



IRAQI
Academic Scientific Journals



العراقية
المجلات الأكاديمية العلمية

ISSN: 2663-9033 (Online) | ISSN: 2616-6224 (Print)

Journal of Language Studies

Contents available at: <https://jls.tu.edu.iq/index.php/JLS>



Analyzing Gemination Effect on Verb Transitivity in the Glorious Qur'an with Reference to its Translations in English

Huda Dhamin Mukhalif*¹

Tikrit University/ College of Arts/ Department of Translation

hd230095prt@st.tu.edu.iq

&

Asst. Prof. Rudaina Mohammed Beda'a (PhD)

Tikrit University/ College of Arts/ Department of Translation

Rdena.mohamad@tu.edu.iq

Received: 01/07/2025, Accepted: 25/07/2025, Online Published: 31/03/2026

Abstract

This study investigates the linguistic and translational impact of gemination on verb transitivity in Arabic and examines how these effects are rendered in English translations. The study aims at examining how gemination in Arabic verbs affects their transitivity, meaning, and syntactic structure as well as identifying and analyzing the translational shifts that take place when geminated Arabic verbs are rendered into English. It is hypothesized that there is a key relationship between gemination in Arabic verbs and changes in their transitivity and the process of translating Arabic geminated verbs into English leads to shifts in verb transitivity and semantic intensity. The research adopts a qualitative approach using a purposive sample of five Qur'anic verses and their

¹ *Corresponding Author: Huda Dhamin Mukhalif, E-mail: hd230095prt@st.tu.edu.iq

Affiliation: Tikrit University – Iraq.

© This is an open access article under the CC by licenses <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>



corresponding English translations. The analysis focuses on identifying geminated verbs, classifying their transitivity, and examining the shifts and strategies employed in English translations. Data are analyzed through a dual-model framework: a linguistic model grounded in Arabic morphological theory, and a translation model based on grammatical equivalence and translation shift theory. The findings show that geminated verbs in Arabic undergo semantic weakening or structural transformation when translated into English. Translators often resort to expansion, omission, or paraphrasing to convey the intensity and altered transitivity of the original verbs.

Key Words: Gemination, verb transitivity, translation and shift, Qur'anic verbs

ملخص تحليل أثر التشديد على تعدية الفعل في القرآن الكريم مع الإشارة إلى ترجمته إلى اللغة الإنجليزية

هدى ضامن مخلف

جامعة تكريت/ كلية الآداب/ قسم الترجمة

و

ا.م.د. ردينة محمد بدع

جامعة تكريت/ كلية الآداب/ قسم الترجمة

المستخلص

تبحث هذه الدراسة في التأثير اللغوي للتشديد على تعدية الفعل في اللغة العربية وترجمته إلى الانكليزية، وتدرس كيفية ترجمة هذه التأثيرات في الترجمات الإنجليزية. تهدف الدراسة إلى دراسة كيفية تأثير التشديد في الأفعال العربية على تعديتها ومعناها وبنيتها النحوية، بالإضافة إلى تحديد وتحليل التحولات التي تحدث عند ترجمة الأفعال العربية المشددة إلى الإنجليزية. يُفترض أن هناك علاقة رئيسية بين التشديد في الأفعال العربية والتغيرات في تعديتها، وأن عملية ترجمة الأفعال العربية المشددة إلى الإنجليزية تؤدي إلى تحولات في تعدية الفعل وشدته الدلالية. يعتمد البحث على نهج نوعي باستخدام عينة من خمس آيات قرآنية وترجماتها الإنجليزية المقابلة. يركز التحليل على تحديد الأفعال المشددة وتصنيف تعديتها ودراسة التحولات والاستراتيجيات المستخدمة في الترجمات الإنجليزية. تم تحليل البيانات من خلال إطار عمل ثنائي النموذج: نموذج لغوي قائم على نظرية الصرف العربية، ونموذج ترجمة قائم على نظرية التكافؤ النحوي ونظرية تحول الترجمة. تُظهر النتائج أن الأفعال المشددة في العربية تتعرض لضعف دلالي أو تحول هيكلية عند ترجمتها إلى الإنجليزية. غالبًا ما يلجأ المترجمون إلى التوسع أو الحذف أو إعادة الصياغة للتعبير عن شدة الأفعال الأصلية وتعددتها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التشديد، التعدية، النقل والتحويل، الأفعال القرآنية

1. Introduction

The current study investigates the linguistic phenomenon of gemination in some Qur'anic Verses and analyzes its influence on the transitivity of the verbs. Gemination, at its heart, is simply the doubling of a consonant sound. It is like having consonant twins within a word or phrase. While it might seem like a minor detail, this phenomenon plays quite different roles in Arabic and English, adding a unique flavor to each language.

