

A Statistical Analysis of the Holy Quran in the Digital Era; Case study of Sura An-Nisa'

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Abstract

As Muslim believe that, the Holy Qur'an is the words of Allah that is unchangeable and unmodifiable with most accurate in its verses and words, prodigious in its rules, letters and arrangements that cannot be moved forward or backward, no deletions or additions on it. No falsehood can approach it from before or behind it. It is sent down by One Full of Wisdom, worthy of all Praise. Perhaps this paper, can be seen as a great sea of knowledge. The paper shows some statistical analysis on the holy Quran and classify this analysis to few categories by using the computer programs. This paper is focuses on Sura An-Nisa' as a case of study and tries to show some impact of Information and Communication Technology toward serving the Holy Quran.

Keywords: Quran and ICT, Digital Quran, Analysis of Sura An-Nisa', Statistics of the Quran, Digital Era, ICT and Islam, Analysis of the Holy Quran.

JEL Classification : fill in this section based on the JEL Codes by American Economic Association; separator uses a semicolon

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Introduction

The Holy Qur'an contains of 114 Suras (chapters) divided into 30 parts (Juzo'). The total number of its verses (Aayah) are 6236, which contains 77479 words and 324844 letters. There are 87 Meccan Suras (reviled in Macca) and 27 Medinian Suras (reviled in Madina).

This paper highlights the importance of serving the Holy Book of Quran whose endless wonders and knowledge are not enough to create a satisfaction to the scientists. However, many earlier studies (before this work) have addressed this matter by former scholars who inspired us by their works.

The paper divided into two parts, the first part showed some statistical analysis on the holy Quran and classify this analysis to few categories. While the second part of this paper focus on one Sura (chapter) only (Sura An-Nisa') to show some statistical analysis on this Sura which can be applied later on any other Suras (chapters) of the holy Quran. We have classified this analysis into few parts, each one shows different results, as illustrated in the next section. The computer was used for the collection and initial classification of the Quranic databases processes.

Previous studies about the statistics of the Holy Quran

The study of the Holy Qur'an might be one of the most important Islamic Studies in recent times. The study of the meanings of the verses of the Holy Qur'an began during the reign of the revelation to the Prophet (peace be upon him). The studies continued to include the statistics of the words, verses, and Suras of the Holy book, to illustrate the Meccan and Medinian Suras, and to organize them based on the order of descent of the Suras and verses to the Prophet (peace be upon him). Later, dozens of books were written on the jurisprudence of scientists and scholars majored in the sciences of the Holy Qur'an and its verses. Some of them studied deeply the census of the Quranic verses, the numbers of Suras, and chapters of the Holy Qur'an. Some of them worked hard in the elicitation of secrets of the verses of the book in terms of count, order and other theories that are still under studying and verification.

The efforts of scholars in the field of the Quranic verses statistics began early in the first centuries of Hijrah. The book "البيان في عد أي القرآن" of Abu-Amr Othman bin Saeed Al-Umawi Al-Dani was considered as one of the largest books written in the science of Quranic statistics. The author of this book collected the old books and materials that were previously prepared for this field. This includes the number of verses, setting their heads, the number of words, number of letters and the number of its chapters and their positions. It is worth noting that there are other studies conducted about the order and explanation of the Quranic words, such as: (Kitab Al-Ma'jim Al-Mufahrasa Li Alfath Al-Qur'an Al-Kareem) by the author Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed Al-Hajili, printed in 1421 of

Hijrah. The author listed some of the literature and previous books about the order and statement of the Quranic words. Where he referred to some of the following books:

- *Garib Al-Quran*. By: Ibn Abbas, edited by: Ata' bin Abi Rabah (114 of Hijrah).
- *Tafseer Garib Al-Quran*. By: Zaid bin Ali bin Al-Hussain bin Ali bin Abi Talib (120 of Hijrah).
- *Garib Al-Quran*, by: Abi Ja'far bin Ayoub Al-Muqri' (He lived in the second half the second century).
- *Majaz Al-Quran*, by Obaidah mu'mar bin Al-Muthana Al-Timi (210 of Hijrah)

