

Semantic Study on the Unique Naming of PTKIN Library and Information Journals

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A B S T R A C T

The development of library and information science journals within Indonesian State Islamic Higher Education Institutions (PTKIN) has largely been discussed from managerial and bibliometric perspectives, while their linguistic aspects have received limited attention. This study examines the naming of PTKIN library and information journals from a semantic perspective, viewing journal names as meaningful linguistic constructions rather than purely administrative labels. Using a qualitative descriptive approach, journal names are analyzed as lexical data to identify their language sources, semantic structures, and symbolic functions. The findings indicate that PTKIN journal names consistently refer to concepts related to books, libraries, knowledge, and literacy, employing diverse linguistic resources such as Arabic, Indonesian, foreign languages, and local languages. These names operate across denotative, connotative, and symbolic levels of meaning, serving not only to mark disciplinary scope but also to express institutional identity and epistemic orientation. The study highlights journal naming as a structured linguistic practice shaped by disciplinary traditions and cultural contexts, and demonstrates the relevance of semantic and onomastic analysis for understanding academic publishing beyond managerial concerns.

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1. Introduction

The growth of scholarly journals within universities signifies not only an expansion of channels for scientific communication but also a transformation in how institutions cultivate knowledge visibility in the digital academic sphere. Within the context of open access publishing, workflow-based journal management platforms like Open Journal Systems (OJS) have enhanced the ability of academic units, including libraries and study programs, to manage journals with greater standardization and documentation (Edgar & Willinsky, 2010). This shift is intertwined with broader dynamics in the scholarly publishing ecosystem, such as evolving business models and policies that encourage journals to transition toward open access and more transparent governance (Laakso, Solomon, & Björk, 2016). Consequently, a journal now serves not merely as a "container for articles" but also as an instrument of institutional representation, conveying identity, scholarly orientation, and strategies for differentiation amid numerous competing publication outlets.

Amid this expansion, scholarly inquiry into journals often concentrates on managerial aspects, such as publication consistency, peer-review quality, indexing, and citation metrics. However, one element ever-present on the journal's front page is frequently treated as a formality: its name. Within linguistic

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tradition, naming is understood as a semiotic practice that connects linguistic form with categories of meaning, social reference, and identity interests (Hough, 2016). From an onomastic perspective, a name is not just a label; it is a "point of convergence" between lexical choice, cultural memory, and how communities frame their world (Hough, 2016). Therefore, a journal's name can be interpreted as a concise text embodying strategies of signification: How a discipline is presented, how local traditions are preserved, and how a scholarly image is negotiated within an increasingly globalized academic space (Blommaert, 2010).

A linguistic approach to naming is further relevant because names operate on multiple layers of meaning simultaneously. In lexical semantics, a single form can carry both denotative meaning and conceptual associations that "point" to a specific domain (Saeed, 2015; Riemer, 2010). Simultaneously, institutional names often exhibit hybrid patterns involving loanwords, hybridization, abbreviation or acronym formation, and cross-linguistic borrowing to foster memorability and distinctiveness (Hanks, 2013; Hough, 2016). This is particularly significant in scholarly publishing, where academic textual products, including titles, are demonstrably shaped by the discourse community norms and genre conventions prevalent within specific disciplines (Gee, 2014; Swales, 2016). In other words, journal naming constitutes an academic discourse practice: it condenses field orientation, institutional values, and target audiences into an extremely compact linguistic unit.

