

Bringing Meanings: AI And Human Collaboration In Unveiling Qur'anic Synonymy and Polysemy

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Abstract

The rich linguistic texture of the Holy Qur'an presents unique difficulties in maintaining the integrity of meanings across languages, especially given the complex interplay of synonyms that often carry subtle distinctions. This study aims to elucidate the contextual meanings, analyse the polysemous nature of *بأس* (*ba's*) (punishment), and investigate the semantic distinctions between the near-synonymous terms *بأس* (*ba's*) and *بطش* *batsha* (assault) and their AI-generated and post-edited English translations of the Qur'an. Adopting the Relation by Contrast Approach to Synonyms (RC-S) by Murphy (2003), the study utilises a qualitative approach to identify the semantic layers of meanings of the selected Qur'anic synonyms. The analysis reveals that *بأس* (*ba's*) is polysemous in the Qur'anic text, capturing diverse meanings like punishment, battle, and hardship, reflecting its complex usage in enhancing thematic and rhetorical aspects of verses, unlike its near-synonym *بطش* (*batsha*) which is more narrowly defined as "assault." While ChatGPT's translations of *بأس* (*ba's*) vary in accuracy, highlighting the AI's challenge in capturing context-specific meanings, the translation of *بطش* (*batsha*) as "grasp" fails to convey the aggressive connotations of "assault," which necessitates significant refinements by human editors to align renderings more closely with the original's military and theological contexts.

Keywords: Qur'anic Translation; Synonymy; Polysemy; Semantic Nuances; Translation Challenges

INTRODUCTION

Synonymy, as a basic semantic relation between two or more words, is a universal feature of language in which two or more words denote similar meanings. This notion is mostly nuanced in Arabic which is famous for its rhetorical depth as well as lexical richness. Arabic synonyms could be divided into two kinds of synonyms, namely, logical synonyms which are fully interchangeably used as well as context-dependent synonyms which slightly vary in meaning relying on the context in which they are used (Murphy, 2003).

The Holy Qur'an demonstrates the intricacy of synonymy, using near-synonyms to convey subtle distinctions that are often context-specific. These distinctions are not merely stylistic but have important theological and philosophical weight. This makes the translation of such lexical items a difficult task as in the following example: the terms '*aqsama*' (truthfully swore) and '*halafa*' (untruthfully swore) show how near-synonyms can fundamentally differ in their meaning, making their translation to English difficult (Abu Udah, 1985).

Historically, the study of synonymy in Arabic has been contentious, with scholars such as Al-'sma'ī documenting extensive lists of synonyms which reflect the depth of Arabic language (Al-Munajjid, 2007), while others contend that what are usually regarded synonyms are actually different attributes of a single item (Abdel-Tawab, 1987). Such debate extends to the translation of the Holy Qur'an, where the precision needed in translating near-synonyms such '*khawf*' (fear) and '*khashya*' (awe/reverence) can affect the intended theological message (Shiyab, 2007).

Scholars like Al-Sha'rawī (1993) and Issa (2011) emphasize that each Qur'anic synonym has a specialized meaning that must be considered carefully in translation to avoid the distortion of the original Qur'anic message. This study aims to examine the complexities of translating Qur'anic near-synonyms into English by studying AI and human translations. The aim is to illuminate the delicate interplay of meaning in Qur'anic synonymy and to enhance the understanding of its translation challenges, highlighting the critical role of context and exegetical insights in translating the text accurately and effectively. By merging insights from both the linguistic structure and the cultural and religious depth of Arabic, this study sets the stage for a detailed investigation of how AI and human collaboration can further enhance the accuracy and depth of translations of the Qur'anic synonyms, ensuring that the essence of the original text is maintained across linguistic boundaries.

The Holy Qur'an is universally recognized among Muslim scholars for its inimitable linguistic and literary qualities, which are considered beyond human capabilities. The text not only reflects thoughtful religious content but also establishes an unparalleled level of linguistic precision as well as stylistic beauty (Abdul-Ghafour et al., 2019). This precision is particularly evident in the selection of words, which are meticulously chosen to communicate specific meanings, ensuring the text accomplishes its aims of persuasion, phonetic harmony and emotional impact.

