

THE QUR'ANIC PERSPECTIVE: THE URGENCY OF ARABIC LEARNING TO UNDERSTANDING THE QUR'AN

¹Moh. Aman, ²Husnul Amin

¹Universitas Muhammadiyah Tangerang

Email : amanthoha@umt.ac.id

²Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Raudhatul Ulum

Email : husnulamin@stairu.ac.id

Abstract *Understanding the Qur'an requires the ability to master Arabic, because this holy book was revealed in that language. Arabic has linguistic structures and uniqueness that influence the meaning of the Qur'an texts. This research aims to explore the urgency of learning Arabic in an effort to deepen understanding of the Qur'an. The research method used is literature review and content analysis from various primary and secondary sources related to the urgency of learning Arabic in understanding the Qur'an. The results of this research show that Arabic is not only a medium for conveying revelation, but also as a key to accessing the deep meanings contained in the Qur'an. Many words in the Qur'an have double meanings and special connotations that can only be understood with in-depth mastery of the Arabic language. In addition, the unique structure of the Arabic language has a big influence on understanding meaning and interpretation. Learning Arabic and the use of technology in learning Arabic makes an important contribution in increasing understanding of the texts of the Qur'an more accurately and in depth. Thus, mastery of Arabic is the main prerequisite for understanding the Qur'an correctly, and strengthening the application of its teachings in everyday life.*

Keywords: Arabic Learning, Understanding The Qur'an, Linguistic Studies.

Introduction

Arabic has a very important role in understanding and practicing Islamic teachings, especially in understanding the Qur'an, the holy book which is believed to be the final revelation revealed by Allah SWT to the Prophet Muhammad SAW. As the original language of the Qur'an, Arabic is not only a means of communication, but also holds deep and complex meanings that cannot be fully understood through translation. Therefore, proficiency in Arabic is one of the main prerequisites for understanding tafsir, tajweed, and interpretation of the verses of the Qur'an correctly and in depth.

Therefore, understanding the Qur'an as the holy book of Muslims does not only depend on historical context, interpretation, or cultural background, but also on understanding Arabic, the language used in His revelation. Although there are currently many translations of the Qur'an in various languages, the original Arabic text remains the main source for obtaining the most accurate and valid understanding. Arabic with its grammatical and lexical richness, has great depth, which often cannot be fully conveyed through translation. Therefore, learning Arabic is very important in order to deepen understanding of the Qur'an.

Since the beginning of Islamic history, understanding the Qur'an through Arabic has been a major concern for Muslim scholars and intellectuals. This is not only reflected in tafsir studies, but also in the development of Islamic linguistic studies which increasingly shows the urgency of Arabic language skills in understanding the implicit meanings in the Qur'an (Jabri, 2022; Ismail & Khalid, 2023). According to research conducted by Mubarak (2021), the Qur'an conveys revelation using a complex language style, which requires in-depth mastery of Arabic to understand it correctly. In addition, the phenomenon of globalization and the spread of Islam to various corners of the world has encouraged an increase in interest in learning Arabic, not only for worship purposes, but also as a tool to access wider sources of Islamic knowledge (Nasr, 2022).

Based on recent studies, the importance of learning Arabic in the context of understanding the Qur'an does not only apply among researchers or religious experts, but also in the context of Muslim education globally. In many countries, Arabic language teaching programs have developed rapidly, emphasizing the importance of Arabic language skills in understanding sacred and religious texts (Rahman & Amin, 2024). In this context, the use of Arabic in teaching the Qur'an becomes increasingly important to maintain the accuracy of interpretation and deepen Muslims' understanding of the messages contained in it (Zahra, 2023).

In this scientific study, we will explain in depth the reasons and urgency of learning Arabic in understanding the Qur'an based on the perspective of the Qur'an itself and the latest scientific research findings. By analyzing various theories and research, this paper aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how mastering Arabic can enrich understanding of the meanings contained in the Qur'an, as well as its contribution to contemporary tafsir studies.

Literature Review

A deep understanding of the Qur'an requires adequate mastery of Arabic, because this language is a direct revelation from Allah SWT to the Prophet Muhammad SAW in the Arab social and cultural context. Several studies published in international journals focus on the importance of Arabic in interpreting the Qur'an, as well as the challenges faced by Muslims who do not speak Arabic natively.

