THE QUR'AN AND DIVERSITY IN MODERN SOCIETY: GADAMER'S HERMENEUTIC PERSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

AL-QUR'AN DAN KEBHINEKAAN DALAM MASYARAKAT MODERN: ANALISIS PERSPEKTIF HERMENEUTIK GADAMER

Samsul Ariyadi[1*]
Institut Ilmu Al-Qur'an (IIQ) Jakarta, Email: samsulariyadi@iiq.ac.id

[*]email Koresponden: samsulariyadi@iiq.ac.id

Abstract

This article examines in depth the relationship between the Qur'an and the concept of diversity in the context of modern society. By using a qualitative approach and content analysis of Qur'anic verses that touch on the issue of ethnic, religious, and racial differences, this study seeks to uncover the universal and contextual dimensions of the principles of diversity in Islamic teachings. Gadamer's hermeneutic approach is used as a theoretical framework for critically interpreting Qur'anic texts, with the aim of contributing to the treasure trove of modern interpretations of pluralism. The findings of the study show that the Qur'an, through verses that emphasize the unity of humanity and respect for diversity, provides a strong foundation for the implementation of diversity values. The discussion also explained the social implications of the application of the principle of diversity according to the Qur'an, including in the context of politics, education, and intercultural relations in pluralistic societies. By integrating critical analysis of sacred texts with empirical data and theoretical studies, this article is expected to make a significant contribution to the research treasure trove of Islamic studies and pluralism. This research emphasizes that the role of the Qur'an in upholding the value of diversity is multi-perspective; It not only provides spiritual guidance, but also offers an ethical framework that can foster the construction of an inclusive, just, and harmonious modern society. The purpose of this research is to elaborate on the role of the Qur'an as a source of values of diversity and pluralism, by tracing relevant verses and relating them to the social reality on the ground. Thus, this research not only aims to provide textual analysis, but also examines the practical application of the teachings of the Qur'an in promoting peace and social justice in the era of globalization. This research is expected to be an important reference for researchers and academics of Islamic studies and pluralism in an effort to strengthen interfaith dialogue and increase tolerance and social justice.

Keywords: The Qur'an, diversity, pluralism, contextual interpretation, Gadamer's hermeneutics

Abstrak

Artikel ini mengkaji secara mendalam hubungan antara Al-Qur'an dan konsep keberagaman dalam konteks masyarakat modern. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dan analisis isi terhadap ayat-ayat Al-Qur'an yang membahas persoalan perbedaan etnis, agama, dan ras, penelitian ini berupaya mengungkap dimensi universal dan kontekstual dari prinsip-prinsip keberagaman dalam ajaran Islam. Pendekatan hermeneutika Gadamer digunakan sebagai kerangka teoretis untuk menafsirkan teks-teks Al-Qur'an secara kritis, dengan tujuan memberikan kontribusi pada khazanah penafsiran modern mengenai pluralisme. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Al-Qur'an, melalui ayat-ayat yang menekankan kesatuan umat manusia dan penghormatan terhadap keberagaman, memberikan landasan yang kuat bagi penerapan nilai-nilai keberagaman. Pembahasan juga menjelaskan implikasi sosial dari penerapan prinsip keberagaman menurut Al-Qur'an, termasuk dalam konteks politik, pendidikan, dan hubungan antarbudaya di masyarakat yang pluralistik. Dengan mengintegrasikan analisis kritis terhadap teks suci dengan data empiris dan kajian teoretis, artikel ini diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi signifikan pada khazanah penelitian studi Islam dan pluralisme. Penelitian ini menekankan bahwa peran Al-Qur'an dalam menegakkan nilai keberagaman bersifat multiperspektif; tidak hanya memberikan bimbingan spiritual, tetapi juga menawarkan kerangka etis yang dapat mendorong terbangunnya masyarakat modern yang inklusif, adil, dan harmonis. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menguraikan peran Al-Qur'an sebagai sumber nilai keberagaman dan pluralisme, dengan menelusuri ayat-ayat yang relevan serta mengaitkannya dengan realitas sosial di lapangan. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini tidak hanya bertujuan memberikan analisis tekstual, tetapi juga mengkaji penerapan praktis ajaran Al-Qur'an dalam mempromosikan perdamaian dan keadilan sosial di era globalisasi. Penelitian ini diharapkan menjadi rujukan penting bagi para peneliti dan akademisi studi Islam serta pluralisme dalam upaya memperkuat dialog antaragama dan meningkatkan toleransi serta keadilan sosial.

