Constructing The Epistemology Of Nusantara Fiqh: A Proposal
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Abstract
This article proposes an epistemology of Nusantara Fiqh. Considering the fact that the majority of Indonesia’s population is Muslim and that the tribes, ethnicities and religions are diverse, it is necessary to construct an epistemology of Indonesian Islamic law that is compatible with such a condition. The Indonesian Fiqh has its own characteristics. Fiqh and the study of Nusantara Islamic law must be based on an epistemology that considers that plurality. This study employed a qualitative approach with inductive analysis where the researcher created categories of various
themes and certain patterns from the research data. Then, the categories were formulated based on the records of existing data. The result of this study is the development of the Indonesian Islamic law epistemology using the istiṣlaachii model aimed at giving benefits for the Indonesian people by combining naṣ size or text with a logical view, communicating text and tradition (context). The integration of the two was done so that the benefits to be obtained adhere to the syara’ and only use logical considerations and the social reality. The integration of naṣ and logical view was done so that ijtihad does not become textual dogma without considering realistic and practical benefits.

Keywords: Ushul Fiqh, Nusantara, and Epistemology

A. Introduction

Based on the view that Ushul Fiqh was systemized in the ear of Imam Syafi‘i, it could be traced this branch of knowledge has reached 1300 years. Along such period of years, this Islamic methodology has certainly needs contextual and sociological mending and further development. The contemporary islamic scholars such as Hasan Al-Turabi, Muhammad ‘Abid al-Jābīrī, Hassan Hanāfī, Mohammed Arkoun with their latest discourses did offer to reconstruct Ushul Fiqh. The related reconstruction is necessary and crucial in order to face various Islamic law-related issues based on the apparatus and methodology of the field itself. With reconstruction of the Methodology, it is expected that Islamic law will be moreresponsive to the current days phenomena that keeps on growing and requires answers from the perspective of Islamic law.

Once, Abdillah elaborated Indonesian Islamic law, specifically on jinayah. He viewed that the epistemology structure of Islamic law in Indonesia must allocate major proportion to cognition, history, tradition and local believes of Indonesia. Abdillah’s proposal to endow portion to cognition in Islamic law epistemology is no novelty. Mustofa had also given his review on Islamic law epistemology based on Al-ghazali point of view. In his discussion, Mustofa concluded that Al-Ghazali has given his effort to construct a combination outline between the divine knowledge with ushul fiqh

2 Abdillah, " Rekonstruksi Epistemologi Fiqh Jināyah Indonesia Dan Relevansinya Bagi Pembangunan Hukum Nasional."
as well as the intergration of divine words and mortal cognition in Islamic law theory, though he was not the initiator of such action. It was Al-Ghazali who then continued the work of Imam Syafi’i, of whom had proven that there was no contradiction between the divine words and mortal cognition.³

The scientific epistemology of contemporary Islam has evolved and moved from the traditional Islamic epistemology itself. There is an integration effort in traditional epistemology which makes nash as a central point with contemporary methodologies involving contemporary social sciences and humanities and critical philosophy (Critical Philosophy).⁴ Meanwhile, Auda uses a multidimensional approach in developing contemporary Islamic epistemology. Related to the Islamic law, Auda is more emphasizing the renewal of the concept of Maqāṣid al-Syarīʿah and making it as a base of thought for the development of Islamic law that deals with efforts to accommodate local culture and wisdom in a scientific circle.⁵

Furthermore, related to Islam and the culture of the archipelago, Hasib conducted towards the dialectics and cultural mix of the archipelago and Islam. Based on his study during the Wali Songo period, the phenomenon of "Mystical Synthesis" was found which is an Islamization in the sense of collaborating with local beliefs and culture, which then came "Neo-Sufism" whose orientation to Islam was more Islamic. At first, Islamic da’wah emphasized aspects of continuity between Islamic teachings and local culture, instead of making changes to local culture. This period instead adopted and affirmed local culture in the teaching system. It is supported by Islamic teachings that are very flexible, more on the aspects of substance and Islamic spirit, as well as the understanding of tasawwuf called wahdatul wujud, hulul which was felt by pantheistic local beliefs. Even though the "Neo-Sufism" thought made changes in the next periods, it remained in a slow and not radical rhythm, because "Mystical Synthesis" still exists today.⁶ (Tauhidi, 2015: 14-15).

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⁵ 332.

