The Semantic Differences between Terms for "Presence" in Arabic: An Analytical Study of Synonymy and Context

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Abstract

This study explores the semantic differences between terms for "presence" in Arabic, such as tawajud (existence), qudum (arrival), and shuhud (witnessing), aiming to investigate how linguistic and social contexts influence the nuanced meanings of these terms. The significance of the research lies in highlighting the concept of partial synonymy. The study adopts a descriptive-analytical approach, analyzing the usage of these terms across different contexts. The findings reveal that seemingly synonymous words are not identical in meaning but carry subtle distinctions depending on the context in which they are used. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of Arabic, aiding in the precise selection of vocabulary in literary and religious texts and enhancing educational curricula. The study concludes that context, whether linguistic or social, plays a fundamental role in shaping the meanings of terms. Additionally, it uncovers the impact of local dialects on the use of these words, affirming that meanings can vary based on cultural and contextual differences. The study recommends teaching students how to distinguish between closely related terms according to appropriate contexts, with an emphasis on understanding and accurately applying partial synonymy. It also encourages expanding future linguistic studies to cover other terms, aiming to enrich linguistic knowledge and develop educational tools that foster optimal vocabulary usage in diverse contexts.

Keywords: Arabic Dialects, Contextual Analysis, Linguistic and Social Context, Semantic Differences, Synonymy in Arabic.

1. Introduction

The concept of "presence" is linguistically rich in Arabic, manifesting in various contexts, raising questions about the degree of similarity or difference between the terms associated with it in meaning and significance. Linguists have long been interested in the phenomenon of synonymy, which refers to the existence of words with close or similar meanings. However, the context in which these words are used plays a crucial role in clarifying the subtle differences between them. For instance, terms such as ḥuḍūr (presence), tawajud (existence), qudum (arrival), and shuhud (witnessing) all convey the idea of "being present," yet each carries a unique connotation depending on the context in which it appears.

Like other natural languages, Arabic encompasses semantic differences that emerge through the interaction between words and their surrounding context. Accordingly, this research aims to explore the semantic distinctions between the terms for "presence" by analyzing their usage in diverse contexts. The study seeks to highlight the depth of the Arabic language and its capacity to express similar concepts in precise and varied ways. This research marks an important step toward a deeper understanding of synonym and context in Arabic, contributing to the advancement of linguistic studies and enabling more accurate and comprehensive textual analysis. (Al-Khaza'leh, 2018).

The choice to explore the semantic differences between terms for "presence" in Arabic is motivated by several linguistic and academic factors:

-        Synonyms in Arabic have been a subject of great interest among linguists throughout history. While some scholars argue for the existence of complete synonymy between words, others maintain that each term holds a unique meaning depending on the context.

-        Examining the terms for "presence" offers a valuable opportunity to understand these subtle differences between synonymous words across various contexts.

-        Terms like ḥuḍūr (presence) and tawajud (existence) often carry overlapping meanings, leading to confusion in their usage. This study aims to resolve this ambiguity and clarify the fine distinctions between these terms.

-        Context plays a critical role in shaping meaning. Investigating how context influences the meanings of terms for "presence" helps to uncover how a word's meaning can shift depending on the situation.

-        The study of these terms is particularly important in literary and religious texts, as it can provide deeper insights into the semantic dimensions of Arabic literature, poetry, and religious discourse.

-        From an educational perspective, the findings of this study can contribute to curriculum development by equipping students with tools to discern nuanced meanings among closely related words.

Although previous studies have addressed synonym in Arabic, the specific terms related to "presence" have not been sufficiently studied. This makes the topic both timely and important, filling research gaps and offering new contributions to the field of linguistic analysis.

1.1.   Research Objectives

The primary objective of this research is to study the semantic differences between terms for "presence" in Arabic by analyzing the relationship between synonymy and linguistic context. This research aims to achieve several secondary objectives, including:

-        Identifying Subtle Differences: Identifying the nuanced distinctions between terms such as tawajud (existence), qudum (arrival), iqbal (approach), wusul (reaching), and shuhud

(witnessing). These terms are often used as synonyms, but the research demonstrates that they convey different meanings based on the context.

