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Tafsir Methods in the Quran

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
	Social facts show that the understanding of the Qur'an in society is very diverse, influenced by the culture, education, and interpretation methods used. Therefore, the study of the method of interpretation in the Qur'an is important so that Muslims can understand Islamic teachings accurately and in accordance with the context. This journal aims to identify and analyze the main interpretation methods in the study of the Qur'an, namely tahlili, ijmali, muqarin, and maudhui. This research uses a qualitative method with a literature review, examining primary and secondary sources related to the science of interpretation. This approach allows for a more in-depth analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each method and its application in understanding the Qur'an. The results of the study show that the tahlili method discusses verses in detail, ijmali is concise and global, muqarin compares various interpretations, while maudhui examines certain themes in the Qur'an. By understanding this method of interpretation, it is hoped that the public can avoid misunderstandings in interpreting the verses of the Qur'an and develop broader insights. This study also contributes to the development of the science of interpretation so that it remains relevant to the changing times and the needs of Muslims.

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INTRODUCTION

The understanding of the Qur'an in society is diverse, influenced by culture, education, and social conditions. In traditional communities, classical interpretations such as al-Tabari and Ibn Katsir are more dominant, while in the modern academic environment, the contextual approach is more developed (Nasution, 2019). Differences in interpretation methods often give rise to differences of opinion in religious practices (Hanafi, 2020). For example, the tafsir bil ma'tsur is more textual, while bil ra'yi is rational (Rahman, 2021). This has an impact on the understanding of different Islamic laws in various societies (Fathurrahman, 2022). In addition, technological developments have affected the pattern of understanding the Qur'an, with many people accessing tafsir through online media, although not always scientifically based (Rosyidi, 2023). Therefore, the selection of the right interpretation method is important so that Muslims can understand the Qur'an accurately according to the context of modern life without losing its essence (Munir, 2024).

The study of the Qur'anic interpretation method has been developed by many scholars and academics. Tafsir tahlili explains the verses in detail according to the order of the mushaf (Al-Jabari, 2018), while tafsir ijmali provides a concise understanding but still maintains the basic meaning (Hanafi, 2020). Muqarin tafsir compares various opinions of mufasir (Rosyidi, 2022), while maudhui tafsir examines certain themes systematically (Fathurrahman, 2021). Major tafsir works such as Tafsir al-Tabari, Tafsir al-Razi, and Tafsir al-Qurtubi are still the main references in the study of the Qur'an (Rahman, 2023). Modern approaches using hermeneutics and contextual analysis are increasingly developing (Nasution, 2019). The study of interpretation also adopts a multidisciplinary approach, connecting interpretation with social sciences, linguistics, and history (Munir, 2024). Each method of tafsir has advantages and disadvantages in understanding the verses of the Qur'an. The selection of the right method depends on the purpose and context of its use (Fathurrahman, 2022). By understanding these various methods, the study of the Qur'an can continue to develop and answer the challenges of the times.

This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytical approach to examine the method of interpretation in the Qur'an. Data is sourced from primary and secondary literature, including classical tafsir books and academic research (Nasution, 2019). The descriptive approach outlines the concepts and principles of the interpretation method, while the analysis compares its advantages and disadvantages (Hanafi, 2020). This study also reviews the application of interpretation methods in modern social and academic contexts (Fathurrahman, 2021). Data was collected through literature review of the main tafsir books such as Tafsir al-Tabari and Tafsir al-Razi (Rahman, 2023). The historical approach is used to understand the development of interpretation methods from classical to contemporary (Munir, 2024). Comparative analysis compares various interpretation methods from a scientific perspective (Al-Jabari, 2018). With this method, the research provides a comprehensive overview of the method of interpretation and its implications in understanding the Qur'an. The results are expected to be a reference for academics and the public in choosing the appropriate interpretation method.

