

Misinterpretation of the Qur'an: Thesis Analysis of Students of the Pontianak State Islamic Institute

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Abstract. This article analyzes the use of Qur'anic interpretation in the theses of early childhood education students at the Pontianak State Islamic Institute. This attracted the attention of the author because many students misinterpreted the verses of the Qur'an in the context of the research carried out by students. The entire thesis studied by the author shows the absence of references and the views of the interpreters regarding the verses used in the study. Of course, this is not in accordance with Islamic education research standards. The research method used by the author is qualitative, with a literature research approach. Data collection is carried out by analyzing or tracing student theses using Quranic verses. The data analysis used by the author is an analysis of the content of primary data and secondary data studied at the Pontianak State Islamic Institute. The results obtained in this study show that early childhood education students at the Pontianak State Islamic Institute still make many mistakes in interpreting verses from the Qur'an both from book citations to technical interpretations of Qur'anic verses.

Keywords: Analysis; Qur'anic Interpretation; Educational Thesis

Introduction

Early Childhood Islamic Education is one of the study programs at the higher education institutions of the Pontianak State Islamic Institute. One of the objectives of the Early Childhood Islamic Education study program is to create graduates who can teach and educate early childhood. In completing studies in the Early Childhood Islamic Education study program, students are required to make research in scientific papers or theses. However, in its implementation, there are still many students who experience difficulties in completing research due to a lack of understanding related to the content under study. In addition,

completing the thesis cannot be separated from the title in the research conducted related to student interests, skills, and motivation in completing research.¹

Writing a thesis by students to get a bachelor's degree is the most challenging activity and can be a barrier to timely completion.² Some student theses were found to be indicative of plagiarism that violated academic integrity and honesty, publication ethics, and copyright laws. This is related to the writing skills of students whose author scores have decreased in quality (Patak et al., 2021). Moreover, the range between 2020 and 2022 is the massive spread of COVID-19 which is a problem in higher education institutions. The transformation of the learning model that was originally offline turned into online and this has an impact on the student experience in receiving knowledge related to the material presented by the lecturer.³

The purpose of writing a thesis or undergraduate research is essential to provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge in research, be able to develop communication skills, solve problems, and learn independently. The process carried out trains students to become undergraduate graduates who are competent and have quality in their scientific fields.⁴ In addition, students in completing research adjust the standards that have been determined by the study program. Based on the observations made by the author, there are still many students who do not understand the research being studied. Of course, this is a challenge for the Early Childhood Islamic Education study program to improve the quality of the student thesis. Moreover, in completing research, students are required to include Islamic theory in early childhood development. Most students quote verses from the Qur'an in support of statements in the student's thesis. However, the use of quranic verses and interpretations used by students tends to be wrong and even have errors.

Students up to the stage in conducting thesis research should understand the use of verses from the Qur'an, especially related to educational interpretation. Moreover, students have received special material in lectures, namely, Educational Interpretation courses and *Tarbawi Hadith*. In the course, students are given

¹ Agu Ngozi Oluwatayo Gbenga Kayode, "Variables attributed to delay in thesis completion by postgraduate students," *Journal of Emerging Trends in Educational Research and Policy Studies* 5, no. 1 (2014), <https://hdl.handle.net/10520/EJC150461> PDF.

² Siân Lindsay, "What Works for Doctoral Students in Completing Their Thesis?," *Teaching in Higher Education* 20, no. 2 (17 Februari 2015): 183–96, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13562517.2014.974025>.

³ Fredy Fredy, Lastika Ary Prihandoko, dan Arin Mantara Anggawirya, "The Effect of Learning Experience on the Information Literacy of Students in the Ri-Png Border During Covid-19 Period," *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding* 7, no. 10 (2 November 2020): 171, <https://doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v7i10.2067>.

⁴ Santi Sulandari dkk., "Gender, Research Approach, Type of Research, and Completion Period of the Minor Thesis (Skripsi)," *International Journal of Education and Literacy Studies* 8, no. 1 (31 Januari 2020): 32, <https://doi.org/10.7575/aiac.ijels.v.8n.1p.32>.

material related to verses from the Qur'an that explain education. However, when it is applied in completing the thesis, students have difficulties and do not understand the verses listed in the thesis. Of course, this is a challenge for lecturers in the Early Childhood Islamic Education study program to increase students' understanding of the use of quranic verses in thesis writing.