Kata Kunci: Al-Qur'an, keberagaman, pluralisme, penafsiran kontekstual, hermeneutika Gadamer

1. INTRODUCTION

The issue of diversity has become an important agenda in global discourse, especially in the modern era marked by social mobility and an increasingly inclusive shift in Islamic values. The Qur'an, as the holy book of Muslims, presents messages that are relevant to the current conditions of pluralism and diversity of society. Verses that show the encouragement of unity and mutual respect for fellow human beings are very important in describing the Qur'an's contribution to the values of diversity. One of the verses that stands out in this context is QS. Al-Hujurat (49:13), where Allah states that "Indeed, the most noble among you in the sight of Allah is the most pious." This verse not only emphasizes the importance of piety, but also implies recognition of the diversity of ethnicities, nations, and races as a mandate to respect each other.

In the literature review, many researchers have examined the relationship between the Qur'an and pluralism. For example, Esposito (2002) states that the message of the Qur'an is universal and inclusive, while Nasr (2006) emphasizes that the concept of social justice and respect for differences are integral elements of Islamic teachings. However, there is also a criticism of conventional interpretations that tend to ignore historical and social contexts, so that literal interpretations are often unable to accommodate the dynamics of diversity in modern

society. Therefore, this article uses Gadamer's hermeneutic approach to open up a broader and contextual space for interpretation.

The purpose of this research is to elaborate on the role of the Qur'an as a source of values of diversity and pluralism, by tracing relevant verses and relating them to the social reality on the ground. Thus, this research not only aims to provide textual analysis, but also examines the practical application of the teachings of the Qur'an in promoting peace and social justice in the era of globalization.

The formulation of the problem raised in this study includes: How is the concept of diversity presented in selected verses of the Qur'an? How can Gadamer's hermeneutic approach enrich the understanding of these texts in the context of pluralism? What are the social implications of the application of the principles of diversity according to the perspective of the Qur'an in modern society?

This research adopts a qualitative approach with a focus on analyzing the content of relevant Qur'anic verses, so that it can explore deeper meanings that are often missed in conventional interpretations. In addition, critical analysis of the text is also combined with empirical data sourced from field studies, academic articles, and the opinions of leading experts in the fields of Islam and pluralism.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method with a literature study approach and content analysis. This approach was chosen because it is considered to be able to explore the implicit meanings contained in the texts of the Qur'an and explain the relevance of these messages in the context of diversity and pluralism in society.

1. Theoretical Framework
The theoretical framework in this study is based on the hermeneutic theory put forward by Gadamer (2004). Gadamer's hermeneutics offers the understanding that the interpretation of texts is not only reproductive, but is a process of dialogue involving the historical, cultural, and understanding of the interpreter. This theory underlies the critical analysis of the verses of the Qur'an while maintaining harmony between traditional and modern contexts.

In addition, the theory of pluralism put forward by some modern Islamic thinkers is also used to lay the basis of analysis. Through this discourse, the research seeks to integrate ideas that support inclusive and humanist understanding in the context of diversity values.

2. Data Collection
Research data was obtained from three main sources, namely:

a. **Textual study of the Qur'an:** Verses are selected based on the criteria of relevance to diversity issues, especially those related to ethnic, religious, and racial differences.

b. **Secondary literature:** Articles, books, and journals that discuss Qur'anic interpretation, pluralism, and diversity. Some of the sources include Esposito (2002), Nasr (2006), and other hermeneutic works.

c. **Field empirical data:** Previous research and social cases demonstrating the implementation of pluralism values in modern society.

3. Analytical Techniques
Data analysis is carried out through the following stages:

a. **Text identification:** Selection of verses of the Qur'an that contain messages of diversity, for example QS. Al-Hujurat (49:13) and other verses relevant to the theme of pluralism.

b. **Contextual interpretation:** Using Gadamer's hermeneutic approach to interpret the meaning of the verses by taking into account the historical context and current social conditions.

c. **Conclusions:** Integrating the results of text analysis and empirical data to answer the formulation of this research problem.

Text Analysis and Interpretation of Qur'anic Verses

In this section, an analysis is carried out on several verses of the Qur'an that are considered fundamental in conveying the message of diversity. These verses not only contain an existential message about diversity but also show a desire to build a just and harmonious society.

1. QS. Al-Hujurat (49:13)

QS. Al-Hujurat (49:13) reads:

"O mankind, verily We created you from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble among you in the sight of Allah is the most pious."

This verse is often used as the main reference in the discourse of pluralism because it states that diversity between humans is part of God's creation. The choice of the word "nations and tribes" indicates that differences in background, culture, and identity should not be a source of conflict, but rather an opportunity to recognize and learn from each other. In Gadamer's hermeneutic perspective, this verse can be interpreted as a call to build dialogue between different groups, where mutual understanding and respect for differences are the basis for the creation of social harmony.