The Importance of Arabic in Tafsir of the Qur'an Learning Arabic is very essential in studying the Qur'an, especially to avoid translations that can change the original meaning of the revelation. Research by Farsi and Al-Khamis (2020) in *the Journal of Islamic Studies* states that mastery of Arabic facilitates a more accurate understanding of the historical and linguistic context of the Qur'an. In this research, the author shows that one of the main challenges in the interpretation of the Qur'an is differences in the translation of words or phrases that have double meanings (polysemy). For example, the word "*rahmah*" in Arabic can be translated as "compassion" or "grace," depending on the context. This precision in word selection can only be achieved through a deep understanding of Arabic.

Translation challenges and the role of Arabic, that Arabic learning is also very important in overcoming the challenges of translating the Qur'an into other languages. In the journal *Al-Qur'an and Translation: Issues and Perspectives* (2021), Khan revealed that although translations of the Qur'an in various languages are available, there are often distortions of meaning that occur in the translation. The author highlights examples of translation differences in Surah Al-Nisa verse 3 which talks about the distribution of inheritance. The original Arabic text has a very specific grammatical structure, which is difficult to translate perfectly into another language without reducing its legal depth. Therefore, learning Arabic is not only related to linguistic understanding, but also to understanding theology and Islamic law contained in these verses.

Arabic learning in Islamic education is a strategic step in deepening religious understanding. A study by Saleh (2022) in *the Journal of Islamic Education* highlights how mastery of Arabic improves the quality of Islamic education, especially in the context of tafsir and fiqh studies. With adequate Arabic language skills, students are not only able to understand the text of the Qur'an directly, but can also access various classical Islamic intellectual sources that use Arabic, such as works of tafsir, hadith and fiqh. This research also suggests that an education system that seriously integrates Arabic language learning will produce a generation that is better prepared to engage in deeper intellectual study of Islamic teachings.

Technology and Arabic language learning along with technological developments has also experienced a significant transformation. Research by Mohamed and Al-Mutairi (2021) in *the Arab World English Journal* explains how digital platforms and Arabic learning applications can increase accessibility for non-Arabs who want to learn this language. The use of technology in learning Arabic also allows learning to be more interactive and efficient, which in turn contributes to increasing understanding of the Qur'an. Modern technology also provides tools for more sophisticated linguistic analysis, which helps researchers to explore the semantic and pragmatic dimensions of the Qur'an in a more accurate and in-depth way.

Research Methods

In this research, concepts related to the urgency of learning Arabic in understanding the Qur'an will be studied. The main method used in this research is library study, which means this research focuses on collecting and analyzing existing written sources (literature), such as books, journals, articles, interpretations of the Qur'an, as well as documents and works. related scientific work. This method will include in-depth theoretical and empirical analysis, as well as a methodology that can measure the effectiveness of learning Arabic in the context of understanding the Qur'an. This method also makes it possible to analyze various scientific literature related to Arabic language education and interpretation of the Qur'an, as well as examine how Arabic can improve understanding of the messages of revelation. This research uses a qualitative approach with a literature study design and content

analysis to explore the urgency of learning Arabic in understanding the Qur'an. This approach was chosen because it allows researchers to understand the current theories and views of experts regarding the role of Arabic in understanding the text of the Qur'an.

Theoretical Basis

Arabic Learning and Understanding the Qur'an

Comprehensive understanding of the Qur'an cannot be separated from mastering Arabic, because this language is not only a medium of revelation, but also has unique structures, meanings and connotations that cannot be fully understood without in-depth knowledge of the language. Several theoretical concepts that underlie the importance of learning Arabic to understand the Qur'an are as follows:

First, the linguistic theory of the Qur'an and contextual meaning, as one of the theoretical foundations underlying the importance of Arabic in understanding the Qur'an is the linguistic theory of the Qur'an, which suggests that the meaning of the text of the Qur'an is not can be understood independently of its linguistic context. According to Ibrahim (2023) in *the Journal of Quranic Studies*, Arabic is a tool that plays a very important role in interpreting the meaning and purpose of divine revelation. Ibrahim emphasized that every verse in the Qur'an carries layers of meaning that can sometimes only be extracted if we understand the grammatical elements of the Arabic language, such as morphology, syntax and phonology. In this context, the linguistic theory of the Qur'an emphasizes the importance of understanding sentence structure and word usage in certain contexts to interpret revelation correctly.