Therefore, departing from this problem, the author is interested in conducting research related to the use of Quranic verses in thesis writing of students of the Early Childhood Islamic Education study program at the State Islamic Institute of Pontianak. Some researchers have conducted similar studies, such as the study conducted by Imam Taufiq⁵ entitled, "Qur'anic Interpretation Research in Indonesia (Case Study: Undergraduate Theses at Islamic Higher Education in Indonesia)". The research conducted related to the methods and styles of interpretation used in student thesis research. This research shows that there are at least several interpretation methods used by students in Indonesia, namely: thematic analysis, comparative, and the field of religious science research.

In addition, research conducted by Nur Ali shows that the weak implementation of the integration of science and religion is reported as a problem in the development of science in Islamic Universities in Indonesia. This, according to the author's view, has an impact on the quality of students who have difficulty connecting education with religious science that uses verses from the Qur'an.⁶ This view is following the results of research conducted by Imam Subchi⁷ on the absence of operational guidelines for the integration of religion and science in the final project, thesis, or dissertation. Therefore, this research wants to try to explore the research of students of the Early Childhood Islamic education study program at the Pontianak State Islamic Institute. In this study, the author will analyze the use of verses from the Qur'an and the interpretation used by students in integrating them with educational science.

The research method used in this study is qualitative, with an evaluation research approach. Data collection was carried out by the author by analyzing or tracing the theses of students of the early childhood education study program using verses from the Qur'an. The data analysis used by the author is an analysis of the content of primary and secondary data studied in the early childhood education study program of the Pontianak State Islamic Institute. The data was

⁵ Imam Taufiq, "Qur'anic Interpretation Research in Indonesia (Case Study: Undergraduate Theses at Islamic Higher Education in Indonesia)," *International Journal of Education and Research* 3, no. 2 (2015).

⁶ Nur Ali, "Integrating Science and Religion in the Curriculum of Indonesian Islamic Higher Education: A Case Study of UIN Malang," *International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change* 13, no. 9 (2020).

⁷ Imam Subchi, "The Implementation of Integration of Religion and Science at State Islamic Higher Education," *Jurnal Penelitian*, 16 Desember 2020, 117–30, <https://doi.org/10.28918/jupe.v17i2.2776>.

collected from 20 students in the 2018 thesis class who used Qur'anic verses and the interpretation method. In addition, in its implementation, this study assesses, examines, and reads student theses and then provides comments on the incorrect use of Quranic verses in the theses. This research has been approved by the head of the Early Childhood Islamic Education study program of the Pontianak State Islamic Institute located in West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia.

Discussion

Methods and Styles of Interpretation in Early Childhood Education: A Student Thesis

The interpretation method is a structure in the presentation of tafsir writing which is carried out in verses of the Qur'an⁸. The meaning in the structure of the interpretation of the verses of the Qur'an is because the authors of the interpretation of the Qur'an followed their predecessors in using the method of interpretation used. The method and style of student interpretation in compiling a thesis are inseparable from the influence of learning tarbawi interpretation contained in the course. Based on the author's research, at least students' understanding of the use of verses from the Qur'an still does not understand the substance. Although, in practice, the interpretations displayed in the student thesis at least consist of the *ijmali*, *tablili*, *mawdu'i*, and *muqaran* methods.⁹

The use of interpretation in verses of the Qur'an carried out by students is mostly field research and is related to educators, learners, learning, the role of parents, and education in general. The verses used by students mostly use verses from the Qur'an, which consists of QS. Al-Ashr (1-3), QS. An-Nahl (78), QS. Al-Ahzab (21), QS. At-Tin (4), QS. Al-Baqarah (31), QS. Al-Kahfi (46), QS. Al-Hujurat (2), QS. Luqman (14), QS. Al-Hajj (40), and QS. Al-Isra (24). Students use this verse in their thesis to strengthen arguments related to their research. However, the use of verses from some of the author's findings is incorrect due to the incomprehension of the students themselves.

The reference sources used by students also do not come from books whose authors are not in the field of interpretation of the Qur'an. In addition, some students also do not understand the reason for using the verses and tend to only quote from other theses in the library of the Pontianak State Islamic Institute. Some of the students whom the author interviewed who related to the use of verses from the Qur'an in their research also only expressed their opinions and not those of the interpreters. This makes the author assume that learning in the tarbawi interpretation course in the early childhood education study program at the Pontianak State Islamic Institute must be evaluated to strengthen

⁸ Syed Rizwan Zamir, "‘Tafsir al-Qur’ān bi’l Qur’ān’: The Hermeneutics of Imitation and ‘Adab’ in Ibn ‘Arabī’s Interpretation of the Qur’ān," *Islamic Studies* 50, no. 1 (2011).

