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*Antonymy in English With Reference to
Quranic Verses*

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Dedication

To our parents

To our friends

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to our supervisor Asst. Prof. Besma Khalid Ingeish since her sound advice and careful guidance contributed to the completion of this paper.

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Abstract

Antonymy is available in different fields of study at a different level. The concept of autonomy in language learning is connected with communicative approach. The second language learning will proceed most effectively if learners are allowed to develop and exercise their autonomy. In spite of the fact, that Autonomy implies the independent learning, it doesn't decline the role of a teacher in learning, but it points out, the huge deserve of the teacher in forming the Autonomy skills.

The study falls in two chapters and conclusion .Chapter one focuses on lexical relations , definitions of autonomy, linguistic features of antonyms , and the classification of antonymy ,while chapters two analysis autonomy in Holy Quran

Finally ,the conclusion which sums up the findings of the study.

Chapter One Antonymy in Linguistic

1.1 Lexical Relations

Semantics means the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences. In semantic analysis, there is always an effort to concentrate on what the words conventionally mean, rather than on what a speaker want the words to mean on a special situation. Linguistic **semantics** deals with the conventional meaning conveyed by the use of words and sentences of a language (Yule,2006:114).

Meaning, however, involves more than just the semantic interpretation of an utterance. Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning. The meaning of word is determined by the words arrangements in sentences or other words (Pennycook, 1997:1).

Jones (٢٠٠٢:٢١)states that lexical relations are relationship of the meaning of a word to other words. Meaning may be is one of several features or component which together can be said to make up the meaning of a word or

utterance. Lexical relations include hyponyms, meronyms, homonyms, synonyms, and antonyms.

1.1.1 Definitions of Antonymy

Antonymy is one of the semantic relations that are very useful. Antonym pairs are often used in texts and in a large number of proverbs and idioms to achieve rhetorical effects. Antonymy plays a remarkable significant role in language teaching and learning, which can be shown in many definitions (Biber et al,1998: 17).

Egan (1968:41) defines antonymy as a word so opposed in meaning to another word; it's equal in breadth or range of application, that is, negates or nullifies every single one of its implications". This definition shows clearly what makes two words be antonyms. The antonym pairs are equal in breadth or range of application but opposed in meaning. And the words which contrast in meaning may not be antonyms because they may be different in their breadth or range of application.

Lyons (1977:286) defines "antonym" as the words which are opposite in meaning and "antonymy" as the oppositeness between words. For example, "buy"

and “sell” is a pair of antonyms and the relation between these two words is termed as antonymy.

Leech (1981:316) puts forward the definition of antonym in *Semantics* that “the opposite meaning relation between the words is antonymy and word of opposite meaning is antonym.

Justeson and Katz (1991:18) refer to antonymy as a lexical relation, “specific to words rather than concepts”. As a matter of fact, the definition of antonymy must be lexical as well as semantic. Antonyms need to have “oppositeness of meaning”, but they also need to have a strong, well-established lexical relationship with one another.

1.2.2 Linguistic Features of Antonyms

1.1.2.2 Antonyms and Degrees of Adjectives

The degree of opposition is an important factor in determining the semantic opposition. Scaling refers to the degree of relationship of opposition between two or more objects, phenomena, qualities or actions opposed. "Cold" and "hot" are two opposite ends of the same semantic field, which is the temperature. It should be emphasized that these two words are easily identifiable as opposites but cannot say the same for the terms that stay closer to the middle of the field of temperature such as "fresh" and "warm" which undoubtedly expresses contrast and is difficult to have the same value as the controversial couple "cold / warm ")Delija,2014:494 .(

Antonyms are complete when they oppose most basic meanings. Here one is dealing with pure traverse, out of context. Examples *give/ take, break / fix up, do good / bad bend* etc... They are studied mainly from the antonym corps in dictionaries, because the context is not important in this analysis (Ibid.).

Kampson (1977: 84) also uses semantic analysis components in his antonymic analysis and notes that this strategy is effective when dealing with certain antonymic couples, especially those dealing with gender and kinship. However, the explanatory power of this kind of analysis seems to have its limits.

In another sense it is Jackson (1988: 76) who doubts the existence of a concept type of unmodified traverse through highlighting the fact that "every non-gradable antonym can be used as gradable."

1.2.2.2 Incompatibility and Antonyms

Scholars as Delija (2014:493 (and Justeson and Katz (1991:19) antonyms different from incompatibility. Different words have different meanings, but some of them have different meanings which are related between them through some common elements. It is interesting how some linguists analyse common features and opposites that contain words in their semantic structure .

