

# The Morphological Analysis Of Surat AL-Naba'

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## ABSTRACT

This study explores word formation, morpheme forms, grammar, function, and morphological analysis of the Qur'anic text, Surat AL-Naba'. It aims to help non-Arab readers understand the text's meaning by comparing English and Arabic morphology. The study uses a theoretical approach and contrastive linguistics principles.

**Keywords:** morphology, English and Arabic Inflectional Morphology, Arabic Morphological Analysis, Morpheme, Lexeme

## 1. Introduction

Language constantly evolves, with morphology studying smallest lexical units, morphemes. It plays a crucial role in creating English words, understanding word sources, and allowing us to discuss non-existent things. (Mahmad, 2013).

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe introduced the term "morphology" in the 19th century, referring to the study of forms in geology and biology. Morphology, derived from the Greek word morph, focuses on the intellectual system involved in word formation. (Aronof and Fudeman, N.D., p. 1).

Morphology includes the study of how new words are combined based on sentence usage. We naturally know how to create new words and are familiar with new words you may have heard before because we are native speakers of your language (Lieber, 2009, p. 2).

## 2. Classification of Morphology

Morphology classifies singular morphemes, including words and splits of words, and investigates their functions and meanings. It recognizes the innards of word components, morpheme relationships, and language structure. (Hardison, 2012)

### 2.1. Morpheme

Morphemes are sound-form units found in speech as constituent parts of words. Morphologists study words, their internal structure, and their formation. Morphemes can involve words or meaningful pieces, be a combination of sound and meaning, or be allomorphs or variants. For example, reconsideration can be divided into three morphemes: re-, consider, and -ation. (Aronoff and Fudeman, p. 2).

### 2.2. kind of Morpheme

Morphemes are semantically classified into root, non-root, and affixation morphemes, while structurally, they are free and bound, with bases and affixes being separate classes.

## 3. Inflectional Morphology

Inflectional affixes indicate grammatical function in words, adding extra elements like meaning and tense. Inflectional operations, which leave the syntactic category of the base but add meaning elements, are a crucial aspect of language. The grammatical function of a word in a sentence is manifested in its inflectional endings, like in Arabic, while English shows only a few features.

Words can have inflectional affixes added to them for indicating their grammatical function (Spencer;1991: 21). The syntactic category of the base is not altered by inflectional operations, but they do add new elements. These are both grammatical functions and meaning elements (such as tense, aspect, mood, and so forth). In English, word position and inflectional ending indicate a word's grammatical function in a sentence, while in Arabic, it's a word's inflectional ending. According to Thakur (1997, p. 86), a word's syntactic relationship

with another sentence words expressing in its inflectional endings rather than the sentence's actual location. English only exhibits a small number of inflectional words, but Arabic is one of them.

#### 4. Arabic Language

Classical Arabic (CA) is the language of the Holy Quran, while Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is the official language in the Arab world, used in literature, media, and education, though there are different dialects used in different countries.

##### 4.1. Comparative Evaluation

Contrastive analysis (CA), according to Fisiak (1981, p. 1), is a branch of linguistics that compares two or more linguistic systems to determine their similarities and differences. By identifying the interlingua errors that students make in their mother tongue, or first language, CA assists teachers in preventing these errors from happening in the first place.

##### 4.2. The Function of Morphology

Linguists and researchers often search for similarities among languages, but they believe that focusing solely on similarities may miss out on interesting differences and find parallels where none exist. To approach linguistic analysis openly, researchers must appreciate the text emphasizes the distinctiveness and authenticity of the world's languages. (Aronoff and Fudeman, N.D.: 9).

Morphology is a crucial aspect of language, allowing for the formation of words and spelling out the correct form in specific syntactic contexts. English speakers use suffixes like -ize, -ise, and -ify to form verbs, such as "step on broken glass." Morphology aids in creating new words based on existing ones, facilitating quick understanding. It aids in observing new words in everyday life, preventing unnecessary extra words, and recognizing grammatical differences in English. (Lieber, 2009, p. 20).