In Arabic, gemination is a crucial feature, almost like a secret code that can change a word's meaning entirely. It is not just about pronunciation; it is about distinguishing between entirely different words. For example, a word with a single "b" sound might mean one thing, but with a doubled "bb" sound, it could mean something completely different. This feature is so important that Arabic even has a special symbol, the "ʾddhaa," to mark these doubled consonants in writing (Watson, 2002).

On the other hand, English treats gemination with a bit more nonchalance. While it does occur, it is more of a phonetic quirk than a meaning-altering device. It appears when words bump into each other in phrases like "big dog" or "that time." The doubled consonant sound is there, but it does not change the meaning of the words themselves. It is more about the flow and rhythm of speech. Sometimes, gemination even pops up within words, like when we add prefixes (as in "unnatural"), but again, it does not carry the same weight as in Arabic (Ladefoged & Maddieson, 1996).

2. Literature Review

2.1 The Concept of Gemination

The the root of the term "gemination" dates back to the ancient times in Latin. "Geminatio" really means "doubling," the etymology deriving from "gemini," which means "twins." "Geminatio" was at first applied by the Latin tongues to the doubling of a sound or letter. It was taken over by the linguists afterward to describe that same kind of phonetic feature in other tongues. Gemination is a phonetic phenomenon in which two identical sounds appear together within a word or at word boundaries. The important aspect is not the mere presence of identical sounds, but how they are articulated. Whether they are pronounced as a single sound or as two separate sounds

depends on the Language, with different approaches across Languages that feature geminate sounds (Ladefoged & Johnson, 2014).

Crystal (2008) says that the phenomenon of gemination can be traced back to Semitic family. In Semitic languages like Arabic, gemination has been integral to the morphological and syntactic structure for thousands of years. Early Arabic scripts, including those in the pre-Islamic period, utilized diacritics like the "ʾddhāa" to indicate doubled consonants. Similarly, in classical Latin and Greek, gemination was utilized in orthography and pronunciation to distinguish meanings. Over time, its significance evolved in different languages, with Arabic maintaining its central role, while in English, gemination's role diminished to occasional phonological emphasis or morphological markers.

2.2 Types of Gemination in Arabic and English

Hassan (1983: 119) defines gemination (التضعيف) as "The lengthening of the continuant sounds and the plosion in stops." He classifies it into two types as in:

a. geminate consonants (السواكن المضعفة)

Consonants that are geminate are regarded as identical clusters. The first ingredient of the clusters, whether identical or non-identical, is the coda of the previous syllable when syllable boundaries are detected, and the second constituent is always the start of the upcoming syllable. The following two examples clarify that:

- أبد = /ء- ب - ب - د / = / س ح س / س ح س

- متن = /م - ت - ت - ن / = / س ح س / س ح س

متن

أبد



/ م - ت - ت - ن /

/ ء- ب - ب - د /

The second sounds in the two words are geminated, and this is indicated by the diacritical mark (ّ) that should be used in writing to indicate that gemination takes place on this sound. In this instance, the term "mufddhaad" (ibid: 120).

b. long vowels (الحركات الطويلة)

Long vowels are not regarded as diphthongs, but rather as monophthongs. They are equally important in the syllable's pronunciation when compared to identical clusters. Long vowels might be thought of as geminate consonants' counterparts. An illustrative example may be seen below:

) كاتب (means *writer* = kaa tib/ or /ka: tib/ (Hassan 1983: 120).

