

More Universally Acceptable Numeral System

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Abstract— More Universally Acceptable Numeral System (MUANS) came to solve the problems identified and those not noticed by Abdul-Yakeen (2017) in his proposal for the adoption of a Universally Acceptable Numerals (UAN) in a way to make it acceptable by all scholars employing numerals to analyze Issues. Thus, MUANS presents the following explainable models: ; 1, \, ; 1, 7, =, C, O, q, and 1 ; to represent numeral: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10; respectively. MUANS accepts that only the Creator, Almighty God, Allaah(SWT) knows the real meaning of the Arabic Letter *Nun* that starts and stand alone in the Qur'an (Q 68: 1). MUANS, therefore, is obtainable from the Arabic Letter

Nun, ن, for Allaah (SWT) allows believers to ruminate on his creations (Q3: 190 - 191), does not contravene any numeral already in global use, and is the best means of data collation to assist all enumerators to achieve their desires for costs minimization (Q 17: 100) and violent desire for wealth acquisition (Q100: 8). MUANS also shows that Africans are also contributing to Islamic Inventions and is recommended for global use in order to discover its weaknesses and promote decolonization of knowledge suggested by Hall & Tandon in 2017.

Keywords— Documentation, Islamic Inventions, Top-Left-Down Approach, Models, and Systematic.

I. INTRODUCTION

In order to ensure comfortable usage of all relevant information in all transactions, all parties or stakeholders to all actions must record or document their agreements and deals in all manners acceptable to them. Thus, documentation of issues is an inevitable activity of all human beings regardless of age, discipline, gender, race, and religion. Before any documentation can take place there must be, at least, three things, namely: a writer, an intention and a space (floor, walls, cloth, slates, leaves, boards, books, electronic screen, etc) to write on. Pen is the original, continuous and inevitable instrument of writing to the extent that computers are now made with Joy-sticks inform of pens for writing on their screens. Up till this moment, both manual and electronic documentation may be difficult, especially in the Less Developed Countries like Nigeria, due to the fact that the parties involved in a deal may be travelling to the extent that there may be no witnesses and writing materials may not be available as could be inferred from Qur'an (Q 2: 283). All of these are showing that the usage of pencil, biro and paper for documentation cannot be stopped now and in the nearest future.

Numerals are used to document quantities of phenomena to minimize costs. “*Nun*” that happens to be one of the Miracles of Allaah (SWT) as the only alphabet that starts and stands separately in a Qur'anic Chapter (Q 68: 1). Allaah (SWT) does not love wasters (Q 7: 31). Thus,

man must work towards the discovery of numerals that would abide by Allaah's desire.

Most, if not all, of the Window Phones, Android and other highly technical phones are now coming with Joy sticks and/or pens for writing. Lack of electricity in some parts of Ilorin for more than four consecutive months between 2018 and 2019 shows that the usage of pencil, biro and paper for documentation cannot stop in Nigeria in the nearest future.

To document issues, the writer or secretary must know the least cost symbols in term of abstract models or numerals and/or letters acceptable to the stakeholders. An abstract model is “an unclear, ill-structured representation of reality that does not have physical or symbolic configurations” (Adebayo, Ojo & Obamiro, 2006: 8). There is no crime committed if all abstract models are clear, well-structured representation of reality and have physical or symbolic configurations. According to Khan (199: 2534) the first person to Enoch was Prophet Idrees (Enoch). According to Qur'an (Q 96: 1), the first statement revealed to Prophet Muhammad (SAAWS) is *Iqra* which means Read. This paper believes in the existence of the unseen as stipulated in the Qur'an (Q 2: 3). Qur'an is a reminder to all (Q 7: 90), and guide (Q 2: 2) to those who fear Allaah (SWT). Qur'an is a reminder to all (Q 68: 52), thus the study of numerals should be made advantageous to all human beings. Decolonization of Knowledge is hailed by Hall and Tandon (2017). Thus, all Developing Nations' scholars need to invent, practice and promote their inventions in all fields of study.