Prior research indicates that linguistic features in the "front matter" of scholarly publications affect their findability and reception within the citation ecosystem. Although much of this research focuses on article titles, its findings affirm that linguistic choices are not merely decorative. Studies in medical journals have identified correlations between title characteristics (such as length, use of colons, or acronyms) and citation frequency (Jacques & Sebire, 2010). Similar patterns are observed in cross-disciplinary studies examining preferences for concise versus lengthy titles in relation to citation impact (Habibzadeh & Yadollahie, 2010; Jamali & Nikzad, 2011). On a broader scale, analyses of titling practices across disciplines reveal that title style reflects disciplinary norms and strategies of knowledge presentation (Hudson, 2016; Milojević, 2017). In economics, the relationship between title length and indicators of scientific quality or impact has been shown to be a stable pattern across large corpora (Bramoullé & Ductor, 2018). Although these studies primarily analyze article titles, their implication is significant: linguistic choices in scholarly labels influence how academic texts are discovered, read, and positioned by the scholarly community.

Nevertheless, research focusing on journal names, particularly within the context of Indonesian State Islamic Universities (PTKIN) and specifically in the field of Library and Information Science, remains limited from a linguistic perspective. PTKIN presents a unique naming context: it operates within the modern scholarly publishing regime (emphasizing indexing, governance standards, and metrics) while simultaneously drawing upon a rich linguistic repertoire (Indonesian, Arabic, local languages, and foreign elements) as symbolic resources for institutional identity and scholarly tradition. Viewed through a global sociolinguistic lens, this context represents a negotiation between the currents of academic globalization and practices of meaning localization that affirm an institution's cultural roots (Blommaert, 2010; Hyland, 2016; Hyland & Jiang, 2019). Therefore, examining PTKIN journal names addresses not only "what they mean" but also "why particular forms are chosen" and "what identities are constructed" through those lexical selections.

Building on the above rationale, this study aims to semantically analyze the names of Library and Information Science journals within the PTKIN environment. It approaches the journal name as a linguistic construct encompassing (1) language sources and lexical formation processes, (2) layers of denotative and connotative meaning oriented toward the library/knowledge domain, and (3) identity functions within the PTKIN academic discourse community. Through this approach, the study seeks to enrich the discussion on scholarly publishing, which has traditionally emphasized governance, by

incorporating a linguistic reading of journal names as instruments of signification and markers of institutional identity (Hough, 2016; Motschenbacher, 2020; Swales, 2016).

2. Methods

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach, focusing on lexical and contextual semantic analysis of the naming practices of Library and Information Science journals within the environment of Indonesian State Islamic Universities (Perguruan Tinggi Keagamaan Islam Negeri, PTKIN). The qualitative approach was selected as the research objective is not to measure frequency or statistical trends, but to examine the meaning, patterns, and linguistic functions inherent in journal names as linguistic units (Saeed, 2015).

The research objects are the names of scholarly journals in the field of Library and Information Science managed by PTKIN institutions. Data were obtained from the official websites of journals that utilize Open Journal Systems (OJS) and are institutionally identified as being under the auspices of PTKIN. The unit of analysis in this study is the journal name as a lexical form, not the articles or journal content.

Data selection criteria include: (1) journals explicitly operating in the fields of library, information, documentation, or archives; (2) journals managed by a PTKIN or its subordinate units; (3) journal names consistently displayed on the official OJS page. This approach ensures the analyzed data is controlled and relevant to the objectives of semantic inquiry.

Data collection was conducted through documentary study by inventorying journal names from their respective official websites. Each journal name was recorded verbatim, without modification, and subsequently classified based on language form (Indonesian, foreign loanwords, Arabic, local languages, or acronyms). This technique is commonly used in linguistic research focusing on written data and institutional language artifacts (Hough, 2016).

To ensure accuracy, the researcher cross-checked the journal names listed on the OJS homepage with accompanying institutional information. Data that did not meet the criteria or presented institutional ambiguity were excluded from the analysis.

Data analysis was conducted systematically in several stages. First, each journal name was analyzed lexically by identifying the constituent words, morphemes, or abbreviations that form the name. At this stage, the analysis was directed towards the basic (denotative) meaning of the lexical elements used (Riemer, 2010).

