

A Stylistic Analysis of English Translations of Surah Al-Qadr: A Comparative Study of Quranic Mobile Applications

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the stylistic characteristics of English translations of Surah Al-Qadr available in three widely used Quranic mobile applications: Quran.com, Muslim Pro, and Jazz Islam World. The research investigates how lexical choices, grammatical structures, rhetorical devices, and phonological features influence the preservation of theological meaning and aesthetic resonance in digital Quranic translations. Using Leech and Short's stylistic framework, the study adopts a qualitative comparative methodology to analyze the selected translations. The findings reveal significant stylistic variation among the applications. Quran.com emphasizes semantic clarity and theological precision, Muslim Pro prioritizes accessibility and modern readability, while Jazz Islam World adopts a more formal and reverential style. The analysis demonstrates that rhetorical repetition, rhythm, and phonological beauty embedded in Quranic Arabic remain difficult to reproduce fully in English because of structural differences between Arabic and English. Despite these limitations, certain stylistic strategies successfully preserve aspects of the Surah's emotional and spiritual impact. The study argues that Quranic mobile applications increasingly shape contemporary Muslim engagement with sacred texts and therefore possess considerable influence over theological understanding and devotional experience. The research contributes to Quranic translation studies, stylistics, digital religion, and applied linguistics by emphasizing the importance of balancing semantic accuracy with stylistic fidelity in app-based Quranic translations.

Keywords: Quranic Translation, Stylistics, Surah Al-Qadr, Translation Studies, Digital Religion, Quranic Applications, Linguistics

INTRODUCTION

The Qur'an occupies a central position within Islamic belief, spirituality, and intellectual tradition. Muslims regard the Qur'an not merely as a sacred scripture but as the literal word of Allah revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through Angel Jibril over approximately twenty-three years. Beyond its theological importance, the Qur'an is recognized for its exceptional linguistic beauty, rhetorical sophistication, and stylistic uniqueness. Classical Muslim scholars frequently described the Qur'an as a linguistic miracle because of its rhythmic balance, semantic depth, eloquence, and persuasive force. These qualities distinguish the Qur'an from ordinary literary texts and contribute to its enduring spiritual influence across cultures and generations.

Among the shorter chapters of the Qur'an, Surah Al-Qadr possesses extraordinary spiritual and theological significance. The Surah consists of only five verses; however, its concise structure contains profound theological concepts concerning revelation, divine mercy, sacred temporality, and spiritual elevation. The Surah commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an during Laylat al-Qadr, commonly translated as the Night of Decree, the Night of Power, or the Night of Destiny. Within Islamic tradition, this night is regarded as spiritually superior to a thousand months because it marks the beginning of divine revelation and symbolizes divine mercy and guidance for humanity.

Despite its brevity, Surah Al-Qadr demonstrates remarkable stylistic richness. The Surah relies heavily on repetition, parallelism, rhetorical questioning, hyperbole, and rhythmic pacing to achieve emotional and spiritual resonance. The repeated phrase "Laylat al-Qadr" functions not only as semantic emphasis but also as rhythmic reinforcement contributing to the Surah's oral recitation and memorability. Similarly, the rhetorical question "And what will make you know what the Night of Decree is?" creates suspense and emotional anticipation while elevating the spiritual significance of the night.

Translation of the Qur'an into English remains one of the most challenging tasks within translation studies. Quranic Arabic contains semantic, rhetorical, phonological, and cultural dimensions that cannot easily be reproduced in another language. Translators therefore face a complex dilemma: whether to prioritize literal meaning, stylistic fidelity, theological precision, or readability. This challenge becomes particularly evident in Surah Al-Qadr because the Surah's spiritual and rhetorical power depends heavily upon sound patterns, concise structure, and emotional intensity.

The rapid expansion of digital religion has transformed the way Muslims engage with the Qur'an. Mobile applications such as Quran.com, Muslim Pro, and Jazz Islam World now serve millions of users worldwide for recitation, memorization, translation, and religious education. These applications function not merely as technological tools but also as influential religious platforms shaping contemporary Islamic understanding and practice. Non-Arabic-speaking Muslims increasingly rely upon app-based translations to understand Quranic teachings, making the stylistic quality of these translations highly significant.