After learning the first set of symbols or letters, and the composition of symbols into words, one of the first set of abbreviations one could have been taught, in his western school, by his teacher in Health Science and/or Biology, is ‘Mr. Niger’ to represent the characteristics of living things as Movement, Reproduction, Nutrition, Irritability, Growth, Excretion, and Respiration. Later that person could be told that we could add Letter D or Development to it to make it ‘Mr. Niger D’. From there he could develop interests in Abbreviations and/or acronyms in essay writing and algebra and/or modeling in Arithmetic and Economics among other quantitative studies. Numeral is a symbol or letter used to denote a number, Encyclopedia Americana (2006). Thus, a numeral is the value of an event. The fact that Allaah (SWT) hates wasters (Q 6: 141 & 7: 31) this study to find ways of minimizing the resources (time, ink, space, money and pieces of paper) spent to document quantitative data.

Documentation of Debt Contract is eulogised by Allaah (SWT) in the longest verse (Q 2: 282) of the largest chapter of only book that is most read in the world and retains its original form, Qur'an. However, due to the fact that Allaah (SWT) knows that there could be genuine reasons why financial dealers may not be able to document

their deals, He gave the option of *Rahyan* in Qur'an (Q 2: 283). No one can rule out the possibility of people asking the following question: "How do you think somebody would just create a kind of Alphabet now? It would be too difficult to apply". Some people may even disbelieve that this originates from Africa. New set of numerals will ease the adoption of the option of *Rahyan* in the Qur'an, (Q 2: 283).

There were many numeral systems in use before Abdul-Yakeen (2017) invented UAN (., I, \, -, L, U, =, C, O, 9 and I., for the place of Arabic numeral: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10; respectively. The usage of UAN could be obstructed due to the fact that some of the numerals under UAN were already used as constraint symbols in quantitative analysis. Thus, the need to find an alternative numeral system (ANS) could not be over-emphasized. Despite the fact that Allaah (SWT) observes that man is ever miserly (Q17: 100), He says man will be asked to account for how he spent resources endowed to him by his Lord (Q16: 93).

This Study is aimed at solving the problems identified (usage of ., -, and = as symbols for numeral zero, three, and six, respectively) and those not identified (usage of L, 9 and I.; for numeral 4, 9 and 10, respectively) in UAN by Abdul-Yakeen (2017). The study is limited to the little knowledge of the author and all likely misdeeds of man and misuses of ANS among other things by its users as forecasted by Qur'an (Q114: 1-6) which are not captured by this study.

1. Literature Review

To Google (2019) numeral is "a figure, symbol, or group of figures or symbols denoting a number". An ethical, ontological and political exercise, is decolonization of methodology (Ndlovu-Gatsheni, 2017). Decolonization of method of writing numerals is needed by the Third World Nations in order to ensure that the researchers originating from there contribute to human development.

In Islamic Economics it is accepted that Allaah (SWT) is The Most Beneficent and teaches Qur'an by His Mercy (Q55: 1 - 2) but man is greedy (Q 17: 100), violent in love of wealth as in Qur'an (Q 100: 8), Allaah (SWT) teaches by pen (Q 96: 4) He, Allaah (SWT) advises all to read (Q96: 1-5; 73: 4, 18: 27 & 73: 30). Thus, everybody wants to minimize costs to maximize benefits.

Allaah (SWT) gives signs to those who think deeply on His creations (Q3: 190-191). The meaning of the signs in this verse is insurmountable. Man will be shown and see his deed(s) even if it/they is/are smaller than an atom (Q99: 6-9). Allaah (SWT) tells Prophet Muhammad's (SAAWS) that hereafter will be better than this world (Q93: 4) and he will be given to be contented (Q93: 5). *Nun*'s interpretations can confirm these verses because of the discovery of the best numeral from it.

An abstract model is "an unclear, ill structured representation of reality that does not have physical or symbolic configurations" (Adebayo, Ojo & Obamiro, 2006: 8). The above definition of abstract model makes the researcher to look for a clear and well-structured representation of reality to contribute to decolonization of knowledge which is obtainable from the Qur'an. Thus, an

explainable model is a clear and well-structured representation of reality in form of a written symbol.

