

METHODS OF AL-'ARFU AS-SHADZI AND TUHFATUL AHWAZI: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the works of two distinguished Islamic scholars, Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi, who lived in different historical periods. Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi's contributions are linked to the 10th century, while Tuhfatul Ahwazi's work dates back to the 18th century. Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi primarily focuses on fiqh, the science of Islamic jurisprudence, whereas Tuhfatul Ahwazi is recognized for his insights into hadith literature. These two books are pivotal for comparative studies due to various reasons, particularly concerning historical perspectives and the curiosity surrounding why they were commented on in nearly the same period, differing only by a few years. Analyzing the research methods applied by Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi allows us to discern the distinct approaches they employed in their studies. Comparative study unveils both the commonalities and distinctions in their research methodologies, shedding light on the factors that influenced their methods, including cultural and intellectual influences, educational backgrounds, and resource access. Moreover, the research delves into how both authors interpret the content of their respective books. The analysis of their interpretation methods aims to grasp the fundamental principles and methodologies they employ. This examination explores the diverse techniques each author utilizes and evaluates their effectiveness in conveying intended messages. Additionally, the study seeks to comprehend the authors' understanding and approach to composing their works, unraveling their perspectives, thought processes, and methodologies in structuring their writings. Gaining insight into the composition process of Anwar Shah Al-Kashmiri and Abdul Rahman Al-Mubarakfuri allows for a deeper understanding of their intentions and unique contributions. By describing the authors' backgrounds, analyzing their interpretation methods, understanding their approach to composition, and comparing the similarities and differences between their works, this research aims to enrich our understanding of the contributions made by Anwar Shah Al-Kashmiri and Abdul Rahman Al-Mubarakfuri to the field of Islamic scholarship. Through a comparison of their research methods, the evolution of research methodologies, specifically qualitative study, is discerned by referencing past studies and making these books the primary reference. The findings from this literature review underscore

the significance of analyzing the methods employed in "Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi" and "Tuhfatul Ahwazi," highlighting the distinctive contributions and methodologies of Al-Kashmiri and Al-Mubarakfuri to the field of hadith science.

Keywords: Historical, Comparative, Method, Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi, Tuhfatul Ahwazi

Introduction

The unique methodology of Sunan Tirmidzi, a Hadith book included in the six main Hadith books (kutub al-sittah). It highlights the book's distinctive qualities, such as the quality valuation of Hadiths not commonly found in other Hadith books, as well as the classification of Hadiths into three categories: sahih, hasan, and da'if. The author notes that al-Tirmidzi's approach involves titling each chapter and including one or two hadiths that reflect the chapter's contents. Unlike other scholars, al-Tirmidhi employs the mentakhrij method used by fuqaha and provides explanations of the quality and condition of the written hadiths. The statement also introduces the conditions set by al-Tirmidhi for accepting hadiths, as explained by al-Hafiz Abu Fadil ibn Tahir al-Maqdisi.

The four conditions include hadiths agreed upon by Bukhari and Muslim, hadiths valid according to Abu Dawud and al-Nasai's standards, hadiths with explained weaknesses, and hadiths used as proof by fuqaha. The text then shifts to comparing the works of Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi, highlighting their significant contributions to Islamic scholarship. Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi's focus is on Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh), while Tuhfatul Ahwazi is known for its commentary on hadith literature. The comparative study aims to explore the evolution of research methodologies over time by analyzing the approaches of these two scholars. Finally, the reviewer chooses the title "Methods of Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi: A Comparative Study" to reflect the focus of the research. The statement concludes with praise for Sunan At-Tirmizi, emphasizing its comprehensive content, inclusion of various types of traditions, and its position as the fifth book in the Kutubus Sittah.

The study focuses on the research outlined in the given sentence, delving into the scope of "Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi" by Anwar Shah Al-Kashmiri and "Tuhfatul Ahwazi" by Abdul Rahman Al-Mubarakfuri. Various aspects are considered, including the authors' biographies, interpretative methods in their books, understanding their composition approach, and comparing the two works. Initially, the research aims to offer a comprehensive depiction of the authors' biographies. Anwar Shah Al-Kashmiri, writer of "Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi," is recognized for scholarly contributions, and exploring his background will illuminate his life, education, and expertise. Similarly, delving into the biography of Abdul Rahman Al-Mubarakfuri, author of "Tuhfatul Ahwazi," will provide valuable insights into his scholarly journey, qualifications, and influences.