Different Quranic applications employ distinct translation philosophies and stylistic approaches. Some applications prioritize semantic accuracy and theological precision, while others emphasize readability and accessibility for global audiences. Consequently, stylistic variation among app-based translations may influence users' emotional engagement, theological interpretation, and spiritual experience. This study therefore investigates the stylistic dimensions of English translations of Surah Al-Qadr across three major Quranic applications: Quran.com, Muslim Pro, and Jazz Islam World. Using Leech and Short's stylistic framework, the research analyzes lexical choices, grammatical structures, rhetorical devices, and phonological features in order to examine how stylistic decisions influence meaning and spiritual resonance. The study also contributes to broader discussions concerning Quranic translation, digital religion, and stylistic analysis within applied linguistics.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The stylistic analysis of Quranic translation has attracted substantial scholarly attention within translation studies, linguistics, and Islamic scholarship. Researchers frequently argue that the Qur'an's unique linguistic structure creates extraordinary challenges for translators because Quranic Arabic combines semantic precision with rhetorical sophistication and phonological harmony. Unlike ordinary prose, the Qur'an relies heavily upon rhythm, repetition, metaphor, conciseness, and sound patterns to create emotional and spiritual impact.

One of the earliest Western scholars to emphasize the literary uniqueness of the Qur'an was A. J. Arberry (1955), who argued that conventional translation methods fail to capture the Qur'an's rhythmic and rhetorical qualities. Arberry attempted to preserve aspects of Quranic cadence through elevated English prose and balanced sentence structures. Similarly, Muhammad Asad (1980) emphasized that Quranic translation involves interpretation rather than direct linguistic substitution because many Quranic expressions possess multiple layers of semantic meaning.

Modern scholars such as Abdel Haleem (2010) focus on balancing clarity with rhetorical sensitivity. Abdel Haleem argues that effective Quranic translation requires accessibility for contemporary readers while preserving theological precision and stylistic dignity. His translation approach demonstrates the ongoing tension between readability and stylistic fidelity in Quranic translation studies.

Research specifically concerning Surah Al-Qadr frequently emphasizes the Surah's concise yet highly powerful rhetorical structure. Scholars argue that repetition functions as one of the Surah's most important stylistic devices. The repeated expression "Laylat al-Qadr" contributes to rhythmic unity, semantic emphasis, and emotional intensity. According to Qalyubi (2021), repetition in Surah Al-Qadr enhances both memorization and spiritual resonance during recitation. The recurring phrase creates a rhythmic pattern reinforcing the sacredness and grandeur of the night.

Studies examining Quranic phonology further highlight the significance of rhythm and sound in shaping spiritual experience. Mahmoud (2017) argues that tajwid, vowel elongation, consonantal harmony, and recitational pacing contribute directly to emotional engagement with the Qur'an. These phonological features create sonic beauty that cannot be fully reproduced in English translation because Arabic possesses unique sound structures and morphological flexibility.

Lexical analysis also occupies a central position within Quranic translation studies. Researchers emphasize that Quranic vocabulary frequently contains multiple interconnected meanings. The Arabic term "Al-Qadr," for example, may signify decree, destiny, power, honor, or value depending upon interpretive context. Saeed (2017) argues that translators inevitably prioritize certain meanings while minimizing others, demonstrating the interpretive nature of Quranic translation. Consequently, lexical variation significantly influences theological understanding and reader perception.

Rhetorical devices within Surah Al-Qadr have also received scholarly attention. Hyperbole, rhetorical questioning, and parallelism contribute to the Surah's persuasive and emotional force. The expression "better than a thousand months" employs hyperbole to emphasize the incomparable spiritual superiority of Laylat al-Qadr. Similarly, rhetorical questioning elevates suspense and theological reflection.

