

## THE WORD OF 'BASAR' IN QURAN AND ITS SYNONYM: COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN QURAN CORPUS AND *AL-MU'JAM AL-MUFAHRAS LI ALFAZ AL-QURAN*

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### Abstract

Synonym is a linguistic term means similar meaning for the particular word. In different periods of time, there were many studies and discussions of synonyms on words in the text of Quran especially in terms of its accurate meaning. Some scholars argue the meaning of the word and its synonyms based on their views and arguments that led to sources diversity. Therefore, the objective of this study is to identify the meaning of the word *Basar* in Quran and discuss the synonyms of this word based on a comparison between *Quran Corpus* and *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*, which are the Quran dictionaries. This study applied content analysis by identifying the synonym of word of *basar* in Quran. Then the data was analysed and compared between those two dictionaries in order to find similarities and differences. The result shows that *Ra'a*, *Syahida* and *Nazara* are the synonyms of *Basar*, which means vision and all of them can be found in both dictionaries. In addition, the finding also shows that the frequencies of all words are similar except for the word *Ra'a*. The further discussions are expected to explain the comparison of the word *Basar* and its synonyms in Quran based on other Quran linguistic sources.

**Keywords:** Basar, Quran, Synonym, Comparative

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad as guidance until the present age of about more than 1400 years. It is the only book in the world authored by God Himself, word by word, and that is still available today in its original form. There are details and expositions for everything in Quran as it also a link between Lord and His slaves. Allah the Almighty said in the Quran: "...And We have sent down to you the Book (the Qur'an) as an exposition of everything" (Surah an-Nahl: 89). Allah made it clear that there is complete knowledge in Quran such as reports of what happened in the past, information about what is yet to come, what is lawful and unlawful (Muhammad Luqman et al., 2017). Deep research is required for the Quran as it is a guidance for all people. *Tadabbur* has been emphasized by Allah in His verse "[This is] a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded." (Surah Sad: 29) (Mohd Hafizullah, 2015). Besides, each word used in the Quran was uniquely chosen by Allah for a purpose. A lot of things have been mentioned in Quran and every word in it has its own specific meaning and function as it is a miracle from Allah (Muhammad Luqman et al., 2017). Therefore, it is a need to man to seek the knowledge about the words of Quran in order to understand Quran accordingly.

The Quran was revealed in Arabic as Allah mention in Quran: "Indeed We have made it an Arabic Quran that perchance you will comprehend." (Surah al-Zukhruf: 3) (Hamidah Mat & Wan Mohamad Ubaidillah, 2016). Arabic language becomes an official language for millions of people as well as the religious language of all Muslims since the time of Prophet Muhammad (Aya M. Al-Zoghbya et al., 2013). In addition, it is also a semantic language with a composite morphology that are categorized as particles, nouns, or verbs (Ahmad T. Al-Taani and Alaa M. Al-Gharaibeh, 2010). In this study, one of the Arabic words in Quran that will be discussed is the word *Basar*. Generally, it means the ability to interpret the surrounding environment using light in the visible spectrum reflected by the objects in the environment. The resulting perception is also known as visual perception, eyesight, sight, or vision (Wikipedia, n.d). Almighty Allah has mentioned *Basar* in many verses of Quran such as, "*When the sight shall be dazed out of fear*" (Surah al-Qiyamah: 7). Quran with a linguistic element full of distinctive language styles has synonymous words instead of the word *Basar*. There are many words in Quran that are conceptually synonyms but the differences will surface if we investigate their dictionary meanings. In a long period of time, grammarians have studied and discussed about the synonym, and Quran used synonyms to match the context, subject matter and the overall surah themes (Zahra Ebrahimi & Abdorrasul, 2014).

In order to understand and compare the word *Basar* and its synonyms, two linguistic resources are used in this study which are; *Quranic Arabic Corpus* and *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*. Quranic Arabic Corpus that will be written as *Quran Corpus* in this study is created by Kais and his colleagues from University of Leeds. It is an online annotated linguistic resource that shows the Arabic grammar, syntax and morphology for each word in the Quran. It consists of 77,430 words of Quranic Arabic and the grammar framework adopted by the *Quranic Corpus* is the traditional Arabic grammar of *i'rab*. In addition, the project provides a plain English description to explain word-by-word. (Kais Dukes & Nizar Habash, 2010). This dictionary is undeniably important for the researchers working in all Arabic Natural Language Processing fields (Zeroual Imad & Lakhouaja Abdelhak, 2014). Meanwhile, *Mu'jam al-Mufahras Li Alfaz al-Quran* is a complete reference book in search of verses of the Qur'an in alphabetical order (alif - ya) compiled by Muhammad Fuad Abdul Baqi. This book makes it easier for us to look for the Quranic verses which the word comes with verses, number and the name of surah (Wikipedia2, n.d). Thus, this study aims to reveal the similarities and differences of the word *Basar* and its synonyms based on these two Quranic dictionaries.

