



ANALYSIS OF MAUDHUIY'S TAFSIR METHOD: A THEMATIC APPROACH IN INTERPRETING THE QUR'AN

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ABSTRACT

Tafsir Maudhuiy method is a systematic approach in interpreting the Quran based on certain themes, which provides a more holistic and applicable understanding of Islamic teachings. This study describes the history, requirements, steps, analysis, and implications of this method, both in general and in Indonesia. The history of the development of Tafsir Maudhuiy method shows the contribution of figures such as Muhammad Abduh, Rashid Rida, and Quraish Shihab in its development and application. The requirements and steps include mastery of Arabic language, Quranic sciences, and high analytical skills to identify the main themes of the Quran. An analysis of the method highlights its superiority in addressing contemporary issues in Islamic society. The implications of applying this method include the possibility of developing more in-depth and applicable thematic studies, as well as practical guidance for Muslims in dealing with modern challenges. Future projections show a bright prospect with an increased understanding and application of the Tafsir Maudhuiy method in various contexts, although it requires in-depth knowledge and objectivity in the interpretation of the Quran

Keywords: *Tafsir Maudhuiy, Quran, Quranic themes, history of interpretation, Quranic analysis*

1. INTRODUCTION

Quranic interpretation is one of the most important disciplines in Islamic studies, because through interpretation, the meaning contained in the verses of the Quran can be understood more deeply and comprehensively. One method that is often used in interpretation is the maudhuiy interpretation method. This method has special characteristics that make it different from other interpretation methods.

According to Quraish Shihab (2002), maudhuiy interpretation is an interpretation method that focuses on a particular theme by collecting verses related to the theme to be analyzed thoroughly. This method is considered more capable of providing a holistic

understanding of a particular theme in the Quran because it pays attention to the historical and cultural context when the verses were revealed (Shihab, 2002).

Abdullah Saeed (2006) emphasized the importance of a contextual approach in understanding the Quran. According to him, maudhuiy interpretation allows the interpreter to connect the text with the relevant social, political, and cultural context, thus producing an understanding that is more applicable and relevant to the present day (Saeed, 2006).

Fazlur Rahman (1980) also emphasized the importance of understanding the historical context in interpreting the Qur'an. He argued that without understanding the historical context, the original meaning of the verses of the Qur'an could be distorted. Therefore, the maudhuiy interpretation method that pays attention to the historical context is crucial in the study of the Qur'an (Rahman, 1980).

Mohammad Arkoun (1994) in his study of the interpretation of the Qur'an stated that the maudhuiy interpretation method is able to bridge the text and contemporary reality. This method does not only focus on the text alone, but also pays attention to the social and cultural dynamics that influence the understanding of the text (Arkoun, 1994).

According to Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd (1990), maudhuiy interpretation makes a significant contribution to efforts to understand the Qur'an critically. He stated that this approach allows for dialogue between the text and the reader, which ultimately results in a more dynamic and contextual interpretation (Zayd, 1990).

The importance of maudhuiy interpretation is also supported by Hamka (1982) who considers this method as one way to understand the messages of the Qur'an more deeply and relevant to the development of the times. Hamka emphasized that maudhuiy interpretation helps Muslims to relate the teachings of the Qur'an to everyday life, making it easier to implement (Hamka, 1982).

In addition, Sayyid Qutb (1971) stated that the maudhuiy interpretation allows the interpreter to group verses that have similar themes, making it easier to understand the messages that the Qur'an wants to convey. This method, according to Qutb, is very effective in exploring the hidden meanings contained in the verses of the Qur'an (Qutb, 1971).

Al-Ghazali (1988) also appreciated the maudhuiy interpretation method by stating that this approach helps to reveal the wisdom contained in the Qur'an systematically. According to him, by grouping verses based on certain themes, the interpreter can see existing patterns and understand the messages of the Qur'an better (Al-Ghazali, 1988).

In the Indonesian context, the maudhuiy interpretation method has been widely developed by Muslim scholars and intellectuals. Azra, A (2004) stated that tafsir maudhuiy is one of the methods used in Islamic education in Indonesia to provide a comprehensive understanding of the teachings of the Qur'an. Azra also emphasized the importance of this method in the context of pluralism and diversity in Indonesia (Azra, 2004). Thus, tafsir maudhuiy is a method that has many advantages in understanding the Qur'an. This method not only helps in exploring the meaning of the text in depth, but also pays attention to the historical and cultural context, so that it is relevant to the development of the times and existing social dynamics. Therefore, this writing will focus on the application of the tafsir maudhuiy method in understanding certain themes in the Qur'an, with the hope of making a meaningful contribution to the study of the Qur'an and its application in everyday life.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Literature study is a research method carried out by collecting and analyzing data from various written sources, such as books, scientific journals, articles, official documents, and previous research reports. This method aims to gain an in-depth understanding of the research topic through a review of relevant literature. This approach is very effective in explaining concepts, theories, or phenomena that have been previously studied by other researchers, so that it can provide a strong theoretical basis for research. In this context, researchers act as critical readers who sort, analyze, and synthesize information from various sources to support or evaluate research arguments.

