

## Context Over Lexicon: Semantic Shift in Arabic Health Reporting on Al-Jazeera

### *Konteks Lebih Penting daripada Leksikon: Pergeseran Semantik dalam Berita Kesehatan Berbahasa Arab di Al-Jazeera*

Sayyidah Khoizuroonah<sup>a,1\*</sup>, Hisyam Zaini<sup>b,2</sup>

<sup>ab</sup> UIN Sunan Kalijaga

Jl. Marsda Adisucipto, Papringan, Caturtunggal, Kec. Depok, Kabupaten Sleman, Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta

<sup>a</sup> [sayyidahkhoizuronah@gmail.com](mailto:sayyidahkhoizuronah@gmail.com) <sup>b</sup> [hisyam.zaini@uin-suka.ac.id](mailto:hisyam.zaini@uin-suka.ac.id)

\* Corresponding Author

#### ARTICLE INFO

#### ABSTRACT

##### Article History

Received:  
Revised:  
Approved:

##### Keywords

*Arabic Health Discourse  
Contextual Meaning  
Lexical Ambiguity  
Semantic Shift*

##### Kata Kunci

*Wacana Kesehatan dalam  
Bahasa Arab  
Makna Kontekstual  
Ambiguitas Leksikal  
Pergeseran Semantik*

##### Abstrak

Dalam wacana berita kesehatan, kosakata Arab sering kali bersifat polisemik dan mengalami pergeseran makna sesuai dengan konteks penggunaan. Hal ini menuntut pemahaman dan analisis yang tidak hanya berfokus pada makna leksikal, tetapi juga pada mekanisme pembentukan makna kontekstual. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji transformasi makna leksikal-kontekstual dan mekanisme pergeseran makna dalam teks berita Kesehatan di Al-Jazeera. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan perspektif semantik terhadap 3 teks berita kesehatan Al-Jazeera yang dipilih secara purposif berdasarkan keberadaan kosakata polisemik. Analisis dilakukan melalui identifikasi makna leksikal berdasarkan kamus, interpretasi makna kontekstual, serta klasifikasi bentuk-bentuk pergeseran makna. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa konteks wacana memiliki peran dominan dalam menentukan makna, sehingga makna leksikal mengalami transformasi menjadi makna yang lebih spesifik sesuai kebutuhan komunikasi medis. Ditemukan empat bentuk utama pergeseran makna, yaitu penyempitan makna, spesialisasi terminologis, pergeseran nilai emosional, dan penguatan makna kontekstual.

##### Abstract

*In health news discourse, Arabic vocabulary is often polysemic and undergoes shifts in meaning depending on the context of use. This requires an understanding and analysis that focuses not only on lexical meaning but also on the mechanisms of contextual meaning formation. This study aims to examine lexical-contextual meaning transformations and the mechanisms of meaning shifts in health news texts on Al-Jazeera. This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach with a semantic perspective on three Al-Jazeera health news texts selected purposively based on the presence of polysemous vocabulary. Analysis was conducted through the identification of lexical meanings based on dictionaries, the interpretation of contextual meanings, and the classification of forms of meaning shift. The results indicate that discourse context plays a dominant role in determining meaning, causing lexical meanings to transform into more specific meanings tailored to medical communication needs. Four primary forms of meaning shift were identified: narrowing of meaning, terminological specialization, shift in emotional value, and reinforcement of contextual meaning.*

## 1. Introduction

The Arabic language is known for its extensive vocabulary, which contains polysemy and a high degree of semantic depth. Each word can have various meanings depending on the context of its use, whether due to historical development, cultural shifts, semantic expansion, or the specialization of terms in specific fields (Ilmiatun, 2022). This situation means that the process of understanding meaning cannot rely solely on lexical meaning but must also consider the context surrounding the word's usage. In linguistic practice, lexical meaning—as the basic meaning—often undergoes adjustment when used in specific situations, thereby giving rise to more specific and functional contextual meanings (Ananda Ayu Destriani & Indah Rahmayanti, 2025).

This phenomenon becomes highly complex when language is used in mass media, such as newspapers, television, radio, YouTube, and social media. As spaces for the production and distribution of information, media often employ words with multiple meanings and adapt them to specific contexts (Mansor & Azidan, 2019). Media not only convey information but also shape how meaning is constructed through word choices tailored to communicative objectives (Agustia et al., 2022). In this context, contextual meaning is often more dominant than lexical meaning, as the words used undergo processes of narrowing, broadening, or specialization of meaning according to the needs of the discourse (Laura et al., 2022). This complexity becomes increasingly significant in the field of health, which demands terminological accuracy, clarity of information, and objectivity in presentation (Nasywa, 2025).

