NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Promoting Muticulturalism as the Future of Islamic Civilization

Dear readers, welcome back to the journal. We are delighted to present 5 selected papers in the current volume. This time, our topics are varied from promoting Islamic moderate thought originated from Al-Ghazali, a famous Moslem scholar. The authors argued that al-Ghazali's sufism teachings disclosed balance between the world and the hereafter, just like body and spirit. By way of sufism, Al-Ghazali's thought influenced many Indonesian mystics across fifteenth to nineteenth century.

Another interesting paper dealt with the process of sound correspondences that occur in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), Moroccan Arabic (MAR), and Najdi Arabic (NAR). It attempts to find answers of what are the identical word pairs, words couples that have a phonemic correspondence, a phonetic similarity, and a pair of words that contains difference of one phoneme. This investigation informed several aspects of findings such as identifying prefixes, suffixes, assimilation, metathesis, and epenthesis. Using the Swadesh vocabulary list, the results of this study found 207 vocabularies for each language. By analyzing parts of speech, it was found that these vocabularies can be classified into five-word classes, namely, nouns, pronouns, verb, adjectives, adverbs, and determiners.

Relevant to the above mentioned studies, other scholars focused their study on Muḥammad 'Abduh's life and thought (1849-1905), he is known as a modern Moslem scholar of Egypt. He was known as a reformist and an architect of Islamic modernism. Through his modernism, he introduced a synthesis of Islamic teachings and modern thought in order to bridge between conservative and modern approaches. The research found that 'Abduh's tafsir applied conservative language to reflect his radical ideas. However, 'Abduh also introduced modern approaches in his tafsīr. Finally, it is found

that al-Fātiḥah in 'Abduh tafsir contains the substantial messages of the Qur'an.

In this issue, we also present an important topic on Classical Islamic Historiography in Early Moslem and Orientalist Historiographical Works. The paper elaborates some problems of classical Islamic historiography found in early and modern Islamic historiographical works. The author found three problems concerning the historiography, i.e., epistemology, contents and methodology. This is an attempt to reconstruct the said problems by presenting some responses from various perspectives. The result of this study shows that the problems of classical Islamic historiography could be classified into three categories: Political history of classical Islamic historiography was mainly caused by historian biases through their interpretation to the historiography. Methodology of transmission of the prophet tradition employed by the early Moslem historians has not explained the problems yet. Last but not least, the problems must be comprehensively approached by applying a holistic perspective.

Last but not least, we also offer an interesting paper on Religious Diversity and The Challenge of Multiculturalism: Contrasting Indonesia and The European Union. The author argued that religious diversity is becoming common phenomenon nowadays anywhere in the world including Indonesia and European Union (EU). Although religious diversity brings a positiive impact for society, it is also susceptible object. Social problems raise due to people of religions who create conflict such as violent actions on a big scale and also numerous hostilities, discriminations, and hatred on a small scale. Many regulations have been issued to address such social tensions both in Indonesia and the EU. However, many conflicts, hostilities or discriminations are recurring in both Indonesia and EU states. Interestingly, in many cases, hostilities and discrimination even done by the apparatus of the state.

To respond to the problems and challenges of multiculturalism as described by the authors, we need to revisit the theological and historical foundations that can be used as the basis for re-promoting multiculturalism as an Islamic civilization in the future that needs to be built. Don't just stop at discourse, now is the time for us to practice it in the midst of society. We can start again with wider education,

both formal, non-formal and informal. Start being open and teach it to the community in various ways.

The following articles, although written by different people, have different topics, but the end is the same, namely voicing the importance of multiculturalism to build Islamic civilization in the future. As a result, please read and reflect on it. Enjoy reading our small effort in the current and future editions.

Jarot Wahyudi
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