And other books that meant to interpret and study the Garib Al-Qur'an book in terms of its vocabularies and/or words, which exceeded forty books. Then the researcher reviewed some of the books that were written for indexing the Quranic words, including:

- *Al-Mu'jam al-mufahras li-alfath al-Qur'an al-kareem*, by Mohammed Fouad bin Abdul Baqi (1364 Hijrah).
- *Mu'jam alfath al-Qur'an al-kareem*, issued by the Arabic Language Academy in Cairo during the period of 1953 - 1970.
- *Mu'jam al-alfath wa al-'alam al-quraniah*, by Mohammed Ismail bin Ibrahim, the first edition issued in 1961.

In the field of the inimitability of the Qur'an, Dr. Mohammed Al-Saed Radi Jibril wrote a book entitled "Enaiah al-muslmin bi ibraz wujud al-I'jaz fi al-Qur'an al-kareem". This book addressed a summary of the inimitability of the Holy Qur'an, and narrated the most important studies in this field that were developed by scholars of the early Muslims. Then he divided the inimitability of the Qur'an into seven types, namely: The Qur'an's inimitability in terms of its eloquence.

- The Qur'an's inimitability in terms of its context and approaches.
- The Qur'an's inimitability in terms of narrating about the unknown future.
- The Qur'an's inimitability in terms of narrating about the previous centuries and the extinct nations.
- The Qur'an's inimitability in terms of psychology.
- The Qur'an's inimitability in terms of its teachings and legislation, and
- Scientific miracles.

Methodology of this study

In the following sections provide analysis for in seven parts related to Sura An-Nisa' have been introduced; the first part about **General Information** on Sura An-Nisa', the second part is about **Numerical studies** on Sura An-Nisa', the third part forces on the **Length of words and verses** of Sura An-Nisa', the forth part is about the **size** of Sura An-Nisa' comparing to the holy Quran, the fifth part is about the **repetition of letters** in Sura An-Nisa', the sixth part is about the number of **letters and words in each verse** of Sura An-Nisa' finally the seventh part is about the marking sign in Sura An-Nisa'. The following list shows the seven part of the analysis.

Part1: General Information on Sura An-Nisa'

Part 2: Numerical studies on Sura An-Nisa',

Part3: Length of words and verses of Sura An-Nisa',

Part4: Size of Sura An-Nisa' comparing to the holy Quran,

Part5: Repetition of letters in Sura An-Nisa',

Part6: Number of letters and words in each verse of Sura An-Nisa'

Part7: Marking sign in Sura An-Nisa'

Each of the above parts contains few details, figure 1 shows the seventh analysis parts of Sura An-Nisa' with the details of each.