Despite its complexity, the language of Qur'an includes various lexical items that are closely related in meaning, often leading to discussions about the presence of synonyms or near-synonyms within its Qur'anic verses. Scholars have different views on this matter. While some, such as Al-Munajjid, claim that each lexical term in the Qur'an is different and tailored to communicate unique meanings, claiming the absence of complete synonyms (Al-Munajjid, 2007), others admit the presence of near-synonyms but highlight their subtle differences, which are vital for a proper perception of the text (Ghali, 1997). This nuanced utilisation of language is one of the Qur'an's noted miracles, as it layers meanings and offers depth through seemingly similar words (Bint-Ash ati', 1966).

The existence and role of such near-synonyms often pose significant challenges for translators (Abdul-Ghafour et al., 2019; Abdul, 2017). The precise rendering of such items into other languages without loss of meaning is a difficult task, given that each item is embedded in a rich context which subtly impacts its translation. Abdul-Wali (2007) argues that several English translations fail to capture the full spectrum of lexical and stylistic nuances present in the original Arabic text.

This study aims to investigate these challenges further, provide recommendations to improve the translation of the Holy Qur'an by paying much attention to such near-synonyms. Through investigating the English AI and human translation, the study aims at contributing to better understanding of how these closely related terms can be conveyed more precisely in English, ensuring that the translations preserve the original text's profound and nuanced meanings. The investigation into near-synonyms in the Holy

Qur'an is not only a linguistic study but also a critical examination of how divine communication can be translated effectively across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Polysemy, a term introduced by French semanticist Michel Bréal, refers to the phenomenon where a lexical item has various related meanings which extend from a core sense to more peripheral ones (Alnamer, 2017; Liu, 2013). Highlighted in Falkum (2011), this notion proposes that such meanings derive from the essential sense of the lexical item, illustrated by the different uses of "head" in English, denoting both a physical part of the body and metaphorical extensions such as a leader or the prominent seat at a table (Alnamer, 2017). Polysemy, in Qur'anic studies, poses unique challenges, especially in translation. For example, the lexical item *أمة* (*ummah*) has several meanings, like a nation, a leader, or a religious community, based on its context in the Holy Qur'an (Abobaker et al, 2012). Likewise, *دعا* (*da'ā*) can mean 'invoke, call, or invite', reflecting its polysemous nature in different Qur'anic verses (Sadiq, 2008).

The present study examines the Qur'anic near-synonyms *بأس* (punishment) and *بطش* (assault), investigating their semantic relationships as synonyms and the polysemous word *بأس* (punishment) which has various meanings in the Holy Qur'an. It examines how the meanings of these near-synonyms are conveyed by AI English translations, highlighting the importance of contextual understanding in capturing the intended meanings of polysemous Qur'anic lexical items as well. This investigation into Qur'anic synonymy and polysemy enhances the translation process and deepens the understanding of the semantic intricacies of the original Qur'anic text.

This study aims to identify the contextual meanings of the Qur'anic near-synonyms *بأس* (punishment) and *بطش* (assault), analyze the various meanings of the polysemous Qur'anic lexical item *بأس* (*ba's* (punishment)), and how these meanings are captured in AI-generated and post-edited English translations, and investigate how the semantic distinctions between the near-synonymous Qur'anic terms *بأس* (*ba's*) as "punishment" and *بطش* (*batsha*) as "assault" are represented in both AI-generated and post-edited English translations.

This study adopts the Relation by Contrast Approach to Synonyms (RC-S) developed by Murphy (2003) as the theoretical framework for data analysis. The RC-S approach is useful for investigating the subtle semantic differences between Qur'anic synonyms (Abdul-Ghafour et al., 2019), especially those which share similar denotative meanings but differ slightly in their expressive elements. By focusing on such minimal differences, the RC-S model provides a structured method to show the complex layers of meaning that characterize Qur'anic synonyms.