Inaccuracies in understanding the meaning of vocabulary in health news have the potential to lead to misinterpretations of medical information, especially for non-Arabic readers (Kuswoyo et al., 2025). Therefore, an analysis of the relationship between lexical and contextual meaning is important, particularly to understand how the medical context both limits and shapes word meanings with greater precision. This paper will analyze lexical meanings in health news that undergo shifts in meaning according to the news context, such as the words *حادٍ خطير*, or *السرطان*, which lexically have multiple possible meanings but are interpreted specifically within a medical framework in a given news report.

One relevant media outlet to examine in this context is Al-Jazeera, an Arabic-language news outlet with a global reach. Al-Jazeera covers various topics, including health, using a style of language that varies according to the discourse context. In health news, the use of Arabic vocabulary not only reflects general meanings but also indicates a tendency toward a shift in meaning toward more specific forms in line with the needs of medical explanation. This makes health news texts an interesting space for examining the dynamics of the relationship between lexical meaning and contextual meaning.

Articles on Al-Jazeera's news media have been extensively analyzed by previous researchers. These studies cover aspects of language, meaning, pragmatics, speech acts, discourse, and ideology. Articles examining language and meaning include an analysis of the meaning of *تحرير* (Aini & Idris, 2025), the relationship between journalistic form and meaning (Darsita Suparno et al., 2024), and antonyms in COVID-19 news (Sholihah et al., 2023). Articles examining discourse and ideology have also been extensively studied, including framing analysis (Palendika Alandira et al., 2025) and (Arsyad et al., 2025). Furthermore, articles examining pragmatics and speech acts include (Aldrian et al., 2025) and (Arifianto et al., 2022). Unlike previous articles that

emphasized lexical aspects in Al-Jazeera news, this study also positions media context and discourse as primary factors shaping meaning.

Given this gap, this study serves as an exploratory study focused on an in-depth analysis of shifts in meaning within health news discourse. The novelty of this study lies in its effort not only to identify differences between lexical and contextual meanings but also to explain how the medical context within media discourse functions as a mechanism that shapes, limits, and functionally specializes the meanings of vocabulary. Thus, this study aims to (1) analyze the transformation of lexical meaning into contextual meaning in health news discourse, and (2) explain the mechanisms of meaning shifts influenced by contextual constraints in medical reporting.

## 2. Method

This study employs a qualitative approach with a semantic analysis framework to examine lexical and contextual meanings in Arabic-language health news texts published by Al-Jazeera. The qualitative approach was chosen because this study aims to explore and interpret meaning based on linguistic context rather than to measure data statistically (Creswell, 2014). The data sources in this study consist of primary and secondary data. The primary data are derived from health news articles published on the official website of Al-Jazeera ([www.aljazeera.net](http://www.aljazeera.net)). The selection of data was conducted purposively based on the following criteria: (1) the articles discuss health-related topics, (2) they contain Arabic lexical items with potential polysemy (multiple meanings), and (3) the vocabulary shows contextual variation in meaning within the discourse. Based on these criteria, three health news articles published between 2024 and 2025 with the same theme: health complaint warnings were selected as the analysis corpus. Although the number of texts is limited, this study is positioned as an exploratory semantic analysis focusing on depth rather than breadth of data.

Meanwhile, secondary data in this study consists of relevant scientific literature such as Arabic dictionaries; al-Munawwir and al-Maany, semantic books (Chaer, etc.) and journal articles related to modern media semantics. The unit of analysis in this study is Arabic lexical items that exhibit multiple meanings (polysemous words) and undergo semantic adjustment when used in specific contexts. These lexical items are identified within sentences and analyzed by comparing their dictionary meanings (lexical meanings) and their meanings as used in the news discourse (contextual meanings) (Leech, 1981; Lyons, 1977). Data collection was conducted using documentation and note-taking techniques (Sugiyono, 2022). The researcher systematically read the selected news texts, identified relevant vocabulary items, and recorded them along with their sentence contexts. Lexical meanings were obtained from authoritative Arabic dictionaries, such as al-Munawwir and al-Maany, while contextual meanings were determined based on sentence structure, discourse context, and communicative function.