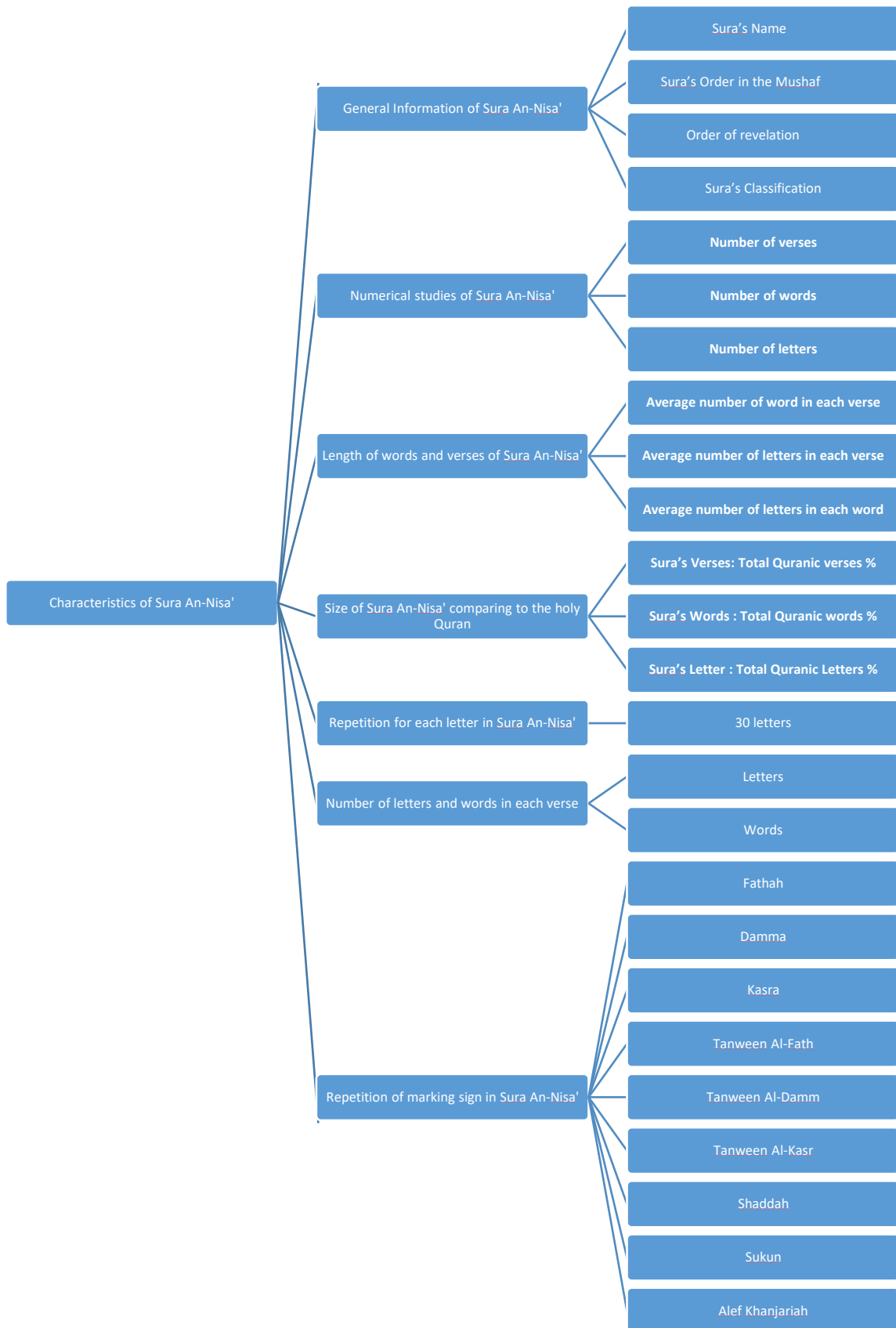


Figure 1. The most important characteristics of this Sura An-Nisa'.

Table 1 shows the general information on Sura An-Nisa' as an example that can be applied to any other Sura (chapter) later on, these information are Sura's Order in the Mushaf, Order of revelation and Sura's Classification (Meccan or Medinian).

Table 1. The General Information of Sura An-Nisa'

Sura's Name	Sura's Order in the Mushaf	Order of revelation	Sura's Classification
An-Nisa'	4	92	Medinian

The above table showed that Sura an-Nisa' has order 4 in the Mushaf while it has order 92 in the revelation, and also shows that this Sura has reveled in Madina.

Table 2 shows some numerical studies on Sura An-Nisa' as an example that can be applied to any other Sura (chapter) later on, these information are Number of verses, Number of words and Number of letters.

Table 2. The numerical studies of Sura An-Nisa'

Number of verses	Number of words	Number of letters
176	3747	16032

The above table showed that Sura an-Nisa' has 176 verses and 3747 words and 16032 letters and this is means that this Sura consider 4th longest Sura based on the number of verses and 2nd longest Sura based on the number of words as well as number of letters.

