The Non-Declinable Nouns in Surat al-Fath According to Abu Ishaq al-Zajjaj: A Morphological Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This study examines non declinable nouns in Surat al Fath through a morphological analysis based on Abu Ishaq al Zajjaj work Ma Yansarif wa Ma La Yansarif. The research focuses on identifying non declinable nouns in the surah and explaining their morphological characteristics particularly their resistance to inflection across grammatical contexts. Using a descriptive analytical method and library research this study analyzes the relevant verses and classifies the types of non declinable nouns found in Surat al Fath. The findings show that non declinable nouns do not accept tanwin and are not marked with kasrah unless preceded by the definite article al. Without al they take dammah in the nominative and fathah in both the accusative and genitive cases. A total of 137 non declinable forms appear across 29 verses of Surat al Fath including nouns adverbs and proper names.

Key Word	*Indefinite Nouns, Surah Al-Fath, Morphological Analysis Study*
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INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that Arabic morphology (ṣarf) is fundamentally based on the explanation of linguistic phenomena. Causation (taʿlīl) represents the dominant characteristic of the scholars' methodological approach in their writings; scarcely any of their works are devoid of this aspect. This is because causes accompany most grammatical rulings in their view. Indeed, it is often observed that grammarians may agree on a ruling while differing regarding its underlying cause.

The chapter on nouns that do not decline (al-asmāʾ al-mamnūʿah min al-ṣarf) is considered one of the grammatical topics most closely and intrinsically connected to causation. In fact, it is largely founded upon explanatory reasoning, as it seeks to clarify why certain nouns are prevented from declension while others are not. The issue of non-declinable nouns has long been regarded as a linguistic phenomenon that attracted the attention of scholars, both classical and modern, due to the existence of differing opinions among those who support and defend it and those who reject or criticize it.

In the study of Arabic grammar and morphology, the examination of non-declinable nouns emerges as an important subject that reflects a deep understanding of the rules of classical Arabic. Abū Isḥāq al-Zajjāj, one of the prominent grammarians in Islamic intellectual heritage, is among the scholars who made significant contributions to the understanding and analysis of these rules.

Sūrat al-Fatḥ is one of the chapters of the Holy Qur'an that contains a variety of nouns, some of which are characterized by their resistance to declension, unlike other nouns that change according to Arabic grammatical rules. This morphological-analytical study aims to explore and interpret this linguistic phenomenon in Sūrat al-Fatḥ and to identify the nouns that remain morphologically fixed in all grammatical positions.

Through an objective and systematic analysis, al-Zajjāj elaborates on the morphological characteristics of these nouns and compares them with other nouns that change according to different grammatical contexts. He highlights how these nouns are used in various contexts within the sūrah, thereby contributing to a deeper understanding of the structure of the Arabic language as established by the great grammarians.

This research seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What is the reality of non-declinable nouns according to the grammarians?
2. Which verses in Sūrat al-Fatḥ contain non-declinable nouns?
3. What are the types of non-declinable nouns found in Sūrat al-Fatḥ?

RESEARCH METHODE

To achieve these objectives, this study is based on methods of data collection, organization, and analysis. The researcher briefly explains each method as follows:

1. Data Collection Method:

    The researcher adopts a library-based approach, collecting materials from classical grammatical and morphological sources relevant to the subject of the study. This includes direct and indirect quotation from reliable references.

2. Data Organization and Analysis Method:

    The researcher employs the following methods:

    1) The deductive method, which organizes material by deriving general conclusions from specific details, that is, from particular to general.

    2) The inductive method, which organizes material by deriving conclusions from general principles to specific cases, that is, from general to particular.

Although the benefits of this research are primarily theoretical, it is hoped that it will enrich the educational corpus concerning non-declinable nouns found in the Qur'an, specifically in Sūrat al-Fatḥ. This study may serve as a reference for other researchers and enhance learners' understanding of non-declinable nouns as an essential aspect of learning Arabic. From a practical perspective, the results of this

research may provide readers with a clear description of non-declinable nouns, enabling them to understand their types and functions especially those occurring in Sūrat al-Fatḥ thus preventing misunderstanding in future Qur'anic interpretation. Furthermore, this research may assist students in learning the Qur'an more effectively, enabling them to comprehend its meanings and practice Islamic teachings properly in daily life.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

General Overview of Sūrat al-Fatḥ

Sūrat al-Fatḥ is the forty-eighth chapter according to the arrangement of the ʿUthmānic muṣḥaf and the one hundred and thirteenth in the chronological order of revelation. It was revealed after Sūrat al-Ṣaff and before Sūrat al-Tawbah. The sūrah consists of twenty-nine verses.

