

Quranic Linguistic Miracles: Fundamental Vocabularies and Their Impact on Arabic Language Studies

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Abstract

The Quran's role as a foundational sacred text in preserving and shaping the Arabic language makes it an essential resource for linguists, learners, and educators to enhance their understanding of Quranic Arabic. A key sūrah that captures the fundamental vocabulary and concepts of the Qur'ān is Sūrah Al-Baqarah. Through a literature review, researchers found no previous study on the collection of these words and the number of derivatives in their various contexts. Therefore, this study aims to highlight the fundamental vocabulary of the Qur'ān in this Sūrah, as it includes these words that are repeated at least 50 times throughout the Qur'ān. Through the qualitative approach and analyzing documents in primary dictionaries of al-Quran words, researchers gathered data by analyzing the frequency of the words semantically and comparatively. They counted their frequency with their different derivations using "al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li-Alfāz al-Qur'ān al-Karīm". "Mu'jam al-Adawāt wa-al-Ḍamā'ir" was also used as an additional resource. The meanings of the words were later clarified using "Mu'jam alfāz al-Qur'ān al-Karīm". This study concluded that the fundamental words in Sūrah Al-Baqarah include verbs, nouns, and prepositions, with the number of occurrences of their most commonly used derivations amounting to 227 terms. The fundamental vocabulary in this collection represents a rich linguistic treasure and a substantial scientific resource. The findings contribute not only to understanding word roots, derivational morphology, and syntactic patterns. Thus, this research underscores al-Quran's role as a foundational sacred text in preserving and shaping the Arabic language, making it an essential resource for linguists, learners, and educators to enhance their understanding of Quranic Arabic.

Keywords: Fundamental; Vocabulary; Al-Baqarah; Quranic Linguistic

INTRODUCTION

No sacred book is as perfect as the Book of Allah, free from any defect and error. Not a single falsehood can approach it neither from its front nor its back. It is no surprise, as it was revealed by the One who is All-Wise and All-Knowing, aware of the state of human being and its needs over all other creatures. The miraculous nature of the Qur'ān serves as the appropriate path for achieving salvation and safety in this world. The Book of Allah accommodates Muslims and non-Muslims in its sciences and knowledge to build future horizons. This research highlights one of the miraculous linguistic aspects of the

Qur'ān, which is its inclusion of almost all of the fundamental vocabulary in a single Sūrah. The collection of these words with their various derivations for understanding and comprehending them within a single Sūrah facilitates understanding and aids in contemplating the most frequently occurring fundamental vocabulary in the Qur'ān, which amounts to more than half of its terms.

The research problem lies in gathering the Qur'ānic vocabulary with its various derivations to comprehend and understand their meanings in different contexts, as familiarity with frequently repeated linguistic elements aids in understanding the meanings of the Qur'ān. The research answers two questions: 1) what is meant by the fundamental vocabulary in the Qur'ān, and what is the aspect of the miracle? How can students of knowledge benefit from its occurrence in a single Sūrah?

Researchers found no previous study on the collection of these words and the number of derivatives in their various contexts. Thus, the readers of al-Quran will benefit from the collection of the words in this study, as it will assist the understanding of the Qur'ānic verses to make it easier for Muslims in particular, and for anyone eager to learn about the meanings of the Qur'ān and comprehend its texts through a simple presentation and a straightforward method. This study also serves to remind scholars and specialists of the diversity and renewal of the Qur'ān's miraculous aspects, as it is "never exhausted by repetition, and its wonders never cease," and to alert Muslims to the necessity of pondering the Book of Allah to benefit from its diverse and ever-renewing miracles.

This research will present the most frequently repeated vocabulary in the Qur'ān, including verbs, nouns, tools, and pronouns, mentioning the number of occurrences of their most common derivations. This is based on Sūrah Al-Baqarah, which contains the mentioned words, amounting to 227 terms. It is sufficient to mention only the first instance of each word in the Sūrah, with a brief indication of the word's meaning in the context of the verse. This study aims to serve non-Arab Muslims by translating the meanings of these fundamental words into their language, helping them understand the verses and contemplate them. The definition of the word can be explained at its first occurrence in the Sūrah, and other occurrences can be referred to with their derivations in the order of the Sūrahs from al-Fātihah to al-Nās.