-        Exploring the Role of Context: Focusing on the role of linguistic context in shaping meaning, whether in literary, religious, or everyday texts, where context clarifies subtle differences between these terms.

-        Highlighting Partial Synonymy: The research aims to highlight partial synonymy in Arabic, emphasizing that similar terms are not entirely synonymous.

-        Advancing Theoretical Understanding: Developing the theoretical understanding of synonymy in Arabic through semantic analysis of terms for "presence" to explore how these terms are used to create specific semantic effects.

-        Educational Proposals: Providing linguistic and educational recommendations to enhance curricula by helping students distinguish between synonymous words and use them accurately in appropriate contexts.

-        Enriching Linguistic Studies: Enriching linguistic studies and opening new horizons for future research focused on the semantic differences of other Arabic terms.

1.2.   Research Problem:

The research problem centers on the semantic differences between terms for "presence" in Arabic. Many terms, such as tawajud (existence), qudum (arrival), iqbal (approach), wusul (reaching), and shuhud (witnessing), are used to convey the concept of "presence." The primary question posed by this research is whether these terms express identical meanings or if they carry subtle semantic distinctions that only become apparent through the context in which they are used. For example, qudum refers to "presence" with an emphasis on movement toward a place, while tawajud signifies mere existence without any explicit movement.

Additionally, the study examines the relationship between these terms from the perspective of partial synonymy, exploring how the concept of partial synonymy can explain the overlap in meanings among certain terms while distinguishing them in other contexts. The research seeks to address the core issue: Do the different terms for "presence" convey identical meanings, or are there subtle semantic differences that depend on the context? Furthermore, how can these differences be understood within the framework of linguistic analysis, focusing on synonymy and context?

1.3.   Research Questions:

This research aims to answer a set of questions focused on analyzing the semantic differences between terms for "presence" in Arabic and the role of context in shaping meaning. The research questions posed are:

▪   What are the different terms that convey the concept of "presence" in Arabic?

▪   What are the subtle semantic differences between these terms?

- How does linguistic context influence the meanings of the terms for "presence"?

- How can the findings of this research contribute to the advancement of linguistic and educational studies?

1.4.   Research Methodology:

The research adopts a descriptive-analytical approach, which is well-suited for studying linguistic concepts and their meanings in the language. This methodology involves accurately describing the linguistic phenomenon and then analyzing it by examining its various usages across different contexts.

2.   Previous Studies

2.1.   Studies on Synonymy in the Arabic Language

Classical studies have extensively explored the concept of synonymy. For instance, Ibn Jinni in his book Al-Khasais discussed the issue of complete synonymy, expressing doubt about the existence of entirely synonymous words. He argued that each term carries a distinct meaning that emerges through context or cultural nuances. (Ibn Jinni, 1952).

In modern studies, contemporary researchers have also addressed the topic of synonymy, highlighting that certain words overlap in meaning while diverging in other aspects. Tammam Hassan in his book Al-Lughah Al-Arabiyyah: Ma'naha wa Mabnaha emphasized the role of context in distinguishing between synonymous words, making this work a significant reference for studying the terms related to "presence". (Hassan, 2006).

2.2.   Studies on Linguistic Context

Al-Farahidi and Sibawayh discussed the impact of context on the meaning of words, emphasizing how meanings shift depending on usage. Additionally, Abdulqader Al-Fassi Al-Fihri provided detailed analyses of how words interact with context to convey different meanings. Modern linguistic theories have also explored how social and interactive contexts shape meanings, showing that a word may carry different meanings in dialects or cultural settings compared to Classical Arabic. (Al-Fehri, 2013).

2.3.   Studies on Terms for "Presence" in Literary and Religious Texts

Literary studies, such as the works of Ihsan Abbas, have focused on the use of synonymy and semantic differences in poetry and prose. These studies demonstrate how such terms can add an additional layer to literary texts, enriching their artistic meaning. (Abbas, n.d.).