Regarding the reason for its revelation, al-Wāḥidī and Ibn Isḥāq narrate on the authority of al-Miswar ibn Makhramah and Marwān ibn al-Ḥakam that Sūrat al-Fatḥ was revealed between Mecca and Medina concerning the Treaty of al-Ḥudaybiyyah. The Muslims were prevented from performing their ritual and were filled with sadness and grief, whereupon Allah revealed: *"Indeed, We have given you a clear victory."* The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: *"Tonight, a verse has been revealed to me that is more beloved to me than the world and all that it contains,"* and in another narration, *"from its beginning to its end."*

The sūrah is considered Medinan according to the widely accepted definition that any revelation after the Hijrah is classified as Medinan, regardless of its place of revelation. It was revealed at a location known as Kurāʿ al-Ghamīm, situated between Mecca and Medina.

Naming of the Sūrah

The Companions referred to it as Sūrat al-Fatḥ. In Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, it is narrated from ʿAbdullāh ibn Mughaffal that he saw the Prophet ﷺ reciting Sūrat al-Fatḥ while riding his camel, reciting it in a gentle, melodious manner. Another narration in the two Ṣaḥīḥs reports that the sūrah was revealed during the events of al-Ḥudaybiyyah. No other name for this sūrah is known. It was named so because it contains the glad tidings of the conquest of Mecca for the Prophet ﷺ and the believers.

Objectives of the Sūrah

The sūrah encompasses several objectives, including:

1. It opens with glad tidings of a clear victory and divine support granted to the Prophet ﷺ and the believers.
2. It gives glad tidings to the believers regarding the positive outcome of the Treaty of al-Ḥudaybiyyah, describing it as a victory and a conquest.

3. It clarifies that Allah sent His Messenger Muḥammad ﷺ as a witness, bearer of glad tidings, and warner, so that faith in Allah and His Messenger may be realized and truth and goodness may prevail through obedience to Him.

Al-Biqāʿī notes that among the remarkable aspects of this sūrah is that it consists of twenty-nine verses and includes all twenty-nine letters of the Arabic alphabet in its final verse, a feature not found elsewhere except in a verse near the end of Sūrat Āl ʿImrān.

Meaning of Declension and Non-Declension According to Abū Isḥāq al-Zajjāj

Declension (ṣarf) signifies completeness and full inflection. Tanwīn is a sign of full declinability. Al-Zajjāj explains the cause of tanwīn in declinable nouns and the reason for its omission in non-declinable nouns, as well as the reason for the absence of genitive kasrah in such nouns. A noun becomes non-declinable due to two secondary features that remove it from its original state of full inflection.

Types of Non-Declinable Nouns in Sūrat al-Fatḥ

(Translated and organized faithfully from the original Arabic content.)

1. Nouns ending with an alif exceeding three letters (alif of femininity)
   Such nouns are non-declinable whether definite or indefinite. Examples in Sūrat al-Fatḥ include *awfā* (v.10), *aʿmā* (v.17), *ukhrā* (v.21), *taqwā* (v.26), *hudā* (v.28), and *kafā* (v.28).

2. Nouns with an alif of femininity preceded by an extra alif
   These are also non-declinable in both definite and indefinite forms. Examples include *ashiddāʾ* and *ruḥamāʾ* in verse 29.

3. Nouns on the patterns mafāʿil and mafāʿīl
   Such nouns are non-declinable because they are plural forms with patterns not found in the singular. Examples include *maghānim* (vv. 15, 19, 20), *qulūb* (vv. 4, 11, 12, 18, 26), *ruʾūs* (v.27), and *junūd* (vv. 4, 7).

4. Names of lands and places
   Examples include *al-samāwāt wa al-arḍ* (vv. 4, 7, 14) and *Makkah* (v.24).

5. Particles and indeclinable words not denoting persons, actions, or adverbs
   Such as *inna*, *kāna*, *min*, *ʿan*, *aw*, *idh*, *law*, frequently occurring throughout the sūrah.

6. Ambiguous nouns (al-asmāʾ al-mubhamah)
   Such as demonstratives and relative pronouns: *dhālika*, *alladhī*, *alladhīna*, occurring in multiple verses.

7. Ambiguous adverbs
   Such as *idh*, *idhā*, *maʿa*, *thumma*, *qad*, and others.

CONCLUSION

The researcher concludes as follows:

1. Non-declinable nouns are those that do not accept tanwīn and do not take kasrah in the genitive case. They are raised with a single ḍammah and are accusative and genitive with a single fatḥah, unless they are definite with *al-* or in an iḍāfah construction.

2. All twenty-nine verses of Sūrat al-Fatḥ contain non-declinable nouns.

3. The total number of non-declinable nouns in Sūrat al-Fatḥ is one hundred and thirty-seven (137), classified into eight categories:

   1) Nouns ending with alif of femininity: 7
   2) Nouns with an alif of femininity after an extra alif: 2
   3) Particles: 35
   4) Words named as adverbs: 10
   5) Ambiguous nouns: 12
   6) Ambiguous adverbs: 10
   7) Nouns on mafāʿil and mafāʿīl patterns: 12
   8) Names of lands and places: 4

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