A SEMANTIC STUDY OF THE WORD HALAL BASED ON MINOR AND SUPREME DERIVATION

Farah Ahmed*

Abstract: The article is a semantic study of the word halal using the derivational morphology, thematic tafāsīr, and contextual study of hadith. According to Islamic law, the word halal is frequently used to suggest the permissibility of a specific issue. Previous studies emphasized the legal and conventional usage of the word. This study aims to investigate the meaning by studying the minor derivates and supreme derivates of the word found in the Quran. 8 minor derivates and 4 supreme derivates are found using the Quranic Arabic Corpus and Almaany dictionaries. Common themes are found between the word halal and its derivates. The themes are- the declaration of the legitimacy of a matter, being prudent, eliminating harm, and positive impact. To further corroborate the findings seven verses from Surah Al Baqarah containing the minor derivates of the word halal are studied. The common themes can be found in all seven verses dealing with seven different laws: food, conjugal relation, place of sacrifice, dowry, pregnancy, divorce, and usury. The theme and context of Surah Al Baqarah and seven verses are studied from Pondering Upon the Quran by Islahi and Tafsīr Ibn Katheer, relevant hadith, and scholars' opinions. The study shows the usage of derivational morphology to learn Quranic vocabulary. The common themes can also act as criteria to evaluate conventional issues, for example, the halal industry.

Keywords: halal, ishtiqāq aṣghar, ishtiqāq akbar, altafāsīr

INTRODUCTION

The word *ḥalal* is an Arabic word that generally means allowed or permissible according to the Islamic decree. A practice labeled *ḥalal* means it is acceptable according to Islamic law, the sources of which are the Qur'an, Sunnah, or the scholarly

^{*} Freelance writer for Islam Online and postgraduate researcher on Halal products. amatullah330@gmail.com.

¹ Fischer, Johan. "The halal frontier." In *The Halal Frontier*, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2011: 1-2

interpretation.² The word has been mainly studied from a legal perspective,³ cultural usage, 4 or for assessing the branding of conventional products and services. 5 However, a deeper understanding of the word can be gained from the theoretical linguistic study of the word from the Our'an, which includes the study of morphology and semantics. Studying the word *halal* based on the derivates to find an in-depth meaning can facilitate the study of the vocabulary of the Qur'an⁶ and evaluate current issues like halal industry. The root extraction of the word can reveal the morphological transformation a word has gone through. This transformation can significantly change the connotation of the word. This study aims to find out if common themes can be identified by studying the derivates found specifically in the Qur'an. To find the common theme, I have relied on the meaning of the word in the Our'an Dictionary like Almaany⁷ and Qur'anic Arabic Corpus⁸ and further delved into the grammatical and contextual analysis of the verses which contain the derivate. For the contextual study of the minor and supreme derivate, I have relied on the authentic hadith. To corroborate the findings, seven verses of surah al Bagarah have been chosen. For this purpose, in addition to the contextual analysis, I have included the thematic tafāsīr of the different sections of the Surah.

Halal is a term used widely to promote and label goods and services. In addition to that, the connotation can be applied to different practices and industries. A broader meaning can assist in evaluating these practices and assessing their implication.

This study aims to broaden the understanding of the word *ḥalal* based on the usage of derivates found in the Qur'an. The article is divided into the following six parts:

- 1. Methodology
- 2. Analysis of the minor and supreme derivates
- 3. Findings
- 4. Studying the theme and context of Surah Al Bagarah
- 5. Analysis of the seven verses
- 6. Conclusion

² Fauzi, Muchammad, Amalia Nur Azizah, and Lena Nurfauziyah. "The Concept of Ifta'in Establishing Halal Law (Study of Usul fiqh on Legal Determination Methods)." *Journal of Digital Marketing* and Halal Industry 1, no. 1 (2019): 83-92.

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³ Fauzi, Muchammad, Amalia Nur Azizah, and Lena Nurfauziyah. "The Concept of Ifta'in Establishing Halal Law:83-92.

⁴ Jallad, Nader Al. "The concepts of al-halal and al-haram in the Arab-Muslim culture: a translational and lexicographical study." *Language design: journal of theoretical and experimental linguistics* 10 (2008): 81-82.

⁵ Wilson, Jonathan AJ, and Jonathan Liu. "Shaping the halal into a brand?." *Journal of Islamic marketing* (2010).

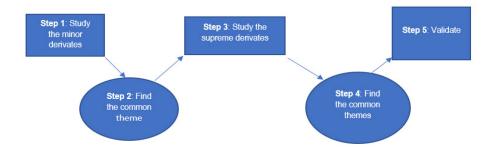
⁶ Hefny, Rabie Mohamed, Mohamed Fathy Mohamed Abdelgelil, Ammar Kamal Ibrahim Osman, and Isyaku Hassan. "The Role of Derivation in Teaching Quranic Vocabulary: Between Theory and Practice." (2022): 67.

⁷A comprehensive Dictionary contains the meanings and translation of Arabic words https://www.almaany.com/en/dict/ar-en/%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%84/?c=Qura

⁸ https://corpus.quran.com/qurandictionary.jsp?q=Hll

METHODOLOGY

Figure 1: Methodology



The methodology (Fig:1) includes the use of derivates by classical Islamic scholars and grammarians to define Arabic words. The two forms of derivates include derivates sharing the same root letters (ishtiqāq aṣghar) and derivates with one different root letter (ishtiqāq akbar). The analysis of minor derivation (ishtiqāq aṣghar) is based on the derivates in all 51 verses of the Qur'an (Step 1). The meanings of these derivates have been then analyzed based on the Qur'an's verses to find a common theme (Step 2). For the analysis of the supreme derivation (ishtiqāq akbar), four words sharing the first two root letters with the word halal have been analyzed (Step 3), and a common theme between the derivates and the word halal are identified (Step 4). To validate the meaning, seven verses of Surah Al Baqarah have been selected (Step 5). The terms and verses have been translated from the Qur'anic Arabic Corpus dictionary and Almaany Dictionary. The contextual analysis is based on the Tafsīr by Ibn Katheer⁹ and Pondering upon the Qur'an (Tadabbur al Qur'an) by Islahi, 10 scholars' opinions, and relevant hadith. Finally, the result is discussed from a linguistic perspective.