Other studies have examined the use of terms for "presence" in the Qur'an, such as shuhud (witnessing) and qudum (arrival). These studies explore the spiritual and cultural nuances of these words, offering a deeper understanding of their meanings within religious texts.

2.4.   Commentary on Previous Studies

Although there are studies on synonymy and context, there is a noticeable gap in the specific analysis of terms related to "presence." The current research aims to fill this gap by providing a comprehensive examination of these terms. Previous studies have not sufficiently detailed the impact of context on the meanings of the terms for "presence." This research seeks to explore how different contexts, including literary and religious ones, influence these terms.

The present study concludes that there is an urgent need for an in-depth analysis of the subtle differences between these terms from a contextual perspective. This offers research an opportunity to expand the linguistic understanding of these terms.

3.   Theoretical Framework

3.1.   The Concept of Synonymy in Arabic

Synonymy is a linguistic phenomenon that refers to the existence of multiple words that can be used to express the same meaning or very closely related meanings. It is a topic that has sparked considerable debate among Arabic linguists. In Arabic, many words are considered synonymous or similar in meaning, but the question remains whether these words are truly identical in meaning or if each carries subtle differences that distinguish it from the others.

Synonymy in Arabic reflects the richness and complexity of the language, with the prevailing view being that synonymy is often partial rather than complete. This implies that while words may overlap in certain meanings, they also convey subtle distinctions that heavily depend on context.

Thus, synonymy is a central topic in the study of the Arabic language, with clear implications for semantic, literary, and linguistic analysis. Investigating the synonymy between terms such as ḥuḍūr (presence), tawajud (existence), qudum (arrival), and others requires a careful analysis of the different contexts in which these terms are used. Such an analysis enhances the understanding of the language and reveals the nuanced meanings carried by these words, contributing to a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of Arabic.

3.2.   Definition of Synonymy

- Linguistic Definition: Synonymy refers to the use of multiple words to indicate the same meaning or a very similar one. In other words, one word can be replaced by another without changing the primary meaning of the sentence. (Yaqoub, 1998).

- Technical Definition: Synonymy is defined as the existence of two or more words that express the same idea or refer to the same thing, with no significant difference in meaning between them. This definition is generally accepted among linguists, although their interpretations of the degree and precision of synonymy may vary. (Al-Thanawi, 1996).

3.3.   Reasons for the Existence of Synonymy in Arabic

One reason for the presence of synonymy in Arabic is the cultural and geographical diversity that has shaped the use of words across different eras and regions. Classical Arabic retained certain words specific to historical periods, while new terms emerged over time to express the same meanings. This geographical and cultural diversity has resulted in multiple words conveying the same idea, with slight variations in their usage.

Another factor is linguistic evolution over time. Like any living language, Arabic has evolved through the centuries, leading to the introduction of new words or the reinterpretation of older ones. This linguistic change helps explain the presence of synonymous words used for the same purpose in similar contexts.

Finally, linguistic flexibility is a notable feature of Arabic, as it allows for a rich variety of vocabulary to express closely related meanings. This flexibility enables speakers to choose between terms based on context, the desire for linguistic variety, or the pursuit of literary or aesthetic effects.

3.4.   The Importance of Understanding Synonymy in Arabic

Understanding synonymy in Arabic is essential for clarifying semantic differences between words. Knowledge of both partial and complete synonymy helps in selecting the appropriate terms for the correct context. In literary and religious texts, such as poetry or the Qur'an, words are used with great precision. Understanding synonymy and the subtle differences between terms aids in interpreting these texts more accurately.

Moreover, understanding synonymy plays a crucial role in enhancing translation skills. It helps translators choose the most suitable terms in the target language. Accurate translation requires a precise understanding of the semantic differences between synonymous words in the source language.

3.5.   Complete and Partial Synonymy

Synonymy in Arabic is a complex and debated topic, with several types identified based on the degree of similarity in meaning and usage. Many linguists agree that synonymy in Arabic can be divided into complete synonymy and partial synonymy, each with distinct characteristics that influence the way words are used in various linguistic contexts. (Ibrahim, 2012).