⁹ Saifuddin Herlambang, *Pengantar Ilmu Tafsir* (Yogyakarta: Samudra Biru, 2020).

understanding of the use of verses from the Qur'an in student research. Although not in their field, early childhood education students must at least understand the interpretation methods they use.

In addition, students of the early childhood education study program are unable to contextualize the verses with the research studies carried out. Some of the author's findings show that students only enter verses but are not able to do so in the context of the verses used; for example, in verses related to Q.S. An-Nahl (78), students only enter verses and subsequent translations immediately turn to other discussions. In addition, the verses he got were mostly from Islamic education books and not from explanations of interpretive figures. In fact, if the verse is analyzed by students, for example, in research on parenting, along with the views of interpreters and the role of the verse in the context of parenting, the verse between the Qur'an and the context of the research will be easily understood by students.

Analysis of Qur'anic Verse Interpretation of Early Childhood Islamic Education Study Program Students

The Qur'an is a holy book of Muslims that has principles and teachings that cover aspects of human life. The teachings in the holy book of the Qur'an convey ethical, spiritual, and regulatory behavior in the field of daily life.¹⁰ Therefore, Islamic teachings theologically cannot be separated from education because they both aim to build the nation's civilization. Educational values should be relevant to Islamic values which are an important element in realizing the nation's civilization in social life. Islamic education must be able to adapt to the challenges and changes of the times by teaching the value of humanist Islamic education and presenting the value of goodness between people in a heterogeneous and pluralistic social life.¹¹

Therefore, in practice, Islamic Education at State Islamic Religious Universities strengthens students' understanding of education from an Islamic theological perspective¹². However, what is happening now is that students still

¹⁰ Mănoiu Valentina-Mariana dkk., "Environmental education in the Holy Quran," *Lucrările Seminarului Geografic "Dimitrie Cantemir"* 42 (2016), <https://doi.org/DOI:10.15551/lsgdc.v42i0.14>; Saifuddin Herlambang, "The Phenomenon of Trance Content on Youtube Study of CyberPsychology and Interpretation of the Quran," *Journal of Educational and Social Research* 12, no. 6 (5 November 2022): 195, <https://doi.org/10.36941/jesr-2022-0155>.

¹¹ Saihu Saihu dan Athoillah Islamy, "Exploring the Values of Social Education in the Qur'an," *Academic Knowledge* 3, no. 1 (30 Juni 2020), <https://doi.org/10.5281/ZENODO.3923661>; Shelly Alvareza Zazkia, "Konsep Aqal Dalam Alquran dan Relevansinya dengan Pendidikan Islam," *AL QUDS : Jurnal Studi Alquran dan Hadis* 5, no. 1 (30 Mei 2021): 349, <https://doi.org/10.29240/alquds.v5i1.2342>.

¹² Mohd Roslan Mohd Nor dan Maksom Malim, "Revisiting Islamic education: the case of Indonesia," *Journal for Multicultural Education* 8, no. 4 (1 Januari 2014): 261–76, <https://doi.org/10.1108/JME-05-2014-0019>.

have difficulty integrating educational knowledge with the use of verses from the Qur'an. This was proven in the thesis research of students of the Early Childhood Islamic Education study program at the State Islamic Institute of Pontianak, Indonesia. The use of quranic verses that are not appropriate to the context of research and misinterpretation of the Qur'an used makes the quality of early childhood Islamic Education student graduates at the Pontianak State Islamic Institute still relatively low. At least, of the 20 thesis research titles that the author researched, there are at least 13 verses of the Qur'an that students use in integrating educational science with Islamic theology, namely:

Table 1. Verses About Education used by Students of the Early hildhood Islamic Education Study Program