On the other side of the coin, English recognizes five types based on linguistic contexts in which they occur:

a. Phonetic Gemination: This type occurs naturally in speech due to articulatory processes such as assimilation or emphasis. For example, in English, when the phrase "bad dog" is spoken quickly, the *d* in *bad* and *dog* may merge to produce a lengthened sound (Ladefoged & Maddieson, 1996).

b. Phonological Gemination: This type is contrastive and plays a role in differentiating word meanings, particularly in languages like Arabic and Italian. For example, in Arabic, *kataba* (he wrote) and *kattaba* (he caused to write) differ due to the geminated *t* (Watson, 2002).

c. Morphological Gemination: This type of gemination serves a grammatical or morphological function, particularly in root-based languages. In Arabic, gemination often marks verb form changes, such as causative or intensive forms, e.g., *darasa* (دَرَسَ – he studied) and *darrasa* (دَرَّسَ – he taught) (Ryding, 2005).

d. Orthographic Gemination: In languages like English, gemination appears as a spelling convention rather than a phonemic feature. For instance, doubling the consonant *p* in "hopping" versus "hoping" changes the vowel pronunciation but does not create phonemic contrast (Crystal, 2008).

e. Prosodic Gemination: This occurs when gemination affects syllable structure and stress patterns. In Finnish, for example, gemination can lengthen consonants to maintain rhythmic balance in speech (Suomi, Toivanen, & Ylitalo, 2008).

2.3 Verb Transitivity in Linguistics

Transitivity of verbs is one of the fundamental principles of linguistics that tackles the relationship between a verb and its arguments, subject and object, in a sentence. In essence, transitivity deals with whether a verb needs an immediate object to convey a full meaning. In theoretical linguistics, verbs are generally classified as intransitive, transitive, ditransitive, or ambitransitive based on the structure of its argument. Intransitive verbs include a subject and no direct object, such as "run" in "She runs." Transitive verbs include a direct object to complete their action, such as "He reads a book." Ditransitive verbs imply a direct and indirect object, such as in "She gave him a gift," while ambitransitive verbs are transitive or intransitive depending on context (Dixon & Aikhenvald, 2000; Hopper & Thompson, 1980).

In addition, transitivity is a peculiar issue in translation in the field of verb transitivity in translation studies. Transitivity is marked differently in each language, and that varies while translating. For instance, in Arabic, where the morphological system is very advanced, transitivity changes are marked by verb forms and affixation, whereas English relies more on syntactic structure. Such differences must be followed in a strict manner so that semantic and functional equivalence of the target text can be attained. Translators should work within such subtleties in a manner that transitivity shifts do not modify meaning or readability of the target text (Baker, 2011; Hatim & Mason, 1997).

2.3.1 Factors Influencing Transitivity

Several elements define transitivity in languages, such as how verbs are connected to their arguments and how they are categorized as transitive or intransitive. Semantic aspects are very crucial. The meaning of the verb and action or state involved, along with the verbs' meaning, determine whether the verb requires a direct object. For instance, verbs that inherently involve an

agent acting upon a patient, like "throw" or "break," are more likely to be transitive, whereas those that report a state or self-sustaining action, like "exist" or "sleep," are more likely to be intransitive. The interplay between syntax and semantics makes things even more complex, with some verbs having the ability to switch between transitive and intransitive use based on circumstances (Dixon & Aikhenvald, 2000; Levin, 1993).

Syntactic structure also plays a significant role in transitivity. Languages vary in their syntactic mechanisms, e.g., word order and agreement systems, that license the encoding of verb arguments. English, for example, subject-verb-object conventionally has transitive implication, with deviations from such order perhaps having implications of deviations from meaning or grammatical relations. By contrast, free word order languages like Russian or Latin use case marking and morphological verb morphology to indicate such contrasts, emphasizing the flexibility of transitivity encoding (Givón, 1984; Comrie, 1989).

Morphological aspects become especially important in strongly inflected languages, like Arabic. Morphologically, Arabic verbs can be modified to signal expressive changes of transitivity. For example, by adding some prefixes or suffixes, a verb can be transformed into a different transitivity category as from transitive to causative or reflexive. This morphological diversity contributes to the intricacy of transitivity as a grammatical notion and creates specific challenges for language analysis as well as translation (Watson, 2002; Ryding, 2005).

