Mu'tazilah and the Digital Era: Reinterpreting Islamic Tafsir in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

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Abstrak

Perkembangan teknologi di era digital, khususnya kecerdasan buatan (*artificial intelligence*/AI), menuntut adanya pembaharuan dalam pendekatan penafsiran Islam. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana prinsip-prinsip rasionalitas Mu'tazilah dapat diintegrasikan dengan perkembangan AI untuk menafsirkan Islam di era modern. Pendekatan penelitian menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan desain studi kasus. Subjek penelitian meliputi Mudzir Ma'had Aly Probolinggo, Ketua Program Studi, Musyrif, Tim IT, dan Mahasantri. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui wawancara mendalam, studi literatur, dan analisis dokumen digital. Analisis data meliputi reduksi data, penyajian data, dan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan AI dalam penafsiran Islam dapat memperluas pemahaman terhadap teks-teks klasik dengan pendekatan yang lebih rasional, kontekstual, dan inklusif. Perspektif Mu'tazilah memberikan landasan filosofis untuk menyelaraskan kecerdasan buatan dengan prinsip-prinsip Keadilan, akal, dan kemanusiaan. Hal ini terbukti efektif dalam menciptakan ruang dialog baru yang mendukung pembaharuan pemikiran Islam di era digital. Penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi yang signifikan dalam upaya memahami Islam melalui lensa teknologi modern dengan tetap berpegang pada prinsip-prinsip keimanan dan rasionalitas.
Kata kunci: *Mu'tazilah, Tafsir Islam, Kecerdasan Buatan*

Abstract

The development of technology in the digital era, especially artificial intelligence (AI), demands an update in the approach to Islamic interpretation. This study aims to analyze how the principles of Mu'tazilah rationality can be integrated with the development of AI to interpret Islam in the modern era. The research approach uses a qualitative method with a case study design. The study subjects included Mudzir Ma'had Aly Probolinggo, Head of the Study Program, Musyrif, the IT Team, and Mahasantri. Data collection techniques were done through in-depth interviews, literature studies, and digital document analysis. Data analysis includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. The study results

indicate that using AI in Islamic interpretation can expand the understanding of classical texts with a more rational, contextual, and inclusive approach. The Mu'tazilah perspective provides a philosophical foundation for aligning artificial intelligence with the principles of Justice, reason, and humanity. This has proven effective in creating a new dialogue space that supports the renewal of Islamic thought in the digital era. This study contributes significantly to efforts to understand Islam through the lens of modern technology while adhering to the principles of faith and rationality.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transformed various fields, including religious studies. With its capabilities in data analysis, pattern recognition, and linguistic processing, AI presents new opportunities for scholars to reinterpret classical Islamic texts. [1] However, this progress also raises ethical and theological concerns, necessitating a solid normative framework to ensure that AI applications align with Islamic principles. One potential foundation for this integration is the Mu'tazilah school of thought, which emphasizes rationality (*'aql*) and justice (*'adl*). As a theological perspective that encourages critical thinking and adaptation to contemporary challenges, Mu'tazilah offers a methodological approach that harmonizes reason with revelation.[2] By utilizing its principles, AI can facilitate deeper engagement with religious texts while upholding ethical and moral considerations.[3]

AI has revolutionized Islamic studies by enabling scholars to analyze vast amounts of textual data and identify interpretative patterns with greater precision. Previous research, such as that conducted by Sari Prabandari and Suhardianto, highlights AI's potential in enhancing accessibility and fostering innovation in interpretation methods.[4] Similarly, Faisol Hakim's study on digital humanities in Islamic scholarship underscores AI's capacity to introduce new analytical approaches to classical texts.[5] Despite these advancements, challenges remain,

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[1] Muhammad Resky and Yayat Suharyat, "Analysis of AI Technology Utilization in Islamic Education," *Procedia of Social Sciences and Humanities* 0672, no. c (2024): 132–40, https://pssh.umsida.ac.id.

[2] P. S.Syed Masood Jamali and Khalid Waheed, "Mu'tazilah, the First Rationalist School of Thought in Islamic History: A Critical Study of Its Ideology and Approach," *Hamdard Islamicus* 43, no. 4 (2020): 71–96.

[3] Rozaanah, "Reconstructing Islamic Religious Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI): An Opportunity for Revival," *Tasqif: Journal of Islamic Pedagogy* 1, no. 1 (2024): 10–18, https://doi.org/10.51590/tsqf.v1i1.2.