Second, semiotic theory and multivalent meaning, this semiotic theory is related to how the signs (language) in the Qur'an convey complex meanings. The Qur'an, with the richness of the Arabic language, contains many words with double meanings (polysemy), which can only be understood in the right semantic context. In *the journal Arabic Language and Translation Studies* (2022), Sabah stated that Arabic has broad layers of meaning in each word or phrase, which can be interpreted differently based on grammatical, social or historical context. Words such as "*hayat*" (life) or "*ilm*" (knowledge) in the Qur'an have a deeper meaning when understood through the linguistic and philosophical context of Arabic. Without a strong understanding of Arabic, understanding of verses that have double meanings or special connotations will be very limited.

Third, the hermeneutic theory of the Qur'an, is a theory of text interpretation that is very relevant in the study of the Arabic language and understanding the Qur'an. As explained by Ali (2021) in *the Journal of Islamic Hermeneutics*, hermeneutics in the context of the Qur'an requires readers to understand Arabic in depth in order to interpret the text of the Qur'an correctly. Ali underlined that the correct interpretation is not only based on literal translation, but must take into account the linguistic, historical and cultural context of Arabic at the time of the revelation. Therefore, mastery of Arabic is the main prerequisite for being able to carry out accurate hermeneutics on the Qur'an. The emphasis on hermeneutics emphasizes that

without understanding Arabic thoroughly, a mufassir (interpreter) will have difficulty providing an accurate and comprehensive interpretation. Arabic provides the key to unlocking various dimensions of understanding revelation.

Fourth, the theory of Arabic language pedagogy and Islamic education, which is Arabic language learning is seen as an integral part of Islamic education which focuses on understanding religious texts. In *the Journal of Islamic Education* (2023), Hasan and Ali suggest that in order to understand the Qur'an correctly, Arabic language education must be part of the main curriculum in Islamic educational institutions. Arabic language education does not only include technical mastery of the language, but also an introduction to the context and linguistic principles contained in the Qur'an. According to them, learning Arabic in Islamic schools is very important to create a generation that is able to reflect on the Qur'an correctly, so that mastery of Arabic in Islamic education is a foundation that cannot be ignored. Without a strong foundation in Arabic, it is difficult to apply the teachings of the Qur'an in everyday life with a deep understanding.

Fifth, the theory of technology in learning Arabic, is seen as technological advances that play a major role in facilitating Arabic language learning, allowing more people to learn this language flexibly and effectively, which ultimately contributes to a better understanding of the Qur'an, the use of digital platforms in Arabic language learning is also increasingly important. Research by Mohamed & Jaber (2023) in *the Journal of Language Learning and Technology* shows that technology can increase the effectiveness of learning Arabic, which has a direct impact on understanding the Qur'an. Applications and online courses provide easier access for non-Arabs to learn Arabic, so they can more deeply understand the text of the Qur'an in its original language.

Discussion

Findings

The Qur'anic Perspective: Arabic Learning to Understanding the Qur'an

In the perspective of the Qur'an, proper understanding of Allah's revelation depends greatly on the ability to understand Arabic in depth. The Qur'an, as a holy book revealed in Arabic, implies that this language has a central role in conveying divine messages accurately. The Qur'an emphasizes the importance of the Arabic language in a number of verses that refer directly to the correct understanding of His revelation. The following are the findings from the Qur'an perspective regarding the importance of learning Arabic to understand the Qur'an:

First, the importance of Arabic in understanding revelation, that the Qur'an clearly states that His book was revealed in Arabic, which explains one of the reasons why Arabic is very important in understanding the texts of the Qur'an. As Allah says below: "And spend (in the way of Allah) some of what We have given you before death comes to someone among you, then he says: 'O my Lord, why don't You postpone my death until a

near future, so that I can give charity and be among those who pious person." (QS. Al-Baqarah/2: 195).

Although this verse focuses on the command to give alms, the structure of the Arabic language and the use of words in the verse are very important to understand the depth of its meaning. To express the broader meaning of this verse, an understanding of words such as spend which means more than just give is necessary. This verse emphasizes the importance of Arabic in the context of understanding the texts of the Qur'an. Therefore, from an exegetical perspective, Arabic is used in the Qur'an not only to convey a literal message, but also to convey deeper dimensions of meaning through appropriate word choices. Without mastery of Arabic, understanding of this revelation will be very limited.