Understanding a language's morphology enables speaker to comprehend and create new words out of known components. The meaning of the word "unfreezable" can be determined by examining the meaning and purposes of its component morpheme: the verb "freeze" means to become congealed into ice when exposed to cold. This verb becomes an adjective with the suffix "-able," which means "able to be frozen." The adjective is cancelled by the prefix {un-}, resulting in the meaning of the word "not able to be frozen." Actually, there are so many other words that contain these parts may have contributed to their understanding of their meanings and functions. Understanding new terms like "unfreezable" is made possible by the same knowledge that prevents speakers from inventing needless terms like "openness" or "darkify" when opacity and "darken" are often common. Additionally, it informs speakers that words "darkable," "happiment," and "ment happy" are not grammatical in English language. (Melinger, N.D.: 12).

##### 4.3. Morphology's Rules

Morphology is a system of rules that enhance linguistic abilities through application. Morphology helps native speakers generate new lexical units through derivation and composition. Understanding morphology helps understand the human brain's language processing, creates more efficient language learning methods. (Dominguez, 1991, p. 37).

##### 4.4. Lexeme formation

"Morphology is used by native speakers of a language for various purposes, including forming new lexemes from old ones, or lexeme formation. This process can change the part of speech or category of a word, such as turning verbs into nouns or adjectives, or nouns into adjectives." As it has seen in the following examples:

1. Category changing lexeme formation (Rochelle Lieber, 2009, p.6)

V → N: amuse → amusement.

V → A: impress → impressive.

N → A: monster → monstrous.

2. Meaning-changing lexeme formation

A → A 'negative A' happy → unhappy

N → N 'place where N lives' orphan → orphanage

V → V 'repeat action' wash → rewash

3. Both category and meaning-changing lexeme formation

V → A 'able to be Ved' wash → washable

N → V 'remove N from' louse → delouse

##### 4.5. The structure of Lexeme Formation

The structure of Lexeme formation allows for an economical measuring in our mental lexicons, and recycling parts to get new words. In the same ways all languages can form new lexemes, despite they might differ from the means used in English. Morphology can sometimes be used even when not needed, as each lexeme can have multiple word forms. Linguists call this inflection, which changes the grammatical form of a word to fit into different grammatical contexts, rather than creating new lexemes. (Lieber, 2009, p. 6).

Morphology studies forms in biology and linguistics, focusing on words' origins and internal structures. It traces a word's parentage through morphemes like the word consideration, which can be broken into stems, stems, and roots. Stems are simple, multi-part structures, but morphologically roots are simple units. (Ibid, p. 6).

The stem of a word is the base, while the root is the word itself. Affixes, such as re- and -action, are joined to the stem. For example, "lovely" and "quick" have two morphemes when the suffix -ly is added. Morphemes, the smallest linguistic units with grammatical function, help classify words by attaching to phonemes and graphemes. Morphemes are essential for understanding language structures and meanings.

#### 4.6. The Significance of Morphology

Morphology is essential for understanding language, allowing for the creation and modification of words. It helps teachers in infer meanings and learn new words easier. Understanding prefixes and suffixes helps in understanding the flexibility of language. Morphological knowledge helps students express messages more accurately and precisely. It also helps familiarize language students with lexical derivations and meanings, such as distinguishing between suffixes like "-ment" and "-ness" as nouns or adverbs. Morphological awareness helps students understand morphemes and their meanings. (Miecoloes, 2014).

Morphology in the English language plays a crucial role in producing new words and understanding new ones. It is essential for proficiency in English as a Second Language (ESL) and English as a Foreign Language (EFL). Morphological competence is crucial for advanced levels of proficiency, and it helps improve writing skills and auditory skills. Morphology is closely related to syntax and phonology, leading to strong connections between these aspects. (Ibid).

An additional aspect that is sometimes overlooked but is highly fascinating for language learners and linguists is how studying morphology sheds light on the relationship between English and other languages. For instance, when discussing the roots, it has seen that the root of some words in German, French and Latin. It is clear from this that this has an impact on the pragmatics of words, namely how formal and informal they are. To sum up, morphology study is not only a choice but a "must" for all language learners, so long as they possess the necessary skills to comprehend the target language, and to have effective communication skills (Ibid).

Morphology studies English's relationship with other languages, such as Latin, German, and French. It greatly helps in comprehending the formality and informality of words as well as their pragmatic aspects. Studying morphology is essential for language students to understand the target language and communicate successfully. (Ibid)

#### 4.7. Arabic Morphological Analysis

Because languages are instruments for expressing meaning, they may share certain similarities, but their grammatical rules differ greatly from one another.