The data analysis was carried out through several stages (Miles & Huberman, 1994). First, lexical items with multiple meanings were identified from the selected texts. Second, their lexical meanings were examined using dictionary references. Third, the contextual meanings of the words were analyzed based on their usage within sentences and the broader discourse. Fourth, a comparison between lexical and contextual meanings was conducted to identify semantic differences. Finally, the identified changes in meaning were classified into several categories, namely narrowing of meaning, terminological specialization, shift in emotional value, and

contextual meaning reinforcement. This classification refers to semantic change theory as proposed by (Chaer, 2014) and supported by relevant semantic studies.

To ensure the validity of the data, this study applies theoretical triangulation by comparing meanings across multiple dictionary sources and relevant semantic literature. In addition, contextual interpretation is supported by linguistic and discourse analysis to maintain consistency and accuracy in meaning interpretation. The results of the analysis are presented descriptively in the form of tables and narrative explanations, highlighting the relationship between lexical meanings, contextual meanings, and the factors influencing semantic change in Al-Jazeera health news discourse.

### Findings and Discussion

This article found 14 words that contain many lexical meanings and contextual meanings in 3 health news articles on Al-Jazeera's online media. These changes in lexical meaning are due to narrowing of meaning, terminological specialization, neutralization/shift in emotional value, and strengthening of contextual meaning.

#### 1. Narrowing of Meaning

No	Word	Lexical Meaning	Contextual Meaning	Sentence
1	خطير	dangerous, heavy, serious, important, resembling	serious (symptoms )	إن آلام مؤخرة الرأس لها أسباب عديدة منها ما هو بسيط ومنها ما هو خطير
2	بسيط	small, mild, trivial, widespread, open	mild (symptoms )	إن آلام مؤخرة الرأس لها أسباب عديدة منها ما هو بسيط ومنها ما هو خطير
3	الطفيفة	decreased, small, imperfect, slight, insignificant	small (clinical change)	بعض التغيرات الطفيفة في العينين لا يجب عليك تجاهلها أبدا
4	الأعراض	rejection, width, turning away	symptoms of illness	تتضمن الأعراض التي يجب الانتباه إليها ما يلي
5	قريب	nearby, easy, neighbor	relatives (family relationship)	ضاف ليريد أن الأشخاص الذين لديهم قريب من الدرجة الأولى

6	يؤثر	Influencing attacking , accounting for, prioritizing	(medically)	الصداع النصفي هو صداع شديد يؤثر غالبا على جانب واحد من الرأس
7	التهاب	inflammati on, burn, anger	inflammati on (sinusitis)	التهاب الجيوب الأنفية

The narrowing of meaning in health news discourse is characterized by a shift from broad lexical meanings to more specific ones due to medical contextual constraints (Ferdiyana & Susiawati, 2025). In this research data, several terms such as *khaṭīr* (خطير), *basīṭ* (بسيط), *al-ṭafīfah* (الطفيفة), *al-a'rād* (الأعراض), *qarīb* (قريب), *yu'aththir* (يؤثر), and *iltihāb* (التهاب) demonstrate this pattern.

The first and second examples are the words *خطير* and *بسيط*. The word *خطير* (*khaṭīr*) lexically means “dangerous,” “important,” or “severe.” This word undergoes a transformation into “serious” in the sense of the severity of medical symptoms. This change indicates a narrowing of meaning. The medical context restricts the interpretation of the word to clinical classifications (mild vs. serious), so other meanings such as “important” or “generally dangerous” are not used. Similarly, this occurs with the word *بسيط* (*basīṭ*), which lexically can mean “trivial,” “simple,” or “broad,” but in this context is interpreted as “mild” (level of symptoms). The mechanism at play is the reduction of evaluative meaning into objective categories, so that subjective elements such as “trivial” are eliminated and replaced by medical classifications.

The word *الطفيفة* (*al-ṭafīfah*) also undergoes a narrowing of meaning and is restricted to changes in cancer symptoms. Lexically, this word means “small,” “imperfect,” or “insignificant.” In the sentence: *بعض التغييرات الطفيفة في العينين لا يجب عليك تجاهلها أبدا* (*ba'd al-taghyīrāt al-ṭafīfah fī al-'aynayn lā yajibu 'alayka*) “Some minor changes in the eyes should never be ignored”, the meaning of this word is restricted to “minor” in the sense of clinical changes. The words *التغييرات* and *في العينين* clarify the meaning of *الطفيفة* (minor clinical changes). The mechanism at work is the specification of meaning based on the medical domain, which eliminates irrelevant meanings such as “insignificant.” The sentence “He added, ‘Many of these symptoms may resemble harmless conditions, and for this reason, they can easily be ignored’” indicates the neglect of cancer symptoms because they are considered similar to harmless conditions. This word is the same as the word *kashf*, which has lost its general lexical meaning (“to open”) and only has its medical functional meaning (“to examine”) left due to the demands of the discourse context (Isya, 2020).