3.5.1.   Complete Synonymy

Definition of Complete Synonymy: Complete synonymy refers to a set of words that convey the same meaning, allowing them to be used interchangeably in all contexts without altering the meaning in any way. In this case, synonymous words are assumed to be entirely identical in their linguistic significance, with no subtle differences between them.

For example, some consider the words al-sayf (sword) and al-hussam (sharp sword) to be complete synonyms, as they both refer to the same weapon (a blade). Similarly, the words insan

(human) and bashar (humankind) are often used interchangeably to refer to a human being without any change in meaning.

The Rarity of Complete Synonymy: Despite this definition, most linguists believe that complete synonymy is exceedingly rare, if not nonexistent, in Arabic. This is because each word often carries unique cultural, historical, or contextual connotations, making it distinctive in some way. Even words that initially appear to be synonymous may exhibit differences in specific contexts.

For instance, while al-sayf and al-hussam may both refer to swords, al-hussam specifically denotes a particularly sharp, cutting sword, whereas al-sayf can refer to any type of sword in general. These subtle distinctions make it difficult to argue that complete synonymy exists between them.

3.5.2. Partial Synonymy

Definition of Partial Synonymy: Partial synonymy is the most common type of synonymy in Arabic. It refers to words that are close in meaning but differ in certain usages or contexts. In this type of synonymy, the meanings of the words are not entirely identical; instead, the words overlap in some meanings while diverging in others or in practical applications.

Enriching the Language: Partial synonymy contributes to the richness of the Arabic language by offering speakers and writers a variety of words to choose from according to different situations and contexts. This diversity enhances communication and allows for precise expressions tailored to specific circumstances.

Precision in Expression: While complete synonymy may seem appealing for general use, partial synonymy allows speakers or writers to select the most appropriate word for conveying a specific meaning or situation. This enables ideas to be communicated with greater clarity and precision.

Literary and Artistic Creativity: The use of partial synonymy is an effective tool in Arabic literature and poetry. Writers and poets can leverage the subtle differences between words to create layers of meaning and nuance. In Arabic literature, partial synonymy is employed to enrich texts, making them more expressive, evocative, and aesthetically pleasing.

4. Synonymy among Arab Linguists

Arab linguists have held diverse opinions throughout history regarding the issue of synonymy in Arabic. Some supported the notion of complete synonymy, while others questioned its existence, arguing that each word carries a distinct meaning with subtle differences that set it apart. This debate remains one of the most intricate topics in linguistic studies, given the complexity of the phenomenon and its connection to contextual and cultural factors. (Ibrahim, 2012).

Many classical Arab linguists, such as Al-Farahidi and Ibn Jinni, did not support the idea of complete synonymy in Arabic. For instance, in his book Al-Khasais, Ibn Jinni argued that every word holds a unique meaning that distinguishes it from others, even if the difference is very

slight or not immediately apparent. He believed that these semantic differences are closely tied to the linguistic context in which the word is used. (Ibn Jinni, 1952).

Similarly, Sibawayh maintained that synonymy does not exist in the way some perceive it. He believed that each word possesses a "spirit" or unique meaning that may only become clear through context. This view emphasizes that seemingly synonymous words carry subtle differences or specific uses that vary with context. (Sibawayh, 1988).

This perspective reinforces the idea that partial synonymy is far more common than complete synonymy. Many linguists argue that while words may overlap in meaning at times, they differ in specific nuances or situations. Synonymy, therefore, is not "absolute" but depends on the context in which the word appears.

Classical Arabic dictionaries offer detailed explanations of synonymous terms, often defining words by providing their synonyms. However, even in these explanations, it is evident that each word carries subtle differences in meaning and usage. For example, Lisan al-Arab might define the word ḥuḍūr (presence) as tawajud (existence), but a deeper analysis reveals that ḥuḍūr implies an intentional or planned presence, while tawajud denotes mere existence without specific intent. (Ibn Manzur, 1993).

