

## **The Changes in The Meaning of The Word '*Azab*' In Social Media Status**

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### **Abstract**

As social life develops, the language used by the language community also experiences development and change. The word *azab*, widely used in communication, has changed its meaning. This research is semantic research, especially on changes in the meaning of words, which aims to get a clear picture of the changes in the meaning of the word *azab*, which is used in statuses on social media Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. These three social media were chosen because they are the three big social media that people use to update their status in phrases and sentences containing the word *azab*. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method to describe linguistic phenomena in society. By using a phenomenological approach, in this research, it was found that the word *azab* was by its true meaning, but some meanings expanded and shifted.

**Keywords:** *azab*, meaning, expended meaning, sifted meaning.

### **INTRODUCTION**

In communicating, the human brain works hard to examine the concept of the symbols it receives. In the triangle theory of meaning by Odgen & Richard (1923) in Manaf (Manaf, 2011). These three parts, symbol, thought or reference, and referent, are connected either directly or indirectly. The meaning people understand from a word may not be the same because it relates to psychological, sociological, emotional, feeling, or spatial and temporal contexts (Sugiyono, 2015). In its use, Suwandi (2011) in Kustriyono (Kustriyono, 2016) defines meaning as meaning, ideas, thoughts, concepts, messages, statements of intent, information and content. However, along with the times, the meaning of a word often changes so that the meaning stored in the brain experiences a shift.

One of the things that have the most influence on language development is the television and social media. These two media significantly affect the change in the meaning of words from the vocabulary used in communication. Some of the changes that occur in the history of all languages are changes or semantic functions of several words in the vocabulary of these languages. This vocabulary is considered a continuous lexical content in certain stages of language development (Muzaiyanah, 2012). The change of meaning can be a change to a broader, narrower, or shifting meaning, as in the word '*azab*.' Currently, the word *azab* has changed from its original meaning. Even this word is often used as a joke in daily conversation and on various social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The word *azab* comes from the Arabic '*adhāb*,' which means 'torment,' or it can also mean 'punishment.' The word '*adhāb*' is absorbed in Indonesian into '*azab*' (Arnel, 2014). In the Online Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI VI Daring, n.d.), *azab* means 'God's punishment given to humans who leave orders and violate religious prohibitions. From these understandings and referring to the use of the word *azab* in the Al-Quran, *azab* is an event

that comes as a threat and punishment for human actions that violate God's decrees (Ilham, 2021). If the actual meaning of the word *azab* is compared with the meaning of *azab* in the sentence "*Eh, kembaliin bolpenku, awas lho kena azab*" ("Hey, give me back my pen, watch out for the *Azab*.") then the meaning is not appropriate if it is returned to its true meaning. In this utterance, the word *azab* is used as a punishment for a trivial incident that does not violate religious provisions. However, many people 'talk' about following the trend of using the vocabulary 'Azab' without knowing the true meaning of this vocabulary.

This research is semantic research, especially on changes in the meaning of words, which aims to get a clear picture of the changes in the meaning of the word *azab* which is used in status on social media Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. These three social media were chosen because they are the three major social media used by the public to update their status in phrases and sentences containing the word *azab*.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Several researchers have researched the changes in meaning, including changes in the meaning of words derived from Arabic. Changes in meaning originating from Arabic often occur in Indonesian because many Indonesian vocabulary words are loanwords from Arabic. Rohbiah et al. (2017), in their research entitled "*Perubahan Makna Kata Serapan Bahasa Arab dalam Bahasa Inggris pada Istilah Ekonomi*" examines Arabic absorption words into English in the economic field, which changes meaning, as well as changes in the meaning of what types occur in those loan words (Rohbiah et al., n.d.).

Another study related to changes in meaning, especially those from Arabic, entitled "*Perubahan Makna Kosakata Bahasa Arab yang Diserap ke dalam Bahasa Indonesia*" by Ukhrawiyah (2019). In this study, the researcher examines the form of Arabic vocabulary that has been absorbed into Indonesian and has changed its meaning. In addition, she also examines what factors can cause changes in meaning in Arabic vocabulary that are absorbed into Indonesian (Ukhrawiyah, 2019).

Research on the word 'Azab' was also analyzed by Helmina (2013) who studied the equivalent of the word 'Azab' in the Al-Quran using a Semantic approach. The data in this research is the Al-Quran text regarding the word Adzāb. In analyzing, researchers used four methods, namely: semantic field analysis, semantic component analysis, semantic combination analysis and analysis of relationships between verses. In this study, researchers found that in the semantic field analysis, the word Adzāb occupies a central vocabulary (focus word) whose meanings are interconnected and form a certain network pattern (Helmina, 2013).