2.3.2 Verb Transitivity in Translation Studies

Verb transitivity is very vital in translation studies because languages differ structurally and functionally. Texts are usually translated by transferring the transitivity of the verbs from the source language to the target language without losing the intended meaning. The Arabic language, for example, conveys transitivity through a complex morphological system consisting of the verb derivations and affixations. Such morphological signs, like causativity-marking prefixes, are hard to translate into languages such as English, where transitivity is syntagmatically encoded more frequently (Baker, 2011; Hatim & Mason, 1997).

The selection of the translator over the transitivity of verbs can also affect how readable and coherent the translated text will be. Transitivity in the action verbs, for example, will have to be preserved in literary translation to ensure the dynamism and continuity of the narrative are preserved. Non-literary texts like technical manuals or legal ones may have transitivity modified to meet the required level of clarity and precision. This testifies to my sensitivity to context and genre in determining my transitivity-related translation strategies (House, 2015; Newmark, 1988). In spite of these challenges, work in verb transitivity in translation is important in opening up more profound concerns with equivalence and accommodation. By examining the negotiation of transitivity between languages, researchers begin to perceive more adequate strategies in translation that combine linguistic similarity with functional equivalence (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1958; Pym, 2010).

2.4 The Relationship Between Gemination and Transitivity

Transitivity of verbs is also of great importance when dealing with translation on account of structural and functional disparity among languages. Text translation is generally conveying verb transitivity from the source to the target language while maintaining the intended meaning. Arabic, for example, conveys transitivity through a complex morphological system of affixations and verb derivations. These morphological signs, such as causativity-expressing prefixes, become problematic when being translated to such languages as English, where transitivity is typically realized syntactically (Baker, 2011; Hatim & Mason, 1997).

Transitivity shifts are common when translating, especially when the source and target languages have different approaches to the argument structure of verbs. A common example is a transitive Arabic verb being translated into an intransitive English verb with a prepositional phrase added, such as the Arabic verb "aḥabba" (to love), whose translation in some cases is "to have affection for.". These advances underscore the importance of comprehend the relationship between language structure and cultural variation in both languages (Nida, 1964; Catford, 1965). The translator's decisions in verb transitivity can also influence the coherence and legibility of the whole translated text. In literary translation, for example, adherence to the transitivity of action verbs is essential to the point that it helps guarantee the dynamism and movement of the narrative.

Technical instructional manuals or legal texts, however, might need transitivity shifts for clarity and accuracy in non-literary translations. This brings us back to the question of the context and genre determining transitivity-based translation strategies (Newmark, 1988; House, 2015).

3. Methodology

The study uses a contrastive design to compare transitivity structure similarities and differences between Arabic and English. The research sample includes five Qur'anic verses and their English translations. Data collection for the study opens with identifying and sampling source Arabic texts with high frequencies of geminated verbs, especially those in forms normally having an effect on verb transitivity. After the verses have been selected, their official English translations, which have been written by professional translators, are retrieved. A comparison table has been sketched for every verse, recording the verb used in both languages, its grammatical category, transitivity classification (transitive, intransitive, ditransitive), and any change or shift brought about on translation. To complement the extensive analysis of the data, the study provides a two-model approach with a linguistic model and a translation model which are: the works of the works of Wright (1967) and Ryding (2005) that represent the linguistic model, and Baker's (2018) framework of grammatical and semantic equivalence that stands for the translational one.

4. Data Analysis

This section explores the influence of gemination on verb transitivity in Arabic. The five samples have been selected from the Glorious Qur'an to highlight the verb transitivity in four dimensions: morphological gemination, syntactic structure, semantic intensity, and translation effect. Every verb is evaluated in its source situation with regard to its syntactic role and translational treatment.

SL Text (1): "سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى" (*Surat Al-A 'lā:1*)

TL Text: "Glorify the Name of your Lord, the Most High." (*Pickthall, 1997: 879*)

1. Morphological Analysis Design

Form	Arabic Verb	Pattern	Type	Meaning
Geminated	سَبَّحَ (sabbih)	Form II (فَعَّلَ)	Imperative/ Transitive	To glorify, declare as holy
Non-Geminated	سَبَّحَ (sabaha)	Form I (فَعَلَ)	Intransitive	To swim, float

Analysis:

The geminated verb سَبَّحَ stems from Form II, marked by doubling the middle radical (ب). It differs significantly from its non-geminated base سَبَّحَ (“to swim”). Here, the semantic field is ritualistic and religious, not physical motion.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination shifts the verb from describing physical movement to a causative religious command: urging the subject to declare the sanctity of God, emphasizing intention, repetition, and intensity in devotion.