Islamic inventions are the contributions of Muslim to the advancement of knowledge that are useful to the entire world. Among them are the Hindu-Arabic Numeral System that is used by the Indians and the Arabians; Arabic Numeral System that is used Anglophone Countries; Algebra, simultaneous linear equation and logarithms developed by a Muslim (Muhammad Ibn Musa al-Khwarithm) and many others.

Man will be asked of how he spent resources endowed to him (Q 16: 93). Thus, this paper is aimed at solving the problems identified (usage of ., -, U and = for numeral zero, three, five and six, respectively) and those not identified (usage of L, 9 and I.; for 4, 9 and 10, respectively) in the UAN discovered by Abdul-Yakeen in 2017. The fact that most, if not all, of the Window Phones, Android and other highly technical phones are now coming with Joy sticks and/or pens for writing, shows that the usage of pen for documentation cannot be done away with in the nearest future. Allaah (SWT) says Man does not have anything except what he does (Q 53: 39). Thus, if the dot has life and does a thing or moves it can mean something.

2. Methodology

Research Design: The paper employs the empirical methods to analyze a divine revelation of an Arabic Letter, Nun, to discover a new set of numeral system called Alternative Numeral System, MUANS. On the divine revelation, the paper accepts that Allaah (SWT) is the creator who proportions everything (Q 87: 1) and the Highest (Q 87: 1 and 9: 40) who enjoins all human beings to read (Q96:1-5, and 18:27) and think on His creations (Q3:190-191). On the model of analysis, the paper adopts Explanatory Research Method defined as the "... reasons for a situation or phenomenon" by Eboh (2009: 52). The Research Instruments is sourced from the Arabic Letter Nun that starts and stand alone a Qur'anic Chapter on the Pen (Q 68: 1). The Arabic Letter used is obvious in all Qur'an as in Khalil (2007: 2355). Thus, the Situation or Phenomenon of the study is the dot on the Arabic Alphabet, *Nun*, in the Qur'anic Chapter on Pen (Q68: 1). The analysis of the movement of the dot makes the discovery of the new set of numerals called Alternative Numeral System, ANS.

The source of data is arrived at by reading and praying for understanding and guidance of Allaah (SWT) of the *Nun*. The meaning of Qur'anic verses used in the paper are adopted from the translation of Qur'an by Khalil (2007). The adoption of zero as the numerical value of the dot on Arabic Letter Nun is consistent with the fact that Allaah (SWT) created death and non-living things before the living things (Q67: 2, 53: 44-45, and 76: 1) shows that the dot of the *Nun* could mean death, a non-living thing or nothing or Numeral Zero except it moves or become a living thing.

The paper invents Top-left-down Approach. Top-left-down (TLD) approach means that the writing of numerals under ANS would always begin with a dot from the topmost left side of the spaces provided for documentation and go down, either vertically or diagonally or refuse to go down as a horizontal line. From the Top-left-down Approach, all numerals under ANS are simple and

explainable to everyone that is interested in it. This is also consistent with the fact that Allaah (SWT) owns everything and would reward man by what he does (Q53: 39). The Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad SAAWS) is reported to have said that "... every person will get the reward according to what he has intended" (Khan, 1994: 49). The author accepts that he cannot know the intention of anybody, therefore, tries to obtain numerals based on the action or movement of the dot. Thus, if the dot has life and does a thing by way of movement, it means something or a quantity or numeral is formed.