Other dictionaries, such as Maqayis al-Lughah, suggest that while words may have similar meanings, they differ in usage or in the subtle distinctions that depend on the context in which they are used. (Ibn Faris, 1979).

4.1. Opinions of Early Linguists on Synonymy

4.1.1. Al-Jahiz

Al-Jahiz (d. 255 AH), one of the most prominent writers and linguists of the Abbasid era, addressed the issue of synonymy in his book Al-Bayan wa Al-Tabyin. Al-Jahiz was among those who acknowledged the existence of synonymy in the Arabic language, viewing it as a reflection of the richness of Arabic and its ability to express the same meaning in multiple ways. In his view, synonymy illustrates the linguistic wealth that allows writers and poets to employ different words to add beauty and variety to texts. However, Al-Jahiz was not unaware of the subtle differences between synonymous words. He recognized that even in cases of synonymy, there are differences between words, though these differences may not be fundamental. Instead, they become apparent within the context in which the word is used, providing speakers or writers with flexibility to choose the most appropriate word for a given situation. (Al-Jahiz, 1998).

4.1.2. Ibn Jinni

Ibn Jinni (d. 392 AH), one of the most prominent scholars of the Arabic language, was among the leading skeptics of the notion of complete synonymy. In his book Al-Khasais, he argues that words are not entirely synonymous but carry specific meanings or subtle differences that may not be immediately apparent yet result in semantic variation. According to Ibn Jinni, these distinctions make it difficult to replace one word with another without altering the meaning to

some extent. He believed that each word has its own unique character and history of usage, which sets it apart from others, even if both words refer to the same general concept. (Ibn Jinni, 1952).

4.1.3. Al-Zamakhshari

Al-Zamakhshari (d. 538 AH), the author of the renowned Qur'anic exegesis Al-Kashshaf, acknowledged the existence of synonymy but considered it limited. He noted that synonymy may be employed in literary and Qur'anic texts to enhance emphasis or aesthetic appeal. However, Al-Zamakhshari believed that each word plays a specific functional role within the text in which it appears. For him, the semantic differences between words are not negated, even if they seem synonymous, as each term reflects a particular angle or carries a unique connotation that distinguishes it from its synonyms. (Al-Zamakhshari, 1988).

4.2. Critical Views on Synonymy in Modern Studies

In modern linguistic studies, the debate on synonymy has continued, with many scholars and critics offering new insights based on contemporary linguistic theories.

4.2.1. Tammam Hassan

Tammam Hassan (d. 2011) is considered one of the most prominent contemporary Arab linguists to have critically addressed the issue of synonymy. In his book Al-Lughah Al-Arabiyyah: Maʻnaha wa Mabnaha (The Meaning and Structure of the Arabic Language), he argued that complete synonymy in Arabic is extremely rare, if not impossible. He maintained that what is often regarded as synonymy is, in fact, partial synonymy, where words overlap in some meanings but differ in others, depending on the context or linguistic structure in which they are used. Tammam Hassan emphasized the importance of context in determining the meaning of a word, viewing synonymy as a relative concept. Words that appear synonymous in one context may convey different meanings in other contexts. (Hassan, 2006).

4.2.2. Abd al-Qadir al-Fassi al-Fihri

Abd al-Qadir al-Fassi al-Fihri, a prominent Moroccan linguist, considers synonymy a concept that requires careful study within the framework of modern linguistic analysis. In his works, he emphasized that synonymy, in its traditional sense, may not exist, as each word carries its own semantic value. According to him, words can only be regarded as synonymous if they are completely identical in all contexts—something that occurs in very few cases. (Al-Fehri, 2013).

4.2.3. Ibrahim Anis

Ibrahim Anis argued that synonymy is sometimes used in colloquial dialects but is rare in Classical Arabic. He believed that every word in Classical Arabic carries a unique meaning, making it difficult to replace it with its synonyms without altering the meaning in some way. Anis also emphasized the importance of studying literary and religious texts to uncover the subtle differences between synonymous words and how each word can serve a distinct artistic or rhetorical function different from its synonyms. (Anis, 2003).

