

# A Semantic Analysis of the Collocative Meaning of *Taḥawwul* in Qatar's Third National Development Strategy 2024–2030

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## Abstract

This study examines the collocative meaning of the word *تحول* /*taḥawwul*/ in the Third Qatar National Development Strategy 2024–2030 document. The word *تحول* frequently appears in official policy documents and development discourse in Gulf countries, including Qatar. However, the term is polysemous and cannot be fully understood through its lexical meaning alone, as it is used across various contexts, such as economics, bureaucracy, and others. Therefore, this study aims to identify variations in the collocation patterns of the word *تحول* and explain how these variations form different collocative meanings in the document. This study uses a qualitative method with a semantic approach based on Benson's collocation theory (1986) and Akasyah's contextual expression meaning theory (2011). The findings reveal that *تحول* appears 10 times in the document and forms three distinct collocational patterns: *ṣifah + maṣṣūf* occurring three times, *maṣḍar + ḥarf jar* occurring six times, and *muḍāf + muḍāf ilayh* occurring once. From these variations in collocational relationships, two contextual meanings of *تحول* emerge: 'transition,' referring to an external shift toward a new condition or orientation in the contexts of modernization, economy, and energy; and 'transformation,' referring to an internal, fundamental, and comprehensive change in the contexts of development, technology, labor, and governance. These findings confirm the relevance of Benson's collocation theory and Akasyah's contextual expression meaning theory in the analysis of national development strategy documents of Arab countries, particularly Qatar, and demonstrate how the choice of collocational patterns plays a role in shaping the meanings represented in these documents.

**Keywords:** *تحول* ; Collocation; Collocative Meaning; Semantics; Qatar.

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## INTRODUCTION

Qatar has formulated and designed a long-term national development strategy that requires extensive changes and improvements across various key sectors of state life (Shah et al., 2024). This strategy is entitled the *Third Qatar National Development Strategy 2024–2030*, or in Arabic, استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة لدولة قطر 2024–2030 /*Istrātījīyatu at-Tanmiyati al-Waṭaniyyati aš-Šālīsatu li-Daulati Qaṭara 2024–2030*/ (جهاز التخطيط والإحصاء لدولة قطر، 2024م / 1446هـ). This strategy constitutes the third and final phase in supporting the realization of the Qatar National Vision 2030 and is published online on the official website of the Qatar Planning and Statistics Authority in the form of a document, allowing it to be accessed and examined by both Qatari citizens and foreign audiences.

One aspect that is particularly interesting to examine is the frequent occurrence of the word تحوّل in documents, news reports, and articles concerning official national development policies of Gulf countries, including Qatar. However, this word is polysemous and cannot be fully understood solely through its lexical meaning, as it is used in various contexts, ranging from economics and bureaucracy to the environment and other fields. When observing this phenomenon, several questions arise regarding the word تحوّل: what is its actual meaning in official national development documents of Gulf countries? Why does its meaning vary and why is it used across different domains? These questions can be addressed through semantic analysis.

In Arabic, semantics is known as علم الدلالة /*ilm ad-dalālah*/. Scholars have explained علم الدلالة through various definitions that are conceptually similar in meaning, including “the study of meaning,” “the science that examines meaning,” “a branch of linguistics that discusses theories of meaning,” or “a branch of knowledge that studies the conditions that must be fulfilled by a symbol in order to convey meaning” (عمر، 1418هـ / 1998م). In this study, the analysis focuses on one type of meaning within semantic studies, namely collocative meaning.

Collocative meaning refers to the meaning of a word that shares a similar linguistic environment and construction with other words (Ainin & Asrori, 2018). According to Leech as cited in Chaer (2014), collocative meaning is one component of associative meaning. Collocative meaning refers to meanings that arise as a result of collocational relationships between words. Collocation itself is the habitual pairing of one word with another as conventionally used by speakers of a language. An example of this is the collocation of *fi'il* with *ḥarf jarr* (Suhada, 2024). As a language rich in collocational patterns, Arabic possesses a wide range of collocative meanings formed through these various patterns.

The theory of collocative meaning has been extensively discussed by both Western and Eastern linguists. One of the most prominent Western theories of collocation is Benson's theory (1986). In general, this theory explains that collocations consist of grammatical collocations, which involve combinations of nominal, adjectival, verbal, and prepositional structures, and lexical collocations, which involve combinations of nominal, adjectival, and adverbial structures (Ilson et al., 2009).

Another theory originates from Eastern linguistics, namely Akasyah's (2011) theory of دلالة التعبير السياقي /*dalālah at-ta'bir as-siyāqīyy*/ 'contextual expression meaning'. دلالة التعبير السياقي refers to the presence of two or more words within a single context, or the binding and co-occurrence of two or more words in general language use, to indicate a meaning derived from the combination of their arrangement and structural system (عكاشة، 1432هـ / 2011م). It should be noted that التعبير السياقي /*at-ta'bir as-siyāqīyy*/ 'contextual expression' differs from contextual meaning in a general sense. Contextual meaning encompasses all meanings of a word across various situations, whereas contextual expression is more limited, as its meaning emerges from a specific structure within a single context that unifies its constituent words.

According to Akasyah, collocation (*taḍām* or *talāzum*) in Arabic consists of several structural patterns, including:

- (1) *ṣifah + maṣūf*, for example الرأي العام /*ar-ra'yu al-ām*/ 'public opinion', الوطن العربي /*al-waṭan al-'arabiyy*/ 'the Arab world', السلم الاجتماعي /*as-silmu al-ijtimā'īyy*/ 'social peace'.
- (2) *ṣifah + ḥarf jarr*, for example أثقل على /*šaqlun 'alā*/ 'burdensome to', أثقل من /*ašqalu min*/ 'heavier than', أثقل في /*šaqlun fī*/ 'heavy in', أثقل عن /*šaqlun 'an*/ 'burdensome to (avoid)'.

