

## **Lexical Relations of English and Arabic Verbs in Biblical and Quranic Verses of Supplication**

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### **Abstract**

This systematic, descriptive, qualitative, and quantitative contrastive study is devoted to analysing lexical relations that the verbs of supplication involve in the target texts of the two languages. It is concerned with the main specific relations involving (synonymy, antonymy, homonymy and polysemy) in the English version of the Holy Bible and the Glorious Qur'an (Verses of Supplication). This study attempts to answer the question, what are the similarities and differences in using lexical relations in the target religious texts? Furthermore, what types of these relations are used in the English version of the Holy Bible and the Glorious Quran (Verses of Supplication).? This paper aims to reveal the similarities and differences of lexical relations and their types in the two languages. Additionally, these relations and their classes are discussed and illustrated. The similarities and differences are explained in the theoretical and practical comparison of these lexical relations and their types in English and Arabic religious texts. Moreover, the highest and lowest percentage of similarities and differences between verbs of supplication in the target religious texts are highlighted. The current study is divided into five sections. The first section is the introductory one that discusses this study's problems, hypotheses, aims, limits, procedures, and significance. The second section is devoted to the theoretical background of the English and Arabic definitions of lexical semantics and lexical relations and the classifications of these lexical relations in both languages. The third section focuses explicitly on methodological considerations. In addition, this section includes previous studies. The fourth section analyses the target verbs using these linguistic, semantic phenomena. Finally, the conclusions of this study are shown in section five. Furthermore, it has some recommendations and suggestions for further studies.

**Keywords:** Lexical Relation in English, Lexical Relations in Arabic, Contrastive Semantics, English- Arabic Contrastive Analysis, Verbs of Supplication in English and Arabic Religious Genre.

### **1-Introduction**

The lexical relation theory is applied to Arabic and English by using particular relations. These relations include the similarity of meaning (synonymy), the opposition of meaning (antonymy), various related and unconnected meanings of the term (polysemy and homonymy), and their Arabic equivalents. The current study tries to demonstrate the following questions: what are the lexical relations in the English Holy Bible (Verses of Supplication)? what are the lexical relations in the Arabic Glorious Quran (Verses of Supplication)? Are there any equivalent words in the two religious texts, or do they have the same purpose? what are

the similarities and differences of verbs of supplication in these religious texts? and which verbs of supplication have the highest and lowest percentage in the target religious texts?

This study aims to illustrate the lexical relations in the English Holy Bible (Verses of Supplication), Shed some light on the lexical relationships in the Glorious Qur'an (Verses of Prayer), determine the types of these relations in the Holy Bible and Glorious Qur'an and if they are equivalent in the two languages, finding the main similarities and differences between the two languages in the Verbs of Supplication, and point the highest and lowest percentage of Supplication Verbs in the Holy Bible and the Glorious Qur'an. This study hypothesised that: synonymy is the most frequent type in the target religious texts of the two languages; few verbs are antonyms in the target texts, few verbs are homonyms in English lexical relations, the similarities of supplication verbs have the lowest percentage in the religious texts of the English and Arabic languages; differences of Supplication Verbs have the highest percentage in the religious texts of both languages, all the lexical relations have a paradigmatic connection, while some words' homonyms have no paradigmatic relation and verbs of supplication may be implicit and derived from a context.

## **2- Literature Review**

### **2.1 Semantic Relations in English**

Sensory relational (lexical relations) There are two main approaches to studying sensory connections. The meaning of a word, in the view of structural semantics, is the sum totality of its grammatical relationships with other language words. (Cruse, 2006, p.163). In addition to phonetic relationships like (rhyme or alliteration), lexical relations can also be morphological (inflectional variation) or morpho-syntactic (like co-membership in a grammatical category). The phrase "lexical relations" is vague because it could mean either relationships between words or relationships (among lexical elements) within the mental lexicon (Murphy,2003, p.8). However, the study of lexical meaning or relations of meaning investigates the fundamental focus or topic by which the word's meaning may be determined and defines the meaning formed from the interactions between the words (Levison et al., 2013, p. 39).

#### **2.1.2 Terms of Semantic Relations**

##### **2.1.2.1.1 Synonymy in English**

Synonyms are these "lexical items whose senses are identical in respect of 'central' semantic traits. Still, they differ, if at all, only in the care of what we may provisionally describe as 'minor' or 'peripheral' traits" (Cruse, 1986, p. 267). Palmer (1976, p.88) claims that the word "synonymy" is used to signify "sameness of meaning." The fact that many sets of terms have the same meaning are identical to one another, or are synonyms of one another, is evident to the person who compiled the dictionary. Lyons (1968, p.441) defines synonymy as the default interpretation when determining whether or not two lexical items have the same meaning. This relationship between things that appear in the same context and sentence type is known as a paradigmatic relationship.