[4] Khansa Chemnad and Achraf Othman, "Digital Accessibility in the Era of Artificial Intelligence," *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence* 7 (2024), https://doi.org/10.3389/frai.2024.1349668.

[5] Aidi Ahmi, "Leveraging Bibliometrics and AI : Empowering Islamic Studies Scholars to Uncover Emerging Topics and Navigate Diverse Perspectives," 2024, 137–44.

particularly in ensuring that AI-driven interpretations do not deviate from Islamic ethical values. Most existing research focuses on AI's role in Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*) and practical ethics, while discussions on AI's potential in reinterpreting theological concepts remain limited. Zaenal Muttaqin, for instance, stresses the need to contextualize Islamic teachings without detaching them from their theological roots. However, a more in-depth exploration of how AI can support rational approaches, such as those advocated by the Mu'tazilah, is still lacking.[6] This study aims to fill that gap by investigating how Mu'tazilah's rational and ethical principles can serve as a framework for utilizing AI in Islamic interpretation.

Focusing on Ma'had Aly Probolinggo, this research explores how an advanced Islamic educational institution with strong ties to the pesantren tradition engages with AI in its academic and theological discourse. Historically, pesantren have played a crucial role in preserving and developing Islamic intellectual thought in Indonesia. Ma'had Aly Probolinggo, in particular, has been recognized for its engagement with Mu'tazilah thought, making it an ideal case study for examining the intersection of AI and rational Islamic interpretation. By analyzing the historical and intellectual foundations of Ma'had Aly Probolinggo, this study seeks to understand how pesantren can balance traditional Islamic scholarship with the integration of modern technology.

This research contributes to the growing discourse on AI and Islamic interpretation by bridging Mu'tazilah's rational theological approach with AI's analytical capabilities. Unlike previous studies that focus on AI's legalistic and ethical dimensions in Islam, this study specifically examines its potential in theological reinterpretation. The objectives of this research are threefold: first, to analyze how Mu'tazilah principles can provide a framework for integrating AI into Islamic interpretation; second, to examine the role of AI in modern Islamic scholarship and its potential for reinterpretation; and third, to investigate how Ma'had Aly Probolinggo, with its historical connection to Mu'tazilah thought, applies AI in its educational approach. Accordingly, this study seeks to answer three key questions: How can Mu'tazilah's rational theological principles guide AI use in Islamic interpretation? What are the opportunities and challenges of AI in analyzing Islamic texts from a Mu'tazilah perspective? And how does Ma'had Aly Probolinggo incorporate AI in its academic and religious discourse?

By addressing these questions, this research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how Islamic tradition and modern technology can coexist harmoniously. It proposes a strategic model for integrating AI into Islamic studies while preserving the ethical and intellectual heritage of Islam. Through this

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[6] Rozaanah, "Reconstructing Islamic Religious Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI): An Opportunity for Revival."

approach, the study highlights the importance of synergy between Islamic scientific traditions and technological innovation, offering a forward-looking framework for Islamic scholarship in the digital era.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study focuses on how the principles of Mu'tazilah thought, known for its rational and critical approach to Islam, can be applied in the digital era, especially in the development of Islamic interpretation in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) era. Rapid technological transformation presents opportunities and challenges in understanding religion, including integrating AI in interpreting the Qur'an. This study aims to answer how the principles of Mu'tazilah rationalism can be used as a framework for reinterpreting Islamic texts relevant to the modern era's demands. In this context, AI functions as a technological tool and a catalyst to deepen and expand the meaning of inclusive, adaptive, and data-based Islamic interpretation. The research location was conducted at Ma'had Aly Nurul Qodim, Probolinggo. The informants and interview indicators are in Table 1 as follows:

Informant	Interview Indicators
The Head of the Aly School	Rationality, justice, and freedom of thought in AI interpretation.
head of the study program	The quality and effectiveness of interpretation in responding to needs.
polytheist	Validity of AI interpretation and ethical challenges.
IT Team	Experience, technology, and obstacles in data-based interpretation AI.
Student	The influence of technology on learning and the response of the Islamic boarding school community.

Table 1. Research Informants

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study type to explore the application of Mu'tazilah principles in aI-Based digital interpretation. The main focus of the study is to understand how the integration of AI can facilitate a more rational and contextual interpretation of religion to the needs of modern society. In addition, this study explores how the principles of Justice, freedom of speech, and rationality that are the basis of Mu'tazilah thinking can be adapted to AI to enrich the study of Islamic interpretation. This study explores factors such as AI algorithms, the involvement of scholars, the influence of digital culture, and theological challenges that arise in the development of technology-based Islamic interpretation.