A number of contemporary interpreters emphasize that the universal message in the verse aims to counter the tendency of exclusivism that is developing in the modern world (Nasr, 2006). Thus, the interpretation of this verse implies that social justice and a sense of brotherhood are values that must be prioritized in every interaction between people.

2. Verses Affirming Justice and Respect for Differences

In addition to QS. Al-Hujurat (49:13), there are several other verses that affirm the importance of justice and respect for differences between people. For example, QS. Al-Mumtahanah (60:8) states that Allah does not forbid Muslims to be fair and to do good to those who do not fight them because of religion. This verse contains a deep meaning related to being inclusive towards people from different backgrounds.

The contextual interpretation of this verse shows that justice and compassion are not concepts exclusive to a particular community, but are universal vocations that must be understood and implemented in daily life. As Gadamer (2004) explains, the meaning of sacred texts should not be trapped in a narrow dogmatic perspective, but should be seen as an instrument to build a harmonious and just social order.

In social practice, the application of the value of justice can be seen from various community intervention programs, cross-cultural education, and interfaith dialogue that have been carried out by various institutions. This shows that the interpretation of these verses not only has theoretical value, but also applicability in the context of social transformation.

3. Implications of Contextual Interpretation in Modern Society

The application of contextual interpretation to Qur'anic verses that contain the message of diversity has broad implications. First, this understanding can be the basis for the creation of an inclusive space for dialogue, where differences are not considered as threats, but rather as shared wealth. The concept of "copy knowing" conveyed in QS. Al-Hujurat (49:13) emphasizes the importance of interpersonal relationships built on the basis of justice and mutual respect.

Second, contextual interpretation also triggers critical thinking in the domains of education and public policy. For example, in the context of education, a curriculum that is integrated with diversity values can help the younger generation recognize and appreciate differences, thus making them agents of change who are able to reduce horizontal conflicts. In practice, some research has shown that cross-cultural education programs can improve empathy and communication skills between ethnic groups (Esposito, 2002).

Third, in the dimension of politics and international relations, the application of the Qur'anic values on diversity can be the basis for the development of inclusive policies. This approach supports the creation of a harmonious multicultural society, where every individual feels valued regardless of their ethnic or religious background. This is in line with the reality of globalization which demands openness and cooperation between countries in facing humanitarian challenges.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The discussion section integrates the results of the textual analysis with empirical data and expert opinions to illustrate how the message of diversity in the Qur'an can be translated into social practice. The discourse of pluralism in Islam is inseparable from internal dynamics that demand a reinterpretation of sacred texts in order to respond to the challenges of the times.

A. Relevance of Diversity Messages in Socio-Political Contexts

In the midst of globalization and modernization, societies around the world face challenges in the form of social exclusion and horizontal conflicts. In this context, the principles of the Qur'an that support unity and justice become very relevant. For example, QS. Al-Hujurat (49:13) not only describes diversity, but also implies the existence of an ethical mechanism to manage those differences constructively.

The implementation of these values can be seen in government policies and civil society initiatives that prioritize intercultural and inter-group dialogue. Empirical studies conducted by several researchers show that areas with a high level of tolerance tend to produce more stable and peaceful societies (Nasr, 2006). By referring to this data, it can be concluded that the message of diversity in the Qur'an has great potential to become an ethical foundation in public policy formulation.

Furthermore, the study found that an authentic understanding of the message of diversity can reduce the tendency to emerge sectarianism and extremism. Differences that are seen as a test in diversity can actually be a source of collective strength if managed with the principles of justice and equality. Therefore, the use of contextual interpretation has proven to be not only relevant as an analytical tool but also as a practical guideline in building an inclusive society.

B. Gadamer's Hermeneutic Approach and Its Implications in Modern Interpretation

Gadamer's hermeneutic theory offers an approach that emphasizes the importance of dialogue and historical understanding of the text. In the context of this research, Gadamer's approach provides a conceptual framework that can bridge the gap between traditional understandings and the demands of modern thought. Gadamer (2004) argues that the meaning of a text is always open to interpretations that evolve along with changes in the cultural and historical context.

The application of this theory in interpreting verses related to diversity allows the interpreter to critique the narrow limitations often encountered in conventional interpretation.