Furthermore, the word *الأعراض* (*al-a'rād*) has various lexical meanings, such as “characteristic,” “rejection,” or “symptom.” In the context of health news, this term is narrowed down to “symptoms of a disease.” The sentence “Many of these symptoms may resemble harmless conditions, and for this reason, they can easily be overlooked” indicates the neglect of cancer symptoms because they are perceived as similar to harmless conditions. This demonstrates that the medical context systematically selects one relevant meaning and disregards others.

On the other hand, the word قريب (qarīb), which lexically means “near,” “neighbor,” or “relative,” in the sentence...الذين لديهم قريب من الدرجة الأولى (alladhīna ladayhim qarīb min al-darajah al-ūlā) “people who have first-degree relatives”, the word undergoes a narrowing of meaning to “biological relative.” This mechanism is triggered by the medical context related to genetic risk factors, rendering the meaning “physically close” irrelevant. This can be seen in the sentence ضاف ليبريد أن الأشخاص الذين لديهم قريب من الدرجة الأولى; the phrase من الدرجة الأولى indicates proximity at the first degree.

The word يؤثر (yu'thir) lexically means “to mention,” “to attack,” “to take into account,” and “to influence,” but in this article undergoes a transformation into “affects.” This word is not interpreted as “affect” in a general sense, but its meaning has been adjusted to “strike” one side of the head. In the sentence “Migraine is a severe headache that usually affects one side of the head,” the clarity of the word’s meaning is derived from the preceding word (headache) and the following phrase (one side of the head). The context of this news is a migraine that affects only one side of the head. This change indicates a semantic adjustment within medical terminology, where the general meaning of “affect” is clarified into a specific physical effect.

In the latest data, the word التهاب (iltihāb), which lexically means “to burn” or “to be angry,” “inflammation,” and “thirst,”. The meaning of the word التهاب (iltihāb) is narrowed to “inflammation” due to the clear clinical context. In health news, this word means inflammation. In the sentence أحيانا يسبب التهاب الجيوب الأنفية ألما في الصدغ، the phrase التهاب الجيوب الأنفية means sinusitis, which is inflammation of the sinuses (small air-filled cavities around the nose and eyes).

This finding indicates that the narrowing of meaning in health news discourse occurs systematically due to the influence of a medical context that demands clarity, objectivity, and terminological precision. This aligns with the theory of meaning change proposed by (Chaer, 2014), which states that narrowing of meaning occurs when a word with a broad meaning is restricted to a more specific meaning within a particular context. The narrowing of meaning in the vocabulary above is also strengthened by the theory of conceptual specialization which explains that the narrowing of meaning (taḍyīq al-ma'nā or takhṣiṣ) occurs when a term that originally had a broad scope experiences a reduction to meet the needs of a particular domain (Ferdiyana & Susiawati, 2025). Furthermore, these results view that contextual meaning plays a dominant role in determining the interpretation of words within a discourse (Leech, 1981). In the context of health media, this dominance is even stronger because language is used not only for general communication but also to convey scientific information that requires precise meaning.

## 2. Terminological Specialization

No	Word	Lexical Meaning	Contextual Meaning	Sentence
1	حاد	cutting, clear, spicy, sharp, acute	acute (pain)	هل تشعر بألم حاد في صدغك؟ هذه هي الأسباب المحتمل
2	القياسي	size,	standard	الذي يستمر على

		distance, comparison	(medical protocol)	الرغم من العلاج القياسي
3	السرطان	crab, cancer	cancer (illness)	بعض التغيرات الطفيفة في العينين لا يجب عليك تجاهلها أبداً، إذ قد تكون علامات خفية على السرطان
4	البنفسجية	purple, ultraviolet	ultraviolet	التعرض للأشعة فوق البنفسجية
5	سلط	authorize, recommend, defeat	highlighted (science)	من بين التغييرات التي سلط عليها أخصائيو العيون الضوء عدم وضوح الرؤية
6	التهاب	inflammation, burn, anger	inflammation (sinusitis)	التهاب الجيوب الأنفية

Terminological specialization is a form of semantic shift in which a word with a general meaning becomes specialized into a technical term within a specific field, in this case the medical field (Jannah et al., 2025). In this research data, vocabulary such as ḥādd (حاد), al-qiyāsī (القياسي), al-saraṭān (السرطان), al-banafsajiyah (البنفسجية), and sallaṭa (سلط) demonstrate this pattern of specialization.

