

INTERPRETING SENTENCES OF AN ARTICLE “ISLAM A RELIGION OF PEACE”

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Abstract

This research analyzes meaning interpretation in the sentences of the article entitled “Islam: a Religion of Peace”. This article is analyzed using qualitative descriptive method and semantic theory. This research gives solution for the problems of how to interpret the sentences meaning of the article. This problem can be answered by using semantic theory or the theory of meaning of language. Based on the result of research, the meaning interpretation of the sentences found in the article “Islam: a Religion of Peace” are Islam is a teaching and a religion that believes in God, Prophet Muhammad pbuh. and Qur’an as the holy book. Islam has ideology of peace but there is deviation of the model (teaching of Islam).

Key Words: Interpretation, Meaning, Sentence, Article

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji interpretasi makna kalimat yang terdapat dalam sebuah teks bahasa Inggris berjudul “Islam: a Religion of Peace”. Artikel ini diteliti menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan menggunakan teori semantik. Penelitian ini memberikan solusi atas masalah bagaimana menginterpretasikan makna kalimat yang terdapat dalam artikel. Masalah ini dapat dijawab dengan menggunakan teori semantic yaitu teori mengenai makna bahasa. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian interpretasi makna kalimat yang ditemukan dalam artikel “Islam: A Religion of Peace” maka diperoleh hasil bahwa Islam adalah ajaran dan agama yang percaya pada Tuhan, Nabi Muhammad SAW dan Qur’an sebagai kitab suci. Islam mempunyai ideology perdamaian tetapi terjadi penyimpangan yang tidak sesuai dengan yang dicontohkan dalam ajaran Islam.

Kata Kunci : Interpretasi, Makna, Kalimat, Artikel

1. INTRODUCTION

The study of meaning in language is called Semantics. Meaning is very complex. It is not always easy and simple to identify. The development of new vocabularies and expressions may create the difficulties for hearer to understand. Meaning of language can also be understood denotatively or connotatively, will be different. So meaning of language depends on the words, phrases, and sentences/expressions used in the language. It also depends on the types of meaning itself that will be depend on the context of language itself which types of meaning is referred in the sentence used.

Semantics is defined as the study of meaning in language (Cambridge,2020). Semantics is the study of meanings. It is defined as the meaning or relationship of meanings of a sign or set of signs *especially* : connotative meaning (Merriam-Webster,2020). Thus based on Cambridge and Webster dictionary, semantics is the science of language that studies the meaning of language.

For further explanation, semantics is the study of meaning in language. It can be applied to entire texts or to single words. For example, "destination" and "last stop" technically mean the same thing, but students of *semantics* analyze their subtle shades of meaning. To correctly pronounce *semantics* — which is a singular noun even though it ends in *s* — accent the second syllable: "suh-MAN-ticks." In the late 1800s, Michel Bréal coined the term *sémantique* to describe the psychology of language. That French word has its origins in Greek: *semantikos* means "significant," and comes from *semainein* "to show, signify, indicate by a sign." Semantics investigates the meaning of language. Semantics is the meaning of a word, phrase, sentence or text. It is the idea that is intended (Vocabulary.com Dictionary).

The purpose of semantics is to propose exact meanings of words and phrases, and remove confusion, which might lead the readers to believe a word has many possible meanings. It makes a relationship between a word and the sentence through their meanings. Besides, semantics enable the readers to explore a sense of the meaning because, if we remove or change the place of a single word from the sentence, it will change the entire meaning, or else the sentence will become anomalous. Hence, the sense relation inside a sentence is very important, as a single word does not carry any sense or meaning (Literary Devices, 2020).

Interpreting meaning in language is in the field of semantic science. Meaning interpretation is the meaning of words, phrases or sentences possessed by both of speaker and listener. So both speaker and listener have the same meaning

interpretation. Meaning interpretation is not related to empirically truth. Meaning interpretation is the meaning of words or phrases used in the language.