##### **2.1.2.1.2 Types of Synonymy**

Cruse's (1986) classification of synonymy:

- i)** Absolute Synonymy
- ii)** Cognitive Synonymy
- vi)** Plesionyms Synonymy

#### **2.1.2.2.1 Antonymy in English**

An antonym is a word whose meaning is the opposite of another word. When two words have all but one of the semantic characteristics, they are said to be analogical. For example, the terms "tall" and "short" have a similar semantic meaning and fall under the same semantic category, "height" (Lyons, 1977, p. 271). According to Ratt (2007, p.32), the link between two or more words semantically, particularly when such terms have opposing meanings, is called antonymy. Antonyms are pairings of words with neither a root nor an etymological connection.

#### **2.1.2.2.2 Types of Antonyms**

There are various kinds of antonyms. They are categorized as follows by several publications, including Lyons (1977, p.271-281) and Cruse (1986, p.198-234):

- i) Cradable, Contrary Opposite
- ii) Ungradable, Complementary, Contradictory Antonyms
- iii) Converse or Relation antonymy
- iv) Reverse or Directional Antonymy

#### **2.1.2.3.1 Homonymy in English**

Homonymy develops when two linguistic forms have distinct meanings: bank ('side of the river') and bank ('financial institution'). These two banks are referred to as 'homonyms'. These terms are typically treated differently in dictionaries, assigning them separate primary categories (Cruse, 2006, p. 80). Hornby (2010, p.746) defines homonymy as "a word that is spelt like another word (or pronounced like it) but which has a different meaning, for example, can meaning (be able) and can meaning (put sth in a container)."

#### **2.1.2.3.2 Types of Homonymy**

Lyons (1977, p.558-563) Classifications:

- i) Absolute, Complete Homonymy
- ii) Partial Homonymy

#### **2.1.2.4.1 Polysemy in English**

The word "polysemy" comes from the Greek words poly-, which means "many," and sem-, which means "sense" or "meaning." Consequently, Greek philosophy is the foundation for studying the intricate relationships between words and meanings. Nonetheless, as Siblot (1995, p.24) noted, Aristotle held polysemy in the highest regard. He asserted that "words with uncertain meanings are primarily important to enable the sophist to deceive his learners." Most philosophers later condemned polysemy, calling it "a flaw of language and a handicap to communication, understanding, and even clear thought" (Ullmann 1959, p.167).

#### **2.1.2.4.2 Types of polysemy**

According to Cruse (2000, p.110-112), there are two types of polysemy: linear and non-linear. A specialization-generalization relationship between senses is explained by linear polysemy, which is further classified into four types: autohyponymy, automeronymy, autosuperordination, and autoholonymy. It is believed that metonymous and metaphorical polysemy falls under the non-linear category.

## **2.2. Lexical Relations in Arabic**

The relationships between the meanings of words and sentences can take many different forms. The meanings of other words may be identical and similar or contradictory to these meanings (Al-Khuli, 2001, p.93). According to Alsheik (1999, P. 4), a word's meaning is determined by how it interacts with other words in its lexical field. A few rhetorical devices served as meaning-transfer mechanisms. Additionally, lexical relations like "synonymy, antonymy, and homonymy (including polysemy)" contributed to this transfer process and aided rhetorical and semantic research.

### **2.2.1 Terms of Lexical Relation in Arabic**

#### **2.2.1.1.1 Synonymy in Arabic**

Synonymy is two or more words with the same meanings called synonyms, and one is synonymous with the other. The best criterion for synonymy is an exchange; if one word replaces another in a sentence without changing the meaning, the two words are synonymous as in the following example ( "father, father" father, father "والد") that the word father is the synonymy of father and ( "spouse, wife" spouse, wife "عقيلة, زوجة") so, spouse are the exact meaning of wife ( Al Kuli, 2001,p.93).