5. Context and Its Role in Determining Meanings

Context is the most influential factor in determining the meanings of words and expressions, whether they are synonymous or not. Both linguistic and non-linguistic contexts play a critical role in understanding the precise meanings of terms, as they can profoundly affect the semantic differences between seemingly similar words. Contextual analysis is essential in linguistic studies, particularly regarding synonymy and the distinctions between words with closely related meanings. In this section, we will explore the concept of context, its types, and its pivotal role in highlighting the semantic nuances between words. (Omar, 1998).

5.1. Definition of Context

Context is one of the most important factors that contribute to understanding the precise meaning of words and sentences in a language. It is connected to the linguistic and non-linguistic environment surrounding a word or sentence, providing words with their exact meanings and clarifying the differences between terms that may appear synonymous or similar in meaning. Context plays a central role in linguistic studies and semantic analysis, enabling an understanding of the relationships between words within texts or daily conversations. Context can be divided into several types, including linguistic context and non-linguistic context (social or cultural), each playing a role in shaping meaning. (Hassan, 2006).

5.2. Types of Contexts

Context is a crucial factor in determining the correct meaning of a word or phrase in a language. It can be classified into several main types based on its linguistic or non-linguistic nature. Understanding the different types of contexts helps interpret the meanings of terms more accurately and clarifies the subtle differences between words that may seem synonymous.

Context can be divided into linguistic (textual) context and non-linguistic context, which includes social and cultural contexts. There is often a complex interaction between linguistic and non-linguistic contexts, where the meanings derived from textual context may overlap with those imposed by social or cultural circumstances. Below is a detailed examination of the different types of contexts and their roles in analyzing meaning. (Hassan, 2006).

5.2.1. Linguistic (Textual) Context

Linguistic or textual context refers to the textual framework in which a word or phrase appears. It includes the surrounding words and sentences, as well as the grammatical structure, which can influence the meanings of terms and the selection of synonyms. The grammatical construction of a sentence may determine the use of one word over another, especially when the linguistic context requires a specific term based on its position in the sentence. Linguistic context operates on several levels, ranging from the sentence to the entire text: (Al-Saleh, 2004)

- Sentence Context: This refers to the immediate environment of a word within a single sentence. The interpretation of a word's meaning in this context depends on the interaction between other words in the sentence and the syntactic structure. Sentence context is the first level of meaning analysis, providing the foundation for understanding the relationships between adjacent words

and their role in forming the overall meaning. This type of context is essential for determining the precise meanings of synonyms or words with multiple meanings.

- Paragraph Context: The paragraph context encompasses a set of sentences centered around a single main idea. It expands the understanding of a word or phrase by considering the broader textual environment surrounding it. Paragraph context offers additional information that helps eliminate ambiguity and guides the reader toward the correct interpretation. It highlights additional dimensions or subtle differences that might be missed if the focus were only on a single sentence.

- Full Text Context: Full text context refers to the overall framework in which a word or phrase appears, including the entire text, literary work, religious text, or scientific document. This context provides a comprehensive view of how words and meanings are employed within an integrated framework. Examining the full text helps to grasp the broader meaning or message the writer intends to convey. It also aids in understanding the relationships between synonymous terms and selecting the most suitable word for the context. In literary and religious texts, the full text context is particularly important for identifying the subtle semantic differences between words.

5.2.2.   Non-Linguistic Context (Social and Cultural)

Non-linguistic context deals with external factors influencing the understanding of words or phrases, which are not directly related to the spoken or written text but are connected to the social and cultural circumstances surrounding the conversation or text: (Ibrahim, 2012)

- Social Context: Social context refers to the conditions and situations related to the relationships between individuals in society. It includes the social settings where conversations or texts take place, such as interpersonal relationships, social norms, and cultural trends that influence word choice. Social context helps explain how the relationship between speakers affects the usage and meanings of words.