As is generally the case in all languages in the world, meaning change is an invisible process. What speakers and listeners do is communicate as effectively as possible without any intention of changing the meaning of signs of familiarity (Juvonen & Tamm, 2016). Of these studies, the two initial studies discussed changes in the meaning of the word but did not discuss changes in the word 'Azab', while the third study, although it discussed the meaning of the word 'Azab', this research did not discuss changes in its meaning.

Generally, Hurford divides "meaning" into 2, namely the Speaker Meaning and Sentence Meaning or Word Meaning. Speaker meaning is what a speaker means when he uses a piece of language (Hurford et al., 2007). Meanwhile, sentence meaning or also called word meaning is what a sentence (or word) means as the equivalent of in the language concerned. Along with development and changing times, the meaning of a word in a

language can also change (Hurford et al., 2007). The term meaning change is not only found in English but also other languages in the world, including Indonesian.

Jeffers and Lehiste in Suyata (Suyata, 1983) divide the change of meaning into (1) expansion or degeneralization, (2) reduction or specialization, and (3) replacement. In line with Jeffers and Lehiste, Fromkin and Rodman state, "There are three ways in which a lexical item may change semantically; its meaning may become broader; its meaning may become narrower; its meaning may shift" (Fromkin et al., n.d.; Janda & Joseph, 2017).

The broader meaning usually occurs because of a generalization in a matter. For example, a particular situation becomes a general thing. A typical example is the word "*ibu*" in Indonesian, which means "mother", initially only a call from a child to the person who gave birth to him. However, now the word "mother" has become very common. It can be used to address an adult woman, even though it is not a woman who gave birth to her, and for women of high positions.

In addition to the expansion, a word can also experience narrowing. This change in meaning is usually part of the old meaning—for example, the word "meat" in English. In the past, the word "meat" meant "food", but now the word "meat" only means "meat".

The last change in meaning is a shift in meaning. Shifting of meaning is a change in meaning where a word undergoes a total change in its lexical meaning. The meaning can vary according to the environment, situation, problem, and context in which people use the word.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research on changes in the meaning of the word *azab* uses descriptive qualitative methods. The data analyzed in this research is in the form of phrases or sentences on statuses on social media Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, which contain the word *azab* in them, which has changed the meaning of the word.

The steps taken to collect data were observing several statuses on social media which contained the word *azab*, and continued by collecting posts containing the word 'azab', which had changed meaning.

The approach used in this research is phenomenology, which is used to understand hidden meanings (Santosa, 2021). The data that has been collected is then analyzed by classifying the data by looking for similarities, relationships, and associations with the original meaning of the word *azab*, and conclusions are drawn from the research results.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

Referring to the meaning of the word *Azab* in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), which states that *azab* is 'God's punishment which is rewarded to humans who abandon orders and violate religious prohibitions', it can be described as follows.

### **AZAB**

- [ + God's torment]
- [ + avoid God's command]
- [ + breaking religious prohibitions]
- [ + punishment]

[ + big sin]  
[ - joke]

From the description of the word *Azab*, we can see the difference between the original meaning of the word and the meaning of the word in the status or post on social media.

a. Data 1.

**Context:** A post on Twitter comments on a video of several people dancing on prayer mats.

*“Apapun alasannya: semoga #AZAB nyata Allah SWT menimpa kalian semua yang “berakal” yang turut berada disana tanpa memberi peringatan lagi!!! Aammiiinn yaa Rabb...”*

[“Whatever the reason: may Allah SWT's real #AZAB befall all of you “who have common sense”, people who were there without warning!!! Ameen...”]

From this data, the use of the word *azab* in this context has not changed. The meaning of the word *Azab* in data 1 is in accordance with the existing context. Namely, it is used to state the consequences that will be received for carrying out activities that are not in accordance with religion.

b. Data 2

**Context:** A post on Twitter comments on a soap opera scene showing a man lying on his stomach and crying.

*“Jangan menangis terimalah azab Allah SWT..Untung masih berguna otak lhooo.. Gunakan otak lhoo.. Walaupun kakimu Gak bisa berjalan lagi..akibat dosa dosamu..#Azab Allah Untukmu 😂😂😂”.*

[“Don't cry, accept the *azab* of Allah SWT.. Luckily your brain is still useful, you know. Use your brain, you know.. Even though your legs can't walk anymore.. due to your sins. Allah's #*azab* for you 😂😂😂”.]

From the explanation of the meaning of the word *Azab*, the meaning of the word *Azab* in Data 2 experiences a shift of meaning. This is because the meaning of *azab* shifts from the consequences of committing major sins to committing ordinary sins and in this context the word *azab* becomes the butt of jokes.

c. Data 3

**Context:** A netizen posts a merchandise product to a buying and selling group on Facebook social media.

*“Assalamu’alaikum...  
Coba live di sini lgi ya gaes.  
Hbsin stock aja..krna minggu dpn banyak barang datang n PhP ingat azab.”*

[“Assalamualaikum...  
Try going live here again, guys.