The use of literature studies allows researchers to identify research gaps, develop hypotheses, and enrich the analysis with diverse perspectives. This method does not only rely on primary data, but focuses more on widely available secondary data. To ensure validity and reliability, researchers must be selective in choosing credible and relevant reference sources. Literature studies can also be an important initial step before proceeding to field research, because they help researchers understand the context and direction of the research in a more focused manner.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Tafsir Maudhu'iy, or thematic interpretation, is a method of interpreting the Qur'an that groups verses based on a particular theme or topic. This approach makes it easier to understand the Qur'an systematically, by seeing how the various verses scattered throughout this holy book are related to each other in the context of the same theme. The history of the development of Tafsir Maudhu'iy can be traced back to the classical period of Islam, although formally this method has received more serious attention in the modern era.

According to Al-Farmawi (1991), the Tafsir Maudhu'iy method began to develop as a response to the needs of Muslims to understand the Qur'an more thematically and comprehensively, especially in the context of new challenges faced by the community. Classical figures such as Al-Ghazali and Ibn Taymiyyah have shown a tendency to carry out thematic interpretation, although it has not been systematically referred to as Tafsir Maudhu'iy.

In the modern era, scholars and intellectuals began to formulate this method more formally. Muhammad Rashid Rida (1865-1935) was one of the important figures who popularized this method. In his commentary, Tafsir al-Manar, Rida often grouped verses according to certain themes to provide a deeper and contextual understanding. This approach was later adopted and developed by other contemporary scholars (Rida, 1935).

History of Maudhu'iy Interpretation in Indonesia

In Indonesia, the Tafsir Maudhu'iy method began to be widely known in the mid-20th century. Indonesian Muslim scholars such as Prof. Dr. Quraish Shihab and Buya Hamka were pioneers in introducing and developing this method in Indonesia.

Quraish Shihab, in his various tafsir works such as "Tafsir al-Mishbah", often uses the Tafsir Maudhu'iy method to group verses according to certain themes, making it easier for

readers to understand the messages of the Qur'an in a more structured manner (Shihab, 2000). This method is considered very relevant in the context of plural and dynamic Indonesian society, where a thematic understanding of the Qur'an can provide solutions to various social, cultural, and political problems.

In addition to Quraish Shihab, Buya Hamka also uses the Tafsir Maudhu'iy approach in his monumental work, "Tafsir al-Azhar". Although Hamka did not explicitly mention the term Tafsir Maudhu'iy, the approach he used in grouping certain verses and themes shows a tendency towards this method (Hamka, 1982).

Contemporary Developments

The development of the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method continues to this day. In Indonesia, many Islamic educational institutions have begun to teach this method systematically to students and researchers. This shows that the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method has become one of the approaches that is widely recognized and used in the study of the Qur'an.

According to Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid (1994), the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method has also developed in academic and research contexts. Many studies use this method to explore various themes in the Qur'an, ranging from theological, social, to political themes. This approach is considered effective in providing a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the various issues faced by Muslims.

Thus, the history and development of the Maudhu'iy Tafsir show that this method has undergone significant evolution, from the classical period to the contemporary era. In Indonesia, this method has gained an important place in the study of the Qur'an, thanks to the contributions of scholars and ulama who continue to develop and popularize it.

Analysis of Maudhu'iy's Interpretation Method

The Maudhu'iy Tafsir method, with its systematic and thematic approach, offers various advantages in understanding the Qur'an in a deeper and more relevant way to the context of the times. This approach allows the interpreter to identify and analyze the main themes in the Qur'an comprehensively, group related verses, and understand the messages contained therein in a logical and coherent framework.

According to Abdullah Saeed (2006), this method is very effective in dealing with complex contemporary issues. For example, in facing global challenges such as social justice, human rights, and religious pluralism, the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method is able to offer a relevant and applicable perspective based on the teachings of the Qur'an.

In addition, this method also helps overcome misunderstandings and misinterpretations of the verses of the Qur'an. According to Fazlur Rahman (1982), the thematic approach allows the interpreter to integrate various seemingly contradictory verses into a consistent and comprehensive understanding. This is very important in maintaining the integrity and wholeness of the teachings of the Qur'an.