- (3) *fī'il + ḥarf jarr*, for example مال إلى /*māla ilā*/ 'tyrannize', مال عن /*māla 'an*/ 'deviate', مال على /*māla 'alā*/ 'like'.
- (4) *fī'il + ism*, for example طلق الزوجة /*tallaqa az-zaujah*/ 'to divorce one's wife'.
- (5) *fī'il + zarf*, for example وقف أمام الباب /*waqafa amāma al-bāb*/ 'to stand in front of the door'.
- (6) *maṣdar + ḥarf jarr*, for example السعي بالنميمة /*as-sa'y bi an-namimah*/ 'to engage in slander' and السعي بين الصفا والمروة /*as-sa'y bayna aṣ-ṣafā wa al-marwah*/ 'sa'i between Safa and Marwah'.
- (7) *muḍāf + muḍāf ilayh*, for example تذليل العقبات /*tadlil al-'aqabāt*/ 'removal of obstacles', عصر القوة /*'aṣr al-quwwah*/ 'era of power'.
- (8) *ma'tūf + ma'tūf 'alayh*, including synonymy (*tarāduf*), for example الأمن والسلام /*al-amnu wa as-salām*/ 'security and peace'; complementarity (*takāmul*), for example العلم والدين /*al-'ilmu wa ad-dīn*/ 'knowledge and religion'; and antonymy (*taḍādd*), for example الليل والنهار /*al-lailu wa an-nahār*/ 'night and day'.
- (9) Quantitative collocation, for example عدد كبير /*'adadun kabīr*/ 'a large number', قليل من /*qalilun min*/ 'a small amount of'.
- (10) Qualitative collocation, for example بعيد المدى /*ba'īdu al-maddā*/ 'long-term', إلى حد بعيد /*ilā ḥaddin ba'īd*/ 'to a great extent', صعب للغاية /*ṣa'bun li al-ghāyah*/ 'extremely difficult'.
- (11) Locative collocation, for example في كل مكان /*fī kulli makān*/ 'everywhere', في أرجاء كذا /*fī arjā'i kadzā*/ 'throughout', من هنا وهناك /*min hunā wa hunāk*/ 'from here and there'.
- (12) Temporal collocation, for example في بضع سنين /*fī biḍ'ī sinīn*/ 'within a few years', في المستقبل القريب /*fī al-mustaqbali al-qarīb*/ 'in the near future', في الوقت نفسه /*fī al-waḡti nafsih*/ 'at the same time'.

Various similar studies have been conducted. Alhusaiyan (2023) conducted a study on semantic prosody in the verb *waqa'a* in the Qur'an. This study aimed to see the tendency of the meaning of the word, whether it is positive, negative, or neutral, based on the words that frequently appear around it. The results of this study show that the collocation of the word *waqa'a* helps to clarify certain shades of meaning in the context of the holy book. However, the focus of this study is still limited to a religious corpus that has a standardized and fixed language structure.

Obeidat and Mahadi (2019) examined the translation of religious and cultural collocations in Arabic literary texts into English. They used domestication and foreignization strategies to analyze how these cultural terms are translated so that they can be accepted by the target readers. This study shows that translators often face difficulties in maintaining a balance between the authenticity of the source text and the fluency of the target language. However, because it uses literary texts as the object of study, the resulting analysis is more aesthetic and sociocultural in nature.

Brierley and El-Farahaty (2019) conducted a corpus-based analysis of the legal term *karāma* (dignity) in the constitutions of Arab countries and its translation into English. This study combines quantitative and qualitative methods to examine whether the legal term is understood consistently across various state documents. The contribution of this study is very important for the field of legal linguistics and the translation of official documents. However, the focus of the discussion is still limited to constitutional terminology that is formal and rigid in nature.

Based on a review of the studies above, there are still very few studies that specifically analyze collocation in official policy documents of Arab states that are strategic and technocratic in nature. This is where the novelty of this study lies, namely in the analysis of the collocational meaning of one key word, *taḥawwul*, in Qatar's Third National Development Strategy 2024–2030. This study places collocation studies in the context of development discourse. Its purpose is to show how the choice of collocation is deliberately used to build a vision of economic and social change in the State of Qatar in the coming period.

Based on the background and research problems outlined above, the objective of this study is to analyze the variations in collocational relationship patterns of the word تحوّل in the *Third Qatar National Development Strategy 2024–2030*. After analyzing these variations in collocational patterns, the study proceeds to examine how these variations form different contextual expression meanings of the word تحوّل within the document.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach with a focus on semantic analysis. A defining characteristic of qualitative research is that no aspect of the research design is predetermined; instead, the research process is flexible and open to new details that may emerge during the course of the study (Obeyd, 2021). The research begins without a predetermined hypothesis; rather, the research focus gradually becomes more explicit, and analytical concepts are developed throughout the research process. The general objective of all qualitative methods is to describe a range of meanings embedded in the phenomena under investigation (Obeyd, 2021). A semantic approach is used to map variations in collocational meaning based on Benson's collocation theory (1986) and Akasyah (2011) in order to examine their semantic implications. The data source for this study is the document 'الوثيقة الاستراتيجية للتنمية الوطنية 2030-2024 لولة قطر', 'the Third Qatar National Development Strategy 2024-2030.'