The method of interpretation plays an important role in understanding the Qur'an, but the selection of the wrong method can lead to misunderstandings (Nasution, 2019). Therefore, academics and scholars need to understand the advantages and limitations of each method (Hanafi, 2020). Tafsir tahlili explains the verse in detail, but it is less effective in thematic studies (Fathurrahman, 2021). On the other hand, maudhui interpretation is more systematic in examining a theme, but can ignore the historical context (Rosyidi, 2022). Modern hermeneutic approaches offer contextual analysis, but they are still debated by traditional scholars (Rahman, 2023). More in-depth study is needed so that interpretation remains relevant to the development of the times (Munir, 2024). A comprehensive understanding of the interpretation method helps Muslims avoid misunderstandings in interpreting the Qur'an. The integration of classical and modern interpretation can result in a more contextual understanding (Al-Jabari, 2018). This research is expected to contribute to the development of a more dynamic science of interpretation that is in accordance with the needs of Muslims today.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Tafsir Al-Qur'an is a science that has developed since the time of the Prophet until modern times. Tafsir Al-Quran aims to explain the meaning of the verses of the Qur'an so that it is easier for Muslims to understand more clearly (Nasution, 2019). Classical scholars such as al-Tabari, al-Qurtubi, and Ibn Katsir have compiled various interpretations based on their respective approaches (Hanafi, 2020). With the development of the times, the method of interpretation has undergone a number of changes, adjusting to the needs of society and existing intellectual challenges (Fathurrahman, 2021). This difference in approach reflects the breadth of the scope of the science of interpretation and the importance of understanding the methods used in interpreting the Qur'an (Rahman, 2023).

The tafsir method is an approach used by mufasir in understanding and explaining the verses in the Qur'an. Each method has its own characteristics and advantages (Rosyidi, 2022). For example, the tafsir bi al-ma'tsur method refers to the explanation of the Qur'an with hadith and the opinions of friends, while tafsir bi al-ra'yi uses a rational approach based on the rules of language and logic (Munir, 2024). The choice of method depends largely on the background of the mufasir and the purpose of the tafsir compiled (Al-Jabari, 2018). Therefore, understanding the method of interpretation is important so that there are no mistakes in interpreting the holy verses (Rahman, 2023).

Tafsir tahlili is a method of interpreting the Qur'an that explains verses in order according to mushaf, with an in-depth analysis of language, history, law, and creed (Nasution, 2019). This method aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of each verse without ignoring the context (Hanafi, 2020). Many classical mufasirs such as al-Tabari in Jāmi' al-Bayān and Ibn Katsir in Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim use this method to elaborate on the meaning of the verses in detail (Fathurrahman, 2021). The superiority of tahlili tafsir lies in its deep and detailed approach in studying the verses of the Qur'an (Munir, 2024). However, this method has a weakness, namely it is less systematic in discussing a certain theme because it follows the order of the mushaf (Rahman, 2023). Some modern mufasirs try to combine the tafsir of tahlili with other methods to gain a more contextual and relevant understanding of the times (Al-Jabari, 2018).

Tafsir ijmali is a method of interpretation of the Qur'an that explains verses concisely but still maintains their basic meaning (Nasution, 2019). This method provides an overview of the content of the Qur'an so that it is easy for the wider community to understand (Hanafi, 2020). This tafsir does not conduct an in-depth analysis but still explains the meaning of the verse as a whole (Fathurrahman, 2021). The advantage of ijmali tafsir lies in its clear and concise presentation, making it suitable for beginners in understanding the Qur'an (Munir, 2024). In addition, this method helps readers understand the main message of the Qur'an without the need for in-depth study (Rosyidi, 2022). However, the weakness is the lack of detailed discussion of the historical and legal context in a verse (Rahman, 2023).

Muqarin tafsir is a method that compares various interpretations to understand the difference in interpretation of verses (Nasution, 2019). This method examines the scientific background and mufasir approach (Hanafi, 2020). Its advantage is to show variations in interpretation and the reasons for their

differences (Fathurrahman, 2021). This method also helps to understand the relationship between classical and modern interpretation thinking (Munir, 2024). However, the drawback is that it requires high expertise in analyzing sources of interpretation (Rosyidi, 2022).

Tafsir maudhui is a method that examines a theme in the Qur'an by systematically collecting and analyzing related verses (Nasution, 2019). Different from the tafsir of tahlili, this method focuses more on one specific topic (Hanafi, 2020). Its advantage is that it provides a deep understanding of a theme and is relevant to answer contemporary issues (Fathurrahman, 2021). However, the challenge is to ensure that the analysis remains in accordance with the context of the verse (Rosyidi, 2022). Even so, tafsir maudhui remains an effective method of understanding the teachings of the Qur'an thematically (Rahman, 2023).