#### **2.2.2. 1.2 Types of Synonymy in Arabic**

Omar (1998, p.220-223) explains the classification of synonymy as the following:

- i) complete synonymy
- ii) Near synonymy or Quasi-synonymy
- iii) Semantic Approximation
- vi) Entailment
- v) Synonymous sentences, Paraphrase
- vi) Translation
- iv) Interpretation

#### **2.2.1.2.1 Antonymy in Arabic**

According to Almanna (2016, p. 105), an antonym is a term that has the opposite meaning in a specific context. In Arabic and English, antonymy can be adjectives ( small, صغير) and ( big, كبير) and ( man, رجل) ( woman, امرأة). The expression conveys two opposite meanings, with a level signal and an assumption establishing the opposition, depending on the speaker's intention. Antonymy is a kind of relationship between the meanings, and it was not even closer to the mind than any other relationship (Alshaykh,1999, P.77). Ullman's observation that the word becomes ambiguous and unusable as soon as it acquires two opposite and unrelated meanings (p.75).

#### **2.2.1.2.2 Types of Antonymy in Arabic**

Al-Khali (2001, pp.116-127) explains the classification of antonymy:

- i) Non- gradable Antonymy
- ii) Converseness Antonymy
- iii) Gradable Antonymy
- iv) Orthogonal Opposites
- v) Antipodal Opposites
- vi) Incomplete Antonymy
- vii) Cyclic Antonymy
- viii) Rank antonymy
- ix) Affinity Antonymy

### **2.2.1.3.1 Homonymy in Arabic (includes polysemy)**

#### **A- Homonymy**

It is crucial to note that two perspectives have been used to study this phenomenon, also known as homonymy. In other words, this term has two similar English meanings (homonymy and polysemy). Homonymy is when one-word sounds or looks like another (homophone) or looks like another (homograph) but has a distinct meaning. This concept has multiple definitions in English, but in principle, a word is homonymous if it shares at least one of these formal characteristics (Azmi Salim, 2013, p.33).

#### **B- Polysemy**

This phenomenon is known as polysemy because the word is singular but has many meanings. It happens due to the phonetic and phonetic development, so the phonetic development leads to a phonetic union without paying attention to the word's letters, as in words (sea, see), which is called homonymy (Omar, 1998, p.137).

### **2.2.1.3.2 Types of Homonymy in Arabic**

Depending on the connections between the meanings of the word, Al-Khuli (2001, pp. 142–143) categorizes homonymy as follows:

- i) A word that has two meanings (Al-Khuli, 2001, p.139).
- ii) A word that has various meanings (Al-Khuli, 2001, p.140).
- iii) Homonymy with relationships between meanings. (Al-Khuli, 2001, p.140).
- v) Homonymy without a relationship between the meanings (Al-Khuli, 2001, p.139-140).

## **Methodology**

This study depends on a set of models (i.e.eclectic) model divided into the description model and the comparison model. Al-Khuli (2001) and Omar (1998) are the models of description that are used to describe the Arabic semantic Relations, while Cruse (1986) and Lyons (1977) are used to describe the English semantic Relations. In chapter two, these models are illustrated. The two holy texts are analysed on the one hand, using James (1980) as a practical model for analyzing the English data; on the other hand, the Arabic data is analysed using Omar (2003).

### **3.1 Data Collected**

The present study's data are Certain verses of supplication that include terms with opposite or similar meanings in phrases or other utterances. They also hold unconnected meanings that might or might not share the same form or pronunciation, as well as related meanings that are connected by a semantic relationship, and they are taken from the Glorious Qur'an in the Arabic language and the Holy Bible is chosen to be analyzed to represent the English data.

## **4. Data Analysis**

This section deals with the Analysis of semantic relations. It includes two sections. In the first section, there is a practical application or discussion of the synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, and polysemy in the English data, representing the primary focus of the researched tools in the Holy Bible (Verses of Supplication). The second section is the Arabic one discussed in the Glorious Quran (Verses of Supplication).

#### 4.1 The Analysis of the Semantic Relations in the Holy Bible, Verses of Supplication

**Table 1** *The Verbs of Supplication and their Dictionary Meanings in Text 1:*

No	The Verse	The verb of supplication	The meaning
1-	"Yet have respect for the prayer of your servant, and to his supplication, Yahweh my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which your servant prays before you;" ( 2Chronicles:6 /9)	1-Have respect 2- To listen	Have respect: to have an excellent opinion of sb/sth; to admire sb/sth (Hornby, 2010, p.1302) To listen: pay attention to sb /sth that you can hear (Hornby, 2010, p.900)

**Table 2** *The Lexical Relations of the Verb of Supplication (Have respect) in Text 1:*

The verb	Synonymy	Antonymy	Homonymy	Polysemy
Have respect	Regard, esteem, honor, revere, venerate.	Abuse, misuse, despise, disobey.	Not Found	To have an excellent opinion of sb/sth; to be careful about sth; to agree not to break the law, principle, etc.