No.	Verses and Surah	Verse Translation
1.	QS. Al-Ashr (1-3)	<i>By the Time. Most surely man is indeed in Loss. Except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to patience.</i>
2.	QS. An-Nahl (78)	<i>And Allah has extracted you from the wombs of your mothers not knowing a thing, and He made for you hearing and vision and intellect that perhaps you would be grateful.</i>
3.	QS Al-Ahzab (21)	<i>There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and (who) remembers Allah often.</i>
4.	QS. At-Tin (4)	<i>We have certainly created man in the best of stature.</i>
5.	QS. Al-Baqarah (31)	<i>And He taught Adam the names-all of them. Then He showed them to the angels and said, "inform me of the names of these, if you are truthful."</i>
6.	QS. Al-Kahfi (46)	<i>Wealth and children are (but) adornment of the worldly life. But the enduring good deeds are better to your Lord for reward and better for (one's) hope.</i>
7.	QS. Al-Hujurat (2)	<i>O you who have believed, do not raise your voices above the voice of the Prophet or be loud to him in speech like the loudness of some of you to others, lest your deeds become worthless while you perceive not.</i>
8.	QS. Luqman (14)	<i>And We have enjoined upon man (care) for his parents. His mother carried him, (increasing her) in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the (final) destination.</i>
9.	QS. Al-Hajj (40)	<i>(They are) those who have been evicted from their homes without right—only because they say, "Our</i>

		<i>Lord is Allah.” And were it not that Allah checks the people, some by means of others, there would have been demolished monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques in which the name of Allah is much mentioned. And Allah will surely support those who support Him. Indeed, Allah is Powerful and Exalted in Might.</i>
10.	QS. Al-Isra (24)	<i>And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy and say, “ My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up (when I was) Small.</i>

The verses of the Qur'an used by students of the Islamic Education study program at the Pontianak State Islamic Institute discuss education, parenting, respect for parents, behaving disciplined, and others. However, out of the 20 student theses, there is no clear source regarding the interpretation of the Quranic verses used. In addition, the interpretation used by students has a high error rate. Moreover, in the rules of interpretation of the Qur'an, you must have the conditions to become an interpreter, namely knowing interpretation and interpretation. In addition, it can speak Arabic and all branches of knowledge¹³.

Therefore, students of the Early Childhood Islamic Education study program at the Pontianak State Islamic Institute cannot interpret verses from the Qur'an. Mistakes made by students certainly have an impact on published research results. For example, student research using QS. Al-Ashr verses 1-3 wherein the explanation of the thesis is not clear in the interpretation of the verse. Students integrate the verse to improve discipline and obey the rules in the school environment. However, the student's submission is not based on reference sources so in the explanation many use the personal views of the author of the thesis. If you look at surah al-Ashr verses 1-3 in the perspective of M. Quraish Shihab's Tafsir Al-Misbah, it is explained that human life needs to be well organized so that the afterlife of man does not belong to the loss-making group where the time of life in the human world is encouraged to have faith, do good, and advise each other in goodness.¹⁴

In addition, in Surah al-Ahzab verse 21 students of Early Childhood Islamic Education discuss the role of teachers in instilling religious values in students. The verse mentions the character of the prophet Muhammad but not in the substance of the research carried out related to the internalization

¹³ Recep Dogan, *Usul al Tafsir: The Sciences and Methodology of the Qur'an* (Rutherford: Tughra Books, 2014).

¹⁴ M. Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Al-Misbah Pesan, Kesan, Dan Keserasian Al-Qur'an*, vol. 15 (Tangerang: PT. Lentera Hati, 2005).

of religious values in early childhood. Another mistake made by students is the use of Surah al-Baqarah verse 31 which explains the origin of language development since the creation of the Prophet Adam. However, students do not at all show references to their views regarding the verses of the Qur'an used in their research. This tends to be for students to interpret personally or cite references that are not clear about their authenticity. Some of the misappropriations of qur'anic verses are made including Surah al-Kahfi verse 46; al Hujurat verse 2; Luqman verse 14; al-Hajj verse 40; and al Isra verse 24.

In addition, errors in positioning verses the research topics discussed are certainly fatal to the results of the research carried out. Students of Early Childhood Islamic Education at the State Islamic Institute of Pontianak are still unable to contextualize verses with field facts in research. Therefore, in practice in research conducted by students, there must be a development of science by integrating general science and religious science in student thesis research. In learning research methods delivered to students, it should be following the vision and mission of state Islamic universities in Indonesia¹⁵. Students of the Early Childhood Islamic Education Study Program must quote and use the expert opinion of interpretation in the use of verses from the Qur'an in educational research. Moreover, the Qur'an has a diverse potential for meaning so in its use it must be understood as a science that is following the standards of interpretation. Tafsir has a scientific theory that is methodological in nature to be used by students and not interpret verses according to personal views without using a systematic methodology.¹⁶