"Just run out of stock... because next week a lot of goods will arrive and PhP remembers the *azab*."] ]

The meaning of the word *Azab* in Data 3 experiences an expansion in meaning because in this context the meaning of *Azab* shifts from committing major sins to committing all sins even if only because of minor things.

d. Data 4

**Context:** A status on social media Facebook discusses the punishment for someone who likes to gossip, badmouth, and slander people. However, in the upload, there is also an image attached which is a picture of a chicken's 'anus' which in the upload is narrated as a mouth.

*"Inilah azab bagi yang suka ngegosip, ngejelek2in, dan memfitnah orang. Kalau sedang berbicara bahasanya suka kasar, kayak ember pecah. Disini jelekin sana, disana jelekin sini.*

*Akibatnya mulut pelaku terkena penyakit kulit langka. Gejalanya: bibir jamur dan ditumbuhi bulu2 yang tidak dikenal, serta semacam komedo aneh. Ngeriiii! 😬"*

[“This is the *azab* for those who like to gossip, speak ill of and slander people. When he speaks, his language is rough, like a broken bucket. Here it's bad there, there it's bad.

As a result, the perpetrator's mouth was affected by a rare skin disease. Symptoms: lips fungus and overgrown with unknown hairs, as well as a strange kind of blackhead. Horrible! 😬”]

The meaning of the word *Azab* in Data 4 experiences a shift of meaning because the meaning of *azab* shifts from the result of committing a big sin to commit an ordinary sin and in this context the word *azab* becomes the butt of jokes.

e. Data 5

**Context:** An account on the social media Twitter uploaded a video with a narrative explaining that a mother was cursing an online motorcycle taxi driver who was her daughter's boyfriend.

*"Hanya karena pacar anaknya seorang driver ojol si ibu ini marah dan maki maki pacar anaknya 😬"*

*Dunia ini sudah krisis moral ckckck 😡*

*Awat loo mak*

*Nanti Kena Azab-nya!!"*

[“Just because her son's girlfriend is a motorbike taxi driver, this mother got angry and cursed at her son's girlfriend 😬

This world is in a moral crisis tsk tsk 😡

Watch out, Mom

You'll be got *azab*!!”]

From the explanation of the meaning of the word *Azab*, the meaning of the word *Azab* in Data 5 experiences an expansion in meaning because in this context the meaning of *Azab* shifts from committing major sins to committing all sins even if only because of minor things.

f. Data 6

**Context:** Someone uploads a status and image on Twitter social media where the image shows that their Twitter Timeline is empty or cannot display tweets from other Twitter users.

“kok timeline aku kena *azab* ຜ ັ ຜ ”

[“How come my timeline has got *azab* ຜ ັ ຜ ”]

The meaning of the word *Azab* in Data 6 experiences an expansion of meaning because, in this context, the meaning of *Azab* shifts from the punishment experienced by humans to the punishment experienced by the account owner's account timeline. Apart from that, the word *azab* in this status is also intended as a joke to convey a condition.

g. Data 7

**Context:** An account owner on the social media Twitter uploaded a status about the punishment for men for leaving their partners while dating.

“Setelah saya teliti, yang ditinggal nikah rata-rata laki-laki ya. Tapi pas pacarana rata-rata yang ditinggal pas lg saying-sayangnya itu cewe. Oh berarti laki-laki pada kena *azab*”

[“After I researched it, most of the people who got married were men. However, when you're dating, the average person who gets left behind is the girl. Oh, that means men will be got *azab*.”]

From the explanation of the meaning of the word *Azab*, the meaning of the word *Azab* in Data 6 experiences an expansion in meaning because in this context, the meaning of *Azab* shifts from committing significant sins to committing all sins, even if only because of minor things. Apart from that, the word punishment is also used to express punishment for something serious or something that is not serious.

## CONCLUSION

The word *azab* is often found and used in status updates on social media, including on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The use of the word *azab* is used in various contexts, from serious to joking.

The results of the analysis of the word *azab* in status updates on social media show that there is a use of the word *azab* that is in accordance with its original meaning, and there are also meanings that expand and shift. The meaning broadens because the meaning of the word *azab*, which was initially the result of carrying out God's prohibitions, violating God's commands and is a punishment for major sins, expands to become God's punishment, which is

the result of committing mistakes or minor sins. The meaning shifted from the word *azab* because the meaning of *azab*, which was initially something that was taken seriously, shifted to become just a matter of ridicule and joke.

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