



Urgency of Arabic in Islamic Education

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Abstract: *Language is a tool of communication and Arabic has been used as this tool in the international conversation. Arabic is rapidly developing throughout the world and has been studied both formally and informally at educational institutions. Learning Arabic requires carefulness and seriousness since to the tool of science obtained in Arabic will not be easily understood in such a short time of learning. The holy book of Islam is the Qur'an written in Arabic. Therefore, who wants to understand Islam properly are strongly recommended to learn Arabic seriously as the least possible thing can he do. That is because by studying Arabic, he will be able to understand every meaning of Islamic teachings that contained in the holy Qur'an which has been written in Arabic. The Qur'an and hadith are the main sources of the implementation of Islamic teachings, Thus, if Muslims understand Arabic pretty well then understanding both the Qur'an and hadith will surely be easier and can also prevent them from misunderstanding or misinterpreting the content. Therefore, in Islamic education, Arabic education is very important to be taught. Arabic is not merely the language of Moslems but the language that Allah has chosen as the language of Qur'an. The urgency of learning Arabic is very important in Islamic education in order to be able to understand to the teachings contained in Islamic education.*

A. Introduction

A language is a communication tool used by humans in conveying their thoughts, opinions, ideas and whatever they feel to others. Language is a means of delivering messages from the communicator to the recipient of the message. It is, indeed, such a primary science needed in human life in this world. Without it, humans will have difficulty communicating with other humans.

There are various languages in this world and almost every country has its own language. Most European people use English in their daily communication. The Arab community uses Arabic in communication. Meanwhile, the Indonesian people speak Bahasa Indonesia in conversations every day. Likewise the people of France, they are conversing in French in communicating among themselves.

To bridge the different languages of the world community, it is necessary to have a language of communication that is acceptable to the international society. And as we know that the International language currently used globally in communication and relation on the international level are three languages, namely English, French and Arabic. Therefore the development of the use of these three languages is growing rapidly all over the world.

The development of the three languages then created a special attraction for education in all countries. This was marked by the study of these three languages in almost every school in the world. Even these three languages, namely Arabic, English and French, are used as the main subjects or elective subjects as a means of the young generation to know and learn the foreign language.

Among the three languages, Arabic has its own allure to learn. Arabic is rapidly developing throughout the world and is studied formally and non-formally in educational institutions.

In the grammatical order, Arabic is unique compared to English and French. For example, mapping the type of vocabulary between *mudzakar* and *muannats*, then changes in the form of verbs from singular, and also *mutsanna* and plural that make all of them have a great allure that is not possessed by other languages. However, learning Arabic requires carefulness and seriousness.

Another uniqueness of Arabic is, and this has been admitted to be true, that Arabic is the language used in the Holy Qur'an (the holy book of Islam). Arabic has been chosen by Allah as the language used in conveying His revelations which contains commands and prohibitions to all Muslims throughout the world. The beauty and grandeur of the poetry and the arrangement of sentences in Arabic in the

writing of the Qur'an have been recognized well by the world. No human being can match the beauty of the sentence in this holy book even though only one verse. The beauty of Arabic literature produced in Arabic science is undoubted greatness.

B. Method

This research has characteristics as a direct and descriptive data source. The process is crucial to find out the results and the research analysis is done inductively. The kind of research is used qualitative research, in which the data in qualitative research is verbal and analyzed without using statistical techniques. The description gave a clear aim to explain the urgency of Arabic in Islamic education based on behaviorism theory. This paper used kinds of literature as a foundation to look for the urgency of Arabic in Islamic education.

C. Discussion

1. Arabic

In language, Arabic means "Sahara desert" or barren land in which there is no water and trees growing on it. Language has a meaning as a communication tool used by humans to interact and correspond with various motivations and needs that they have. In terminology, Arabic is the language used by a group of people who live in the Sahara Desert, the Arabian Peninsula.¹

Arabic is the third international language after English and French. The development of Arabic has made rapid progress in many countries throughout the world. The study of Arabic in educational institutions at the global level is the proof that the knowledge of Arabic has been in great demand by many international communities.

Arabic as an international language has an important role for the development of the Arab Muslim community. Referring to the main function of language as a communication tool, Arabic becomes a tool of interaction and communication among Arab societies.

