

# The Critical Discourse Analysis of Translation Shift in إسرائيل /Israel/ in Republika

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## Abstract

This research studies the translation shift in the word 'Israel'. Word 'Israel' initially referred to the Prophet Ya'qub, but in the present, the meaning has shifted to the state of Israel in the association with colonizer and Zionist. This study aims to analyze chronological history of the shifting meaning of the word Israel and the discourse that was built in it. This research uses qualitative method with descriptive approach. The data contained in this research is sourced from mass media of Republika online was entitled "The Israeli Plane Attacked Syria" which was published on Tuesday, 9 December 2014. This study uses the approach of Critical Discourse Analysis model of Norman Fairclough (1995) and translation shift theory of Abdul Chaer (2014). Based on the headline, the authors successfully found 20 propositions. From the findings, the meaning of the word Israel in the news published by Republika online has undergone a shift in the overall field of meaning because Israel described in the online newspaper Republika no longer means a prophet Ya'qub with his prophetic properties, but Israel those who have war equipment and their actions are always trying to intimidate and occupy other countries around it.

**Keywords:** critical discourse analysis, Israel, translation shift, newspaper.

## Introduction

The background of this research is the translation shift of the word إسرائيل /Israel/ which at the beginning meant Prophet Ya'qub, but now the meaning alters to a nation which built a nation named Israel, as the phrase Bani Israel in the Qur'an is translated as the people of Prophet Ya'qub. In *Qashash Al-Anbiyaa*, Ibnu Katsir wrote that when Prophet Ya'qub went back to his hometown, an angel came to him. The angel said that Prophet Ya'qub's name changed to Israel. It meant "walking in the night". It happened because Prophet Ya'qub usually traveled in the night (Katsir, 2015, p. 293).

According to Abdul Muta'ali in his article "Israel and Palestine Conflict on Language and Fiqh Syasah Perspective" published in *Jurnal Ahkam* (Vol. 18 No.1), there is translation shift if the word Israel is used together with the word *Bani*. With the additional word *Bani*, it refers to the United States, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations. So, when it is associated with the present reality, Israel without the support of *Bani* is nothing. In the journal article, Abdul Muta'ali also wrote that phrase بني إسرائيل /*Bani Israail*/ appears 43 times in the Qur'an, while word Israel is on mentioned once in the Qur'an in Chapter Al-Imran verse 93 (Muta'ali, 2018, p. 10 – 13), as it is below:

*Kullu aṭ-ṭa`āmi kāna ḥillān libanī 'isrā'īla 'illā mā ḥarrama' isrā'īlu `alā nafsihi min qabli' an tunazzala at-tawrāatu ۞ qul fa'tū bit-tawrāti fātūhā in kuntum ṣādiqīna.*

"All food was lawful to the Children of Israel except what Israel had made unlawful to himself before the Torah was revealed. Say, [O Muhammad], so bring the Torah and recite it, if you should be truthful."

As shown from the verse above, translation shift has happened on word Israel which was caused because the collocate Bani is attached with it. This phenomenon results in semantic change in a word. So, the word Israel meaning in the Qur`an which was once Prophet Ya`qub shifted to other meaning which is no longer associated with Prophet Ya`qub.

Some newspapers, specifically national popular newspapers such like Republika, often publish news about conflict of Israel and Palestine daily. Moreover, Republika online news creates special sub-column for the Middle East and Palestine news in its International column. It could be found from the news the online Republika published (<http://www.republika.co.id/>) between 2008 to today. The first news about conflict of Israel and Palestine was firstly published by Republika Online on 30 June 2008 with the title "Israel Agreed Prisoners Exchange with Hizbullah".

Translation shift in the word Israel in news articles Republika online is associated with the colonizer which could be proven with translation shift theory and critical discourse analysis modeled by Norman Fairclough (1995). The analysis consists of text (microstructure), discursive practice (mesostructured) and social practice (macrostructure). Based on this background there are two questions to answer in this study: firstly, how the translation shift happened and how the word Israel meaning as illustrated in the news of Republika online through critical discourse analysis of Norman Fairclough.