The word حاد (ḥādd) lexically means “sharp,” “spicy,” or “clear.” However, in the sentence: هل تشعر بألم حاد في صدغك؟ هذه هي الأسباب المحتملة: (hal tash‘ur bi-alam ḥādd fi ṣudghik? hādhihi hiya al-asbāb al-muḥtamalāh) “Do you feel a sharp pain in your temple? Here are the possible causes”, this word undergoes a transformation into “acute” in the medical sense (acute pain). The word بألم (pain) clarifies the meaning of حاد, so that this word means sharp. This change indicates terminological specialization, namely that the general meaning of “sharp” has been shifted to a clinical term to describe the intensity of pain. The mechanism at work is a reinterpretation of meaning based on the medical domain, so that the physical meaning is shifted to a diagnostic concept.

The word البنفسجية (al-banafsajiyah) lexically means “purple.” In the context: التعرض للأشعة فوق البنفسجية: (al-ta‘arruḍ li-al-ash‘ah fawqa al-banafsajiyah) “exposure to ultraviolet rays”, this word has specialized into “ultraviolet.” In this case, the meaning of the color evolved into a scientific term referring to a type of radiation. The mechanism at play is a standardized scientific expansion, in which the color term becomes part of scientific terminology.

Furthermore, the word القياسي (al-qiyāsī) lexically means “measure,” “comparison,” or “distance.” In the sentence: الذي يستمر على الرغم من العلاج القياسي: (alladhī yastamirr ‘alā al-ragham min al-‘ilāj al-qiyāsī) “which persists despite standard treatment”, this word has transformed into “standard” in the sense of a medical protocol. The mechanism at

work is the specialization of meaning through collocation, specifically the association with the word *al-'ilāj* (treatment), which directs the meaning toward the formal medical system. The word *سلط* (*sallaṭa*) lexically means “to grant authority,” “to empower,” or “to subdue.” In context: *من بين التغييرات التي سلط عليها أخصائيو العيون الضوء* (*min bayn al-taghyirāt allatī sallaṭa 'alayhā akhṣā'iyyū al-'uyūn al-ḍaw'*) “among the changes highlighted by the eye specialists”, this word undergoes semantic specialization to mean “to highlight” in a scientific sense. The phrase *سلط عليها الضوء* is a characteristic collocation in scientific-media discourse meaning “to direct analytical attention.” The mechanism at work is the formation of an idiomatic meaning within the scientific register. This proves the view that a word's meaning is often determined by the “environment” of the words around it. Medical collocations serve as disambiguation tools that lock the word's meaning into a particular scientific register (Agustia et al., 2022; Zulkifli & Fitria, 2023).

Finally, the word *السرطان* (*al-saraṭān*) literally means “crab.” However, in the sentence: *إذ قد تكون علامات خفية على السرطان* (*idh qad takūn 'alāmāt khafīyyah 'alā al-saraṭān*) “because they may be hidden signs of cancer”, this word has specialized to mean “cancer” as a medical term. The mechanism at work is a lexicalized metaphorical shift, in which the metaphorical meaning (“crab”) has evolved into a standard medical term that fully replaces the original meaning in a scientific context. The change in meaning of the word *al-saraṭān* (crab and cancer) reflects a process of total shift in meaning (*taḥawwul ad-dalālah*) through metaphor. This process is similar to the term *shabakah* which lexically means “fisherman's net”, but is now exclusively understood as “internet” in the context of technology (Ferdiana & Susiawati, 2025).

These findings prove that terminological specialization in Arabic medical discourse is a manifestation of the semantic flexibility of language in responding to scientific dynamics. The specialization of meaning in the vocabulary above is in line with Chaer's view, word transformation proves that the context of the sentence functions as a disambiguation tool that restricts general lexical meaning to technical contextual meaning in order to meet the demands of precision in the development of science (Chaer, 2014). This phenomenon is further explained through Leech's theory of collocative meaning, where the specialization of meaning in words such as *al-qiyāsī* occurs due to a fixed association with the surrounding word environment (such as medical terms), which automatically locks the reader's interpretation in the medical realm.