⁹ Tafsīr al-Qur'ān al-'Azīm better known as Tafsir Ibn Kathir is the tafsir by Ibn Kathir. It is one of the most famous Islamic books related to the interpretation of the Quran. It also includes jurisprudential rulings and takes care of the hadiths and is famous for being almost devoid of *Isra'iliyyat*.

https://www.kalamullah.com/Books/Tafsir%20Ibn%20Kathir%20all%2010%20volumes.pdf ¹⁰ Islahi was among the founder members of the Jama'at-i-Islami, a religious party founded by the eminent Islamic scholar, Mawdudi, in 1941. During his seventeen year stay in the Jama'at, he represented the intellectual element of this party and remained a member of the central governing body (*Majlis-i-Shura*). During this period, he did the groundwork needed to write a commentary of the Qur'an – an objective that he cherished throughout his life. https://www.amin-ahsan-islahi.org/about-amin-ahsan-islahi/

Importance of Derivation in Arabic

Derivation (*ishtiqāq*) has always been a crucial part of morphological studies. ¹¹ A minor derivation is a common form of derivation, while supreme derivation is unconventional. *ishtiqāq aṣghar* is a derivation that shares the root letters with the source, ¹² while *isḥtiqāq aṣbar* is a derivation where the two root letters are similar to the source. ¹³ The use of *isḥtiqāq akbar* can be found in the work of ibn Duraid. ¹⁴ Among the classical scholars, notable work has been done by ibn Jinni who delineated some significant reasons that led to the change of one of the root letters, i.e., the difference in pronunciation, mishearing of words, ¹⁵ and ease in pronunciation. ¹⁶ However, others have emphasized the eloquence of the words in conveying the message as a reason for *isḥtiqāq akbar*, particularly regarding the Divine attributes of the words in the Qur'an. ¹⁷ This study first delves into the analysis of commonly accepted derivation *isḥtiqāq aṣghar* to establish a foundational meaning of the word before attempting to understand the word in the broader context by studying *isḥtiqāq akbar*.

Combining the Study of Ishtiqāq with Tafāsīr

Tadabbur al Qur'an by Islahi explains the central theme of each surah and further divides the verses of each surah according to different themes. ¹⁸ The coherence in the Qur'an is much more apparent, and the reader can understand the context better than with other approaches. ¹⁹ Tafsīr ibn Katheer (1373 CE) is another widely accepted Tafsīr that contains the authentic hadith, which is essential to analyze the context of the

¹² Elmgrab, Ramadan Ahmed. "The creation of terminology in Arabic." *American International Journal of Contemporary Research* 6, no. 2 (2016): 77.

¹¹ Gul, Saira, and Hafsa Begum. "A Morphological study of the science of Al Ishtiqaq al Akbar: an Arabic literature." *Tahdhīb al Afkār* 3, no. 1 (2016): 196-200

¹³ Makvand, Mahmood, and Narjes Tavakoli Mohammadi. "A LINGUISTIC STUDY OF YAHYĀ IBN SALLĀM'S VIEW ON QUR'ANIC VOCABULARY." :394.

¹⁴ Krenkow, Fritz. "The Beginnings of Arabic Lexicography till the time of al-Jauhari, with special reference to the work of Ibn Duraid." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 56, no. S1 (1924): 255-270.

¹⁵ Alsaad, Amal. "Enhanced root extraction and document classification algorithm for Arabic text." PhD diss., Brunel University London, 2016:49.

¹⁶ Al-Oraibi, Ali. "Derivation in usul al-fiqh." (1988): 29-30

¹⁷ Barry, Samuel Chew. "The art of the husbandry of meaning: linguistic relativity and the study of religion." PhD diss., University of Georgia, 2012: 62-63

¹⁸ Khajehei, Hassan, and Alireza Shakarami. "An in-depth linguistic analysis of the thematic connectivity in the holy Quran." *Academic Research International* 2, no. 2 (2012): 685.

¹⁹ Abrorov, Ilyes Mukhrimhonovich, Siumbel Usmanovna Sabitova, Alfiya Marselevna Khabibullina, and Mohamed Magdy Yassin. "Tafsir Application in the Customs and Rules and Social Behavior of the Various Society." *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology* 9 (2020): 2427-2433.

verses.²⁰ Even though $Tafs\bar{\imath}r$ by Islahi is a contemporary $Tafs\bar{\imath}r^{21}$ compared to $Tafs\bar{\imath}r$ Ibn Katheer,²² the methodology of the study of the thematic analysis of Islahi originates from the classical method.²³ Therefore, the two $taf\bar{\imath}s\bar{\imath}r$ complement each other.

Combining the $Tafs\bar{\imath}r$ to study the derivate of the word halal can broaden the understanding of the word. Although there is a common use of $is\underline{h}tiq\bar{a}q$ asghar for the linguistic study of the word halal, the usage of $is\underline{h}tiq\bar{a}q$ akbar is occasional. In contemporary times combining $is\underline{h}tiq\bar{a}q$ with $Taf\bar{a}s\bar{\imath}r$ can add a new dimension to the semantic analysis of the word halal in the Qur'an.

ANALYSIS OF THE DERIVATIVES

Minor Derivatives

The triliteral root $h\bar{a} l\bar{a}m l\bar{a}m (J J J)$ occurs 51 times in the Qur'an in eight derived forms²⁴:

• 14 times as the form I verb (عَلَكُ). The simplest form of verbs is usually transitive nevertheless, it is possible the verb is intransitive as well.