**Table 3** *The Lexical Relations of the Verb of Supplication (Listen) in Text 1:*

The verb	Synonymy	Antonymy	Homonymy	Polysemy
Listen	Hear, attend, hearken, incline, give ear, heed.	Disregard, ignore, refuse, repudiate.	Not Found	To pay attention to sb/sth that you can hear; to take notice of what sb says to you so that you follow their advice or believe them.

**Table 4** *The Verbs of Supplication and their Dictionary Meanings in Text 2:*

No	The Verse	The verb of supplication	The meaning
2	"Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness. (Psalms 143: 1 )	1-Hear 2-Give ear 3-Answer	Hear: to be aware of sounds with your ears) (Hornby, 2010, p.719). Give ear: listen or hear. Answer: to say, write or do sth as a reaction to a question or situation) (Hornby, 1995, p.53)

**Table 5** *The Lexical Relations of the Verb of Supplication (Hear) in Text 2:*

The verb	Synonymy	Antonymy	Homonymy	Polysemy
Hear	Make out, catch, get, overhear, learn, find out, discover, gather, clean, try, judge	Not Found	Hear, here	To be aware of sounds with your ears; to listen or pay attention to sb/sth; to be told about sth; to listen to and judge cases in court.

**Table 6** *The Lexical Relations of the Verb of Supplication (Give ear) in Text 2:*

The verb	Synonymy	Antonymy	Homonymy	Polysemy
Give ear	Bestow, grant, confer, impart, yield, produce, surrender, concede, present, afford, communicate, furnish	withhold, withdraw, refuse, retain, grasp, fail, restrain, deny.	Give, gyve	Hand/ provide; Money; treat as important; Punishment; illness; party; event; do produce sth; telephone call; make/ grade; predict how long; In sport, bend.

**Table 7** *The Lexical Relations of the Verb of Supplication (Answer) in Text 2:*

The verb	Synonymy	Antonymy	Homonymy	Polysemy
Answer	Reply, response, counterargument, confutation, acceptance (as of a challenge), tally counterpart, solution, vindication, apology, exculpation, defence, rejoinder, repartee, retort.	Challenge, question, defiance, summons, interrogation	Not Found	To say sth to as a reaction, to question or situation; to be suitable for sth.

**Table 8** *The Verbs of Supplication and their Dictionary Meanings in Text 5:*

No	The Verse	The verb of supplication	The meaning
5-	<p>“Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness” (Psalms 51: 14)</p>	1- Deliver	Deliver: to take goods, letters, etc., to the person or people they have been sent to (Hornby, 2010, p.401).

**Table 9** *The Lexical Relations of the Verb of Supplication (Deliver) in Text 5:*

The verb	Synonymy	Antonymy	Homonymy	Polysemy
Deliver	Liberate, free, save, utter, set free, surrender, yield, transmit, concede, give up, rescue, pronounce, hand, give, entrust, consign.	Confine, capture, suppress, retain, betray, withdraw, assume, appropriate, misdeliver.	Not Found	Take goods/letters; give speech; keep promise; give to somebody's control; a baby to help a woman to give birth; throw; rescue to rescue sb from sth bad

#### 4.2 The Analysis of the Semantic Relations in the Glorious Qur'an, Verses of Supplication

**Table 10** *The Verbs of Supplication and their Dictionary Meanings in Text 1:*

NO	The Verse	The verb of supplication	The meaning
1-	<p>رَبَّنَا إِنَّنَا آمَنَّا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ            “Our Lord! we have indeed believed: forgive us then our sins and save us from the agony of the fire.” (Āl-i-‘Imrān:16)</p>	اغْفِرْ Forgive قِنَا Save	غفر Forgive: to forgive, pardon, excuse, condone, overlook, remit, absolve. (Baa'lbaki,2000, p.802). وقى Save :to keep, to preserve, to protect (Massoud, 1992,p.869 ) (Baa'lbaki, 2000,p.1242)



**Table 11** The Lexical Relations of the Verb of Supplication (Forgive اغْفِرُ) in Text 1:

The verb	Synonymy	Antonymy	Homonymy ( including Polysemy)
Forgive اغْفِرُ (غفر)	Pardon,صفح overlook,تجاوز overstep,تخطى condone,سامح	Object,اعتراض hinder,حال prevent,منع forbidden,حرم reject,رد deter,ردع suppress.كبت Uncover,كشف show up,اضهر punish,عاقب relapse.نكس	عفا عنه To Pardon; أصلحه conciliate; غطاه الشيء to cover sth; تجاوز to overlook