## **Literature Review**

### **Critical Analysis Discourse**

Fairclough divided this analysis discourse into three dimensional fractions: text (the tradition of close textual and linguistic analysis within linguistic); discourse practice (the macro sociological tradition of analysing social practice in relation to social structures); and sociocultural practice (the interpretive or micro sociological tradition of seeing social practice as something which people actively produce and make sense of on a basis of shared common sense procedures). (Fairclough, 1995, p. 2)

Text (microstructure) is analyzed linguistically by looking at the cohesion and the coherence which cover lexical, repetition, pronoun, reduplication, conjunction, synonym, and antonym. Furthermore, it is examined through its grammar which includes transitive, intransitive, theme and modality, and diction used in a text. Discursive practice (mesostructure) is related to the production process, text distribution, and text consumption. Social practice (macrostructure) discussion includes three levels which are situational level (related with time and context the event is published in the news); institutional level (related with institutional influence either internal or external); and social level (related with political system, economy, and culture). (Fairclough, 1995, p. 2 – 19)

### **Translation Shift**

In *Lingusitik Umum*, Abdul Chaer explained that translation shift in a word possibly occurs diachronically. He argues that the causes of translation shift are five factors, which are (1) technology and science enhancement, (2) social and cultural development, (3) word usage development, (4) synaesthesia or, and (5) association of an expression with other related reality. Furthermore, there are three types of

translation shift. Firstly, extensive shift, for instance, when a word initially means A but change to B. Secondly, narrowing shift happens when a word has general meaning but then has a specific meaning. Lastly, it is a total change when the initial meaning completely change to new meaning (Chaer, 2014, p. 310 – 314).

### **Article: Israel and Palestine Conflict on Language and Fiqh Syasah Perspective**

Abdul Muta'ali's article in Journal Ahkam Volume 18 Number 1 entitled "Israel and Palestine Conflict on Language and Fiqh Syasah Perspective" discuss the linguistic design of the Israel-Palestine conflict in several religious texts, as well as the form of text and context of solutions the two countries conflict namely Israel-Palestine. The approach used is analytical content with a review of *Fiqh Syasah*. The finding of language studies, the words Israel and Judaism is used as evidence of harmony in the Quranic text with the facts that occur at this time, while the research conducted by the author focuses on the shifting meaning of the word Israel and to reveal the meaning of the word Israel in Republika online using the approach of Critical Discourse Analysis model of Norman Fairclough, 1995.

### **Research Method**

The methodology employed in this article is a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. The database is library research. The stages of research begin with data collection. The data are taken from literature and primary data comes from Republika online because Republika online is quite active in publishing news about Israel and Palestine and other Israeli-related conflicts.

Research data collection begins with calculating the number of Israel words in the Qur'an and record the meanings contained in it, then continued with the data selection process taken from the online newspaper Republika which is accessed through the site <http://www.republika.co.id/>. The author searches for news within a span of time 2014 - 2017 by entering the keyword "Israel". Then do the calculation of data in the amount of news that write the word of Israel and record the meanings contained in each news. From these reports, a news item entitled "The Israeli Plane Attacked Syria" was published on Tuesday, December 9, 2014. This news is chosen because the existing proposition adequately presents the process of translation shift that occurs in the word Israel. The next step is to analyze the propositions related to the research with the approach of Critical Discourse Analysis model of Norman Fairclough, 1995 and translation shift theory of Abdul Chaer, 2014. Finally, the author gives a conclusion to answer the problem in this study.

### **Results and Discussion**

In the conducted research, it was found that Republika online in the time span of 2014 – 2017 contains 11,434 news headlines in which there is the word Israel. Writings are derived from various columns, such as the international column, *Khazanah*, sports, and automotive columns. Details of the data can be seen in the table below.