To ensure the validity and credibility of the research findings, the researcher carried out the following steps:

1. Data Objectivity: Data collection was conducted on all sentences and paragraphs containing the word تحوّل. This was intended to ensure that the analyzed data objectively covered all variations of usage in accordance with their original contexts (Litosseliti, 2018).
2. Translation Validation: The translation of Arabic source data into Indonesian was carried out using the digital translation tool Google Translate. The translation process was conducted in stages, with careful attention to sentence context and the technical terms used in the document. After the initial translation was obtained, manual adjustments and refinements were made, along with cross-checking against the authoritative Hans Wehr dictionary. This step was undertaken to ensure the accuracy of contextual meaning and to maintain transparency in the research procedure (Litosseliti, 2018).
3. Trustworthiness: The researcher provided textual evidence in the form of original excerpts along with their sentence contexts to support each interpretation. This ensures that interpretive judgments are grounded in specific background knowledge of Qatar's development discourse (Obeyd, 2021).

In accordance with the framework of Qualitative Content Analysis (Obeyd, 2021), the analytical procedure was carried out through successive stages that lead to critical analysis:

1. Coding and Classification: Identifying collocational patterns based on the theories of Benson (1986) and Akasyah (2011).
2. Contextual Analysis: Examining the co-textual environment across different domains (economic, bureaucratic, and social) to observe how the meaning of the word shifts according to its context.
3. Critical Interpretation and Implications: The final stage involved interpreting collocational meanings using Akasyah's theory (2011) and relating them to Qatar's development vision. At this stage, the researcher conducted a critical evaluation of how such linguistic choices represent national development strategies and then compared the findings with those of previous studies in order to identify the novelty of the research results.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Presented below are ten instances of تحوّل found in the *Third Qatar National Development Strategy 2024-2030* document, which are grouped according to the collocational relationship patterns proposed by Akasyah (2011).

### Collocational Relationship Pattern: *ṣifah + mawṣūf* (Noun + Adjective)

In data 1-3, the word تحوّل appears in a lexical collocation pattern in the form of noun + adjective based on Benson's (1986) classification of collocational patterns. Meanwhile, according to Akasyah's (2011) classification of collocational relationship structures, the collocational pattern of تحوّل observed in these data falls under the category of *ṣifah + mawṣūf*.

Table 1. Collocation Data 1

Translation	Transliteration	Collocation Data
"...which determines the required transformation and the expected levels of aspiration up to the year 2030."	/... wa allatī tuḥaddidu at-taḥawwula al-maṭlūba wa mustawayāt aṭ-tumūḥ mansyūd ḥattā 'ām 2030/	"... والتي تحدد التحول المطلوب ومستويات الطموح المنشود حتى عام 2030."

source: 2030-2024  
استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة لدولة قطر

To identify the contextual expression meaning, a contextual analysis is required, in line with Akasyah's (2011) theory, which defines contextual expression meaning as the presence of two or more words within a single context. The context of Data 1 indicates that the *Third Qatar National Development Strategy 2024–2030* establishes seven national outcome targets and the country's main priority objectives for the next stage of development. These targets determine the changes that must be undertaken up to the year 2030, as reflected in the excerpt "المطلوب 2030... والتي تحدد التحول المنشود حتى عام 2030" / ... wa allatī tuḥaddidu at-taḥawwula al-maṭlūba wa mustawayāt aṭ-tumūḥi al-mansyūd ḥattā 'āmi 2030/. It can be observed that التحول, or 'change,' is a crucial element in this context, as it is required in the subsequent development phase to ensure the achievement of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Collocative meaning cannot be identified solely by examining lexical meaning. Lexical meaning often requires reference to functional meaning and the context in which it is used (Hassan, 2009). Based on the form of the collocational relationship and the sentence context in Data 1, the phrase التحول المطلوب / at-taḥawwul al-maṭlūb carries a specific collocative meaning. The collocational pattern التحول + المطلوب combines the word التحول, meaning 'change,' and the word المطلوب, meaning 'that which is sought or desired' (Wehr, 1976). Lexically, this collocation may be interpreted as 'the sought change' or 'the desired change.'

Contextually, the word التحول in Data 1 conveys a meaning that is more complex and specific than a general notion of 'change.' The change referred to involves a comprehensive and total transformation, as it is directly related to the success of national development in achieving the Qatar National Vision 2030. In Hans Wehr's dictionary, the word التحول carries multiple meanings, including 'change, transformation, transmutation; sudden change, reversal; shift, transition; departure, and deviation.' Among these meanings, the one most appropriate to this collocation is 'transformation.'

In the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, transformation is defined as a total change in a person or thing. This definition aligns with the sentence context, which emphasizes that the changes undertaken by Qatar must be comprehensive, based on evaluations of previous national achievements and the country's main priority objectives. From this explanation, it can be concluded that the phrase التحول المطلوب in this sentence carries the collocative meaning of 'the required transformation.'

When compared with Alhusaiyan's (2023) study on the word waqa'a, he found that collocational meaning is strongly influenced by semantic prosody that tends to be associated with negative elements or warnings. This differs from Data 1, because the collocation at-taḥawwul al-maṭlūb carries a positive meaning and focuses on the achievement of work targets. The combination of the words at-taḥawwul and al-maṭlūb produces a more practical meaning for the implementation of government programs.