2. Syntactic Analysis Design

Feature	سَبَّحَ (sabaha)	سَبَّحَ (sabbih)
Transitivity	Intransitive, no object	Transitive, takes direct object ("name")
Qur'anic Example	(General usage: سَبَّحَ فِي الْمَاءِ)	{سَبَّحَ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى} (Al-A‘lā 87:1)
Syntactic Role	Verb alone or with preposition	Verb + Direct Object (اسْمَ رَبِّكَ)

Analysis:

The geminated form سَبَّحَ assigns clear syntactic agency to the speaker (imperative), demanding the glorification of an object (the *name of your Lord*). This imperative form requires a grammatical complement to complete its meaning.

Effect of Gemination:

The structure introduces semantic force and syntactic transitivity, giving the verb not only command but also directional force toward its object (*Isim Rabbika*), reinforcing sacred duty.

3. Semantic Analysis Design

Verb	Base Meaning	Semantic Field (Expanded by Context)
سَبَّحَ	To swim	Motion, fluidity, nature
سَبَّحَ	To glorify	Worship, holiness, divine praise

Analysis:

Semantically, the geminated form enters a field of abstract and spiritual meanings, *tanzīh* (declaring God's transcendence). It also implies verbal repetition, not just a single utterance.

Effect of Gemination:

The gemination infuses the verb with a semantic uplift from physical to metaphysical action, ideal for theological or Qur'anic expression.

4. Translation and Shift Design

Arabic Text	Literal Translation	Interpretive Translation (Reflecting Gemination)
سَبَّحِ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى	Glorify the name of your Lord, the Most High	Exalt and declare holy the Name of your Lord, the Most Exalted

Analysis:

Literal translation delivers accuracy but may miss out intensity conveyed by gemination. Interpretive translations (e.g. “exalt,” “declare holy”) strive to preserve the elevated tone and commanding nuance.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination leads translators to favor forceful, high-register expressions, indicating deliberate reverence and ritual purpose. The imperative form adds urgency and emphasis.

SL Text (2): "وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا" (*Surat Al-Baqarah: 31*)

TL Text: "And He taught Adam all the names." (*Pickthall, 1997: 31*)

1. Morphological Analysis Design

Form	Arabic Verb	Pattern	Type	Meaning
Geminated	عَلَّمَ ('allama)	Form II (فَعَّلَ)	Causative / Transitive	To teach, cause to know
Non-Geminated	عَلِمَ ('alima)	Form I (فَعَلَ)	Stative / Intransitive	To know

Analysis:

The verb عَلَّمَ ('allama) is derived from عَلِمَ ('alima), with gemination of the second radical. While the base form means *to know*, the geminated form means *to teach*, causing someone to know.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination transforms a state of being (knowing) into a causative act (teaching), introducing agency, direction, and control. The geminated form implies that knowledge is deliberately transmitted, not passively held.

2. Syntactic Analysis Design

Feature	عَلِمَ ('alima)	عَلَّمَ ('allama)
Transitivity	Intransitive or stative	Transitive, takes two objects
Qur'anic Example	e.g., وَاللَّهُ عَلَّمَ (Al-Baqarah 282)	{وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا} (Al-Baqarah 2:31)
Syntactic Role	Verb + subject or no object	Verb + 1st object 2 + (آدَمَ)nd object (الْأَسْمَاء)

Analysis:

The geminated verb عَلَّمَ syntactically takes two direct objects, which is a characteristic of teaching verbs: the taught person and the taught content. In this case: *Adam* and *the names*.

Effect of Gemination:

It allows the verb to control multiple objects, indicating an active, dynamic transmission of knowledge, a powerful act not possible in the simpler, non-geminated form.