Table 3 shows some numerical studies on Sura An-Nisa' as an example that can be applied to any other Sura (chapter) later on, these information are Average number of word in each verse, Average number of letters in each verse and Average number of letters in each word.

Table 3. The length of words and verses of Sura An-Nisa'

Average number of word in each verse	Average number of letters in each verse	Average number of letters in each word
21.289	91.091	4.278

Table 3 showed that the average number of word in each verse in Sura An-Nisa' is 21.289 word / verse and this is consider very high since the average number of words in each verse of the Quran is 12.424 only. The table also showed that the average number of letters in each verse of Sura An-Nisa' is 91.091 letters / verse and this is consider very high since the average number of letters in each verse of the Quran is 52.091. The table also showed that the average number of letters in each word of Sura An-Nisa' is 4.278 letters / word and this is consider very close to the average number of letters in each word of the Quran which is 4.192.

Table 4 shows the size of Sura An-Nisa' comparing to the holy Quran as an example that can be applied to any other Sura (chapter) later on, these information are Sura's verses comparing to the total Quranic verses, Sura's words comparing to the total Quranic words and Sura's Letter comparing to the total Quranic Letters.

Table 4. The size of Sura An-Nisa' comparing to the holy Quran

Sura's Verses: Total Quranic verses %	Sura's Words : Total Quranic words %	Sura's Letter : Total Quranic Letters %
2.822	4.836	4.934

The above table showed that the ratio of Verses of Sura an-Nisa' based on the total Quranic verses is 2.822 %. While the ratio of words of Sura an-Nisa' based on the total Quranic words is 4.836 %. And the ratio of letters of Sura an-Nisa' based on the total Quranic letters is 4.934 %.

As we know that there are 30 including Hamza' (ء) and 2 different Taa' (ت & ة). Table shows the repetition of letters in Sura An-Nisa', and Figure 2 illustrates this table and Shows the ratio of repetition of letters in Sura An-Nisa' with the rest of the Quranic Suras (chapters).

Table 5. Shows the number of repetition for each letter in Sura An-Nisa'

ي	و	ه	ن	م	ل	ك	ق	ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ص	ض	ش	س	ز	ر	ذ	د	خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ة	ب	ا	ء
1276	1365	767	1334	1303	1955	582	255	503	62	404	45	65	101	122	82	306	51	489	181	301	128	196	136	75	561	116	478	2678	115

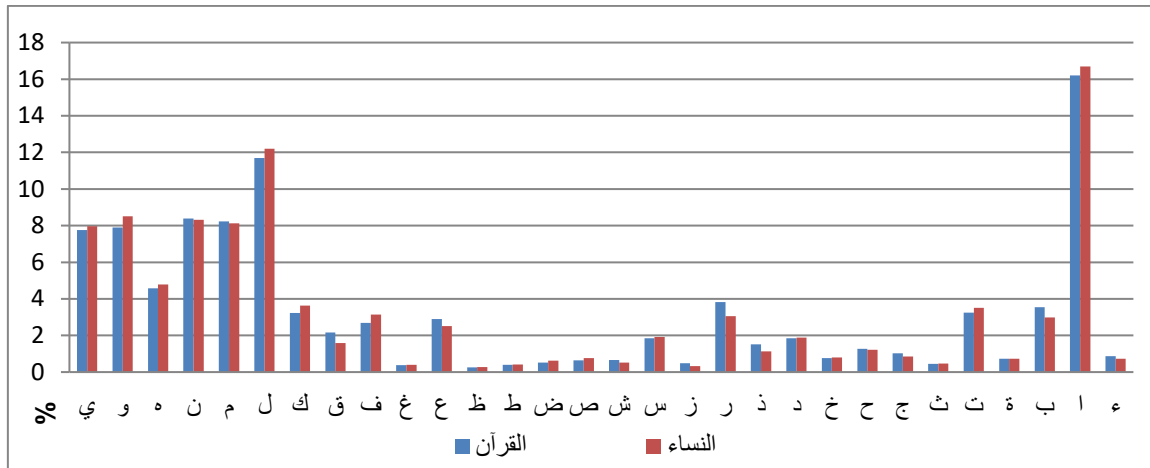


Figure 2. The ratio of repetition of letters in Sura An-Nisa' and the rest of the Quranic Suras

Figure 2 showed the ratio of repetition of letters in Sura An-Nisa' are some time more than and some time less than the rest of the Quranic Suras.