The *ṣifah + mawṣūf* pattern in Data 1 shows how Arabic in official documents is used to create concrete strategic terms. This analysis confirms Akasyah's and Benson's theories that the strength of collocational meaning lies in its ability to narrow a general meaning into a clear policy mandate within the vision of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Table 2. Collocation Data 2

Translation	Transliteration	Collocation Data
"... as well as support for digital transformation programs for small and medium-sized enterprises ..."	/... wa da'mu barnāmaji at-taḥawwuli ar-raḡmiyyi li-asy-syarikāti aṣ-ṣaḡhirati wa al-mutawassiḡati .../	" ودعم برنامج التحول الرقمي للشركات الصغيرة والمتوسطة..."

استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة لدولة قطر source: 2030-2024

The context of Data 2 indicates that the Qatari government seeks to support small and medium-sized enterprises through digitalization programs. Qatar has actively pursued digital transformation efforts in recent years. These efforts aim to modernize the national economy and enhance the provision of public services for citizens. Digital transformation serves as a driver of diversified economic growth and aligns with the Qatar National Vision 2030 (Exito Media Concepts, 2024).

The collocational pattern *التحول الرقمي /at-taḥawwul ar-raqamiyyi/* is a combination of the word *التحول*, meaning ‘change,’ and the word *الرقمي*, which derives from the root *الرقم /ar-raqam/* meaning ‘number, digit’ (*Al Maany Online*). Lexically, this collocation can be interpreted as ‘digit-related change’ or ‘digital change.’ Contextually, Data 2 explains that this change is fundamental and carried out comprehensively, as it extends to core aspects such as public service provision and assistance to small enterprises in order to modernize the national economy. Among the various meanings of the word *التحول* in Hans Wehr’s dictionary, the meaning most appropriate to this collocation is ‘transformation.’

In the Oxford dictionary, transformation is defined as a total change in a person or thing. This definition corresponds to the concept of digital transformation, which refers to the process of adoption and implementation by an organization to create or modify products, services, and operations into digital formats (Mirgazayeva & Aslanov, 2022). From this explanation, it can be concluded that the phrase *التحول الرقمي* in this sentence carries the collocative meaning of ‘digital transformation.’

When compared with Al-Hamzi’s (2023) study, he explains that collocations in the Qur’an, such as *libās at-taqwā*, have meanings that are strongly influenced by culture and deep spiritual values. This differs from Data 2, in which the collocation *at-taḥawwul ar-raqmī* instead has a highly technical meaning and is related to modern technological advancement. The pairing of the word *at-taḥawwul* with *ar-raqmī* in Data 2 demonstrates that Arabic in official documents is capable of creating new and practical terms.

Table 3. Collocation Data 3

Translation	Transliteration	Collocation Data
“The Third National Development Strategy aims to carry out a fundamental transformation toward the labor market ...”	<i>/Tahdifu istrātijiyatu at-tanmiyati al-waṭaniyyati aš-sālīṣatu ilā ijra’i taḥawwulin jidriyyin naḥwa sūqin ‘amalin .../</i>	“تهدف استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة إلى إجراء تحول جذري نحو سوق عمل ...”

استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة لدولة قطر source: 2030-2024

The context of Data 3 shows that the *Third Qatar National Development Strategy 2024–2030* aims to implement fundamental changes in the labor market. Qatar seeks to create a more productive labor market by focusing on jobs that require high-level skills. This effort is carried out through the utilization of competencies among Qatari citizens with trained skills, supported by the recruitment of highly skilled foreign labor.

The collocational pattern *تحول جذري /taḥawwul jidriyy/* combines the word *تحول*, meaning ‘change,’ and the word *جذري*, which derives from the root *جذر /jidhr/*, meaning ‘root, radical, original, basic, foundation’ (Baalbaki, 1995). Lexically, this collocation may be interpreted as ‘rooted’ or ‘fundamental change.’ Contextually, the combined meaning of this phrase in Data 3 aligns with the definition of transformation in the Oxford dictionary, namely change that involves a total shift. Among the meanings of *تحول* listed in Hans Wehr’s dictionary, the meaning most appropriate to this collocation is ‘transformation.’

The contextual expression meaning is further supported by the subsequent sentence, namely “وسيتّم دعم هذا التحول بالتنسيق بين سياسات التنويع الاقتصادي والقوى العاملة والتعليم والحماية الاجتماعية” */Wa sayutammu da‘mu hāzā at-taḥawwuli bi at-tansīqi baina siyāsāti at-tanwī‘i al-iqtisādiyyi wa al-quwā al-‘āmilati wa at-ta‘līmi wa al-ḥimāyati al-ijtimā‘iyyati/* ‘This change will be supported through coordination among policies of economic diversification, labor, education, and social protection’. The change to be implemented is comprehensive, fundamental, and wide-ranging, as it encompasses coordination

among economic diversification, labor, education, and social protection policies. From this explanation, it can be concluded that the phrase تحول جذري in this sentence carries the collocative meaning of 'fundamental transformation.'

When compared with the study by Brierley and El-Farahaty (2019), they found that collocations in legal texts tend to carry rigid meanings because they must adhere to established regulatory standards. In Data 3, the combination of the words *taḥawwul* and *jidhriyy* produces the meaning of 'fundamental transformation,' which is more practical for describing tangible improvements in Qatar's work system. The *ṣifah + mawṣūf* pattern in this data demonstrates that Arabic in development documents is used to emphasize the scale of change being sought. This analysis reinforces the theories of Akasyah and Benson that context is able to transform the meaning of a general word into a strategic term that provides clear direction within national programs.