- Cultural Context: Cultural context refers to factors linked to the local or historical culture that affect word meanings. The use and connotations of words vary across different cultures, and even within the same culture, depending on traditions and customs. Cultural context helps in understanding how cultural background influences word usage. This explains the variations in the use of terms for "presence" across Arabic dialects. For example, in Egyptian Arabic, the word ḥāḍir is used to express agreement and readiness, while ḥuḍūr is used in Gulf dialects more formally. (Saleem, 2023).

6.   Analysis of Terms for "Presence" in Arabic

6.1.   Presentation of Synonymous Terms Related to "Presence"

The Arabic language excels in expressing multiple and diverse meanings through different words that may appear synonymous but carry subtle differences that emerge based on the context in which they are used. In this section, we present the terms related to "presence," such as tawajud

(existence), qudum (arrival), iqbal (approach), wusul (reaching), and shuhud (witnessing), explaining their meanings and linguistic roots.

The terms ḥuḍūr (presence), tawajud (existence), qudum (arrival), iqbal (approach), wusul (reaching), and shuhud (witnessing) are used in Arabic to refer to meanings associated with presence or existence. Although these words may seem synonymous, each carries distinct meanings that become evident through the linguistic and social context in which they are used. For example:

- ḥuḍūr (Presence): Refers to active participation or physical presence at a specific event.

- tawajud (Existence): Denotes mere physical presence in a particular place, without emphasis on active participation.

- qudum (Arrival): Refers to movement or transition from one place to another with the intention of being present.

- iqbal (Approach): Expresses eagerness or enthusiasm toward an event or place.

- wusul (Reaching): Indicates arriving at a specific location after a journey or transition.

- shuhud (Witnessing): Implies being present as a witness to an event or incident, whether the presence is physical or symbolic.

6.2.   Root of the Word and Its Different Linguistic Forms

6.2.1.   Ḥuḍūr (Presence)

- Linguistic Root: The root of the word is ḥ-ḍ-r, which refers to actions related to being present and participating. Derived terms include ḥāḍir (present), maḥḍar (venue or setting of presence), and ḥuḍūriyya (the nature of presence). Other linguistic terms include: maḥḍar: A place of attendance. al-ḥāḍirūn: Those who are present. ḥaḍariyya: Refers to the quality or nature of presence.

- Lexical Definition: In Arabic dictionaries, ḥuḍūr is defined as arriving at a particular place with the intention of participating or being present at an event or occasion. It is associated with both physical and symbolic presence in a specific location. Example from Dictionaries: The phrase ḥaḍara fulān ilā al-makān means "So-and-so came to the place," indicating that the person was present physically or symbolically. (Ibn Manzur, 1993).

6.2.2.   Tawajud (Existence)

- Linguistic Root: The root of the word is w-j-d, which signifies existence or being present. Derived linguistic terms include: wujūd (existence or state of being). mutawājid (present in a place).

- Lexical Definition: In Arabic dictionaries, tawajud is defined as being present in a specific place without implying active participation. It refers to mere physical or material presence. Example from Dictionaries: The phrase tawājada fulān fī al-makān means "So-and-so was

present in the place," indicating that the person was there without specifying the nature or involvement of their presence. (Al-Razi, 1999).

6.2.3. Qudum (Arrival)

- Linguistic Root: The root of the word is q-d-m, which refers to the act of arriving at a place from a distant or different location. Related linguistic terms include: qādim (a person who comes or arrives). maqdam (the moment of approaching or arrival).

- Lexical Definition: In Arabic dictionaries, qudum means reaching a specific place after movement or transition. It is associated with the action of a person's movement or spatial transition. Example from Dictionaries: The phrase qadima fulān ilā al-makān means "So-and-so came to the place," indicating that the person arrived from a distant place or approached it. (Al-Azhari, 2001).

6.2.4. Iqbal (Approach)

- Linguistic Root: The root of the word is q-b-l, which expresses the act of moving toward something or engaging in an action. Related linguistic terms include: muqbil (a person who comes or approaches something). iqbāl (the state of approaching or engaging).

