

Context and Its Effect on Determining Meaning

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Abstract:

This research examines contextual theory, which has established bridges between language and social life. It traces the roots and development of the concept of context, its foundations and ideas, and its most prominent figures. It also explores the impact of context on defining and directing meaning, revealing its hidden meanings, its role in changing meaning, and its contribution to the revival or demise of words.

The study concluded that the concept of context had transformed into an independent theory that specialized in studying semantics, and focused on the social element of language, as it gave it great importance at a time when language was studied from within. Firth, the pioneer of this theory, was distinguished by what he achieved in terms of expansion and addition represented by the idea of linguistic arrangement and sequential analysis of the interconnected and influential contexts between them, starting from the smallest phonetic unit and reaching the context of culture.

The broad scope, in addition to demonstrating the clear impact of context on changing meaning and revealing and defining meaning, is highlighted by the diverse examples and applied evidence studied.

Keywords: Context - Meaning - Semantics - System - Contextual Meaning - Lexical Meaning

Introduction:

This research attempts to present an accurate scientific picture of contextual theory and its approach, exploring the impact of context on meaning and its definition.

According to an inductive methodology, following the studies written about it, and the ideas and viewpoints raised, and using the tools of description, analysis and comparison to come up with an objective vision about it, and employing it methodically in a selected set of applied examples. This study comes in two chapters preceded by an introductory introduction and followed by a summarizing conclusion. The first of them spoke about a number of theoretical aspects related to the context, its concept and its types.

and its foundations, paving the way for delving into the second applied section, to uncover the secrets of context and its role in directing and defining meaning. It is worth noting that context and its relationship to linguistic discourse are issues that have received significant attention since ancient times, from the sciences of rhetoric, oratory, and Greek dialectics, through the sciences of the Qur'an, exegesis, language, and literature, and finally to modern linguistics, especially the science of Social language¹.

¹ Mahmoud, H., Khamaiseh, A., Alomary, A., & Ghnaim, F. (2022). A Stylistic Study in Surat Al-Baynah. *Dirasat: Human and Social Sciences*, 49(6:), 267–279. <https://doi.org/10.35516/hum.v49i6.4008>.

In light of this broad scope of the concept of context and its accompanying development, it is difficult to fully encompass all of this and its details, both ancient and modern. Therefore, this study attempts to approach it with the best available research and knowledge, focusing on the most important and prominent aspects, and studying the effect of context on meaning with an applied study that tests the accuracy of this theory and its impact on meaning.

There are important previous studies that benefited the research, of which the most notable is Ibrahim Khalil's thesis entitled (Context and its Impact on Linguistic Studies, a Study in Light of Modern Linguistics), from which the views of Firth and other Westerners were derived, because its author derives his ideas from their authentic sources, that is, from the foreign books themselves, and not from a translation, which spared him much of the confusion and misunderstanding that translations may fall into.

Chapter One: Theory

Introduction: Semantics and Methods of Determining Meaning

Linguistics has made great strides in its study of language, witnessing a broad qualitative shift linked to the efforts of de Saussure, who is considered the spiritual father of modern linguistics. Language was studied at its various levels, and opinions differed regarding it, resulting in the emergence of several linguistic schools and trends, beginning with Structuralism, to transformational generativeism, and recently cognitive linguistics. Since the semantic level is a fundamental pillar of the linguistic system, linguists have paid great attention to it, which led to the emergence of a science specializing in the study of meaning known as semantics².

There are many theories that have studied meaning³, due to the diversity of semantic analysis methods, each according to the direction of its proponents and their understanding of meaning. Among these theories⁴ are: the referential theory, whose proponents believe that the meaning of the word is what it refers to externally, and the conceptual mental theory, which links...

Semantics is based on thought and mental perceptions, behavioral semantics, in which the situation, including its stimuli and responses, constitutes meaning, and finally, contextual theory—the subject of this study—came to study meaning in an attempt to fill the gaps associated with previous semantic analysis methods that linked meaning to what exists outside of language⁵, emphasizing the social function of language.

Based on this importance of meaning and the problem of defining it, this study came as an attempt to clarify the contextual theory and approach it with some practical examples. Therefore, it was necessary to begin with the concept of context on the linguistic and terminological levels, so that it would be possible to stand after that at its most prominent foundations, especially

Firth, the English linguist who pioneered this theory, brought it to its peak of perfection. Through his efforts, he opened up broad horizons for his followers to develop and expand upon this theory.

- Context: The Linguistic and Terminological Concept

Context is derived from the root word (souq)⁶. Thus, one says: "to drive" (sawq), "to drive" (sawqan) and "siyaqan" (sayaq). It is also said: "The camels followed one another" (tasa'awat) if they followed one another. Context of speech

It follows its sequence and the style it follows, and it becomes clear that the linguistic meaning is related to succession and continuity, and it is closely related to the technical meaning as defined by the contextual theory. As for the technical meaning, the researcher encounters several definitions of the context; due to the multiplicity of those working in it from the owners of different sciences;

² Pierre Giroux: Semantics, translated by Munther Al-Ayashi, introduced by Mazen Al-Waer, Talas Printing and Publishing, Damascus, 1988, 1st ed., p. 11. See also: Muhammad Dawud: Arabic and Modern Linguistics, Dar Gharib Printing and Publishing, Cairo, 2001, p. 179.

³ Samir Istitieh: Linguistics: Domain, Function, and Method, Alam Al-Kutub Al-Hadith, Jordan, 2008, 2nd ed., p. 257.

⁴ See: Ahmad Mukhtar: Semantics, Alam Al-Kutub, Cairo, 2006, p. 53.

⁵ The previous reference, 73.

⁶ Ibn Manzur (d. 711 AH), Abu al-Fadl Jamal al-Din Muhammad ibn Makram: Lisan al-Arab, edited by: Abdullah Ali al-Kabir, Muhammad Ahmad, Hashim al-Shadhili, Egypt, Dar al-Maarif, 1981, 3/2092.

which makes it difficult to determine an accurate concept for it⁷, and when it comes to modern linguistics, it can be defined as “the set of elements that make up the media situation.”

Or the verbal situation, and it is also “the linguistic environment in which the linguistic unit is located⁸, whether it is a word or a sentence, within a framework of linguistic or non-linguistic elements.” Accordingly, the context in the technical sense consists of the linguistic environment itself at its multiple levels, and what surrounds it of other external elements. There are Arabic terms that are synonymous with and close to the context, including: the situation⁹, the requirement of the situation, and the clue, which is a term.

More closely related to what is known as linguistic context.

Contextual Theory:

Contextual theory, which emphasizes the importance of context¹⁰ for understanding intended meaning, is one of the most prominent theories among modern linguists, regardless of their orientations. Context has a function in understanding and exploring meaning, as it “limits possible interpretations and supports the intended interpretation.”

In the text, Firth emphasized the social function of language¹¹, and believed that meaning is only revealed through contextualizing the linguistic unit; that is, placing it in different¹² contexts. The meaning of the word is its multiple uses in the language, or the function it performs in the context. Accordingly, meaning

Contextual meaning is the meaning that is understood based on the context represented by the spoken or written linguistic event, and the set of surrounding and directed elements. Contextual theory emphasizes the interconnectedness of the different levels of language and their influence on each other. The network of functional, semantic, and contextual relationships that make up the linguistic fabric cannot be separated when performing its function.

Contextual study is characterised by its close connection to language, as it begins its study from the inside (the context of the text)¹³ to the outside (the context of the situation), unlike other semantic theories that link meaning to what is outside the language. From this it is understood that the contextual theory denies the linguistic formula the single lexical meaning, since language is a system of intertwined relationships, and it is open to change in its lexical and syntactic structure.

Therefore, the word has no value outside the context. Contextualists have studied the meaning¹⁴, going beyond the origin of the meaning and the nature of the relationship between the signifier and the signified. Rather, they have been interested in the function that these words perform within a specific usage or context¹⁵ based on the most important property of language¹⁶, which is that it is a specific social activity¹⁷, so they focused on the social element of language rather than the abstract mental aspect, and Firth called for studying meaning as a complex of contextual relationships rather than as latent mental processes¹⁸.

⁷ Safiya Daoud, Siham Brahimi: Contextual Theory in Semantic Studies and Its Impact on Arabs, Master's Thesis, Abdel Rahman University of Bejaia, 2017, p. 9.

⁸ Mahmoud Al-Sa'ran: Linguistics: An Introduction for the Arab Reader, Dar Al-Fikr Al-Arabi, Cairo, 2nd ed., p. 311.

⁹ Raddat Allah Al-Talhi: Contextual Meaning, Umm Al-Qura University, Saudi Arabia, 1417 AH, 1/51.

¹⁰ Contextual Theory and Its Impact on Arabs, 14.

¹¹ Muhammad Khattabi: Text Linguistics, An Introduction to Discourse Coherence, Arab Cultural Center, Beirut, 52.

¹² Afef Salami: Linguistic Context and Its Impact on Determining Meaning, Master's Thesis, Ouargla, University of Kasdi Merbah, 2020, 9.