Recent scholarship increasingly examines the relationship between digital religion and Quranic engagement. Mobile applications and online Quranic platforms now play major roles in shaping religious literacy and devotional practice among global Muslim communities. Khan (2018) argues that Quranic applications improve accessibility and encourage greater engagement with Islamic teachings, particularly among younger generations and non-Arabic-speaking audiences.

However, scholars also express concern regarding stylistic simplification within app-based translations. Some researchers argue that digital platforms frequently prioritize user-friendly language and simplified explanations at the expense of rhetorical beauty and theological subtlety. This tension between accessibility and stylistic preservation represents an important issue within contemporary Quranic studies.

Despite growing research on Quranic translation and digital religion, relatively limited scholarship specifically compares stylistic variations among app-based translations of Surah Al-Qadr. Most previous

studies focus either on general translation theory or isolated linguistic features rather than systematic comparative analysis across digital platforms. This study addresses that gap by applying a comprehensive stylistic framework to compare translations from Quran.com, Muslim Pro, and Jazz Islam World.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts Leech and Short's (2007) stylistic framework as the primary analytical model. Originally developed for literary analysis, the framework remains highly relevant for Quranic studies because the Qur'an combines literary artistry with sacred theological communication. Leech and Short categorize stylistic features into four major areas: lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, and graphological or phonological features. These categories provide a systematic method for examining how linguistic choices shape meaning, emotional resonance, and rhetorical effect.

The lexical category focuses on vocabulary selection, semantic associations, and connotative meaning. Within Surah Al-Qadr, lexical analysis examines how translators render key expressions such as "Al-Qadr," "anzalna," and "salam." Lexical choices influence not only semantic interpretation but also theological and emotional perception.

The grammatical category examines syntax, sentence structure, clause organization, and textual arrangement. Surah Al-Qadr employs concise grammatical patterns contributing to rhythmic flow and rhetorical intensity. The analysis therefore investigates whether translations preserve or modify these structures.

Figures of speech include repetition, metaphor, hyperbole, rhetorical questioning, and parallelism. These rhetorical devices strengthen emotional intensity and theological emphasis within the Surah. Finally, phonological analysis investigates rhythm, pacing, sound patterns, and recitational effects. Although English translations cannot fully reproduce Arabic tajwid and phonology, translators may still attempt to create rhythmic balance and stylistic elegance.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employs a qualitative comparative research design to investigate the stylistic dimensions of English translations of Surah Al-Qadr available in three Quranic mobile applications: Quran.com, Muslim Pro, and Jazz Islam World. Qualitative methodology is particularly suitable for stylistic analysis because the research focuses on interpretation, textual meaning, rhetorical impact, and linguistic nuance rather than numerical measurement or statistical evaluation. Stylistic features such as repetition, lexical choice, rhythm, and rhetorical organization require close textual analysis capable of identifying subtle linguistic variations and interpretive implications.

The comparative dimension of the study enables systematic examination of similarities and differences among the selected translations. By comparing translations from multiple digital platforms, the research identifies how distinct stylistic strategies influence theological interpretation, readability, emotional resonance, and spiritual engagement. Comparative analysis also strengthens research reliability because recurring stylistic patterns may be verified across multiple translations.

The study follows three major analytical stages. First, each translation is examined individually in order to identify dominant stylistic characteristics. Second, similarities and differences among the translations are compared systematically according to lexical, grammatical, rhetorical, and phonological categories.

Third, the broader implications of stylistic variation for Quranic understanding, translation theory, and digital religion are interpreted critically.

Selection of Quranic Applications

The study focuses on three major Quranic mobile applications: Quran.com, Muslim Pro, and Jazz Islam World. These applications were selected according to popularity, accessibility, and diversity of translation approaches.

Quran.com

Quran.com represents one of the most widely used Quranic platforms globally. The application primarily utilizes the Sahih International translation, which is recognized for balancing clarity with theological precision. Quran.com emphasizes concise and relatively literal translation strategies while maintaining accessibility for contemporary readers.