Data collection techniques in this study include observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. Observations were conducted to see firsthand how AI technology is used to develop Islamic interpretation at Ma'had Aly Nurul Qodim, Probolinggo. In-depth interviews were conducted with Mudzir Ma'had Aly, Head of the Study Program, Musyrif, the IT Team, and Mahasantri. Documentation in the form of activity reports, aI-Based interpretation databases, and policies related to the use of technology in Islamic studies are also important data sources. This data collection aims to comprehensively understand the potential and challenges of implementing the Mu'tazilah principle in AI-based Islamic interpretation.

The data obtained were analyzed using Miles and Huberman's analysis techniques, which include data condensation, data display, and verification [7]. Data on applying Mu'tazilah principles were categorized based on rationality, Justice, and freedom of thought. Findings on the influence of AI technology were analyzed through a matrix to visualize the relationship between the rational approach of Mu'tazilah and the results of digital interpretation. Source triangulation was carried out by comparing interviews, observations, and related documents to ensure the validity of the findings. With this approach, the study seeks to understand the relationship between Mu'tazilah thought and the use of AI in the context of Islamic interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study focuses on three main aspects in the application of Mu'tazilah principles in AI interpretation of Islamic Tafsir, namely the application of Mu'tazilah rationalism principles in understanding revelation through technology, the transformation of Islamic tafsir interpretation with the use of digital technology, and the ethical challenges and limitations of AI in interpreting revelation. The results of this study reveal how the application of Mu'tazilah rationalism principles based on reason and ratio can collaborate with AI technology in interpreting Islamic tafsir. This process introduces new dynamics in interpreting religious texts through algorithms and machine learning. However, this study also highlights AI ethical challenges and limitations in capturing the essence of transcendent and profound revelation. The discussion of these results will outline the positive impacts of technology in interpreting Islamic tafsir and identify potential misinterpretations caused by AI limitations in understanding the complex spiritual context and religious values.

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[7] putri Kurniawati, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif, Universitas Nusantara PGRI Kediri*, vol. 01, 2020.

Application of Mu'tazilah Principles in AI Interpretation of Islamic Tafsir

Applying Mu'tazilah principles in AI interpretation of Islamic exegesis offers a rational and progressive approach to understanding religious texts. Mu'tazilah, which emphasizes common sense, free will, and the Justice of Allah, can be used to develop artificial intelligence (AI) systems that are more responsive to the social and historical contexts of exegesis[8]. AI that integrates these principles has the potential to produce interpretations that are more relevant to the needs of the times, taking into account ethical and rational dimensions in understanding sacred texts[9]. Thus, AI can be a tool that supports the development of an Islamic explanation that is more dynamic and develops contemporary thought without ignoring the essence of Islamic teachings that adhere to the basic principles of religion.[10]

The following are the results of research that show the application of the principles of Mu'tazilah in the interpretation of Islamic interpretation at Ma'had Aly Nurul Qodim Probolinggo:

Table 2. Interview Result Data

Application of Mu'tazilah Principles in AI Interpretation of Islamic Tafsir

Informant	Statement	Code
The Head of the Aly School	"Mu'tazilite principles such as freedom of thought and justice, can be very relevant in the context of AI. AI can be used to help interpret tafsir more objectively and free from personal bias, but the principle of justice must be prioritized in its regulation."	Freedom of thought, Justice
head of the study program	"The application of the Mu'tazilah principle in digital Islamic interpretation must maintain the relationship between reason and revelation. AI technology cannot replace the depth of revelation, but it can be used to enrich our understanding of interpretation, as long as we keep reason as part of the interpretation."	Reason and Revelation
polytheist	"AI can help interpret tafsir based on data and broader context. However, Mu'tazilah principles teach that interpretation must take into account the relevant social and humanitarian context."	AI Interpretation

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[8] Analiansyah, "Peran Akal Dan Kebebasan Bertindak Dalam Filsafat Ketuhanan Mu'Tazilah," *Jurnal Substantia* 15, no. 1 (2020): 94–103, https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/substantia/article/view/4886/0.