¹³ Ibrahim Khalil: Context and Its Impact on Linguistic Studies, A Study in Light of Modern Linguistics, PhD dissertation, University of Jordan, 1990, 39.

¹⁴ Hudson: Sociolinguistics, translated by Mahmoud Ayyad, Dar Al-Shu'un Al-Thaqafiyah, Baghdad, 1987, 88-90.

¹⁵ Ahmad Ahmidat: Firth's Contextual Theory: Between Authenticity and Innovation, Al-Dad Magazine, 2015, 257-279.

¹⁶ Ahmad Qaddoura: Principles of Linguistics, Dar Al-Fikr, Damascus, 2008, 354.

¹⁷ Fawzi Al-Shaib: Lectures in Linguistics, Amman, Ministry of Culture, 1999, 103.

¹⁸ Nariman Barah: Contextual Theory in Linguistics, Ancient and Modern, Master's Thesis, Algeria, 70. A- Ibid., 71.

There are two types of context: a linguistic context, or what is known as (the context of the article) or (the context of the text), with what it includes in terms of phonetic, grammatical, morphological, and lexical levels, and a non-linguistic context, which linguists call the context of the situation, and which is broad enough to include under it various external circumstances surrounding the linguistic event, whether they are material, psychological, social, political, or cultural. The context is a comprehensive umbrella with a broad concept that the intended meaning cannot be

The linguistic context is defined as "the result of the use of the word within the sentence system¹⁹, adjacent to other words, which gives it a special meaning." In the language, each linguistic unit takes its role and function through its position in this linguistic context, and any change in this position will lead it to a new function within the new linguistic context. Accordingly²⁰, the totality of relationships between words within the linguistic fabric is

The term "linguistic context" refers to the phonological, syntactic, semantic, and sequential relationships between linguistic units and their functions²¹.

As for non-linguistic context, this term has been translated into Arabic in several ways, such as: linguistic stage, speech circumstances, situational requirements, and context. However, the term "context of the situation" is the most commonly used²².

The current context, as Halliday says, is the other text accompanying the primary apparent text²³, and it is what connects the linguistic event to its external environment, as it includes the various relationships linking the linguistic units.

And the accompanying non-linguistic components. There is no doubt that the relationship between these two types of context is a close one, as they cannot be separated²⁴.

The proponents of this theory, in studying meaning, adopt the sequential contextual analysis based on the context in its two aspects, as the structure of the linguistic context is studied according to the laws of the language that produced it, and the contextual position concerned with the effect of the location of the linguistic element (word/structure) in determining its meaning. The context of the situation related to the speaker, the recipient, the external environment, the temporal and spatial relationships, and all the external circumstances surrounding the linguistic element are studied²⁵. This will lead to a correct understanding of the meaning of the word or phrase. In light of this analysis, Firth talks about what he calls "the arrangement of facts" in a series of functions or contexts, each of which falls under another larger and more general context, starting with the phonetic context, then the lexical, then the morphological, then the syntactic, i.e. (the context of the text), arriving at the broader context, which is the context of culture ²⁶that includes the situation, place, time, history, and geography. It is worth noting that the separation between these contexts is arbitrary for the purposes of this research. Beyond that, they are intertwined and interconnected, have their own functions, and each influences the other. Some linguists have developed more detailed divisions of context, including the proposal by (Kammer), which divided context into four types: linguistic context, situational or situational context, emotional context, and cultural context²⁷. The emotional context is what determines the nature of the word's use, and reveals the psychological aspects and emotional²⁸ connotations it is loaded with. The word is not limited to the rational meaning, but - as Maillet says - it also carries a kind of feeling²⁹. The emotional context is shown through the selection of specific words that indicate the degree of emotion, strength and

¹⁹ Principles of Linguistics, 355.

²⁰ Quoted from Context and Its Impact on Linguistics: Ibrahim Khalil, 41.

²¹ Firth's Contextual Theory between Authenticity and Innovation, 179.

²² Farid Awad: Chapters in Semantics, Maktabat al-Adab, Cairo, 2011, 3rd ed., 125.

²³ Farid Awad: Context of the Situation in Semantic Studies: Analysis and Application, Egypt, Nahdet Misr Library, 1998, 29.

²⁴ Chapters in Semantics, 119.

²⁵ The Contextual Lesson in Abd al-Qahir al-Jurjani's Theory of Systems, 3.

²⁶ Stephen Ullman: The Role of the Word in Language, translated by Dr. Kamal Bishr, Cairo, Al-Shabab Library, 57.

²⁷ Ahmed Mukhtar: Semantics, 69. See also: Principles of Linguistics, 354.

²⁸ Principles of Linguistics, 35.

²⁹ Antoine Maillet, Linguistics, translated by Muhammad Mandour, Dar Al-Ilm Lil-Malayin, Beirut, 1946, 71.

weakness. For example, the word (hates) is different from (detests) despite their shared original meaning³⁰. In a state of anger, strong, charged words such as killing and slaughter may be used, without intending their literal meaning, that is, it is a state of emotional release, reinforced by the vocal performance accompanying the words.

As well as body language represented by features, movements and special signals that highlight that emotion more accurately³¹. As for the context of the situation, it means the external situation, including the social data and temporal and spatial relationships in which the speech occurs³² The cultural context is manifested through the language used at a specific linguistic level, as it reflects the intellectual, cultural, and social data of its user. For example, an educated person uses the words "his wife" and "madam" to refer to a husband, while an ordinary, less cultured person uses the words "woman" or "woman." This linguistic usage is dependent on the cultural context³³.

The emergence of the contextual theory was not a coincidence, but rather witnessed the birth of early ideas and views of importance in sociology until they became established in linguistics, and their connections with linguistic studies were strengthened, until they bore fruit at the hands of Firth, and became an independent theory from which other theories benefited and confirmed its importance. Some researchers attribute³⁴ The emergence of the contextual theory and its early signs, especially the term "context of the situation," goes back to linguists of the nineteenth century, such as Wegener, in his discussion of "the theory of the situation," which was fully manifested by the anthropologist Malinowski It is worth noting that De Saussure referred to the context in his discussion of the arbitrary relationship between the signifier and the signified, using it to prove that signifiers or sounds do not have an essential nature, and some of them convey multiple meanings according to the context in which they appear. If this relationship between them were essential and fixed, it would not be correct for the meaning to change every time³⁵His concept of context also appeared in his discussion of linguistic relationships represented by suggestive and contextual relationships. Contextual relationships are horizontal, present relationships that arise from the presence of two or more elements within a series of harmonious speech elements³⁶, This idea is the basis or nucleus of the context of the text Vendryes, one of the most prominent French linguists, surrounded the context with great enthusiasm while talking about the commonality in language. He believes that usage or context is what determines one meaning among the possible meanings of the word, as it frees it from all other stored meanings accumulated in memory³⁷. It is what determines the value of the word in all cases³⁸ It can be said that, for Saussure and Vendryes³⁹, context does not extend beyond the boundaries of language and the interconnected relationships within the spoken sequence. That is, they limited themselves to a single type of context: the linguistic context. As for the American linguist Bloomfield, he interpreted language and its meanings according to the situation, stimuli, and responses, influenced by his psychological behaviorist school. For him, meaning is the situation⁴⁰ It comes from linking speech to the practical events that precede and follow it. This interpretation of social elements differs according to Firth⁴¹, who makes the context a tool of the linguistic tools used to clarify the meaning. As for Bloomfield, meaning is the situation itself⁴², and Malinowski is considered the most prominent station, as he used the term context of

³⁰ Ahmad Mukhtar: Semantics, 70-71.

³¹ Principles of Linguistics, 357.

³² Principles of Linguistics, 357

³³ Ibid., 359.

³⁴ Abdo Al-Rajhi: Chapters in Linguistics, Dar Al-Ma'rifah Al-Jami'ah, 1997, 73.

³⁵ De Saussure, Lectures in General Linguistics, translated by Youssef Ghazi and Majid Nasr, Dar Al-Nu'man for Culture, Lebanon, n.d., 31.

³⁶ Ibid., 186

³⁷ Vendryes, Language, translated by Abdul Hamid Al-Dawakhli, Egyptian Library, Cairo, 235.

³⁸ Ibid., 228.

³⁹ Ahmad Al-Munir: The Concept of Context According to Tamam Hassan and Firth, A Comparative Analytical Study, Mawlana Islamic University, 2016, 33.

⁴⁰ Ahmad Mukhtar: Semantics, 61.

⁴¹ Palmer: Semantics, translated by Sabry Ibrahim Al-Sayyid, Al-Mustansiriya University, Baghdad, 1980, 82.