Problem Statement

Scholars unanimously regard the two most authentic books on Earth after the Qur'an as the sahih books, namely *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī* and *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*. While both are highly esteemed, *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī* is considered superior, surpassing *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* in validity and containing more explicit and implicit benefits and knowledge. The third century A.H. marked the zenith of hadith writing, collection, and selection, giving rise to monumental works collectively known as *kutub as-sittah*. These works became essential references for *fuqaha'*, *mujtahids*, and various scholars in different fields. Despite earnest efforts and strict rules established during this period to filter and categorize traditions, subsequent research revealed instances of weak traditions infiltrating sahih books. The third century A.H. is deemed the golden age in the history of hadith development, witnessing the emergence of brilliant scholars who organized traditions according to the *sanad* (narrator's name).

However, the current issue arises from the authors of "*Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi*" and "*Tuhfatul Ahwazi*," both citing *Sunan Tirmizi*. *Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi* and *Tuhfatul Ahwazi*, living in different historical periods (10th and 18th centuries, respectively), bring attention to the emergence of authors synthesizing the same book, *Sunan Tirmizi*. This raises concerns about the need for in-depth study regarding the method employed by these two authors, as they delve into a book that had already been synthesized and commented upon. Notably, no previous study has explored the methodologies of *Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi* and *Tuhfatul Ahwazi*. Consequently, the qualitative study aims to uncover the methodology of *Hadith Syarah* used in these two books, examining differences and similarities to facilitate a comprehensive comparison. The study intends to shed light on the unique approaches employed by the authors in synthesizing their respective works, contributing to a deeper understanding of their methods and potential implications for Islamic scholarship.

Literature Review

The study aims to conduct a comparative analysis of the interpretive methods employed in the books "*Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi*" and "*Tuhfatul Ahwazi*," exploring the unique approaches of *Anwar Shah Al-Kashmiri* and *Abdul Rahman Al-Mubarakfuri* in Islamic scholarship. The literature review provides an overview of relevant studies, including those by *Khan (2008)* and *El-Awaisi (2009)*, examining the methods and contributions of these authors. It also incorporates comparative studies by *Ibrahim (2014)* and *Ali (2018)*, highlighting similarities and differences among scholars like *Al-Kashmiri* and *Al-Mubarakfuri*. The review touches on the evolution of *Hadith* methodologies, drawing on works by *Ahmad (2011)* and *Rahman (2015)*. In conclusion, the review underscores the significance of understanding the methodologies of these scholars and aims to deepen insights into their unique contributions to *Hadith* scholarship while shedding light on the historical development of *Hadith* methodologies.

Findings

Hadith Collection of Sunan Tirmizi

The Hadith Collection of Sunan Tirmizi, also called *Jami' at-Tirmidhi*, is among the six primary collections of hadith in Sunni Islam. It was compiled by Imam Abu 'Isa Muhammad ibn 'Isa at-Tirmidhi (d. 892 CE) and holds significant importance in the field of Hadith. Sunan Tirmizi comprises approximately 3,956 hadiths (including repetitions) that are divided into 46 books (Kutub). It covers a wide range of topics, encompassing faith, prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, ethics, social issues, legal matters, and more. The hadiths in Sunan Tirmizi are organized based on their subject matter, facilitating the readers in locating relevant hadiths on specific subjects.

Imam Tirmidhi was renowned for his meticulous standards in selecting hadiths for inclusion in his collection. He included only those narrations that met certain criteria of authenticity and reliability. In addition to providing the complete chain of narrator (*isnad*), he offered additional information about each narrator, assessing their credibility. Sunan Tirmizi is highly esteemed among scholars and extensively studied and referenced by Muslims worldwide. It is regarded as an authentic source of hadith and is often studied alongside other major hadith collections like *Sahih al-Bukhari* and *Sahih Muslim*. (*Jami' At-Tirmidhi*,2023)

Biography of Sunan Tirmizi

Imam Tirmidhi, also known as Imam Abu 'Isa Muhammad ibn 'Isa at-Tirmidhi, was a renowned Islamic scholar and collector of hadith. He was born in Tirmidh, which is now in Uzbekistan, in 824 CE (209 AH) and passed away in 892 CE (279 AH). Imam Tirmidhi devoted his life to the study and safeguarding of hadith, the teachings, and actions of Prophet Muhammad. He extensively traveled to acquire knowledge and learn from esteemed scholars of his time, receiving education from notable teachers in regions such as Khorasan, Iraq, and the Hejaz (the present-day Saudi Arabia region).