Denotative meaning, as defined within the RC-S framework, pertains to the direct referential aspect of a word—the set of conditions that determine what entities in the world a lexical item can refer to (Murphy, 2003). This aspect is critical in the analysis of Qur'anic synonyms where even slight semantic differences in denotation could lead to significant differences in translation/interpretation. The denotative analysis focuses on how specific Qur'anic terms map to their references and the conditions under which such mappings hold true.

The expressive elements of meaning include affective meaning, connotative meaning, and other forms of social information. Such elements provide depth and context to the denotatively similar lexical items, providing different nuances without changing their basic truth-conditions (Murphy, 2003).

- a) **Connotation:** This involves the additional meanings a word or phrase carries beyond its primary definition, which are essential for the perception of the cultural and emotional resonances of Qur'anic synonyms (Richards & Schmidt, 2002; Alrefaee, 2023).
- b) **Affect:** Affect is concerned with the emotional undertone associated with a lexical item, which is especially important in religious texts such as the Holy Qur'an, where the emotional weight of words could shape the response of readers or listeners.
- c) **Social Information:** This includes the sociolinguistic layers such as register, dialect, and jargon. In the context of the Qur'an, understanding such layers is essential for appreciating how synonyms might shift meaning across different social or historical contexts.

The RC-S approach is particularly suited to this study for several reasons. Firstly, it provides a clear framework for dissecting the nuances between pairs of synonyms, which is vital when dealing with the text as linguistically and theologically dense as the Qur'an. Secondly, by highlighting both denotative and expressive aspects of meaning, the RC-S model allows for a comprehensive analysis that incorporates both the literal and the affective dimensions of language.

This theoretical framework guides the analysis of the denotative and expressive meanings of Qur'anic near-synonyms, with a particular focus on how such meanings are translated into English. AI tools are employed in collaboration with human editing to identify and categorize these nuances effectively. The ultimate aim is to understand how the subtle differences between Qur'anic synonyms are reflected in their English translations, thereby highlighting the translational challenges encountered during AI translation. This does not only enhance our perception of Qur'anic synonymy but also contribute to the broader field of translation studies by offering insights into the translation of religious texts.

The application of artificial intelligence, particularly ChatGPT, in the realm of Islamic scholarship and Qur'anic studies has garnered considerable attention in recent academic research. El Ganadi et al. (2023) demonstrated the efficacy of ChatGPT in organizing thematic content within a library setting. Moreover, AlMaayah et al. (2016) developed a methodology for the identification of synonyms within the Qur'an. Dukes (2013) contributed insights into the Qur'anic Arabic Corpus through a discussion on annotation strategies, complemented by Tubaishat et al. (2023), who introduced an innovative search technique predicated on synonym identification. The challenges associated with translating Qur'anic synonyms have been prominently highlighted by Al Abbas and Al Khanji (2019), as well as by Shehab (2016), with Al Abbas specifically addressing the difficulties in capturing the nuanced distinctions essential for accurate synonym translation. Further exploration into the usage of synonyms in the Qur'an was conducted by Al Sayyid et al. (2023), who analysed the forms and meanings of words in Surah Al Baqarah.

The corpus of scholarly work concerning Qur'anic synonyms illuminates the significant challenges encountered in translating these closely related terms (Al Jabri, 2012; Al Qina'i, 2011; Al Abbas & Al Khanji, 2019). These challenges are further exacerbated when synonyms occur within the same verse, complicating the translation process and demanding a nuanced understanding of contextual meanings (Al Abbas & Al Khanji, 2019). For further illustration, Muhsen Al-Jabri (2012) and Al-Qina'i (2012) examine the implications of these nuances for translation practices. Al-Jabri uses componential analysis to evaluate the semantic aspects of synonyms, highlighting the

frequent challenges translators face in achieving semantic accuracy. Al-Qinai, meanwhile, argues for the use of functional ideational equivalence over formal equivalence, stressing that the translator's goal should be to replicate the effect of the original text on the target audience, a task complicated by the layered meanings of synonyms. In addition, Al-Omari & Abu-Melhim (2014) and Al-Abbas & Al-Khanji (2019) both discuss the theoretical and practical challenges in translating synonyms, emphasizing that absolute synonymy is virtually nonexistent in the Qur'an. They argue that what appears as synonymy often reveals distinct semantic nuances upon deeper analysis. This complexity is not only a linguistic issue but also a theological one, as each term carries specific connotations that are pivotal to the text's meaning.