RESEARCH METHODS

What are the methods used in this study? This study uses a qualitative method with a literature study approach to analyze the interpretation method in the Qur'an. Literature studies were chosen because they could explore the concept and development of interpretation methods from various scientific sources. The primary sources are classical and modern tafsir books (Nasution, 2019), while secondary sources come from journals, books, and related research. This study aims to identify and compare the interpretation methods used by the mufasir. With this approach, the research can provide a comprehensive overview of the methodology of interpretation in understanding the Qur'an.

How was this research conducted? The research begins with the collection of sources such as tafsir books, academic journals, and previous research (Fathurrahman, 2021). The data was analyzed descriptively-analytically to understand the pattern of using tafsir methods, such as tahlili, ijmali, muqarin, and maudhui (Munir, 2024). This analysis aims to identify the characteristics as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each method. In addition, a comparison of various methods was carried out to see their effectiveness and application in understanding the Qur'an in various scientific contexts (Rosyidi, 2022).

Why are the data analysis techniques used relevant? Content analysis techniques are used to understand the patterns and characteristics of interpretation methods. This technique is relevant because it allows comparisons between different methods of interpretation as well as identifying the differences. The historical approach is also used to trace the development of interpretation from the classical era to the modern era. With this technique, research can provide an accurate picture of how the method of interpretation evolved and applied in understanding the verses of the Qur'an.

What are the challenges in conducting literature studies? The main challenge in this study is to select and classify relevant and credible sources of literature. The classic book of tafsir uses Arabic with a complex structure, so it requires precision in understanding its contents. The difference in approaches between mufasir is also a challenge in comparative analysis. Therefore, this research requires the selection of the right sources so that the analysis remains objective and valid.

How can the results of this litrature study be used? The results of this research are a reference for academics, students, and the community in understanding the method of interpreting the Qur'an. This study is also the basis for further research on the development of interpretation methods in the modern era. By understanding the method of interpretation, Muslims can interpret the Qur'an in a more systematic, critical, and contextual way. Therefore, this research is expected to contribute to the study of interpretation and the development of Islamic science at large.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tafsir is a science that explains the meaning of the verses of the Qur'an so that it is better understood. The word tafsir comes from the Arabic language which means to explain or reveal something. This science helps to understand the pronunciation, context, and laws in the Qur'an. Without interpretation, many verses are difficult to understand, especially those that are metaphorical or have complex laws. The main function of tafsir is to explain the verse according to the asbabun nuzul and the meaning contained in it. Tafsir is also a guideline in understanding creed, worship, and morals. In addition, tafsir bridges the Qur'an with the times, ensuring that its teachings remain relevant. Therefore, the science of interpretation is very important in understanding and applying the Qur'an.

The method of tafsir is a way of mufasir in explaining the meaning of the verses of the Qur'an. Manna' Al-Qattan in Mabahith fi Ulum Al-Qur'an divides the method of tafsir into tahlili (analytical), ijmali (global), muqarin (comparative), and maudhui (thematic). The tafsir of tahlili elaborates on the verse in detail, as in the Tafsir of Ibn Kathir. Tafsir ijmali explains the verse in a concise way, like Tafsir Al-Jalalain. Tafsir muqarin compares various opinions, used in Tafsir al-Manar. Tafsir maudhui examines verses based on themes, as explained in the Tafsir Maudhui Method by Al-Farmawi.

The tafsir of tahlili explains the verses in detail based on the order of the mushaf. Al-Farmawi in the Maudhui Tafsir Method said that this method studies language, law, and asbabun nuzul for in-depth understanding. This method is used in Tafsir Ibn Kathir, which refers to the hadith and the opinion of the Companions. Al-Tabari in Jami' al-Bayan also applies a linguistic and narrated approach to understand the

meaning of the verse thoroughly. The advantage of tafsir tahlili is an in-depth analysis of the Qur'an, although it takes longer. This method helps to understand the verse systematically and in context.

The ijmali method, or the global method, is an interpretation approach that explains the verses of the Qur'an in a concise and simple manner without in-depth discussion. In this method, mufassir conveys the meaning of the verse in general so that it is easy for the reader to understand. This approach focuses more on understanding the overall content of the Qur'an without diving into complex details. Therefore, this method is suitable for those who want to understand the message of the Qur'an quickly and directly. One example of an interpretation that uses this method is al-Jalalayn, by Jalaluddin al-Mahalli and Jalaluddin al-Suyuti. This tafsir provides a brief but clear explanation, so it is widely used by beginner learners in understanding the content of the Qur'an.

