
A Critical Analysis of The Influence of Tafsir Al-Jamal In Tafsir Nur Al-Ihsan Based on Genetic Approach

MOHD SHOLEH SHEH YUSUFF¹, YUSUF HAJI-OTHMAN², SYAHIZA ARSAD³

^{1,2,3}Sultan Abdul Halim Mua'dzam Shah International Islamic University, Kuala Ketil, Kedah, Malaysia
Email: mohdsholeh@unishams.edu.my¹, dryusufhajiothman@unishams.edu.my²,
syahiza.arsad@unishams.edu.my³

Abstract: Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan is a book in the field of Quranic exegesis written by Syeikh Muhammad Sa'id bin Umar. The Muslim community has used this book as a reference to understand the meaning of the al-Quran. However, there is a tremendous amount of denunciation done towards the book by the community due to the lack of clear resources in translating verses of al-Quran, which has confused the community on the legality of the translation done in the book. Therefore, the main objective of this research is to study and detect the original resources of the writer in the Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan, and expressing how the sources are taken from the Quranic verses. The analysis of Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan used the genetic approach which Goldman publicized in studying the origin of the resources. While carrying out the research, the researcher referred to the text from Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan and Tafsir al-Jamal and compared both texts to detect the similarities and differences. The result of the analysis proved that Syeikh Muhammad Sa'id implemented five methods; the text was referenced from Tafsir al-Jamal while finishing his work which is quoting the text, writing an abstract, removal of some of the words, adding explanation, and refuting part of the text. The research showed that Syeikh Muhammad Sa'id refers to the Tafsir al-Jamal while creating his work to strengthen the translations written. Thus, he successfully strengthens translation when the contents of the text are parallel to the reference. However, in certain places existed a text from the Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan, which contradicts Tafsir al-Jamal's content, which failed to strengthen the translation in a particular part of the text.

Keywords: Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan; Tafsir al-Jamal; genetic approach; comparison; reference

INTRODUCTION

Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan is a tafsir of the Qur'an that is still used as a teaching and reference material until now, especially in institutions of learning, in mosques and musollas. For example, weekly studies at Pondok Tuan Guru Haji Bakar Parit Panjang, Baling Kedah Malaysia and Pondok Tuan Guru Haji Soleh Musa in Sik Kedah Malaysia. However, the author of tafsir in his work does not clearly state the source of the quotation in interpreting the verses of the Qur'an. That has confused the public about the validity of the interpretation he has made [1]. The writing of this work has shortcomings because there is a lack of writing style that does not state the source of facts and weaknesses due to the author's use of many unfounded opinions in his interpretation [2]. The stories in this work are also dubious as the author does not describe the reference source in detail. Therefore, the community needs to be careful when reading and referring to this work [3].

Considering that Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan is still used as teaching material in the interpretation of the Qur'an and community reference in understanding the holy verses of the Qur'an, then the effort to purify this work should be done [4]. One form of such effort is through studies that use a genetic approach that will reveal and find the origin of the data used by the author when writing Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan [5]. In conducting this research, the researchers applied the source study, one of the research methods in the genetic approach. Through this method, researchers will dissect and identify the source of the text referred to by Sheikh Muhammad Said in producing Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan and revealing how the author processes the text referred to in his work [6]. Moreover, this research only focuses on the text from Tafsir al-Jamal referred to by Sheikh Muhammad Said as an initial effort towards refining Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan and also as an example of the ability to apply genetic approaches to works in the field of tafsir al-Quran, which in turn can be expanded to other reference works, which will undoubtedly contribute towards the perfection of the work of Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In conducting this research, the researchers applied a genetic approach. Through a genetic approach, researchers examine and show the origin of a written work or how work has influenced the writing of another author's work [7]. For example, Tafsir Pimpinan al-Rahman by Abdullah Basmeih has been influenced by Tafsir al-Tabari by Ibn Jarir[8],

Tafsir Ibn Kathir by Ibn Kathir [9] and Ruh al-Ma’ani by al-Alusi [10]. Initially, an author writes his or her work after reading, researched, and understood the text of a work that has caught his or her attention either consciously or unconsciously [11]. The author processes the text from the books he reads and then he transfers the text into his work [12].