**Table 1.** Total of News containing the word Israel

<b>Month</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
January	215	389	144	220
February	134	181	110	147
March	183	240	336	125
April	180	222	121	90
May	160	180	121	127
June	146	189	108	108
July	1201	188	55	284
August	966	169	89	132



### **Dimensional Discourse Identification of the Word** إسرائيل /Israel/

In the analysis of this dimension, the interpretation is done on processing discourse which includes aspects of production, distribution, and consumption of text. The formation of the *Republika* newspaper originated from the ideas and ideals of the Association of Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals (ICMI). ICMI was established on December 5, 1990, and has a 5K improvement program: Quality of Faith, Quality of Life, Quality of Work, and Quality of Work disseminated throughout Indonesia. In realizing these goals and ideals, ICMI together with several governments and community leaders formed as a foundation called *Abdi Bangsa* on August 17, 1992, led by B.J. Habibie. The three main programs of *Yayasan Abdi Bangsa* are: the development of Islamic Center, the development of CIDES (Center for Information and Development Studies) and Publication of *Republika Daily Newspaper*. As a manifestation of the program, *Republika* firstly published on January 4, 1993. The target audience of *Republika* readers includes Muslim communities, educated and professional, tolerant, inclusive and loyal families, as well as urban communities (Luriltasari, 2013, p. 40 – 41). Then, two years later on August 17, 1998, came the *ROL (Republika Online)*. *ROL* is a news portal that provides information in text, audio, and video formed based on hypermedia and hypertext technology consisting of 11 columns. (Profile n.d.)

In carrying out its duties, *Republika* has people who play an important role and responsibility for the publication that is composed of an established organizational structure and mutually integrated. *Republika* has a vision and missions, namely to prepare the Indonesian people to enter a dynamic period. To achieve that vision, *Republika* has a mission in almost all areas of life, including in politics, economics, culture, and religion. In politics, *Republika* wants to encourage democratization and optimization of state institutions, political participation in all levels of society, and prioritizes political honesty and morality. In the economic field, *Republika* has a mission of concern for openness and economic democratization. In the field of culture, *Republika* supports an open and appreciative attitude towards cultural forms. In this field also *Republika* want a media that upholds the values of humanity. In the religious sphere, *Republika* wants to encourage open, critical religious attitudes toward contemporary socio-economic realities (Luriltasari, 2013, p. 41 – 42).

In short, *Republika* is an online newspaper formed from Muslim solidarity. It can be seen that *Republika* has a large portion of the news that concerns the interests of Muslims. Among them are *Khazanah* column containing news about Muslims in Indonesia and the world, news on zakat and philanthropy and so on relating to Islamic information. In addition, there is also a special column during Ramadan, and the sub-section of the Palestinian State on the International rubric which discusses specifically on issues that are going on in Palestine. If associated with the ideology, then the realization of the text in the selection of sentences and diction used in the news published, especially on the news entitled "Israeli Aircraft Attack Syria", it is evident about how *Republika* is highlighting the event in a more sympathetic manner. With such reporting scheme, it is obvious that *Republika* wants to convey that the incident was an attack from Israel, while Syria was a victim. The composition of the phrase that reveals the facts is judged in harmony with the mission of *Republika* mentioned above, which is the religious attitude that is critical to the existing social reality. The text production series in *Republika's* online newspaper is not only a stand-alone series, but an institutional set of journalists, editors, editors, and so on.

### **Social and Culture Dimensional Practice Identification on the Word** إسرائيل /Israel/

(1) Israeli warplanes attacked Syria. (2) Two security sites in Dimas City, near Lebanon, were targeted. (3) The Israeli air strike on Sunday (7/12) afternoon also targeted the international airport in Damascus, the capital of Syria.