## 2. SYNONYM CONCEPT IN QURAN

There are various definitions of the term synonym provided by English linguistic scholars such as two words that have the same meaning. Also, the word synonym needs to be defined in terms of contexts or usage. Meanwhile, Arab linguistic scholars also provide definitions of the word synonym. Mokhtar Omar (1385) states that "synonym" means a word that able to be applied for more than one meaning. For instance, the words *Falak*, *Safinah* and *Jāriyah* are used to refer to ship in Arabic language of Quran (Zahra Ebrahimi & Abdorrasul, 2014). Also, according to Ramadan (1983) synonym as words that convey the same meaning and are mutually interchangeable in all contexts. Each word becomes suitable and convenient to express a specific meaning out of the multi uses originally possible for each word. In addition, Al-Zayadi (1980) states that due to clear differences in scholars' approaches and beliefs, synonym has changed throughout history (Sana Kamel & Abdel-Rahman, 2014).

There are many words appeared in Quran are visibly synonym, but it has its own connotation for in depth investigation. The position of the word in Quran cannot be changed with other words even though it supports

the meaning of the word. For example, this can be seen in the words *Khauf* and *Khasyah* in surah ar-Ra'd which show the meaning of "fear ". *Khauf* and *Khasyah* have almost the same definition in terms of the language, but it conveys different connotations. The use of *Khasyah* in the Quran refers to the fears of glorifying with honor because in general this word is associated with fear of God whereas the word *Khauf* means the logical fears like, fear of the punishment in hereafter (Muhammad Luqman et al., 2017). From example, it can be concluded that every word does not necessarily comes with the same function and effect. It is very important to have deep understanding of the verse context to differentiate the meaning of words that are considered synonyms.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

This study is qualitative in nature, where content analysis was used through the following steps:

1. Identifying synonym for the Arabic word "basar".
2. Analyzing words of "basar" and its synonym which are *ra'a*, *syahida* and *nazara* in al-Quran.
3. Morphological analysis was applied to explore distribution of word types (noun, verb, active participle, passive participle and verbal noun).
4. Analyzing the words that have the same root but in different forms and types in a sentence or several sentences. The similarities and differences between the frequency of words and the form of words according to Arabic grammar between *Quran Corpus* and *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran* were analyzed to produce comparative results.

### 4. RESULTS

This section gives special attention to the word '*Basar*' and its synonyms in the Quran. From the study, the researchers found that the meaning of *Basar* which is see, eyesight or vision is similar with the Arabic words *Ra'a*, *Syahida* and *Nazara*. These words also can be found in *Quran Corpus* and *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*. The total of word frequency in both sources can be referred to the following table 1.0:

**Table 1.0: Total of words *Basar*, *Ra'a*, *Syahida* and *Nazara* in Quran  
Sources: The Quranic Arabic Corpus (n.d) & Al-Baqi (1364H)**

STEM	RELATIONSHIP	QURAN CORPUS	MU'JAM MUFABHRAS LI ALFAZ AL-QURAN
Basar	Basar	148	148
Ra'a	Synonym	328	336
Syahida	Synonym	160	160
Nazara	Synonym	129	129

#### 4.1 *Basar* in *Quran Corpus* and *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*

##### 4.1.1 *Quran Corpus*

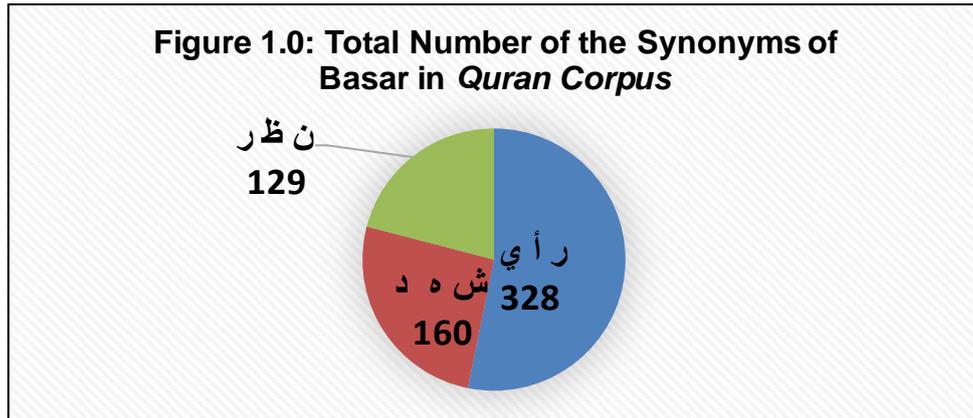
The trilateral root *bā šād rā* (ب ص ر) repeats 148 times in the Quran in four forms include verb, noun, active participle (*isim al-fi'il*) and verbal noun. Verbs of *Basar* are marked in tenses forms consist of past tense (*fi'il al-mādhī*), present tense (*fi'il al-mudhāri*) and imperative (*fi'il amar*). The past tense such as *bašurat* while present tense for example *abšara* which mean to be made to see and imperative such as *absir*. There are also nouns such as *bašar* means vision and *bašīr* means All-Seer. There are several forms of active participle such as *mubširat* which is visible and *mus'tabširīn* means endowed with insight. The verbal noun of the word *Basar* in Quran is *tabšīratan* means giving insight. Verbal noun is a noun derived from the verb to refer to the action or activity implied in the verb.