Muslim Pro

Muslim Pro combines Quranic translation with prayer schedules, devotional reminders, recitational audio, and educational content. The application targets a broad international audience and therefore prioritizes readability and accessibility. Its translation style frequently adopts modern English expressions designed for ease of understanding among non-native English speakers.

Jazz Islam World

Jazz Islam World primarily serves South Asian Muslim audiences and incorporates Quranic translation alongside Islamic educational resources and devotional features. Compared with Quran.com and Muslim Pro, Jazz Islam World often employs more formal vocabulary and elevated sentence structures reflecting traditional religious translation styles.

Data Collection

Data collection involved extracting English translations of Surah Al-Qadr from the selected applications. The translations were organized verse-by-verse for systematic comparison. Because Surah Al-Qadr contains only five verses, the study focuses intensively upon stylistic detail rather than large-scale textual quantity.

The collected translations were categorized according to Leech and Short's stylistic framework:

- Lexical features
- Grammatical structures
- Figures of speech
- Phonological and rhythmic patterns

Additional scholarly materials concerning Quranic translation, stylistics, digital religion, and Islamic linguistics were consulted to support interpretation and contextual analysis.

DATA ANALYSIS

The study applies close textual analysis to evaluate stylistic variation among the selected translations. Lexical analysis investigates vocabulary selection and semantic implications. Particular attention is given to key expressions such as:

- “Laylat al-Qadr”
- “Al-Qadr”
- “Anzalna”
- “Salam”

Grammatical analysis examines sentence structure, syntax, parallelism, and textual organization. This category investigates whether translations preserve the concise and rhythmic structure of the Arabic original or introduce explanatory expansions altering stylistic balance.

Rhetorical analysis focuses on repetition, hyperbole, rhetorical questioning, and metaphorical language. These devices contribute significantly to the Surah’s emotional and spiritual force.

Phonological analysis investigates rhythm, pacing, and recitational flow. Although English cannot reproduce Arabic tajwid completely, some translations attempt to preserve rhythmic effects through balanced clauses and concise sentence structures.

Ethical Considerations

Because the research concerns sacred religious texts, ethical considerations occupy an important position within the study. The analysis maintains respectful treatment of Quranic material while avoiding reductionist or culturally insensitive interpretation. The study also ensures accurate representation of translation sources and scholarly references.

The research does not evaluate the theological legitimacy of any translation. Instead, the study focuses specifically upon stylistic variation and its implications for readability, emotional resonance, and interpretive experience.

Limitations of the Study

Several limitations should be acknowledged. First, the study focuses exclusively on Surah Al-Qadr rather than the entire Qur’an. Consequently, findings may not apply universally to all Quranic chapters. However, the Surah’s stylistic richness makes it highly suitable for detailed analysis.

Second, the research examines only English translations available in three applications. Additional translations and digital platforms may demonstrate different stylistic strategies.

Third, phonological analysis remains limited because English cannot replicate Arabic recitational features fully. The study therefore focuses on approximate rhythmic and structural effects rather than exact sonic equivalence.

Despite these limitations, the research provides valuable insight into app-based Quranic translation and contributes meaningfully to stylistic analysis within digital religious contexts.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Lexical Analysis

Lexical analysis reveals substantial variation among the selected translations. Vocabulary selection significantly shapes theological interpretation, emotional resonance, and readability. One of the most important lexical differences concerns the translation of the expression “Al-Qadr.”

Quran.com primarily translates the phrase as “Night of Decree.” This lexical choice emphasizes divine authority, predestination, and heavenly command. The word “decree” conveys theological seriousness and aligns closely with classical Islamic interpretations emphasizing divine determination and cosmic authority.

Muslim Pro occasionally adopts more accessible wording intended for broader audiences. Although the application generally preserves traditional expressions, its overall lexical style favors readability and simplicity. This approach makes the translation easier for younger readers and non-native English speakers but may reduce theological nuance.

Jazz Islam World employs more elevated and formal vocabulary associated with traditional Quranic English translation. Its lexical style resembles older religious prose characterized by reverence and solemnity. While this strategy preserves spiritual dignity, it may appear linguistically distant for contemporary readers unfamiliar with formal religious English.