Situationally, the discourse above was appointed after the Israeli air strike on Syria in December 7, 2014. The Israeli attack on Syria was repeated, the aggression of this political element was again the trigger for the flawed of world peace. This event is of concern to many media, including in the online newspaper Republika. Institutionally, positioning Syria as a victim. This is related to the background of Republika's own online newspaper, a national newspaper founded by the Muslim community in Indonesia. So the online newspaper Republika publishes many news about the oppressed Muslims in various parts of the world. The characterization of Israel as the perpetrator of the attack here proves that Israel referred to in the online newspaper Republika is no longer associated with the Prophet Ya'qub but to the Zionists. Socially, the news on discourse I can encourage Indonesians to sympathize with Syria which is still the target of Israeli attacks, other than Palestine. There is also Arab culture in the form of language absorbed by the online newspaper Republika i.e. the use of the word "*Ahad*" which is not a standard language of Indonesia. Here can be seen the possibility of Arab cultural values enter into this media.

### **Translation Shift in The Word** إسرائيل /Israel/

As described earlier in the introduction, the word إسرائيل /Israel/ is the nickname given by the angel Gabriel to the Prophet Ya'qub because he often travels at night. So that Israel in the Qur'an is the name pinned to the Prophet Ya'qub. The word prophet comes from Arabic, "*Naba*" (plural: *nabiyyūn* and *anbiyā*) 'which means news (*al-khabar*), news, information, reports. In a transitive form (*anba'an*) which means giving information, predicting, telling the future, and *istanba'a* (asking to be told). Traditionally, Muslim authors who are writing about the Qur'an make a distinction between prophets and apostles. The Prophet is the person who conveys the revelation of God to his people through personal examples that are formed on the guidance of revelation (Zulaiha, 2016, p. 150 – 152). From this understanding, it can be concluded that the Prophet Ya'qub is a figure who has noble character and is one of the chosen people of Allah to give instructions for his people to worship God.

While in the previous sub-chapters, Israel in the online Republika is described as a country because Israel already has fighter planes and other war equipment and has the authority to attack other countries, namely Syria. As people now know, Israel is a nation that is fighting over territory with the Palestinians. From these events, many Palestinians, both Muslims and non-Muslims, are victims of Israeli raids. This certainly does not characterize the nature of the prophet either in the sense or in the nature of the Prophet Ya'qub. This shows a total shift or change of meaning because the word of Israel in the Qur'an refers to the Prophet Ya'qub, whereas now its meaning no longer refers to the prophet and his nature, but to the Israel which has been associated to a country.

### **Conclusions**

From the analysis of one news in the Republika online conducted with the approach of Fairclough's critical discourse analysis and translation shift, it could be concluded that there has been a total shift or change in the meaning of the word إسرائيل /Israel/. The meaning of the word of Israel originally in the Qur'an is the Prophet Ya'qub, but now it has shifted into Israel whose meaning is a nation can even be called a country because of its ownership of war equipment such as fighter planes, missiles and so forth. The shift in the meaning of the word Israel in the Republika's online newspaper has taken place since 2014 which can be seen in the news. In many of its report, Republika positioned Israel as "colonizer", so in addition to totally shifting, its meaning also shifted to negative for the people who read it. This shift in meaning is evident in the text dimension in the form of sentences dominated by the use of transitive sentences, direct quotations, and the use of diction and its meaning in a statement and dimension of discourse to the social dimension that includes situational, institutional and social situations.

From the results of this study, it can also be proved that collocation can influence the semantic meaning of a word. The presence of words before and after the word "Israel", such as "plane" and "attack" causes its meaning to shift. Therefore this study is in line with the results of previous studies, namely "Israel and Palestine Conflict on Language and Fiqh Syasah Perspective" which said that the addition of the word "*Bani*" before the word "*Israail*" in the Qur'an caused the meaning of the word Israel to shift. In addition to proving a shift in meaning, there is a certain motivation in the news in the imaging of the online newspaper Republika that reader opinion is herded to give a positive image on the online newspaper Republika as an active and outspoken media and exist in its support to liberate the countries and Muslims who still colonized and intervened with other countries.

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