

The Relationship Between Principles of Tafsir, Language Rules, and Usul Fiqh

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Abstract:

This study aims to examine the relationship between the principles of Qur'anic interpretation (*qawā'id al-tafsīr*), linguistic principles, and *uṣūl al-fiqh* as methodological foundations for understanding the Qur'an. This research employs a library research method by analyzing relevant literature using a descriptive-analytical approach. The findings indicate that the principles of tafsir serve as guidelines for understanding the meanings of Qur'anic verses correctly, while linguistic principles function as tools for analyzing the structure and meanings of the Arabic language. Meanwhile, *uṣūl al-fiqh* serves as a method for deriving and establishing legal rulings from the shari'ah sources. These three disciplines have an integrative and complementary relationship. Linguistic principles provide the technical basis for interpretation, the principles of tafsir guide contextual and accurate understanding, and *uṣūl al-fiqh* ensures conformity with Islamic legal principles. The integration of these disciplines produces a more accurate, comprehensive, and methodologically accountable interpretation of the Qur'an. This study implies the importance of strengthening a multidisciplinary approach in Qur'anic studies to promote interpretations that are both relevant and academically sound.

Keywords: Principles of tafsir, linguistic principles, *uṣūl al-fiqh*, methodology of Qur'anic interpretation.

Abstrak:

Penelitian ini bertujuan mengkaji hubungan antara kaidah tafsir, kaidah bahasa, dan ushul fiqh sebagai landasan metodologis dalam memahami al-Qur'an. Penelitian menggunakan metode kepustakaan (*library research*) dengan menganalisis berbagai literatur yang relevan secara deskriptif-analitis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kaidah tafsir berfungsi sebagai pedoman dalam memahami makna ayat secara benar, sedangkan kaidah bahasa berperan sebagai alat untuk menganalisis struktur dan makna bahasa Arab. Sementara itu, *ushul fiqh* berfungsi sebagai metode untuk menggali dan menetapkan hukum dari dalil-dalil *syar'i*. Ketiga disiplin tersebut memiliki hubungan yang bersifat integratif dan saling melengkapi. Kaidah bahasa menyediakan dasar teknis penafsiran, kaidah tafsir mengarahkan pemahaman makna secara tepat dan

kontekstual, sedangkan *ushul fiqh* memastikan kesesuaiannya dengan prinsip hukum Islam. Integrasi ketiganya menghasilkan penafsiran al-Qur'an yang lebih akurat, komprehensif, dan bertanggung jawab. Penelitian ini berimplikasi pada pentingnya penguatan pendekatan multidisipliner dalam studi tafsir guna menghasilkan pemahaman al-Qur'an yang relevan dan dapat dipertanggungjawabkan secara akademik.

Kata Kunci: Kaidah tafsir, kaidah bahasa, ushul fiqh, penafsiran Al-Qur'an.

INTRODUCTION

The Qur'an provides comprehensive guidance for human life, covering spiritual, ethical, legal, and social dimensions. However, to understand its messages, proper and systematic principles are needed to prevent misunderstandings. A mufassir needs a set of principles to interpret the meaning of the Qur'an accurately and responsibly, which include the principles of tafsir, language rules, and ushul fiqh. Tafsir principles are the basic guidelines that need to be observed in the effort to find the meaning believed to be correct from the Qur'anic verses, and language rules are needed to study the aspects of Arabic grammar within the holy text. Ushul fiqh ensures that the interpretation remains in line with the broader framework of Islamic teachings derived from the Qur'an and Sunnah (Firza Naila Putri et al., 2026). By applying these principles together, interpreters can better understand the depth of the Qur'an's meaning, while also maintaining methodological accuracy and responsibility in interpretation. Several previous studies have produced various research related to the rules of interpreting the Qur'an.

First, there is an article titled 'The Application of Usul Fiqh Principles in Interpreting the Qur'anic Text' by M. Khai Hanif Yuli Edi Z et al. (2024) in an Islamic studies journal. This article discusses the application of fundamental usul fiqh principles in the process of interpreting the Qur'anic text. The study emphasizes that applying these principles helps interpret the Qur'an more accurately, avoid common misinterpretations, and understand the Islamic laws contained in the holy text. (M. Khai Hanif Yuli Edi Z et al., 2024).

