the Ayah in Surah Al Baqara, it says (إِلَيْنَا) and in the Ayah in Surah Al Imran it says (علينا)

What is the difference in the meaning between (إلى) and (على)?

How does this affect the meaning of the Ayahs?

What if you reversed (إلى) and (على) between the two ayahs, what happens to the meaning of each Ayah?

AssalamuAlaikum,

Well, we tested the knowledge of our community members in Grammar and still came with great responses. Masha'Allah great work brothers and sisters.

In all the Ayat that talks about revelation. If the preposition (إلى) is in the Ayah, it means that the revelation came to the people through the prophets like the Ayah in Surah Al Baqara. (قولوا امنا بما انزل إلينا إلى اخر الآية). When the preposition على is used, it means that the revelation came to the prophets as in Allah's Law to teach it to the prophets. As in Surah Al Imran.

When Allah SWT says in the Quran, يا أيها الناس. This is to he people from Allah SWT through the Prophets.

The preposition إلى can be used in several contexts. It can be used as a spatial end, or a time end, or can be used for illustration purposes. The example in Surah Al Baqara is for illustration purposes. Where the Ayah emphasizes that the revelation ended with them through the prophets. على on the other hand is called in Arabic حرف استعلاء which means a superiority preposition. If the two prepositions were reversed, not only the meaning would change, the wording would not properly the meaning as it should be. For example, Allah SWT says in Surah Al Baqara Ayah 91,

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ آمِنُوا بِمَا أُنزِلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا نُؤْمِنُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا وَيَكْفُرُونَ بِمَا وَرَاءَهُ وَهُوَ الْحَقُّ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا مَعَهُمْ قُلْ

And when it is said to them, "Believe in what Allah has revealed," they say, "We believe [only] in what was revealed to us." And they disbelieve in what came after it.

See how Bani Israeel says they would believe in what was revealed on them using the preposition على thinking of themselves as prophets out of their ignorance and arrogance. They made themselves like prophets using the preposition على. It would not fit, because Allah SWT does not reveal to regular people rather prophets.