##### 4.7.1 Grammatical rules in Arabic

Both morphology and syntax are categories of Arabic grammar. Word forms and their conversions to their intended meanings are the subject of morphology research. Word case endings and their placement within sentences are studied in syntax. There are words in an Arabic sentence. According to Ibid, the term could be a verb, noun, or particle.

##### 4.7.2. Particles

Particles, or letters of significance, are used in sentence construction to convey special meanings in nouns or verbs, and their use can impact subsequent words.

Example:

The definite article - ال (al) the (in surat AL-Emran verse, 6)

"هُوَ الَّذِي يُصَوِّرُكُمْ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ كَيْفَ يَشَاءُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ (٦)"  
 ("الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ")

Transliteration: hu aladhi yusawirukum fi al'arham kayf yasha'. la 'ilah 'ilaa hu al-azeez al-hakeem.

English meaning: It is He who forms you in the wombs as He wills. There is no god but He, the Mighty, the Wise. (6)

It has seen that both words (al-azeez ) and (al-hakeem.) have the definite article (al) as prefix.

##### 4.7.3. Nouns

A noun is an identifier that is independent of time and has meaning. Two categories of nouns exist: invariant and variable. Nouns that are malleable can be made dull, plural, diminutive, or relative. According to Ibid, personal, demonstrative, interrogative, conditional, conjunctive, allusive, circumstantial, verbal, and numeral nouns are examples of invariable nouns.

##### 4.7.4 Verbs in

The verb is a sign that denotes a situation or an event that could occur in the present, past, or future. The verb can be described as deficient or complete (Ibid).

#### 4.7.5. Sentences

According to Mieciloos, (2014), an Arabic sentence can be classified as either nominal or verbal. Nominal sentences begin with a noun.

Example:

سالم يكتب الدرس Sentence:

Transliteration: Salimun yaktibu al-dar'sa

English meaning: Salim writes the lesson

Sentence: جاء سالم مسرعاً

Transliteration: ja'a Salimu musri'an

English meaning: Salim came quickly.

#### 4.8. Single, Double, and plural

Arabic represents dual objects in addition to the number feature's singular and plural forms. For instance, a pen in English is called "qalam" in Arabic. Arabic terms for pens are aqlam. (for one pen) and qalamayn or qalaman (for two pens) according to its role. Another example for Arabic word Mualim (معلم) teacher. for teachers (mualimeen) (معلمين) or (mualimoon) and for two teachers is (mualimayn) (معلمين) or (mualimaan) (معلمان).

(Muhtaseb and Mellish; 1996:10).

Morphemes are the fundamental units of meaning, while suffixes have specific requirements for their bases, including phonology and semantics. For instance, suffix -ness attaches to adjectives, while prefix un- attaches to adjectives and verbs, but not nouns. (ibid)

The rule -ness applies to adjectives, creating nouns referring to quality, and un- to verbs, resulting in verbs referring to reverse action. (Lieber, 2009, p. 35).

The prefix un- signifies "not" in thousands of English adjectives, as demonstrated by the following word pairs:

A	B
Happy	Unhappy
Likely	Unlikely
Desirable	Undesirable
Sophisticated	Unsophisticated
Developed	Undeveloped
Inspired	Uninspired

The basic unit of meaning is the word, but parts like un- have fixed meanings. In "B" column, un- means "not" and un+deserving, un+likely, and un+inspired words consist of at least two meaningful units. (Aristophanes, 2013, p. 37).

#### 4.9. Number in Arabic morphology

Arabic has three forms of numbers: singular, dual, and plural, with nouns, adjectives, verbs, pronouns, and demonstratives marked for number. (Ibid, p. 37)

Ghulam (غلام) boy, ghulaman (غلمان) or ghulamayn (غلامين), two boys.

Ab (أب) father abawayn (أبوين) or abawan (أبوان)

Talibah (طالبة) talibatan (طالبتان) or talibatayn (طالبتين) in plural form becomes Talibaat (طالبات). The suffix (aat) is a marker for Sound feminine plural form.