This article proposes an epistemology of Nusantara Fiqh. Considering the fact that the majority of Indonesia’s population is Muslim and that the tribes, ethnicities, and religions are diverse, it is necessary to construct an epistemology of Indonesian Islamic law that is compatible with such a condition. The Indonesian Fiqh has its own characteristics. Fiqh and the study of law in Islam Nusantara must be based on an epistemology that considers that plurality.

This study focused on a qualitative approach with library data as the main data that collected by using documentation. It was done by reading the discourse on the study of the epistemology of Islamic law and Islamic studies of the archipelago. Data had been collected and analyzed by using the content analysis method (content analysis), a technique that can be used to make inferences that can be replicated and validated by paying attention to the context. As a qualitative research, this study employed a qualitative approach with inductive analysis where the researcher created categories of various themes and certain patterns from the research data. Then, the categories were formulated based on the records of existing data.

B. Concept of Islam Nusantara: Conseo and Characteristics

Azra emphasized that the term of "Islam Nusantara" in an education world refers to "Southeast Asian Islam" which is found in the Muslim regions such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Pattani (Southern Thailand) and Mindanao (Southern Philippines). The territory of Islam Nusantara in precolonial literature is called "Negeri Bawah Angin" (lands below the wind). In Arabic literature, it was called "bilad al-Jawi" (Jawi Muslim country) since the 16th century, Southeast Asia. The Islamic archipelago community is commonly referred to as "ashab al-Jawiyyin" or "Jama'ah al-Jawiyyin". The region of Islam Nusantara is one of the Eight religion-cultural realms of Islam that consisted of Arabic, Persian / Iranian, Turkish, Indian Continents, Sino Islamic, Black Africa and the Western World. Although holding the same basic principles and teachings in aqidah and worship, every domain has its own religious and cultural characteristics.

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The word "Islam Nusantara" consists of "Islam" and "Nusantara", where the word "Islam" refers to a name of religion that is recognized by Muslims as its adherents, both outside and inside in the Republic of Indonesia. It makes Islam is the religion brought by Allah’s last messenger, Muhammad (PBUH), religion was revealed to all prophets and apostles, both the former to the last. Religion and Islam regulate all aspects of human life, both of which are related to worship, faith, and human relations with creation as servants of Allah. The meaning of "Islam", literally, is "surrender" (al-istislaam) to Allah. Complete Islamic teachings touch the invisible dimensions, such as faith in God, angels, heaven, hell and so on, where all of this becomes like trust, and also touches on the social, political, economic, cultural, neighboring, family, national, citizen dimensions countries, and so on in this world. All Islamic teachings and their development in changing time, conditions, environment, traditions and habits encourage the religious scholars to interpret Islamic teachings to be more in line with changing situations and conditions as recognized by not only a Muslim scholar, but that has become a kind of theory of change time by time. Therefore, Islam is believed to be the teachings appropriate in every era, as was said by the statement further: "We believe that Islam is religion and state, religious and regulations. What is always appropriate and appropriate for every time and place"

Islam Nusantara brings imagination to diversity, difference, and pluralism. The archipelago is a diversity that does not recognize a single identity. Nusantara inhabitants inherit at least 10 diverse archipelago characters. Islam Nusantara is a multicultural Islam as we witness it in the archipelago, while Indonesia "demands" our imagination for unity. Even though we have only been able to unite, if we have acknowledged that we are different and diverse, and have

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11 Al-Shahib bin Ubad, al-Muhith fi al-Lughah, (t.t.p: tt.t), volume 2, h. 365.

12 Abdurrahman bin Sa’ad al-Syhhstariy, Taqnin al-Shari’ah Bain al-Tahlil wa al-Tahrir, t.t., 116.

the wisdom to accept all the pluralism, then we will be able to unite. We can unite in national identity, but that cannot be denied: Islamic understanding and expression remain plural and diverse.14

Understanding Islam Nusantara is an important thing to do because there are religious and cultural dimensions that are intertwined each other. This dimension is a way for Islam to compromise with territorial boundaries that have certain cultural roots. This resulted in Islam completely no longer present themselves as rigid and closed, exclusive and textual a sich, but respect the otherness, inclusive side-esoteric and touched poulitice reality. Islam does appreciate the values of a particular geographical area. This is supported by Gus Dur by delivering that "The overlap between religion and culture will occur continuously as a process that will enrich life and make it is not barren".15

