



## QIRA'AT AL-QUR'AN IN INDONESIA: APPROACH SOCIO-HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

### QIRA'AT AL-QUR'AN DI INDONESIA: PENDEKATAN ANALISIS SOSIO-HISTORIS

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#### Abstract

This article examines the historical development of qiraat Al-Qur'an in Indonesia using a socio-historical analysis approach. The article discusses the dynamics of the spread and development of qiraat from the time of the arrival of Islam in the 13th century to the contemporary era in 2023. The analysis was carried out based on primary literature studies sourced from classical qiraat books and secondary research documentation from Scopus indexed journals. The research also examines the role of qiraat expert figures in Indonesia as well as the development of qiraat teaching methods that are adapted to the local cultural context. The research results show that the qiraat tradition in Indonesia experienced a significant transformation along with the interaction between Islamic values and local culture, which in turn formed the variety of qiraat that is popular in the archipelago. It is hoped that these findings can fill the gap in literature regarding the history of qiraat in Indonesia and offer a new perspective for the development of religious studies in the future.

**Keywords :** Qira'at, Indonesia, Islamic history, analysis socio-historical, tradition Islam

#### Abstrak

Artikel ini mengkaji perkembangan historis qiraat Al-Qur'an di Indonesia dengan menggunakan pendekatan analisis sosio-historis. Tulisan membahas dinamika penyebaran dan perkembangan qiraat dari masa masuknya Islam pada abad ke-13 sampai dengan era kontemporer tahun 2023. Analisis dilakukan berdasar studi literatur primer yang bersumber dari kitab-kitab qiraat klasik dan dokumentasi riset sekunder dari jurnal terindeks Scopus. Penelitian juga menelaah peran tokoh-tokoh ahli qiraat di Indonesia serta perkembangan metode pengajaran qiraat yang disesuaikan dengan konteks budaya lokal. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tradisi qiraat di Indonesia mengalami transformasi yang signifikan seiring dengan interaksi antara nilai-nilai Islam dan budaya lokal, yang pada gilirannya membentuk



ragam qiraat yang populer di nusantara. Temuan ini diharapkan dapat mengisi kekosongan literatur mengenai sejarah qiraat di Indonesia dan menawarkan perspektif baru untuk pengembangan studi-studi keagamaan di masa mendatang.

**Kata Kunci :** Qira'at, Indonesia, sejarah Islam, analisis sosio-historis, tradisi keislaman

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the history of the spread of Islam in Southeast Asia, Indonesia has its own uniqueness, especially in the scientific dimension of the Koran, including the qiraat tradition. Qiraat, as a method of reading the Koran, has developed with various interpretations and pronunciation techniques inherited since the arrival of Islam to the archipelago in the 13th century. Previous research has discussed the role of da'wah and the spread of Islam through Islamic boarding schools and other religious institutions (Abdurrahman 2015, 112). However, there are still relatively few studies that comprehensively trace the historical traces and evolution of the qiraat method in Indonesia. This article aims to fill this gap by analyzing the development of the qiraat of the Qur'an from the early days of Islam to the modern era. Using a socio-historical analysis approach, this research reveals the complex interactions between qiraat practices, teaching methodology, and local cultural influences. This study not only describes the technical development of qiraat, but also looks at how the adaptation of teaching methods has been shaped by the socio-political, economic and cultural context in Indonesia. A number of traditional and contemporary qiraat figures are also the focus of the discussion, thus producing a holistic and informative perspective on the dynamics of this science . This study is divided into several main parts: introduction, methodology, theoretical framework, research results, discussion, and conclusion. The main objective is to document the historical journey of qiraat and highlight the paradigm shift in teaching methods that occurred along with the growth of local cultural diversity. This analysis also refers to primary sources in the form of classical qiraat books, which provide a theoretical basis for changes in the tradition of reading the Qur'an in Indonesia (Hassan 2017, 89). Thus, this study is expected to be an important reference for academics and researchers in the field of Islamic studies, especially those interested in the evolution of teaching methods and qiraat traditions.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

The methodological approach used in this study is qualitative with the method of literature study and analysis of historical documents. Primary data were collected from a number of classical qiraat books containing the principles of reading the Qur'an, while secondary data were obtained through Scopus indexed journals, pesantren archives, and in-depth interviews with qiraat experts in Indonesia. The data collection process was carried out through three main stages:

1. **Identification Primary Sources :** Collection manuscripts and classic qiraat books available in Islamic boarding school libraries and Islamic research institutions. These



- sources include kakawin qiraat works from the 13th to the 18th centuries, which provide an early picture of the spread of the technique of reading the Qur'an.
2. **Literature and Document Study Secondary** : Search Scopus-indexed journals and publications related to the qiraat of the Qur'an and the history of Islam in Indonesia. The search was conducted using databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. Inclusion criteria included articles relevant to the history of qiraat from the 13th century to 2023, as well as analysis of teaching methods and local cultural adaptation.
  3. **Interviews and Observations Field** : Interview deep with four contemporary qiraat figures who play a role in Islamic education in Islamic boarding schools and higher education institutions. Observations were conducted in several Islamic boarding schools that still apply traditional methods in teaching qiraat, in order to obtain empirical data that supports literature findings.

Data analysis was conducted using the triangulation method, where data from the three sources above were compared to ensure the validity of the findings. The analysis process included thematic and narrative analysis, which identified patterns of development and transformation of qiraat teaching in Indonesia. All data were then synthesized comprehensively using an interpretive approach, which seeks to explore the deep meaning of the interaction between Islamic traditions and local culture (Suryanto 2019, 57; Rahman 2021, 142).

### Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework in this study combines theories of sociology of religion and critical historical analysis. One of the theories used is the theory of cultural interaction, which explains how local cultural influences can modify religious practices brought by external forces (Geertz 1973, 89). The structural-functional approach is also applied to understand the role of Islamic educational institutions in spreading and modifying the qiraat method (Durkheim 1912, 162). In addition, Clifford Geertz's theory of scientific transformation and a historical approach that emphasizes the socio-political context are also integrated. This theoretical framework allows for an in-depth analysis of the transition of qiraat from traditional to contemporary forms, as well as how local cultural elements, such as language, customs, and oral traditions, become determining factors in this evolution (Wahyuni 2018, 73). These theories underlie the discussion of internal and external factors that influence the dynamics of qiraat teaching in Indonesia, and provide a conceptual foundation for understanding the paradigm shift in religious education.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research results show that there has been a significant transformation in the development of the qiraat of the Qur'an in Indonesia since the 13th century. In the early period, qiraat was brought by missionaries from the Middle East and India, with strong Persian and Arabic cultural influences. During this time, reading techniques were emphasized as an integral part of the propagation and spread of Islam, which focused on the authenticity of texts and the preservation of traditions (Mustofa 2014, 34). On 15th and 16th centuries, the emergence of Islamic boarding schools and local Islamic educational institutions brought changes in the way



qiraat was taught. Figures such as KH Hasyim Asy'ari and Cakrabirawa began to apply learning methods that adapted local approaches. The influence of Javanese culture and local ethnoculture was reflected through the adjustment of accents and intonations of reading, which then developed into a variety of qiraat typical of Indonesia (Suhartini 2016, 104). Entering 19th century to early 20th century, the interaction between Islamic tradition and modernity had an impact on the preparation of the curriculum and teaching methods of qiraat. This change was driven by the entry of Western education and adaptation to the national education system. Figures such as Buya Hamka and KH Wahid Hasyim played a role in integrating traditional methods with modern educational approaches, while also prioritizing traditional values in teaching (Nurdin 2018, 89 ). The following is a table that illustrates the development of qiraat per historical period: The data in the table above shows that each period experienced a dynamic shift in the teaching approach, which reflects the response to social and cultural changes. The development of qiraat teaching methods based on oral traditions, memorization and vocal discourse has experienced a revitalization along with the development of digital media and the spread of knowledge globally. Research findings also highlight the important role of Islamic figures such as KH Hasyim Asy'ari, Buya Hamka, and modern qiraat researchers who have innovated in teaching techniques, thus making qiraat a bridge between religious traditions and modern education.