Talib (طالب) Tillaab (طلاب) this is broken plural example.

Muhandis (مهندس) muhandiseen (مهندسين) or muhandisuun (مهندسون). the suffix (een and uun) are markers for sound masculine plural form. Thus, there are sound and broken plural forms. Both feminine and masculine sound plural forms exist, with different distributions. Certain nouns with plural suffixes have meanings that are unique to them. To make a singular base form plural, add the feminine plural suffix '-aat' to it. Internal alterations, like the addition of a consonant or a change in vowel, result in broken plurals. Certain nouns always have a broken plural form. (Jarf, 2009).

#### 5. Quranic Texts: A Morphological Analysis

The Qur'an is the ultimate revelation of Allah's guidance for humanity, ensuring salvation and worldly welfare. Its eternal message is treasured, leading to the constant need for compilation of Quranic expositions. (Parek; N.D: 8).

Quran, is the religious text of Muslims that can be better understood through translations and interpretations in various languages, including English, for a more comprehensive understanding of Islam. Non-Muslims can also benefit from these translations, promoting a fair view of Islam (Tabrizi and Mahmud, N.D., p. 2).

The Arabic used in the Quran is unlike Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), which is spoken and written in formal contexts. Syntax and lexicon are the primary areas of distinction. Given this distinction, it could be argued that even the techniques and resources used to analyze contemporary Arabic texts would need to be modified in order to accommodate the discourse analysis of the Quran (Ibid, p. 2).

## 6. Data Analysis

The first six verses of Surat Annaba are samples to be analyzed morphologically and the rest of the verses are counted in the same way.

### 1. Surat AL- Naba'; verse (1):

عَمَّ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ (1)

Transliteration: Amma yatasa'aloona

Meaning: What are they asking (one another) about?

amma (عَمَّ) (an + ma)	Boun morphemes consist of: (an) is prepositional free morpheme means (about) (ma) a free morpheme, interrogative tool means (what) after the combination. the letter (n ن) in (an) and the letter (a ا) in (ma) were omitted for the pronunciation purposes. It means (about what)
يتساءلون Yatasa'aloona	Two morphemes ) free morpheme; verb that means (he wonders) ) a bound morpheme; plural marker for masculine that means subject pronoun (ونون) (they)

### Verse (2) 2. Surat AL- Naba';

عَنِ النَّبَاِ الْعَظِيمِ (2)

Transliteration: an al-Naba' al-Adheem

Meaning: About the great news. (2)

(an)	(an) a free morpheme; preposition that means (about)
النبا' (Al-Naba')	Two morphemes: (al) a prefix bound morpheme, definite article means (the) (Naba') a free morpheme, a noun means (news)
الاعظم (al-adheem)	Two morphemes: (al) a prefix bound morpheme, definite article that means (the) (adheem) a free morpheme, is an adjective means (great)

### 3. Surat AL- Naba' verse (3)

الَّذِي هُمْ فِيهِ مُخْتَلِفُونَ (3)

Transliteration: allathy hum fihe mukhtalifoona

Meaning: About which they are in disagreement. (3)

الذي (allathy)	(allathy) a free morpheme, pronoun means (which)
هم (hum)	(hum) a free morpheme, is a subject pronoun means (they)
فيه (fihe)	Two morphemes: (fi) a free morpheme; a preposition that means (in) (hi) a bound morpheme, is an object pronoun means (it)
مختلفون mukhtalifoona	Two morphemes; (mukhtalif) a free morpheme; a noun that means (dis agreement) (oon) a suffix bound morpheme, plural marker for nominative masculine subject.

### 4. Surat AL- Naba' verse (4)

كَلَّا سَيَعْلَمُونَ (4)

Transliteration: Kalla seya'lamoona.

Meaning: No! They are going to know. (4)

(Kalla)	Free morpheme; negation tool that means (No)
سيعلمون seya'lamoona	Three morphemes (se) a prefix bound morpheme; future feature that means (will or going to) (Ya'lam) free morpheme, verb means (know) (oon) a suffix bound morpheme, subject plural masculine marker means (they)

### 5. Surat AL- Naba' verse (5)

ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَيَعْلَمُونَ (5)

Transliteration: thumma kalla seya'lamoon

Meaning: Then, no! They are going to know. (5)

(ثم thumma)	(ثم thumma) a free morpheme; sequence adverb of time that means (then, or next)
(لا No)	Free morpheme; negation tool that means (No)
سيعلمون seya'lamoon	Three morphemes (س se) a prefix bound morpheme, future feature means (will, going to) (علم Ya'lam) free morpheme, verb, means (know) (ون oon) a suffix bound morpheme; subject plural masculine marker that means (they), and The repetition of these words to express the emphases on the verb (يعلم , know).