Figure 3 shows the number of letters in each verse in Sura An-Nisa', while Figure 4 presents the number of words in each of its verses.

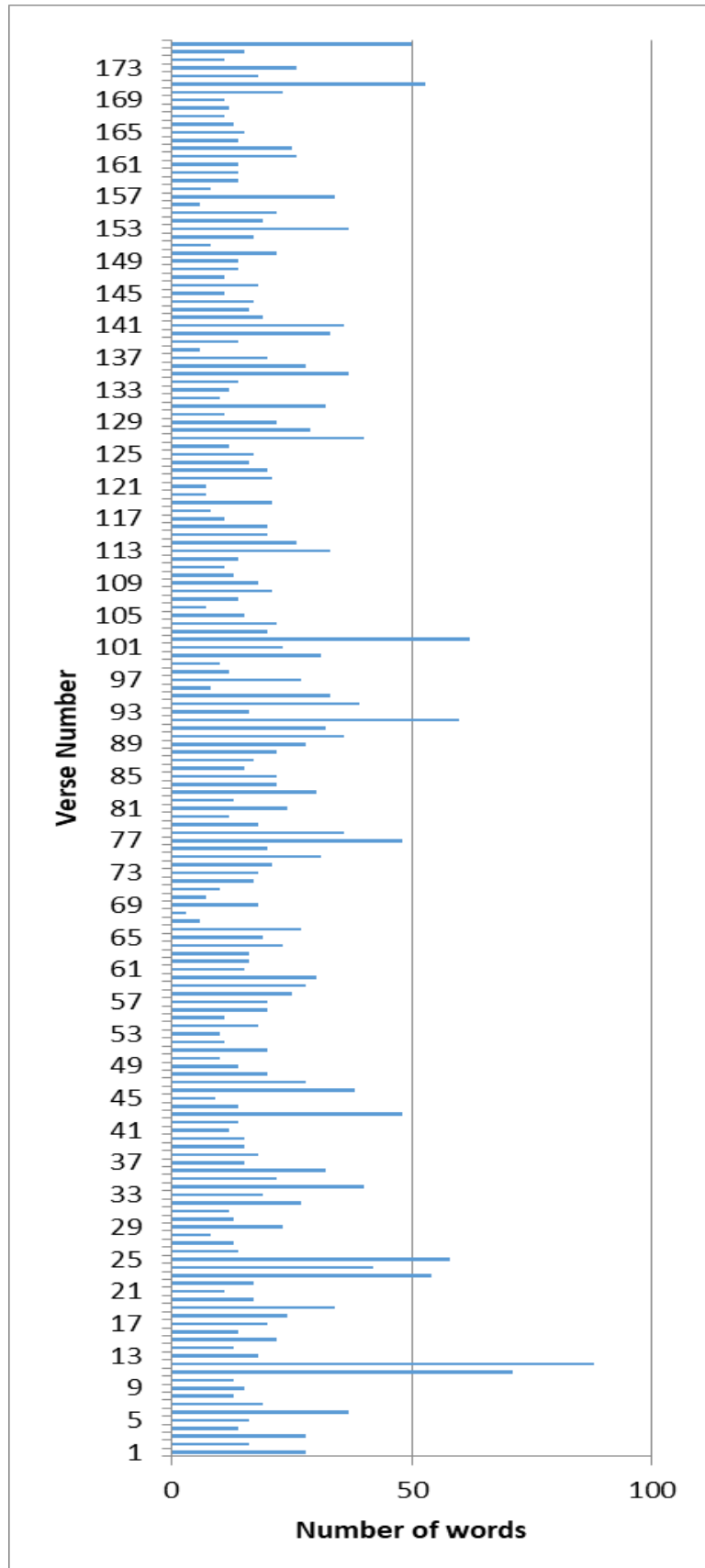


Figure 3 Error! Reference source not found.. Number of letters in Sura An-Nisa'