### 3. Shift in Emotional Values

No	Word	Lexical Meaning	Contextual Meaning	Sentence
1	تهيج	move, burn, rise	irritation (medical)	من بين التغييرات التي سلط عليها أخصائيو العيون الضوء عدم وضوح الرؤية وتهيج العين الذي لا يستجيب للعلاجات القياسية
2	بسيط	trivial	mild (clinical)	إن آلام مؤخرة الرأس لها أسباب عديدة منها

Emotional value shift is a form of semantic change characterized by a lexeme that originally carried affective or emotional connotations becoming neutralized into a more objective and technical meaning (Ilmiatun, 2022). In health news discourse, this phenomenon arises due to the demands of medical language, which prioritizes precision and objectivity. Research data indicates that vocabulary such as تهيج and بسيط have undergone this shift.

Lexically, the word تهيج (tahiju) means “to flare up,” “to rise,” or “to surge,” which tends to carry emotional or dynamic connotations. However, in the sentence: من بين التغييرات التي سلط عليها أخصائيو العيون الضوء عدم وضوح الرؤية وتهيج العين الذي لا يستجيب للعلاجات القياسية (min bayn al-taghyīrāt allatī sallāṭa ‘alayhā akḥṣā’iyyū al-‘uyūn al-ḍaw’ ‘adam wuḍūḥ al-ru’yah wa tahayyuj al-‘ayn alladhī lā yastajīb li-al-‘ilājāt al-qiyāsiyyah) “Among the changes highlighted by eye specialists are blurred vision and eye irritation that do not respond to standard treatments”, this word has undergone a transformation into “irritation” in the medical sense. This change indicates a shift in emotional value, where the originally expressive meaning (an outburst or upheaval) is neutralized into an objective clinical term. The mechanism at play is the neutralization of meaning through a medical context, which removes the emotional element and replaces it with a description of a physiological condition. This is the process of modernization of meaning (al-taḥdīth ad-dalālī), namely the change in meaning in response to the development of science and technology. This phenomenon is evident in the word tahayyuj, which has experienced a strengthening from a general meaning to a more precise term in the physiological realm (Chaer, 2014). In this case, Arabic does not always create new vocabulary, but rather utilizes old, dynamic vocabulary to accommodate modern scientific concepts. This process also reflects a form of language rationalization, namely a shift from a language that was originally human-emotional to a more mechanical-functional language to suit the demands of modern science (Ferdiyana & Susiawati, 2025).

A similar phenomenon occurs with the word بسيط (basīt). Lexically, this word does not only mean “small” or “simple,” but also carries evaluative nuances such as “trivial” or “unimportant.” In the sentence: إن آلام مؤخرة الرأس لها أسباب عديدة منها ما هو بسيط: (inna ālām mu’akḥkharat al-ra’s lahā asbāb ‘adīdah minhā mā huwa basīt) “Pain in the back of the head has various causes, some of which are minor”, this word undergoes a transformation into “minor” within the medical classification. In this context, the subjective evaluative element is removed, making the word’s meaning neutral and technical. The mechanism at play is a shift from evaluative meaning to clinical descriptive meaning, aligning with the need for objectivity in health discourse. This shift in meaning can be understood as a form of neutralization, a process in which a word that initially carried either positive or negative emotional content is transformed to become more objective and free from the influence of situational context. In this process, the word is no longer understood subjectively but instead functions as a term with a definite meaning (Chaer, 2014).

#### 4. Contextual Meaning Reinforcement

No	Word	Lexical Meaning	Contextual Meaning	Sentence
1	وجه	face (physical),	method/im mediately	وفي هذه الحالة ينبغي استشارة

direction, reason, side, immediately	(idiomatic)	الطبيب على وجه السرعة
--------------------------------------------	-------------	--------------------------

Contextual meaning reinforcement is a phenomenon in which a lexeme with multiple possible meanings has a specific meaning emphasized due to the support of linguistic and discursive context. In this case, context not only narrows down the meanings but also reinforces one interpretation, making it the dominant meaning. Research data indicates that the word *wajh* (وجه) exhibits this phenomenon.

Lexically, the word *wajh* (وجه) has various meanings, such as “face,” “direction,” “side,” “reason,” or “way.” However, in the sentence: وفي هذه الحالة ينبغي استشارة الطبيب على وجه السرعة (wa fi hādhihi al-ḥālah yanbaghī istishārat al-ṭabīb ‘alā wajh al-sur‘ah) “In this situation, one should consult a doctor immediately”, the word is not interpreted as “face” or “direction,” but rather as part of the idiomatic phrase *على وجه السرعة*, which means “immediately” or “quickly.”