The word genetic comes from the root word “gene”, and in Greek, genea means breed, kind and Gene means seed [13]. This genetic approach is a study of the relationship between works that show similarities based on seed or origin factors [14]. Another word related to it is genesis, which encompasses the origin, production, and creation [15]. According to Ronidin [16], the genetic approach is also known as the study of influence and influence in a text. This approach is more accurately said to be a source study or an original study that discusses where exactly an influence comes from [17].

According to Lubis [18], the genetic approach is divided into five aspects, namely influence, adaptation, plagiarism, imitation and translation. Among the five aspects, the one that is rather difficult to separate is imitation and influence [19]. This is due to judging a work whether it imitates or has been influenced by other works is only known by the author of the work itself because what can distinguish between imitation and influence is the element that involves intentional and unintentional acts [20]. This means when the author makes an imitation; he does so intentionally and consciously. Conversely, influence occurs when the author does so unintentionally. However, it is very rare for an author to admit that his writing is through imitation or influence [21]. Shaw [22] states:

“A writer can be said to be influenced by another writer when evidence from outside can be made the material of a sufficiently convincing study. In contrast to imitation, the work of the affected author is recognized as his. Influence is something very broad happening anywhere and anytime”.

Through the study of sources, the researchers analyzed the original text of Tafsir al-Jamal used by Sheikh Muhammad Said in producing a work entitled Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan. When researchers want to find the original text for the work of Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan, the research process ensures that researchers make a comparison between Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan and Tafsir al-Jamal. This process of comparison is to find out the similarities and differences between the two texts. If the written text is in line with the referenced text, it reinforces the author's interpretations. But on the other hand, if the written text is different from the text from Tafsir al-Jamal, this confuses the author's text.

DISCUSSION

This research is conducted on five aspects in Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan, including The Contexts and Occasions of the Revelation of the Qur’an (Sabab Nuzul Ayah), hadiths (al-Hadith), the stories of Isra’iliyyat (al-Isra’iliyyat), The Abrogating and Abrogated Verses in the Qur’an (Nasikh and Mansukh) and The Text about Advantages (Fadhilat) [23]. The researchers chose these five aspects because they are the primary debates of the author in the work [24]. The list of texts on the five aspects includes 94 texts (29.1%) on the Sabab Nuzul Ayah, 14 texts (4.3%) of the al-Hadith, 198 texts (61.3%) of al-Isra’aliyyat, 6 texts (1.8%) of al-Nasikh and al-Mansukh and 11 texts (3.4%) on Fadhilat [25].

Sheikh Muhammad Said has used five methods when transferring the text from Tafsir al-Jamal into Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan, namely quoting the text in parallel, quoting the text in the abstract, dropping some words found in the text of Tafsir al-Jamal, adding descriptions in the text that retrieved and changed part of the referenced text [26]. This is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: The way the author uses the text of Tafsir al-Jamal

No.	Aspects	Parallel	Abstract	Dropping	Adding	Changing	Total	Percent
01	Sabab Nuzul Ayah	19	30	36	8	1	94	29.1
02	Al-Hadith	5	3	5	1	0	14	4.3
03	Al-Isra’iliyyat	28	78	70	15	7	198	61.3
04	Nasikh Mansukh	0	3	3	0	0	6	1.8
05	Fadhilat	4	2	5	0	0	11	3.4
	Total	56	116	119	24	8	323	100
	Percent	17.3	35.9	36.8	7.4	2.4	100	

Table 1 indicates that Sheikh Muhammad Said has practised five ways in using the text from Tafsir al-Jamal, which is referred to when writing Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan. First, he quoted the text in parallel from Tafsir al-Jamal where the text written by him is the same as the original text from the text of Tafsir al-Jamal, i.e., 56 texts (17.3%) including sabab nuzul ayat 19 of the texts, al-Hadith 5 texts, al-Isra’aliyyat 28 texts, and 4 texts about fadhilat [27].

Second, the author quotes the meaning of the text contained in Tafsir al-Jamal and then he includes it in Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan [28]. This second way means that when the author refers to Tafsir al-Jamal and understands its contents, he translates his understanding into his work through a new verse arrangement in his way. The

resulting excerpt is in abstract form following the original work referred to. Only the meaning of the text is similar to each other, but the form of the text is different [29]. There are 116 texts (35.9%) where the author refers to Tafsir al-Jamal in this second way, namely 30 texts on the sabab nuzul ayat, 3 texts of the al-Hadith, 78 texts of al-Isra'iliyyat, 3 texts of al-Nasikh and al-Mansukh, and 2 texts about fadhilat [30].