Another important lexical issue concerns the translation of the Arabic verb “anzalna.” Some translations render the phrase as “We sent it down,” preserving imagery associated with divine descent from heaven. Others prefer “We revealed it,” emphasizing conceptual clarity over metaphorical imagery. The former expression creates stronger spiritual imagery and symbolic depth, whereas the latter improves semantic accessibility.

Similarly, the term “salam” may be translated as “peace” or interpreted more broadly as divine tranquility, mercy, or spiritual safety. Different lexical selections therefore shape readers’ emotional and theological understanding of the Surah’s conclusion.

Lexical variation demonstrates that Quranic translation remains interpretive rather than purely mechanical. Translators inevitably prioritize certain semantic dimensions while minimizing others according to audience expectations, theological orientation, and stylistic philosophy.

Grammatical Analysis

Grammatical analysis reveals important differences in sentence structure, syntax, and stylistic pacing among the selected applications. Surah Al-Qadr in Arabic employs concise, rhythmically balanced grammatical structures contributing to rhetorical intensity and memorability.

Quran.com generally preserves shorter sentence structures closer to the Arabic original. This grammatical conciseness contributes to smoother pacing and stronger rhythmic flow. Shorter clauses also preserve the Surah’s oral recitational quality more effectively.

Muslim Pro occasionally expands sentence structures through explanatory phrasing. While this strategy improves comprehension for general readers, it sometimes reduces brevity and rhythmic sharpness. Expanded syntax may weaken the Surah's concise rhetorical force.

Jazz Islam World employs more formal grammatical organization characterized by elevated syntax and traditional sentence patterns. This structure enhances solemnity and reverence but occasionally increases linguistic density and reduces accessibility.

The grammatical arrangement of rhetorical questions also demonstrates stylistic variation. The verse "And what will make you know what the Night of Decree is?" functions as a suspense-building rhetorical device. Translations preserving concise interrogative structure maintain stronger dramatic effect compared with versions introducing explanatory expansion.

Grammatical simplicity therefore appears closely connected with rhetorical intensity and emotional resonance. Concise syntax contributes not only to readability but also to spiritual impact during recitation and contemplation.

Rhetorical Analysis

Rhetorical devices occupy a central position within the stylistic structure of Surah Al-Qadr. The Surah employs repetition, hyperbole, rhetorical questioning, and parallelism to create emotional intensity, spiritual reflection, and theological emphasis. These rhetorical strategies contribute significantly to the Surah's persuasive and devotional power. The comparative analysis demonstrates that the selected Quranic applications preserve these rhetorical features to varying degrees.

One of the most prominent rhetorical devices in the Surah is repetition. The phrase "Laylat al-Qadr" appears repeatedly throughout the chapter, functioning as both semantic reinforcement and rhythmic organization. Repetition intensifies the spiritual significance of the night while contributing to memorization and oral recitation. Quran.com preserves this repetition most consistently by maintaining direct and concise wording throughout the Surah. The repeated expression creates rhythmic continuity and reinforces emotional engagement.

Jazz Islam World also preserves repetitive structure effectively, although its more formal diction produces a slightly elevated rhetorical tone. The repetition within this translation contributes to solemnity and reverence, reflecting traditional Quranic translation styles associated with classical religious discourse.

Muslim Pro occasionally introduces more explanatory language that slightly weakens repetitive rhythm. Although the meaning remains accessible and understandable, the rhetorical impact of repetition becomes less pronounced because explanatory phrasing interrupts the Surah's concise flow. This demonstrates how translation choices prioritizing accessibility may unintentionally reduce stylistic intensity.

Another important rhetorical feature is rhetorical questioning. The verse "And what will make you know what the Night of Decree is?" functions not as a request for information but as a strategy to elevate suspense and spiritual contemplation. This rhetorical question magnifies the mystery and greatness of Laylat al-Qadr. Quran.com preserves the rhetorical force of the question through concise wording closely aligned with the Arabic original. Jazz Islam World similarly maintains rhetorical dignity through elevated expression.