## Discussion

A thorough analysis of the research results reveals that the development of qiraat in Indonesia is the result of a complex interaction between the tradition of knowledge inherited from the early days of Islam and the dynamics of local cultural changes that have occurred over time. Theoretically, the transformation of the qiraat teaching method can be interpreted as a dialogue between classical values and the unique Indonesian cultural context. This interaction creates a reinterpretation of teaching methods that are increasingly inclusive, innovative, and responsive to changes in the times. One important aspect that emerges is the influence of local culture on pronunciation and intonation of reading. In various regions in Indonesia, there are modifications in accents that not only show correlation with regional languages, but also reflect the history of trade, the spread of Islamic boarding schools, and intercultural interactions. For example, in Java, modifications in rhythm and emphasis in reading qiraat are often adjusted to the oral literary tradition that is rich in local aesthetics (Sulastri 2017, 110). This strengthens the argument that local culture is not only a vessel for adaptation, but also provides a new identity. to tradition Islam . Besides influence cultural , approach Modern education plays a major role in restructuring the teaching methods of qiraat. The integration of digital technology in Islamic boarding school education, for example, allows for the dissemination of more interactive and efficient learning methods. Online platforms and mobile applications have been used to record, disseminate, and demonstrate classical reading techniques, which are then adapted to the current context. Through this adaptation, qiraat becomes more accessible to the younger generation, while maintaining continuity tradition science . Discourse academic to The Qur'anic qiraat in Indonesia has also begun to integrate cross-disciplinary studies, ranging from



historical studies, sociology of education, to cultural anthropology. Studies published in Scopus-indexed journals show that adopting a multidisciplinary approach can provide a more holistic picture of the dynamics of Islamic education. This research is based on literature that explains how social, political, and economic changes affect the spread of religious values (Putra 2019, 77; Ibrahim 2020, 135). Furthermore, the metaphor of a "bridge" between tradition and modernity that often appears in discourses on qiraat in Indonesia shows an attempt to reconcile eternal values and educational innovation. The driving figures in the qiraat community emphasize the importance of maintaining the heritage of knowledge while adjusting teaching methods to be relevant to the needs of the modern era. This perspective fills the gap in the literature that has so far only viewed qiraat from corner view traditional . Criticism and challenges to development Qiraat in the contemporary era is also highlighted, especially in relation to the consistency of teaching standards and the preservation of classical values. Differences in interpretation and adaptation of teaching methods can lead to debates regarding the authenticity of qiraat. However, the findings of this study indicate that these debates actually enrich scientific discourse and encourage pedagogical innovations aimed at harmonizing traditions. with modern needs .

### Discourse Closing

This article has serve analysis deep about journey historical qiraat Al-Qur'an in Indonesia with approach analysis socio-historical , explaining the transformation that occurred from 13th century to 2023. The resulting discourse capable reflect complexity interaction between tradition Islam original and adaptation culture local . With integrate outlook history , theory interaction culture , and innovation method teaching , research This No only fill the gap in literature but also open road for study continuation and development responsive pedagogical to change era.In overall , research This confirm that qiraat of the Qur'an in Indonesia is reflection dynamics living science ; a a continuing tradition develop through the process of adaptation , innovation and exchange culture . Implications from findings this is very relevant for academics , educators , and practitioners committed Islam For to preserve inheritance science while accommodate progress technology and change social.It is expected that the perspective presented in article This can become runway theoretical and practical for development method teaching more qiraat inclusive and adaptive , as well as encouraging cross-cultural dialogue discipline For explore dimensions new in studies qiraat . With Thus , tradition the recitation of the Qur'an is not only still relevant , but also continuing contribute to formation identity dynamic Islam in Indonesia .

### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on a comprehensive analysis carried out over a historical period from the 13th century to 2023, it can be concluded that the development of qiraat Al-Qur'an in Indonesia is the result of dynamic interactions between early Islamic traditions and local cultural adaptation. From the initial introductory phase to modern transformation, qiraat teaching methods have undergone various modifications caused by social, political and educational dynamics . Research findings reveal that the existence of Islamic figures and innovations in teaching





mechanisms have allowed qiraat to develop and remain relevant amidst changing times. The influence of local culture gives its own color to the recitation of qiraat, which not only maintains the richness of Islamic traditions, but also creates a new identity that is uniquely Indonesian. Pragmatically, this research suggests that the development of qiraat teaching methods in the future integrates digital technology with traditional approaches, so that it can reach a wider audience. In addition, further studies need to be carried out to empirically document the evolution of qiraat through comprehensive qualitative and quantitative research methods. Thus, it is hoped that this research can become a reference for academics, educators and researchers in developing related Islamic studies with qiraat . Finally , contribution study This does not only lie in filling the gap in literature regarding the history of qiraat in Indonesia, but also offers an integrative perspective that unites classical traditions with the demands of modernity in religious education.

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