The study investigates the utilization of specific words within the Holy Qur'an, with a particular focus on Surah Al Baqarah as well as Surat Yusuf (Al Sayyid et al., 2023). It also involves the ongoing debate regarding synonymy in both Arabic and English, particularly within the context of the Holy Qur'an (Al Omari & Abu Melhim, 2014). The analysis of synonyms in the Holy Qur'an underscores the critical importance of attaining ideational equivalence (Shehab, 2016). Hassan (2020) and Abdul-Ghafour et al. (2019) illuminate the challenges inherent in translating the Holy Qur'an, particularly in respect of conveying its semantic subtleties. Hassan (2020) emphasizes the necessity for translators to accurately interpret and transmit the literal uses of Qur'anic expressions like Metonymy, Synecdoche, Allusion, Nonverbal cues, Euphemistic phrases, and Hyperbolic forms. Abdul-Ghafour et al. (2019) further highlight the significance of capturing semantic distinctions in synonyms and polysemous terms within the Holy Qur'an, which usually fail to translate effectively into English. Together, such studies advocate for a translation approach that is both nuanced and culturally sensitive, aimed at effectively conveying the complexities of the Holy Qur'an.

Extensive scholarly research has been conducted on the concept of synonymy within the Qur'an, encompassing various facets such as its syntactic structure (Cuyppers, 2020), semantic analysis (Dukes, 2013; Al Sayyid et al., 2023), and the inherent challenges of its translation (Al-Jabri, 2012; Al-Abbas & Al-Khanji, 2019; Abdul-Ghafour et al., 2019). These studies have categorized synonyms found in the Qur'an into distinct types, including those appearing in letter, name, and verb forms (Al Sayyid et al., 2023). They have also highlighted the critical importance of understanding contextual meanings and the subtle differences among near synonyms to ensure accurate interpretation and translation (Abdul-Ghafour et al., 2019). The collective findings from these studies emphasize the intricate complexity of synonymy in the Qur'an, underlining the necessity for meticulous analysis and careful consideration in translation processes.

Furthermore, Alduhaim (2021) extends this discussion by examining how different translators handle the connotative and denotative meanings of near-synonyms. The study reveals that despite the translators' diverse backgrounds, there is a common tendency to overlook the subtle distinctions between near-synonyms, resulting in semantic voids. This observation points to the critical need for translators to possess a deep understanding of both the source language and the cultural-historical context of the text. Al Sayyid et al. (2023) also provide a foundational analysis by categorizing synonyms in Surah Al-Baqarah into forms such as letter, isim, and fi'il, each demonstrating specific contextual meanings. This categorization underscores the intrinsic variability in synonym usage within the Qur'an, which poses significant challenges for translation, particularly in retaining the nuanced meanings intended in the original text.

However, there appears to be a lacuna in the extant literature concerning the deployment of artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT, in the exploration of synonyms within the Qur'ān. While El Ganadi et al. (2023) and Al Khalifa et al. (2023) have investigated the capabilities and challenges of using ChatGPT within Islamic scholarly contexts, their research has not specifically addressed its utility in identifying Qur'ānic synonyms. Similarly, studies by Al Abbas and Al Khanji (2019) and Ebrahimi and Zadeh (2014) have focused on the translation of Qur'ānic terms but have not explored the potential of AI collaboration in this domain. Furthermore, Sumaya (2012) and Shehab (2016) have examined the complexities involved in translating metaphors and cognitive synonyms without considering the integration of AI technologies. Thus, there remains a significant gap in the scholarly discourse regarding the specific role that AI, particularly ChatGPT, might play in elucidating Qur'ānic synonyms.

The current scholarly investigation seems deficient in its examination of how the integration of human expertise with artificial intelligence capabilities could improve the understanding and interpretation of Qur'ānic synonyms beyond mere annotation and categorization tasks. While the AI contribution to categorization and resource development is well-recognized, its potential for deeper engagement in the analysis and comprehension of subtle meanings and contexts of synonyms remains underexplored. Comparative studies that evaluate how AI and human interpretations of Qur'ānic texts compare are particularly scarce, yet such studies are vital for validating the effectiveness and accuracy of AI applications in this scholarly domain.