Muslim Pro presents the rhetorical question in more accessible language; however, simplification slightly reduces dramatic intensity. This difference demonstrates how rhetorical power often depends upon structural brevity and linguistic tension.

Hyperbole also plays a major role within Surah Al-Qadr. The phrase “better than a thousand months” represents an example of deliberate exaggeration designed to communicate the incomparable spiritual superiority of Laylat al-Qadr. All three applications preserve the literal hyperbolic structure because the expression holds major theological importance within Islamic tradition.

However, the surrounding stylistic environment affects the emotional force of the hyperbole. Quran.com’s concise sentence structure intensifies dramatic effect, whereas explanatory additions in Muslim Pro create a more informative rather than emotionally elevated tone. Jazz Islam World enhances grandeur through formal vocabulary and solemn expression.

Parallelism further contributes to the Surah’s rhetorical organization. Balanced sentence structures create rhythm and cohesion while reinforcing theological emphasis. Quran.com demonstrates stronger structural parallelism because its concise syntax reflects the Arabic arrangement more closely. Muslim Pro’s explanatory style occasionally weakens parallel balance by expanding sentence structures. Jazz Islam World preserves formal symmetry but sometimes sacrifices readability because of elevated diction.

The rhetorical analysis therefore demonstrates that stylistic preservation significantly influences emotional and spiritual engagement. Repetition, rhetorical questioning, hyperbole, and parallelism function not merely as decorative linguistic features but as essential components of Quranic meaning and devotional experience.

Phonological Analysis

Phonological analysis represents one of the most challenging dimensions of Quranic translation because the Qur’an’s sonic beauty depends heavily upon Arabic phonetics, tajwid, consonantal harmony, rhythmic pacing, and vowel patterns. These features contribute directly to emotional resonance, memorization, and spiritual contemplation during recitation. English translations cannot fully reproduce Arabic phonology because the two languages differ fundamentally in sound structure and rhythmic organization.

Surah Al-Qadr demonstrates particularly strong phonological qualities despite its brevity. The repeated consonantal patterns, rhythmic pacing, and balanced verse endings create sonic harmony enhancing oral recitation. Arabic recitation also incorporates tajwid rules involving elongation, pauses, stress patterns, and tonal modulation. These recitational features produce emotional intensity and spiritual immersion impossible to duplicate precisely in English translation.

Quran.com attempts to preserve portions of rhythmic flow through concise clauses and balanced sentence length. Shorter sentences create smoother pacing approximating aspects of Quranic cadence. Although the translation cannot replicate Arabic sound patterns, its structural simplicity contributes to relatively effective oral readability.

Jazz Islam World preserves solemn rhythm through elevated vocabulary and formal sentence structure. The translation’s dignified tone produces a sense of reverence and ceremonial gravity. However, its formal diction occasionally reduces natural flow for contemporary English readers.

Muslim Pro prioritizes accessibility and explanatory clarity over rhythmic pacing. While this strategy improves readability for broader audiences, it sometimes weakens phonological balance because expanded sentences interrupt concise rhythmic organization.

The analysis demonstrates that phonological equivalence remains largely unattainable in Quranic translation. Arabic morphology allows flexible sound patterns, consonantal harmony, and rhythmic precision unavailable in English. Nevertheless, translators may still preserve partial rhythmic effects through:

- concise syntax,
- balanced clauses,
- repetitive structures,
- controlled pacing.

Phonological analysis also highlights the importance of recitational experience within Quranic understanding. The Qur'an was historically transmitted orally before written codification became widespread. Consequently, sound functions not merely as aesthetic decoration but as an essential component of meaning and spirituality. Translation focusing exclusively upon semantic transfer may therefore neglect important dimensions of Quranic experience.

The findings suggest that digital Quranic applications should integrate translation with recitational audio and phonological guidance in order to preserve stronger spiritual engagement. Combining textual translation with auditory experience may partially compensate for phonological loss in English translation.

FINDINGS

The study identifies several important findings concerning stylistic variation in app-based English translations of Surah Al-Qadr.