The use of verses from the Qur'an by integrating research discussions carried out by students is essentially not following the meaning of interpretation which has the meaning of seeking clarity. In addition, the goal to be achieved by students should be to understand the verses of the Qur'an with various research themes by referring to interpreters or referring to the opinions of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad called *tafsir bi al-ma'tsur*. In addition, students can also refer to experts in the interpretation of the Qur'an through aspects of language or the presentation of differences in the opinions of scholars on the verses used or

¹⁵ M. Amin Abdullah, "Religion, Science, and Culture: An Integrated, Interconnected Paradigm of Science," *Al-Jami'ab: Journal of Islamic Studies* 52, no. 1 (8 April 2015): 175, <https://doi.org/10.14421/ajis.2014.521.175-203>.

¹⁶ Asma Barlas, "Believing women" in *Islam: unreading patriarchal interpretations of the Qur'an*, 1st ed (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2002); D.I. Ansusa Putra dan Mohammad Hidayaturrahman, "The Roles of Technology in Al-Quran Exegesis in Indonesia," *Technology in Society* 63 (November 2020): 101418, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techsoc.2020.101418>; Sohaib Saeed, "The Shāhīn Affair and the Evolution of Uṣūl Al-Tafsīr," *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 21, no. 3 (Oktober 2019): 114–44, <https://doi.org/10.3366/jqs.2019.0401>.

what is referred to as *tafsir bi al-ra'yi*¹⁷. In solving the problems faced by students of the Pontianak State Islamic Institute, they must improve the quality of learning in courses following the study program. Comparing with other Islamic Universities in Indonesia is also one of the policy steps that must be taken in strengthening students' understanding of the use of Qur'an verses in student thesis. As was done in Malaysia where universities make improvements by making comparisons with other Islamic universities that have a big impact in providing more effective guidance to students¹⁸. Therefore, the quality of students in completing the thesis must be following the standards of existing research procedures at the Pontianak State Islamic Institute.

Moreover, in Islam, the acquisition of knowledge is a fundamental requirement in the thinking and acting of graduates of Islamic education graduates¹⁹. Differences in the interpretation of the Qur'an will contradict the views of readers of the thesis that has been published. In the view of the author of the Pontianak State Islamic Institute, he must apply a science-style interpretation (Tafsir 'Ilmi), namely, interpreting verses from the Qur'an following a scientific approach by examining the content of the Qur'an based on scientific theory. Moreover, the Qur'an hints that carrying out interpretation must be based on scientific studies not on the personal views of students.

Conclusion

The results of this study show that students still have difficulty integrating educational knowledge with the use of verses from the Qur'an. This is proven in student thesis research. The use of quranic verses that are not appropriate to the context of research and misinterpretation of the Qur'an used makes the quality of early childhood Islamic Education student graduates at the Pontianak State Islamic Institute still relatively low. In addition, many errors in positioning verses the research topics discussed are certainly fatal with the results of the research carried out. Students of Early Childhood Islamic Education at the State Islamic Institute of Pontianak are still unable to contextualize verses with field facts in

¹⁷ Irham Irham, "Problem Pemaknaan Al-Quran Dalam Metode Tafsir Konvensional," *AL QUDS: Jurnal Studi Alquran dan Hadis* 6, no. 1 (30 Mei 2022): 389, <https://doi.org/10.29240/alquds.v6i1.3647>; Afrizal Nur dkk., "Implementation of Text Mining Classification as a Model in the Conclusion of Tafsir Bil Ma'tsur and Bil RA'YI Contents," *International Journal of Engineering and Advanced Technology* 9, no. 1 (30 Oktober 2019): 2789–95, <https://doi.org/10.35940/ijeat.A9780.109119>.

¹⁸ Mohammad Akhiruddin Ibrahim, "Ulum Al-Quran Course In Higher Education Institutions: A Comparative Study Of Selected Public Universities In Malaysia," *Adved 2016: 2nd International Conference On Advances In Education And Social Science* 2, no. 6 (2016), <http://dergipark.gov.tr/doi/10.18769/ijasos.99526>.

¹⁹ Abdulai Abukari, "Education of Women in Islam: A Critical Islamic Interpretation of the Quran," *Religious Education* 109, no. 1 (Januari 2014): 4–23, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00344087.2014.868203>.

research. Therefore, in practice in research conducted by students, there must be a development of science by integrating general science and religious science in student thesis research. In addition, learning research methods delivered to students should be following the vision and mission of the State Islamic University in Indonesia.

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