Globalization According to the Arabic Lexicography

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ABSTRACT

Grammatically speaking the term “global” is an adjective and its noun is globalization. The United Nations popularized this term about a decade ago since then it has been popular and current in economics, politics and communication like global economy, global political trend, global communication and global village. Philologically, it is a current popular terminology and its original meaning is a ball or a round body, sphere, the earth: a sphere representing the earth (terrestrial globe) or one representing the heavens (celestial globe): an orb, emblem of sovereignty: a lamp glass: a nearly spherical glass vessel: a group to form into a glob, adjective global spherical: world wide: affecting or taking into consideration, the whole world or all people: comprehensiveness. Globalization is a noun and its verb is to globalize and its adverb is globally. This article attempts to academically identify some of the Arabic terms indicating or connotating global and globalization based on the selected Arabic-English or English-Arabic dictionaries and Arabic lexicons. This article discovers that Arabic words or terms namely al-dunya (the world), al-`alam (the universe), al-kawn (the universe) allude to global and globalization although they have different connotations for different academic disciplines. The Arabic term al-dunya (the world) connotes the present world or state of existence and it is so called the near abode or the inferior abode with transient human life enjoyments, goodness and prosperity in Islamic mysticism in comparison with the Arabic term al-akhirah (the end or the final existence for human beings after the doomday). The Arabic term al-`alam (the world or the universe) refers to the physical world rather than the spiritual world and this small world or `alam al-saghir is said to be a microcosm in comparison with the celestial world or a macrocosm in Islamic cosmology. The Arabic term al-kawn (the universe) means a new thing and the present world and for Hans Wehr argues that the Arabic term al-kurawiyyun means global, globe, sphere and ball.

Key words: globalization, global, Arabic lexicography, world, universe

Introduction

This article is academically to identify some of Arabic terminologies for globalization and global with special reference to authentic Arabic lexicons. It is lexically hoped that from this study it may be possible to present a critical examination of the above mentioned subject in a manner which would be readily accessible to anyone interested in knowing and understanding the Arabic terms for globalization and global.

Globalization in Arabic lexicons and dictionaries:

The first Arabic term denoting globalization and global is al-dunya (the world) for the dwelling or abode in the present world, and life or state of existence; it is so called because of its near-abode: and the inferior abode. It also signifies the enjoyments, blessing, or good, of the present world, or life worldly blessings or prosperity. When it is said malahu dunya wa-la akhirah, this Arabic sentence indicates he has none of the enjoyments or blessing of the present world, nor in prospect any enjoyments or blessing of the world to come. And when it is said ba’a dunyahu bi-akhiratih, this Arabic sentence means he purchased his enjoyments of the present world at the expense of his enjoyments of the world to come.(Lane 1984, 1:922).

In this context that the word al-dunya obviously refers to the world or the present world. It is virtually synonymous to the Arabic noun al-alam (the universe). The universe is twofold the great universe which is the celestial or sphere with what is within it, and the small universe which is man as being in “a microcosm” i.e an epitome of all that is in the great and al-alam has no literal sing, because it is (significant) of a plurality of classes or diverse things, and if made a. sing. Of one of them, it is (significant) of a plurality of congruous things: the plural and al-`awalin and the singular is (said to be) the only instance of a word of the measure fa’al having a plural formed with waw and nun except yasinmin but see this latter word al-alamun signifies the (several) sorts of created beings or things: or all the sorts there of: or the beings of the universe, or of the whole
world. It has this form because it includes mankind: or because it denotes particularly the sorts of created beings consisting of the angels and the jinn and mankind, exclusively of others. (Lane, 2: 2141).

Moreover Munir Baalbaki, presently interprets that the global as kurawi, `alam and shamil (Baalbaki 1982: 390). Meanwhile Dr. Kazem Adel Nasser beautifully defines “Global” as `alam and shamil It is originally the contrary words of mawda `i and mahalli (local), javar and mujawarah (neighborhood) mantiqi, iqlimi (regional) qarawi, mahalli and iqlimi provincial. (Adel Nasser 1984: 234).