##### 4.1.2 *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*

In *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*, there are also 148 times of word with root *bā šād rā*. The verbs include past tense, present tense and imperative. Meanwhile, several noun are identified in this resource such as *bašāiru* and *bašīratin*. There is verbal noun of *tabšīratan* and active participle such as *mubšīran*.

#### 4.2 Synonyms of *Basar* in *Quran Corpus*

Based on the study, it can be concluded that the word *Ra'a* repeated the most in *Quran Corpus* while the second is the word *Syahida* and the smallest number is the word *Nazara*. The total of the synonyms can be seen in the following pie chart:



#### 4.2.1 Ra'a

The trilateral root *rā hamza yā* (ر أ ي) occurred 328 times in the Quran, in three forms and consist of verb, noun and verbal noun. Verbs include past tense which is *raā* and present tense such as *zurāu* and *aray*. There are around ten noun from the word Ra'a that are *ra*, *ri't* and *ru'yā*. Meanwhile, the other form is *riā* which is verbal noun.

#### 4.2.2 Syahida

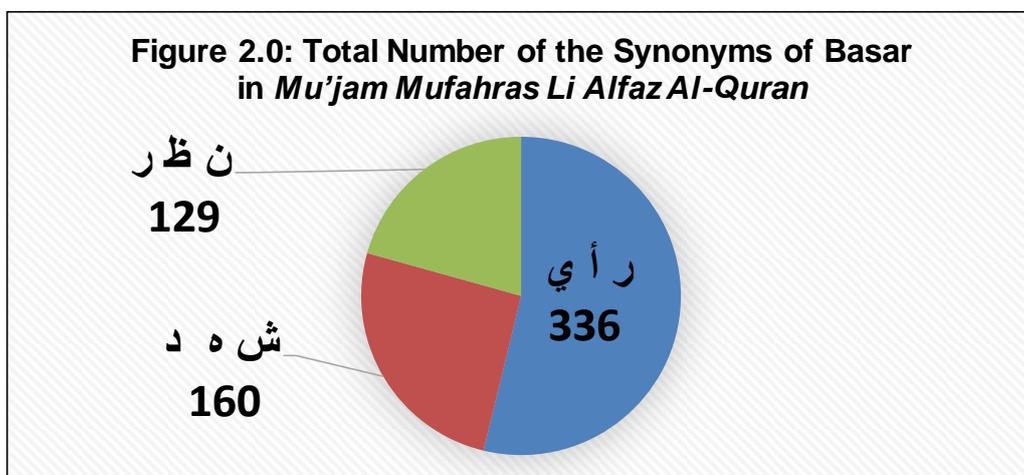
*Syahida* with the root *shīn hā dāl* (ش ه د) repeats 160 times in the Quran, in the form of verb, noun, active participle and passive participle. Verbs of *Syahida* consist of present tense, past tense and imperative. In addition, there are noun such as *shahādāt* and *mashhad*. Active principle for instance *shāhid* while passive participle such as *mashhūd*. Passive participle or is a specific form in Arabic which is used commonly to refer to the object of the action.

#### 4.2.3 Nazara

The trilateral root *nūn zā rā* (ن ظ ر) occurs 129 times in the Quran, consist of verb, noun, active participle and passive participle. The verbs include present tense such as *zunzaru*, past tense such as *nazara* and imperative for instance *unzur*. Besides, the examples of noun are *nazīrat* and *nazrat*. There are also active participle which is *nāzīrīn* and passive participle such as *munzarūn*.