⁴² Ibid., 81.

the situation in an article in which he spoke about the problem of meaning in primitive languages⁴³ He came to the conclusion that speech has meaning only if the context in which it was used is known⁴⁴. He also emphasized that speech is affected by different types of letters. For example, the language used by fishermen will differ from that used by porters, and so on⁴⁵ Malinowski presented important views that established the social impact of language, and opened horizons for linguists to benefit from in studying the linguistic phenomenon. Firth was influenced by Malinowski's ideas, and adopted his theory that he created in the context of the situation, but he wanted a context more appropriate to the nature of the linguistic lesson, so he viewed it as

Part of the tools of the linguist⁴⁶, the context of the situation became the basis of semantics, and he even made the term semantics synonymous with contextual study⁴⁷. Firth expanded on this theory, and the study of language became a study based on the relationship between linguistic elements at their different levels and the social context⁴⁸ He believes that the study of semantics is the main task of descriptive linguistics, and this semantics is achieved through the network of internal relationships in the linguistic fabric, and the network of current external relationships⁴⁹. Contextual theory did not stop at Firth. His students and those who followed his approach in their studies of language embraced it, developed it, and developed it further. Among them was the thinker Halliday, who expanded the study of language as a social phenomenon, giving it new dimensions. It transcended the confines of the sentence to the text, which became the smallest unit of analysis. This paved the way for the emergence of Firth's new theories.

Contextual Theory: Between the Old and the New

The researcher of the contextual theory will notice that it has Arab roots, as the ancient Arab scholars began their linguistic study to demonstrate the miraculous nature of the Qur'an and explore its sources⁵⁰. It can be said that the idea of context found wide resonance among them⁵¹.

While I found important views that represented early signs of framing an Arab contextual theory whose features were not complete, they cannot be ignored, as they are valuable efforts that deserve attention. Accordingly, the context of the situation - in particular - is an idea that is deeply rooted in antiquity, which Firth revived, presenting his scientific contextual theory that is cross-pollinated with the efforts of the ancients in several aspects, but it was distinguished from them in expansion and detail, and it differed in method and analysis⁵².

The researcher notices early fragments in which the ancient linguists were alerted to the context and its role, especially when interpreting the miraculous nature of the Holy Qur'an, the first of whom was Al-Jahiz, who attributed the miraculous nature of the Qur'an to its arrangement. Likewise⁵³, Abu Sulayman Al-Khattabi emphasized the importance of the position of words and their role in the harmony of the arrangement, and that eloquence is based on choosing words and their suitability to the context, so changing their positions leads to the corruption of speech and its eloquence⁵⁴. Judge Abdul Jabbar Al-Asad Abadi considers He was one of the first to clearly understand the concept of organization, and he presented important opinions, so some considered the book "Dala'il al-I'jaz" by al-Jurjani to be a detailed explanation of it⁵⁵. Among these ideas are those related to the context and its role in the meaning, as he considered it to be the joining of words in a specific way

⁴³ Farid Awad: Chapters in Semantics, 122.

⁴⁴ Palmer, Semantics, 74.

⁴⁵ Quoted from "Context and Its Impact on Linguistic Studies," Ibrahim Khalil, 48.

⁴⁶ Palmer, Semantics, 76-77.

⁴⁷ Farid Awad, Chapters in Semantics, 123.

⁴⁸ Citing context and its impact on linguistic studies: Ibrahim Khalil, 48.

⁴⁹ Ahmed Momen: Linguistics - Origins and Development, University Publications Office, Algeria, 2005, 2nd ed., 179.

⁵⁰ Contextual Studies in the Theory of Systems by Abd al-Qahir al-Jurjani and Those Who Precede Him in the Miracle of the Qur'an, 1.

⁵¹ Farid Awad: Chapters in Semantics, 128.

⁵² Hilmi Khalil: Arabic and Structural Linguistics, Dar al-Ma'rifah al-Jami'ah, 1966, 132.

⁵³ Al-Jahiz (d. 255 AH), Al-Hayawan, edited by Abd al-Islam Harun, Dar al-Jeel, Beirut, 3/86.

⁵⁴ Al-Khattabi (d. 388 AH): Bayan I'jaz al-Qur'an (included in Three Treatises on the Miracle of the Qur'an), edited by Muhammad Khalaf Allah and Muhammad Zaghoul, Dar al-Ma'arif, Cairo, 1976, 3rd ed., 29.

⁵⁵ Shawqi Dayf: Rhetoric: Evolution and History, Dar al-Ma'arif, Cairo, pp. 119-120.

according to the rules of grammar, and he also attributed Eloquence is the position of words and the manner of arrangement⁵⁶. What makes a word more eloquent is substitution (choice), and the advancement and delay specific to the position. Abdul Qahir Al-Jurjani, the founder of the arrangement theory, benefited from these views that preceded him. He was the first to use the term arrangement, and expanded on the explanation Meaning, to reach a conclusion that the system is the source of linguistic value in the literary text⁵⁷, so his theory was built on the basis of the context and its importance in revealing the purposes of speech and its eloquence, and he also emphasized the importance of the semantic level, as he says: "If the words were stripped of their meaning, nothing of them would be more deserving of precedence than something else, and the speaker's knowledge of the meanings of words and their latent within himself is necessary to facilitate the process of pronouncing them and composing phrases.⁵⁸"

This meaning is generated from the overlap of the morphological, phonetic and grammatical levels, that is, from⁵⁹ "establishing relationships between grammatical meanings by means of what are called verbal, semantic and situational clues," which is what he calls attachment. Words have no meaning on their own, but their value and meanings come from the composition⁶⁰ He called this harmonious horizontal sequence of speech "system." For him, system is "the connection of words to one another, and the making of some of them by reason of others." Speech is placed according to what the science of grammar requires, and it does not deviate from it. He links the eloquence and rhetoric of the word to the linguistic context in which it appears⁶¹, as its meaning is related in harmony with the words that are adjacent to it. He says: "Words do not differ in terms of being abstract words, nor in terms of being words "A single word, and that the words are proven to have superiority and its opposite in the suitability of the meaning of the word to the meaning of the one that follows it or what is similar to that which has no connection to the explicit word⁶²," so every advantage in the words is returned to the context, as he says: "The sum of the matter is that we do not require eloquence for a word that is cut off and removed from the speech in which it is, but we require it for it connected to something else, and its meaning is suspended on the meaning of what follows it⁶³." In these views there is clear agreement between them and the contextual theory Modernity in relation to linguistic context, as a word has no real value outside of context, and it must be placed harmoniously within a context in order for its meaning to be determined. Although Al-Jurjani offered comprehensive and comprehensive views regarding the context of the article, he also referred in several places in his books to the context of the situation and its role in determining meaning, such as judging the statement by the presence of an omission or interpreting it metaphorically⁶⁴. It is also worth noting that there are those who The ancient scholars were early aware of the context of the situation, so they spoke about its importance in directing the meaning, its role in revealing the eloquence of the text, and the conformity of the statement to the requirements of the situation and its suitability to it, whether for the addressees or the purposes that it expresses, such as Al-Jahiz⁶⁵ and Abu Yaqub Al-Sakaki⁶⁶. As for the famous saying of the rhetoricians, "For every situation there is a saying," it is considered one of the most important things related to the context in its two aspects, the statement and the situation, as the rhetoricians were

⁵⁶ Abdul Jabbar Al-Asadabadi (d. 415 AH): *Al-Mughni fi Abwab Al-Adl wa Al-Tawhid*, edited by Amin Al-Kholi, Ministry of Culture and National Guidance, Dar Al-Kutub Press, United Arab Republic, 1960, 1st ed., 16/205.

⁵⁷ Contextual Lesson in the Theory of Systems, 7.

⁵⁸ Al-Jurjani (471): *Evidence of the Miracle in the Science of Semantics*, edited by Muhammad Rida, Dar Al-Ma'rifa Printing House, Beirut, 1981, pp. 41-42.

⁵⁹ Tamam Hassan: *Language, Its Meaning and Structure*, Dar Al-Thaqafa, Morocco, 1994, 188.

⁶⁰ *Evidence of the Miracle*, 316.

⁶¹ Mustafa Nasif: *The Theory of Meaning in Arabic Criticism*, Dar Al-Andalus, Beirut, n.d., 83

⁶² *Evidences of Miracles*, 81.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 45-46.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 367.

⁶⁵ Abdul Qaher Al-Jurjani (d. 471), *Secrets of Eloquence in the Science of Rhetoric*, edited by Muhammad Al-Iskandarani, Dar Al-Kitab Al-Arabi, Beirut, 1998, 2nd ed., 189

⁶⁶ Al-Jahiz (d. 255 AH), *Al-Bayan wa Al-Tabyin*, edited by Ali Abu Malham, Dar and Maktaba Al-Hilal, 1992, 2nd ed., 1/13.

interested in the term The context of the situation is concerned with the listener and the speaker. This term represents part of the meaning of (the context of the situation) among the modern scholars⁶⁷, as both of them emphasize the importance of the external social aspect related to speech. The fundamentalists and commentators also used the word context⁶⁸, so they mentioned the verbal context and the current context, and they took care to study the Qur'anic text according to its textual and situational aspects, and they saw that the Qur'anic text cannot be interpreted in isolation from the context like the rest⁶⁹.