Second, the article titled 'Arabic Language Rules in Interpreting the Qur'an' by Husaini Nasution and Alwizar (2024) in the journal Hamalatul Qur'an. This article discusses the language rules used in interpreting the Qur'an, including nahwu (grammar), sharaf (morphology), balaghah (rhetoric), and semantics. The research findings are that the Arabic language rules that must be mastered from a scientific standpoint are a requirement for interpreting the Noble Qur'an (Husaini Nasution and Alwizar, 2024).

Third, the article titled 'Rules Needed by the Mufassir' by M. Agus Yusron (2021). This article shows that the rules of tafsir are essential for anyone who wants to understand the meaning of Qur'anic verses, because these rules help in understanding the text accurately and applying it correctly in context. These three studies indicate that the principles of ushul fiqh and Arabic language rules are very necessary to grasp the meaning of the Qur'anic verses. Therefore, this article offers a difference and novelty in its focus by discussing the relationship between

these three sets of rules. In this way, this study aims to take a closer look at the relationship between the rules of tafsir and the rules of language and ushul fiqh used in interpreting the Qur'an.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a library research method, which is a method carried out by studying and analyzing various written sources relevant to the research topic. The data is obtained from books, scientific journals, as well as other literature related to qawā'id al-tafsir, both classical and contemporary. Then, the collected data is analyzed descriptively and analytically, by explaining the definitions of the three rules, examining the relationship between exegesis rules with language rules and ushul fiqh. Through this approach, it is hoped that the research can produce a comprehensive and systematic understanding of the relationship between these rules.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Definition of Interpretation Rules, Language Rules, and Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence

Qawā'id al-Tafsīr is a compound term made up of (قواعد) qawā'id and (التفسير) al-tafsīr (Jabal Nur, 2013). Qawā'id is the plural form of qā'idah (قاعدة), which in Indonesian means a rule or principle. Linguistically, qā'idah means a foundation, base, or principle (Ar-Razi, 1991), whether in a concrete or abstract sense, like qawā'id al-bait (house foundation), qawā'id al-dīn (basic principles of religion), and qawā'id al-'ilm (principles of knowledge) (Laudza Hulwatun Azizah, 2025). In terms of terminology, according to Ibn an-Najjar, qā'idah is a general law that covers numerous parts, through which the laws of its parts can be understood. Etymologically, the word tafsir in Arabic means al-īdāh (explanation) or al-tabyīn (clarification). In the al-Munawwir dictionary, tafsir is interpreted as to explain, clarify, translate, interpret, and provide an explanation or commentary. Meanwhile, according to Manna al-Qattan, interpretation in language is something that functions to explain and clarify meaning. This shows that interpretation has a broad range of meanings, like stating (al-ibānah) and revealing or uncovering meaning (al-kasyf) (Abdur Rokhim Hasan, 2020). From this linguistic perspective, interpretation in terms of terminology can be understood as the result of an interpreter's understanding or explanation of the Qur'an, carried out using a certain method or approach (Abdul Mustaqim, 2016).

From the brief explanation about the meaning of rules and interpretation above, it can be understood that the rules of interpretation are general laws that can guide the interpreter to what Allah intends through His verses and know how to understand them correctly in their meaning, whether relatively or close to what Allah intends (M. Agus Yusron, 2021). Qawā'id Tafsir (rules of interpretation) are general guidelines used to understand the meaning of the Qur'an and how to apply them (the rules) (Salman Harun, 2022). Language rules are one of the most important aspects in qawā'id tafsir because the Qur'an was revealed in Arabic, which has a rich meaning, structure, and deep linguistic style. Understanding this

principle helps mufassir capture the correct meaning of each word and sentence structure, so that the interpretation does not deviate from the intended meaning (Intan Sari Dewi, 2016). Therefore, paying attention to language aspects is very fundamental in the interpretation process. Qawa'id al-Lughah (linguistic rules) discusses Arabic in terms of its vocabulary, sentences, nature, figurative expressions, and more. Language rules related to Qur'anic interpretation include things like nouns and verbs, definite and indefinite forms, as well as singular and plural.