Previous efforts by scholars and specialists have been commendable. There are the "*Qāmūs al-alfāz al-Qur'ānīyah, wa al-Dalīl al-Kāmil li Āyāt al-Qur'ān al-Karīm*" by Husayn Muḥammad al-Shāfi'ī, along with dictionaries of names and subjects such as "*Mu'jam al-Alfāz wa-al-A'lām al-Qur'ānīyah*" by Muḥammad Ismā'īl Ibrāhīm, Muḥammad al-Tūnjī, and 'Abdal-Şabūr Marzūq. The most similar dictionary to our work is "*al-Mu'jam al-Ishtiqāqī al- Mu'assal li Alfāz al-Qur'ān al-Karīm*" by Dr. Muḥammad Hasan Jabal, which provides explanations for Qur'ānic vocabulary through derivation. As al-Razi states, derivation is the most comprehensive method of defining the meanings of words. The number of words in the dictionary exceeds two thousand entries, as it encompasses all Arabic vocabulary, unlike the primary selection in our dictionary.

After thorough investigation and exploration, it seems that research on this matter still lacks and collects the most frequently occurring words in the Qur'ān, along with the number of derivatives in their various contexts. Although limited to 227 entries, these fundamental words represent more than half of the Qur'ānic vocabulary. They constitute a rich linguistic treasure, benefiting those interested in learning Arabic and understanding the meanings of the Qur'ānic verses.

METHOD

This research has employed a qualitative approach in nature to focus on analyzing in details of a specific subset of words from al-Quran. The objective of the mentioned focus is to identify and analyze fundamental vocabularies that are appeared frequently. Also, in this research, the focus that was focused on is words which repeated no less than 50 times throughout the entire of al-Quran.

The research methodology involves selecting the vocabulary repeatedly mentioned in Al-Qur'an more than 50 times. These words were then grouped into their original form and sorted alphabetically. The researchers then identified samples of their occurrence in Sūrah Al-Baqarah. Subsequently, the general and specific meanings of the word are explained in concise and clear Arabic.

Research Terminology

- 1) Fundamental Vocabulary: Words that frequently appear and recur in the entire Qur'ān no less than 50 times, totaling 227 terms, regarding some of their most repeated derivatives and forms.
- 2) Sūrah Al-Baqarah: The longest Sūrah in the Qur'ān after Al-Fatihah in order, with the vocabulary arranged alphabetically according to their first occurrence.

During the process of gathering and sorting the words, the researchers rely on the dictionary "*al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li-Alfāz al-Qur'ān al-Karīm*" written by Professor Muḥammad Fu'ād 'Abd al-Bāqī, which contains the collection of the word in the Qur'ān with its different derivations together with its frequency of use. The dictionary "*Mu'jam al-Adawāt wa-al-Damā'ir*" written by Ismā'īl 'Amāyirah and 'Abd al-Ḥamīd al-Sayyid was also consulted as an addition to words that were not included in the previous source, totaling 15 words. The meanings of the words in their various forms were clarified using the dictionary "*Mu'jam alfāz al-Qur'ān al-Karīm*," published by the Arabic Language Academy in Cairo. These type of analysis fulfilled the characteristics of document analysis as described by Ghazali and Suffian (2021) when it comes to the analysis approach in the context of qualitative research.

To simplify the procedure of this study, here are the steps that have been followed to gain the findings:

1. Step 1: Vocabulary Selection

As mentioned earlier concerning words that are repeated no less than 50 times which have impacts on derivative words of Arabic language, that criteria is chosen for this study and simultaneously acts as a limitation focus for this research.

2. Step 2: Sorting and Grouping

Once the searched words were found have the criteria in the step 1, they were grouped according to the original root form then sorted alphabetically.

3. Step 3: Sample Identification

After sample words with those steps above were identified, this study chose the longest surah in al-Quran which is al-Baqarah. This step also acts as a limitation and as a focus within the selected criterias.

4. Meaning Clarification

Since each chosen word have general and specific meanings, this step chose to explain them using the accurate and concise of Arabic meaning.

5. Step 5: Resource Utilization

The chosen documents of this study primarily relied on the dictionary of al-Quran

words in its original writing; *al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li Alfaz al-Quran al-Karim*, *Mu'jam al-Adawat wa al-Damair*, *Mu'jam Alfaz al-Quran al-Karim*. Those chosen dictionaries used to ensure the reliability and validity meaning and their derivations, along with their frequency of mentioned in the surah (al-Baqarah).

