

**INTERPRETATION OF RELIGIOUS TEXTS
CONCERNING WOMEN BY MALE SCHOLARS:
A TEXTUAL ANALYSIS ON THE SELECTED
MALAY WRITINGS IN THE 20TH CENTURY**

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment for the degree of
MASTER OF QURANIC AND SUNNAH STUDIES

UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA

March 2022

AUTHOR DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own expect for the quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful, I praise God for He has given me the strength to complete this humble dissertation. Peace and blessings upon His final Messenger, his wives, family, and companions; male and female.

This study has been made possible by the support of many people. I would like to thank every one of them for their direct and indirect contributions. My deepest gratitude goes to my supervisor, Dr. Nur Saadah binti Hamisan @ Khair who patiently supervised me and gave valuable insights in refining and developing my thought. My appreciation also goes to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mustaqim b Mohd Zarif who provided constructive feedback and comments.

Most importantly, I owe my loving thanks to my beloved parent, Mad Azeri bin Abdullah and Fatimah Binti Wadin for their endless love, encouragement and affection. To my another lovely parent also, Azzyzul bin Ab Aziz and Yusnita binti Yusoff who are continuously praying for their daughter's success and became the most important source of strength, I have no word to describe my unconditional love to all of them. To all my dear siblings, family members, relatives and friends – this space is not enough to mention each of their names, I thank them very much for their prayers and support.

Furthermore, this research gratefully acknowledges the support from Ministry of Education Malaysia (FRGS grant) and Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia under reference number FRGS/1/2019/SSI03/USIM/03/4.

Last but not least, I would like to thank everyone who contributed directly and indirectly in many forms to the completion of this research. Thank you to everyone who keeps motivating me to be persistent in writing, and for not giving up on me. Without their support and prayers, it would have been impossible for me to finish this work. Indeed, it is a journey of love, laughter, and tears. May God bestow His Mercy and Blessings upon all of us.

Jazakumullahukhayrankathira.

Nor Aniza Azeri
Nilai

ABSTRAK

Sebelum abad ke-20, status wanita Melayu lebih tertumpu pada sektor domestik dan mereka sering dipinggirkan di dalam sektor awam. Walau bagaimanapun, kemunculan pelbagai gerakan, ideologi dan usaha dalam mempertahankan hak wanita secara beransur-ansur bermula pada awal abad ke-20. Para ulama dan ilmuan di Tanah Melayu juga terlibat dalam menyuarakan pendapat mereka tentang isu-isu wanita dan salah satu medium penting yang digunakan ialah menghasilkan manuskrip dan karya yang memberi inspirasi kepada perubahan dalam emansipasi dan pemeraksanaan wanita. Menariknya, penulisan tentang wanita yang diterbitkan ketika itu ditulis oleh ulama-ulama lelaki. Oleh itu, empat objektif kajian telah dirumuskan seperti berikut: 1) Untuk membincangkan tentang latar belakang sejarah wanita Melayu pada abad ke-20, 2) Untuk mengkaji manuskrip Melayu pada abad ke-20 yang membincangkan tentang isu wanita, 3) Menganalisis teks-teks agama mengenai wanita terutamanya berkaitan dengan emansipasi wanita yang telah ditafsirkan oleh ulama Melayu, 4) Mencadangkan garis panduan emansipasi wanita dalam konteks Melayu yang relevan untuk semua generasi. Kajian ini menggunakan analisis teks dan dokumen terhadap lima buah karya ulama Melayu yang diterbitkan pada abad ke-20, yang membincangkan tentang isu wanita sama ada secara langsung dan tidak langsung. Semua ayat Qur'an dan Hadis berkaitan wanita dalam penulisan tersebut dikumpulkan mengikut tema dan dianalisis secara tekstual. Hasil kajian mendapati bahawa penulisan ulama yang terpilih mempunyai persamaan yang signifikan dalam membangkitkan idea emansipasi wanita yang mana ia sudah diperkenalkan sejak kemunculan Islam untuk membebaskan wanita daripada sebarang bentuk diskriminasi. Tulisan ulama Melayu tersebut juga mempunyai sumbangan yang besar dalam memperkasakan wanita dari segi intelektual, ekonomi, sosial dan politik, seperti yang telah digariskan oleh Qur'an dan Sunnah, dan ia sangat relevan untuk diaplikasikan dalam budaya masyarakat wanita Melayu tanpa berkompromi ke atas kepercayaan, kesucian dan maruah mereka. Tambahan itu, garis panduan yang disediakan dalam kajian ini menawarkan solusi dalam menyelesaikan cabaran-cabaran yang menghalang pemeraksanaan wanita dan penglibatan mereka dalam aspek lokal mahupun global.