Lexical Variation and Theology

The research demonstrates that lexical variation significantly influences theological interpretation. Different translations of "Al-Qadr" emphasize distinct dimensions of divine authority, destiny, sacredness, and spiritual power. Consequently, lexical choice functions not merely as linguistic substitution but as interpretive positioning shaping reader understanding.

Stylistic Preservation and Emotional Resonance

The findings reveal that rhetorical repetition, concise syntax, and balanced structures contribute strongly to emotional and spiritual engagement. Translations preserving these stylistic qualities create stronger devotional resonance than those emphasizing explanatory prose and simplification.

Accessibility versus Rhetorical Beauty

A major finding concerns the tension between accessibility and stylistic fidelity. Muslim Pro prioritizes readability and broad accessibility, making Quranic meaning easier for contemporary audiences.

However, simplification occasionally reduces rhetorical intensity and phonological beauty. Conversely, Jazz Islam World preserves formal reverence but may appear linguistically distant for some readers.

Quran.com demonstrates the strongest balance between clarity and stylistic preservation. Its concise structures preserve portions of Quranic rhythm and rhetorical force while remaining relatively accessible.

Digital Religion and Quranic Engagement

The study also confirms that Quranic mobile applications play increasingly influential roles within modern Islamic practice. Millions of Muslims now engage with Quranic translation primarily through digital platforms. Consequently, stylistic decisions within these applications possess considerable impact upon contemporary religious understanding and devotional experience.

Limits of Translation

The research further confirms that no English translation can reproduce fully the phonological beauty and rhetorical depth of Quranic Arabic. Translation inevitably involves partial loss because Arabic possesses unique semantic density, rhythmic organization, and sonic harmony.

Nevertheless, careful stylistic strategies may preserve aspects of emotional resonance and theological dignity. Effective Quranic translation therefore requires balance among:

- semantic accuracy,
- stylistic fidelity,
- readability,
- spiritual sensitivity.

This study investigated the stylistic dimensions of English translations of Surah Al-Qadr across three major Quranic mobile applications: Quran.com, Muslim Pro, and Jazz Islam World. Using Leech and Short's stylistic framework, the research analyzed lexical choices, grammatical structures, rhetorical devices, and phonological patterns in order to examine how stylistic decisions influence theological interpretation, emotional engagement, and spiritual resonance.

The findings demonstrate substantial stylistic variation among the selected applications. Quran.com emphasizes concise syntax, semantic clarity, and balanced rhetorical preservation. Muslim Pro prioritizes accessibility and contemporary readability designed for broad international audiences. Jazz Islam World adopts elevated diction and formal structures associated with traditional Quranic translation styles.

The study confirms that stylistic features such as repetition, hyperbole, rhetorical questioning, and rhythmic balance play essential roles in Quranic communication. These features contribute not only to aesthetic beauty but also to theological emphasis and devotional experience. Translation strategies weakening these stylistic dimensions may reduce emotional resonance even when semantic meaning remains accurate.

Phonological analysis further demonstrates the limitations of Quranic translation. Arabic tajwid, consonantal harmony, rhythmic pacing, and sonic beauty cannot be reproduced completely in English

because of fundamental linguistic differences. Nevertheless, translators may preserve aspects of rhythmic and rhetorical effect through concise structures, repetition, and balanced syntax.

The research contributes to Quranic studies, translation theory, stylistics, digital religion, and applied linguistics by highlighting the growing influence of mobile applications in shaping contemporary Muslim interaction with sacred texts. As digital religion continues expanding globally, the stylistic quality of app-based Quranic translations becomes increasingly significant.

Future research should explore:

- user reception studies,
- multilingual Quranic applications,
- artificial intelligence in Quranic translation,
- recitational audio integration,
- comparative analysis of additional Surahs,
- and the relationship between digital interface design and spiritual engagement.

Ultimately, effective Quranic translation requires more than semantic transfer alone. Translators must also preserve emotional intensity, rhetorical elegance, and spiritual dignity in order to communicate the multidimensional richness of the Qur'an to global audiences.

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