

**TRANSLATING SELECTED POLYSEMOUS WORDS IN THE HOLY
QURĀN INTO ENGLISH: AN ANALYSIS OF STRATEGIES AND
PROCEDURES**

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Abstrak

Polisemi merujuk perkataan yang mempunyai kepelbagaian kaitan makna. Terdapat banyak perkataan polisemi dalam al-Quran. Oleh yang demikian, dalam penterjemahan al-Quran, penterjemah akan berhadapan dengan masalah untuk mengenal pasti makna sebenar bagi sesuatu perkataan polisemi. Kajian lepas memperlihatkan bahawa tidak banyak kajian yang meneliti cara perkataan polisemi yang terkandung dalam al-Quran diterjemahkan ke dalam bahasa Inggeris. Untuk memenuhi jurang kajian sedia ada, kajian ini menjelaskan faktor yang membantu menentukan makna polisemi bagi membolehkan satu prosedur yang logik dapat dihasilkan untuk memindahkan makna kata polisemi daripada al-Quran. Kajian ini menggunakan teori Nida dan Newmark dalam terjemahan untuk meneliti terjemahan 24 perkataan taksa daripada 12 perkataan polisemi terpilih dalam al-Quran. Sampel diambil daripada empat terjemahan al-Quran yang terpilih. Kajian ini turut menjalankan analisis deskriptif, interpretif, analitik dan perbandingan bagi menggambarkan strategi dan prosedur yang digunakan oleh penterjemah untuk memindahkan atau menterjemah perkataan polisemi dalam al-Quran. Kajian menunjukkan bahawa pemahaman konteks, sebab penurunan ayat, persepsi tentang ayat yang melingkari polisemi, pandangan dari pelbagai komentar yang autentik, dan kefahaman tentang ciri-ciri sintaksis dan nahu dalam ayat ialah faktor penting dalam mengenal pasti makna sebenar perkataan polisemi yang terkandung dalam al-Quran. Berdasarkan analisis, kajian mendapati bahawa penterjemah terpilih menggunakan pendekatan terjemahan literal dan semantik, parafrasa, maklumat deskriptif, terjemahan komunikatif dan strategi terjemahan untuk memindahkan makna sesuatu perkataan polisemi. Selanjutnya, keputusan menunjukkan bahawa strategi eksplikasi, komunikatif dan interpretif ialah yang paling sesuai untuk menyampaikan makna sesuatu perkataan polisemi dalam al-Quran. Kajian ini melebarkan lagi bidang penterjemahan al-Quran dengan mencadangkan prosedur yang mantap untuk menangani kesukaran menterjemah makna perkataan polisemi dalam kitab suci al-Quran.

Kata kunci: Terjemahan, Al-Quran, Perkataan polisemi, Literal, Makna sebenar

Abstract

Polysemy refers to those words that have multiple related meanings. In the Qurān, there are numerous polysemous words; therefore, in translating this holy book, the translator will encounter problems in identifying and rendering the intended meaning of the polysemous words. Previous literature has revealed that limited studies have been done to examine how polysemy is translated in the Qurān, namely into English. To bridge this gap, the current study seeks to clarify the governing factors, which help to identify the intended meaning of the polysemous words, in order to propose a logical procedure to transfer the polysemous words in the Qurān. Drawing upon Nida's and Newmark's theories in translation, the study examines the translations of 24 ambiguous senses from 12 selected polysemous words in the Qurān. The samples were selected from four selected translation of the Qurān. Descriptive, interpretive and comparative analyses were carried out in order to achieve its aims. The study reveals that understanding the context, reasons for revelation, perception of the verses surrounding the polysemy, consultation of numerous authentic commentaries and comprehension of the syntactic and grammatical features of the verse are crucial factors in identifying the intended meaning of the polysemous words in the Qurān. Through the analysis, the study found that the selected translators employed literal and semantic renditions; paraphrasing, descriptive information, communicative translation and transliteration strategies to transfer the meaning of the polysemy. Moreover, the results revealed that the explication, communicative and interpretive strategies are appropriate to convey the intended meaning of the polysemous words in the Qurān. The current study enhances the field of Qurānic translation by proposing concrete procedures to overcome the difficulties in rendering the deep sense of the polysemy in the Holy Qurān.

Keywords: Translating, Holy Qurān, Polysemous words, Literal, Intended meaning

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Abbreviations

KFCPQ	King Fahd's Complex for the Printing of the Qurān
PBUH	Peace Be Upon Him
SL	Source Language
SLT	Source Language Text
ST	Source Text
TL	Target Language
TLT	Target Language Text
TT	Target Text

Transliteration

Consonants:

ء	°	ر	r	غ	gh
ب	b	ز	z	ف	f
ت	t	س	s	ق	q
ث	th	ش	sh	ك	k
ج	j	ص	ṣ	ل	l
ح	ḥ	ض	ḍ	م	m
خ	kh	ط	ṭ	ن	n
د	d	ظ	ẓ	ه	h
ذ	dh	ع	°	و	w
ة	ī			ى	y

Vowels:

أ	a	long vowel	و	ū
آ	ā	Long vowel	ي	ī
(kasra)	i			
(dhamma)	u			
(faḥa)	a			

This transliteration is extracted from *Dictionary of Islamic Terms* (Al-Khaḍrawy, 2004, p. 13) and from *Journal of Qurānic Studies*, which is published by School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London. In addition, the symbols of (ḥ) - (ī) were taken from *the International Organisation for Standardisation*. This transliteration will be adopted in the course of this study.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 Background

Translation plays a crucial and significant role in the dissemination of knowledge and culture among different peoples who speak various languages. Numerous books, journals, articles, and technical texts are translated every year in order to transmit knowledge and information throughout the world. One of the most influential books in the history of mankind, which has been translated into many languages, is the Holy Qurān. It is a sacred book for Muslims in which both the message and the words expressing the message are all sacrosanct. Adopted by 1.5 billion people, Islam is considered as the fastest growing religion in the world. Considering the multiplicity of languages in the world, it becomes necessary to translate this important religious text from Arabic into other languages so that a great segment of mankind may benefit from it (Qadhi, 1999, p. 348).

The need for translating the Qurān stemmed from those historical circumstances where a large number of non-Arabic-speaking people had embraced Islam, and gave new linguistic perspectives to the contents of the revelation (Kidwai, 1987, p. 1). The Qurān has been translated into many languages, including English, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Spanish, Hausa, Indonesian, Malay, Tamil, Urdu, among others (Elimam, 2009, p. 11). Translating the Qurān is a controversial issue that has always raised pressing and recurring questions such as: Is the Qurān translatable? Is it translatable in whole or in part? Is the translation a substitute for the original Arabic

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