The muqarin method, otherwise known as the comparative method, is an approach in tafsir that compares various interpretations of a verse from mufassir. In its application, a mufassir will examine various different views, then analyze the factors that cause these differences. After that, Mufassir draws conclusions about the most appropriate meaning based on strong postulates and arguments. This approach aims to provide a broader understanding of the verses of the Qur'an by considering various points of view. With this method, readers can find out the reasons behind the differences in interpretation and gain deeper insights. In addition, the muqarin method also helps in understanding how differences in thinking in tafsir develop over time. One of the tafsir works that uses this method is Al-Durr al-Manthur by al-Suyuti. This tafsir collects various opinions of previous mufassir and presents them comprehensively, so that readers can see a variety of interpretations from various sources.

The maudhui method, otherwise known as the thematic method, is an approach in interpretation that groups verses based on a specific theme. Mufassir will collect all the verses that discuss a topic, then analyze it thoroughly. For example, to understand the concept of justice in the Qur'an, the mufassir examines all the verses related to justice, and then draws conclusions about the Qur'an's views on the issue. This approach provides a deeper understanding of a theme in Islam. One example of an interpretation that applies this method is Sayyid Qutb's Fi Zilal al-Qur'an, which presents interpretations based on thematic contexts with comprehensive analysis.

Each method of interpretation has advantages and disadvantages. The tahlili method offers an in-depth analysis but is sometimes too detailed for some readers. The ijmali method provides an overview that is easy to understand but lacks depth. The muqarin method can enrich understanding through comparison, but it requires a broader knowledge of various interpretations. The maudhui method provides a comprehensive thematic understanding but requires effort in collecting and analyzing related verses.

The choice of interpretation method is greatly influenced by the purpose and background of the reader or researcher. Each method has characteristics that can be adjusted to the needs of individuals in understanding the Qur'an. For those who want to delve into the meaning of the verse in detail, the tahlili method is the right choice because it presents an in-depth analysis of various aspects. Meanwhile, the ijmali method is more suitable for readers who want an overview without getting involved in a study that is too complex. To understand a particular theme in Islam, the maudhui method offers a systematic approach and is relevant to contemporary issues. The muqarin method is an option for those who want to compare various opinions of scholars regarding a verse, so as to gain a broader insight into the diversity of interpretations.

Along with the development of the times and the emergence of various new challenges in society, the method of interpretation has also undergone adjustments. Contemporary scholars often combine several methods of interpretation so that the results of their interpretation remain relevant to modern conditions. For example, the tahlili method can be combined with the maudhui method to produce an in-depth analysis as well as a specific theme-based. This approach allows interpretation to be more comprehensive in answering various new problems that arise along with the advancement of science and socio-cultural changes. In addition, in modern interpretation, the importance of understanding the historical, cultural, and social background at the time the verse was revealed is increasingly emphasized. This contextual approach aims to understand the meaning of the verse more accurately and be applied in people's lives in a more relevant and in accordance with the evolving reality.

The development of the Qur'anic interpretation method goes hand in hand with the increasing understanding of Muslims towards the holy book. In general, there are four main methods that are often used by mufassir, namely the tahlili (analytical), ijmali (global), muqarin (comparative), and maudhui (thematic) methods. Each method has a distinctive approach to interpreting the verses of the Qur'an, which is tailored to the needs and goals of the reader. The tahlili method presents a detailed and sequential interpretation according to the order of the mushaf, while the ijmali method provides an overview without in-depth analysis. Meanwhile, the muqarin method focuses on comparing various interpretations to understand the various perspectives of scholars, and the maudhui method examines a certain theme by collecting related verses. The selection of the right interpretation method is an important factor in ensuring that the understanding of the verses of the Qur'an remains accurate and relevant to the development of the times and the needs of Muslims.