¹Asna Andriani, *Urgency in Arabic learning*, Ta'allum, Vol.3, No.01, June 2015, p. 1.

Arabic originally functioned as a language of communication used by the Arabs in the fields of religion, and IPOLEKSOSBUD (science, politics, economics, social, and culture). As its development, Arabic became the official language in various organizations of Islamic and Arabic countries, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) formerly known as the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League, and *Rabithah al-Alam al-Islamy*.

Many human views align Arabic with Islam. Although, as we all know, Arabic is not a language that is specific to Islam. This is as Azhar Arsyad wrote that, Arabic is the language chosen by Allah SWT as the language of the Qur'an. But the reality is that Arabic is not a language intended for Muslims and Islam only but also the language used by non-Muslims and also other religions such as Judaism and Christianity.²It is, thus, Arabic is not the language of Islam since it is widely used in communication by non-Muslim communities around the world. Nevertheless, it is true that Arabic is the language of the Muslim holy book.

The development of knowledge about Arabic both grammatically and structurally has entered the world of education entire world. Arabic becomes a subject that is included in the curriculum in educational institutions. In Indonesia, Islamic educational institutions ranging from elementary to tertiary institutions (MI / SDIT, MTS, MA, and PTI) have made Arabic as a compulsory or main subject in the learning process. Whereas in general educational institutions, such as Elementary Schools (SD), Junior High Schools (SMP), High Schools (SMA) and Colleges make Arabic as a subject of choice or local content.

In fact, there are currently many non-formal educational institutions that have opened courses or private lessons for learning Arabic. Moreover, the means to learn Arabic are now widely available to the people so that they will not have any difficulty finding a place to learn it.

Arabic is a foreign language for most students in Indonesia so it takes seriousness and a longer time for them to learn it. Foreign vocabularies not

²Azhar Arsyad, *Arabic and its Teaching Methods, Some Thoughts*, (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 3rd Edition, October 2010), p. xiv.

accustomed to their ears are an obstacle that sometimes makes their study not go as expected.

"إن اللغة العربية هي من إحدى المواد في منهج المدرسة. اللغة العربية هي من إحدى أدوات الإتصال التي يستخدم بها الإنسان يستخدم التلاميذ اللغة العربية كل يوم في عبادتهم. ولذلك، كانت اللغة العربية مهمة يتعلمها التلاميذ. ولكن رأى بعض التلاميذ في إندونيسيا صعوبة تعلم اللغة العربية. لأن هذه اللغة لهم لغة الأجنبية ليست باللغة الأم. لذلك يحتاجون إلى فعالية التعليم".³

Since Arabic is a foreign language for students in Indonesia so they must have difficulties in learning it. But for them, the written language in Arabic will always they encounter in Islamic subjects, and they will always say it in their prayers as their obligation in worshipping their Lord. So, learning Arabic as if it became a necessity for Muslims in Indonesia and of course also in the world.

The teaching of Arabic is included in the formal education curriculum with an allocation of adequate teaching time so that it is sufficient and able to achieve the target of learning success. As quoted from Fachrudin that teaching Arabic is closely related to the curriculum, because without an adequate curriculum the teaching will fail or be less successful.⁴

So it can be concluded that the teaching of Arabic among students will achieve maximum results if the curriculum used is adequate for the ongoing development of education. In addition, the success of teaching Arabic also greatly helps students' understanding of Islamic religious education and helps their mastery of international-level communication.

2. Islamic Education

Pendidikan comes from the word "*didik*" which gets the prefix "*me*" so it becomes "*mendidik*", this word has the meaning of nurturing and giving training.⁵ Furthermore, Soekidjo also explained that education is all efforts planned to

³Asni Furaida, *Collection of Arabic Papers* (Al-Musilsilatu fi Tarqih Muharoti Al kalami Lighthotil arabiyati li Talamidz) IAIN Surakarta, p. 2.

⁴Fachrudin, *Curriculum Development Techniques*, (Yogyakarta: Global Pustaka, 2005), p. 5.