Second, the analysis proceeded to the contextual semantic level, interpreting the meaning of the journal name in relation to the institutional context of PTKIN and the field of Library and Information Science. In this stage, the researcher considered connotative meaning, cultural associations, and symbolic values attached to specific word choices (Hanks, 2013).

Third, the analysis results were categorized into recurring patterns of meaning, such as names referring to library institutions, collections or information sources, scholarly values, or religious identity. This categorization was performed inductively, based on empirical findings from the data, rather than predetermined categories (Saeed, 2015).

To ensure the validity of the analysis, this study applied consistency in categorization and data traceability. Each interpretation of meaning was based on linguistic elements explicitly identifiable within the journal name and linked to its context of use. This approach aligns with the principles of semantic analysis that emphasize the relationship between linguistic form and context of use (Gee, 2014).

Through this method, the research does not aim for statistical generalization of findings but aims to provide an analytically sound, linguistically accountable description of journal naming practices within the PTKIN environment.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Naming Patterns of Library and Information Science Journals in the PTKIN

Table 1. Semantic Classification of Library and Information Science Journal Names in the PTKIN

No	Journal Name	PTKIN Affiliation	Dominant Language Source	Key Lexical Elements	Denotative Meaning Reference	Symbolic Meaning Function
1	KHIZANAH AL-HIKMAH: Jurnal Informasi, Arsip, dan Perpustakaan	UIN Alauddin Makassar	Arabic	'khizanah', 'hikmah'	Treasury, wisdom	Knowledge as a valuable intellectual heritage
2	PUSTAKALOKA: Jurnal Kajian Informasi dan Perpustakaan	IAIN Ponorogo	Indonesian–Sanskrit	'pustaka', 'loka'	Book, place	Journal as a space for knowledge
3	TIK ILMEU	IAIN Curup	Regional language	'ilmeu'	Knowledge/science	The pursuit of knowledge as an obligation
4	MAKTABAH	UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta	Arabic	'maktabah'	Library	The library institution as a center of discourse
5	IQRA': Jurnal Perpustakaan dan Informasi	UIN Sumatera Utara	Arabic	'iqra'	(Command) To read	The act of reading as the foundation of knowledge
6	LIBRARIA	IAIN Kudus	Latin/English	'library'	Library	Universal academic identity
7	PUSTABIBLIA	IAIN Salatiga	Hybrid	'pustaka', 'biblia'	Book(s), container	Documented knowledge
8	LIBRIA	UIN Ar-Raniry	Latin	'liber'	Book	Literacy tradition
9	SHAUT AL-MAKTABAH	UIN Imam Bonjol Padang	Arabic	'shaут', 'maktabah'	Voice of the library	Intellectual expression of librarians
10	FIHRIS	UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta	Arabic	'fihris'	Catalogue/Catalog	Knowledge retrieval tool

Source: Journal names collated and summarized by the author from SINTA (Science and Technology Index)

The inventory results in Table 1 reveal that the names of Library and Information Science journals within the PTKIN environment form a semantically consistent pattern. The data shows no instances of journal names that are entirely abstract or disconnected from library and information science references. On the contrary, all journal names have a direct or indirect connection to concepts of books, libraries, knowledge, or literacy activities.

Viewed by language source, journal names can be grouped into four main categories: (1) Arabic; (2) Indonesian and loanword forms; (3) non-Arabic foreign languages (primarily Latin or English-based); and (4) regional languages. The first group, comprising Arabic-based names, is dominant among journals managed by PTKIN institutions, particularly from the early periods of scholarly publishing development. This group includes terms lexically established within the Islamic scholarly and library traditions. The second and third groups indicate a tendency toward hybridization, combining local and global elements to enhance readability across communities. Meanwhile, names utilizing regional languages, while fewer in number, possess strong symbolic specificity.

Regarding lexical form, journal names are generally single nouns or short noun phrases. No instances of clauses or complex syntactic structures were found. This finding indicates a preference for concise, morphologically stable forms that are easily remembered and cited in practice.