Imam Tirmidhi gained recognition for his exceptional memory and expertise in the field of hadith. He possessed a profound understanding of the principles of hadith criticism and the methodology for evaluating the authenticity and reliability of narrations. His scrupulous approach in selecting hadiths for inclusion in his collection earned him respect among scholars. One of Imam Tirmidhi's notable contributions to Islamic scholarship is his compilation known as *Sunan Tirmizi* or *Jami' at-Tirmidhi*, which is considered one of the six major hadith books in Sunni Islam. In this compilation, Imam Tirmidhi carefully chose, and categorized hadiths based on their subject matter, providing valuable context and information about their chain of narrators.

Al- 'Arfu As-Shadzi Book

This book provides an overview of various elements related to recitation, permission, and listening within the context of a student learning from a sheikh. It explains diverse methods of recitation, such as reciting while the sheikh is smiling or while listening. There are two types of listening, depending on whether the student reads and the sheikh listens or vice versa. The

book also explores the concept of permission, where the student seeks approval to record or share knowledge, with variations in the process between the past and the present. Additionally, the book discusses the difference between updates and news, noting that the narrator has the option to express the hadith in its original place or vice versa. Lastly, the book highlights the significance of accepting and upholding prayers, which differentiates individuals in terms of their spiritual status. Overall, the book offers a deeper understanding of the dynamics and guidelines involved in acquiring and transmitting knowledge within a traditional Islamic educational framework. It emphasizes the importance of recitation, permission, listening to the sheikh in this context.

Tuhfatul Ahwazi Book

Tuhfat-ul-Ahwazi Sharah e Jami-e-Tirmizi is a renowned and widely respected book of hadith commentary and analysis written by Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Rahman al- Mubarakpuri. Its full title is "Tuhfat-ul-Ahwazi bi Sharh Jami' at-Tirmidhi." This comprehensive work serves as a valuable guide and commentary on the Jami' at- Tirmidhi, which is one of the six major collections of hadith in Sunni Islam. Imam al- Mubarakpuri aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the hadiths found in Jami' at-Tirmidhi by delving into their textual, linguistic, and contextual aspects. Within the pages of "Tuhfat-ul-Ahwazi," Imam al-Mubarakpuri offers insightful explanations and analyses, shedding light on the meanings, implications, and legal or spiritual significance of the hadiths. He examines the chains of narrators, meticulously evaluates the authenticity of the narrations, and compares related narrations from other hadith collections.

This book is highly regarded by scholars, researchers, and students of hadith due to its comprehensive approach, scholarly commentary, and meticulous attention to detail. It is often studied alongside the original text of Jami' at-Tirmidhi as an invaluable resource for understanding and interpreting the hadiths contained within that collection. Many scholars believe that this is the most authentic interpretation of Jami-e-Tirmizi (Hussain et.al., 2022). Besides, "Tuhfat-ul-Ahwazi" has been widely published and is available in multiple editions, including Arabic and translated versions in various languages. Its significance and influence in the field of hadith studies are widely recognized. The book's features, such as biographies of Tirmidhi's narrators, interpretations of hadiths, identification of correct and incorrect narrations, explanation of textual difficulties, and addressing different sects' interpretations, make it highly esteemed among scholars and professionals.

Results

The research used by Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi are very important in the context of comparative studies for several reasons, namely in terms of historical perspective— Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi were eminent Islamic scholars who lived during various historical eras—the research techniques used by Al- 'Arfu As-Shaazi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi are crucial in the context of comparative studies. The work of Al'Arfu As-Shadzi is dated to the tenth century, whilst Tuhfatul Ahwazi was created in the eighteenth century. We can learn about the development of research methodology over time and comprehend how academics conducted their research in various eras by contrasting their research methodologies.