Research Analysis

The analysis carried out under the current paper is primarily comparative and descriptive. It is concerned with the following:

1. Frequency Analysis: The analysis is based on the frequency of the occurrence of words. By the identification of repeated words for at least 50 times, the analysis identifies the strongest and most basic terms of the Qur'anic lexicon.
2. Semantic Analysis: The analysis proceeds into the nuances of meaning of the same root word under its varying derivatives. For example, the connotation of the same root word as a verb can be distinct from that under noun or participle forms. This meticulous analysis facilitates one to extract the depth and richness of the language of the Qur'an.
3. Comparative Contextual Examination: The meanings of the words are not examined individualistically. The examination, rather, takes into account their context within Surah Al-Baqarah. The research contrasts the overall, dictionary-definition meaning of a word with its contextual, specific meaning within a specific verse. In this way, the examination provides an holistic appreciation of the ways the words carry meaning.

The analysis relies considerably on known dictionaries of Arabic as primary materials. The following materials were used for the purpose of reinforcing the analysis:

1. "*al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li-Alfāz al-Qur'ān al-Karīm*": Used to gather and sort words, their derivations, and their frequency.
2. "*Mu'jam al-Adawāt wa-al-Damā'ir*": Used as a secondary source for words not found in the primary dictionary.
3. "*Mu'jam Alfāz al-Qur'ān al-Karīm*": Used to clarify the meanings of words in their various forms.

These results of the analysis are compiled together into tables that outline the word, its root, its frequency, and its meaning and include example verses from Surah Al-Baqarah.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Despite the vast scope of the Qur'ān, consisting of over 100 *sūrāhs* and more than 600 pages, the number of frequently repeated words is surprisingly limited to approximately 227 words, each appearing more than 50 times. The total occurrences of the derivations of these words amount to 50,525 instances constituting 0.3% of the total words. Considering that the total number of words in the Qur'ān is approximately 77,407, the frequently repeated words account for about 65.27%, which is more than half of the Qur'ān's vocabulary. Therefore, studying the fundamental 227 words will assist in understanding nearly half of the Qur'ānic vocabulary.

This type of word repetition can be termed derivational homonymy due to the relationship between repetition and homonymy, especially in terms of function, as Ibn Abī al- Iṣbā' explained: "Homonymy functions to deceive the reader with repetition, then surprises them with the similarity of words and the difference in meanings."⁸ Hence, when non-Arabic speakers become familiar with these two categories of words, they will find

it easier to understand and follow the meanings of the Qur'ān.

The words can be numbered in a continuous sequence in each Sūrah, with the number linked to the root word (three single letters), and when they appear with other derivations in other contexts, they can be referred back to the first occurrence. This can all be noted in the margins of the Qur'ān.

The vocabulary can be classified according to their frequency in the Qur'ān into six categories:

1. First Category: Words that appear more than 1000 times, which include four words:
 - a. The word "*Lafz al-Jalālah*" (2,697 times)
 - b. "*Qawl*" (1,710 times)
 - c. "*Kūn*" (1,391 times)
 - d. "*Alladhīna*" (1,073 times)
2. Second Category: Words that appear between 500-1000 times, which include nine words:

a. <i>Amn</i> (peace): 879 times	f. <i>Kufr</i> (disbelief): 525 times
b. <i>'Ilm</i> (knowledge): 854 times	g. <i>Bayyn</i> (clarified): 523 times
c. <i>Man</i> (who): 861 times	h. <i>Shay'</i> (thing): 519 times
d. <i>Qawm</i> (people): 660 times	i. <i>Rusul</i> (messengers): 513 times
e. <i>Atā</i> (came): 563 times	
3. Third Category: Words that appear between 300-500 times, which include 20 words:

a. <i>Ard</i> (land): 461 times	k. <i>Rahim</i> (mercy): 339 times
b. <i>Idhā</i> (if): 423 times	l. <i>Thamm</i> (there): 338 times
c. <i>Dhālika</i> (that): 426 times	m. <i>Ja'ala</i> (made): 335 times
d. <i>Yawm</i> (day): 405 times	n. <i>Ra'ā</i> (saw): 328 times
e. <i>Āyat</i> (sign): 382 times	o. <i>Kutiba</i> (written): 320 times
f. <i>Ayy</i> (any): 382 times	p. <i>Hudā</i> (guidance): 316 times
g. <i>Sumuww</i> (high): 381 times	q. <i>Zulm</i> (wronged): 315 times
h. <i>'Adhb</i> (punishment): 371 times	r. <i>Alladhī</i> (who): 304 times
i. <i>Kull</i> (all): 362 times	s. <i>Hum</i> (they - pronoun): 438 times
j. <i>'Amal</i> (work): 359 times	t. <i>Huwa</i> (he - pronoun): 478 times
4. Fourth Category: Words that appear between 200-300 times, which include 20 words:

a. <i>Nafs</i> (soul): 298 times	k. <i>Waqā</i> (protected): 259 times
b. <i>Ulā'ik</i> (those): 295 times	l. <i>Ākhir</i> (last): 250 times
c. <i>Qabla</i> (before): 294 times	m. <i>Amr</i> (command): 248 times
d. <i>Nazala</i> (descended): 293 times	n. <i>Nawasa</i> (wandered): 241 times
e. <i>Dhakara</i> (mentioned): 292 times	o. <i>Ba'da</i> (after): 235 times
f. <i>Haqqāqa</i> (truth): 287 times	p. <i>Ghafara</i> (forgave): 234 times
g. <i>Kadhaba</i> (lied): 282 times	q. <i>Walā</i> (loyalty): 233 times
h. <i>'Abd</i> (worshipped): 275 times	r. <i>Hakama</i> (judged): 215 times
i. <i>Akhadha</i> (took): 274 times	s. <i>Da'ā</i> (called): 212 times
j. <i>Khalqa</i> (created): 261 times	t. <i>al-Jannah</i> (paradise): 208 times
5. Fifth Category: Words that appear between 100-200 times, which include 75 words, such as:

a. <i>Ab</i> (father): 117 times	h. <i>Ahl</i> (people): 127 times
b. <i>'Inda</i> (at): 199 times	i. <i>Bashar</i> (human): 123 times
c. <i>Awwal</i> (first): 159 times	j. <i>Akala</i> (ate): 109 times
d. <i>Ba'd</i> (some): 158 times	k. <i>Ajr</i> (reward): 108 times

- e. *Wa'd* (promised): 151 times
- f. *Ilāh* (god): [frequency not specified]
- g. *Baṣar* (vision): 147 times
- l. *Ummāt* (nations): 107 times
- m. *Shaddada* (intensified): 102 times
- n. *Ahl* (people): 127 times
- 6. Sixth Category: Words that appear between 50-100 times, which include 99 words, such as:
 - a. *Dīn* (religion): 99 times
 - b. *Anta* (you - singular): 81 times
 - c. *Anā* (I): 67 times
 - d. *Allatī* (which - feminine): 68 times
 - e. *Nafā'a* (benefited): 50 times

In total, there are 227 words.

From this classification, it is evident that the highly frequent vocabulary is very limited. There are 13 words, including "Allāh," which appears around 3,000 times, with the least frequent among them appearing 513 times. Additionally, 40 words have a frequency ranging from 461 to 200 times. The largest category includes words repeated between 200 and 50 times and comprises 174 words.

Alphabetical Order of Fundamental Vocabulary

1. <i>al-Hamzah</i> (ء): 31	8. <i>al-Dāl</i> (د): 6	15. <i>al-Ḍād</i> (ض): 4	22. <i>al-Kāf</i> (ك): 10
2. <i>al-Bā'</i> (ب): 10	9. <i>al-Dhāl</i> (ڏ): 5	16. <i>al-Tā'</i> (ٿ): 2	23. <i>al-Lām</i> (ڻ): 4
3. <i>al-Tā'</i> (ت): 4	10. <i>al-Rā'</i> (ڙ): 11	17. <i>al-Ẓā'</i> (ڙ): 3	24. <i>al-Mīm</i> (ڙ): 10
4. <i>al-Thā'</i> (ٿ): 1	11. <i>al-Zā'</i> (ڙ): 3	18. <i>al-'Ayn</i> (ع): 15	25. <i>al-Nūn</i> (ڻ): 17
5. <i>al-Jym</i> (ج): 8	12. <i>al-Sīn</i> (س): 11	19. <i>al-Ghayn</i> (غ): 4	26. <i>al-Hā'</i> (ه): 6
6. <i>al-Hā'</i> (ح): 10	13. <i>al-Shīn</i> (ش): 6	20. <i>al-Fā'</i> (ف): 8	27. <i>al-Wāw</i> (و): 10
7. <i>al-Khā'</i> (خ): 8	14. <i>al-Ṣād</i> (ص): 6	21. <i>al-Qāf</i> (ق): 11	28. <i>al-Yā'</i> (ي): 3