### Collocational Relationship Pattern: *maṣḍar + ḥarf jarr* (Noun + Preposition)

In Data 4–9, the word تحول appears in a grammatical collocation pattern in the form of noun + preposition based on Benson's (1986) classification of collocational patterns. Meanwhile, according to Akasyah's (2011) classification of collocational relationship structures, the occurrences of تحول fall under the category of *maṣḍar + ḥarf jarr*.

Table 4. Collocation Data 4

Translation	Transliteration	Collocation Data
"... the State of Qatar has achieved significant progress in the transition toward a developed country ..."	/... aḥrazat daulatu Qaṭara taqadduman lāfitan fī at-taḥawwuli ilā dawlatin mutaqaḍḍimatin .../	"... أحرزت دولة قطر تقدماً لافتاً في التحول إلى دولة متقدمة ..."

source: 2030-2024  
استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة لدولة قطر

The context of Data 4 indicates that the phrase التحول إلى دولة متقدمة /*at-taḥawwul ilā dawlah mutaqaḍḍimah*/ refers to the process of Qatar's transition toward becoming a developed country. Prior to this phrase, the sentence fragment "فمنذ إطلاق رؤية قطر الوطنية 2030 عام 2008 ... /*Fa mundhu iṭlāqi ru'yati Qaṭara al-waṭaniyyati 2030 'āma 2008 ...* / 'Since the launch of the Qatar National Vision 2030 in 2008 ...' appears, indicating that the Qatar National Vision 2030 was launched in 2008. According to the World Bank (2024), in 2008 Qatar's GNI (Gross National Income) per capita was US\$66,030. By 2024, Qatar's GNI per capita had increased to US\$76,720. In terms of economic and welfare indicators, Qatar has attained high-income status, which is nearly comparable to developed countries. The process of Qatar's transition toward developed-country status is emphasized by the sentence fragment "أحرزت دولة قطر تقدماً لافتاً ... /... the State of Qatar has achieved significant progress ...'.

The collocational pattern التحول إلى /*at-taḥawwul ilā*/ combines the word التحول, meaning 'change,' and the preposition إلى, meaning 'to,' and may lexically be interpreted as 'change to' or 'change toward.' This pattern indicates a shift or transition from one state to another. Among the meanings of التحول listed in Hans Wehr's dictionary, the most appropriate meaning for this collocation is 'transition.'

In the Oxford dictionary, transition is defined as the process or period of change from one state or condition to another. This definition corresponds to the collocational pattern التحول إلى, which denotes 'change to' or 'change toward.' This meaning is further reinforced by the sentence context, which discusses Qatar's transition toward becoming a developed country from 2008 to 2024. From this explanation, it can be concluded that the phrase التحول إلى دولة متقدمة in this sentence carries the collocative meaning of 'transition toward a developed country.'

When we look at the study by Obeidat and Mahadi (2019), collocations in literary texts are often "culture-specific," with meanings tied to the author's imagination. This is very different from Data 4, in which the collocation *at-taḥawwul ilā* is "target-specific," with meanings linked to concrete economic indicators. In addition, Al-Hamzi (2023) explains that collocations in the Qur'an often require a deep hermeneutic approach to understand their metaphorical meanings. In

contrast, in Data 4, the meanings that emerge are very straightforward and literal because the purpose is to serve as an objective report of national progress for a global audience.

This *maṣḍar + ḥarf jarr* pattern demonstrates that in official state documents, prepositions function as indicators of policy direction. This analysis further reinforces the theories of Akasyah and Benson that collocational pairing serves as a means by which Qatar frames the narrative of its national status transition from a developing country to a new economic power.

Table 5. Collocation Data 5

Translation	Transliteration	Collocation Data
"... the transition to a knowledge-based economy through the establishment of free zones ..."	/... wa at-taḥawwulu ilā iqtisādī al-ma'rifati 'abra insyā'i manāṭīqa ḥurratin.../	"... والتحول إلى اقتصاد المعرفة عبر إنشاء مناطق حرة ..."

source: 2030-2024  
استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة لدولة قطر

Data 5 shows that the phrase *التحول إلى اقتصاد المعرفة /at-taḥawwul ilā iqtisād al-ma'rifah/* explains the context of changes in Qatar's economic system. Prior to this phrase, the sentence fragment "... عززت قطر مكانتها بين أهم ثلاث دول مصدرة للغاز الطبيعي المسال في العالم /'Azzazat Qaṭaru makānatahā bayna ahammi ṣalāsi duwalin muṣaddiratin li al-gāzi aṭ-ṭabī'yyi al-musāli fī al-'ālamī .../ 'Qatar has strengthened its position among the world's three largest exporters of liquefied natural gas...' appears, indicating that Qatar has traditionally relied on an economic system based on oil and natural gas. Qatar seeks to shift its economic system toward a knowledge-based economy, which emphasizes the strategic role of information, technology, and learning as primary drivers of productivity growth and economic development (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 1996).

The collocational pattern *التحول + إلى* combines the word *التحول*, meaning 'change,' and the preposition *إلى*, meaning 'to,' and lexically can be interpreted as 'change to' or 'change toward.' This pattern indicates a shift or transition from one system to another. Among the meanings of *التحول* in Hans Wehr's dictionary, the meaning most appropriate to this collocation is 'transition.'

In the Oxford dictionary, transition is defined as the process or period of change from one state or condition to another. This meaning corresponds to the collocational pattern *التحول + إلى*, which denotes 'change to' or 'change toward.' This interpretation is further reinforced by the sentence context discussing the shift of Qatar's economic system from a hydrocarbon-based economy toward a knowledge-based economy. From this explanation, it can be concluded that the phrase *التحول إلى اقتصاد المعرفة* in this sentence carries the collocative meaning of 'the transition to a knowledge-based economy.'