This research analyzes the meaning interpretation of sentences found in the article of “*Islam: A Religion of Peace*” (ICPS,2020). This article discusses about Islam that Islam is a religion that teaches a peaceful life. As there is a misconception about Islam that Islam is closely related to war. By analyzing the meaning interpretation of the sentences found in the Islamic article in the scope of study of linguistic meaning (Semantics), the meaning of article’s writer can be identified and understood. By understanding the meaning interpretation of the Islamic article, people can have the same meaning interpretation towards Islam.

Meaning interpretation is an information as a message conveyed by the speaker to the listener. So every sentence of a language that contains an information or message sent by the speaker to the listener is an interpretation of meaning. Interpretation is not intention or assumption. Intention or assumption is private while meaning intention is public. Speaker’s intention or assumption is different from hearer’s intention or assumption. In opposite, meaning interpretation possessed by speaker and listener is just the same (not different). Interpreting a sentence is related to someone’s ability to understand a sentence meaning (Leech, 2014).

Semantic/meaning interpretation is the process of mapping a syntactically analyzed text of natural language to representation of its meaning. It is the process of determining what a user said versus what they meant. What the user meant is the semantic interpretation. The goal of interpretation of an object is obtained from the the semantic interpretation of its components (Kumar, 2020). That is why sentence interpretation is the interpretation obtained from the components of the sentence such as words and phrases.

Based on the explanation above, meaning interpretation is not private. It is not speaker’s or hearers intention or assumption but it is the meaning bothly possessed by speaker and listener. Hence, meaning interpretation is the meaning of language comprehended by speaker and listener. In other words, both speaker and listener have the same meaning interpretation.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research usess Qualitative Research because this research uses article that consists of words, phrases and sentences as its data.

Qualitative research involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data (e.g., text, video, or audio) to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences. It can be used to gather in-depth insights into a problem or generate new ideas for research. Qualitative research is the opposite of quantitative research which involves collecting and analyzing numerical data for statistical analysis. Qualitative research is commonly used in the humanities and social sciences, in subjects such as anthropology, sociology, education, health sciences, history, etc. Qualitative research is used to understand how people experience the world. While there are many approaches to qualitative research, they tend to be flexible and focus on retaining rich meaning when interpreting data. Common approaches include grounded theory, ethnography, action research, phenomenological research, and narrative research. They share some similarities, but emphasize different aims and perspectives (Bhandari,2020).

The data of this research is taken from an article "Islam, A religion of Peace" by International Centre for Peace and Spirituality. It is a brief text provides information about Islam. How people should see and understand the religion of Islam.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

After reading the article and classify the sentences into single sentence, then the article is analyzed based on its sentences. The interpretation taken based on its linguistic meaning. Although the sentence is transformed into negative, the interpretation is still linguistically correct. Thus, this analysis is based on linguistic meaning (semantics). The interpretation of sentences are as follows:

- 1) Islam is a religion of peace in the fullest sense of the word.

Interpretation: there is a religion named Islam.

- 2) The Qur'an calls its way 'the paths of peace' (5:16).

Interpretation: That the holy book 'The Qur'an' truly exists

- 3) It states that God abhors any disturbance of peace (2:205).

Interpretation: God is believed to be truly exist.

- 4) In fact the root word of Islam is 'silm' which itself means peace.

Interpretation: Islam has a root word.

- 5) So the spirit of Islam is the spirit of peace.

Interpretation: Islam has a spirit.

- 6) The first verse of the Qur'an breathes the spirit of peace.

Interpretation: Qur'an has the verse version

- 7) It reads: In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate.

Interpretation: Qur'an is a reading (it has words to read)

- 8) This verse is repeated in the Qur'an no less than 113 times.

Interpretation: Qur'an has verses (It consists of verses).

- 9) It shows the great importance Islam attaches to such values as Mercy and Compassion.

Interpretation: a religion called Islam exists.

- 10) One of God's names, according to the Qur'an, is As-Salam, which means peace.

Interpretation: God has name.

- 11) More over the Qur'an states that the Prophet Muhammad PBUH was sent to the world as a mercy to mankind. (21:107).

Interpretation: the named Prophet Muhammad PBUH is stated in Qur'an.

- 12) A perusal of the Qur'an shows that most verses of the Qur'an (and also the Hadith) are based on peace and kindness, either directly or indirectly.