[9] Isdayani, Andi Nurlinda Thamrin, and Agus Milani, "Implementasi Etika Penggunaan Kecerdasan Buatan (AI) Dalam Sistem Pendidikan Dan Analisis Pembelajaran Di Indonesia," *Digital Transformation Technology* 4, no. 1 (2024): 714–23, https://doi.org/10.47709/digitech.v4i1.4512.

[10] Pardianto, "The Utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Development of Islamic Cultural Communication Strategies," *Proceedings of International Conference on Da'wa and Communication Vol.* 6, no. 1 (2014): 74–85.

IT Team	"We see that AI can speed up the process of searching for references in interpretation, but we are also concerned that AI can get trapped in logic that is too rigid. Mu'tazilah teaches flexibility in thinking, which must be taken into account in developing algorithms."	Flexibility

Interviews with several informants highlighted the application of Mu'tazilah principles in the context of AI, especially in digital Islamic interpretation. Mudzir Ma'had Aly emphasized the importance of freedom of thought and Justice in the use of AI, hoping that AI can help interpret interpretation objectively without personal bias while still prioritizing the principle of Justice in its regulation. The Head of the Study Program added that AI technology. However, it cannot replace the depth of revelation. It can enrich the understanding of interpretation if it maintains the relationship between reason and revelation, with reason as an integral part of interpretation.

In addition, the informants also discussed the challenges and potential of AI in assisting in interpretation. Musyrif emphasized the importance of considering the social and humanitarian context in interpretation by the Mu'tazilah principle, which believes that interpretation must be relevant to the conditions of the times. The IT team also acknowledged that AI could speed up searching for interpretation references; he reminded that AI could get caught up in rigid logic contrary to the Mu'tazilah principle of flexibility of thinking. Therefore, the development of AI algorithms must consider the element of flexibility to maintain balance in interpretation.
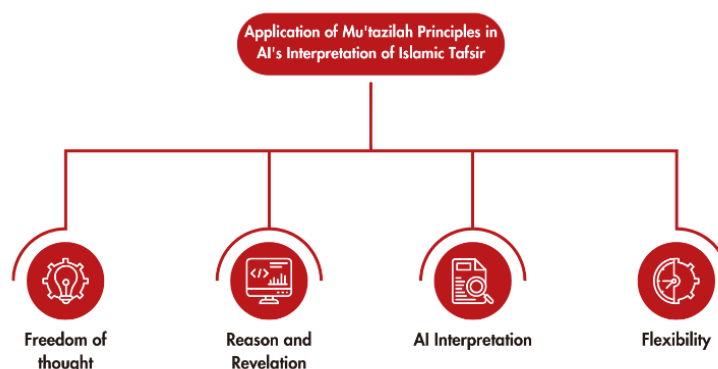

Figure 1. Implementation Mu'tazilah Principles in AI Interpretation of Islamic Tafsir

Figure 1. Shows that the application of Mu'tazilah principles in AI interpretation of Islamic exegesis combines several vital elements. First, freedom of thought in this context refers to the ability of AI to provide space for free and critical thinking in interpreting religious texts without being limited by dogmatic

interpretations. The second principle, reason and revelation emphasizes that although revelation is the source of truth, human reason also has a central role in understanding and applying revelation so that AI can analyze the relationship between the two rationally. Furthermore, AI interpretation refers to the role of technology in helping formulate more dynamic and adaptive interpretations of the development of the times while still paying attention to the basic principles of religion.[11] Finally, flexibility in this context indicates the ability of AI to adapt its interpretations to changing social and cultural contexts, making room for more relevant and applicable understanding in various situations.[12]

Transformation of Islamic Interpretation with the Use of Digital Technology

In the context of the development of digital technology, the transformation of Islamic interpretation focuses on strengthening the elements that support the sustainability and success of religious understanding in the modern world. Combining traditional interpretation with technology, an adaptive approach to the use of digital platforms plays a vital role in creating scholars and intellectuals who can maintain the authority of interpretation and adapt to rapid technological advances[13]. Through technology, Islamic interpretation can be disseminated more widely, facilitate accessibility to various groups, and manage challenges such as misinterpretation or distortion of interpretation[14]. In addition, the development of international digital networks has broadened perspectives in Islamic studies, strengthened commitment to authentic religious understanding, and increased the community's loyalty and dedication to Islamic teachings[15]. In the context of managing interpretation, integrating digital technology and adaptive interpretation can produce a more inclusive understanding of religion, which in turn contributes to improving the quality of knowledge, community satisfaction, and the sustainability of Islamic preaching in cyberspace.[16]

The transformation of Islamic interpretation in the digital era has significantly changed how people access and understand religious knowledge. Digital

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[11] Rozaanah, "Reconstructing Islamic Religious Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI): An Opportunity for Revival."