This analysis provides a different perspective when compared with the study by Brierley and El-Farahaty (2019). In their study of constitutional texts, collocations are often used to maintain long-established traditional values (static). In contrast, in Data 5, the collocation *at-taḥawwul ilā* is used to break away from long-standing dependencies and to build a new economic identity (progressive). In addition, the use of the term "knowledge-based economy" indicates that Arabic in Qatar's development documents has adopted standardized global terminology to demonstrate readiness to compete at the international level.

The *maṣḍar + ḥarf jarr* pattern in Data 5 demonstrates that language functions as an instrument for declaring a new national direction. This analysis reinforces Akasyah's (2011) view that the linguistic environment (*al-siyāq*) is capable of transforming a word that was previously general in meaning into a concrete symbol of national transformation.

Table 6. Collocation Data 6

Translation	Transliteration	Collocation Data
"The Third National Development Strategy seeks to carry out a transformation of the country's economic growth model."	/Tasā istrātijīyyatu at-tanmiyati al-waṭaniyyati aṣ-sālisatu ilā ijrā'i taḥawwulin fī namūḍaji an-numūwi al-iqtisādiyyi li-ad-daulati/	"تسعى استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة إلى إجراء تحول في نموذج النمو الاقتصادي للدولة."

source: 2030-2024  
استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة لدولة قطر

Data 6 indicates that the phrase *تحول في نموذج النمو الاقتصادي للدولة / taḥawwul fī namūdhaj an-numū al-iqtisādī lil-dawlah/* describes Qatar's efforts to renew its economic growth model. Qatar's hydrocarbon-based economic growth model has generated rapid growth and substantial improvements in living standards over recent decades. Guided by the Qatar National Vision 2030, this model is being pursued through major structural reforms that are required, by assessing their potential impacts on the economy, and by outlining the design of a comprehensive reform agenda going forward (Kularatne et al., 2024).

The collocational pattern *تحول + في / taḥawwul fī* combines the word *تحول*, meaning 'change,' and the preposition *في*, meaning 'in' or 'within,' and lexically can be interpreted as 'change within' or 'change in.' The selection of this pattern indicates that the change occurs within the system itself, rather than a shift to another system. This differs from the collocational pattern *التحول + إلى*, which lexically denotes 'change to' or 'change toward,' indicating a transition from one condition to another.

Contextually, the word *تحول* in Data 6 conveys a meaning that is more complex and specific than a general notion of 'change.' The transformation of the economic model is carried out through structural and comprehensive reforms. Among the various meanings of *تحول* listed in Hans Wehr's dictionary, the meaning most appropriate to this collocation is 'transformation,' consistent with the Oxford dictionary definition, which refers to a total change in a person or thing. From this explanation, it can be concluded that the phrase *تحول في نموذج النمو الاقتصادي للدولة* carries the collocative meaning of 'a transformation of the country's economic growth model.'

The *maṣḍar + ḥarf jarr (fī)* pattern in this data demonstrates that Arabic in development documents is able to distinguish between a "new direction of goals" and the "improvement of internal quality." This analysis reinforces the theories of Akasyah and Benson that the appropriate use of prepositions serves as a strategic means for Qatar to convey that it is undergoing a process of evaluation and deep improvement of its national economic model.

Table 7. Collocation Data 7

Translation	Transliteration	Collocation Data
"... carbon capture and storage, as well as the transition to renewable energy sources ..."	<i>/... wa ihtijāzi al-karbūni wa takhzīnihi, wa at-taḥawwulu ilā maṣādiri aṭ-ṭāqati al-mutajaddidati .../</i>	"... واحتجاز الكربون وتخزينه، والتحول إلى مصادر الطاقة المتجددة ..."

source: 2030-2024  
استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة لدولة قطر

Data 7 shows that the phrase *التحول إلى مصادر الطاقة المتجددة / at-taḥawwul ilā maṣādiri aṭ-ṭāqah al-mutajaddidah/* explains the context of changes in energy use in Qatar. In 2021, Qatar ranked sixth globally as the largest producer of dry natural gas. The country also ranked second as a major exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and holds the world's third-largest natural gas reserves (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2023). Prior to this phrase, the sentence fragment *التحقق "التحقق ... 25% ... /Li-taḥqīqi iltizāmihā bi khafḍi al-inbi'āsāti bi nisbati 25% .../* "To fulfill its commitment to reduce emissions by 25% ..." appears, indicating Qatar's commitment to emissions reduction. To achieve this, Qatar has undertaken various measures, including transitioning to renewable energy sources.

The collocational pattern *التحول + إلى / at-taḥawwul ilā/* lexically denotes 'change to' or 'change toward,' indicating a shift from one condition to another. Among the meanings of *التحول* in Hans Wehr's dictionary, the meaning most appropriate to this collocation is 'transition.'

In the Oxford dictionary, transition is defined as the process or period of change from one state or condition to another. This meaning corresponds to the collocational pattern *التحول + إلى* and is reinforced by the sentence context discussing the shift in Qatar's energy use from non-renewable to renewable sources. From this explanation, it can be concluded that the phrase *التحول إلى مصادر الطاقة المتجددة* carries the collocative meaning of 'the transition to renewable energy sources.'

When compared with Alhusaiyan's (2023) study, he employed a corpus-based analysis to demonstrate that certain words have "attached" meanings because they frequently appear in

contexts of threat. In contrast to Data 7, the meaning of “transition” here is not permanent, but rather situational and dependent on numerical targets (25% emissions).