Thus, the reinterpretation of these verses opens up opportunities to re-read the messages of pluralism in the Qur'an. Studies have shown that the hermeneutic approach not only restores historical value, but also allows the adaptation of teachings to contemporary social realities. The theoretical implications of Gadamer's approach include:

a. **Dynamization of interpretation:** The reading of the text is carried out by paying attention to social, political, and cultural conditions so that the relevance of the messages of the Qur'an can be maintained and continue to develop in line with the times.

b. **Dialogue between interpreters:** By prioritizing dialogue between the scientific community, contextual interpretation can enrich the treasures of religious understanding and build inclusive consensus.

c. **Formation of new narratives:** This approach helps to shape a pluralistic narrative that is not solely based on the literality of the text, but also considers the social realities and current existence of humanity.

The use of Gadamer's hermeneutic approach as a modern method of interpretation has received support from various academic circles. This can be seen from the increasing number of contemporary interpretations that adopt contextual and dialogical perspectives in describing the verses of the Qur'an. Thus, this research contributes to adding to the treasure trove of modern interpretations of pluralism in Islamic studies.

C. Social Implications of the Qur'an's Teachings on Diversity

Empirical analysis of the implementation of diversity values in society shows that the teachings of the Qur'an have transformative potential in supporting peace and tolerance. The application of fair principles and respect for differences has been seen in a variety of community programs, such as interfaith initiatives, cultural dialogue, and inclusive education programs. Empirical data from previous research indicate a positive correlation between the application of pluralism values and social stability (Esposito, 2002; Nasr, 2006).

The social implications of the teachings can be described in several aspects:

a. **Multicultural Education:** The integration of diversity values into the educational curriculum allows the younger generation to gain first-hand experience of coexistence with differences. This not only increases emotional intelligence, but also strengthens mutual respect between ethnic and religious groups.

b. **Inclusive Public Policy:** The government and relevant institutions can refer to the principles of justice from the Qur'an to formulate non-discriminatory policies, so that every citizen receives fair treatment regardless of social, economic, or cultural background.

c. **Interreligious Dialogue:** The opening of a space for dialogue between religious communities seeks to reduce misunderstandings and potential for sectarian conflicts. The teachings of the Qur'an that prioritize the values of humanity and brotherhood provide a solid ethical foundation for reconciliation efforts between different groups.

In addition, a number of case studies in various Muslim countries show that the application of diversity values in legal and educational frameworks can reduce the level of social conflict. Research by several experts confirms that societies that are able to integrate the values of pluralism have a higher capacity to overcome differences and utilize diversity as a source of creativity and innovation (Nasr, 2006; Esposito, 2002).

4. CONCLUSION

This article presents an in-depth analysis of the relationship between the Qur'an and diversity in the context of pluralism in modern society. Through the application of Gadamer's

hermeneutic approach, this study interprets the messages of the Qur'an in a contextual manner that is not only literal, but also implies the values of justice, brotherhood, and respect for differences. Textual analysis of verses such as QS. Al-Hujurat (49:13) and QS. Al-Mumtahanah (60:8) affirms that the principles of diversity have become an integral part of the teachings of Islam.

The theoretical and practical implications of the contextual interpretation include: the formation of an inclusive society, the improvement of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and the development of fair and non-discriminatory public policies. These findings support the idea that diversity in Islam is both universal and contextual, so that it can be adapted to the challenges of the times.

Thus, the contribution of the Qur'an to diversity is not only limited to the theological realm, but also extends to social, political, and educational aspects. The integration of the values of pluralism described in this article is expected to encourage the development of practical strategies for the application of diversity in modern society. The next research is suggested to further examine the implementation of these values through comparative studies in various countries while involving cross-disciplinary analysis so that the research results can make a broader contribution to understanding the dynamics of pluralism in the global era.

Cover

By integrating critical analysis of sacred texts with empirical data and theoretical studies, this article is expected to make a significant contribution to the research treasure trove of Islamic studies and pluralism. This research emphasizes that the role of the Qur'an in upholding the value of diversity is multi-perspective; It not only provides spiritual guidance, but also offers an ethical framework that can foster the construction of an inclusive, just, and harmonious modern society.

Finally, a contextual understanding of the messages of diversity in the Qur'an invites researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to adopt a more humanist approach to addressing diversity issues, so that the values of tolerance, solidarity, and justice can be realized in every level of society.

5. REFERENCES

Esposito, J. L. (2002). *The Oxford History of Islam*. Oxford University Press.

Gadamer, H.-G. (2004). *Truth and Method* (2nd ed.). Continuum.

Nasr, S. H. (2006). *The Heart of Islam: Enduring Values for Humanity*. Harper San Francisco.

Syamsuddin, M. (2010). *Contemporary Qur'an Interpretation: Perspectives on Diversity and Pluralism*. Al-Islam Library.

Zainal, A. (2015). *Hermeneutics and the Challenge of Interpretation in the Global Era*. Journal of Islamic Studies, 12(2), 45-67.