6.Surat AL- Naba' verse (6)

(6) أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ الْأَرْضَ مِهْدًا

Transliteration: alam naja'l alar'dha mihada

Meaning: Have We not made the earth a resting place? (6)

(الم alam)	Two morphemes
	(ا a) a bound morpheme; an interrogative tool
	(لم lam) a free morpheme; negation tool that means (not)
(نَجْعَل naja'l)	Two morphemes
	(ن na) a bound morpheme; a subject pronoun; plural that means (we)
	(جَعَل ja'l) a free morpheme; a verb that means (made)
(الارض alar'dha)	Two morphemes
	(ال al) a prefix bound morpheme, a definite article, means (the)
	(ارض ar'dha) a free morpheme, a noun (object) that means (earth)
(مِهْدًا mihada)	(مِهْدًا mihada) a free morpheme, a noun (2 <sup>nd</sup> object) that means (resting place)

## 7. Conclusion

The researcher reached to the following conclusions:

1. The morphological analysis of Quranic text presented in this paper illustrates the Arabic morphology of selected Surat (Al-Naba' Surat) thereby facilitating a clearer understanding of the Qur'an for the reader. Arabic is hard for many English speakers to learn. This difficulty is largely due to their numerous differences. Apart from their shared ancestry, they differ greatly in terms of writing systems, grammar, and phonemes. Since the Qur'an is written in classical Arabic, it is impossible to fully comprehend the Qur'an without it. For this reason, it is crucial to give careful consideration to the translation of Quranic texts into English so that students who do not speak Arabic can comprehend them.
2. Surat Al-Naba' contains forty verses with (285) morphemes divided in to (195) free morphemes and (90) bound morphemes. Bound morphemes contain prefix (39) morphemes, infix (5), morphemes and suffix (46) morphemes that means Arabic language is inflectional affixes

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### Appendix

Verses Number	Number morphemes	of Free morphemes	Number of Bound morphemes	Affixes		
				prefix	Infix	Suffix
Verse (1)	3	1	2	1		1
Verse (2)	5	3	2	2		
Verse (3)	6	4	2			2
Verse (4)	4	2	2	1		1
Verse (5)	5	3	2	1		1
Verse (6)	7	4	3	1		2
Verse (7)	5	3	2	1		1
Verse (8)	6	4	2	1		1
Verse (9)	5	4	1			1
Verse (10)	5	4	1			1
Verse (11)	7	5	2	1		1
Verse (12)	5	4	1			1
Verse (13)	5	4	1			1
Verse (14)	9	6	3	1		2
Verse (15)	7	5	2	1		1
Verse (16)	5	3	2	1		1
Verse (17)	6	5	1	1		
Verse (18)	8	6	2	1		1
Verse (19)	10	5	5	2		3
Verse (20)	9	5	4	2		2
Verse (21)	5	4	1			1
Verse (22)	4	2	2	1		1
Verse (23)	5	2	3	1		2
Verse (24)	8	6	2	1		1
Verse (25)	4	4	0			
Verse (26)	2	2	0			
Verse (27)	8	5	3		1	2
Verse (28)	6	4	2	1		1
Verse (29)	6	4	2		1	1
Verse (30)	10	5	5	3		2
Verse (31)	5	3	2	1		1
Verse (32)	3	3	0			
Verse (33)	3	3	0			
Verse (34)	3	3	0			
Verse (35)	9	7	2		1	1
Verse (36)	6	5	1	1		
Verse (37)	19	12	7	3		4
Verse (38)	20	16	4	2	1	1
Verse (39)	13	9	4	3		1
Verse (40)	24	16	8	4	1	3
Total	285	195	90	39	5	46
Percent %	100%	68.42%	31.57%	13.68%	1.75%	16.14%