Regarding the characteristics of Islam Nusantara, has been attached to the naming of "Islam Nusantara" itself. Islam Nusantara is a special character that distinguishes it from other community organizations. Some of the characteristics of the Islam Nusantara itself are as follows:16

First is Moderate-Anti Extreme. "His anti extreme moderate" typically in Arabic translated by the word "توسط" as found in a few sentences Muslim scholars as follows17:

"The best place of all over is in the middle. Every end of the result has two bad peaks; in fact, generosity is in stinginess and wasteful behavior. Courage is in the midst of cowardice and carelessness. Humans are ordered to avoid evil away from him. far from him increasing, the empty attitude is also getting away from him"

14 Ahmad Syafii Maarif, Islam in the Frame of Indonesianness and Humanity: A Reflection of History (Bandung: Mizan Collaborating with the Maarif Institute, 2009), 305.
15 Akhmad Sahal, Nusantara Islam From Ushul Fiqh to Paham Kebangsaan (Bandung: Mizan Library, 2015), 33.
16 KH Musthofa Bisri, who is familiarly called Gus Mus, at the National Institute for Nusantara Studies (INNUS) seminar on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, which coincided with the building of the Da'wah of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.
Referring to the explanations above, "moderate" is the best attitude in community life in the midst of problems that come, whether religious matters or others. This character is displayed by the term "Islam Nusantara" which makes it appear different from other organizations which were established by many as group identities as is known in any country.

Second is "tolerance". Tolerance is an attitude in Arabic called "تسامح", which is an attitude that emphasizes gentleness (friendliness) and ease as indicated by the following expression:¹⁸

"Indeed, tolerance is an attitude that is gentle and easy Ibn al-Athir said: tolerance is the convenience, and al-Fairuzabadiy said: "Be tolerant and easy." This is one kind of kindness in the soul that brings love for who is the best for the soul, therefore tolerance brings love and harmony, it also throws away violence and dissonance Tolerance is a heart that encourages to find a good life, a clear soul, free from all kinds of violence and extremes"

The third is "balanced and inclusive". This characteristic is the main identity of "Islam Nusantara" found in the history of Islam in Indonesia when Islam was first introduced by Muslim scholars known as Sunan or Wali Songo "Nine guardians" as explained by Agus Sunyoto. He stated that the success of Islamization in Java on the 15th century was caused by the arrival of Muslims from Champa, such as Raden Rahmat (Sunan Ampel) in 1440. Furthermore, the success of Islamization was also supported by scholars relations in organized and systematic problems. They use family relationships and also display good morals so people are attracted to their attitudes. Therefore, the advantages of Islam Nusantara can be seen in four aspects, namely: 1. Sufism, 2. Assimilation of education, 3. Da’wah (art and culture), 4. Establishment of the Archipelago’s society.¹⁹

C. Constructing the Epistemology of Nusantara Fiqh
One of the rules that are fabulous among Islamic jurists is

Regarding the above rules, Nusantara is interpreted geographically and environmentally will give new colors when intersected with Islamic law, especially the study or fiqh. Fiqh Nusantara is going to embrace various customs, cultures, and local wisdom of Nusantara. Moreover, this gives the legitimacy of the theorists of Islamic law in ushul fiqh through the concept of al-'urf.

Islamic law (Syariah context) that has a relation between human and Allah, such as the procedures and provisions of sholat that should follow the rules of fiqh normatively. However, the communication among humans needs to be actualization so that the contextualization efforts can also be made which also use local culture and customs as considerations and legal propositions.20

Islamic law makes us believe that the law is not truly independent of jurisprudence. They are interrelated and interdependent. This also applies to the Islamic legal system. The Qur'an introduces Islam and its way of life as inclusive, universal and permanent, and beyond time and place. Therefore, Islam claims to be a complete and perfect religion, addressing beliefs and practices. This doctrine implies that Islam regards itself as an inclusive code of behavior for individuals and society with a legal system that covers all issues of social and personal behavior. Therefore, Islam requires a systematic method for understanding universal and comprehensive legal and jurisprudential principles to provide legal answers to all legal problems and questions at all times. The doctrine of *ijtihad* cannot be limited to formulating the rule of law and resolving legal issues only by using traditional sources.21