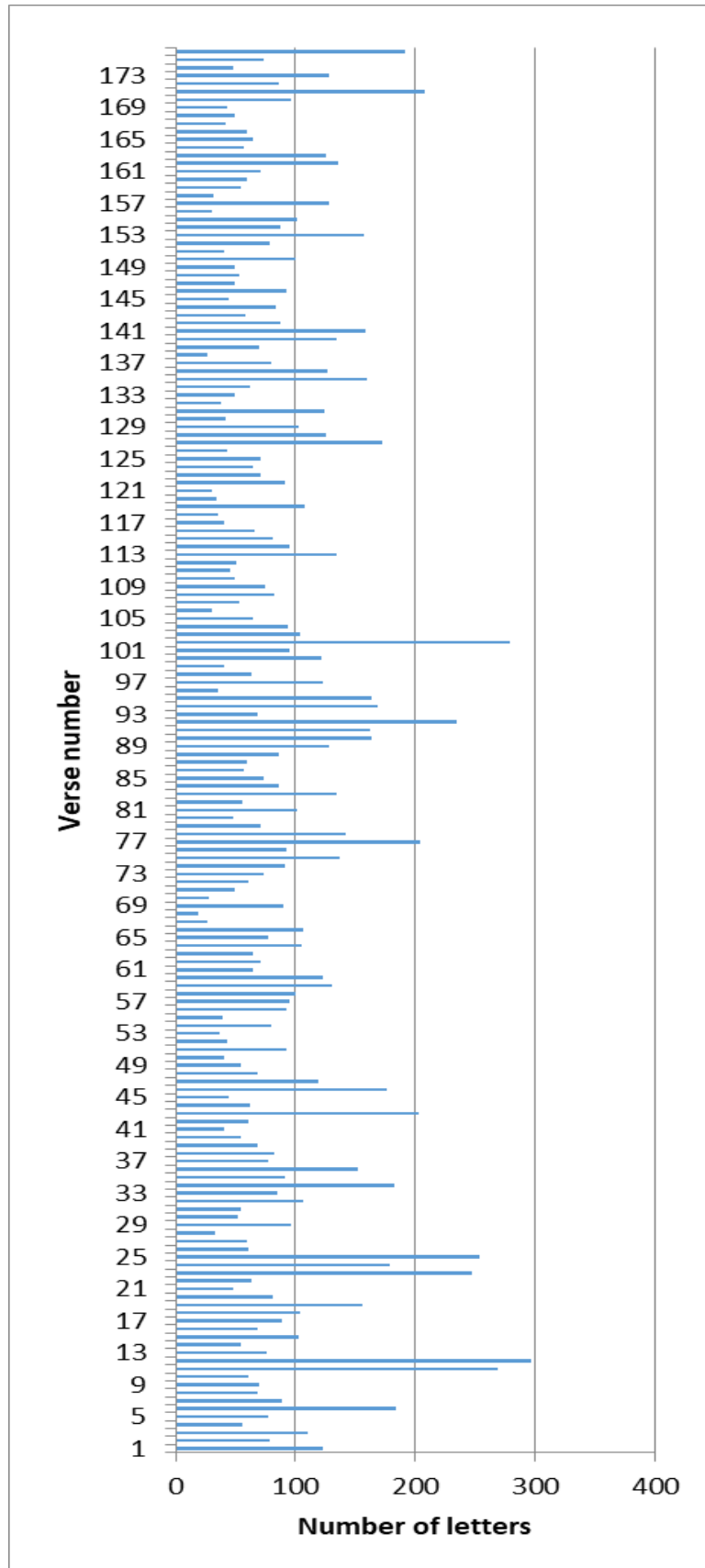


Figure 4. Number of words in Sura An-Nisa'

Figure 3 and Figure 4 showed that the number of letters in Sura An-Nisa' as well as the number of words in Sura An-Nisa' some time above the average while some time is below the average.

