



PKM STUDY OF CLASSICAL TEXTS AS A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE AT SULTAN HASANUDDIN ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOL IN LIMBUNG GOWA

PKM KAJIAN KITAB KLASIK SEBAGAI SARANA PENGUATAN ILMU KEISLAMAN DI PESANTREN SULTAN HASANUDDIN LIMBUNG GOWA

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Abstract

"Classical texts, or 'Kitab Kuning', are one of the main sources of Islamic knowledge after the Qur'an and Hadith. Islamic boarding schools (Pesantren) are educational institutions that consistently preserve the study of classical texts for their students. The purpose of this study is to provide training and understanding to the students, especially prospective alumni, about the importance of classical texts as a means to strengthen Islamic knowledge, which will serve as a foundation for engaging with society. The results of the program implementation show that this training has a significant impact on the students in understanding the importance of classical texts as a primary source of Islamic education, particularly in addressing various religious issues commonly encountered in society. It also helps students realize that the study of classical texts is not outdated or boring, but rather enjoyable and enriching in expanding their Islamic knowledge."

Keywords: Classical Texts, Islamic Knowledge, and Islamic Boarding Schools



Abstrak

Kitab klasik atau kitab kuning adalah salah satu sumber utama dalam ilmu keislaman setelah Al-Qur'an dan Hadits. Pesantren merupakan lembaga pendidikan islam yang senantiasa menjaga kelestarian dalam pembelajaran kitab klasik bagi para santri dan santriwatinya. Tujuan dari kajian ini adalah memberikan pelatihan dan pemahaman kepada para santri dan santriwati terkhusus bagi para calon alumni tentang urgensi kitab klasik sebagai sarana penguatan ilmu keislaman yang menjadi bekal untuk terjun ke masyarakat. Hasil pelaksanaan program menunjukkan bahwa pelatihan ini memberikan pengaruh yang sangat besar bagi para santri dan santriwati dalam memahami urgensi kitab klasik sebagai salah satu sumber utama pendidikan islam terkhusus dalam menghadapi berbagai persoalan keagamaan yang seringkali terjadi di masyarakat, serta memberikan pemahaman kepada para santri dan santriwati bahwa kajian kitab klasik bukanlah hal yang kuno dan membosankan, tapi merupakan hal yang menyenangkan dan menambah wawasan keislaman.

Kata Kunci : Kitab Kuning, Ilmu Keislaman dan Pondok Pesantren

1. INTRODUCTION

Pesantren as an Islamic educational institution in Indonesia plays an important role in preserving and developing the Islamic scholarly tradition that has existed for centuries. One of the distinctive features that sets pesantren apart from other educational institutions is its focus on the study of classical texts. These texts, most of which were written by great scholars of the past, serve as the primary references in studying religious sciences, including fiqh, tafsir, hadith, and tasawwuf.

In the world of pesantren today, pesantren can be seen and recognized from various perspectives. Pesantren that daily engage in the study and analysis of classical Islamic texts, with these texts serving as the primary source of knowledge, are known as pondok pesantren salafiyah or al-salaf (the early generations). In the current era, the term modern pesantren has emerged, which not only focuses on religious sciences but also teaches various general sciences. However, in this type of pesantren, classical texts are not the primary source of knowledge. Despite this, they are still introduced and taught to the santri (students) in the pesantren. (Muahjir, 2020)

Classical texts, more commonly known as *kitab kuning*, play a very important role in the development of Islamic teachings. *Kitab kuning* has its own distinctive format and a yellowish-colored paper. Due to the unique color of this book, it is commonly referred to as kitab kuning. However, recently, these characteristics have undergone changes. New editions of kitab kuning are often printed on white paper, which is commonly used in the printing industry. Additionally, many of these texts are no longer in the traditional "*gundul*" (unvowelled) format, as they now include syakl or harokat (vowel marks) to help students read them more easily. Most of the kitab kuning are now also bound. (Mustofa, 2018)

Classical texts are very important for pesantren in facilitating a deep understanding of religious knowledge, enabling them to formulate fresh explanations of Islamic teachings, the Quran, and the Hadith of the Prophet. Classical texts reflect the religious thought that was born and developed throughout the history of Islamic civilization. In order for pesantren to remain the center of Islamic studies, the preservation and even enrichment of kitab klasik must remain one of its main characteristics. Only with mastery of these *kitab kuning* can the creation and dynamic development of serious Islamic thought in Indonesia continue without interruption. (Dahlan, 2018)



In pesantren, classical texts are an integral part of the pesantren tradition and, undoubtedly, a characteristic of its intellectual identity. Classical texts serve as a symbol of the pesantren's scholarship, a trademark of pesantren. These classical texts also represent contemporary knowledge because they remain highly relevant as references for study (Suharto, 2011). Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin is one of the pesantren that makes the study of classical texts a mandatory activity for its prospective graduates, before they enter society, as a means of strengthening the Islamic knowledge of its santri (students).

Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin is located in Pattunggalengang, Paraikatte Village, Bajeng Subdistrict, Gowa Regency, South Sulawesi. This pesantren was founded by Mr. Mansyur Dg. Nuntung in 1986 and continued by Mr. Muhammad Arief Mansyur Dg. Sikki. It is one of the prominent pesantren in South Sulawesi, particularly in Gowa, known for its Arabic language education. This is evident from the success of its alumni, many of whom have continued their studies at institutions such as Al-Azhar Cairo, Sudan, and Morocco. This also represents one of the achievements of Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin in Arabic language education. In addition, Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin has reached a national level, as evidenced by the fact that its santri (students) come not only from Gowa or South Sulawesi but also from outside Sulawesi, including Papua, NTT, and Java (Fauziah Bachtar, 2023)

The study of classical texts for prospective alumni at Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin is one of the key factors for the success of its santri (students), both as preparation for continuing their studies in Middle Eastern countries, and more specifically, as a means to strengthen their Islamic knowledge when they engage in community life. With a good command of Arabic, the santri can easily understand the classical texts, which are all written in Arabic. Therefore, this activity is very important in improving the quality of the students' intellectual knowledge, especially in Islamic sciences, and in preparing their mental and character development to face various religious issues that arise in society. This enables them to address religious problems properly and correctly, in accordance with the teachings of the Quran and Hadith found in the classical texts.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The program for studying classical texts for the santri and santriwati of the 3rd and 6th grades at Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin is carried out in several structured stages. Each stage aims to ensure that the training runs effectively and has a positive impact on the santri and santriwati.

1. The preparation stage

This preparation stage aims to inform the santri and santriwati about the implementation of the classical text study, which is a mandatory activity for prospective alumni. The information is provided through a socialization process, explaining the purpose and objectives of the classical text study, as well as the division of groups and the materials that will be covered during the activity.

a) Data Collection and Grouping of Training Participants

This training is attended by all santri and santriwati from the 3rd and 6th grades of Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin, totaling 232 participants, who are divided into 8 separate groups for santri and santriwati. Each group consists of 29



individuals. This grouping is done to ensure that the training process can be carried out well, effectively, and efficiently.

b) Preparation of Training Materials

The training materials are prepared to ensure that the training process runs smoothly and optimally. The materials provided to the santri and santriwati from the 3rd and 6th grades over the course of 5 days are as follows:

- 1) Materials on Tauhid and Islamic History
- 2) Materials on Tafsir and Hadith
- 3) Materials on Fiqh and Usul Fiqh
- 4) Materials on Arabic and English Language, along with their Dictionaries
- 5) Materials on Santri and Santriwati Etiquette

2. Training Implementation Stage

The Implementation Stage is the core activity of this training. It is conducted over 5 days, during which the santri and santriwati receive materials from the instructors, including an introduction to classical texts according to the specific topics. Then, the santri and santriwati are given exercises to identify various issues within the classical texts. Afterward, a discussion session is held between groups in the form of material presentations and a Q&A session

3. Reflection and Evaluation Stage of the Training

In this stage, the participants are directed to analyze the issues presented using the classical texts they have studied, then present their findings and engage in group discussions. Additionally, the participants are also asked to practice reading the classical texts and provide a brief explanation regarding the materials they have read and studied. These discussions and exercises are conducted during each meeting, and at the end of the study/training, a sharing session is held to gather impressions, messages, and suggestions from the participants about the classical text study activity.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The classical text study activity for the 3rd and 6th grade santri and santriwati is a special program for prospective alumni of Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin. The goal of this activity is to strengthen the Islamic knowledge of the santri and santriwati as preparation for their engagement in society. This activity is held during the even semester, specifically from March 3 to March 8, 2025, at the Siti Salmah Building of Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin, Limbung, Gowa. Below are the stages of implementation carried out during the classical text study activity:

1) The Opening of event

The opening of this event was attended by the male and female students of the 3rd and 6th grades as participants, as well as the ustadz and ustadzah as speakers and the board of trustees. Additionally, during this occasion, the importance of classical books was conveyed to the students as a vital means of strengthening their



Islamic knowledge, especially for the upcoming graduates. These classical books are one of the primary sources for understanding Islam after the Qur'an and Hadith. As these books are in Arabic, it is crucial for the prospective graduates to understand them well in order to provide correct and appropriate solutions to the issues faced by the community.



The Opening of the Classical Book Study Event at Sultan Hasanuddin Islamic Boarding School

2) Material Delivery Session

The delivery of material, group discussions, and reading exercises of classical books are the core activities of this study program. The material delivery took place in the morning and afternoon, with group discussions, presentations, and Q&A sessions held after each lecture. During this stage, the students were also trained to read the classical books, which are in Arabic without diacritical marks. In the evening, Arabic and English language training was conducted. The goal of this training was to facilitate the students' understanding of classical books, which are generally written in Arabic, so that they can comprehend them more easily and effectively.





The Delivery of Material on Tauhid, Fiqh, and Tafsir in Classical Book Study

3) Closing of the Event

At the end of the event or closing, a sharing session was held with the male and female students to understand their feelings during the course of the activity. In this session, suggestions and messages from the participants were expected, which could serve as input for future classical book study programs. At the end of this event, the students were also given awards in categories such as the most enthusiastic and most active participants, as well as the winners of various competitions held during the classical book study. This is hoped to motivate all participants to remain active and enthusiastic in seeking knowledge that will serve as their provision in both this world and the hereafter.



Closing of the event and award presentation for outstanding participants

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of this study, it can be understood that studying classical books or 'kitab kuning' for the younger generation is very important. The Islamic boarding school (pesantren) is the most suitable institution to carry out this activity for its students, as it serves as a foundation to strengthen their Islamic knowledge before they engage with society.

Studying and understanding the Arabic language is the key to comprehending the classical books. In this activity, the students were not only provided with material on



classical books, but also given training in both Arabic and English, as well as training in reading the classical books, most of which are written in Arabic without diacritical marks.

Hopefully, this activity can continue and be developed so that the younger generation does not forget the classical books, which are one of the main sources of Islamic knowledge after the Qur'an and Hadith. It is also hoped that the younger generation, especially the alumni of the Islamic boarding school, will be able to address religious issues, particularly those related to Islam, that arise in society in a proper manner and in accordance with Islamic teachings.

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