METHOD

This study adopts the qualitative approach for analysing the collected data. This approach is conducted to analyse both the contextual meanings of the selected Qur'anic near-synonyms, AI-generated translations and human post-editing. It is useful for achieving the objectives of the current study.

The corpus of the study includes two Qur'anic near-synonyms, namely, **بأس** (punishment) and **بطش** (assault). Due to the limitations of the present study, six Qur'anic verses are selected for analysis because each verse carries a different meaning for the selected words. The analysis unfolds in stages, beginning with an examination of the contextual meanings of each Qur'anic near-synonym based on the selected exegeses of the Holy Qur'an, followed by an analysis of AI generated translation and a subsequent analysis of human post-editing for each near-synonym.

ChatGPT 4 (paid version) was used for translating the selected Qur'anic verses which include Qur'anic near-synonyms. Two professional translators with expertise in Qur'anic studies performed the post-editing process of AI-generated translations of the selected Qur'anic near-synonyms (One of them provided the translation while the other revised his translation).

Methods of Data Analysis

Qualitative analysis involves in-depth examinations of the contextual meanings of the selected puns based on the exegeses of the Holy Qur'an, the AI translation and the human post-editing process, employing methods like content analysis to uncover the interpretative choices made by post-editors. The exegeses (Ibn 'Ashūr, 1984, Al-Sha'rāwī, 1991, Al-Ṭabarī, 2001 and Al-Maḥalī, and Al-Suyūtī, 2003), among others, are consulted in this study to identify the contextual meanings of the selected Qur'anic puns.

These widely recognized exegetical works approach the Holy Qur'an from a linguistic and rhetorical perspective. The present study adopts Murphy's (2003) model for identifying the differences in meanings between near-synonyms and how such differences are considered during translation. This study investigates the meanings of the Qur'anic pair **بأس** and **بطش** (assault- punishment) particularly selected for several reasons. For example, the semantic differences between the two lexical items are subtle and difficult to understand even for the non-specialist native Arabic speakers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section provides the analysis of the data and findings of the study. It provides the contextual meanings of Qur'anic near-synonyms **بأس** ba's and **بطش** batash, AI-generated and post-edited English translations and the semantic differences between these Qur'anic words.

Analysis Of The Meanings And Translations Of The Near-Synonym **بأس** (Ba's)

This section analyses the meanings and translation of **بأس** ba's as follows:

Table 1. Meaning of **بأس Ba's As Punishment**

Qur'anic verse	AI translation	Human Post Editing of AI Translation
قال تعالى: "أَفَمَنْ يَنْصُرُنَا مِنْ بَأْسِ اللَّهِ إِنْ جَاءَنَا" [غافر: ٢٩]	"So who will protect us from the wrath of God if it comes upon us?"	"But who will protect us from the punishment of Allah if it comes upon us?" (Ghafir: 29)

This verse is interpreted to question who will provide aid against Allah's formidable punishment if the decision is made by someone to harm His allies (Ibn 'Ashūr, 1984, Al-Ṭabarī, 2001 and Al-Maḥalī and Al-Suyūtī, 2003). Here, the term **بأس** (ba's) in the Qur'anic context explicitly refers to a severe or mighty punishment. This interpretation aligns closely with ChatGPT's rendering of ba's as "wrath," emphasizing the severity and divine retribution aspect. Similarly, the editors of AI translation have opted for the term "punishment," which is synonymous in this context, reinforcing the notion of divine justice and retribution. This consistency in translation underscores a thorough understanding of the semantic range of ba's, encompassing both wrath and punishment as aspects of divine enforcement.