Traditional methodological principles and *istinbat* legal norms are preserved and considered invalid if it does not know *Muqaddamât* (foreword) *ijtihad* which defined in the literature of *usul al-fiqh* tradition. While The traditionalism preserves the inability of Islamic law, it also recognizes the need for change and seeks new interpretations. This attempts to introduce a balance into

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traditional interpretations while opposing rethinking jurisprudence by using Islamic modernism.\textsuperscript{22}

The legal system cannot meet the challenges of time and location unless it is fully aligned with human intelligence ('\textit{\textit{\textit{aql}}})\textsuperscript{23}; primordial nature of man (fitrah); human rights; and human, mental, psychological, and spiritual needs of individuals and communities. I believe that the Islamic legal system can meet these challenges as long as the thoughts and approaches of Islamic law are reconstructed and revised according to new challenges and requirements.\textsuperscript{23}

The existence of local culture and wisdom ('\textit{\textit{urf}}) is the main consideration in the development of Islamic law in the fiqh context. Al-Zuhayli stated that 'urf is a common habit rooted in tubers in a community group.\textsuperscript{24} Frf is a matter that becomes the habit of many people in their worship. Frf takes place in people's lives both in the form of expressions, deeds, actions which leave things behind. The urf consists of several elements such as regularly, reputable, and action.\textsuperscript{25}

Ulama makes urf as one of the legal bases to follow the argument of Ibn Mas'ud's hadith, namely \textit{Ma raahu al-muslimun hasana fahua \textbf{i}ndallah hasana, wa ma ra'ahu al-muslimin sayyi'\textbf{i}a fahuwa \textbf{i}ndallah sayyu}. (what is considered good by Muslims then he is good according to Allah, and what is considered bad for Muslims, then bad according to Allah\textsuperscript{26}. While the rules of fiqh in understanding the use of 'urf include:

\textit{لاَيُنْكَرُ تَغَيُّرُ الْحُكْمِ بِتَغَيُّرِ الأَمْكِنَةِ وَالأَزْمَانِ}

Which means "Can't denied that the changes to the law (related) with a change of venue and time.

"العادة المطردة في نا حيث لا which means that" habit is the habit of a place, it's not a signal ".

The authorities urf be one manifestation of openness Islam in overcoming new problems that have never happened before. This is the main basis of epistemology that is interrelated with the Islamic
archipelago. This happens based on the benefit of society.27 ‘Urf becomes part of the maintenance of a maslahah because urf is a manifestation of a positive tradition that has been applied to a community locus.

The existence of a dialectic of Islam with previous traditions is very diverse.28 Recognition of urf which is a local tradition can be seen from some of the acceptance of ijtihad in Arab, Jewish and Christian tribes in accommodating their traditions becoming integral to Islamic law. Imam syafii in qaul qodim and qoul jadid explained that ‘urf must be different in every space and time.

Culture, tradition and local wisdom (urf) which live in the archipelago are part of the realization of the benefit of life while the benefit is the main goal in the Syariat.

A method of ijtihad can be divided into three models. First, ijtihad can appear from all activities related to language studies (semantics). The objective of this method is to find out how to interpret the verses in the Al-Qur’an and Hadith which refer to the fiqh roles. Second, qiya> si> (analogy), an attempt to establish Islamic law which is specifically not contained in the nas} by analyzing it with the events of the law contained in the nas} because of legal similarity.29 Third, Istis} la> hi, a method of Ijtihad that collects general verses in order to create universal principles to protect or bring benefit. Istis} la> h} or al-Mas}lah} al-Mursalah is a kindness that is judged logically and based on the aim of syara’, but there is no instructions in the ‘nas} that support or reduce it.30 The


use of construction of the Indonesian Islamic law epistemology and the model *istikla>h* is to achieve the sides in the social life by combining the measure of *nash* or text logically, combining between text and tradition (context). The integration of the both aims so that the sides to be achieved are not wild, apart from the corridors of syara 'and only use consideration of reason and mere social reality. In addition, the integration of *nash* and sense is done so that *ijtihad* is not only dogmatic textual without using realistic and practical benefit considerations.

In terminology, *maslahah* is a hinges that brings goodness, such as an attempt to buy and sell that can bring the seller to profit. Whereas in the terminology specifically the view of Islamic law, that is, the cause that can lead to the achievement of the objectives of Islamic law, whether worship or *mualimalah.*

The concept of *maslahat* is one of the important objects in a study of Islamic law. *Maslahat* is not only a legal method but also becomes a means of achieving the objectives of Islamic law (*maqhasid syariah*) which subsequently became one of the best methods of resolving unresolved law in the contemporary era into syariah law especially issues that are not explicitly explained in *nash* that have been present amid human social life.