3. Semantic Analysis Design

Verb	Base Meaning	Semantic Field (Expanded by Context)
عَلَّمَ	To know	Awareness, cognition, internal state
عَلَّمَ	To teach	Education, revelation, guided knowledge

Analysis:

The semantic transformation is fundamental: from knowing to causing to know, i.e., *teaching*. The verse highlights Adam’s elevation over other creatures through this divine act.

Effect of Gemination:

It introduces semantic layering, shifting from a passive trait to an empowering, revelatory act, with theological implications about human uniqueness and language.

4. Translation and Shift Design

Arabic Text	Literal Translation	Interpretive Translation (Reflecting Gemination)
وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا	And He taught Adam all the names	He caused Adam to acquire all names (bestowed knowledge upon him)

Analysis:

Pickthall's translation remains literal but retains the causative structure by using “taught” rather than “knew”. Other translations (e.g., “instructed” or “revealed”) also reflect the causative force of the verb.

Effect of Gemination:

Translators choose causative verbs like *taught* or *instructed* to reflect gemination’s causative force, maintaining agency and direction. The rich theological message of divine education is preserved through this semantic shift.

SL Text (3): "سَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ لَكُمْ" (*Surat Ibrahim:33*)

TL Text: " He hath made the sun and the moon subservient unto you." (*Pickthall, 1997:556*)

1. Morphological Analysis Design

Form	Arabic Verb	Pattern	Type	Meaning
Geminated	سَخَّرَ (sakhkhara)	Form II (فَعَّلَ)	Transitive	To subjugate, harness, control
Non-Geminated	سَخِرَ (sakhira)	Form I (فَعِلَ)	Intransitive	To mock, ridicule

Analysis:

This table highlights how gemination not only changes the verb pattern from Form I to Form II, but also transforms the verb’s core meaning — from ridicule (سَخِرَ) to divine subjugation (سَخَّرَ). The doubled middle radical in Form II imparts intensified, causative force to the action.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination transforms an emotionally negative or neutral verb into a highly intentional and powerful action—appropriate in divine contexts where control and purpose are emphasized. It contributes to semantic elevation and causative nuance in both the source and target languages.

2. Syntactic Analysis Design

Feature	سَخِرَ (sakhira)	سَخَّرَ (sakhkhara)
Transitivity	Intransitive — requires a preposition (e.g. <i>بـ</i>)	Transitive — takes direct object
Qur’anic Example	{إِنْ تَسَخَّرُوا مِنَّا} (Hud 11:38)	{سَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ} (Ibrahim 14:33)
Syntactic Role	Verb + Prepositional Phrase	Verb + Direct Object

Analysis:

The intransitive سَخِرَ needs a preposition (e.g., *من*), while سَخَّرَ acts directly upon objects like الشمس والقمر. Thus, the geminated form structurally enables a direct verb-object relationship that reflects divine agency.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination enhances the syntactic strength of the verb, allowing it to take direct grammatical control of objects, echoing the theological themes of divine command.

3. Semantic Analysis Design

Verb	Base Meaning	Semantic Field (Expanded by Context)
سَخَّرَ	To mock	Negative (Ridicule, contempt)
سَخَّرَ	To subjugate	Positive (Harness, Command, Benefit, Cosmic Order)

Analysis:

The semantic shift caused by gemination moves the verb's interpretation from derision to divine beneficence, signifying a semantic upgrade in intensity and value. For example, subjugating celestial bodies is an act of universal power.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination introduces causative intentionality, conveying actions that are purposeful, beneficial, and often divine—an effect not replicable with non-geminated roots.

4. Translation and Shift Design

Arabic Text	Literal Translation	Interpretive Translation (Reflecting Gemination)
سَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ لَكُمْ	He subjected the sun and the moon for you	He powerfully harnessed the sun and moon, placing them under His command for your benefit

Analysis:

Literal translations maintain structural faithfulness but often lose the semantic intensity introduced by gemination. Interpretive translations (e.g. "harnessed," "imposed His will") attempt to render the causative, forceful nature of the verb.

Effect of Gemination:

Translation choices reflect gemination by selecting strong, high-agency verbs. These compensate for the phonological gemination, which is untranslatable, by enhancing the semantic weight and agency in the target language.