[12] Rozaanah.

[13] Hartati Yuningsih, Abdul Ghany, and Muhammad Abduh, "Transformasi Tafsir Al-Qur'an Di Era Media Digital : Analisis Metodologi Tafsir Dalam Channel Youtube Kajian Tafsir Al-Ma'Rifah," *AL-QUDWAH* 2, no. 2 (2024): 5–8.

[14] Muhamad Arpah Nurhayat et al., "WAJAH TAFSIR DI ERA DIGITAL (Kajian Tafsir Era Digital Serta Dampaknya Bagi Para Pengkaji Tafsir)," no. Agustus (2024).

[15] Wida Fitria and Ganjar Eka Subakti, "ERA DIGITAL DALAM PERSPEKTIF ISLAM: URGENSI ETIKA KOMUNIKASI UMAT BERAGAMA DI INDONESIA," *Jurnal Penelitian Keislaman* 18, no. 2 (2022): 143–57.

[16] Rozaanah, "Reconstructing Islamic Religious Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI): An Opportunity for Revival."

technology allows Muslims to access interpretation more easily and interactively, opening up opportunities to enrich their understanding of the verses of the Qur'an. In an interview, Mudzir Ma'had Aly explained, "*Digital technology provides an opportunity for people to better understand interpretation with various approaches, such as mobile applications that make it easier to search for interpretations in various languages and understandings.*" This shows how technology expands the reach of understanding of interpretation, allowing Muslims from various parts of the world to access interpretation resources easily and quickly.

In addition, the Head of the Study Program explained that "*The use of technology in Islamic interpretation also allows for the integration of religious knowledge and modern science.*" Using digital platforms such as websites, applications, and learning videos can bridge a more complex understanding of interpretation, making it more relevant to the current context. This technology helps students or Muslims understand interpretation and provides space for discussion and exchange of opinions with interpretation experts through online forums or webinars.

Musyrif, who is involved in teaching tafsir at Ma'had Aly, added, "*The application of technology in teaching tafsir can increase student engagement with the material being taught.*" For example, teaching interpretation using multimedia, such as video or interactive simulations, allows students to more easily understand the interpretation being delivered and dig deeper through the features available on the digital platform. This provides a more engaging and holistic learning experience, allowing students to see tafsir not just as a text but as an approach that can be integrated into everyday life.

The IT team supporting the digitalization of tafsir initiatives also plays a crucial role in ensuring the quality and availability of the platform. As one of the IT Team members explained, "*We focus on developing applications and websites that are stable, secure, and easily accessible to users from various backgrounds.*" This shows how vital the technical factor is in supporting the transformation of Islamic tafsir through digital technology. With a reliable and easily accessible platform, users can optimally enjoy the benefits of digital tafsir without technical problems.

Regarding stress management and challenges that arise in the use of technology, Mudzir Ma'had Aly emphasized, "*The use of technology must be balanced with good digital literacy education, so that Muslims not only access information easily, but are also critical in sorting and choosing the right interpretation.*" This is important to ensure that the transformation of interpretation through digital technology does not cause misunderstandings or misinterpretations of the verses of the Qur'an.

The transformation of Islamic interpretation in the digital era has opened up tremendous opportunities for Muslims to access and understand religious teachings. Digital technology, through mobile applications, websites, and learning

videos, allows users to easily access tafsir in various languages and approaches, as well as enabling direct interaction with tafsir experts.[17] This technology also interprets teaching as more relevant to today's context, where religious and modern knowledge can be better integrated.[18] This creates a more comprehensive and exciting learning experience, as Musyrif stated in an interview regarding the use of multimedia in teaching tafsir.