⁵Muhibbin Syah, *Educational Psychology With a New Approach*, (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya 2010), P. 10.

influence other people whether they are individuals, groups or community so that they can do what is expected by education practitioners.⁶

Education is also interpreted as a human effort to grow and develop the innate potential of both physical and spiritual according to the values that exist in society and culture.⁷ Aristoteles said Education is a function of the state. State-highest social institution which secures the highest goal or happiness of man. Education is preparation for some worthy activity. Education should be guided by legislation to make it correspond with the results of psychological analysis, and follow the gradual development of the bodily and mental faculties.

The word education in English is known as Education. Returned to the etymological meaning, this word comes from the Latin, *Eductum*. The word *Eductum* comes from two words, namely *E* means development from the inside out and *Duco* means developing. So education means the process of developing one's own abilities and individual strengths.

Quoted from the experts' opinion that education is defined as a process of changing the attitudes and behavior of a person or group as an effort to mature humans or students through teaching and training.⁸

Islam is one of the world recognized religions. Followers of Islam are called Muslims. The holy book of Islam is the Qur'an written in Arabic. It is, therefore, proper enough for Muslims to learn Arabic correctly and seriously in order to study the Holy Qur'an and all its meanings. The more Muslims understand the knowledge contained in Arabic, the more they will understand the whole commands in the Qur'an.

Islamic education teaches the learner about knowledge related to Islam as a whole. Islamic education is an education that instructs about civilized association among God's creatures. It teaches about the relationship between humans and their creators and also their relationship with other humans.

Islam is a religion that believes in the existence of one God, namely Allah SWT (Glory to Him, The Exalted). Islam always teaches its *ummah* to always

⁶Soekidjo Notoatmodjo, *Health Education and Behavior*, (Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2003), p. 16.

⁷Fuad hasan, *Fundamentals of Education*, (Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2005), p. 1.

⁸<https://www.Seputar-pengetahuan.co.id>, downloaded on 12/10/2019, at 14.10.

maintain peace and harmony with other human beings, respect other religions and never impose religious will on the followers of other religions.

Islam teaches its people not to create any war on earth. As the Word of God in the letter Lukman verse 19 “...وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا” which means “Do not walk on the earth with anger”. Therefore, Islam always teaches harmony and peace to its entire people.

Islam teaches it *summah* to always maintain faith, Islam and creed, and also foster a love for God through Islamic activities, and defend Islam when oppressed and persecuted.

Followers of Islam are called Muslims, which means those who obey God. Moreover, in Islam, Allah teaches His servants to truly believe that Muhammad is His messenger and Rasul who was sent to the earth to perfect human morals.

The meaning of Islam literally means, safe, obedient, peaceful and clean. The word Islam is formed from three letters namely *sin*, *lam*, and *mim* which means "safety" (*salama*). Islam meaning *aslama* comes from the word *salama*. The word Islam is a *mashdar* form of the word *aslama*.⁹

So that Islamic education is every human endeavor in order to foster, make understanding, and behave in an Islamic manner in order to obtain safety and peace in life in this world and the hereafter later.

Islamic education teaches about knowledge related to morals, good character, correct worship procedures and establishing good relationships with the community.

As Yusdani revealed that Islam, as a teaching about human life, is a view that cannot be debated among Muslims¹⁰ that Islam is the religion of the most right and there is no doubt about it.

There are several lessons in Islamic education that can be given:

a. Peace learning. Peace must start from each of us.

⁹Bagas Saputra, Understanding Islam, *Education Magazine*, p. 1

¹⁰Yusdani, *Fiqh of Muslim Politics*, (Yogyakarta: Amara Books, 2011), p.276.

- b. Human rights learning. All human rights are universal, undivided and interrelated. Education is an effective tool for the development of values related to human rights.
- c. Learning related to democracy. The study of democracy is essentially to develop human existence by inspiring it in terms of dignity and equality, mutual trust, tolerance, respect for the beliefs and cultures of others, respect for individuals and active participation in all aspects of life.¹¹

Islamic education teaches to uphold peace and respect for human rights, deliberate in seeking solutions to obtain mutual agreement, respect the beliefs of other people, maintain tolerance and harmony among religious communities and help one another in goodness.

There are several branches of science in Islamic education, namely; Al Qur'an hadiths, moral creed, *fiqh*, and history of Islamic civilization or culture. Each branch of science is learning about Islam and its teachings, and also the commands and prohibitions from Allah SWT. And all the teachings of Islam are sourced from the Qur'an and the hadith as a guide.