SL Text (4): "وَرَبِّكَ فَكَبِّرْ" (*Surat Al-Muddaththir:3*)

TL Text: "And thy Lord magnify." (*Pickthall, 1997: 839*)

1. Morphological Analysis Design

Form	Arabic Verb	Pattern	Type	Meaning
Geminated	كَبِّرْ (kabbir)	Form II (فَعَّلَ)	Imperative / Transitive	To magnify, declare greatness
Non-Geminated	كَبِيرٌ (kabura)	Form I (فَعَلَ)	Intransitive / Stative	To be great (in size or rank)

Analysis:

The verb كَبِّرْ (kabbir) is the imperative geminated form of the root كَبَر, meaning to declare greatness. Its non-geminated form كَبِيرٌ expresses an inherent state of greatness, while كَبِّرْ involves active magnification of something else, here, *your Lord*.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination turns the verb from a descriptive state to a commanded action, a directive to actively proclaim the greatness of God, highlighting agency, repetition, and intensity.

2. Syntactic Analysis Design

Feature	كَبُرَ (kabura)	كَبِّرْ (kabbir)
Transitivity	Intransitive, no object	Transitive, requires object (e.g., رَبِّكَ)
Qur'anic Example	e.g., كَبُرَ مَقْتًا (Al-Kahf 18:5)	{وَرَبِّكَ فَكَبِّرْ} (Al-Muddaththir 74:3)
Syntactic Role	Verb + predicate or subject	Verb + Direct Object (رَبِّكَ = your Lord)

Analysis:

The geminated verb كَبِّرْ occurs in the imperative mood and demands action directed toward a specific object (رَبِّكَ). This contrasts with the stative كَبُرَ, which describes conditions rather than causes them.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination activates the verb, making it a commanding linguistic force. It shifts focus from an internal attribute to an external declarative function, emphasizing religious obligation.

3. Semantic Analysis Design

Verb	Base Meaning	Semantic Field (Expanded by Context)
كَبَّرَ	To be great	Size, power, social rank
كَبَّرَ	To magnify	Worship, glorification, ritual declaration

Analysis:

The semantic domain shifts from an attribute (*being great*) to an action (*declaring greatness*). It is now part of ritualistic language, especially associated with *takbīr* (الله أكبر).

Effect of Gemination:

Semantically, gemination reorients the verb from a static description to a theologically charged, performative command, reinforcing the role of language in divine glorification.

4. Translation and Shift Design

Arabic Text	Literal Translation	Interpretive Translation (Reflecting Gemination)
وَرَبِّكَ فَكَبِّرْ	And thy Lord, magnify	So magnify your Lord with exaltation and declare His greatness repeatedly

Analysis:

Pickthall's translation is faithful but minimal. Other interpretive renderings (e.g., "Proclaim the greatness of your Lord") help convey the ritual and intensified function embedded in *كَبَّرَ*.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination drives translators to choose strong, active, and repetitive verbs, such as *proclaim*, *magnify*, *exalt*, aiming to preserve the imperative force and semantic intensity.

SL Text (5): "وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ" (*Surat Al-Baqarah: 155*)

TL Text: "And give glad tidings to the patient." (*Pickthall, 1997: 29*)

1. Morphological Analysis Design

Form	Arabic Verb	Pattern	Type	Meaning
Geminated	بَشِّرْ (bashshir)	Form II (فَعَّلَ)	Imperative / Transitive	To bring good news, to proclaim joy
Non- Geminated	بَشَرَ (bashara)	Form I (فَعَلَ)	Rare / Intransitive	To have skin, to be human (literal: skin-related)

Analysis:

The geminated verb بَشِّرْ is Form II, causative and transitive, denoting *to announce or convey good news*. Its base root بَشَرَ in Form I refers to human skin or appearance, and does not imply communication.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination retools the root to serve as a communication act, turning a noun-like root (*human, skin*) into a verbal act of blessing or good news. It adds causative and emotional weight.