However, behind the convenience offered by technology, Mudzir Ma'had Aly emphasized the importance of digital literacy education as a counterbalance. So that understanding of interpretation is not distorted, Muslims need to be given the skills to select and sort information critically. The IT team that supports the digitization of interpretation plays a vital role in creating a platform that is easily accessible and safe for users from various backgrounds. With reliable infrastructure and proper digital literacy support, the transformation of Islamic interpretation through technology can run effectively and provide maximum benefits.
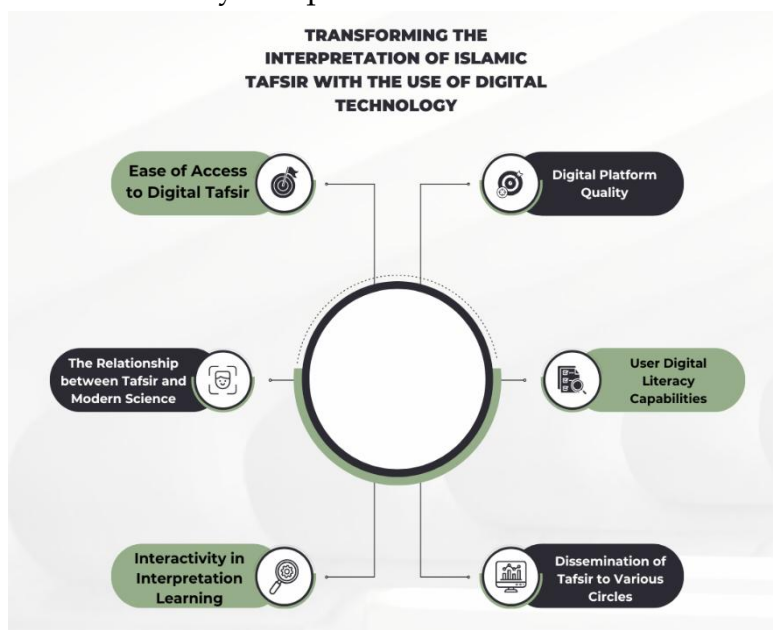

Figure 2. Transformation of Islamic Interpretation with the Use of Digital Technology

Figure 2. The transformation of Islamic tafsir interpretation through the use of digital technology involves several interrelated aspects. *First*, the ease of access to digital tafsir allows the public to gain a deeper understanding of tafsir through an online platform that can be accessed anytime and anywhere.[19] *Second*, the connection

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[17] Endang Saeful Anwar and Wurnayati, "TAFSIR DALAM PERSFEKTIF TEOLOGI RASIONAL: Studi Pemikiran Mu'tazilah Pada Tafsir Al-Kasysyaf Karya Zamakhsyari Endang," *Al-Fath* 13, no. 1 (2019): 88–117, http://jurnal.uinbanten.ac.id/index.php/alfath/article/view/2894.

[18] Dody Sulistio, "Menerka Keadilan Tuhan: Mu'tazilah Dan Ahlus Sunnah Dalam Perseteruan Ideologi," *2020* IV, no. 1 (n.d.): 1–11.

[19] Akmal Shah et al., "Sejarah Perkembangan Aliran Muktazilah," 2024, 52–60.

between tafsir and modern science opens up opportunities to integrate tafsir with the development of contemporary science, thereby enriching interpretations that are relevant to the context of the times.[20] *Third*, interactivity in tafsir learning, such as discussion forums or technology-based learning applications, allows users to be actively involved in understanding tafsir, exploring various perspectives, and asking questions. *Fourth*, the quality of the digital platform is an important factor in ensuring an optimal user experience, with a user-friendly design and accurate and easy-to-understand content. *Fifth*, the digital literacy ability of users is a challenge, where improving technological skills is needed so that the public can utilize digital tafsir effectively. *Finally*, the dissemination of tafsir to various groups can be wider through digital platforms, allowing the message of tafsir to be spread to various levels of society, including those previously difficult to reach through traditional methods.

Ethical Challenges and Limitations of AI in Interpreting Revelation

In the development of digital technology, the ethical challenges and limitations of artificial intelligence (AI) in interpreting revelations focus on efforts to maintain the authority and accuracy of religious understanding in the modern era.[21] Although AI can accelerate the process of text analysis and expand access to interpretation, the use of this technology in interpreting revelations faces the risk of misinterpretation due to the limitations of algorithms that cannot fully understand the historical, cultural context, and deep meaning of revelation[22]. Therefore, a careful and critical approach is needed so that AI does not replace the role of scholars and scholars in interpreting revelations but rather functions more as a tool to enrich understanding[23]. Integrating artificial intelligence and adaptive religious knowledge can open up new opportunities to disseminate an experience of revelation[24]. Still, strict supervision is required to maintain ethical principles in religious interpretation. Thus, using AI in interpreting revelations must be done wisely, prioritizing accuracy and caution to avoid distorting understanding of Islamic teachings.[25]

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[20] Fathi Dikla and Syamsu Syauqani, "Tafsir Al-Kasysyaf , Defense of Al-Zamakhshari Against the Mu ' Tazilites" 8, no. 1 (2024): 994–1011.

