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The Meanings of AL-Maa' in AL-Qur'an AL-Kareem

Samara Mohammed Ahmed

University of Tikrit /College of Education For Human Sciences

Abstract

To know the meaning of a word means to know its meaning and the context in which a word is used to express a particular meaning of a word knowledge. In the case of polysemous signs, a word is said to have more than related meaning. So, the role of the context in this case is to determine the exact meaning, to resolve potential ambiguities and to identify the intended meaning of such of such polysemous words. As a result, the context is an extra linguistic feature which always comes first to direct the process of getting the exact meaning of the polysemous word"AL-Maa'"from the beginning of this paper.

The problem of this study arises at the level of word meaning of the word "AL-Maa'" in AL-Qur'an AL-Kareem as a polysemous word. Also , the problem arises in the following points:

**1-	Why polysemy is a source of anambiguity ,a problem and confusion in meaning .**

**2-	There is no simple means to identify the different senses of a word.**

**3-	The difference between polysemy and homonymy.**

**4-	The role of the context in solving such am ambiguity.**

This study aims at investigating the problem of recognizing the suitable polysemous words in order to produce coherent texts meaning of the word AL-Maa' in AL-Quraa'n AL-Kareem. Also this study intends to shed light on one of the lexical problems (i.e. polysemy)which affect the meanings of this word (i.e.AL-Maa')in different texts and to get the exact meaning at any text.

The analysis of the data collected revealed that the problem of polysemous words give rise in this study especially of the word AL-Maa'' which is taken as a form of polysemous word that will appear in many contextualized sentences of about (23)texts from AL-Quraa'n AL-Kareem. These texts are taken to show the different meanings of this word and the role of context to specify its meanings in this study.

Kewwords: Quran, water, meanings, polysemy

Los significados de AL-Maa 'en AL-Qur'an AL-Kareem

Resumen

Conocer el significado de una palabra significa conocer su significado y el contexto en el que se utiliza una palabra para expresar un significado particular de una palabra conocimiento. En el caso de los signos polisémicos, se dice que una palabra tiene más que un significado relacionado. Por lo tanto, el papel del contexto en este caso es determinar el significado exacto, resolver ambigüedades potenciales e identificar el significado deseado de tales palabras polisémicas. Como resultado, el contexto es una característica lingüística adicional que siempre viene primero para dirigir el proceso de obtener el significado exacto de la palabra polisémica "AL-Maa" desde el comienzo de este documento.

El problema de este estudio surge en el nivel del significado de la palabra "AL-Maa" en AL-Qur'an AL-Kareem como palabra polisémica. Además, el problema surge en los siguientes puntos:

1- Por qué la polisemia es una fuente de ambigüedad, un problema y una confusión de significado.

2- No hay medios simples para identificar los diferentes sentidos de una palabra.

3- La diferencia entre polisemia y homonimia.

4- El papel del contexto en la resolución de tal ambigüedad.

Este estudio tiene como objetivo investigar el problema de reconocer las palabras polisémicas adecuadas para producir textos coherentes que signifiquen la palabra AL-Maa 'en AL-Quraa'n AL-Kareem. Además, este estudio tiene la intención de arrojar luz sobre uno de los problemas léxicos (es decir, la polisemia) que afectan el significado de esta palabra (es decir, AL-Maa ') en diferentes textos y obtener el significado exacto en cualquier texto.

El análisis de los datos recopilados reveló que el problema de las palabras polisémicas da lugar en este estudio, especialmente de la palabra AL-Maa '', que se toma como una forma de palabra polisémica que aparecerá en muchas oraciones contextualizadas de aproximadamente (23) textos de AL-Quraa'n AL-Kareem. Estos textos se toman para mostrar los diferentes significados de esta palabra y el papel del contexto para especificar sus significados en este estudio.

Palabras clave: Corán, agua, significados, polisemia

1. Introduction

To characterize the contextual knowledge and the related meanings for each word involves knowing the meaning of a word and the context of use of such word.