The meaning of the verb form I remains as something lawful in most of the verses except for the following:

O you who have believed, do not violate the rites of Allāh or [the sanctity of] the sacred month or [neglect the marking of] the sacrificial animals and garlanding [them] or [violate the safety of] those coming to the Sacred House seeking bounty from their Lord and [His] approval. But when you come out of $ihr\bar{a}m$, then [you may] hunt. And do not let the hatred of a people for having obstructed you from al-Masjid al-Ḥarām lead you to transgress. And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allāh; indeed, Allāh is severe in penalty. [al-Mā'idah 5:2]²⁵

²⁰ Rifai, Dr SLM. "Some similarities and dissimilarities between the tafsir bil r'ay and tafsir bil athar with references to some exegeses." Sulaiman Lebbe, Some similarities and dissimilarities between the tafsir bil r'ay and tafsir bil athar with references to some exegeses (October 13, 2021) (2021):6-7

²¹ Khajehei, Hassan, and Alireza Shakarami. "An in-depth linguistic analysis of the thematic connectivity in the holy Quran." :684

²² Ali, Amer Zulfiqar. "A Brief Review of Classical and Modern Tafsir Trends and Role of Modern Tafsir in Contemporary Islamic Thought." *Australian Journal of Islamic Studies* 3, no. 2 (2018): 39-52.

²³ Khalid, Shazad. "Qur'ānic Exegesis and Thematic Coherence: Comparing the Approaches of Amr Khālid and Amīn Iṣlāḥī." PhD diss., University of Wales Trinity Saint David (United Kingdom), 2013

²⁴ Quranic Arabic Corpus. https://corpus.quran.com

²⁵ Saheeh International

And you are going to know who will get a punishment that will disgrace him [on earth] and upon whom will descend an enduring punishment [in the Hereafter] [Hūd11:39]

And untie the knot from my tongue. [Tā-ha 20:27],

And if there was any Qur'ān [i.e., recitation] by which the mountains would be removed, or the earth would be broken apart, or the dead would be made to speak,[640] [it would be this Qur'ān], but to Allāh belongs the affair entirely. Then have those who believed, not accepted that had Allāh willed, He would have guided the people, all of them? And those who disbelieve do not cease to be struck, for what they have done, by calamity - or it will descend near their home - until there comes the promise of Allāh. Indeed, Allāh does not fail in [His] promise. [Ar-Ra'd13:31],

[Saying], "Eat from the good things with which We have provided you and do not transgress [or oppress others] therein, lest My anger should descend upon you. And he upon whom My anger descends has certainly fallen [i.e., perished]. [Tā-ha20:81],

So Moses returned to his people, angry and grieved.[848] He said, "O my people, did your Lord not make you a good promise?[849] Then, was the time [of its fulfillment] too long for you, or did you wish that wrath from your Lord descend upon you, so you broke your promise [of obedience] to me?" [Tā-ha 20:86],

To whom will come a torment disgracing him and on whom will descend an enduring punishment." [Az-Zumar 39:40]

In verse al-Mā'idah 5:2, the word denotes completing the *ihram*, a state after hajj when certain acts become permissible again. One of the acts is hunting. In *Tafsīr* ibn katheer, it is stated that

When you end your Ihram, you are permitted to hunt game, which was prohibited for you during Ihram. Although this Verse contains a command that takes effect after the end of a state of prohibition (during Ihram in this case), the Verse, brings back the ruling that was previously in effect. If the previous ruling was an obligation, the new command would uphold that obligation, and such is the case with recommended and permissible matters.²⁶

In verses Hūd 11:39, Tā-ha 20:81, Tā-ha 20:86, Az-Zumar 39:40, the word denotes descend. In Tafsīr Ibn Katheer, the explanation of verse Tā-ha 20:86-

Or did you desire that wrath should descend from your Lord on you. The word 'Or' here means 'Nay, but.' It is used here to separate between a previous item and a coming item. It is as if it is saying, "Nay, but you want to **make**

²⁶ Kathir, Ibn. "A compilation of the Abridged Tafsir Ibn Kathir", volumes 1–10, vol.3, pg.80.

permissible the anger of your Lord upon you by what you have done. Therefore, you have broken your promise to me.²⁷

Thus, the word denotes making the anger of Allah in the form of punishment permissible for their misdeeds.

In verse Tā-ha 20:27, the word denotes the removal of the stammering or making it permissible for the tongue to function correctly. In Tafsīr ibn Katheer

He asked for the removal of his stammering so the people would understand what he intended in his speech. He was only asking for what was necessary to deliver his message.²⁸

• 20 times as the form IV verb أَفْعَلُ (aḥallã (أَحَلُّ)) makes intransitive verbs transitive, and transitive verbs doubly so. This form means that He made himself do or perform an action. A reflexive causative, i.e., he made himself do something transformative to a place or a state.

In al-Mā'idah 5: 2, the verb form IV means violating the matter which Allah made prohibited.

O you who believe! Violate not the sanctity of *Sha'a'ir* Allah (the symbols of Allah),) Ibn Abbas said, "*Sha`a'ir* Allah means the rituals of Hajj²⁹." Mujahid said, "As-Safa and Al-Marwah,³⁰ and the sacrificial animal are the symbols of Allah." It was also stated that *Sha`a'ir* Allah is what He prohibited. Therefore, it means do not violate what Allah prohibited.³¹

From the above hadith, it is understood as making a matter permissible that Allah made prohibited.

Another meaning of the word is translated as leading.

Have you not considered those who exchanged the favor of Allāh for disbelief[658] and settled their people [in] the home of ruin?[Ibrāhīm14:28]

Ali said that it refers to the disbelievers of *Quraysh* on the day of *Badr*. He also said that the blessing of Allah was faith that came to the polytheists of *Quraysh*, and they changed this blessing into disbelief and led their people to utter destruction. This includes all disbelievers, for Allah sent Muhammad as a mercy and a blessing to all humankind. Those who accepted this blessing and were

²⁷ Kathir, Ibn. "A compilation of the Abridged Tafsir Ibn Kathir Volumes 1–10, vol.6, pg:336-337

²⁸ Kathir, Ibn. "A compilation of the Abridged Tafsir Ibn Kathir Volumes 1–10 vol.6 pg:336

²⁹ Hajj is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the holiest city for Muslims. Hajj is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime

³⁰ The hills of Safa and Marwah (الصفا و المروة) are two peaks in the <u>Sacred Mosque Complex</u> (Great Mosque of Mecca) between which Muslims travel back and forth seven times during the ritual pilgrimages of Hajj and Umrah.