[21] Zainimal, "Mu ' Tazilah Dalam Lin Tasan Sejarah," *Tarikhuna* 3, no. 1 (2021): 101–2.

[22] Fajri Kamil et al., "Epistemologis Tafsir Tematik: Menuju Tafsir Al-Qur'an Yang Holistik," *Jurnal Semiotika-Q: Kajian Ilmu Al-Quran Dan Tafsir* 3, no. 1 (2023): 11–32, https://doi.org/10.19109/jsq.v3i1.18327.

[23] Nasihin Muhyidin, "Rasionalitas Teologi Mu'tazilah," *Ummul Qura : Jurnal Institut Pesantren Sunan Drajat (INSUD) Lamongan* 15, no. 02 (2020): 77–85.

[24] Riki Noviandi and Muhammad Naufal Hakim, "The Contextuality of Tafsir Ma ' Ālim Al - Tanzīl by Al- Baghawī (Revisiting Tradition and Embracing Modern Values)" 4, no. 1 (2024).

[25] Arif Ridha Abu bakar, "Al-Qur'an Dan Kecerdasan Buatan (Suatu Kajian Tematik)" 5, no. 1 (2024): 190–203.

The interview results with Mudzir Ma'had Aly emphasized the importance of considering ethical values when using AI to interpret revelation. He said, "*The use of AI in interpreting revelation faces not only technical challenges but also ethical challenges that must be considered carefully, such as the potential for misinterpretation and its impact on the understanding of the people.*" The main challenge lies in the limitations of AI in understanding the context, values, and deep spiritual dimensions of revelation. This aligns with Musyrif's opinion, emphasizing that "*AI must be used with caution in the context of religion because understanding revelation involves non-textual aspects that are difficult for machines to understand.*"

On the other hand, a Ma'had Aly IT Team member said, "*Although AI has the ability to process large amounts of data, the machine's ability to interpret holy texts comprehensively is still limited.*" AI can analyze language patterns but cannot fully capture deeper and more complex meanings, which often involve revelation's emotional and spiritual aspects. This limitation requires caution when applying AI in religion, which requires a more holistic interpretation and is not only based on logical analysis.

In Mudzir Ma'had Aly's view, ethical challenges include how AI interprets revelations that can affect people's religious views. "*There is potential for misuse or misinterpretation of revelations by irresponsible parties if AI is not strictly regulated.*" According to him, supervision and clear policies regarding the use of AI in a religious context are critical to avoid potential deviations that can harm religious understanding.

To address these challenges, Ma'had Aly also organizes a collaborative program between scholars and technology experts to discuss ethical issues in using AI in a religious context. Through this collaboration, a better understanding of how AI can be used wisely and by religious principles can be achieved. One of the initiatives launched is a training program for students and teaching staff to improve their understanding of the ethics of using AI in religion and expand the international network in research related to the use of AI in a religious context.

Interviews with several informants above revealed AI ethical challenges and limitations in interpreting revelation. Informants agreed that although AI can analyze large amounts of text, its understanding of revelation's deeper and contextual meaning could be more extensive.[26] The use of AI in a religious context must be done carefully because the interpretation of revelation involves linguistic analysis and spiritual and emotional dimensions that are difficult for machines to

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[26] Muhammad Rizky HK, "Kebebasan Kehendak Dalam Al-Qur'an: Studi Tafsir Mu'Tazilah," *El-'Umdah* 3, no. 2 (2021): 189–200, https://doi.org/10.20414/el-umdah.v3i2.2371.

achieve.[27] In addition, it emphasizes the importance of strict supervision and policies to prevent misuse or misinterpretation in interpreting revelation through technology.

In the interview, Mudzir Ma'had Aly highlighted the ethical challenges in applying AI to interpret revelations involving various technical and moral aspects. He explained that although AI has the potential to accelerate the text analysis process, it has yet to capture the non-textual dimensions essential in understanding revelations. Musyrif and members of the IT Team added that AI cannot replace human interpretation needed to interpret revelations due to the need for a deep understanding of spiritual values. He also emphasized the importance of training for Mahasantri and strict supervision of the use of AI so that this technology can be used wisely and not damage religious understanding.