There are many views and prominent efforts scattered in the writings of the ancients. The purpose is not to enumerate them, as there is no room for that, and what has been presented is just the tip of the iceberg. Rather, the goal is to emphasize these important roots of the theory of context in the ancient Arab heritage. It can be said that the ancient Arabs presented real efforts in relation to the context that were more brilliant in the practical aspect than the theoretical aspect, but they were not without some matters that prevented⁷⁰

Without its development, including the normative approach that made the rule the origin and usage the subordinate to it⁷¹, and this is in contrast to modern linguistics, in which the context is the center and imposes the composed speech, and also including the focus on the element of the addressee when talking about the idea of the article matching the requirements of the situation⁷², so this was considered one of the most prominent reasons for the shortcomings that the idea of the requirements⁷³ of the situation was described with in the Arab rhetorical heritage In contrast, the English school paid great attention to language as a bridge for relationships between individuals⁷⁴, emphasizing the close connection between language and the social aspect. Therefore, the spotlight in this part of the research will focus on Firth's efforts, due to their importance, as he expanded on the idea of context, and made it central to the study and analysis of language, especially the context of the situation, which, due to its importance, was considered an independent theory that became the basis for the study of meaning

In English linguistic theory⁷⁵.

Firth goes on to say that any study of language at its various levels will remain incomplete unless it relies entirely on context, as the true meaning of words is immersed in their uses. Accordingly⁷⁶, language is a set of intertwined contextual relationships, including sounds, structures, compositions, lexicon, and meaning, in addition to the many social factors represented by the situation or condition⁷⁷. Firth also emphasizes the cultural context in determining The meanings of words: a single word has multiple lexical meanings, but the recipient will only retrieve the intended meaning, due to his familiarity with the context in which it appears, as it has become part of the prevailing language culture⁷⁸.

The method adopted for studying and analyzing language is a method that takes context as a pivotal pillar in its two aspects, the verbal and the present⁷⁹, and accordingly the semantic meaning will not be achieved except through its existence within a series of intertwined contextual relationships in which all the levels of language are organized together under the umbrella of the context of the

⁶⁷ Al-Sakaki (d. 626 AH): Miftah al-Ulum, Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyyah, n.d., 73.

⁶⁸ Farid Awad: Chapters in Semantics, 128.

⁶⁹ Al-Zarkashi (d. 794 AH): Al-Burhan fi Ulum al-Quran, edited by Muhammad Abu al-Fadl Ibrahim, Dar al-Ma'rifah, n.d., 1/291.

⁷⁰ Al-Suyuti (d. 911 AH): Al-Itqan fi Ulum al-Quran, Al-Maktaba al-Thaqafiyyah, Beirut, 2/178.

⁷¹ Hassan Tabl: Context Theory between Arabic Heritage and Modern Linguistics, Fikr wa Ibdal Magazine, Modern Literature Association, 2009, vol. 53, 67.

⁷² Salah Fadl: Rhetoric of Discourse and Textual Science, Dar Al-Ma'rifa Magazine, 1992, No. 164, 111.

⁷³ Context Theory between the Arabic Heritage and Modern Linguistics, 67.

⁷⁴ Context and Its Impact on Linguistic Studies, Ibrahim Khalil, 48.

⁷⁵ Chapters in Linguistics: Abdo Al-Rajhi, 72.

⁷⁶ Quoted from: Context and Its Impact on Linguistic Studies, Ibrahim Khalil, 48.

⁷⁷ Ibid., 49.

⁷⁸ Ibid., 50.

⁷⁹ Ibid., 50.

present⁸⁰, and Firth talks about what he calls contextual distribution governed by the method of substitution, which sees that the linguistic element is nothing but

In return for replacing what can replace it, and its meaning does not appear at any of the five levels except through its contextual uniqueness from its counterparts that can replace it in that context. Firth also spoke about one of the non-grammatical relationships between words in the sentence, which is the term collocation. That regularity and horizontal sequence of the elements of speech includes two types of meaning, one of which is the collocative meaning resulting from the relationships between the words.

Adjacent phrases contribute to the clarity of meaning, and the contextual meaning derived from the functional relationship of the sentence linked to the current context. Collocation or association is one of the most prominent things that Firth added to the contextual theory at the level of linguistic context⁸¹. He noticed that the occurrence of words accompanying others embodies one of their meanings, as the word is known by the group that accompanies it⁸², as it is expected that a word will occur with what suits it from Within contextual relationships, it arises from two things: the lexical relationships between the words arranged⁸³, and the frequent use of a number of words in this manner of arrangement. According to this trend in contextual study⁸⁴, it is necessary to distinguish between what is considered acceptable or unacceptable in a single linguistic context. The word "molten" is consistent in its meaning with specific words such as iron, copper⁸⁵, and gold, and occurs with them in a single acceptable linguistic context, while it is not This correspondence appears with other words such as wood or leather⁸⁶, and in this way of collocational relationships its meaning becomes more specific and clear, and there is no doubt that the linguistic context goes beyond mere collocational relationships to the totality of relationships between the words composing the text, and what should be noted is that Firth used meaning in his theory in its broad sense, so "the semantic meaning for Firth became the relationships of these functions with each other."

Linguistically, it is the sum of the meanings of the different linguistic structures equally, in addition to the context of the situation with its various elements⁸⁷.

It can be said that Firth's study of meaning is based on three pillars that must be addressed:

First: A set of contextual elements accompanying the actual speech event⁸⁸, including those related to the participants in the speech event⁸⁹, as well as the type of speech function, such as persuasion, censure, etc., which highlights the social role of the speaker and other participants in the speech situation⁹⁰, and the effect left by the speech (laughter, belief, mockery, etc.).

Second: Determine the level or environment of the speech being studied, such as the language of the educated, the language of the common people, etc., as there is a close connection between language and the culture that embraces it⁹¹.

Third: Analyzing linguistic discourse with its various functions in gradual stages.

It is worth emphasizing that Firth was most interested in the current social aspect, while other phonetic, syntactic, morphological, and lexical aspects were considered semantic tools. For him, the concept of context is understood by analyzing the situation with its various current elements.

Despite the importance of Firth's efforts, his theory was not immune from criticism. Some scholars described it as deficient, as he did not present his theory fully. Some also criticized it for

⁸⁰ Ibid., 51.

⁸¹ Ibid., 140.

⁸² Palmer: Semantics, 145.

⁸³ Abdel Fattah Al-Barakawi: Contextual Semantics between Heritage and Modern Linguistics, Egypt, Dar Al-Kitab, 1991, 52.

⁸⁴ Ibid., 53.

⁸⁵ Contextual Semantics between Heritage and Modern Linguistics, 54.

⁸⁶ Ahmed Mukhtar: Semantics, 64. See also: Principles of Linguistics, 361.

⁸⁷ The Concept of Context According to Tamam Hassan and Firth, 69.

⁸⁸ Mahmoud Al-Sa'ran: Language and Society: Opinion and Method, Al-Ahliya Press, Benghazi, 1958, pp. 14-15.

⁸⁹ Quoted from: Context and Its Impact on Linguistic Studies, 50.

⁹⁰ Rajab Muhammad: The Concept of Context, Its Types of Fields, and Its Impact on Defining Semantic Relations and Style, Dar Gharib, 2003, Vol. 6, No. 4, pp. 93-162.

⁹¹ Rafah Abdul-Hussein: Lectures in Semantics, University of Karbala, College of Islamic Sciences, 2019, pp. 88.

exaggerating the importance of context and saying that words have no meanings outside of it. No matter how much

its importance is undeniable. The meanings of individual words are agreed upon by linguists and documented in dictionaries⁹². However, others have found it difficult to apply due to the diversity of usages and the multiplicity of situations. It has been described as a successful but impractical semantic theory⁹³. This theory has cast a shadow over modern Arab linguists, who have taken an interest in it, transmitted it, and benefited from it. At the forefront of these scholars are Tamam Hassan, Mahmoud Al-Sa'ran, Kamal Bishr, and Mazen Al-Wa'er

Section Two: Application/The Importance of Context and Its Impact on Determining Meaning:

There is no doubt that the previous theoretical opinions and foundations adopted by contextualists confirm the impact of context in conveying and defining the intended meaning, as it contributes to clarifying linguistic units and removing any ambiguity or vagueness that may befall them. Context also plays a prominent role that cannot be overlooked in what.

Vocabulary undergoes semantic changes, acquiring new connotations through generalization, specification, multiple meanings, and the creation of synonyms. This also contributes to strengthening the expressive, influential function of linguistic discourse. This entire effect becomes more evident when examining certain examples and evidence from a contextual perspective, where this pivotal role is revealed. The study selects diverse examples, some drawn from the Holy Qur'an, the Prophet's hadiths, and Arabic literature, while others are related to everyday language.