This transformation demonstrates that the lexical meaning of the word *wajh* is reinforced within the idiomatic construction, where the emerging meaning does not stem from a single word acting independently, but rather from the entire phrase. The mechanism at play is the reinforcement of meaning through a fixed expression, namely the association of the word with another element (*al-sur‘ah*) that together forms a new, more specific meaning. In this context, the word *wajh* no longer possesses lexical autonomy but functions as part of an idiomatic structure that emphasizes the meaning of “speed of action” (Leech, 1981; Lyons, 1977). Thus, the sentence context not only selects a specific meaning but also reinforces and stabilizes that meaning as a fixed expression in media language.

These findings suggest that contextual meaning reinforcement in health news discourse can occur through the use of conventionalized idiomatic expressions. This is in line with Leech's (1981) view that a word's meaning is not always independent but can be influenced by its syntactic relationship with other words in a construction. Furthermore, this phenomenon is also related to the concept of collocation in linguistics, where certain word combinations produce a more specific meaning than the lexical meaning of each of its components (Chaer, 2014). When compared to other forms of meaning change, such as narrowing and specialization, contextual meaning reinforcement indicates that context not only limits or changes meaning but can also emphasize specific meaning through repeated and conventional patterns of use.

### 3. Conclusion

The results of this study indicate that Arabic vocabulary in health news discourse undergoes a transformation from general lexical meanings toward more specific, functional contextual meanings that align with the needs of medical communication. This transformation occurs because the context of health discourse constrains and directs the interpretation of meaning, making it more precise, objective, and easily understood within the framework of scientific information. Furthermore, this study found that the mechanisms of meaning shift do not occur randomly but follow specific patterns influenced by linguistic and discursive contexts. These mechanisms include narrowing of meaning, terminological specialization, shifts in emotional valence, and the strengthening of contextual meaning. Meaning narrowing occurs when a general meaning is restricted to a more specific one, while terminological specialization

transforms meaning into technical terms within the medical field. Emotional value shifts indicate the neutralization of affective elements into objective clinical meanings, whereas contextual meaning reinforcement occurs through the use of collocations and idiomatic expressions that emphasize specific meanings. Thus, context in health news discourse functions not only as the backdrop for language use but also as the primary mechanism that shapes, limits, and stabilizes lexical meaning. These findings confirm that understanding meaning in Arabic-language news texts cannot be separated from their contextual usage, particularly in the health field, which demands terminological precision and consistency.

### References

- Agustia, I., Muhyi, D. M. Z., & Fauziyyah, D. F. (2022). Analisis Wacana Tekstual dan Kontekstual Naskah Drama Berjudul Sarapan Terakhir Karya Andrian Eka Saputra. *Didaktik : Jurnal Ilmiah PGSD FKIP Universitas Mandiri*, 08(02), 1718–1730.
- Aini, R. S., & Idris, M. (2025). Makna تحرير /Tahrīr/ dalam Teks Berita Media Arab Daring Al-Jazeera (Kajian Semantik). *Diwan: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra Arab*, 16(2), 184–194.
- Aldrian, Muassomah, & Halimi. (2025). Social Context of Face-Threatening Acts in Abu Ubaidah's Speech on Al Jazeera Channel. *International Journal of Arabic Language Teaching*, 7(01), 91–109. <https://doi.org/10.32332/ijalt.v7i01.9987>
- Ananda Ayu Destriani, & Indah Rahmayanti. (2025). Makna Leksikal dan Gramatikal pada Lirik Lagu dalam Album “Sialnya Hidup Harus Tetap Berjalan” karya Bernadya. *Jurnal Onoma: Pendidikan, Bahasa, Dan Sastra*, 11(3), 3514–3531. <https://doi.org/10.30605/onoma.v11i3.6498>
- Arifianto, M. L., Mahliatussikah, H., Ridwan, N. A., Huda, I. S., Izzudin, I. F., & Ilmi, N. F. (2022). Representative Speech Act in Arabic News Discourse: Study on Aljazeera and Al-Ahram. *Izdihar : Journal of Arabic Language Teaching, Linguistics, and Literature*, 5(1), 17–34. <https://doi.org/10.22219/jiz.v5i1.18161>
- Arsyad, D. H., Sudaryanto, E., & Paramita, F. B. A. C. (2025). Analisis Framing Pemberitaan Kejahatan Perang Israel di Palestina pada Media Al Jazeera (Aljazeera.Com) Dan Cnn World (cnn.com) Dziaaaul. *Relasi: Jurnal Penelitian Komunikasi*, 05(03), 167–186.
- Chaer, A. (2014). *Linguistik Umum*. Vu Rineka Cipta.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods approaches*. Sage Publications.
- Darsita Suparno, Bila, S. R., MaudlotunNisa', Kaula Fahmi, UlilAbshar, & Zamzam Nurhuda. (2024). Hubungan Jurnalistik Bentuk dan Makna: Analisis Tematik Konten Berita Al-Jazeera dan Mu'jam Mustalahat al-l'lamiyah. *Alibbaa': Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Arab*, 5(1), 120–143. <https://doi.org/10.19105/ajpba.v5i1.12312>
- Ferdiyana, & Susiawati, I. (2025). Kajian Pustaka Tentang Fenomena Perubahan Makna dalam Bahasa Arab: Perluasan, Penyempitan, dan Pergeseran. *INCARE: International Journal Of Educational Resource*, 6(Vol 6 No 2). <https://doi.org/10.23969/10.23969/jees.v6i2>
- Ilmiatun, N. J. (2022). Perkembangan Makna Bahasa Arab. *Diwan: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra Arab*, 14(2), 133–143. <https://doi.org/10.15548/diwan.v14i2.826>
- Isya, M. (2020). Idiom Arab Dilihat dari Makna Tekstual dan Kontekstual. *Diwan : Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra Arab*, 12(1), 15–28.