³¹ Kathir, Ibn. "A compilation of the Abridged Tafsir Ibn Kathir Volumes 1–10, vol.3 pg:76

thankful for it will enter Paradise, while those who denied it and disbelieved in it, will enter the Fire.³²

Therefore, the word denotes making permissible disbelief through lying or deception.

In the verse "He who has settled us in the home of duration [i.e., Paradise] out of His bounty. There touches us not in it any fatigue, and there touches us not in it weariness [of mind]" [Fātir 35:35] the word is translated as settled.

In *Tafsīr* ibn katheer it is explained

Who, out of His grace, has lodged us in a home that will last forever,) means, 'Who has given us this position and status out of His grace, blessing, and mercy, for our good deeds are not equivalent to this.' It was reported in the Sahih that the Messenger of Allah said: - (None of you will enter Paradise by virtue of his good deeds.) They said, "Not even you, O Messenger of Allah."³³

Thus, the word denotes making the Jannah permissible for the believers.

• five times as the noun hilun (حِلّ)

In verse "And you, [O Muḥammad], are free of restriction in this city. [Al-Balad 90:2]", it is translated as free, which means it is allowed to fight in the city.

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said, "Allah made it lawful (to fight in) for him (the Prophet) for one hour of a day."

Once as the noun ḥalāîyil (حَلَائِك)

Allah SWT says:

Prohibited to you [for marriage] are your mothers, your daughters, your sisters, your father's sisters, your mother's sisters, your brother's daughters, your sister's daughters, your [milk] mothers who nursed you, your sisters through nursing, your wives' mothers, and your step-daughters under your guardianship [born] of your wives unto whom you have gone in. But if you have not gone in unto them, there is no sin upon you. And [also prohibited are] the wives of your sons who are from your [own] loins, and that you take [in marriage] two sisters simultaneously, except for what has already occurred. Indeed, Allāh is ever Forgiving and Merciful [An-Nisā'4:23]. In this verse, the word *ḥalāîyil* denotes wives of the son. The explanation in tafāsīr is that the wives who are permissible for the sons are not permitted to be married even if the marriage has not been consummated³⁴.

- 6 times as the noun halã 'l (حلال)
- 3 times as the noun mahila (مَحِلّ)

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³² Kathir, Ibn. "A compilation of the Abridged Tafsir Ibn Kathir Volumes 1–10, vol.5, pg:353

³³ Ibid., vol.8, pg: 152

³⁴ Ibid., vol.10,pg:415

All three verses with the derivate mean a place permissible for sacrifice. It is not permissible to sacrifice the animal outside the *Makkah*.

• Once as the form II verbal noun taḥillāt (تَحِلَّة) A verb that was previously transitive becomes doubly so, "to make one learn," i.e., "to teach." This form denotes three types of action: Repetition or Intensity of the verb, he made himself do (to make himself), causative (to make another do).

In verse, Allāh has already ordained for you [Muslims] the dissolution of your oaths. And Allāh is your protector, and He is the Knowing, the Wise. [At-Tahrīm 66:2] The word means dissolution of an oath one cannot carry on. This is from the mercy of Allah that he makes it permissible for the person even if he might have taken an oath previously.

• Once as the form IV active participle muḥillī (مُحِلِّى)

Major Derivatives

Five words have been found in the Qur'an³⁵. These words have two similar root letters with the word $halal.^{36}$

• halaf (hā lām fā) means to take an oath or a declaration. In the Qur'an, this action of swearing is not based on solid determination but a light one. The verse explains the nature of the oath by the disbelievers.

They swear by Allah to you [Muslims] to satisfy you. But Allah and His Messenger are more worthy for them to help if they should be believers. [At-Tawbah 9:62]

From the perspective of Divine guidance, to make something *ḥalal* is a kind of declaration from Allah regarding the matter being permissible. However, humans can be prone to mistakes and declare something *ḥalal* due to a lack of knowledge. Among contemporary practices, Muslim countries use a *ḥalal* logo or certification that asserts the permissibility of the product to be used.³⁷

• ḥalāqa (ḥā lām qāf) means the process of eliminating. In the verse below, shaving the head leads to removing the hair.

And do not shave your heads until the sacrificial animal has reached its place of slaughter [Al Baqarah 2:196]

Excluding some issues is part of declaring something halal because the matter might be deemed harmful. For example, the meat of domestic animals is halal, except pork, dead animals, etc.³⁸

³⁶ Al Amaany Dictionary. https://www.almaany.com

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³⁵ Quranic Arabic Corpus.

³⁷ Art.1.3, Halal Product Certification Act 2014.

³⁸ Al Quran Maidah5:3

• hulmun (hā lām mīm) means the quality of being prudent. The following verses explain the importance of being knowledgeable about a particular matter.

They said, [It is but] a mixture of false dreams, and we are not learned in the interpretation of dreams. [Yūsuf 12:44]

Indeed, Abraham was forbearing, grieving, and [frequently] returning [to Allah]. [Hūd 11:75]

Declaring something *ḥalal* that excludes certain matters requires comprehension of the entire situation and wisdom to assess the correct action.

• halíyuñ (hā lām yā) means to make something precious and sweet, like a piece of jewelry. In the following verse, the analogy of the truth is like an adornment with long-term benefits.

He sends down from the sky, rain and valleys flow according to their capacity, and the torrent carries a rising foam. And from that [ore] which they heat in the fire, desiring adornments and utensils, is a foam like it. Thus, Allah presents [the example of] truth and falsehood. As for the foam, it vanishes, [being] cast off; but as for that which benefits the people, it remains on the earth. Thus does Allah presents examples. [Ar-Ra'd13:17]

Declaring a matter *ḥalal* after considering the whole situation and excluding the harmful matters becomes soothing and precious for the believers as it will help them carry out their Islamic obligation, gain worldly benefit and bring peace of mind. "If the benefit outweighs the harm, then the correct view is that it is permissible because it is a well-established principle that greater benefits take precedence over lesser harms." ³⁹