4. Data Analysis, Findings and Discussion

4.1 Model of Data Analysis

In order to use Explanatory Method of Analysis, the author read the Qur'an and studied the Arabic Alphabets as in Khan (1994: 22) to see that *Alif* 'ا' was the first and the least among them, *Dad* 'ض' was the biggest but at the middle, while *Yah* 'ي' was the last but not the biggest. Despite the fact that *Alif* 'ا' was the first and the least among them, *Dad* 'ض' is the biggest while *Yah* 'ي' is the last; Allaah (SWT) did not swear by them as a single alphabet in the Qur'an but swears by letter *Nun* 'ن', *Sad*, 'ص' and *Qaf*, 'ق' (Khali, 2007: 2355). The author looked for the least of them and that happened to be the Arabic Letter *Nun*, 'ن'. Then at the top of only one of them, *Nun*, came a dot. Thus, the author started working with the dot on the Arabic Letter *Nun* as the Research Instrument. The dot was assumed to mean nothing if it did not move or remained constant but if it moved downward to make a vertically straight line it becomes *Alif* in Arabic Alphabet but it means Numeral One under MUANS. Incidentally, *Alif*, 'ا', happens to be the first Arabic Alphabet.

Writing of a dot on, beside or below *Alif* is also used as a letter to start a word in Arabic. Thus, the *Nun* that starts or ends an *Alif* can be numeral ten. From the highest singular word, *Kaf*, in the Qur'an, came the knowledge on writing two and three dots on *Alif* to make an hundred and a thousand, respectively. For the author beliefs in Honourable Qur'an (Q 53: 77) the dot can mean nothing and everything is from the dot if it moves.

As an Empirical Study, MUANS adopts the dot of *Nunas* Numeral Zero from Abdul-Yakeen (2017) for Allaah (SWT) created non-living before living things (Q67: 2; 53: 44-45; and 76: 1. Movement of the dot of the Arabic Alphabet *Nun*: is used to formulate numbers as in Abdul-Yakeen (2017). The paper accepts that none can move to anywhere except by Allaah's (SWT) authority as in Qur'an (Q55: 33). Direction of Movement (DoM) of the dot of *Nun* is a deed that makes a numeral under ANS. Thus, Top-left-down Approach is employed. Top-left-down approach is consistent with the fact that Allaah (SWT) releases Qur'an to His slave, Prophet Muhammad (SAAWS) without crookedness (Q18: 1). Thus, Numeral One, 1, is formed.

Following the above, Prophet Muhammad (SAAWS) loves movement towards the right. Thus, the

next numeral under MUANS begins from the topmost left space of the column downward to the right. Thus, Numeral Two, ٢, is formed.

Furthermore, the straight movement of the dot forms Numeral Three, ٣, is consistent with Qur'an (Q1: 5): Muslims' prayer for Allaah's (SWT) guidance to the straight or right path to go to heaven.

The joining of the above numerals together do form other numerals. This lead to the findings of the study as follows:

4.2 Findings

The findings of the study are:

- i. First thing to be written in life is the dot as could be seen on every Arabic Numeral *Nun*.
- ii. : or the vertical movement of dot is numeral one.
- iii. : or dot that moves diagonally to make \ as Numeral Two.
- iv. · · or · is the dot that moves horizontally to make - is the Numeral Three.
- v. Numeral Four is ٤. That is to say, three (·) plus one (I) is equal to four, ٤.
- vi. Numeral Five is ٥. That is to say, three (·) plus two (/) is equal to five, ٥.
- vii. Numeral Six is ٦. That is to say, three (·) plus three (·) is equal to six, ٦.
- viii. Numeral Seven is ٧. That is to say, six (·) plus one (I) is equal to seven, ٧.
- ix. Numeral Eight is ٨. That is to say, seven (C) plus one (I) is equal to eight, ٨.
- x. Numeral Nine (٩). That is to say, eight (o) plus one (I) is equal to nine, ٩.
- xi. Numeral Ten (١٠). That is to say, Numeral Ten is of two digits shown by writing Numeral Zero (·) after numeral One (I).
- xii. Writing of a numeral one hundred is '1.', and one thousand is 1..., etc. this is compliance with the Qur'an (Q 89: 3).
- xiii. Economics is the study of how to give out the least to get the best.