Furthermore, Hans Wehr mentions that `alam the plural al-`awalin as world, universe, cosmos; `alaman the two worlds = Europe and America `alamun inhabitants of the world, specifically human beings- `alam al-hawan the animal kingdom `alam al-ma`an adin the mineral kingdom, `alam al-nabatat the vegetable kingdom, `alam al-wujud this world, this life. `alam worldy, secular, world (adjective), international; world-wide, world famous enjoying worldwide renown `alamiyyah internationally. (Wehr 1973: 636)

There is lexically another word al-kawn elucidating the antecedently mentioned words. According to Abu al-Baqa’ al-Husayni, the al-kawn does mean al-hadth new thing (al-Husayni 1993: 77), and the Arabic noun al-kawnan means present world and world to come. (Anis). The Arabic noun kawn and its plural akwan means being, essence, existence, event, occurrence, incident; al-kawn means the existent, the existing, reality, the world, the cosmos, the universe al-kawn al-a`ala means the Supreme being- God. (Wehr 1973: 847). Lois Malus evidently signifies al-kawn as this world. (Malus 1986: 7-4).

M.A.Z Madina interprets that kawn plural akwan as being, existence- occurrence, and al-kawn as the world, the universe- (Madina 1973: 586) It also can be scholastically translated as a number of creations or world, the Supreme Being, God, and al-kawnan the present world and world to come. (Omar 1989: 1061). Ibn Manzur favorably elucidates that al-kawn means a new thing, an innovation or a thing not known before. (Ibn Manzur, no date, 13: 363).

In addition to the opinions and statements of the above mentioned scholars of Arabic language, Hans Wehr introduces kurawiyyun for globalization, kurrah a globe and its plural form kurrat to mean, globe, sphere, ball kurrah al-ard and terrestrial globe, kurrah ardiyyah, kurrah al-thulj snowball, kurrah al-salah basketball, kurrah al-tawlah table tennis, kurrah al-qadam football- soccer, kurrah al-kawakib celestial sphere, kurrah lahm small meatballs, kurrah al-ma` water polo, kurrah al-yad European handballs, nisf al-kurrah hemisphere. kurra and kurrawi globular, globate, globose, ball-shaped, ball-like and spherical. (Wehr 1973: 824), and kurawiyy related to al-kurrah ball-shaped (Omar 1989: 1039) or hemisphere (Baalbaki 1982: 422).

According to Hassan Abdallah the global presumably denotes that of several Arabic words namely `alam, shamil and `am, and wakalah ave hay`ah `alamiyyah fo global agency, tansiq shamil for global coordination, tashilat al-shamilah for global facilities, khatt `alamiyyah or khatt shamilah for global plan, and istirajiyah `alamiyyah or shamilah for global strategy. (Abdallah 1982: 127)

Recently the Arabic word al-`awlamah is for globalization (Mahathir 2001: 22), derived from `alam and philologically it can be translated to mean Globalization, globalisation and to make global (Kirkpatrick 1983: 533). Unfortunately that al-`awlamah does not exist in the old Arabic Lexicon. It is probably that it is a new terminology currently interpreted by modern philologists.

However, terminologically there are several Arabic words or terms that point to globalization such as al-dunya, sl-`alam, al-shamil, al-kawn and al-kurawi. Moreover, all these Arabic terms or words favorably might refer to international, universal, cosmopolitan, worldly, secular, worldwide, world and famous or internationally.

Conclusion:

There are many Arabic lexicons and dictionaries discuss about globalization and global in Arabic language. The most popular among the Arabic words for globalization and global are al-dunya, sl-`alam, al-shamil, al-kawn and al-kurawi as briefly presented in this article. Their sources are also cited and referred to indicate the scholars who have used these Arabic terms or words for globalization and global.

References