Table 6 shows the repetition of the marking signs in Sura An-Nisa', and Figure 5 illustrates the repetition of the marking signs in Sura An-Nisa' as compared to the total Quranic Suras.

Table 6. Highlights the number of repetition of each marking sign in Sura An-Nisa'

Fathah	Damma	Kasra	Tanween Al-Fath	Tanween Al-Damm	Tanween Al-Kasr	Shaddah	Sukun	Alef Khanjariah
5798	1841	2268	380	75	85	1096	1716	379

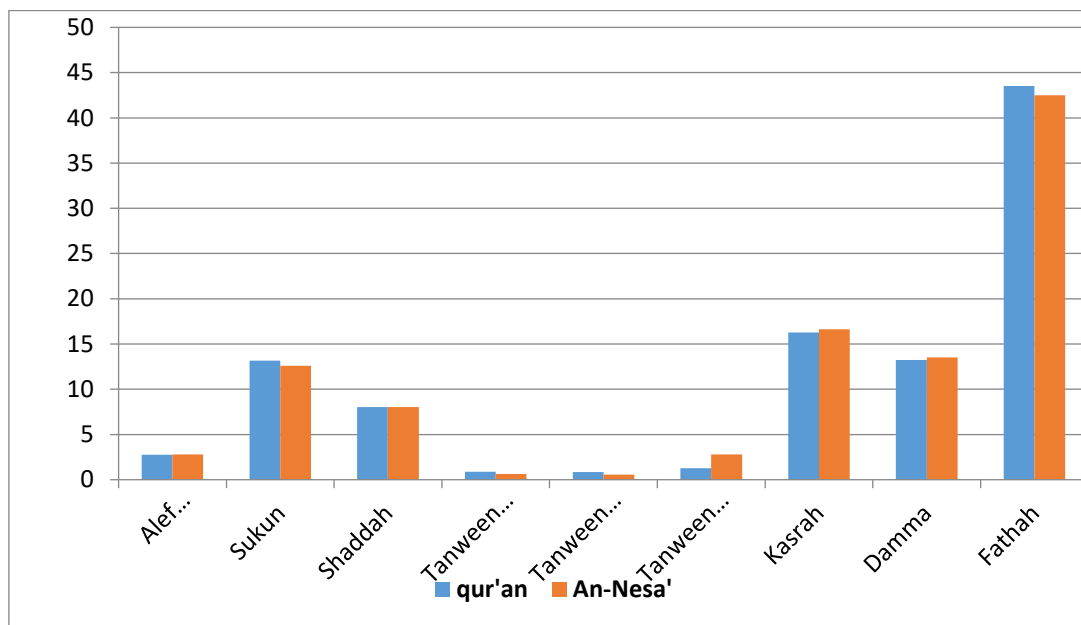


Figure 5. Shows the ratio of repetition of marking signs in Sura An-Nisa' and the Quranic Suras

Table 6 and Figure 5 showed the ratio of repetition of marking signs in Sura An-Nisa' are some time more than and some time less than the rest of the Quranic Suras.

Conclusion

The statistical rules used in this study have been introduced at the beginning of the paper, we rely on what the Kuffans have adopted and the writers of the Medinian Qur'an, which is widespread in the narration of Hafs-from-Asim. This paper focused on one Sura only (Sura An-Nisa') to show some statistical analysis on this Sura which can apply later on any other sura of the holy Quran. The paper included a scientific and systematic guide of this Sura; such as the order in the Qur'an, order based on revelation. It also included a guide of the words of the Qur'an according to the length, roots and repetition. Moreover, the paper included a guide of the Quranic letters marking signs.

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