To know the meaning of a word means to know semantics which is the study of meaning .polysemy which is a semantic relation in which a word or lexeme that may have several meanings. Homonymy which also refers to semantic relation at which two words may have different meanings(Miller, 1996).

Lexical semantics is concerned with the identification and representation of the semantics of lexical items. Polysemy is one of the identification of lexical semantics which refers to the condition of a single lexical item having multiple meanings. Thecontext which is an extra linguistic phenomenon is used to determine linguistic meaning and to resolve potential ambiguities of a text (ibid).

So, lexical semantics especially polysemous signs try to tappeople to communicate by embedding questions about the meaning of polysemous words in sententialcontext to be more understandable(i.e.to incorporate a word appropriately into meaningful linguistic contexts).

1.2 Semantics

Semantics is a branch of linguistics which studies meaning and is concerned with explaining how sentences in context express thoughts.

Linguistic semantics is descriptive which is the characterization of the meanings that have been expressed in natural languages(Lyons, 1977).

In this section a distinction must be made between sentence and lexical semantics:

.sentence semantics is concerned with the meaning of the statements by which the meaning of the sentence would be understood by the sufficient truth conditions of the sentence.

.lexical semantics means that the words in isolation have meaning since a sentence acquires its meaning by the composition of the words and the manner of their combination(Cruse,1986).

To understand meaning , semantics provides theories, approaches, and methods. For Palmer(1976:1)semantics is "a technical term which refers to the study of meaning". Yule(2006:100)sates that semantics is the notion which refers to the study of meaning of word, phrases, and sentences levels.

In semantic analysis , the focus is always on the conventional meaning of words more than on the speaker's meaning especially when using them in

a particular context(ibid).

Leech (1981:56)assures that semantics studies "the meaning that can be expressed ".since the meaning of a sentence is based on the meaning of its elementary parts and the manner of their combination.

Yule(1996:114)assures that in semantic analysis the focus is on what the words conventionally mean rather than on what a speaker wants the words mean on a particular occasion .He also says that linguistic semantics deals with the conventional meaning conveyed by the use of words and sentences of a language.

In this sense, semantics according to Yule(2000,4)is the study of the relationship between linguistic forms and entities in the world and how words literally connect to things.

Semantics is the study of the relationship between form and meaning , it is concerned with how language relates physical phenomenon in a systematic way. Semantics is also concerned with studying the meaning of words especially related connections between words (Jurafsky& Martin,2007:23).

1.3 Word Meaning

Semantic is the study of the reaction between form and meaning.

A word may be defined as an association between word form and word meaning(Miller and Johnson-Laird,1976).

According to this view, the word form is learned by hearing or reading it and by uttering or writing it while the word meaning may be grounded in immediate perceptual experience(ibid).

The core meaning of the word meaning refers to the first sense that is suggested by the word alone out of context (Newmark,1981,38).

But, Kripke(1982:55)argues that any word can mean anything when it is put in a given context. Since any word can point to a well-formed context.

Zaky(2000)assures that a word meaning can be well understood if it is used in a given phrase or sentence in a particular context in order to get a particular effect to meaning.

Semantic is the study of the reaction between form and meaning. A complete semantic theory characterizes the systematic meaning relations between words and sentences in a language in order to provide an account of relations between linguistic expressions and the things that can be used to talk about , such as , the literal meaning and the constant meaning that is associated with any linguistic expression in any occasion in any context (Fillip, 2008:2-15).

1.4 Conceptual and Contextual Meaning
Conceptual meaning or the core meaning of a word can be deduced in isolation from other linguistic or non-linguistic contexts. Whereas associated or contextual meaning can be derived from the context of the occurrence of a word (Zaky,2000).

1.5 Lexical Semantics
Knowing the meaning of a word entails what the word means in the area of lexical semantics.

Lexical semantics refers to the relationships between words within the linguistic system on the bases of their sense , of connections between the meaning rather than the grammatical status of words.