The *maṣḍar + ḥarf jarr* pattern in Data 7 demonstrates that Arabic in development strategy documents is capable of framing environmental issues as a measurable political action. This analysis reinforces the theories of Akasyah and Benson that the linguistic environment is able to filter the meaning of a general word into a strategic term that signals Qatar’s responsibility as part of the global community.

Table 8. Collocation Data 8

Translation	Transliteration	Collocation Data
“Government institutional transformation is very important to achieve the desired progress ...”	<i>/Inna at-taḥawwula fī al-mu’assasāti al-ḥukūmiyyati muḥimmun jiddan li-taḥqīqi at-taqaddumi al-mansyūd .../</i>	“إن التحول في المؤسسات الحكومية مهم جدًا لتحقيق التقدم المنشود ...”

source: 2030-2024

Data 8 shows that the phrase *التحول في المؤسسات الحكومية /at-taḥawwul fī al-mu’assasāt al-ḥukūmiyyah/* explains Qatar’s efforts to reform governmental institutions to achieve its economic and social agenda. In the subsequent sentence fragment, “وعليه، تطمح قطر إلى بلوغ الريادة العالمية في الخدمات، /wa ‘alayhi, taṭmaḥu Qaṭaru ilā bulūghi ar-riyādati al-‘ālamīyyati fī al-khidamāti al-ḥukūmiyyah .../”, further explanation is provided regarding these reforms, including improving public services and digital governance, and strengthening decision-making capacity and accountability within government institutions.

The collocational pattern *تحول + في /taḥawwul fī/* lexically denotes ‘change within’ or ‘change in,’ indicating internal change rather than a shift to a different system. This differs from the collocational pattern *التحول + إلى*, which denotes an external transition from one condition to another.

Contextually, this pattern indicates that Qatar does not intend to shift to a different governmental system or form of governance. Instead, Qatar aims to implement internal reforms within its governmental institutions to create effective, efficient, and transparent governance. Among the meanings of *تحول* listed in Hans Wehr’s dictionary, the meaning most appropriate to this collocation is ‘transformation,’ consistent with the Oxford dictionary definition of a total change. From this explanation, it can be concluded that the phrase *التحول في المؤسسات الحكومية* carries the collocative meaning of ‘government institutional transformation.’

This analysis shows a different result when compared with the study by Brierley and El-Farahaty (2019), which explains that collocations in legal texts must have fixed meanings in order to avoid misinterpretation of regulations. In Data 8, the choice of wording instead functions to mobilize or motivate state officials to work more effectively in accordance with the targets of Vision 2030.

The use of the *maṣḍar + ḥarf jarr (fī)* pattern in Data 8 demonstrates that language in development strategy documents is able to depict change while maintaining state stability. Qatar continues to preserve its institutions while fundamentally restructuring the way they operate. This reinforces the theories of Akasyah and Benson that sentence context can transform a generally defined word into a specific representation within government policy.

Table 9. Collocation Data 9

Translation	Transliteration	Collocation Data
“The implementation plan of the Third National Development Strategy aims to achieve transformative outcomes ...”	<i>/Tahdifu khaṭṭatu tanfiḍi istrātījiyyati at-tanmiyyati al-waṭaniyyati aṣ-ṣālisatu ilā iḥdāsi taḥawwulin li-taḥqīqi an-natā’iji al-marjūwati .../</i>	“تهدف خطة تنفيذ استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة إلى إحداث تحول لتحقيق النتائج المرجوة ...”

source: 2030-2024



Data 9 shows that the phrase تحول ل */taḥawwul li/* describes the primary objective of implementing the Third Qatar National Development Strategy, namely to generate النتائج المرجوة */an-natā'ij al-marjūwah/* 'the desired outcomes'. The subsequent sentence explains that this meaning relates to structural reforms in optimizing resource management, inter-institutional coordination, and enhancing adaptive capacity to challenges. The collocational pattern تحول + ل */taḥawwul li/* combines the word تحول 'change' and the preposition ل 'for' or 'to', lexically denoting 'change for' or 'change toward a purpose.' The use of ل in this pattern indicates a relationship of purpose or direct outcome resulting from the change process.

Contextually, the implementation of the Third National Development Strategy aims to address contemporary challenges such as global environmental change, widening inequality, and socio-economic health crises following Covid-19. These challenges are addressed through directional leadership, reflective thinking, enhanced policy coordination, and clear delivery mechanisms. This aligns with the concept of transformative outcomes, defined as processes or interventions that lead to deeper changes in the rules guiding actors' behavior at individual, group, and organizational levels (Ghosh et al., 2021). From this explanation, it can be concluded that the phrase تحول لتحقيق النتائج المرجوة carries the collocative meaning of 'transformative outcomes.'

The *maṣdar + ḥarf jarr (li)* pattern in Data 9 demonstrates that language in development documents is used to emphasize the rationale behind a policy. This reinforces the theories of Akasyah and Benson that the linguistic environment is able to transform a general word into a specific meaning that signals Qatar's seriousness in achieving strategic outcomes in line with Vision 2030.

### Collocational Relationship Pattern: *muḍāf + muḍāf ilayh (Noun + Noun)*

In Data 10, the word تحول appears in a lexical collocation pattern in the form of noun + noun based on Benson's (1986) classification, and according to Akasyah's (2011) framework, this pattern falls under the category of *muḍāf + muḍāf ilayh*.