- Illustrative applied examples in linguistic and non-linguistic contexts:

Firth emphasizes the necessity of studying the linguistic phenomenon gradually, starting from the intertwined linguistic fabric that begins with sounds, then morphological structures, then syntax, then the context of the situation that is linked to social and psychological data and the broader context, which is the cultural context. For the purposes of the research study, he says:

The effect of each type of linguistic context on directing meaning will be approached separately, with the need to emphasize their intertwining and overlapping in the linguistic fabric when performing their functional role in the context.

Linguistic context:

The phonetic context is defined as the verbal arrangement of a sound within the framework of other sounds in a word or sentence. These sounds have a specific arrangement and position in the structure. The phenomenon of composition occurs when the articulation points of the letters of the word are linked together in harmony⁹⁴. With these compositional relationships, each sound has its effect on all the other sounds. Firth believes that the linguistic sound should be studied in light of its contextual relationships⁹⁵ represented by the influence of the positions of linguistic sounds on the way they are pronounced and their characteristics⁹⁶, which affects their meaning. Therefore, sounds are not studied as single units, but rather through their phonetic context and their relationships with neighboring sounds. There is a difference between phonetics, which studies each sound individually, and research into the phonetic context (phonology), in which sounds and their functions are studied within their contextual relationships, and their characteristics are determined according to the diversity of the context⁹⁷.

It is noted that the clarity and distinction of sounds, as well as the clarity of phonetic additions that give the word a new derivational dimension, is very important to determine the meaning carried by the phonetic and morphological form at the same time, as the sound is studied according to its relationship to other sounds that represent contextual alternatives that can replace it. Examples of this include the sentence (the boy slept), which from a phonetic perspective has a specific context, as it is composed of phonemes. The order is as follows (n/a/m), and each sound has its own position

⁹² The Role of the Word in Language, 55.

⁹³ Palmer: Semantics, 88.

⁹⁴ The Arabic Language: Its Meaning and Structure, 265.

⁹⁵ Cited from Context and Its Effect on Linguistic Studies, 41.

⁹⁶ Ibid., 50.

⁹⁷ Kamal Bishr: General Linguistics (Phonology), Dar Al-Maaref, Egypt, 1986, 2nd ed., 155.

that contributes to achieving the meaning of the word, and whenever a change occurs in these sounds or their order, it will inevitably change the meaning. The previous sentence is different from (qama al-walad), (dama al-walad), (lam al-walad), and others. It is also different from (qama al-walad), (nama al-mawlood), and (lam al-walad). Here the overlap between the phonetic and morphological levels and their effect in determining Semantics. The phonetic and morphological structures combine to convey the meaning accurately. If the word (impostor) was pronounced by shortening the alif, you would hear (occupier) and the intended meaning would be different. This phonetic distinction is what makes it unique from the other words derived from the same root⁹⁸ The phonetic context has an effect on sounds and their pronunciation, as they may shift from their points of articulation to match the sounds next to them. An example of this is the pronunciation of the letter kaf in the word (kitaab), which came with a kasra, which will differ from its pronunciation with a damma in the word (kull). The same applies to the letter lam, which is sometimes pronounced with a soft vowel and sometimes with a heavy vowel, according to the phonetic context, like the word (wallaah)⁹⁹ Likewise, the word "daraba" (strike) has a more pronounced "ra" than in the word "sarab" (swarm), as the sound is softened or emphasized according to its position in the linguistic phonetic context and the influence of neighboring sounds. There are a number of phonetic phenomena that arise from this phonetic context and the changes it causes due to the influence of neighboring sounds, including: the phenomenon of vowelization with deletion, similarity, difference, inversion, stress, intonation, lengthening, and others¹⁰⁰ The study will present some examples to clarify the effect of the phonetic context in determining the meaning. l'al is the contextual change that occurs to long vowels, such as increasing the amount of sound, deleting it, or adding it to the word. They are weak letters that are affected by what is next to them¹⁰¹, so their contextual position affects their length or shortness. If they come after A long and extended hamza and a consonant laryngeal plosive, such as in the words yasha' and yasu'¹⁰². The length increases if a doubled consonant comes after it, such as in the words shabbah and abbah. However, if a silent consonant comes after it, it is deleted. An example of that is in the words lam yakhfa and lam yaba'¹⁰³. There is no doubt that the clarity and distinction of these sounds has a precise effect in conveying the correct meaning to the listener and determining the significance. There are other types of phonetic contexts, such as intonation and stress, that are consistent with the semantic meaning of words and phrases. They are very important for studying meaning, as these changes in the tones and rhythms of speech, whether rising or falling, indicate the speaker's intent. Intonation, which is the "phonetic framework in which the sentence is said in context," is one of the phonetic phenomena that most clearly demonstrates the effect of context on determining meaning. It may reveal connotations. Contrary to what might be included in speech, prolonging the vowel sound when saying: (By God, he is a man) in the context of praising a person contributes to conveying the desired message of speech, and deepens and confirms the quality of the one being praised¹⁰⁴. It also has multiple functions, including grammatical ones such as directing the parsing by specifying the intended meaning. For example, intonation has a clear role in distinguishing between the styles of exclamation and questioning that might appear in a phrase.

(How beautiful is the sky!) or (How beautiful is the sky?), this musical frequency that is included in the audio context is the standard for eliminating doubt and giving preference to the intended meaning. Among the practical examples that indicate the effect of intonation in determining the intended meaning and directing the syntax accordingly is its distinction of the style of calling when its tool is deleted, as the calling has a special musical vocal tone that strikes the ears of the listeners

⁹⁸ Context and Its Effect on Linguistic Studies, 140-141.

⁹⁹ Mahmoud Fahmy Hijazi: Introduction to Linguistics, Dar Al-Thaqafa, Egypt, 1986, 2nd ed., 38-39

¹⁰⁰ For more information, see: Context and Its Impact on Linguistic Studies, by Ibrahim Khalil, and The Arabic Language: Its Structure and Meaning, by Tamam Hassan.

¹⁰¹ Context and Its Impact on Linguistic Studies, 97.

¹⁰² Ibn Jinni (d. 392): The Secret of the Art of Grammar, edited by Mustafa al-Saqa and others, Dar Ihya' al-Ulum, Egypt, 1954, 1st ed., 1/120

¹⁰³ Sibawayh (d. 180 AH): The Book, edited by Abd al-Salam Harun, Alam al-Kutub, Beirut, n.d., 4/158.

¹⁰⁴ Ibn Jinni (d. 392 AH), The Characteristics, edited by Muhammad al-Najjar, Dar al-Kutub al-Arabi, Beirut, n.d., 2/371.

and distinguishes it. So the word "Muhammad" that is intended as a calling It differs in sound from the phrase "Muhammad is diligent," which aims to inform and report¹⁰⁵. To emphasize the importance of intonation and its role in directing meaning, especially in the language of everyday discourse used among people, this common example is given. The structural sentence "Ya Salam" carries a functional meaning for the vocative particle "ya" and a lexical meaning for the word "salam." Therefore, the apparent meaning of the text or The literal meaning is (we call upon God), but this phrase is valid for carrying several meanings depending on the diversity of the social context in which it may appear, such as the position of being affected, the position of doubt, the position of anger, the position of ecstasy, and the position of mockery. It is pronounced in each position or situation with a different tone that conveys a meaning different from the one that preceded it¹⁰⁶.

Stress, which is "the pronunciation of a syllable of a word in a clearer and more distinct way than the rest of the syllables adjacent to it," also plays an important role in the phonetic context, because it suggests the importance and emphasis of that stressed part, whether it is a word, a sentence, or an extension. Stress is of great importance in revealing additional meanings carried by vocabulary and sentences, such as emphasis or indicating a purpose that is determined according to the difference in the word concerned with the increase The stress on it¹⁰⁷, and an example of this is the phrase¹⁰⁸ (Hamza traveled yesterday for Hajj by land), so the stress may be on the word traveled to emphasize the event¹⁰⁹, or it may be on the word Hamza because it is a point of surprise, so his travel may have been unexpected, so the stress on his name was increased to emphasize that, or the timing may be the point of surprise and emphasis, so the stress is increased phonetically on the word yesterday, or Hamza may be a man who travels a lot, but his travel by land is what is intended Emphasizing it for some reason, such as if his physical health is incompatible with traveling overland or its derivative, in which case the stress falls on the word "overland." These examples are only a small part of the vast sea of phonetic phenomena that have been noted by ancient and modern scholars, demonstrating the importance of context in the field of phonetic study, investigating its characteristics and functions within linguistic structure, and its role in directing and defining meaning At the morphological level, contextual analysis is concerned with studying the morphological structure of the word, its function, and the meaning it conveys by focusing on its arrangement - which was previously mentioned within the level of phonetic analysis - so any change in this arrangement will lead to a change in meaning. For example, the word (rāsf) differs from (sarf) and (fārsa) despite their sharing the same linguistic root, and the same thing can be said about the effect of meaning.