Lexical semantics s necessary to understand the meaning of words in a context. Lexical semantics deals with synonymy , antonym , polysemy and hyponymy.

The main important lexical semantics which plays a very important role in this study is polysemy. Also ,a distinction must be made between polysemy and homonymy to differentiate between these two lexical items.

1.5.1 The Concept of Polysemy
Polysemy refers to the form which has multiple related meanings .

Polysemy is a lexical item that has a wide range of contextual meaning that can be spilt into related senses. Polysemyis "theuse of the same word with two or more distinct meanings" (Ulmann,1966:232).

Leech (1974:228)goes with the same view that polysemy is "the existence of more than one semantic specification for the same lexical item". While Leech (1977:55) argues that polysemy refers to "one lexeme with several senses". On the other hand ,Palmer(1981:101) and Leech(1981:177)have the same view that polysemy refers to one word which has different meanings.

Lakoff(1987:316)states that what is important in polysemy is the systematic relation of meaning that take place in it since it deals with multiple meanings which are related in a systematic and natural way.

According to the notion of word form, Pustejovsky (1995)says that when a word form is associated with more than one word meaning , it is said to be polysemous.

Kreidler(1998:52)defines polysemy as a sense relation in which the lexeme has several related meaning , such as, the head of person, the head of accompany, the head of table, of department,etc.

Moore(2000:8)shows that polysemy refers to "a particular lexical item

which may have multiple meanings which may have something in common with each other". So, polysemy has a number of related senses of single meaning.

Crystal (2003:359)adds that polysemy refers to a lexical item that has arranged in different meanings , e.g., plain=clear, unadorned , obvious.etc.

Jurafsky & Martin(2007:3)describes polysemy as the semantic relation since the relation between the senses is systematic and structured.

Murphy (2003:19)assures that polysemous words have a single senses which is part of the lexical entry. He also adds that other senses are derived by lexical rules and in this case the sense information which are represented lexically may or may not be structurally simpler than other possible senses , but it is considered as a starting point by which semantic information may be added or deleted in order to build new senses.

1.5.2 The Concept of Homonymy

Homonymy is a lexical relation . Palmer(1976:101)defines homonymy as"…that there are several words with the same shape ".Yet scholars spoke about homonymy as a debatable phenomenon.

Jackson (1988:4) defines homonyms as "words which are spelt and pronounced the same , but have clearly different meanings".Su(1994:32) agrees with Jackson but slightly different by saying "homonyms are different words which have the same form and sound , but different unrelated meanings. Pustejovsky (1995:29)holds the same view when he describes homonymy as " a case where a lexical item carries two distinct and unrelated meanings. "Moore (2000:9) uses a simple definition saying that "homonyms are different words with the same form". Based on the definitions mentioned above , homonymy can be defined as two forms with different meanings.

Finch (2005:157)assures that homonymy is a sense relation that exists between words which have the same form but unrelated senses. He also refers that homonyms may be identical in phonological or graphical form of both , for example, sight and relight are homophones while lead (of a dog) and lead (on the roof) are homographs.

1.5.3 Polysemy and Homonymy

It is necessary to make a distinction between polysemy and homonymy in this study.

Palmer suggests a way to differentiate between polysemy and homonyms by consulting a dictionary, for example ,the word "bank" as a homonymous word may refer to the bank of the river or as a financial institution

, as in the following :

-I went to the bank to save money.

- I went to the bank to enjoy fishing.

Still the context solve the ambiguity.

Lyons(1987:146)shows that polysemy is a property of a single lexeme and this differentiate it from homonymy.

Palmer (1981:101)points out that polysemy is the case of one word having several meanings while homonymy is the case of several words with the same shape.

Yet, Yule(1987:97) concludes that the distinction between polysemy and homonymy is not always clear-cut.

Finch (2005:164)assures that polysemy is a phenomenon in which a word or lexeme has more than one meaning. This is what distinguishes polysemy from homonymy in which two lexemes happen to have the same sound or written form , en example about polysemy is the word flight which means the following:(1)the power of flying(2)an air journey(3)a series of steps (4)a unit of air force. All these senses are related clearly and might be derived from the same word.

