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Interdisciplinary Insights From Quranic Exegesis to Islamic Literatures: An Introduction

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Religion, which include Islam, continues to be a societal phenomena. Islam is widely recognised as the most misunderstood religion globally (Cornell, 2006), and it has a significant influence on all parts of human life. Therefore, it is a prominent social reality, particularly in the current era of multidisciplinary studies. There have been concerns regarding the significance of studying Islam. These doubts would have originated, typically in a subjective manner rather than an objective one, which goes against the fundamental idea of doing an academic study of Islam. The mentality of having unwavering belief in the absolute truth becomes evident when Islam is examined from a subjective perspective, leading to a lack of comprehensive exploration of the religion. When objective research is conducted, Islam becomes a course that is pertinent to humanity. This is due to the interdisciplinary nature of studying the subject matter, which is religion. Obiefuna et al. (2021) argue that studying Islam from an interdisciplinary perspective is crucial in both higher education institutions and lower levels of education due to the significant role religion plays in human affairs. This study examines the integration of Islam with other academic disciplines, with a particular focus on the significance of such interdisciplinary studies. Islam encompasses a wide range of disciplines including philosophy, psychology, anthropology, sociology, and more. Multiple academic fields draw upon religious concepts and ideas in the creation and advancement of literary works. Interdisciplinary study of Islam enhances the relevance of religion for individuals seeking answers to their many life challenges. Islam, like other sciences, offers solutions to challenges that ultimately contribute to society progress.

The Editorial Board of the *al-Irsyad: Journal of Islamic and Contemporary Issues* is pleased to announce this volume 8, issue 2 (December 2023), devoted to interdisciplinary insights of Islamic discourses. This issue includes eight studies dedicated to Quranic exegesis, hadith sciences and literatures from an Islamic perspective. Omar et al., in their paper “Geometrics in the Illumination of Terengganu Quran Manuscript (L.M.N.T 2001.1),” tried to contribute to the unique and crucial role of geometric illumination in Islamic art, as shown in its contribution to the manuscripts of the Quran (George, 2007). The incorporation of geometry as a fundamental artistic component contributes to the creation of visual coherence and appealing aesthetics. The utilisation of fundamental geometric shapes, such as squares, pentagons, and hexagons, is employed to construct symmetrical and methodical ornamental patterns. This contribution illustrates the profound comprehension possessed by artists in relation to mathematics and the cosmos, accentuating the magnificence of Allah through the harmonious and aesthetically pleasing patterns that have been brought into existence. The incorporation of numerical values and ratios, such as the renowned “golden ratio,” contributes to the creation of a captivating visual equilibrium. In addition, the use of geometric illumination serves as a vehicle for imparting symbolic significance and effectively communicating religious and spiritual concepts through visually engaging artistic expressions. It is imperative to bear in mind that the geometric illumination observed in the manuscripts of the Quran is attributable to the expertise and erudition of accomplished painters and illuminators. The enduring legacy of their efforts has safeguarded the aesthetic and religious history of Islam for an extensive period of time. By conducting thorough research and developing a comprehensive grasp of this particular contribution, one can gain a profound appreciation for the aesthetic and intellectual merits of Islamic art. Furthermore, such an exploration allows for

a deeper comprehension of the intricate relationship between art and mathematics, as manifested in these remarkable artistic creations.

The second paper is titled “The Relevance of al-Kay’s Treatment According to the Perspective of Prophetic Hadith” by Usman et al. This paper provides a significant contribution to the field of Islamic medicine by examining the long-term viability of the widely used hot iron therapy (*al-kay*) process. Historically, Muslims have utilised this specific method in conjunction with cupping as a perceived effective treatment for patients with chronic illnesses (Hamarneh, 2022). The modern medical field has adopted advanced therapeutic interventions by utilising high-tech items and sophisticated automation systems, in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This involves the application of *al-kay* for medicinal objectives. This research analyses the method of hot iron treatment from the perspective of hadith literature. In addition, the use of *al-kay* does not contradict the principle of *tawakul*, as it entails refraining from activities that could lead to harm and pursuing good health while avoiding any kind of harm. It is important for Muslim individuals to actively participate in endeavours to facilitate healing by seeking treatment from competent healthcare practitioners.

Starting in the seventeenth century, Malay academics utilised standard Middle Eastern interpretations of the Quran to create compilations of Quranic exegesis. The Malay-Indonesian world experienced a transformative period during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The intellectual traditions of the Middle East, particularly Arab philosophy, had a significant impact on the scholars of modern Malay-Indonesian region, with a special focus on Egyptian political and exegetical activities. They progressively generated their own interpretations, utilising both traditional and contemporary commentaries of the Quran. Daneshgar (2016) states that the bibliography demonstrates the increasing number of publications on Malay *tafsir* (Quranic exegesis) published by Malaysians. These scholars are not only putting in significant effort, but some are also establishing their own journals to promote their culture, literature, and identity. Hence, included in this December 2023 issue is an exciting topic by Nasir et al. titled “Research on Thematic Exegesis in Malaysia: A Literature Review from 2019 to 2023.” This paper presents a minimum of three key contributions. Firstly, it enhances the understanding and analysis of other perspectives. Literature reviews on thematic studies enhance interpretative perspectives by offering varying interpretations of the Quranic text, resulting in a more thorough understanding. Additionally, they contribute to the advancement of Islamic literature. Thematic studies can be interpreted to produce scholarly publications that have a specialised focus on specific themes. These works offer significant value to scholars, academicians, and Muslims seeking comprehensive knowledge. Furthermore, the progression of Islamic understanding and education. The Islamic education curriculum can integrate the key aspects of *tafsir* studies to enhance students’ understanding of the teachings of the Quran and the field of theme interpretation.