With the derivative morphological additions, such as: (saraf, sarifi, masruf, masraf, sarafah..), the morphological form has a primary meaning that it acquires from its morphological structure called morphological meaning, and this meaning is not fixed, as the contextual change that occurs in the morphological structure of the word according to its position in the context leaves its clear effect on the meaning, as it may enter into the circle of multiplicity and possibility; which causes a kind of ambiguity, and here it emerges The function of the context is to determine its function and to decide the intended meaning. The context determines the type of structure and distinguishes between the noun or verb¹¹⁰, the active participle and the passive participle, and others in the structures of the same weight and different meanings¹¹¹, such as: (Yazid - Akram - Ahmed), which may come as a noun in one context and a verb in another context, as well as the word (occupied), which may come as an active participle or a passive participle. The sentence (the homeland is occupied) is completely

¹⁰⁵ Tayeb Jebaili: Stylistic Analysis in Light of Contextual Theory, Language Contexts and Interdisciplinary Studies, 2020, Vol. 5, No. 1.

¹⁰⁶ The Arabic Language: Its Structure and Meaning, 339.

¹⁰⁷ Kamal Bishr: The Art of Speech, Dar Gharib for Printing, Publishing, and Distribution, Cairo, Egypt, 2003, 255.

¹⁰⁸ Anis Ibrahim: Linguistic Sounds, Anglo-Egyptian Library, Cairo, 4th ed., 1971, 174.

¹⁰⁹ Khaled Abdel Halim Al-Absi: Stress in Arabic, Alam Al-Kutub Al-Hadith for Publishing and Distribution, Irbid, Jordan, 2011, 1st ed., 36-37.

¹¹⁰ Samah Bouras: Context and its Impact on Directing Morphological Forms in Surat Al-Baqarah, Master's Thesis, Mohamed Boudiaf University, Algeria, 2020, pp. 11.

¹¹¹ Context and its Impact on Linguistic Studies, 38-39.

different from the sentence (The enemy is an occupier), and the same thing can be said for the word (chosen), and other similar morphological examples. The context is what determines the meanings of morphological structures and their functions, and represents the ruling and dictates the meaning that the speaker wants, as it has a role that cannot be ignored in removing the ambiguity from many words and phrases and clarifying their meaning¹¹².

The effect of context also appears at the grammatical level of the combined linguistic context, that level which governs the sequential order of words in the sentence according to its rules. Naturally, meaning comes from the arrangement of words and their interrelationship, and any change that occurs in the grammatical structural composition, its relationships, functions and positions will lead to a change in meaning. This appears clearly in the meaning of the phrase (Zaid hit Amr), which will appear completely different from The sentence (Amr hit Zaid) despite the fact that they retain the same individual words in their morphological, phonetic and lexical structure, as there is a group of contextual compositional relationships that make the context of the sentence coherent, and contextualists talk about what is known as contextual completion or completion, as sentences sometimes appear incomplete¹¹³, so the context comes to achieve completion for them¹¹⁴, which is known as estimation or grammatical completion, so grammarians gave the context its due Clear interest, as its effect appears clearly in the grammatical phenomena and contextual relationships in the structures of the structure, such as deletion, or presentation and delay, or adjacency and others, as the effect of the context appears in the transformation of the goals of speech on the grammatical level, as this transformation, although it is considered within the multiplicity of functional meaning, is closely related to the context¹¹⁵, as it occurs under the influence of the data of the current (situational) context¹¹⁶, and examples indicating this include:

The proof turns into the creation of a supplication in the sentence: (May God have mercy on him), and the negation turns into a supplication in the sentence (God forbid), and the interrogation turns into the purpose of confirmation in the Qur'anic witness (Is not God sufficient for His servant), and the cry for help turns into amazement from something like: (Oh God), so the grammatical structure and its phenomena are important in understanding the meaning, and deletion is considered one of the most obvious phenomena of the role of the context in revealing the deleted meanings, since the deletion is accompanied by indications

Verbal and semantic deletions indicate what is omitted and ensure that the meaning is not ambiguous, especially if they are accompanied by elements of the current context that support and confirm the omitted meaning. Examples of deletion include the deletion of a noun, such as the deletion of a complement in the Almighty's saying: "To God belongs the command, before and after¹¹⁷," meaning: from Before and after that, and the subject was deleted, and an example of this from the evidence is the Almighty's saying: {As if, on the Day they see that which they are promised, they had not remained [in the world] ¹¹⁸except for an hour of a day. [This is] a message. And likewise the predicate was deleted, which is made clear by the context in their answer (Tamim) to the question: Who is with you? What is meant is: Tamim is with me. And from Practical examples in the grammatical structure in which the context is attributed to determine the meaning when it is permissible to advance or delay the subject and predicate and they are equal, since it is appropriate for each of them to be a subject and predicate, then the linguistic and current contextual evidence

¹¹² Contextual Theory in the Study of Semantics and its Impact on Arabs, 11-12.

¹¹³ Context and its Impact on Linguistic Studies, 229.

¹¹⁴ Muhammad Al-Khuli: Dictionary of Theoretical Linguistics, Lebanon Library, Beirut, 1982, entry "context."

¹¹⁵ Contextual Theory in the Study of Semantics and its Impact on Arabs, 14.

¹¹⁶ The Arabic Language: Its Structure and Meaning, 372.

¹¹⁷ The Holy Qur'an, Surah Ar-Rum, Verse: 37.

¹¹⁸ The Holy Qur'an, Al-Ahqaf, Verse: 62.

has an urgent need to say the final word on that, and to distinguish between them¹¹⁹, and an example of that is the saying of the poet¹²⁰:

The saliva of deadly snakes is his saliva and I see the jinn who bought him,

and the factors supported him. By looking at the context of the situation and the appropriateness of the poem, the meaning can be determined. The verse is by Abu Tammam, in which he describes the pen and praises Muhammad ibn Abd al-Malik al-Zayyat. In the first half, he describes the pen's effect on enemies, and in the second half, he explains its effect on friends. According to this understanding, the subject is delayed, because The intended meaning is to liken the ink of a pen to the venom of snakes. Here, context clarifies the intended meaning, directs parsing, and determines the grammatical function. Context has a clear impact on the lexical level, as the linguistic context, with its interconnected relationships between adjacent words, influences meaning. According to the concept of accompaniment or conjunction, each word influences the words adjacent to it and contributes to directing and limiting its meaning, shifting from its original meaning to its own.

The lexical meanings of the word "eye" are imposed by the linguistic context in which it is placed. An example of this is the word "eye," which carries different lexical meanings. It may refer to the organ of sight, a spy, a spring of water, or the master of the people. However, the context in which it appears gives it that specificity, depending on the vocabulary that accompanies it or is associated with it. So the sentence: "In the mountain is a flowing spring." The meanings of its other words adjacent to the word "eye" impose that what is meant is The eye of water, while the vocabulary contained in the sentence (this is the eye of the enemy) has a different effect that directs the meaning of (eye) towards the spy, the linguistic context here has great importance in deciding the intended meaning, as this word has multiple meanings and is not specific to one except when combined and composed with other words in the structure that accompany it and affect it, through a network of previous and subsequent lexical semantic contextual relationships that prevail in the environment These successive linguistic units

Non-linguistic context:

The context of the situation is an important factor that contributes to determining meaning, determining the significance of words, conveying specificity, refuting misconceptions, and removing ambiguity. In this type of context, words are influenced by all the circumstances surrounding the production of speech. This effect may become more evident when examining some practical examples that confirm the function of context. For example, the phrase "What time is it?" carries more than one meaning, depending on the various situations in which it may occur

In it¹²¹, as it may mean asking about the time, and perhaps it indicates being late for an appointment, and sometimes it is said to indicate boredom from a long wait, which is a matter governed by the situation or the situation in which it is said, and among the examples that also indicate the role played by the context of the situation in cooperation with the context of the article; to determine the intended meaning is the phrase (may God have mercy on you) which is commonly used, so if it comes in the context of wishing someone good health to have mercy on him, then it is certainly It will differ from the phrase "May God have mercy on him," which is said when expressing mercy for the deceased. The former is a verbal phrase indicating a request for mercy in this world, while the latter is a nominal phrase requesting mercy in the afterlife. The context of the situation, in particular, has multiple functions in determining meaning, including: countering misconceptions, removing confusion, and dispelling ambiguity and vagueness, especially When interpreting the verses of the Holy Quran, examples of this include the Almighty's saying: "To God belong the East and the West, so wherever you turn, there is the Face of God." ¹²²The verse intends to limit the meaning and restrict it to voluntary prayer on a mount while traveling, excluding all other prayers. This meaning is proven by the context of the situation and the reasons for revelation. It was revealed

¹¹⁹ Context and Its Impact on Linguistic Studies, 248.

¹²⁰ Muhammad ibn Muhammad Hasan Shurab: Explanation of Poetic Evidence in the Main Books of Grammar, Al-Risala Foundation, Beirut 2007, 1st ed., 2/267.

¹²¹ Context and its Effect on Directing Morphological Forms in Surat Al-Baqarah, 7.