1.6 The Concept of Context

Context is a concept that is used in a language .In turn, there is a close relationship between language and context , since context is determined by the use of language. A context is words that come before and after a word , phrase , or statement in order to understand its meaning and to guess the meaning of a word from the context (Oxford Learner's Dictionary ,2008:326).

According to Baker (2000:9)the concept of context consists of three levels:

1-   Context of situation

2-   Context of culture

3-   Co-text

Context of situation and context of culture are outside of language, while co-text (i.e. linguistic context)is inside the language itself.

According to this study , the relation between linguistic context and polysemy lies in following information in that the ambiguity of polysemous words appear when it is difficult to get the exact meaning of a word in a sentence. Also Mason(1978:4)states that there are many polysemous words without context which can be characterized by more than one meaning and that only through context it will get its particular meaning .As a result, this refers to the role of the linguistic context in deciding the meaning of the

word that is used in the sentence.

1.7 polysemy and Ambiguity in Meaning

The Ambiguity of meaning results from using polysemous words in sentences. The ambiguity can occur with polysemous words when it is hard to get the exact meaning of a word in a sentence.

Paulin & Bejoint (2008:7)explain why polysemy is a source of ambiguity in the following points:

-There is no simple means to identify the different senses of a word.

- The difference between polysemy , on the one hand , and polysemy , on the other ,is to be thought of in terms of a continuum rather than a dichotomy.

The first level of ambiguity lies on the sentence level since Mason(1978:4) carried out a study about the effects of polysemy on sentence meaning . According to Mason, there are many polysemous words without context , so these polysemous words can be characterized by more than one meaning and that only through context it will get a particular meaning.

This means that only the linguistic context can solve the ambiguity of any text and give the exact meaning of any lexical meaning.

2. Data Analysis

As mentioned earlier, by the related senses or related variants of polysemous words. The problem of polysemous words give rise in this section especially of the word AL-Maa'' which istaken as a form of polysemous word that will appear in many contextualized sentences of about (23)texts from AL-Quraa'n AL-Kareem. These texts are taken to show the different meanings of this word and the role of context to specify its meanings in this study.

So , AL-Quraan AL-Kareem mentions (23)type of water(AL-Maa') ,each one has its special nature, these types are:

1-AL-Maa' AL-Muqeeth

And the water was made to subside and the Decree was fulfilled. Hud(44)

2-AL-Maa' AL-Sadeed

In front of him (every obstinate ,arrogant dictator)is Hell, and he will be made to drink boiling , festering water.   Ibrahim(16)

3-Maa'AL-Muhill

And if they (i.e. the Zalimun)ask for help (relief, water), they will be grant-

ed water like boiling oil, that will scald their faces .   AL-Kahf(29)

4-Maa'AL-Arth

And We sent from the sky water (rain)in (due)measure, and We gave it lodging in the earth.

AL-Mu'minun(18)

5-AL-Maa' AL-Tuhur

And We send down pure water from the sky that may give life to a dead land , and We give to drink there of many of the cattle and men that We had created.   AL-Furqan(48)

6-Maa'AL-Shurip

He it is Who sends down water (rain)from the sky ; from it you drink and from

 it (grows) the vegetation on which you send your cattle to pasture.   An-Nahl(10)

7-AL-Maa' AL-Aujaaj

And the two seas (kinds of water) are not a like: this is palatable , sweet and pleasant to drink, and that is salt and bitter.   Fatir(12)

If We willed , We verily could make it salt (and undrinkable):Why then you not give thanks(to Allah)?   AL-Waqi'ah(70)

8- AL-Maa' AL-Muheen ᴵDid We not create you from a despised water(semen)?   AL-Mursalat(20)

9-AL-Maa'Gair AL-Assin

The description of Paradise which the Muttaqun have been promised is that in it rivers of water the taste and smell of which are not changed. Mohammed(15)