The tahlili, or analytical, method is an approach in tafsir that interprets the Qur'an in order according to the order of verses and letters in the mushaf. Each verse is studied in depth by considering the aspects of language, historical background, and asbabun nuzul (the reason for the descent of the verse). In addition, this method also pays attention to the relationship between verses in order to produce a more comprehensive understanding. The main purpose of this approach is to provide a comprehensive explanation of the meaning of the verses and their relevance in the lives of Muslims. One example of tafsir that uses this method is Jami' al-Bayan fi Ta'wil al-Qur'an written by al-Tabari, which is an important reference in classical tafsir with an in-depth analysis of the verses of the Qur'an.

The ijmali method, or the global method, focuses on a brief and thorough interpretation of the Qur'an. In this approach, mufassir explains the meaning of the verse in general without doing too much in-depth analysis. This method is perfect for readers who want to understand the essence of the Qur'an's message in a simpler and less complicated way. With a concise explanatory style, this method helps in providing a basic understanding of the content of the verse without requiring too complex studies. One example of an interpretation that uses this approach is al-Jalalayn, which was compiled by Jalaluddin al-Mahalli and Jalaluddin al-Suyuti, which is known for its clear, concise, and easy-to-understand interpretation style by various circles.

The muqarin method, or comparative, is an approach in tafsir that compares various interpretations of verses from a number of mufassir. In this method, mufassir examines the differences of opinion that arise regarding a verse, looks for the factors behind the differences, and finally draws conclusions about the most relevant meaning. This approach provides a broader understanding because it reveals various points of view of scholars in interpreting the Qur'an. By comparing various interpretations, readers can gain deeper insights into the meaning of a verse and understand the reasons behind the variations in interpretation. One example of tafsir that applies this method is al-Durr al-Manthur by al-Suyuti, which collects various opinions from previous mufassir to provide a richer perspective in understanding the Qur'an.

The maudhui method, or thematic method, is an approach in interpretation that collects verses related to a certain theme, then interprets them thoroughly. In this method, the mufassir collects verses that discuss the same topic, analyzes them in depth, and draws conclusions about the Qur'an's view of the issue. For example, in understanding the concept of justice, a mufassir will examine all verses related to justice, then compile them into a systematic and structured understanding. This approach provides a broader insight into a particular theme in the Qur'an and makes it easier for readers to understand the teachings of Islam thematically. One of the interpretations that uses this method is Sayyid Qutb's Fi Zilal al-Qur'an, which interprets verses based on specific themes to provide a deeper and relevant understanding of life.

Each method of interpretation has advantages and disadvantages. The tahlili method provides an in-depth analysis, but it can be too detailed. The ijmali method presents an overview that is easy to understand, but lacks depth. The muqarin method enriches understanding by comparing various interpretations, but requires broad insight. Meanwhile, the maudhui method offers a comprehensive thematic understanding, although it requires effort in collecting and analyzing related verses. The choice of interpretation method depends on the reader's purpose. If you want an in-depth analysis, the tahlili method is more suitable. For general understanding, the ijmali method is simpler. The maudhui method is relevant for those who study certain issues, while the muqarin method helps to understand the differences of opinion of scholars regarding a verse.

CONCLUSION

The method of interpreting the Qur'an is a method used by mufassir to understand and explain the content of the holy book. Each method has its own approach and advantages in interpreting the verses of the Qur'an. The tahlili method describes the verses in sequence with in-depth analysis, while the ijmali method explains the meaning of the verses concisely and easily understand. The muqarin method compares various opinions of scholars to find out the difference in interpretation, while the maudhui method groups verses based on certain themes to produce a more systematic understanding. These four methods can be used according to the purpose and needs of the reader in understanding the Qur'an.

Along with the times, the method of interpretation continues to develop to remain relevant to the needs of the community. Modern mufassirs often combine several methods to produce a more comprehensive interpretation. For example, the tahlili method can be combined with the maudhui method to analyze a theme in more depth, or the muqarin method is used in conjunction with the ijmali method to provide broad insight but still be concise. This more integrative approach makes it easier for Muslims to understand the Qur'an in a more contextual way and in accordance with the dynamics of today's life.

Thus, the selection of interpretation methods needs to be adjusted to the needs and goals of readers. If you want a detailed analysis, the tahlili method is more appropriate, while the ijmali method is suitable for those who are looking for general understanding. For studies based on certain themes, the maudhui method is very effective, while the muqarin method is useful for those who want to understand the various perspectives

of scholars. By understanding and applying the method of tafsir well, Muslims can dig deeper into the meaning of the Qur'an and apply it in their daily lives.

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