- Jannah, S. M., Satriawan, L. A., & Ridho, A. R. (2025). Analisis Perubahan Makna Bahasa Arab – Indonesia. *J-Symbol: Jurnal Magister Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*, 13(1), 387–396. <https://doi.org/10.23960/symbol.v13i1.561>
- Kuswoyo, I. H., Mufarrihah, A., & Zuhri, A. (2025). Homonymy in Online Media CNN Arabic and Al-Wathon in Crime News on the Internet. *Al-Irfan : Journal of Arabic Literature and Islamic Studies*, 8(1), 182–215. <https://doi.org/10.58223/al-irfan.v8i1.315>
- Laura, H. M., Rufaidah, M. F., Hizbullah, N., & Asfar, D. A. (2022). Makna Leksikal dan Kontekstual Sinonimi Kata حزب /Hizb/ dalam Berita Politik Media Arab Daring. *SINASTRA: Prosiding Seminar Nasional Bahasa, Seni, Dan Sastra*, 1(0), 401–416. <https://www.proceeding.unindra.ac.id/index.php/sinastra/article/view/6179>
- Leech, G. (1981). *Semantics: The study of meaning*. Penguin Books.
- Lyons, J. (1977). *Semantics*. Cambridge University Press.
- Mansor, S., & Azidan, M. (2019). Penggunaan Petunjuk Konteks dalam Menentukan Makna Kontekstual Perkataan Arab dalam Teks Berita Politik The Use of Context Clues in Determining Contextual Meaning of Arabic Words in Political News Text. *Jurnal Sultan Alauddin Sulaiman Shah (JSASS)*, 6, 195–206.
- Miles, M., & Huberman, A. . (1994). *Qualitative Data Analysis, Thousand Oaks*. Sage Publications.
- Nasywa, A. A. (2025). Analisis Wacana Kritis Pemberitaan Bbc News Arabic Tentang Penghapusan Data Korban Gaza: Kajian Model Teun A Van Dijk. *J-Symbol: Jurnal Magister Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*, 13(2), 1008–1018.
- Palendika Alandira, Yadi Mardiyansyah, Irdan Hildansyah, & Rohanda, R. (2025). Analisis Framing Pemberitaan Kematian Presiden Iran di Aljazeera.net dan Alarabiya.net. *MUKASI: Jurnal Ilmu Komunikasi*, 4(2), 212–226. <https://doi.org/10.54259/mukasi.v4i2.4311>
- Sholihah, N. A., Annuriya, P. C., & Manzil, R. N. (2023). Antonimi Berita Covid 19 Pada Media Online Al Jazeera. *An-Nas*, 7(1), 47–58. <https://doi.org/10.32665/annas.v7i1.2037>
- Sugito, & Suparmi, A. (2025). Kajian Makna Dan Perubahan Makna Bahasa Arab Dalam Penguatan Kompetensi Linguistik Bahasa Arab. *Siyaqiy: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Bahasa Arab*, 2(1), 32–41. <https://doi.org/10.61341/siyaqiy/v2i1.014>
- Sugiyono. (2022). *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*. CV Alfabeta.
- Zulkifli, & Fitria. (2023). Studi Makna Teks Bahasa Arab dalam Teori Kontekstual/Study of the Meaning of Arabic Texts in Contextual Theory. *Loghat Arabi: Jurnal Bahasa Arab Dan Pendidikan Bahasa Arab*, 4(1), 111–124.