Studying Arabic from the grammatical point of view of Arabic and Arabic sentences is by learning the science of *nahwu / sharaf* which learns about the accuracy of the readings and punctuation of the end of the sentence. By doing this, Muslims will understand and be able to translate the Qur'an correctly so as to avoid mistakes of the true meaning.

3. Urgency of Arabic in Islamic Education

Arabic has a very big role in Islamic education. Islamic teachings sourced from the Qur'an and hadith are written in Arabic. Many Islamic books are written in Arabic, so studying Arabic for Muslims is very helpful in learning all the sources of their teachings.

¹¹ Irma Novayani, *Learning Islam (PAI) based on Multicultural Education*, Journal Tadrib, Vol. 3, No.2, December 2017, p. 5.

As an explanation that most of the Indonesian people who are scattered throughout the archipelago follow the religion of Islam. Islam is a religion of revelation that Allah SWT revealed to the Prophet Muhammad SAW by means of the Angel Gabriel. The revelations given to the Prophet Muhammad as the last messenger were compiled into the Holy Qur'an in Arabic. The same thing goes for Al-Hadith which functions as an explanation and interpretation of the Qur'an is also compiled in Arabic.¹²

The Prophet Muhammad used the Qur'an to oppose the Arabs of that era and subsequent generations who did not believe in the truth of the Qur'an as the word of God (not Muhammad's creation), along with the treatises and also the teachings he carried.¹³

As an explanation says that the *Jumhur Ulama* agreement defines that the Qur'an is the word of God in the form of a miracle revealed to the Prophet and the closing Apostle (Muhammad SAW), by means of the Angel Gabriel, written in the form of a Manuscripts and then narrated to us as his *ummah* by means of *muttawatir and* reading it is also a worship.¹⁴

Thus we all know that learning Arabic for Muslims is as entering a stage to understand the Qur'an and al-Hadith in order to learn all the laws, commands and prohibitions contained in both sources of Islamic teachings.

Because the Qur'an is a holy book that Allah commands Muslims to always read and study its meaning because it is a form of worship. Mawardi also explained that the use of the word Al Qur'an in the holy book is found in about 68 verses, all of which explain and specifically indicate the name of the Qur'an.¹⁵

It is undeniable that the development of Arabic is very closely related to the development of Islam as a strong religion, namely during the reign of the Umayyah and the Abbasids, after the fifth century *Hijriyah*. at that time Islam expanded into the regions of Central Asia to West Africa.

¹²Juwairiyah Dahlan, *Arabic Language Teaching and Learning Methods*, (Surabaya: Al Ikhlas, 1st Printing, 1992), p. 19.

¹³Rosihan Anwar, *Knowledge of Interpretation*, (Bandung: CV. PustakaSetia, May, 2008), p. 13.

¹⁴Mawardi Abdullah, *Ulumul Qur'an*, (STAIN Jember Press: PustakaPelajar, 1st printing, August 2011), p. 6.

¹⁵Mawardi Abdullah, *Ulumul Qur'an*;...p.3.

As Ahmad Izzan explained that the discussants and linguists agree on the most important event in the history of the development of Arabic that is related to the arrival of Islam and the spread of this religion as a Mercy for the universe. This is the standard that makes Arabic as a very important and interesting thing for the people.¹⁶

In Indonesia, Islamic educational institutions (from elementary to tertiary levels) that set Arabic as a compulsory subject for all students have a goal to make them understand the Islamic knowledge, as well as aiming them to master this foreign language as one of the International languages.

In line with this opinion there is an explanation that by studying Arabic, students will understand various kinds of religious knowledge so that they will be able to improve the quality of the implementation of their faith and devotion to Allah SWT as a basic provision in order to achieve national education goals as written in the Broad Outlines of State Policy (GBHN) is to improve the quality of Indonesian people who have faith and are devoted to Allah SWT.¹⁷

By studying Arabic, students will be able to understand materials such as fiqh, Qur'an hadith, the moral creed, and the history of Islamic civilization which are always used by the Qur'an and hadith as the sources of knowledge in each of these fields of science. Therefore, Arabic has such an urgent role in Islamic education.