Total: 227 words

Note: Sūrah Al-Baqarah includes all of the previous words except for five words:

1. *Jarm* (crime): 47 times
2. *Dhawq* (taste): 81 times
3. *Farā* (fabricated): 150 times
4. *Wahy* (revelation): 210 times
5. *Wakal* (entrusted): 210 times

Key of the Dictionary: the table consists of five columns:

1. The sequence number of the entries.
2. The root of the word and its number of occurrences in the Qur'ān is no less than 50 times.
3. The most essential derived forms of the word with their number of occurrences in the Qur'ān.
4. The meanings of the word in the context of the Qur'ān.
5. The verse from Sūrah Al-Baqarah contains the word, with the word underlined and the verse number provided.

Sample Model for Letters al-Alf (ا) to al-Khā' (خ) (64 words, pages 6-15). Half of Sūrah Al-Baqarah, which consists of a total of 286 verses. This model includes 204 words highlighted in blue, from the 227 most frequently occurring fundamental vocabulary words in the Qur'ān. The 23 words not included are listed below:

Table 1. Model of 143 Verses from Sūrah Al-Baqarah

No	Arabic Word	Transliteration	No	Arabic Word	Transliteration
1	أجل	Ajl	13	ضعف	<i>Da'sf</i>
2	أخو	Akhū	14	طوع	<i>Taw'</i>
3	أنا	Anā	15	علو	<i>'Ulūww</i>
4	بلغ	Balagha	16	عود	<i>'Awd</i>
5	جهنم	Jahannam	17	غني	<i>Ghaniyy</i>
6	حب	Hubb	18	قرأ	<i>Qara'a</i>
7	حسب	Hasb	19	مول	<i>Mawl</i>
8	حلل	Hallala	20	ندى	<i>Nadā</i>
9	حمل	Haml	21	نھى	<i>Nahā</i>
10	خبر	Khabar	22	هلك	<i>Halaka</i>
11	رجل	Rajul	23	يمن	<i>Yumn</i>
12	شدد	Shaddada			

It is noteworthy that more than two hundred fundamental vocabulary words of the Qur'ān are included in the first half of the Sūrah, which facilitates the understanding of the Qur'ān's meanings for learners in the first part of the Sūrah.

CONCLUSION

The Dictionary of Fundamental Vocabulary in the Holy Qur'ān is an inexhaustible resource where every researcher can find what they seek and satisfy their curiosity. The Holy Qur'ān is a destination where every sincere seeker finds its treasures and gems, in enhancing both Quranic comprehension and Arabic linguistic proficiency. Despite the abundance of existing Qur'ānic dictionaries, there is always room for new lexicographical ideas that have their merit. The number of fundamental vocabulary entries in the most frequently occurring words in the Qur'ān amounts to 227 words, which collectively represent more than half of the Qur'ān's vocabulary. Thus, this research underscores the role of al-Quran in preserving the purity of Arabic linguistics and serving as an essential resource for Arabic lexicography and grammatical studies.

The linguistic materials of the fundamental vocabulary dictionary cover all the Arabicalphabet letters. The dictionary's vocabulary includes a variety of nouns, verbs, tools, and pronouns. The fundamental vocabulary in this dictionary represents a rich linguistic treasure and a substantial scientific resource. The dictionary's classification considers two main aspects: the alphabetical order of the vocabulary and the frequency of occurrences in the Qur'ān. By identifying that and integrating them into learning the Arabic language, students could better understand root-based word formation, Nahw, Sorf, and others.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We sincerely thank Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin (UniSIRAJ) for their essential financial support and commitment to research in the Quranic language field. This project, entitled "*Pengulangan Kosa Kata Asas dalam Surah Al-Baqarah dari Aspek Bentuk dan Makna*," was made possible through the invaluable contribution of the Short-term research grant (STG-048/2022). Also, this article is dedicated to the memory

of Professor Mujahid Mustafa Bahjat, co-author of this work, who passed away during the preparation of the manuscript. May his contribution grant him a tremendous reward in the hereafter.

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