*Al-maslahah mursalah* is one of parts of *ijtihad* which study *nash* in the Qur’an and al-hadith. All *nash* has proven that all of its contents are prohibited orders, goodness, benefits, and wisdom to benefit a life.

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34 Mohammad Abu Zahroh, *Ushul Fiqh* (Beirut: Daar Al-Fkr Al-Araby, tt).
Mashlahah to convey the same kindness and benefit under the auspices of the key principles (al-Kulliyat\textsuperscript{35} al-khams), namely hifdz al-din (maintaining the religion), hifdz al-aql (maintaining reasonable), hifdz al-nafs (nourishes the soul), hifdz al-mal (maintaining the property) and hifdz al-ird (the breeding).

As other analytical methods, maslahah is also a method of istinbat approach (legal stipulation) which is not regulated in much detail and explicitly in the Qur'an and al hadith. This method emphasizes the aspect of maslahah directly.\textsuperscript{36}

There are many fiqh principles that discuss the importance of maslahah in Islamic law itself.

\begin{itemize}
\item Which means “Refuse damage precedence rather than bring benefit”
\item Which means "evil must be removed".
\item Which means “achieving benefit and rejecting obedience”.
\end{itemize}

The comprehension of kaidah previously last mentioned has a meaning that the whole thing is contained beneficiaries is a command by the Shari'a and the rest of the mafsadat is prohibited by law. As for the benefit in terms of sharia, it can be divided into three, which are obligatory, sunnah and some are alms to be implemented. Likewise, mafsadah, there is also an unlawful haram to be carried out. The more concrete measures can be studied in maqashid sharia in detail.

The characteristics of the Islamic Shari'a are dimensions: include world-hereafter, material-spiritual, and make religion the main problem. While the standard proposed three trends above and the characteristics are just the opposite. Tends to be worldly and

\textsuperscript{35} Felicitas Meta Maria Opwis, \textit{Maslaha and Purpose in The Law: Islamic Discourse on Legal Change from The 4th/10th to 8th/14th Century} (Boston: Brill, 2010).

\textsuperscript{36} Hasbi Umar, \textit{Nalar Fiqh Kontemporer} (Jakarta: Gaung Persada Press, t.t.).
materialistic only and tends to make religion a tool to refer to these materialistic materialities.\(^{37}\)

The journey of the *maslahat* in the modern era, tends to strengthen the *maslahat* as a method that displaces the rigidity of Islamic law, and supports Islamic law that is adaptive to change. In the midst of such a tendency, there are also some writers who try to limit the use of the *maslahat* method again. In 1965, Sa’id Ramadlan al-Buthiy, issued his dissertation work at Al-Azhar, entitled *Dlawabith al-Mashalahah*.\(^{38}\) In his dissertation, he began his presentation by mentioning that Orientalists had begun a new model of his attack on Islam by advocating the opening of the door to ijtihad as widely as possible and emphasizing that the method of *maslahat* was a very fundamental method to become a reference. Related to this issue, Al-Buthiy said that the ijtihad was never closed, and Allah also greatly appreciated the benefit. However, benefit still has limitations and qualifications. The use of the *maslahat* method should follow the regulations because it is fenced by various rules which it is called as ‘*dlawabith al-mashlahah*’. The rules of *Ḍawābīṭ al-Maṣlaḥḥ* itself are: 1) accentuating the objective of *syara’*; 2) uncontradictory with Qur’an; 3) uncontradictory with Al Sunnah; 4) uncontradictory with the *qiyas* principle; 5) commonwealth.\(^{39}\)

D. Conclusion

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The time heads to the no-longer vivid differentiation of civilization among nations. That means the available problems are more various and uncontrollable. In order to bridge the solution of the problems in the globalization era the thing needed is the re-actualization of the fiqh methodes that are related to human relation to tradition of ones’ habitat that will then result an appropriate fiqh. Indonesian Ushul Fiqh offers a wider space to tradition in the forming of fiqh. At the end, the related tradition must be able to a vessel in reaching the goal of fiqh, that is for the betterment of the people. Upon the public betterment, then the existing problems could resolve a beneficial solution for individuals, groups and surroundings[].

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