Table 2. Meaning of **بأس Ba's As Battle**

Qur'anic verse	AI translation	Human Post Editing of AI Translation
قال تعالى: "وَلَا يَأْتُونَ الْبَأْسَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا" [الأحزاب: ١٨]	"And they will not face hardship except for a little."	"They do not engage in the battle except briefly". (Al-Ahzab: 18)

This verse elucidates that Allah is keenly aware of those who create obstacles and those who beckon their brethren with 'Come to us,' yet their participation in the battle is minimal and primarily for show, aimed at preserving their social standing (Ibn 'Ashūr, 1984, Al-Ṭabarī, 2001 and Al-Maḥalī and Al-Suyūtī, 2003). It highlights Allah's profound understanding of the underlying motives and actions of individuals, particularly spotlighting those who maintain a facade of dedication to the cause while their actual contributions are scant. This critique targets superficial engagement in critical

undertakings, spotlighting the stark contrast between outward displays and authentic participation.

This examination reveals that within this context, *ba*'s distinctly signifies "battle." As revealed in Table (2) above, ChatGPT inaccurately translated *ba*'s as "hardship," which failed to capture the specific implication of military engagement as intended in this verse. However, subsequent adjustments by the editors of ChatGPT translation corrected this, opting for "battle," which aligns precisely with the contextual usage of *ba*'s in this passage, thereby reflecting a more accurate understanding and translation of the term.

Table 3. Meaning of بَأْسِي Ba's As Hardship

Qur'anic verse	AI translation	Human Post Editing of AI Translation
قال تعالى: "مَسَّتْهُمُ الْبَأْسَاءُ وَالضَّرَاءُ" [البقرة: ٢١٤]	"Adversity and hardship have touched them" [Al-Baqarah: 214].	"They were afflicted with hardship and adversity" (Al-Baqarah: 214)

This verse describes how Muslims were engulfed in extreme misery, grappling with severe poverty and debilitating illnesses, and facing a multitude of tribulations (Ibn 'Ashūr, 1984, Al-Ṭabarī, 2001 and Al-Maḥalī and Al-Suyūtī, 2003). These intense hardships tested their endurance, profoundly affecting even the Messenger (ibid). The verse richly details the depth of their suffering, emphasizing the harsh conditions that challenged their faith and resilience. This depiction not only underscores the severity of their trials but also illuminates their steadfastness amidst overwhelming adversities. It is noteworthy that ChatGPT accurately captured the meaning of the word *ba*'s as "hardship" in this Qur'anic context, a rendition that was consistently maintained by the ChatGPT translation editors, reflecting a precise understanding of the term's usage in the verse.

Table 4. Meaning of بَأْسِي Ba's As Power In Battle

Qur'anic verse	AI translation	Human Post Editing of AI Translation
قال تعالى: "قَالُوا نَحْنُ أَوْلُو قُوَّةٍ وَأُولُو بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ" [النمل: ٣٣]	"They said, 'We are people of strength and of great might'" [Al-Naml: 33].	They said, "We possess strength and are greatly formidable in battle" (Al-Naml: 33)

In this verse, they affirm their considerable strength and military capability, effectively declaring, "We are robust and excel in warfare" (Ibn 'Ashūr, 1984, Al-Ṭabarī, 2001 and Al-Maḥalī and Al-Suyūtī, 2003). This proclamation underscores their readiness and eagerness to heed commands, effectively placing all decision-making power in the hands of their leader. This stance not only highlights their loyalty but also demonstrates their deep trust in their leader's strategic judgment, indicating their full commitment to execute any instructions they receive.

It is important to note that the initial translation of *ba*'s by ChatGPT as "great might" was somewhat broad and failed to capture the specific nuance of being "powerful in war." However, the editorial revision by the ChatGPT translation team, which rendered this lexical item as "greatly formidable in battle," successfully conveys the intended meaning. This refined translation aligns more closely with the context of the Qur'anic verse and the detailed interpretation provided, which emphasizes their prowess and readiness for military engagement.