The findings of this study illustrate the potential and challenges of applying AI in the interpretation of the Qur'an, particularly through the lens of Mu'tazilah rationalism. While AI offers efficiency, accessibility, and enhanced analytical capabilities in Islamic exegesis, it also raises significant ethical and theological concerns. The insights from Ma'had Aly Nurul Qodim Probolinggo reveal that AI can assist in broadening the scope of tafsir, making it more relevant to contemporary contexts. However, AI's limitations in understanding the transcendental and spiritual dimensions of revelation necessitate a cautious and balanced approach.

From a critical perspective, this study supports the responsible integration of AI in Qur'anic interpretation but strongly emphasizes that AI should not replace human scholars. AI can serve as a complementary tool that aids in textual analysis, linguistic interpretation, and cross-referencing of tafsir sources. However, the deeply spiritual and moral aspects of revelation remain beyond the full grasp of AI.[28] The interpretative process involves not only rational analysis but also emotional, spiritual, and contextual considerations, which require human engagement and ethical discernment.[29]

Moreover, while this study focuses on a single institution, Ma'had Aly Nurul Qodim Probolinggo it reflects broader trends and concerns that resonate across Indonesia's pesantren and Ma'had Aly institutions. The pesantren system has historically been the guardian of Islamic intellectual tradition in Indonesia, blending textual scholarship with lived spiritual experience. If Ma'had Aly, with its rationalist theological orientation, finds it necessary to exercise caution in using AI, it suggests

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[27] Sulistio, "Menerka Keadilan Tuhan: Mu'tazilah Dan Ahlus Sunnah Dalam Perseteruan Ideologi."

[28] Moh Zarkani et al., "Actualization of the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Developing Islamic Education in the Era of Society 5 . 0" 6, no. 1 (2024): 57–71, https://doi.org/10.15575/kp.v6i1.

[29] Lisa Amalia et al., "The Relevance of Artificial Intelligence and Divine Principles According to Islamic Interpretation in Human Interaction with Artificial Intelligence," 2024, 237–46.

that other pesantren with more traditionalist approaches may have even greater reservations. Therefore, this study's findings can be considered a representation of the larger discourse on AI in Islamic scholarship within Indonesia.

In conclusion, this research neither fully supports nor entirely rejects AI's role in Qur'anic interpretation. Instead, it advocates for a middle path where AI is utilized as an auxiliary tool under the strict guidance of human scholars. AI's strength lies in its ability to process vast amounts of information rapidly, but its weakness is its lack of spiritual depth and contextual awareness.[30] Therefore, the use of AI in tafsir should be approached with a structured framework that ensures theological integrity, ethical safeguards, and scholarly oversight.[31] Only through such an approach can AI contribute positively to the evolution of Islamic interpretation while preserving the sanctity and authenticity of religious knowledge.

CONCLUSIONS

This article discusses Mu'tazilah thoughts' relevance in the context of the digital era, focusing on the reinterpretation of Islamic interpretation amidst technological developments, especially artificial intelligence (AI). This study shows that although Mu'tazilah, as a classical intellectual school, focuses on reason and freedom of thought, these principles can be applied to understanding the AI phenomenon, which presents new challenges in understanding religion. This finding emphasizes that Islamic interpretation must be flexible and adaptive to advances in the era, including AI technology, to remain relevant to the needs of Muslims in the digital era.

The importance of this finding lies in its ability to re-explore the relevance of Mu'tazilah thought in providing solutions to ethical questions that arise along with the development of AI technology. By reinterpreting Mu'tazilah principles, Muslims can gain a more progressive view of the use of AI in everyday life without neglecting the moral values taught in Islam. Applying interpretations that are adaptive to changes in the times can open up space for more constructive discussions about the role of technology in the spiritual and social lives of Muslims.

The contribution of this article is to provide new insights into the study of Islamic interpretation, especially in linking it to the development of modern technology such as AI. This research not only enriches the literature on Islamic and Mu'tazilah interpretation but also offers practical solutions for managing the dynamics of religion in the digital era. Further research implications include the

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[30] Amalia et al.
[31] Sharon Evangelica Manete Denny Andreas, "TafsirFungsional,AI,DanEtika:MenjembataniPerandanAgensiMoralManusiaDalamTeknologi" 4, no. 2 (2024): 77–93.

development of a more dynamic and inclusive interpretation model, which can bridge the ethical challenges arising from technological advances and ensure that the principles of Islamic teachings remain relevant and adaptive in changing times.

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