### 4.3 Synonyms of Basar in Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran

The study reveals that the word *Ra'a* repeated the most in *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*. The second is the word *Syahida* and the total of the word *Nazara* has the smallest number. The amount of the synonyms in this dictionary can be referring to the pie chart below:



#### 4.3.1 Ra'a

There are number of 336 times word of *Ra'a* based on the root *rā hamza yā* in Quran. All the verbs from the word *Ra'a* are existed in *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran* except for imperative. In addition, there are three times of verbal noun which is the word *riā* means to be seen. The researchers found that there is no active and passive participle for the word *Ra'a* in this dictionary.

#### 4.3.2 Syahida

For the word *Syahida*, there are about 160 times of the word with root *shīn hā dāl* in Quran. In this dictionary, the verbs include present tense which is *yashhadu*, past tense such as *shahidū* and imperative that is *ish'had* means bear witness. There also nouns and active participles while a few of passive participles consist of one *mashhūdan*, and two *mashhūd*.

#### 4.3.3 Nazara

According to this dictionary, the total number of word *Nazara* with root *nūn zā rā* in Quran is 129. There are verbs include present tense, past tense and imperative. In addition, noun, active and passive participles also existed in *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*.

### 4.4 Similarities and differences between the word *Basar, Ra'a, Syahida* and *Nazara* in *Quran Corpus* and *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*

According to both dictionaries, *Basar, Ra'a, Syahida* and *Nazara* have the similar meaning. They are sharing the sense see, vision or eyesight. It only changes depends on the form of words such as past tense, present tense and imperative. For example, when *Nazara* in the verse *ثُمَّ نَظَرَ* means 'he looked' while *Nazara* in the verse *يَوْمَ يَنْظُرُ الْمَرْءُ مَا قَدَّمَتْ يَدَاهُ* means 'he will see'. However, the meaning is still the same. Regarding to the table 1.0 above, the total number of the word *Basar, Syahida* and *Nazara* in both dictionaries are same except for the frequency of the word *Ra'a*. The total of *Ra'a* in *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran* is higher which is 336 while in *Quran Corpus* is 328. In term of form of word, table 2.0 below shows the comparison between both dictionaries:

**Table 2.0: Forms of word *Basar, Ra'a, Syahida* and *Nazara* in *Quran Corpus* and *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran***

STEM FORM	QURAN CORPUS				MU'JAM MUFABHRAS LI ALFAZ AL-QURAN			
	BASAR	RA'A	SYAHIDA	NAZARA	BASAR	RA'A	SYAHIDA	NAZARA
VERB ( <i>al-fi'il</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NOUN ( <i>isim</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACTIVE PARTICIPLE ( <i>ismu al-fā'il</i> )	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
PASSIVE PARTICIPLE ( <i>ismu al-maf'u</i> )	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓
VERBAL NOUN ( <i>al-masdar</i> )	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	X

Sources: The Quranic Arabic Corpus (n.d) & Majma' al-Malik Fahd li-Tiba'at al-Mushaf al-Syarif (n.d)

Based on table 2.0, each word in Quran Corpus has the same form as in *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*. For instance, there are verb, noun, active participle and verbal noun for the word *Basar* in both dictionaries as well as verb, noun, active participle and passive participle for the word *Syahida*. In term of verb, all of the words have the three form of verb which are present tense, past tense and imperative except for the word

*Ra'a*. Both dictionaries show that the word *Ra'a* only have two forms of verb consist of present tense and past tense. Besides, it is found that there is no verbal noun for the words *Syahida* and *Nazara* for both dictionaries while there is no active participle for the word *Ra'a*. Yet, the word *Basar* and *Ra'a* have no example for passive participle.

## 5. CONCLUSION

To conclude, synonym is a topic that has been discussed extensively among classical and modern Arab linguists. It considered as one of the most important sense relations that becomes universal semantic phenomenon. Synonym also occurred in the Quran linguistic which also been discussed and taken into account. It is found that the Quranic term is repeated and illustrated the same meaning. Regarding to this study, the word *Basar* means eyesight or vision and its synonyms sharing the same meaning that are *Ra'a*, *Syahida* and *Nazar*. Through semantic study of these words with their verses in *Quran Corpus* and *Mu'jam Mufahras Li Alfaz Al-Quran*, there are similarities and differences between these words in terms of frequency and form of word. Generally, both Quran dictionaries have the major similarities in the frequency and form of word whereas have only small differences in total for the word *Ra'a* and the type of verbs. The word *Ra'a* repeated the most in both dictionaries while the smallest number is the word *Nazara*. Therefore, a comparative study of these words in Quran would be of great interest, and the further discussions are expected to explain the comparison of the word *Basar* and its synonyms in Quran based on other Quran linguistic sources.

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