Learning Arabic has many stages from basic to advance, starting from studying foreign vocabulary not yet known by students to the introduction of science tools namely *naḥwu* and *ṣarf*. In the end, students will be able to master a lot of Arabic vocabulary and be able to read Arabic letters correctly although without any *harakāt*.

If this ability has been achieved by students, then they will have the ability to read the Holy Qur'an and hadiths in every Islamic education lesson that they encounter in class.

¹⁶ Ahmad Izzan, *Arabic Language Learning Methodology*, (Bandung: Humaniora. 4th Printing, 2011), p. 16.

¹⁷Nur Sholeh and Ulin Nuha, *Arabic Language Curriculum Development, Curriculum Analysis and Guide of Arabic Language According to KTSP*, (Yogyakarta: Diva Press, 1st Printing, December 2013), p.79.

So learning Arabic is very important and needs to be done by all students, especially those at Islamic educational institutions. Learning Arabic should be carried out continuously from the elementary school level to the Higher Education level so that the understanding gained by students can develop and their knowledge will grow much deeper.

Learning Arabic is given up to the College level with the aim that the transmission of this knowledge continues until the learners really have the knowledge and complete understanding in Arabic as programmed in the curriculum.

In line with this opinion that the teaching of Arabic in Madrasah Aliyah has a specific function of conveying knowledge and language skills at an advanced level not only at the elementary level and providing language points so that students can have knowledge written in Arabic. This is intended so that students have some knowledge, understanding, and can use a variety of basic sentence patterns in Arabic as programmed, so that they are able to use the language as a communication tool and can also understand the Qur'an and the Hadith.¹⁸

Arabic is a language which has a height of literary science. The beauty of its poetic sentences is very interesting to be studied by the world. And Arabic is not affected by the changing times because this language has become a container for Islamic civilization for 15 centuries in both the eastern and western hemispheres.

In addition, Arabic has been recognized by the United Nations as an international language besides English and French. Arabic is also the unifying language of Muslims.

Arabic is also the language of science, so it is natural for Muslims to love and learn it as the Prophet Muhammad SAW said, "Love Arabic for three things; first, because I am an Arab; second, because the Qur'an is in Arabic; and third, because the language of the inhabitants of heaven is Arabic".

Asna also explained that Arabic was not only as a spoken but also a written language. This is what builds tradition among Muslims. Returning to history, the phenomenal works of scholars in the fields of interpretation, hadith, fiqh, aqeedah

¹⁸Nur Sholeh and Ulin Nuha, *Development of Arabic Language Curriculum*; ... P. 79

and other Islamic sciences are all written in Arabic. Besides, the original sources of Islamic teachings and Islamic sciences are written in Arabic, so it is very important for Muslims, especially Muslim scholars or academics to learn, understand and master Arabic for the development of Islamic education.¹⁹

Muslims will get many benefits in learning Arabic. The first benefit is to understand the teachings of Islam (*fahmul Islam*), the second benefit is to unite the Muslims because by using Arabic as a means of communication among them will certainly strengthen their unity, and the third benefit is to make this human race have a cultural civilization. The culture meant here is the Islamic culture which is related to Arabic.

D. Conclusions

Language is a communication tool used by humans in conveying thoughts, opinions, ideas and everything they feel to other humans. Language is a means of delivering messages from the communicator to the recipient of the message. Arabic is the language used by a group of people who live in the Sahara Desert, the Arabian Peninsula. Arabic is a language which has a height in the language of literature. The beauty of its poetic sentences is interesting to be studied by the world.

Islamic education teaches the learner about knowledge of Islam as a whole. Islamic education teaches about the morality of relationships between fellow creatures of God, teaches the relationship between humans and their Creator and also the relationship among them.

Arabic in Islamic education has a seriously big role. Islamic teachings sourced from the Qur'an and the hadith are all written in Arabic. Many of the Islamic religious books are written in Arabic, so learning Arabic for Muslims greatly helps them in learning all the sources of their teachings.

By studying Arabic, students will be able to understand some materials such as fiqh, Alquran and Alhadiths, moral creed, and the history of Islamic

¹⁹Asna Andriani, Urgency in Arabic learning, TA'AALLUM, Vol.3, No.01, June 2015, p. 2.

civilization which are always used in the Qur'an and hadith as sources of knowledge in each of these fields of science. So the role of Arabic in Islamic education is totally urgent.

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