Interpretation: Qur'an is a perusal that has many verses.

- 13) The ideal society, according to the Qur'an is Dar as-Salam, that is, the house of peace (10:25).

Interpretation: there is Qur'an and ideal society

- 14) Islam attaches great importance to peace.

Interpretation: Islam exists

- 15) In fact, Islam cannot afford not to be in a state of peace because all that Islam aims at—spiritual progress, intellectual development, character building, social

reform, educational activities, and above all Missionary work —can be achieved only in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

Interpretation: the fact of Islam's affords and aim.

16) According to Islam, peace is not simply an absence of war.

Interpretation: Islam gives idea about peace.

17) Peace opens doors to all kinds of opportunities that are present in any given situation.

Interpretation: Peace is discussed

18) It is only in a peaceful situation that planned activities are possible.

Interpretation: peaceful situation is discussed

19) It is for this reason that the Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) went to great extents to establish peace at all costs.

Interpretation: Prophet Muhammad existed.

20) According to Islam, peace is the rule and war is only an exception.

Interpretation: Islam gives idea about peace and war

21) Even in defensive war we have to see the result.

Interpretation: defensive war is discussed

22) If the result is doubtful, Muslims should avoid war, even in a defensive situation.

Interpretation: Muslims are discussed in relation to war

23) Stray acts of aggression are not enough for Muslims to rush into war.

Interpretation: the acts of aggression are straying

24) They have to assess the whole situation and adopt a policy of avoidance when war is not certain to achieve a positive result.

Interpretation: Muslims' assessment and a policy adoption related to war

25) This can be seen from the examples given in the articles of this section as was in the case of the battle of the trench.

Interpretation: this section gives example of battle/war

26) In this event there was clear-cut aggression on the part of the antagonists, who traveled as far as 300 miles from Mecca to Medina only to attack the Muslims.

Interpretation: There were antagonist who against Muslims in the war.

27) But the Prophet got a trench dug in order to prevent an armed confrontation and thus avoided engaging in a defensive war.

28) Interpretation: Prophet existed and discussed of his acts in relation to war.

29) Thus Islam is a religion of peace in the complete sense of the word.

Interpretation: Islam is a religion

30) Every teaching of Islam is based on the principles of peace and avoidance.

Interpretation: Islam is a teaching

31) Any deviation from the model is a deviation from Islam and is due to misconceptions.

Interpretation: there is a deviation of the model (teaching of Islam) discussed.

32) We should, therefore, understand the ideology of peace given in Islam and base our actions upon this ideology so that peace will prevail in the world.

Interpretation: Islam has ideology of peace.

Based on the interpretation of the sentences of Islamic article : *A Religion of Peace*, this article introduces a religion called Islam. Islam is a religion that has the holy book 'The Qur'an'. It believes in the existence of God and God has name. Islam has a root word and it also has a spirit.

Qur'an as the holy book of Qur'an has the verse version. It has verses or it consists of verses). It is a reading or has words to read. Islam believes in a Prophet called Prophet Muhammad PBUH. His named is stated in Qur'an. Qur'an is a perusal that has many verses. Prophet Muhammad has an action (rule) of how to face war.

Islam has afforded and aimed. It gives idea about peace. A Peace or peaceful situation is discussed. Islam gives idea about peace and war. There is a defensive war and what Muslims should do towards war. There were antagonists who against Muslims in the war.

Islam is a religion and it is also a teaching. Islam has ideology of peace but there is a deviation of the model (teaching of Islam) discussed.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion of this research is the sentences in the article *Islam: A Religion of Peace*, explains Islam as a religion with Qur'an as its holy book. Islam believes in God and has a Prophet called Prophet Muhammad pbuh, who had an action (rule) of how to face war. Islam gives idea about peace and war. There is a defensive war and what Muslims should do towards war. Islam is a teaching with an ideology of peace but there is a deviation of the model (teaching of Islam).

People should differentiate the meaning of language from speaker's and hearer's intention or assumption that are private while meaning interpretation is public and possessed by both speaker's/writer's and hearer's/reader's.

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