Findings

After studying the minor derivates, most of the verses among the 51 verses have the meaning of making something **permissible** (الَّهُ الْمُعَلِّمُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ that is the use of it has been decreed by Allah. The second most common meaning is **descending** it the punishment of Allah which has been decreed upon a particular group of people. In some verses, it has been used as a warning. Some other meanings which share a common theme with the previous ones are — lawful **wives** of the sons وَ اَحُلَانُكُ palaces that have been made permissible for dwelling and sacrificing animals, and permissibility of taking off the ihram 40. The other meaning is permissible **absolution** of oath. In other verses, it contains the meaning of **violating**, that is, making something permissible that Allah has made impermissible. The last meaning is **removing** the knot \tilde{g} or making it easy, which again is a result of making something acceptable to function properly.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the word halal and its minor derivates share the common theme of declaring something permissible. In addition, it could also mean

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³⁹ Adwa' al-Bayaan Tafseer of Muhammad amen ash shanqeetee (7/793-794)

⁴⁰ sacred state into which a Muslim must enter in order to perform the hajj (major pilgrimage) or the 'umrah (minor pilgrimage).

breaking down or analyzing. Thus, it becomes a warrant for the correct course of action, which is considered legitimate.

Moreover, all the supreme derivates share common themes with the word halal. The meaning which can be derived is to declare (halaf) a practice permissible based on the revelation of the Qur'an and sunnah and after scrutinizing the circumstances and exerting intellectual effort $(hulmu^n)$ to eliminate the impermissible practices (halaqa). Thus, the legitimate practice becomes something significant and assuring (halaqa) for the believers to follow.

From analyzing the words with two common root letters, one can derive a meaning that not only give an in-depth understanding of the word *ḥalal* but also explain the process and the consequence of making something halal.

After the analysis of the two types of derivation, one can gain an in-depth meaning of the word halal and also the consideration that should be taken to label something as halal.

Thematic Tafāsīr and the Verses of Surah Al Bagarah

To validate the findings, this part of the article has studied the seven verses of the Qur'an from *Surah Al Baqarah*, which contain the word *ḥalal*. To comprehend the relation, first the central theme of *Surah al Baqarah* is studied from the *Tafsīr* by Islahi, and the seven verses were analyzed from the *Tafsīr* Ibn Katheer along with scholarly opinion, relevant hadith, and other related verses of the Qur'an.

Theme of Surah Al Bagarah

The audiences of the Surah were mainly the Arabs, the Jews, the Christians, hypocrites, and the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) himself. The central theme of the *surah* is connected into six distinct parts. These parts have been divided based on the subject matter. There is an introduction, four sections with different subject matters, and an epilogue.

The central theme of the *surah* is to establish the faith in Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Qur'an after the belief in Allah, which was the main theme in the previous *surah*, *Al Fatiha*.

The surah has an introduction that distinguishes believers from disbelievers based on specific traits. The believers are submissive and fearful of Allah, and the book has been given to them as guidance.

This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allah. [Al Baqarah2:2]

The believers are said to have profound respect for all the Divine Books sent to the early nations.

And who believe in what has been revealed to you, [O Muhammad], and what was revealed before you, and of the Hereafter they are certain [in faith]. [Al Baqarah2:4]

On the other hand, disbelievers are labeled as arrogant and hypocrites. The *surah* further sheds light on the story of Adam and Satan and represents the submissive nature of believers and the arrogant nature of the disbelievers. The viceregency of Adam on this earth is carried forward by Prophets Muhammad (PBUH) and facilitated by the Qur'an, which contains guidance, including the laws.

We said, go down from it, all of you. And when guidance comes to you from Me, whoever follows My guidance – there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve. [Al Baqarah2:38]

After the introduction, the first part of the surah discusses the importance of faithbased actions. The nations of Jews and Christians are advised to follow the revelation which affirms the revelation sent to them earlier.

And believe in what I have sent down confirming that which is [already] with you, and be not the first to disbelieve in it. And do not exchange My signs for a small price, and fear [only] Me. Al Baqarah2:41

The early nations of Jews and Christians who received guidance from Allah through messengers and Divine Books failed to implement it due to their arrogance of being the descendent of Ibrahim and Jacob. They lost respect for the Divine Books and revealed laws due to their belief in superstition and did not feel guilty about changing the laws of the Divine Books.

The second section discusses the feud between them regarding the right direction of prayer Ibraheem (PBUH) built, the *Kabah*. It was in the earlier scripture, but the Jews have changed their Divine Books, which contain the truth.

And We did certainly give Moses the Torah and followed up after him with messengers. And We gave Jesus, the son of Mary, clear proofs and supported him with the Pure Spirit. But is it [not] that every time a messenger came to you, [O Children of Israel], with what your souls did not desire, you were arrogant? And a party [of messengers] you denied and another party you killed. [Al Baqarah2:87]

The story of Ibraheem and his prayer for a just community of worshipers have been fulfilled by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his followers.

Our Lord, and send among them a messenger from themselves who will recite to them Your verses and teach them the Book and wisdom and purify them. Indeed, You are the Exalted in Might, the Wise." [Al Baqarah2:129]

The third section discusses the various laws regarding *hajj*, marriage, divorce, etc. In addition, the changes that took place in the earlier scriptures and the perception of the idol worshippers regarding these commandments are also revealed.

Indeed, those who conceal what We sent down of clear proofs and guidance after We made it clear for the people in the Scripture – those are cursed by Allah and cursed by those who curse [Al Baqarah 2:159]

The fourth section calls for the Muslims to wage war to liberate *Ka'bah*. In the process, they must sacrifice and spend and eliminate usury.

The concluding part of the surah emphasizes the various pillars of faith and belief in the Divine books and Messengers to whom the Divine guidance is revealed.

The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers. [Al Baqarah2:285]⁴¹

From analyzing the central theme of the *Surah* along with different subject matters of 6 sections, it is found that adhering to revealed laws has been emphasized repeatedly. Failure to adhere to Divine laws is a sign of hypocrisy and can lead to Divine punishment, whereas adhering to the laws is the cornerstone to building a just society. Application of the revealed laws can be best understood by studying the authentic *hadith*, which can further clarify the context of the revealed laws and the impact of these laws on the early community.