Tuhfatul Ahwazi and Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi both made important contributions to Islamic scholarship.

While Tuhfatul Ahwazi is well known for his commentary on hadith literature, Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi's works concentrate on Islamic law (fiqh). We may determine the various methodologies that Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi used in their studies by examining the research techniques they used. We can emphasise the similarities and contrasts between Tuhfatul Ahwazi's and Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi's research methodologies through a comparative analysis. This examination can give light on the elements that influenced their techniques, such as the influences of culture and thought, educational background, and resource availability. It may also show universal ideas or distinguishing traits that may have affected their individual research traditions. In conclusion, it is crucial to compare the research techniques employed by Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi because it provides historical context, emphasises intellectual influences, entails methodological approaches, permits comparative analysis, and has implications for current research practises.

Comparison of Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi

Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi are very important in the context of comparative studies for several reasons, namely in terms of historical perspective, Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi are prominent Islamic scholars who lived in different historical periods. Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi's work is attributed to the 10th century, while Tuhfatul Ahwazi dates to the 18th century. By comparing their research methods, we can gain insight into the evolution of research methodologies over time and understand how scholars approached their studies in different eras. Both Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi made significant contributions to Islamic scholarship. Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi's works focus on Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh), while Tuhfatul Ahwazi is known for his commentaries on hadith literature. By analyzing the research methods employed by Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi, we can identify the different approaches they used in their studies. A comparative study allows us to highlight the similarities and differences between the research methods of Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi.

This analysis can shed light on the factors that shaped their methodologies, such as cultural and intellectual influences, educational background, and access to resources. It can also reveal common principles or distinctive features that may have influenced their respective research traditions. In conclusion, a comparative study of the research methods used by Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi and Tuhfatul Ahwazi is essential as it offers historical context, highlights intellectual influences, explores methodological approaches, enables comparative analysis, and has implications for contemporary research practises." This analysis will explore the various techniques employed by each author and assess their effectiveness in conveying the intended message. Additionally, the study seeks to understand the authors' comprehension and approach to composing their books, unraveling their perspectives, thought processes, and methodologies in structuring their works. By gaining insight into the composition process of Anwar Shah Al-Kashmiri and Abdul Rahman Al-Mubarakfuri, a deeper understanding of their intentions and unique contributions can be attained. Lastly, the research conducts a comparative analysis of the books "Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi" and "Tuhfatul Ahwazi," examining the similarities and differences in content, style, and approach. Through exploring these distinctive characteristics,

the study aims to provide valuable insights into the intellectual heritage and contributions of both authors.

Conclusion

Overall, this methodology offers a systematic and rigorous approach to address research aims and ensure valid and reliable results in analyzing interpretation methods in the books. Besides that, the research seeks to compare the methods employed by Anwar Shah Al-Kashmiri and Abdul Rahman Al-Mubarakfuri in their books "Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi" and "Tuhfatul Ahwazi" to explore their distinctive approaches to Islamic scholarship. The literature review provides an overview of relevant studies that have examined the methods, interpretations, and contributions of these two renowned authors. It also discusses the broader field of interpretation methods in Hadith literature, with insights from studies by Smith (2010) and Jones (2015) on general methodologies used in analyzing and interpreting Hadith texts. Specific works focusing on the interpretive methods of Al-Kashmiri and Al-Mubarakfuri are highlighted in the review, including Khan's (2008) examination of Al-Kashmiri's methods and El-Awaisi's (2009) analysis of Al-Mubarakfuri's techniques. Comparative studies by Ibrahim (2014) and Ali (2018) are mentioned, which explore similarities and differences in the interpretive methods of various scholars, including Al-Kashmiri and Al-Mubarakfuri. The review also touches upon the historical development and influence of Hadith methodologies, as explored by Ahmad (2011) and Rahman (2015). In conclusion, the literature review emphasizes the importance of analyzing the methods employed in the books "Al-'Arfu As-Shadzi" and "Tuhfatul Ahwazi," highlighting the unique contributions and methodologies of Al-Kashmiri and Al-Mubarakfuri to Hadith scholarship. The comparative study aims to deepen understanding of their works, identify similarities and differences in their methodologies, and shed light on the evolution of Hadith methodologies throughout history.

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