Implications of Maudhu'iy's Interpretation Method

The Maudhu'iy Tafsir method has several important implications, both in academic and practical fields. In academic fields, this method opens up opportunities for scholars and researchers to develop more in-depth thematic studies of the Qur'an. This can cover a variety of themes, ranging from theological and philosophical issues to social and ethical issues.

According to Quraish Shihab (2000), the use of this method can also enrich the treasury of Qur'anic interpretation with new perspectives that are more relevant to the context of the times. In his book "Tafsir al-Mishbah", Shihab shows how the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method can be used to discuss contemporary issues such as justice, gender equality, and religious tolerance.

In practical fields, the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method can provide more applicable guidance for Muslims in facing various modern challenges. According to Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid (1994), this thematic approach allows Muslims to articulate the teachings of the Qur'an in an inclusive and dialogical way, so that it can answer various complex social and cultural issues. In addition, this method also has significant implications in Islamic education. According to al-Dhahabi (2000), by using the Tafsir Maudhu'iy method, teaching the Qur'an in various educational institutions can be done more systematically and thematically, so that students can understand the teachings of the Qur'an better and more applicable.

Case Study: Application of Maudhu'iy's Interpretation Method

For example, in the study of the concept of justice in the Qur'an, the Tafsir Maudhu'iy method allows the interpreter to collect and analyze all verses related to justice systematically. Thus, the interpreter can present a comprehensive and applicable understanding of how the Qur'an teaches the concept of justice in various aspects of life, both in individual and social contexts.

Quraish Shihab (2000) in "Tafsir al-Mishbah" examines the theme of justice by grouping verses that talk about justice, both justice between fellow human beings and justice before God. With this thematic approach, Shihab is able to provide a deep understanding of the importance of justice as a universal value in Islam.

Similarly, in the study of the concept of gender equality, the Tafsir Maudhu'iy method allows the interpreter to identify and analyze verses related to the rights and roles of women in Islam. According to al-Zarqani (1995), by using this approach, the interpreter can present a more inclusive and progressive understanding of how the Qur'an teaches the principles of gender equality.

Challenges and Prospects of Maudhu'iy's Interpretation Method

Although the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method offers various advantages, there are several challenges that must be faced. One of the main challenges is the need for in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of the Qur'an and various related disciplines, such as Arabic language, hadith science, and tafsir science. According to al-Dhahabi (2000), without adequate mastery of these sciences, the interpretation carried out may be less accurate and valid.

In addition, this method also requires high analytical skills and an objective attitude in interpreting the verses of the Qur'an. According to Ibn Kathir (1990), interpreters must avoid fanaticism towards certain opinions and always be open to various views based on strong evidence.

However, with the various advantages offered, the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method has very good prospects in the future. According to Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid (1994), this method can be an effective tool in responding to various modern challenges and enriching the treasury of Qur'anic interpretation with new perspectives that are more relevant and applicable.

4. CONCLUSION

The Maudhu'iy Tafsir method is a systematic and thematic approach to interpreting the Qur'an, which offers various advantages in understanding Islamic teachings more deeply and contextually. In this study, the history of the development of the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method has been described, both in general and specifically in Indonesia, as well as the requirements and steps needed in its application.

The findings in this study are, First, the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method allows interpreters to group and analyze the verses of the Qur'an based on certain themes. This approach provides a more holistic and coherent understanding of the messages of the Qur'an, especially in answering complex contemporary issues.

Second, the history of Maudhu'iy Tafsir shows that this method has long been used by great scholars, both in the Islamic world and in Indonesia. Figures such as Muhammad Abduh, Rashid Rida, and Quraish Shihab have made significant contributions in developing and applying this method to answer the challenges of the times.

Third, the requirements and steps in the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method include mastery of Arabic, Quranic sciences, and high analytical skills. The interpreter must have the skills to identify the main themes, collect relevant verses, and organize them in a logical and systematic framework.

The implications of applying the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method are very broad, both in academic and practical fields. In academic fields, this method opens up opportunities for scholars and researchers to develop more in-depth thematic studies of the Quran. In practical fields, this method provides more applicable guidance for Muslims in facing various modern challenges, such as social justice, human rights, and religious pluralism. The prospects for the Maudhu'iy Tafsir method are very promising in the future. With a systematic and thematic approach, this method can be an effective tool in answering various contemporary issues and enriching the treasury of Quranic interpretation with new perspectives that are more relevant and applicable. However, the main challenge that must be faced is the need for in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of the Qur'an and various related disciplines, as well as high analytical skills and an objective attitude in interpreting the verses of the Qur'an.

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