Analysis of the Verses

Among the seven verses, six verses belong to the third section, which deals with laws, and the last verse belongs to the fourth section, which deals with war and sacrifices to be made. The third and fourth section reiterates the central theme of adhering to the message of the Prophet (peace be upon Him) and the Qur'an. Authentic hadith are studied for contextual analysis of the verses to corroborate the findings from analyzing the derivates. The following themes are explored- what has been made legitimate, the practicality of the matter made legitimate, the usefulness in discarding the impermissible or impure matter, and the positive impact of the legitimate matter.

Surah Al Bagarah Verse 168

O mankind, eat from whatever is on earth [that is] **lawful** and good, and do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Indeed, he is to you a clear enemy. [Al Baqarah 2:168]

Table 1: Surah Al Baqarah Verse 168⁴²

Themes	Explanation
What has been made legitimate	Any pure food on the earth has been made ḥalal
The practicality of the matter made legitimate	By consuming the food, they do not create any artificial food shortage. As people have submitted to Islam, they should not engage in any form of idolatry, like-

⁴¹ Işlāḥī, Amīn Aḥsan. *Tafsir of Surah al-Fātihan and Surah al-Baqarah*. Vol. 1. The Other Press, 2007.

⁴² Reporting from Abu Salih, alKalbi said: "This was revealed about Thaqif, Khuza'ah and 'Amir ibn Sa'saa who forbade themselves certain foods and meats. They forbade the Bahirah, al-Sa'ibah, al-Wasilah as well as al-Hamiyah"...

	forgoing the consumption of some food in the name of an idol.
Usefulness in discarding the impermissible or impure matter	Here the impure matters are- forgoing the blessings of pure food, engaging in idolatry, and following the footsteps of Shaitan. All these matters can lead to hypocrisy and disbelief, like the people of early nations. ⁴³
The positive impact of the legitimate matter	People derive blessings from consuming pure food. It also eliminates a form of idolatry. Unlike the early nations, Muslims do not follow distorted practices, so they are immune to hypocrisy.

Surah Bagarah Verse 187

It has been **made permissible** for you to be intimate with your wives during the nights preceding the fast. [Al Baqarah 2:187]

Table 2: Surah Al Bagarah Verse 18744

Themes	Explanation
What has been made legitimate	Sleeping with wife in the night of fasting. It abrogates the previous law.
The practicality of the matter made legitimate	The early law was too difficult to continue a normal lifestyle. Easing the

⁴³ After Allah stated that there is no deity worthy of worship except Him and that He Alone created the creation, He stated that He is the Sustainer for all His creation, and He mentioned a favor that He granted them; He has allowed them to eat any of the pure lawful things on the earth that do not cause harm to the body or the mind. He also forbade them from following the footsteps of Shaytan, meaning his ways and methods with which he misguides his followers, like prohibiting the Bahirah (a she-camel whose milk was spared for the idols and nobody was allowed to milk it), or Sa'ibah (a she-camel let loose for free pasture for the idols and nothing was allowed to be carried on it), or a Wasilah (a she-camel set free for idols because it has given birth to a she-camel at its first delivery and then again gives birth to a she-camel at its second delivery), and all of the other things that Shaytan made attractive to them during the time of Jahiliyyah. (*Tafseer Ibn Kaheer*, vol.1, pg 465)

⁴⁴ Abu Bakr al-Asfahani informed us> Abu'l-Shaykh al-Hafiz> 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Muhammad al-Razi> Sahl ibn 'Uthman al-'Askari> Yahya ibn Abi Za'idah> his father and others> Abu Ishaq> al-Bara' ibn 'Azib who said: "After breaking their fast, the Muslims used to be allowed to eat, drink and have sexual intercourse for as long as they did not sleep. Once they went to sleep, they were forbidden to do all these things until the following when they broke their fast. Qays ibn Sirma al-Ansari went to his wife at the time of breaking the fast. His wife went out to get something [to eat]. While he was waiting, he fell asleep [and therefore could not eat until the following night]. The following day he fainted in the middle of the day. 'Umar ibn al-Khattab also had sexual intercourse with his wife after he found her sleeping. He mentioned what had happened to the Prophet, Allah bless him and give him peace, and the verse (is made lawful for you to go in unto your wives on the night of the fast...) was revealed, up to Allah's saying (... of the dawn.)

	law has made it easy for them to maintain a balanced lifestyle. 45
Usefulness in discarding the	Earlier, it was not allowed to eat,
impermissible or impure matter	drink or have relations with a spouse after one had slept on the night of fasting. This law has been changed as some used to lie and others used to fall sick. So, by reducing the restriction, people can worship Allah better than earlier.
The positive impact of the legitimate matter	Muslims can fulfill their religious obligations and worldly needs with ease. If the previous law were difficult for early Muslims, it would be difficult for later too. So, the new law is a blessing for the future generation.

And do not shave your heads until the sacrificial animal reaches its **destination**.[Al Baqarah 2:196]

Table 3: Surah Al Baqarah Verse 196⁴⁶

Themes	Explanation
What has not been made legitimate	It is not allowed to shave the head
	before the animal reaches Makkah.
The practicality of the matter is not	All of <i>Makkah</i> is a place of sacrifice.
made legitimate	Pilgrims have a fixed time and place to
	shave their heads.
Usefulness in discarding the	Makkah is a special place of worship,
impermissible or impure matter	and sacrificing animals to please Allah is
	a worship. Pilgrims cannot make a

⁴⁵ Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Al-Hasan, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Muqatil bin Hayyan said that this Verse means, "Your wives are a resort for you and you for them." Ar-Rabi` bin Anas said, "They are your cover and you are their cover." In short, the wife and the husband are intimate and have sexual intercourse with each other, and this is why they were permitted to have sexual activity during the nights of Ramadan, so that matters are made easier for them. (Tafseer Inb Kathee, vol. 1, pg; 509)

⁴⁶ Ka'b ibn 'Ujrah who said: "The verse (And whoever among you is sick or hath an ailment of the head...) was revealed about me. I had informed the Prophet, Allah bless him and give him peace, that I had lice in my head [while I was in a state of ritual consecration]. He said to me: "Shave your head and, as expiation, fast three days, offer a sacrifice, or feed six poor people, giving a measure of food (sa') for each one of them"

	sacrifice at any place as it does not have the same importance as <i>Makkah</i> . ⁴⁷
The positive impact of the legitimate	Pilgrims will know where to sacrifice
matter	and make a mental note. 48 They are
	carrying out an act of worship in the
	haram, which assures them that Makkah
	is a place of purity and worship, so they
	will avoid any impermissible actions
	here.