4.3 Discussion

Like UAN, all numerals under MUANS are consistent with the source of Islamic Authority, Qur'an, for they are formed based on "Nun" that starts and stands alone a Qur'anic verse (Q 68: 1). The arguments of ANS are based on the fact that Allaah(SWT) created pairs of things (Q36: 36), prefers the foremost (Q56: 10–13), encourages straightness (Q 1: 5) and rightward movement (Q56: 27–28), to the right side within the same space and returns to the origin as in Qur'an (Q53: 42).

Abdul-Yakeen (2017: 272 - 273) suggests that "The dot (.) be placed at the middle of the spaces provided for writing numerals." while MUANS is proposing that the dot (.) be raised up to the top-left or North-West side of the spaces provided for it so that it would neither look like the constraint symbol used to denote full stop nor be mistaken for the constraint symbol already in use to stand for decimal point.

Numeral Three that is proposed to be written as an under-score (.) by Abdul-Yakeen (2017) is now suggested to start from the North-West and moves straight to the North-East, ˆ, so as not to look like the constraint symbol representing the minus sign, - in all quantitative studies.

The capital letter l (L) that is proposed to stand for numeral four by Abdul-Yakeen (2017) is suggested to be changed to 7 to show that it is the addition of numeral three to numeral one that forms numeral four.

The capital letter u (U) that is proposed to stand for numeral five by Abdul-Yakeen (2017) is suggested to be changed to 7 to show that it is the addition of numeral three to numeral two that forms numeral five. Thus, numeral five, 7, under ANS now looks like exactly like the numeral seven, 7, of the Arabic Numeral. The current numeral five under ANS is more acceptable than that of UAN because it is smaller in size and will be consuming lesser ink and time write when compared with each other.

The addition of a numeral three to another numeral three, =, by Abdul-Yakeen (2017) that is not different from the constraint symbol already in use as equality sign is suggested to be written as a topmost straight line with another straight line at the middle of the space provided for it. Thus, numeral six is written as follows: ˆ. With this, numeral six, ˆ, is now different from equality sign, =.

The Arabic Numeral Nine, 9, adopted but proved as a representative of numeral nine by Abdul-Yakeen(2017) is changed to Alphabet q which implies numeral eight plus numeral one. Thus, only four numerals: I, \, C and 0 are the numeral 1, 2, 7 and 8, respectively; out of the First eleven UAN numerals are finally adopted, without modification, by ANS.

ANS, thus, includes: ˆ, 7, ˆ, q, i; to replace UAN's ., L, U, =, 9 and l. for the numeral 0, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10; of Arabic numerals, respectively. MUANS are explainable, economical, linkable, acceptable and sustainable than UAN.

Table 4.1: Table of the First-Eleven MUANS Juxtaposed with the Existing Numerals

Tally Mark	Roman Numeral	Chinese Numeral	Hindu - Arabic Numeral	Arabic Numeral	UAN	MUANS
			.	0	.	.
I	I	I	1	1	I	I
II	II	II	2	2	/	/
III	III	III	3	3	—	ˆ
IIII	IV	IIII	4	4	L	7
IIII I	V	IIII I	5	5	U	7
IIII II	VI	IIII II	6	6	=	=
IIII III	VII	IIII III	7	7	C	C
IIII IIII	VIII	IIII IIII	8	8	O	O
IIII IIII I	IX	IIII IIII I	9	9	0	q
IIII IIII II	X	IIII IIII II	10	10	I.	l.

4.4 Policy Implication

The UAN is the best when compared with all previous numerals but MUANS is better than UAN.

Employment of MUANS in offices would reduce units resources wasted on documenting numerals and lead to optimum utilization of resources at any place and time.

Like UAN, MUANS is also consistent with the Statement of Allaah (SWT) in the Qur'an (Q 89: 3) on by the twos (2s), and threes (3s) for its first three countable numerals are of single movement, the next four (four to seven) are of two-movements, and the last two (eight and nine) are of three movements before the numeral that is of two digits (ten).

In addition, it is the attachment of numeral one and/or numeral two to the previous numerals that makes the next numeral.

The dot of the Arabic Alphabet Nun is the first thing written by everything be it pens, fingers and anything (a click on computer, pressing the clutch of a car, aeroplane, machine, etc to make them work) that can be used for documentation and/or operation.