The same topic on thematic exegesis, “The Dignity of *Mawḍūʿ*’s Approach to *Tafsir* in the Writing of *Tafsir* in the Era of Globalisation,” by Abu Bakar et al. offers a substantial addition to the field of Islamic studies, specifically in the area of *Tafsir*. As Rahemtulla (2017), argued that *Tafsir al-Mawḍūʿ* has become a prominent genre in contemporary Quranic exegesis. The paper examines and emphasises the dignity inherent in *Mawḍūʿ*’s approach within the framework of modern globalisation. This paper explores the difficulties and advantages presented by the era of globalisation and examines how *Tafsir al-Mawḍūʿ* offers a respectable and pertinent approach. The paper provides a detailed analysis that deepens our comprehension of *Mawḍūʿ*’s impact on *Tafsir*. Additionally, it highlights the ongoing significance of classical Islamic research in navigating the intricate challenges of a globalised society. This study contributes to the scholarly discussion on *Tafsir* and its potential to effectively respond to the difficulties of our interconnected world.

In the field of Islamic law, we saw that the general public is typically only familiar with the distribution of *zakat* in the form of cash or in-kind donations rather than in the form of capital investments in businesses. This has rendered them reliant on aid without seeking to enhance their standard of living. This study examines the potential of the Capital Assistance Programme (CAP) in enhancing the economic well-being of *Asnaf* and improving their overall quality of life. It includes a detailed analysis of the benefits of business aid. Overall, CAP has proven to be a valuable instrument in promoting the growth of accomplished Muslim entrepreneurs, despite encountering numerous obstacles. Identifying and addressing existing vulnerabilities, together with receiving ongoing assistance from officials and *zakat* recipients, are crucial for attaining programme objectives and working towards the greater goal of eliminating poverty. Therefore, the article by Zuhairah et al., titled “*Zakat* Capital Assistance Programme for *Asnaf* Entrepreneurs: Issues and Challenges,” makes a valuable contribution in these areas (Taha et al., 2023).

The Arabic paper for this issue is written by Ismail et al. titled “Sayyid Quṭb and His Methodology in Dealing with the Verses Related to Prophetic History: An Analytical Study in His Exegesis *Fī Zilāl al-Qurʾān*,” focuses on the technique employed by Sayyid Quṭb in interpreting verses pertaining to prophetic history. It makes significant contributions to two areas of study, *Tafsir* and *Fiqh al-Sīrah* (prophetic history). This study

focuses on the notable modern scholar Sayyid Quṭb (Ushama, 2007). Therefore, Quṭb's methodology in analysing the verses pertaining to the *Sīrah* of the Prophet serves as a model for other scholars, researchers, and readers on how to accurately comprehend and engage with such Quranic verses. This research further enhances the field of *Fiqh al-Sīrah* by specifically examining Quṭb's methodology in presenting historical events and his tendencies in drawing significant insights and lessons from both Quranic verses and historical occurrences. These two techniques play a crucial role in providing context and deriving benefits from the prophetic history of the present.

Also, in the Arabic and linguistics field, the work *al-Kināyah* Approach in Communication of Rasulullah (PBUH) by Hussin et al., makes a theoretical contribution to the use of Hymes's model in interpreting the meaning of a text (Zand-Vakili, Kashani, & Tabandeh, 2012). Specifically, the framework built from the model focuses on addressing concerns linked to the aspect of *al-kināyah* found in the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This study illuminates the efficacy of approaches used to understand the meaning of a document in practical terms. The findings provide insights into the correlation between a text and variables such as word usage, grammatical meanings, selection of descriptive features, and underlying context in the interpretation of the text's meaning. Overall, the study offers helpful insights into the method the Prophet (PBUH) used to convey an expression.

And the last paper for this issue is "The Topics of Islamic Literature in the Literary Works of Yūsuf al-'Azm" by Mohamad Zainol et al. Their paper studied the various topics of Islamic literature in the literary works of one of the most prominent contemporary Arabic poets, Yūsuf al-'Azm (Firat, 2017). We cannot deny that many people in our society, as well as other societies all over the world, still do not understand the true concept of Islamic literature since they have the perspective that Islamic literature is related only to Islamic practices such as prayer, fasting, *zakat*, and *hajj*. However, to what extent is this perspective not true because Islamic literature is even broader than this limitation? Islamic literature includes all topics written by poets, as long as they are consistent with Islamic beliefs and teachings. Islamic literature can be on topics such as love, resistance, societal problems, etc. Hence, this paper was written to help people understand what Islamic literature means by analysing a few topics in a few poems written by Yūsuf al-'Azm.

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