Divorced women must wait for three monthly cycles 'before they can re-marry'. It is **not lawful** for them to conceal what Allah has created in their wombs. [Al Baqarah 2:228]

Table 6: Surah Al Bagarah Verse 228⁴⁹

Themes	Explanation
What has not been made legitimate	Not allowed to hide the pregnancy
	after the revocable divorce
The practicality of the matter made	It gives time for the man to make a
legitimate.	conscious decision. ⁵⁰ The father has
	financial responsibility for his

End quote from al-Majmoo', 7/463

49 (...and it is not lawful for them to conceal what Allah has created in their wombs,) meaning, pregnancy or menstruation periods. This is the Tafsir of Ibn `Abbas, Ibn `Umar, Mujahid, Ash-Sha`bi, Al-Hakam bin `Utaybah, Ar-Rabi` bin Anas, Ad-Dahhak, and others. This Verse warns women against hiding the truth (if they were pregnant or on their menses), indicating that they are the authority in such matters as they alone know such facts about themselves. Since verifying such matters is difficult, Allah left this decision with them. Yet, women were warned not to hide the truth in case they wish to end the `Iddah sooner, or later, according to their desires. Women were thus commanded to say the truth (if they were pregnant or on their menses), no more and no less. (Tafsir Ibn Kathir, vol. 2, pg;632).

 ⁴⁷ The Prophet (PBUH) said: "All of Mina is the place of sacrifice, and all the days of al-tashriq are days of sacrifice." (The hadith was classed as sahih by al-Albani in al-Silsilah al-Sahihah, 2476)
⁴⁸ An-Nawawi (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

The boundary of the Haram in the direction of Madinah is before at-Tan'eem, by the houses of Banu Nifaar, three miles from Makkah. On the road to Yemen, the boundary is Adaat Libn, seven miles from Makkah. On the road to at-Taa'if it is at 'Arafaat, at the bottom of Namirah, seven miles away. On the road to Iraq it is the mountain pass of al-Muqatta', seven miles away. On the road to al-Ji'raanah it is in the mountain pass of Aal 'Abdillah ibn Khaalid, nine miles away. On the road to Jeddah it is Munqati'al-A'shaash, ten miles from Makkah.

⁵⁰ the husband who divorces his wife can take her back, providing she is still in her `Iddah (time spent before a divorced woman or a widow can remarry) and that his aim, by taking her back, is righteous and for the purpose of bringing things back to normal. However, this ruling applies where the husband is eligible to take his divorced wife back. (Ibn Kathir).

	children, ⁵¹ so he might take back his wife for the sake of his child.
Usefulness in discarding the	Hiding the matter of pregnancy will
impermissible or impure matter	create chaos if the woman marries
	another man.
The positive impact of the legitimate	Stops the divorce from happening if
matter	the man decides to take back his wife.
	If the woman is pregnant, the child
	If the woman is pregnant, the child and the mother's financial rights are

It is **not lawful** for husbands to take back anything of the dowry given to their wives, unless the couple fears not being able to keep within the limits of Allah. [Al Baqarah 2:229]

Table 4: Surah Al Baqarah Verse 22952

Themes	Explanation
What has not been made legitimate	Not permissible for the man to take back his wife's mahr ⁵³ unless she seeks <i>khul</i> .
The practicality of the matter that has not been made legitimate	Mahr seals the commitment of the husband to his wife. ⁵⁴ Taking back the mahr implies harshness towards the wife. ⁵⁵
Usefulness in discarding the impermissible or impure matter	It is not allowed for the husband to take it back when they are married as it

⁵¹ "but the father of the child shall bear the cost of the mother's food and clothing on a reasonable basis"[al-Baqarah 2:233]

Al-Bukhari reported that Ibn `Abbas said that the wife of Thabit bin Qays bin Shammas came to the Prophet and said, "O Messenger of Allah! I do not criticize his religion or mannerism. But I hate committing Kufr in Islam (by ignoring his rights on her)." Allah's Messenger said: Will you give him back his garden) She said, "Yes." Allah's Messenger said: Take back the garden and divorce her once.) Sahih al Bukhari 5276, Book 68, Hadith 25.

⁵³ And it is not lawful for you (men) to take back (from your wives) any of (the dowry) what you gave them,) meaning, you are not allowed to bother or pressure your wives to end this situation by giving you back the Mahr and any gifts that you have given them (in return for divorce)

⁵⁴ "And give to the women (whom you marry) their mahr (obligatory bridal money given by the husband to his wife at the time of marriage) with a good heart..." [al-Nisa 4:4]

⁵⁵ and you should not treat them with harshness, that you may take away part of what you have given them, unless they commit open illegal sexual intercourse.) [al-Nisa4:19]

	breaches the commitment given. If a Muslim man wants a second wife, he might be lured to divorce the first wife and take the <i>mahr</i> . 56
The positive impact of the legitimate	It implies that the man has a financial
matter	obligation. It also ensures women's
	economic rights in Islam. ⁵⁷

So, if a husband divorces his wife 'three times', then it is **not lawful** for him to remarry her until after she has married another man and then is divorced.