Wrong writing of a dot or click of the button of a machine can lead to failure or end the world.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

MUANS has the spiritual and empirical evidences fact that Allaah (SWT) does not love wasters (Q6: 141 and 7: 31) and human beings do not want to spend much of their resources (Q 17: 100).

To comply with Qur'an (Q89: 3) where Allaah (SWT) swore by the evens and the odds MUANS have: i, i standing for Numeral Hundred, and Thousand, respectively. In AUAN, all constraints symbols of Modern Quantitative Analysis retain their functions.

Therefore, MUANS contains: ' , l, \, -, L, 7, =, C, O, 9, and i for first zero to ten numerals (0, 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10) which are better than UAN's ., l, \, -, L, 7, =, C, O, 9, and I. for numeral: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, , 8, 9, and 10.

Added to the above are l' and l' which stands for a hundred and a thousand numeral, respectively. MUANS ensures that majority if not all of the uses of the constraints symbols in the Modern Quantitative Analysis are not changed.

Latter years will be better than now (Q 93: 4-5). After hardship is relief (Q 94: 5 - 6). Thus, scholars can get better uses of *Nun* for as MUANS, has come to solve the hardships in the usage of previous numerals the usage of MUANS will expose its weaknesses to corrections and better usages.

Finally, the first set of Arabic Numerals, from zero to ninety-nine can be written as tabulated below:

Table 5.1: Table of MUANS compared with the Arabic Numerals from zero to ninety-nine.

MUANS	'	l	/	-	l	7	=	C	o	q
Arabic	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
MUANS	l'	ll	l/	l-	ll	l7	l'	Lc	lo	lq
Arabic	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
MUANS	l'	l/	//	l-	l/	l7	l'	l/c	l/o	l/q
Arabic	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
MUANS	-'	-l	-/	--	-l	-7	-'	-c	-o	-q
Arabic	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
MUANS	l'	ll	l/	l-	ll	l7	l'	lc	lo	lq
Arabic	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
MUANS	7	7l	7/	7-	7l	77	7'	7c	7o	7q
Arabic	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
MUANS	'	'l	='/	'-	'l	'7	''	'c	'o	'q
Arabic	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
MUANS	c'	cl	c/	c-	cl	c7	c'	Cc	co	cq
Arabic	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
MUANS	o	ol	o/	o-	ol	o7	o'	oc	oo	oq
Arabic	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
MUANS	q'	ql	q/	q-	ql	q7	q'	Qc	qo	Qq
Arabic	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99

In the table above, the MUANS numerals are written in the columns above corresponding Arabic Numerals.

5.2 Recommendations

Due to the superiority of AUAN over UAN and to comply with the views of Hall and Tandon (2017) all scholars are advised to contribute to this field of study to benefit others, be rewarded by Allaah (SWT), (Q2: 245) and get best use of dot of *Nun*.

MUANS is recommended for Global use.

All Developing Nations' scholars shall invent and promote their inventions starting with lithography.

Governments shall establish Centers for the Study of Numerals (CSN) in their universities.

Computers Producing Firms shall introduce keyboards that will contain the new numerals introduced by ANS to allow their utilization on the computer systems.

After this, I noticed that numerals are more economical than all abbreviations. Thus, I picked interests in numerals.

No technological invention can stop manual computation as it is impossible for computers to work without initial instructions from human beings. Moreover, more people use manual computational method than the electronic computational method in the third world countries.

To avoid clashes of meanings and/or usages with the existing mathematical signs and symbols.

To provide alternatives or solutions to the problems raised in UAN.

MUANS is created so as to work towards the Universal Acceptability of Universally Acceptable Numeral (UAN).

Center for Universally Acceptable Numeral (CUAN) shall be created in all research institutions. CUAN is an Abbreviation for the Centre for the Study of Universally Acceptable Numerals. The aims and objectives of the Center would be to determine the Strengths and Weaknesses of Studying the UAN and, along the line recommend the study of Universally Acceptable Alphabets.

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