3.2 Semantic Structure of Journal Names

Semantic analysis shows that journal names operate on several layers of meaning. At the denotative level, almost all names refer to concrete or semi-concrete entities in the library world, such as library, catalog, book, or writing medium. At this level, the name's primary function is to mark the field of study.

At the connotative level, journal names begin to incorporate associations with specific values, such as wisdom, intellectual voice, or a command to read. These connotations are not universal but are shaped by the institutional context of PTKIN and its surrounding scholarly tradition. Meanwhile, at the symbolic level, the journal name functions as a representation of institutional identity and a particular perspective on Library and Information Science, whether positioned as a scholarly heritage, a professional practice, or an open discursive space.

3.3 Naming as a Disciplinary Semantic Construction

The findings indicate that journal naming in PTKIN functions as a mechanism for disciplinary categorization. Within the framework of lexical semantics, the choice of words that directly reference the world of librarianship reinforces the conceptual boundary between library science and other disciplines. This strategy aligns with the view that institutional naming tends to maintain referential clarity to preserve the connection between the label and its scholarly domain (Saeed, 2015; Riemer, 2010).

In contrast to some interdisciplinary journals that opt for abstract or metaphorical names, PTKIN journals maintain close semantic proximity to librarianship practices. This can be understood as an effort to preserve continuity between the librarian profession, the library institution, and the resulting academic discourse.

3.4 Language, Identity, and the Negotiation of Meaning

The diversity of language sources in journal naming illustrates the ongoing process of identity negotiation within the PTKIN environment. The use of Arabic functions as a marker of historical and religious affiliation, while the use of non-Arabic foreign languages reflects an orientation toward global academic standards. From a sociolinguistic perspective, this phenomenon demonstrates the intersection between the demands of publication internationalization and the need to maintain institutional identity (Blommaert, 2010; Hyland & Jiang, 2019).

Furthermore, the utilization of regional languages in journal naming can be interpreted as a symbolic strategy to affirm the cultural locus of the institution. Although semantically less transparent to external readers, this choice enriches the naming landscape and demonstrates that academic practice is not entirely detached from the socio-cultural context in which the journal is managed.

3.5 Linguistic Implications for Academic Practice

While journal names in PTKIN demonstrate clear richness of meaning and symbolic strategy, the research results also reveal that this semantic potency is not always accompanied by the active involvement of librarians as authors. This finding affirms that language primarily operates at the level of representation and identity, whereas academic practice is influenced by other structural factors beyond the linguistic realm.

Nevertheless, this does not diminish the significance of naming as an object of linguistic study. The journal name remains a symbolic foundation that frames the space of academic discourse. In this context, semantic and onomastic analysis provides an important contribution to understanding how Library and Information Science is represented and positioned within the PTKIN environment.

4. Conclusions

This study demonstrates that the naming of Library and Information Science journals within the PTKIN environment constitutes a structured and meaningful linguistic practice, not merely an administrative marker. Journal names are constructed through lexical choices that consistently reference concepts of books, libraries, and recorded knowledge, while drawing upon diverse linguistic sources, including Arabic, Indonesian, foreign languages, and regional languages.

From a semantic perspective, these names operate on denotative, connotative, and symbolic layers. At the denotative level, the name functions as a marker of the field of study; at the connotative and symbolic levels, the name represents values, scholarly orientations, and the institutional identity of PTKIN within the scholarly publishing landscape. This finding affirms that journal naming serves as a symbolic foundation that frames the space of academic discourse, even if it does not directly determine the intensity of writing practices among librarians.

Theoretically, this study expands the inquiry into scholarly journals by positioning the journal name as an object of semantic and onomastic analysis, thereby complementing the managerial and bibliometric approaches that have thus far been dominant. Contextually, the results of this research provide an understanding of how PTKIN institutions negotiate scholarly identity through language within an increasingly globalized academic publishing ecosystem.

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