10-AL-Maa' AL-Hameem

Are these in the above text like those who shall dwell forever in the Fire and be given to drink boiling water so that it cuts up their bowels? Mohammed(15)

11- AL-Maa' AL-Mubaraq

And We send down blessed water (rain)from the sky , then We produce there with gardens and grain (every kind of harvests)that are reaped. Qaf(9)

12-AL-Maa' AL-Munhamir

So We opened the gates of the heaven with water pouring forth.   AL-Qa-

mar(11)

13-AL-Maa' AL-Masqup
-And in shade long- extended,
-And by water flowing constantly.   AL-Waqi'ah(30)
14-AL-Maa' AL-Gauir
15-AL-Maa' AL-Maa'een
If your water were sink away , who then can supply you with flowing (spring water)?
  AL-Mulk(30)

16-AL-Maa' AL-Qadaq
IF they (non-Muslims) had believed in Allah , and went on the Right Way (i.e. Islam)We would surly have bestowed on them water (rain) in abundance.

AL-Jinn(16)

17-AL-Maa' AL-Furaat
And have given you to drink sweet water.   AL-Mursalat(27)

18-AL-Maa' AL-Thujaj
And We sent down from the rainy clouds abundant water. AL-Naba'(14)

19-AL-Maa' AL-Dafiq
He is created (man) from a water gushing forth.   AL-Tariq (7)

20-Maa' Madyan
And when he arrived at the water (a well) of Madyan. AL-Qases(23)

21-AL-Maa' AL-Sarab
As for those disbelieve , their deeds are like a mirage in a desert. The thirsty one thinks it to be water.   AL-Nur(39)

22- Maa' AL-Anhar Wal-Yanabee'
See you not that Allah sends down water(rain) from the sky , and causes it to penetrate the earth,(and then makes it to spring up) as water –springs.
AZ-Zumar(21)
23-AL-Maa' AL-Salsabeel
A spring there , called Salsabil.   AL-Insan (18)

2.2 Conclusion

The meaning of the word ''AL-Maa''' is a case of associated meaning that can be derived from the occurrence of a word in a particular context.

The word AL-Maa' as a polysemous word is a word that has many meanings that will attached to the original meaning of this word. since polysemy is the multiplicity of meaning; a case in which one word as AL-Maa' has different meanings. Since the linguistic context is the context of linguistic phenomenon. The linguistic context helps in disambiguating the lexical meaning, choosing the suitable meaning, specifying and clarifying the multiciplity of meaning of the word AL-Maa'in different text from AL-Qura'n AL-Kareem.

Everyone must bear in mind that the word AL-Maa' is a polysemous word that has many meanings besides its common one. The polysemous meanings of the word AL-Maa'(water) that are mentioned in AL-Qur'an AL-Kareem are:

1-Muqeeth (subside)12- AL-Munhamir (pouring foth)

2-Sadeed (festering)13- AL-Masqup (flowing constantly)

3-Muhil (granted like boiling oil) 14- AL-Gauir (deep sunken)

4-Arth ˈlodging in the earth)   15- AL-Maa'een (flowing spring water)

5- Tuhur (pure water)16- AL-Qadaq (abundance)

6-Shurip (drink)17- AL-Furaat (sweet water)

-Aujaaj(salt and bitter)   18- AL-Thujaj (abundant)

8-Muheen (semen) 19- AL-Dafiq (gushing forth)

9- Maa'Gair -AL-Assinˈ (taste and smell Of water is not changed)

10-Hameem (boiling water) 20- Madyan (Madyan well)

11- AL-Mubaraq (blessed water) 21 - AL-Sarab   (mirage water)

22 - AL-Anhar Wal-Yanabee' (penetrated water)

   23 - AL-Salsabeel (spring water called Salsabil)

This polysemous word(i.e.AL-Maa')can be characterized by more than one meaning and that only through context it will obtain its particular meaning .

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