Linguistically, ushul fiqh comes from two words, namely ushul (أصول) and al-fiqh (الفقه). The word ushul is the plural form of ashlu (أصل), meaning source, origin, foundation, principle, or base, while the word fiqh means understanding. Therefore, etymologically, ushul fiqh means the basics of understanding (Moh. Salman et al., 2024). Terminologically, ushul fiqh is the science that studies the foundations, principles, and methods used to determine Sharia law. Wahab Khalaf defines ushul fiqh as the principles and discussions used to derive practical Sharia laws from detailed evidence. Ar-Razi defines ushul fiqh as a collection of thariq (evidence of fiqh globally), how to use that evidence, and how to understand its application. Ushul fiqh is also defined by al-Ghazali as the principles through which one can know practical Sharia laws from their detailed evidence. This definition affirms the function of ushul fiqh as a methodological tool to derive legal norms from divine texts through a rational and deductive reasoning process (Moh. Shofyan Saurie, 2025).

Thus, ushul fiqh is the knowledge that discusses the methods of deriving and establishing Islamic law (fiqh). Therefore, in the study of ushul fiqh, the foundations, principles, and methods used to determine a law are explained (Ali Sodikin, 2012). Ushul principles discuss fiqh evidence comprehensively, how to use it, and who is capable of using it (mujtahid). Ushul fiqh principles related to the interpretation of the Qur'an include amr and nahy, as well as 'amm and khas.

The Relationship Between Principles of Interpretation and the Rules of Language and Usul Fiqh

Language rules play a fundamental role in revealing the meaning of vocabulary as well as the content found in the Qur'an text. Through a linguistic approach, an interpreter can trace the precise meaning based on language structure, context, and the use of words in the Arabic language tradition. Specifically, language rules aim to produce a comprehensive understanding of the messages of the Qur'an because understanding the Qur'anic verses cannot be limited to just one meaning. Instead, it must consider the possibility of variations in meaning according to the linguistic context and the situation in which the verse was revealed, to avoid mistakes in understanding the text, while also ensuring that the interpretation produced is appropriate for all times and places.

The relationship between the principles of interpretation and language rules is integrative and complementary. Language rules function as an analytical tool, while the principles of interpretation serve as a methodological framework (manhaj) for understanding the Qur'an. In other words, language rules provide a technical basis for understanding the structure and meaning of language, while the principles of interpretation guide how that meaning should be understood

correctly, contextually, and in accordance with valid interpretive principles (Husaini Nasution and Alwizar, 2024). Mastery of language rules is not only important but also a main prerequisite for applying interpretive principles to achieve an accurate and scientifically accountable understanding of the Qur'an. The principles of tafsir and the principles of ushul fiqh share a similar orientation in studying the Qur'an, which is to understand the meaning of the verses accurately. Both treat the Qur'an as the main object of study, but ushul fiqh focuses more on the Qur'an as a normative source of law, so its analysis is directed towards extracting legal evidence and methods of istinbat (deriving rulings) from the text. Meanwhile, the principles of tafsir have a broader scope because they are not limited to legal dimensions alone but also cover the general aspects of meaning, whether theological, ethical, or linguistic.

In practice, both mufasssirs and scholars of ushul fiqh are required to have a deep understanding of the context of the verses' revelation (asbab al-nuzul), the structure of the Arabic language, and various other fields of knowledge. This knowledge serves as a methodological tool that helps explain the content of the verses comprehensively while also ensuring accuracy in deriving laws from them (Syofrianisda, 2017). Thus, the relationship between the principles of tafsir and the principles of ushul fiqh is complementary. Tafsir principles play a role in revealing and explaining the meaning of the verses in full, while ushul fiqh principles focus on the process of deriving legal rulings from that meaning. The relationship between the two allows for an understanding of the Qur'an that is not only accurate in meaning but also precise in establishing laws, making it a valid guide for the life of Muslims.

CONCLUSION

The rules of interpretation serve as a very important guide in understanding and interpreting the Quran to avoid misunderstandings of its meaning. Among the key components of these rules are linguistic principles (qawa'id al-lughah), which help interpreters understand the meaning of Quranic verses from the perspective of the Arabic language. This includes knowledge of syntax and morphology, which play a role in explaining grammatical structure, word forms, and the relationships of meaning within the text. In addition, legal principles (ushul fiqh) also play an important role in ensuring that interpretations remain in line with the framework of Islamic law and theology as a whole. By applying all these principles in an integrated way, interpreting the Qur'an can be done more accurately, comprehensively, and methodologically responsibly. This integration allows interpreters to balance linguistic analysis, legal reasoning, and contextual understanding when studying the Qur'anic verses. Therefore, mastering the rules of tafsir is very important for anyone who wants to understand the Qur'an correctly and deeply, because these rules provide the intellectual tools needed to approach the sacred text with scientific thoroughness and interpretative responsibility.

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