Table 5. Meaning of بَأْسِي Ba's As Fury

Qur'anic verse	AI translation	Human Post Editing of AI Translation
قال تعالى: "عَسَى اللَّهُ أَنْ يَكْفِتَ بَأْسَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا" [٨٤ النساء]	"It may be that Allah will restrain the might of those who disbelieve" [An-Nisa: 84].	"Perhaps Allah will restrain the fury of the unbelievers" (Al-Nisa'a: 84)

In this verse, Allah led a force of seventy cavalymen to the pivotal Battle of Badr. During this confrontation, He intervened, curbing the strength of the disbelievers by instilling fear in their hearts (Ibn ʿAshūr, 1984, Al-Ṭabarī, 2001 and Al-Maḥalī and Al-Suyūtī, 2003). This divine intervention not only demoralized the enemy but also specifically prevented Abū Sufyān from advancing into the battlefield. The verse highlights the supernatural assistance that played a crucial role in determining the outcome of the battle, showcasing a significant moment where divine will directly influenced the events, aligning with the believers' efforts and contributing to their victory. It is noticed that the word ba's in this verse refers to the strength in battlefield. It is shown that ChatGPT translate it this word as "might" which does not reflect the intended meaning in this Qur'anic verse. However, the editors of the ChatGPT translation rendered ba's as fury which refers to wild or violent anger, often conveying a sense of intense, uncontrollable rage. It can also describe a state of frenzied or turbulent activity, often used to emphasize the power and destructive nature of natural phenomena, emotions, or actions (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 2005).

Analysis Of The Meanings And Translations Of The Near-Synonym بطش (Batsha)

This section analyses the meanings and translation of بطش batsha as follows:

Table 6. Meaning of بطش As Assault

Qur'anic verse	AI translation	Human Post Editing of AI Translation
"ان بطش ربك لشديد" (البروج: ١٢)	"Indeed, the grasp of your Lord is severe" [Al-Brouj: 12].	Indeed, the punishment of your Lord is stern.

This verse powerfully asserts that Allah's assault against the disbelievers is exceptionally severe, tailored to the level of severity He considers just (Ibn ʿAshūr, 1984, Al-Ṭabarī, 2001 and Al-Maḥalī and Al-Suyūtī, 2003). It accentuates the omnipotence and sovereign will of Allah in executing justice, emphasizing that His measures, especially against disbelief, are calculated and deeply consequential. The statement serves as a stern warning about the dire repercussions of defying divine directives, vividly portraying the strength and decisiveness of divine punishment.

The term بطش (batsha) in this context is crucial; it signifies an "assault" or a sudden, forceful action, which can be physical or metaphorical, such as a military strike or a striking down of opposition (Al-Sha'rawī, 1991). This description extends to various forms of intense, aggressive actions, whether against physical entities or abstract concepts like character or belief. It's important to note that there has been a discrepancy in translations. ChatGPT's translation as "grasp" may capture the suddenness but lacks the violent connotation of "assault." Meanwhile, the editors of the ChatGPT translation have rendered it in a manner too similar to the translation of its near-synonym بَأْسِي (ba's), potentially conflating the two distinct concepts. Both cases highlight the need for a more

precise rendering that fully encompasses the aggressive and punitive nuances of بطش in this context.

Differences Between *Ba's* بَأْس And *Batsha* بَطْش Based On RC- Approach

The analysis of contextual meanings of both near-synonyms بَأْس and بَطْش revealed that these two near-synonyms share a foundational denotative meaning related to the exertion of force or power, typically in adversarial contexts. However, the specific conditions under which each word is used can vary slightly. For instance, *ba's* بَأْس is often used more broadly to describe situations of conflict, power, and sometimes hardship or enduring struggle. It can refer to both the physical and metaphysical aspects of struggle or confrontation. However, *batsha* بَطْش usually denotes a more immediate, often violent action such as a strike or hit. It tends to focus more on the physical act of overpowering or overwhelming.

The expressive elements—connotation, affect, and social information—provide deeper insights into the subtle distinctions between بَأْس and بَطْش. For example, *ba's* بَأْس might carry connotations of endurance or sustained effort in adversity, invoking a sense of ongoing struggle or resilience. Nevertheless, *batsha* بَطْش is more likely to convey a sense of abruptness and severity, often with a negative connotation related to the suddenness and brutality of the action. In terms of Affect, the emotional undertone of بَأْس *ba's* can be mixed, reflecting both the nobility of enduring hardship and the grim reality of conflict. On the other hand, *batsha* بَطْش typically carries a more uniformly negative affect, emphasizing fear and suppression because of its association with violent actions.