¹²² The Holy Qur'an, Surat Al-Baqarah, verse: 115.

when the Prophet prayed voluntarily on his mount, wherever it faced, while he was traveling from Mecca to Medina. If it were not for this limitation and clarification of the meaning, Through context, the meaning becomes ambiguous, and it is understood that facing the qibla is not required for prayer¹²³. An example of the importance of social situations and their various factors in directing meaning and changing the purpose of speech is the phrase "Listen, so-and-so," which is said in a normal context to attract the attention of the addressee, but may also serve as a threat or offer advice in another context. As for the phrase "Goodbye," which indicates As for farewell, it may be used sarcastically when expelling, or dispensing with something and not giving it value; this depends on the context in which it was said. As for the phrase (dear step), it may be said to reprimand someone for being late, unlike its initial lexical meaning indicating a warm welcome. The meaning in such a case is not understood from the apparent functional lexical meaning¹²⁴, but rather depends on the contextual meaning required by the social situation in which it was said.

The cultural context has a significant impact on determining the meaning, as the difference in cultural and social level leads to multiple meanings of the word, such as the use of the word (morphology), which for students of Arabic means the science by which the states of the word are known, such as derivation, change and increase, while for For engineering students, it is a scientific term that refers to the process of disposing of water, while in the financial and trade sector, it refers to the conversion of currency from one denomination to another and from one currency to another¹²⁵.

Among the evidence that can be used to demonstrate the effect of both types of context on the variability and diversity of a word's meaning, depending on its context, is the word (eat). It appears in the Holy Quran in several places, each carrying a different meaning revealed by the context. This can be traced as follows:

- 1- In the seventh verse of Surat Al-Furqan, God Almighty says: (And they say, "What is this Messenger who eats food and walks in the markets?") Eating in this context
- 2- And the Almighty's statement, "And I fear that a wolf will eat him while you are unaware of him," in the thirteenth verse of Surah Yusuf, refers to the predation of an animal.
- 3- As for the Almighty's statement, "And nothing showed them his death except a creature of the earth that gnawed at his staff," in the fourteenth verse of Surah Saba', it refers to the gnawing of insects.
- 4- And in the twelfth verse of Surah Al-Hujurat, it refers to the verse, "Would he like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would hate it," it refers to the backbiting of a human being.
- 5- It was mentioned with the meaning of embezzlement in the tenth verse of Surat An-Nisa, where God Almighty says: "Indeed, those who devour the property of orphans unjustly."
- 6- It also indicated the meaning of burning inanimate objects in God Almighty's saying: "Until he brings to Us an offering which the fire will consume," which is the verse mentioned in Surat Al Imran. Through the linguistic and non-linguistic context, it is possible to determine the multiple meanings of the verb "to eat" according to its occurrence in the noble Quranic contexts¹²⁶.

Examples of the situational context include the phrases that are often said by many people, such as "pray for the Prophet." It is said to someone who is overcome by anger, with the intention of calming them down. It is said to someone who is to be stopped from speaking. It is said to someone who is hasty in speech or action, with the intention of taking his time. It is said to someone who thinks that money or blessings are too much for people. It becomes an alternative to the explicit saying, "Do not envy others." There are many other situations like this Vital, as this phrase becomes a carrier of various connotations determined by the context¹²⁷.

¹²³ Al-Tabari (d. 310 AH): Jami' al-Bayan 'an Ta'wil Ayat al-Qur'an, edited by Bashar Ma'ruf and Issam Faris, Al-Risala Foundation, 1994, 1st ed., vol. 1, 678.

¹²⁴ See: The Arabic Language: Its Meaning and Structure, 371.

¹²⁵ Principles of Linguistics, 229-300.

¹²⁶ Karim Hossam El-Din: Semantic Analysis: Its Procedures and Methods, Cairo, 2000, pp. 95-96.

¹²⁷ Linguistics: Method and Function, 290.

It is worth noting that these examples and applied linguistic evidence of the non-linguistic context intertwine with current and article contextual relationships to achieve meaning. The linguistic context, at its various intertwined and interconnected levels, is indispensable.

-Applied Examples: Context and Semantic Relationships

The theory of semantic fields is one of the most important theories related to semantics, in which the effect of context appears in the meaning. It is based on including a group of words whose meanings are linked within a specific concept or a specific field. Examples of this include the field of words denoting colors, kinship, residence, etc.¹²⁸, and talking about semantic fields leads to talking about semantic relationships, which is a modern term that indicates The relationships between words from various aspects, such as synonymy, homonymy, and antonymy. This term was born from the study of semantic fields, as it became clear that the meaning of a word is only made clear through its relationship with other words that share the same semantic field with it, and it is the result of these relationships¹²⁹.

The context clarifies many semantic relationships, as it is a criterion for revealing synonymy, ambiguity, specificity, generality, etc., especially since the lexical meaning is a multiple meaning, while the contextual meaning is a specific, clear meaning that is not subject to ambiguity or possibilities¹³⁰. Synonyms are words that have the same meaning but differ in pronunciation, and are interchangeable with each other in any context¹³¹. Most contemporary linguists consider synonymy A kind of semantic proximity¹³², not complete identity. The precise meaning of synonymous words is determined by the context, as each word has its own uniqueness from the word that is close to it in meaning¹³³. The role of context is clear in the way synonymous words are used, as they are appropriate in one context and not in another, such as the verbs (came/arrived) that are combined with words such as (the train, Muhammad, spring). So we say: spring came, but we do not say: spring arrived¹³⁴ It can be said that context has an impact on the occurrence of the phenomenon of synonymy, especially when discussing the phenomenon of borrowing, which is clearly evident in Arabic dialects, as classical Arabic was collected from tribal dialects, which led to a large number of synonyms in Arabic¹³⁵. Here, the context of the situation, linked to the cultural and social data of these diverse levels, influences the diversity of words and their synonymy, and contributes, in one way or another, to the development of the Arabic linguistic stock.

One of the semantic relationships is the phenomenon of multiple meanings, which refers to a single signifier that carries two or more different meanings. This phenomenon is also called verbal homonym¹³⁶. It can be said that multiple meanings are a result of the change that occurs in the meanings as a result of multiple usage and diverse contexts. The acquisition of new meanings by vocabulary is achieved either by multiple usage, which is related to the context and use of the word, or by metaphorical transfer on The basis of similarity between the two meanings¹³⁷. Some scholars differentiate between multiple meanings and homonyms. They believe that multiple meanings refer to a single word having more than one meaning, while homonyms arise from the convergence of the roots of a number of words, some of which are original and some of which are foreign¹³⁸. The truth is that there is no decisive opinion regarding multiple meanings, but what is constant and agreed upon is the role of context in revealing Its meaning, and an example of a homonym arising from a phonetic development that has no connection to a shared morphological form is the word (hanak),

¹²⁸ Ahmed Mokhtar Omar: Semantics, 79.

¹²⁹ Ibid., 80.

¹³⁰ Principles of Linguistics, 35.

¹³¹ The Role of the Word in Language, 98.

¹³² Introduction to Linguistics, 148.

¹³³ Mona Farag: The Effect of Context on the Variation of Word Semantics, Journal of Arab Studies, Minya University, Egypt, 2782.

¹³⁴ Ahmed Mukhtar: Semantics, 230.

¹³⁵ Principles of Linguistics, 373.

¹³⁶ See: Principles of Linguistics, 374, and see: Ali Abdel Wahid Wafi: Jurisprudence of Language, Cairo, 1988, 189.

¹³⁷ See: Principles of Linguistics, 374.

¹³⁸ Ibid., 378.

meaning One of the important topics that must be studied is the change in meaning, because it is linked to the context, which is one of the reasons for this change. This means that the context and usage play a role in the life or death¹⁴⁸ of words. As for the reasons for semantic change, some of them are linked to the linguistic context and its effect on the word and its meaning, and some of them are linked to the external context of social¹⁴⁹, historical, psychological and cultural factors. For example, the meaning of the word travel was linked in Bedouin society, on the one hand, used to go out unveiled and travel, and on the other hand, ride and mount the back of an animal. Today, travel has a meaning that comes to mind that is far removed from riding the back of an animal. This is only due to the change in the nature of social life and the social and civilized development it has witnessed, which imposed its contexts on the use of the word and directed its meaning¹⁵⁰.

The psychological and religious context plays a fundamental role in bringing about semantic change from synonyms, and imposing specific words and phrases that are more acceptable in societies, or avoiding explicit words to lift embarrassment, especially when it comes to forbidden things. Examples of this include¹⁵¹: expressing the place of relieving oneself in the restroom, toilet, bathroom, toilet, or bathroom, and expressing bribery with a metaphor such as: (tip, sweets, A grain of musk), and the expression of sexual relations through cultivation, touching, and direct contact, as mentioned in the Holy Quran. In such terms, the context and social and cultural context must intervene to reveal the new connotations these words now carry. A practical example of the effect of context on changing the meanings of some words and their specificity is the word "Hajj," which was restricted to one of the pillars of Islam.

Islam is represented by visiting the Sacred House of God. Hajj was previously the general intention of people. Similarly, the word "prayer" has been given a specific meaning after previously meaning supplication. All of this is linked to the current context, including the new cultural and civilizational implications imposed by Islam¹⁵².