2. Syntactic Analysis Design

Feature	بَشَرَ (bashara)	بَشِّرْ (bashshir)
Transitivity	Intransitive or noun-form	Transitive, takes direct object (الصَّابِرِينَ)
Qur'anic Example	None as a verb	{وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ} (Al-Baqarah 2:155)
Syntactic Role	Root used in nouns (e.g., بَشْر)	Imperative verb + direct object

Analysis:

In بَشِّرْ, the structure is imperative + object, an order to proclaim something to a group (here, *the patient ones*). The geminated pattern enables syntactic agency and delivery.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination activates the verb structurally, from static morphology to a dynamic, speaker-driven command. It enables a directive structure in which the subject becomes the bearer of divine reassurance.

3. Semantic Analysis Design

Verb	Base Meaning	Semantic Field (Expanded by Context)
بَشَّرَ	Human surface, skin	Biology, humanity, corporeal
بَشِّرْ	To give glad tidings	Revelation, divine mercy, encouragement

Analysis:

The meaning leaps from physical description to spiritual declaration. The geminated form implies not just news, but uplifting and divinely authorized communication.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination causes a semantic expansion and elevation: the act of delivering news is now sacred, emotional, and eschatologically charged, particularly relevant when directed toward those enduring hardship (الصَّابِرِينَ).

4. Translation and Shift Diagram

Arabic Text	Literal Translation	Interpretive Translation (Reflecting Gemination)
وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ	And give glad tidings to the patient	Announce good news from God to those who persevere with faith

Analysis:

Pickthall’s translation preserves the structure and tone, but doesn’t fully reflect the emotional and divine authority behind the imperative. More dynamic renderings (e.g. “Proclaim divine comfort”) make the gemination’s intent clearer.

Effect of Gemination:

Gemination leads translators to seek vivid, emotionally resonant, and active verbs, aligning with the Qur’an’s function as guidance and reassurance. It also ensures that divine speech is framed as performative.

5. Conclusion

It is concluded that gemination plays a key role in enhancing the syntactic and semantic force of Arabic verbs, significantly impacting how they are conveyed in translation. It has been found that gemination in Qur'anic verbs systematically induces a causative or emphatic transformation of the root verb results in increased transitivity altering the verb's grammatical behavior and rhetorical power. Also, it is concluded that gemination often changes the verb's function from a descriptive or observational role to a directive, performative, or instructional role. The study also finds that gemination enriches the semantic content of verbs, often introducing notions of intentionality, intensity, repetition, or causality. And lastly, the study concludes that gemination often necessitates strategic lexical compensation in English.

References

- Baker, M. (2011). *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation* (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.
- Baker, M. (2019). *Translation and Transitivity: A Comparative Analysis of Arabic and English Verbs*. *Journal of Translation Studies*, 12(2), 75–98.
- Comrie, B. (1989). *Language Universals and Linguistic Typology* (2nd ed.). Oxford: Blackwell.
- Catford, J. C. (1965). *A Linguistic Theory of Translation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Crystal, D. (2008). *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics* (6th ed.). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- Dixon, R. M. W., & Aikhenvald, A. Y. (2000). *Changing Valency: Case Studies in Transitivity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hassan, A. (1983). القاهرة: دار الشروق. *اللغة العربية: معناها ومبناها*.
- Hatim, B., & Mason, I. (1997). *The Translator as Communicator*. London: Routledge.
- Hopper, P. J., & Thompson, S. A. (1980). *Transitivity in Grammar and Discourse*. *Language*, 56(2), 251–299.

House, J. (2015). *Translation Quality Assessment: Past and Present*. London: Routledge.

Ladefoged, P., & Johnson, K. (2014). *A Course in Phonetics* (7th ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

Ladefoged, P., & Maddieson, I. (1996). *The Sounds of the World's Languages*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Levin, B. (1993). *English Verb Classes and Alternations: A Preliminary Investigation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. London: Prentice Hall.

Nida, E. A. (1964). *Toward a Science of Translating*. Leiden: E. J. Brill.

Pym, A. (2010). *Exploring Translation Theories*. London: Routledge.

Ryding, K. C. (2005). *A Reference Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Vinay, J. P., & Darbelnet, J. (1958). *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais: méthode de traduction*. Paris: Didier.

Watson, J. C. E. (2002). *The Phonology and Morphology of Arabic*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.