Table 5: Surah Al Baqarah Verse 230⁵⁸

Themes	Explanation
What has not been made legitimate	After the divorce, the couple can only
	remarry if the wife has been married to
	another man.
The practicality of the matter made	Divorce is a serious matter. Allowing
not legitimate	remarrying would not make the man
	take a conscious decision.
Usefulness in discarding the	Allowing remarrying without a
impermissible or impure matter	second marriage would lead the man to
	give divorce frivolously, and thus taking
	the oath in the name of Allah will
	become a light matter. ⁵⁹
The positive impact of the legitimate	The marriage is taken seriously. The
matter	effort is exerted to make a conscious
	decision. Marriage is the foundation of a

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⁵⁶ Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "But if you intend to replace a wife by another and you have given one of them a cantar (of gold, i.e., a great amount) as mahr, take not the least bit of it back; would you take it wrongfully without a right and (with) a manifest sin? And how could you take it (back) when you have gone in unto each other, and they have taken from you a firm and strong covenant?" [al-Nisa 4:20-21]

⁵⁷ "When a man married off his daughter, he would take her mahr away from her, but Allah forbade them to do that, and gave women the right to the mahr they received." Kathir, Ibn. "A compilation of the Abridged Tafsir Ibn Kathir Volumes 1-10. Vol.2

⁵⁸ 'A'ishah said that Allah's Messenger was asked about a woman who marries a man who thereafter divorces her (thrice). She then marries another man and he divorces her before he has sexual relations with her, would she be allowed for her first husband Allah's Messenger said: No until he enjoys her 'Usaylah (sexual relation).) Sahih Al-Bukhari 5261,Book 68, Hadith 11.

⁵⁹ This honorable Verse abrogated the previous practice in the beginning of Islam, when the man had the right to take back his divorced wife even if he had divorced her a hundred times, as long as she was still in her 'Iddah (waiting period). This situation was harmful for the wife, and this is why Allah made the divorce thrice, where the husband is allowed to take back his wife after the first and the second divorce (as long as she is still in her 'Iddah). (Tafseer Ibn Katheer)

good society, and the law ensures it
should be taken seriously.

Those who consume interest will stand 'on Judgment Day' like those driven to madness by Satan's touch. That is because they say, "Trade is no different than interest." But Allah has **permitted trading** and forbidden interest. [Al Baqarah 2: 275]⁶⁰

Table 7: Surah Al Bagarah Verse 275⁶¹

Themes	Explanation
What has been made legitimate	Trade has been made permissible
The practicality of the matter made	People can fulfill the materialistic
legitimate	need for goods and services and earn
	money in a just manner.
Usefulness in discarding the	Trade is a fair way to make money,
impermissible or impure matter	while riba ⁶² is an injustice.
The positive impact of the legitimate	Increases one's knowledge of the art
matter	of trade and earns money in a just
	manner. Moreover, it enriches society by
	fulfilling materialistic needs. ⁶³

⁶⁰ Riba is an Arabic word that means "to increase" or "to exceed" and is commonly used in reference to unequal exchanges or charges and fees for borrowing. <u>Interest</u> is deemed riba, or an unjust, exploitative gain, and such practice is forbidden under Islamic law. https://www.investopedia.com/terms/r/riba.asp

Indicates that the disbelievers claimed that Riba was allowed due to the fact that they rejected Allah's commandments, not that they equated Riba with a regular trade. The disbelievers did not recognize that Allah allowed trade in the Qur'an, for if they did, they would have said, "Riba is trade."(Trading is only like Riba) meaning, they are similar, so why did Allah allow this, but did not allow that, they asked in defiance of Allah's commandments. (Whereas Allah has permitted trading and forbidden Riba) might be a continuation of the answer to the disbelievers' claim, who uttered it, although they knew that Allah decided that ruling on trade is different from that of Riba. Indeed, Allah is the Most Knowledgeable, Most Wise, whose decision is never resisted. Allah is never asked about what He does, while they will be asked. He is knowledgeable of the true reality of all things and the benefits they carry. He knows what benefits His servants, so He allows it for them, and what harms them, so He forbids them from it. He is more merciful with them than the mother with her own infant

⁶² After Allah mentioned the righteous believers who give charity, pay Zakah and spend on their relatives and families at various times and conditions, He then mentioned those who deal in usury and illegally acquire people's money, using various evil methods and wicked ways.

⁶³ Sayyiduna Sakhr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was a trader and would send his trade goods (in travel) in early morning. With the blessing of this, he became very rich and his wealth increased so much that he was unable to decide where to store it. (Abu Dawood, vol. 3, pp. 51, Hadees 2606; At-Tareekh-ul-Kabeer lil-Bukhari, vol. 4, pp. 259)

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the derivates of the word *ḥalal* shows that there are common themes among all the verses, which facilitate the semantic study of the word. The common themes can be further validated by analyzing the verses in *Surah al Baqarah* based on the subject matters of the *Surah* and related *hadith* for each verse.

A study of the verses with the minor derivates shows that words sharing common root words indicate a matter made permissible by divine law. Permissibility is the common theme, while the subject matter could be of various categories. It could be a physical subject matter which has been made permissible, like food and drinks, conjugal relation, or it could be an action like violating the law by making something permissible that has been made impermissible by Allah, absolution of an oath, and taking off the ihram. Another category is where Allah intervenes directly, like punishing the disbelievers and loosening the knot of the tongue.

The study further delves into analyzing the supreme derivates that share two common root letters. It also broadens the semantic analysis of the word <code>halal</code>. It provides an in-depth meaning which includes the nature of dealing with the legislation, the process of legislating a matter, and the impact of the process. One common theme is a process of declaration or taking an oath regarding the permissibility of the subject matter. When legislated by humans, the declaration can be prone to mistakes due to a lack of knowledge. The other common themes include eliminating the harmful matter for the greater good, using wisdom when scrutinizing the situation, and having a positive impact due to making something permissible.

To corroborate the findings, seven verses with the word halal from *Surah Al Baqarah* were analyzed. The thematic study of Surah Al Baqarah further substantiated the analysis of the seven verses. The central theme of *Surah Al Baqarah* is the faith in Muhammad (PBUH) and the Qur'an, reiterated in the 3rd and 4th sections of the *Surah*. The previous sections warned the believers about the failures of early nations in adhering to the Divine Book and the reasons for it. These warnings are given to establish strong faith in the believers' hearts and prepare them psychologically to adhere to the Qur'an. The analysis of these laws based on the *tafāsīr*, *hadith*, and related verses shows that all the common themes from the study of the derivates are present.

Thus, the semantic study of the word halal based on the 2 types of derivates along with the study of the verses shows that the method can provide a comprehensive meaning of the word. The findings can further enable us to evaluate contemporary subjects like- The halal Industry.

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