Third, the author omits certain verses or sentences from Tafsir al-Jamal after he quotes the text from the work [31]. He did so with texts that were too long to make it difficult for the public to understand. These abortions often involve data on al-Isra'iliyyat that have various opinions and discussions of scholars about it or other deemed inappropriate opinions if loaded together. Therefore, the author selects only some opinions to be adapted in his work and some other opinions are dropped. There are 119 texts (36.8%) in which the author applies this third way, namely 36 texts sabab nuzul ayat, 5 texts of the al-Hadith, 70 texts of al-Isra'iliyyat, 3 texts of al-Nasikh and al-Mansukh, and 5 texts about fadhilat [32].

Fourth, the author expands the description of the referenced text to facilitate the community to refer to and understand the content of Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan [33]. There are 24 texts (7.4%) in which the author makes additions to the text taken from Tafsir al-Jamal, namely 8 texts sabab nuzul ayat, 1 text of al-Hadith, and 15 texts of al-Isra'iliyyat [34].

The fifth is the last way that the author also does is to change the information of the text of Tafsir al-Jamal that is borrowed. The conversion made was not very noticeable, as it only involved a translation made of the original text. The study found that this conversion occurred because the author inadvertently made a translation error of the text of Tafsir al-Jamal referred to, and by itself, this latter method is applied [35]. There are 8 texts (2.4%) in which the author has done this fifth way, namely 1 text sabab nuzul ayat and 7 texts of the al-Isra'iliyyat [36].

CONCLUSION

Based on the research and analysis that has been done, the study found that Sheikh Muhammad Sa'id has only one purpose when referring to the text from Tafsir al-Jamal; that is, he merely wishes to reinforce the interpretations and descriptions that have been made. Even so, the study also identified that the author obtained two results in realizing its purpose namely success and failure.

The success of the author results when the text is written about an aspect, for example, the al-Hadith in Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan is in line with the text referred to from Tafsir al-Jamal, whether the equation fits the form of the text or the content of the text [37]. For example, the author refers to a text from Tafsir al-Jamal [38];

While the text from Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan, the author writes, "fire is lit for 1000 years until it turns red, then continued for another 1000 years until it turns white, then continued the flame of fire for 1000 years until it turns thick black [39]".

Both of the above texts state the awfulness of the fire of hell prepared for its inhabitants. The study found that the author had referred to the text from the work and then included it in Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan in parallel without adding or subtracting sentences at all. The example proves that Sheikh Muhammad Sa'id has succeeded in strengthening the interpretation that has been made in Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan.

While the author fails to realize his purpose when the text is written is contrary to the text referred to [40]. This can be seen through the following example taken from Tafsir al-Jamal [41];

While the author wrote, "the period between Abraham and Moses was 1000 years and between Moses and Jesus was 1975 years [42]."

The text of Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan states that the period between Musa and Isa is 1975 years, in contrast to the text of Tafsir al-Jamal which states that the distance between the two is two thousand years. Such quotations and translations confuse the reader and the public and, at the same time, make the purpose and intention of the author in this section have failed.

Therefore, this article concludes that the genetic approach that has been applied in conducting this research is a comparative study approach in the field of literature. This approach is used to detect the influences that have influenced work by comparing one influence with another [43]. This approach involves three patterns, namely source study, mediator study and acceptance study [44]. This study applies the analysis of sources in analyzing and identifying the original reference from Tafsir al-Jamal used by Sheikh Muhammad Sa'id when producing Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan, in addition to showing how Sheikh Muhammad Said transferred the text referenced into his work.

Based on the analysis that has been made, Tafsir al-Jamal is used as a reference by Sheikh Muhammad Said to the five aspects contained in Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan, namely sabab nuzul ayah represents 94 texts (29.1%), al-Hadith 14 texts (4.3%), al-Isra'aliyyat 198 texts (61.3%), al-Nasikh and al-Mansukh 6 texts (1.8%), as well as 11 texts of fadhilat (3.4%) [45].

Therefore, this article proves that Sheikh Muhammad Sa'id, in producing this work entitled Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan, did not use unfounded facts or use his own opinion in creating Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan he has made Tafsir al-Jamal as one of the works that became his reference in interpreting the holy verses of the Quran.

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