Applied examples: Contextual dictionaries (contextualization of meanings)

Contextual dictionaries are one of the most prominent fruits of applying the contextual approach. They are built on the idea of contextualizing functions. The interest in classifying dictionary words on semantic bases with contextual relationships has led to the existence of the theory of semantic fields. There is a difference between lexical and contextual meaning. Lexical semantics results from the union of two components: phonetic and morphological. The union of sounds such as (n/h/d), for example, with the morphological weight (fa'l).

It is the one that produced the formula (nahad) which was taken as a sign of leaving the place and rising from it. As for the contextual signification, "¹⁵³it is the result of the various semantic appendices that allow the central signifier a narrow or broad shift from its lexical significations, and is restricted to a single signification despite the many combined and different significations preserved in the lexical entry of this signifier.¹⁵⁴"

Contextual meaning is affected by context and usage; therefore, it is a practical meaning. Therefore, the contextual dictionary is the dictionary in which all the vocabulary¹⁵⁵, phrases, and sentences used in a certain context are presented. The ancient linguists classified words into groups according to the contextual relationships between words, such as synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms. They relied on the context to extract an accurate meaning for them¹⁵⁶, as the ancients were aware of the importance of The contextualization of the functions, so they put in that dictionaries such as Al-Ain,

¹⁴⁸ Ahmed Mukhtar: Semantics, 235.

¹⁴⁹ Principles of Linguistics, 387.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid., 389.

¹⁵¹ Suha Na'ja: Metaphorical Expressions in Arabic, Process and Becoming, Journal of Linguistics, Amar Telidji University, Laghouat, 2015, Issue 8, p. 27. See also: Abdelkader Abu Shareef, Hussein Lafi, and Daoud Ghattasha: Semantics and the Arabic Lexicon, Dar Al Fikr, Jordan, 1989, pp. 67-68.

¹⁵² Principles of Linguistics, 393.

¹⁵³ Suha Na'ja: Methodology of Building the Arabic Lexicon between Concept and Representation, Jordanian Journal of Arabic Language and Literature, Vol. 7, No. 3, 2011, pp. 176-198

¹⁵⁴ Ibid., 170.

¹⁵⁵ Ibn Huwaili Al-Akhdar: The Arabic Lexicography, Dar Houma, Algeria, 2010, pp. 96-97.

¹⁵⁶ Context and its Impact on Linguistic Studies, 150.

Al-Miqyas, Al-Sahah, Lisan Al-Arab, and Al-Taj¹⁵⁷, and some go to that even if they ¹⁵⁸are devoid of the relations of the situation, they are not devoid of their psychological, social, and religious contexts, and accordingly it is possible to contextualize the functions and determine their meanings by relying on their uses, and among the practical examples of that is the contextualization of the word (the limit)¹⁵⁹, as it is transferred from its known lexical meaning, and is put in various contexts, it has different connotations, including: the boundary of a house: its boundaries; the boundary of God: His imposed punishment; the edge of a sword: its edge; the boundary of something: its end; and the boundary of two things: the boundary between them.

Applied examples from real life and contemporary life: The COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the health context on words, terms, and their meanings.

This part of the study complements the previous one, as it will highlight the effect of contextualizing functions in determining meaning, and reveal the importance of building contextual dictionaries, especially when linked to the current contemporary context and its social, cultural and historical data. The Corona pandemic has led to the use of new words and terms that were not used before, and imposed special meanings in various areas of medical and social life, dependent on the context. The health measures imposed on the world due to the spread of this pandemic have also introduced a number of previously¹⁶⁰ unused words and terms into everyday discourse via the media and social media, the language of official decisions, and the language of ordinary people in everyday life.

Some examples of the terms and expressions imposed by this health context will be presented within various semantic fields, some of which are related to the pandemic itself, and others are linked to the social and health aspects accompanying it. Among these terms is the word "focal point," which linguistically means "a fire place or a hole in which a fire is lit." It is also said, "¹⁶¹focal point of corruption," meaning a source or den¹⁶². This term has developed and its meaning has expanded according to the health context¹⁶³, which has become used to indicate the center or starting point of the epidemic and its spread. As for the word (pandemic), it means lexically: a severe year that sweeps away money, and it is a plague that sweeps away the fruit, severity, and great calamity¹⁶⁴. It is noted that this word changed its meaning in conjunction with the beginning of the pandemic, as its meaning was narrowed and specialized, and it moved from its general meaning indicating The term "calamity" and "calamity" have a specific meaning closely related to the epidemic, which is the epicenter from which the pandemic emanates in a region or country¹⁶⁵. Among the terms that underwent a semantic change due to the health context experienced during the pandemic is the term "vaccine,"¹⁶⁶ which shifted from meaning "fertilization" to meaning "stimulating the immune system by introducing ¹⁶⁷microorganisms into living tissue." As for the term "social distancing," which...

It has become commonplace during the pandemic, taking on a different connotation and impression. Social distancing is contrary to human nature, which is social by nature. In the general social context, it carries a negative connotation indicating disagreement or estrangement. However, in the social context linked to the health context of the coronavirus pandemic, it has carried a positive impression and has become a necessity to protect against infection and injury by keeping distance between people. Among the new terms that were not used before, and became common in

¹⁵⁷ Methodology of Building the Arabic Lexicon between Conceptualization and Representation, 171.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid., 172.

¹⁵⁹ Lisan Al-Arab, entry (H.D.D.), 3/140.

¹⁶⁰ Adel Al-Anzi: A Contextual Dictionary of Words and Terms Related to the Coronavirus Pandemic for Non-Native Speakers of Arabic, Journal of the Islamic University of Arabic Language and Literature, Issue 6, Vol. 2, 58.

¹⁶¹ Lisan Al-Arab, 4/37.

¹⁶² Ahmed Mukhtar Omar: Dictionary of Contemporary Arabic, Alam Al-Kutub, Cairo, 2008, 1/152.

¹⁶³ Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms, ALECSO - Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, 2020, Rabat, 69.

¹⁶⁴ Lisan Al-Arab, 2/431.

¹⁶⁵ Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms, 69.

¹⁶⁶ Lisan Al-Arab, 2/579.

¹⁶⁷ Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms, 93.

light of the pandemic, is the term (home quarantine), which is not allowing people to leave their homes¹⁶⁸, except for urgent necessity, as well as the term (curfew), which is an official decision that prevents people from leaving their homes when a state of emergency is declared. Indeed, the word “curfew” alone, if mentioned at that time, directly led to the meaning of a curfew¹⁶⁹. As for the word (mask)¹⁷⁰ The word, which lexically means "what is placed over the nose of a donkey or camel to prevent flies from harming it," has come to mean a mask made of a cloth-like material to protect against infection through inhalation. Its use has since spread from animals to humans, becoming a common, widely used word.

These examples are only a small part of the explanation for the impact that the current context, specifically health-related¹⁷¹, has on connotations, their orientation, and their diversity.

Conclusion:

The study concluded that the idea of context, in its two types, the verbal and the current, has transformed into an independent theory that has made context the goal of semantic studies, and focused on the social aspect in the study of language, especially the non-linguistic components, and called for the necessity of analyzing all the contexts that combine and influence the linguistic fabric, as meaning is nothing but the result of each of the phonetic, morphological, syntactic, lexical and contextual meanings that are intertwined in an indispensable way They can be separated, and the linguistic phenomenon has no value outside of this context.

Context is of great importance, manifested in determining the value of meaning and preventing other possibilities for it. It also contributes to semantic change, and the imposition of new words and structures, or the change in meaning through its effect on the emergence of words with multiple meanings. The context of the situation also plays a major role in Determining the extent of the eloquence and clarity of a text, interpreting the verses of the Holy Qur'an and the Prophetic hadiths, and determining their objectives, are among the concerns of early scholars, particularly the legal theorists. This reinforces its importance in Islamic and Arabic studies. Given the significant impact of context on determining and directing meaning, it is imperative to employ the data of this theory in practical application in the field of Islamic jurisprudence Education, because it is one of the theories that most helps convey information and study language in various ways. Given its closeness to everyday discourse, it is closely related to daily life. In light of all this, it can be said that context is a very important and profound concept, open to many other aspects of linguistic studies, even It is no exaggeration to say that each branch of this field is suitable for its own study. Therefore, this study has endeavored, as much as possible, to present a comprehensive picture that opens up horizons for further research.

Ethical Approval

This study was conducted in accordance with ethical guidelines, and approval was obtained from the relevant institutional review board prior to data collection.

Consent to Participate

Informed consent was obtained from all participants, ensuring their voluntary involvement in the study and their understanding of the purpose, procedures, and confidentiality measures.

Consent for Publication

All participants consented to the publication of anonymized data and findings derived from this study for academic and research purposes.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid., 83.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid., 59.

¹⁷⁰ Lisan Al-Arab, entry (Kamm), 12/527.

¹⁷¹ Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms, 61.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and publication of this study.

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