De Saussure highlighted "value" that bear the words within the common system. An example of this system in the language is that of colours, which share the same field but have their values that opposition relations that appear to be

incompatible. Another feature of discordant words is that they cannot be sorted naturally but is used to listing them alphabetically. And Saussure sees colours as an "unordered set of terms that are incompatible". Helmsley tried to see colours in the intensity ratio between them based on physical characteristics of colours but this cannot be expressed linguistically)Delija ,2014:493(

Efforts have been made to define linguistics antonyms through diagnostic tests such as: experimental research Kay, Cruz, Lyons 1 etc., who study minimal incompatibility structures within sentences as follows:

The bread is fresh.

The bread is stale.

From such approaches can identify pairs of words incompatibly distinguished but not those words which have incompatible reference only those that are countering the antonyms. They fail to appreciate the antonym canonical lexical opposition, some Antonyms (canonical) couples constitute "better" compared with other pairs of opposing words such as "alive / dead" is a better couple than "alive / expired "(Justeson and Katz ,1991: 149.(

1.1.3 The Classification of Antonymy

Palmer (1982:94-100) classifies three kinds of antonymy, those are : gradable antonymy, complementary antonymy, and relational antonymy.

١.١.٣.١ **Gradable Antonymy**

Gradable antonymy deals with the level of words, it means that there is something/anything between. For instance, the one can say today is not hot, it may mean today is not cold. There is scale or space exist between hot and cold, it is warm (Adisutrisno,2008:86).

Gradable antonymy is the commonest type of antonymy. The antonym pairs like *hot/cold*, *big/small* and *tall/short* all belong to the gradable antonyms. One can find that they are mainly adjectives. The gradable antonymy has three characteristics: first, as the name suggests, they are gradable, that is, the members of a pair differ in terms of degree; second, antonyms of this kind are graded against different norms; third, one member of a pair, usually the term for the higher degree, serves as the cover term. (Hu, 2001:164).

1.1.3.2 Complementary Antonymy

As Cruse (1986:11) describes it, the essence of a pair of complementary antonym is that between them they exhaustively divide some conceptual domain into two mutually exclusive compartments, so that what does not fall into one of the compartments must necessarily fall into the other. The members of the antonym pairs of this kind is complementary to each other.

Complementary antonymy is the meaning of the word is absolute, not relative (reverse to gradable type), there is only one possibility of meaning which is fixed, there is no intermediate ground between two of them. If dead is existing, then one is not alive. There is no word to be existed between dead and alive, the

word “half dead” is not possible to be put to state one is neither dead nor alive (Adisutrisno,2008:89).

1.1.3.3 Relational Antonymy

According to the name of this type, between the two words have the relation. For instance, parent and child. Someone can't be called parent if she/he doesn't have child, and vice versa. To summarize, one exists only because the other does. This is a special type of antonymy in which the members of a pair do not constitute a positive-negative opposition. They show the reversal of a relationship between two entities (Biber et al,1998: 24).

Egan (1968:53) describe these antonym pairs as pairs of words which include such a relationship that one of them cannot be used without suggesting the other. Therefore one can see that there is a huge difference between converse antonymy and the other two subtypes of antonymy, that is, one should presupposes the other as for the two members that involved in an antonym pair.

Chapter Two: Analysis

Antonymy in Holy Quran

Text:1

[وَسَعِيدٌ شَقِيٌّ فَمِنْهُمْ بِإِذْنِهِ إِلَّا نَفْسٌ تَكَلَّمُ لَا يَأْتِ يَوْمَ]

سورة هود: ايه (105)

The day it comes, no soul will speak up except with His permission. Some of them will feel miserable while [others] will be happy.

Gradable Antonymy : One of a pair سَعِيد of terms that denotes one end of a scale while the other term شَقِيٌّ denotes the other end,

Text:2

[فِيهَا لَهُمُ النَّارُ فَفِي شَقْوَا الدِّينِ فَأَمَّا وَشَهيقٌ زَفِيرٌ]

سورة هود: ايه (106)

Those who are miserable will be in the Fire: they shall (hear) moaning and groaning in it.

Complementary Antonymy : One of a pair of words شَهيقٌ wherein affirmative use of one entails the negative of the other زَفِيرٌ with no gradability

Text:3

سورة هود: ايه (107)

Remaining there so long as Heaven and Earth will last, except for whatever your Lord may wish. Your Lord is a Doer of whatever He wants!