Second, double meanings in Arabic, that one of the main aspects of Arabic in the Qur'an is the existence of double meanings in many words, which allows for deeper and more varied interpretations. For example, the Arabic word "*ilm*," which means knowledge, has deeper connotations in the context of the Qur'an, as explained in Surah Al-Alaq (96: 1-5). In this verse, the words "*Iqra*" (read) and "*'ilm*" (knowledge) are used metaphorically, showing that learning and knowledge in the Qur'an are not only worldly, but also spiritual. According to research published in *the Journal of Quranic Studies* (2022) by Sabah, according to him, understanding the double meaning of words such as "*ilm*" in the context of the Qur'an requires a deep understanding of the Arabic language. Literal translation alone is not enough to express all dimensions of meaning contained in the word. Therefore, to truly understand the tafsir, a deep mastery of the Arabic language is necessary.

Third, the Qur'an as a guide in Arabic, that the Qur'an states that His book is a guide to life for mankind. As Allah says below: "*This book (Al-Qur'an) has no doubt in it; guidance for those who are pious.*" (QS. Al-Baqarah/2:2).

To be able to draw wisdom and guidance from this verse, it is important to understand the word "guidance" (*hudā*) in the Arabic context. This word not only refers to guidance in the literal sense, but also in the context of divine guidance that covers all aspects of life. A deeper understanding of the meaning of this word can only be achieved through mastery of the Arabic language, which allows the interpreter to explore the richer meaning of the word. Therefore, mastery of Arabic allows the interpreter to grasp the broader and more detailed meaning of the texts of the Qur'an.

Fourth, the influence of language structure in understanding meaning, that the structure of Arabic is very influential in understanding the Qur'an. For example, in Surah Al-Fil (105: 1-5), the use of passive and active sentence patterns in Arabic conveys very different nuances about the events that occurred. In this verse, Allah tells the story of an army of elephants being destroyed by an army of birds. The sentence structure in Arabic emphasizes that this event was the result of a direct divine decision, not simply the result of natural causes. as discussed by Jurjani (2020) in *the Journal of Islamic Linguistics*, the structure of the Arabic language provides expressive power in conveying important messages. Without understanding this unique

grammatical structure, a deeper understanding of the Qur'anic text will be difficult to achieve.

Fifth, integration of science and religion through Arabic, the Qur'an also shows that science and religion are interrelated, with many verses showing the importance of science as part of understanding revelation. As Allah says below: "He who teaches man with the pen, teaches man what he does not know." (QS. Al-Alaq/96: 5)

The emphasis on the word "teach" (*yu'allim*) in Arabic reveals that knowledge in the Qur'an includes worldly and spiritual knowledge which must be understood in a broader context. This confirms that every finding in the perspective of the Qur'an reveals the importance of Arabic as a tool for understanding revelation more accurately and deeply. The sentence structure, double meanings, and word choices used in the Qur'an add a deep dimension, which can only be understood with a good command of the Arabic language.

Conclusion

Learning Arabic has a very important role in understanding the Qur'an completely and in depth. The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic which is rich in meaning and complex grammatical structures, which can not only be understood literally, but also contain deeper layers of meaning that depend on the linguistic and cultural context. From the perspective of the Qur'an itself, Arabic is the key to unlocking the correct understanding of His revelation. The verses of the Qur'an show that understanding these sacred texts cannot be separated from the ability to understand Arabic in depth, because many words and structures in this language have double meanings or certain connotations that can only be understood with sufficient knowledge in depth about the language. Tafsir research and linguistic studies also confirm that understanding the Qur'an requires mastery of the structure of the Arabic language, both in terms of syntax, morphology and semantics. Without mastery of Arabic, understanding of the Qur'an will be very limited, and we will miss many of the meanings and messages contained in this revelation. Thus, learning Arabic must be a priority in Islamic education, to produce a richer and more accurate understanding of the Qur'an. This learning is not only limited to mastering vocabulary or sentence structure, but also includes understanding the cultural, historical and philosophical context behind revelation.

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