CONCLUSION

The analysis demonstrates that *ba's* بَأْس is a polysemous word in the Qur'anic text, embodying various nuanced meanings including punishment, battle, hardship, power in battle, and fury. This diversity of meanings underscores the complexity and depth of the word's use in different contexts, each tailored to enhance the thematic and rhetorical aspects of the verses. In contrast, its near-synonym *batsha* بَطْش predominantly translates as "assault," denoting a more specific, usually physical, sudden, and forceful action. This distinction highlights the broader semantic range of *ba's* compared to the more focused usage of *batsha*.

The findings also reveal that ChatGPT's translations of *ba's* بَأْس have varied in accuracy, sometimes capturing the intended meaning as seen in instances like translating it as "hardship" where appropriate, while at other times it missed nuances specific to contexts such as "power in battle." These variations underscore the challenge of AI in consistently capturing context-specific meanings without human intervention.

The translation of *batsha* بَطْش as "grasp" by ChatGPT diverges from the conventional understanding of "assault," missing the aggressive and violent connotations essential to the word's usage in the Qur'anic text. The human editors play a critical role in refining AI translations, particularly in addressing the nuances that ChatGPT may overlook. For instance, the editors' adjustment from "great might" to "greatly formidable in battle" for *ba's* بَأْس reflects a deeper understanding of the military context and aligns better with the Qur'anic discourse. Similarly, their correction of *batsha* بَطْش to align more closely with "assault" rather than "grasp" helps maintain the intended impact and clarity of the verses. These revisions not only improve the translation's fidelity to the original

text but also enhance the comprehensibility and appropriateness of the terms in their specific theological and historical contexts. The obtained findings highlight the significance of nuanced understanding in translating sacred texts such as Qur'anic texts, where each lexical item carries various layers of meaning relying on its usage. The role of human oversight in AI translations is indispensable, especially in maintaining the depth as well as integrity of religious and literary texts.

To enhance the study of translations and interpretations of Qur'anic terms, particularly focusing on the nuances of *بأس* (*ba's*) and *بطش* (*batsha*), several methodological improvements could be adopted. Firstly, developing AI models with an expanded training set that includes a vast array of contextually enriched datasets specific to Qur'anic Arabic and classical usages is critical. This enhancement would ideally involve incorporating classical Arabic literature and exegesis (*tafsir*) to bolster the model's capability to discern nuanced meanings accurately. Moreover, implementing algorithms designed to adjust translations based on the contextual cues from surrounding texts could significantly elevate the precision in conveying the intended meanings.

Further strengthening the study could involve an expansive comparative analysis. Such a kind of analysis would benefit from including a number of Qur'anic translations across multiple languages, facilitating a strong comparison of how translators have dealt with these lexical items across various linguistic and cultural traditions. Furthermore, a comparative study with other religious texts might offer a richer linguistic and theological backdrop and enrich the understanding and translation of shared concepts.

Integrating expert review is another essential recommendation. Engaging scholars from fields like Qur'anic studies, linguistics, and theology in the review process could offer significant validation and refinement of AI translations. Establishing a panel of experts who can provide regular feedback would ensure that translations not only remain true to the original text but also respect cultural nuances and theological depth.

Furthermore, focusing on detailed studies of the semantic range of critical Qur'anic terms could document and analyze their varied applications within the text. Such studies would be instrumental in refining translation strategies to ensure they opt for the most contextually appropriate meaning in specific verses. Such an approach would improve both the accuracy and the educational value of the translations.

Lastly, broadening engagement with various user groups like educators, students, and the general public could offer diverse perspectives which are valuable for refining the translations. Collecting and analyzing feedback from these groups would provide insights into the effectiveness of the translations and highlight areas for improvement. Coupled with the development of educational materials and workshops, this strategy would not only enhance understanding of Qur'anic translations but also elevate the public's appreciation of the complexities involved in translating and interpreting ancient texts. Such comprehensive steps would not only increase the accuracy and reliability of AI translations but also foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the richness of Qur'anic language as well as its interpretations.

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