Complementary Antonymy : A term whose meaning complements the meaning of the other term. **وَالْأَرْضُ لِسَمَآوَاتٍ**

يُؤْمِنُوا حَتَّى الْمُسْرِكِينَ تَنْكُحُوا وَلَا أَعْبَجَتْكُمْ وَلَوْ مُشْرِكَةٌ مِنْ خَيْرٍ مُؤْمِنَةٍ وَلَا أَمَةٌ يُؤْمِنُ حَتَّى الْمُسْرِكَاتِ تَنْكُحُوا وَلَا

۲۲۱ سورة البقره :ايه) (

Do not marry women who associate [others with God] until they believe. A believing maid is better than an associating woman, no matter how attractive she may seem to you. Do not let [your daughters] marry men who associate [others with God] until the latter believe; a believing slave is better than an associator, no matter how attractive he may seem to you. Those people invite (one) to the Fire while God invites (us) to the Garden and to forgiveness through His permission. He explains His signs to mankind in order that they may bear them in mind.

Relational Antonymy : Describe these antonym pairs as pairs of words which include such a relationship that one of them cannot be used without suggesting the other النَّارُ الْجَنَّةِ .

Text:5 النُّورِ مِنْ يُخْرِجُونَهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ أُولَئِكَ هُمْ كَفَرُوا وَالَّذِينَ النَّورِ إِلَى الظُّلُمَاتِ مِنْ يُخْرِجُهُمْ آمَنُوا الَّذِينَ وَلِيَ اللَّهُ [خَالِدُونَ فِيهَا هُمْ النَّارِ أَصْحَابُ أُولَئِكَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى

(٢٥٧ سورة البقرة :عايه) (

God is the Patron of those who believe. He brings them out of darkness into Light, while those who disbelieve have the Arrogant ones for their patrons; they will lead them out of Light into darkness. Those are inmates of the Fire; they shall remain there!

Relational Antonymy : A term that, together with another term **الظُّلُمَاتِ النُّورِ** , forms a pair of opposite role names in a relationship

Text:6 **الْحَيِّ مِنَ الْمَيِّتِ وَتُخْرِجُ الْمَيِّتَ مِنَ الْحَيِّ وَتُخْرِجُ ۖ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَتُولِجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ تُولِجُ ۖ**
حِسَابَ بِغَيْرِ تَشَاءُ مَنْ وَتَرْزُقُ
(٢٧ سورة آل عمران :ايه) (

You wrap night up in daylight, and wrap daytime up in night. You draw the living from the dead, and draw the dead from the living. You provide for anyone You wish without any reckoning!

Couplementary Antonymy : The word **الْمَيِّتِ** meaning complements the meaning of the other word **الْحَيِّ**

Text:7
ويستعجلونك بالسيئة قبل الحسنة وقد خلت من قبلهم المثل وان ربك لذو مغفرة للناس على ظلمهم وان ربك
لشديد
العقاب

سورة الرعد:ايه ٦

They want to hasten you on to commit evil rather than [to perform] a fine deed. Examples have already been set before them. Your Lord possesses forgiveness for mankind, no matter how wrong they are; though your Lord still is Stern with

puunishment.

Complementary Antonymy: The word السيئة meaning complements the meaning of the other word الحسنه

Text: ٨

وانه هو اضحك وابكى وانه هو امات واحيا

سورة النجم: ايه ٤٣-٤٤

“And that towards your Lord lies the final End ‘and He makes (us) both laugh and cry.

Complementary Antonymy : One of a pair of words اضحك وابكى wherein affirmative use of one entails the negative of the other امات واحيا with no gradability

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Conclusion

Antonyms are words with opposite meaning. And antonymy refers to the relationship of oppositeness. Antonyms are exceedingly valuable in defining the exact meaning of a given word and its synonyms. Antonyms enable us to express briefly the opposite of a particular thought, often for the sake of contrast.

From the linguistic point of view, one of the main concerns of studying antonymy is to determine the boundaries of antonymy. Antonymy has been divided into three different types by the linguists, that is, gradable antonymy, complementary antonymy and relational antonymy. Gradable antonymy is described as a relation, that is, “not A” doesn’t equal B. There is an intermediate form between A and B. Complementary antonymy is a relation that “not A” equals B. There is no intermediate ground between them. relational antonymy refers to a kind of reversal relationship.

Antonymy plays rather important roles in specific texts. Employing antonyms in Holy Quran reveals the oppositeness of the things and produces the strong sense of comparison. The linguistic study of antonymy Holy Quran helps readers understand and appreciate the intention much more easily.

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