- Lexical Definition: In Arabic dictionaries, iqbal refers to active movement toward a place or event, often associated with enthusiasm or a desire to participate or be present. Example from Dictionaries: The phrase aqbala fulān 'alā al-'amal means "So-and-so approached the task with enthusiasm and determination," indicating active engagement and eagerness. (Hassan, 2006).

6.2.5. Wusul (Reaching)

- Linguistic Root: The root of the word is w-ṣ-l, which refers to the act of reaching a specific place. Related linguistic terms include: wāṣil (a person who arrives). mutawāṣil (connected or linked to something else).

- Lexical Definition: In Arabic dictionaries, wusul is defined as reaching a specific destination after a journey or transition. It represents the outcome of movement. Example from Dictionaries: The phrase waṣala ilā al-makān means "He arrived at the place," indicating that his journey ended, and he reached his intended destination. (Ibn Faris, 1979).

6.2.6. Shuhud (Witnessing)

- Linguistic Root: The root of the word is sh-h-d, which refers to being present as a witness to an event. Related linguistic terms include: mashhūd (something witnessed or testified to). shāhid (a person who sees or witnesses). shahāda (testimony or declaration of truth).

- Lexical Definition: In Arabic dictionaries, shuhud means being present as a witness to an event or occurrence. It is also used in legal and religious contexts. Example from Dictionaries: The phrase shahida al-wāqi'a means "He witnessed the event," indicating that he was present and observed what took place. (Ibn Faris, 1997).

7.   Conclusion

7.1.   Research Findings

This study has arrived at several key conclusions that highlight the subtle differences between terms for "presence" and the impact of various contexts on their meanings. It was found that terms such as ḥuḍūr (presence), tawajud (existence), qudum (arrival), iqbal (approach), wusul (reaching), and shuhud (witnessing) are not completely synonymous. Each term carries distinct connotations that become clearer within specific linguistic or social contexts.

The findings emphasize that linguistic context plays a decisive role in determining the meaning of words. Terms that may appear to be synonymous exhibit variations in meaning when analyzed within the context of their use. Furthermore, the study shows that social and cultural contexts significantly influence the interpretation of these terms, as local environments and cultural practices shape how words are used and understood.

7.2.   Discussion of Findings

The research demonstrates that the terms associated with "presence" in Arabic carry subtle distinctions that are context dependent. This underscores the importance of understanding context in Arabic, where these terms cannot be treated as perfect synonyms. Their meanings must be examined within the specific linguistic and situational frameworks where they occur.

The study also reflects that the interpretation of these terms is affected by differences in Arabic dialects. This indicates that Arabic, rather than being a uniform language, is subject to the influence of local cultures and contexts. Consequently, studying regional dialects is essential for gaining a deeper understanding of how the language evolves and adapts across different areas.

These findings open avenues for further research into synonymy and contextual analysis in Arabic. Future studies could explore other related terms across various dialects or investigate synonymy within specialized fields such as law, literature, or religious discourse. Moreover, the insights gained from this research could contribute to the refinement of educational strategies, helping learners grasp the nuances of Arabic more effectively.

7.3.   Recommendations

Based on the study's findings regarding the semantic differences between terms for "presence," several recommendations are suggested. Educational curricula should place greater emphasis on the importance of context in teaching Arabic. Students need to learn how to select words based on contextual appropriateness, with a focus on the subtle differences between terms such as ḥuḍūr (presence), tawajud (existence), and qudum (arrival). Examples from literary and religious texts should be incorporated to illustrate how context influences meaning.

There is also a need to expand dialectal studies, given the varying use of these terms across different regions. Conducting field studies on how these terms are employed in local dialects, and how social and cultural factors shape their meaning, will enhance the understanding of linguistic diversity within Arabic. Additionally, applying contextual analysis more broadly in linguistic research is recommended. Similar studies should be conducted on other synonymous

terms to uncover subtle differences and the role of context in shaping meaning. This will further enrich Arabic linguistic studies.

Finally, it is recommended to develop educational tools that focus on semantic differences. These tools would help students distinguish between closely related terms based on context, improving their understanding of the language and enhancing their ability to use words accurately in different situations.

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