**Table 12** The Lexical Relations of the Verb of Supplication (Save قِنَّا) in Text 1:

The verb	Synonymy	Antonymy	Homonymy ( including Polysemy)
Save قِنَّا (وقى)	Guard,حاط keep,حفظ patrol,حرس defend,حمى advocate,دافع preserve,صان	Not Found	حماه Protect; صان Shalter; حفظه الله God to keep him

**Table 13** The Verb of Supplication and their Dictionary Meaning in Text 5:

NO	The Verse	The verb of Supplication	The meaning
5-	" رَبَّنَا اكْشِفْ عَنَّا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّا مُؤْمِنُونَ " "Our Lord ! Remove The Penalty from us, For We do really believe." ( Dukhān:12)	1- Remove اكْشِفْ	Remove اكْشِف: "to lift, raise (a covering veil, etc.; to dispel, drive away; to examine medically or physically; (Anis et al.,1972, pp.788-789) (Baa'lbaki,2000,p.895).

**Table 14** The Lexical Relations of the Verb of Supplication (Remove اكْشِف) in Text 5:

The verb	Synonymy	Antonymy	Homonymy (including Polysemy)
Remove اكْشِف	Disclose,اباح show,ابان manifest,ابدى bring out,ابرز loosen,اذاع rumor,اشاع declare,اعلن express,افصح clarify,أوضح expose,افضح	Hide,اخفى propagate,ارخى harbour,اخمر dress,البس veil,حجب foist into,دس concealment,دفن cover,غطى	رفع عنه ما يغطيه Remove what cover it; كشف الله حزنه God revealed his grief; فضيحة to expose.

**Table 15** *The Verb of Supplication and their Dictionary Meaning in Text 4:*

NO	The verse	The verb of supplication	The meaning
1-	<p>أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ (6) "صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ (7) "</p> <p>Show us the straight way, The way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace, Those whose (portion) Is not wrath, And who go not astray. (Fātiha:6-7)</p>	1-Show أَهْدَيْنَا	هدى Show: to guide him; to direct, showing the way to; line (of conduct) (Massoud, 1992,p.834 ) (Baa'lbak, 2000,p.1205).

**Table 16** *The Lexical Relations of the Verb of Supplication (Show أَهْدَيْنَا) in Text 3:*

The verb	Synonymy	Antonymy	Homonymy ( including Polysemy)
Show أَهْدَيْنَا (هدى)	استرشد To be advised, استقام straighten up, اهتدى erect, اثراب return, اثرش follow the right path, اثرسوي become normal, اثرصلح to be good.	زاع Deviate, اثرحد عن skew, اثرتاه perish, اثراود curve, اثرالتوى twist, اثرجهل have no knowledge, اثرخالف disagree, اثرانحرف turn aside, اثراوضاع to be lost, اثرضل Stray	(اثرشهار اثرطريق اثرالصحيح) اثرشهر To show the right path; اثرشده اثرشده guide to goodness; اثرالايماا باالله اثرشده to believe in God; اثرشده اثرشده ask someone to deliver the right way;

## 5. Conclusions

This study draws some conclusions based on the outcomes of the data analysis. These can be explained in the following ways:

- 1- Throughout the analysis of the two religious texts, there are some equivalent verbs in terms of synonymy, antonymy, homonymy and polysemy in English and Arabic religious texts.
- 2- A study of the two religious texts reveals that the number of antonyms used in the texts in English and Arabic is few.
- 3- Homonymic verbs are less common in English throughout the analysis of the English religious texts, where pronunciation and spelling play a significant role in defining word meaning.
- 4- The Analysis of the two religious texts shows that Synonyms are the researched phenomenon's more prevalent relation in both English and Arabic texts. It is higher in English than in Arabic.
- 5- Due to the English and Arabic verbs of supplication in the eighty-nine religious texts, the differences in the verbs of the supplication of both languages are the highest in number or percentage, scoring 89.77 %.

- 6- The results show that the similarity of verbs of supplication in the eighty-nine religious texts of both languages is the lowest percentage in contrast to the differences of verbs, which scored 10.22 %.
- 7- The lexical relations of synonymy, antonymy, homonymy and polysemy is a paradigmatic relation.
- 8- Verbs of Supplication in English and Arabic languages may take affirmative or negative forms. e.g.) guided us (اهدينا), (اغرب لي) and (لا تخزنا Do not humiliate), لا (تزعج) (do not deviate) and the English examples are (teach me, lead me) and (do not cast away, do not forget).
- 9- Some Verbs of Supplication are not single lexicons but are made of more than one word. Which includes the meaning of supplication.

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