Table 10. Collocation Data 10

Translation	Transliteration	Collocation Data
"... utilizing accumulated capacities to accelerate systemic change."	/... wa istikhdāmi al-quḍārāti al-mutarākimati li-tasrī'i 'amaliyyati at-taḥawwul/	"... واستخدام القدرات المتراكمة لتسريع عملية التحول."

source: 2024-2030 استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة لدولة قطر

The context of Data 10 explains the implementation phase of the Third Qatar National Development Strategy 2024–2030, which focuses on accelerating change. Prior to the phrase عملية التحول */amaliyyat at-taḥawwul/*, the sentence fragment "ستستفيد من الأسس التي رسختها المرحلة الأولى ... / *Satastafīdu min al-ususi allatī rasakhat-hā al-marḥalatu al-ūlā .../* 'The strategy will benefit from the foundations established in the first phase...' appears, indicating continuity across implementation stages.

The collocational pattern عملية + التحول combines the word عملية 'work, activity, process' and التحول 'change', lexically denoting 'process of change.' However, identifying the precise meaning requires collocational analysis focusing on semantically interrelated lexical items (Umar, 1998).

The preceding sentence fragment "التوسيع نطاق المبادرات الكبرى الرئيسية واستخدام القدرات المتراكم ... / *Li-tawsī'i niṭāqi al-mubādarāti al-kubrā ar-ra'īsīyyati wa istikhdāmi al-quḍrāti al-mutarākimah .../* explains that Qatar aims to expand major large-scale initiatives and utilize accumulated capacities to accelerate change. This aligns with the concept of systemic change, consistently defined as large-scale and sustained change (Taylor, 2016). From this explanation, it can be concluded that the phrase عملية التحول carries the collocative meaning of 'systemic change.'

When compared with the study by Brierley and El-Farahaty (2019), collocations in legal texts function as instruments of protection (to prevent potential legal challenges). However, in Data 10, this *muḍāf* collocation functions as an instrument of mobilization. The term is used to unify various different government departments so that they move within the same "process."

The *muḍāf + muḍāf ilayh* structure in Data 10 demonstrates the ability of Arabic to condense complex management concepts into a single concise term. This supports the theories of Akasyah and Benson that the linguistic environment of development strategy is able to transform general words into directive or instructional meanings, indicating that Qatar is consolidating all its capacities for national transition.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis conducted on the document 2030-2024 استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية الثالثة لدولة قطر (Third Qatar National Development Strategy 2024–2030), this study yields several important findings. First, the word *تحوّل* appears ten times in the document and forms three distinct collocational relationship patterns based on Akasyah's (2011) framework: *ṣifah + mawṣūf* (three occurrences), *maṣḍar + ḥarf jarr* (six occurrences), and *muḍāf + muḍāf ilayh* (one occurrence).

Second, these variations in collocational relationships broadly generate two different contextual expression meanings for the word *تحوّل*. The first meaning is 'transition,' referring to an external shift toward a new condition or orientation. This meaning appears in contexts of modernization, economy, and energy, as reflected in phrases such as *التحول إلى دولة متقدمة* (transition toward a developed country), *التحول إلى اقتصاد المعرفة* (transition to a knowledge-based economy), and *التحول إلى مصادر الطاقة المتجددة* (transition to renewable energy sources). The dominant collocational pattern forming this meaning is *maṣḍar + ḥarf jarr*, particularly with the preposition *إلى*.

The second meaning is 'transformation,' referring to internal, fundamental, and comprehensive change. This meaning appears in contexts of development, technology, labor, and governance, as reflected in phrases such as *التحول المطلوب* (required transformation), *التحول الرقمي* (digital transformation), *تحول في نموذج النمو الاقتصادي للدولة* (transformation of the economic growth model), *تحول جذري* (fundamental transformation), and *التحول في المؤسسات الحكومية* (government institutional transformation). The collocational patterns *ṣifah + mawṣūf* and *maṣḍar + ḥarf jarr* with the preposition *في* tend to produce this meaning. In addition to these two dominant meanings, other meanings also emerge, such as in the phrases *تحول لتحقيق النتائج المرجوة* (transformative outcomes) and *عملية التحول* (systemic change).

The novelty of this study lies in its in-depth focus on the collocative meaning of a single key lexical item, namely *تحوّل*, within a recent official national development policy document of Qatar. This study contributes to the expansion of Arabic semantic studies, particularly collocative meaning, by applying Benson's (1986) and Akasyah's (2011) theories to an official state document written in Arabic Fusha or Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). The findings regarding variations in collocational patterns and meanings derived from the same lexeme provide richer insights into the application of semantic theory in official national development documents, while reinforcing the notion that word meaning is strongly determined by collocational environment and contextual domain of use.

These findings also confirm the relevance of Benson's collocation theory and Akasyah's theory of contextual meaning in the analysis of national development strategy documents of Arab countries, particularly Qatar. In addition, this study demonstrates how the selection of collocational patterns plays a role in shaping the meanings represented in these documents.

Practically, this study offers three main contributions. First, it helps readers of official documents avoid misinterpreting terms used in similar government policies. Second, it assists learners of Arabic in understanding vocabulary through correct collocational patterns. Third, it facilitates scholars of official state documents in filtering information more quickly based on the accompanying grammatical patterns.

This study has limitations, particularly in its reliance on a single document as the data source. This limitation opens opportunities for future research to expand the corpus by examining collocative meanings in similar documents from other Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Oman, in order to obtain a broader mapping of collocative meanings. Future studies may also extend the analysis to other branches of semantics and integrate them with other linguistic levels such as morphology, syntax, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and related fields.

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