ABSTRACT

The status of Malay women before the 20th century was secluded domestically, and they were frequently disregarded in the public sphere. However, the emergence of movements, ideologies, and many efforts in defending women's rights gradually started in the early 20th century. The scholars and intellectuals in Malaya were also involved in voicing their opinions on women's issues, and one of the important mediums used is producing manuscripts and writings which inspired changes in women's emancipation and empowerment. Interestingly, the writings on women which were published at that time were written by male scholars. Therefore, four research objectives were formulated as follows: 1) To discuss the historical background of Malay women's position in the 20th century, 2) To discover the existence of the Malay writings in the 20th century that concern on women issues, 3) To analyse the religious texts concerning women which mainly related to the emancipation of women that have been interpreted by the Malay male scholars, 4) To propose the guideline for the emancipation of women within the Malay context that is relevant for all generations. Methodologically, this study applied textual and document analysis on five Malay writings which were published in the 20th century where the Malay scholars have discussed women's issues directly or indirectly. All related Qur'ānic verses and Hadith that addressed women's issues from these writings were gathered thematically and analyzed textually. As a result, this study found that the Malay writings shared significant similarities in reviving the concept of the emancipation of women which was first proposed after the emergence of Islam to liberate women from any discrimination. The selected Malay writings also have huge contributions to empowering women intellectually, economically, socially, and politically, as strongly embedded in the Islamic teaching which suits the societal practice of the women without compromising their faith, chastity, and dignity. Additionally, the guideline provided in this study may offer solutions to all challenges hindering women's empowerment and their participation locally and globally.

ملخص البحث

قبل القرن العشرين كانت مكانة المرأة الماليزية معزولة محليا، وكثيرا ما تم تجاهلها في المجال العام. ومع ذلك، فإن ظهور الحركات والأيديولوجيات والعديد من الجهود في الدفاع عن حقوق المرأة بدأ تدريجياً في أوائل القرن العشرين. كما شارك العلماء والمتقنون في مالايا في التعبير عن آرائهم حول قضايا المرأة، ومن الوسائل المهمة المستخدمة إنتاج المخطوطات والكتابات التي ألهمت التغييرات في تحرير المرأة وتمكينها. ومن المثير للاهتمام أن الكتابات عن النساء التي نشرت في ذلك الوقت كتبها علماء الذكور. لذلك، تمت صياغة أربعة أهداف بحثية على النحو التالي: (1) لمناقشة الخلفية التاريخية لوضع المرأة الملاوية في القرن العشرين، (2) لاكتشاف وجود كتابات الملايو في القرن العشرين التي تهتم بقضايا المرأة، (3) لتحليل النصوص الدينية المتعلقة بالمرأة التي ناقشها علماء الذكور من الملايو مختارون حول قضايا تحرير المرأة، (4) توفير مبادئ توجيهية لتحرير المرأة في سياق الملايو التي تناسب جميع الأجيال. من الناحية المنهجية، طبقت هذه الدراسة تحليل النصوص والوثائقية على خمسة كتابات الملايو التي نشرت في القرن العشرين حيث ناقش علماء الملايو قضايا المرأة بشكل مباشر أو غير مباشر. تم جمع جميع الآيات القرآنية والأحاديث ذات الصلة التي تناولت قضايا المرأة من هذه الكتابات بشكل موضوعي وتحليلها نصيا. ونتيجة لذلك، وجدت هذه الدراسة أن كتابات الملايو تشترك في أوجه تشابه كبيرة في إحياء مفهوم تحرير المرأة الذي تم اقتراحه لأول مرة بعد ظهور الإسلام لتحرير المرأة من أي تمييز. كما أن لكتابات الملايو المختارة مساهمات هائلة في تمكين المرأة فكريا واقتصاديا واجتماعيا وسياسيا، كما هو متأصل بقوة في التعاليم الإسلامية التي تناسب الممارسة المجتمعية للمرأة دون المساس بإيمانها وعفتها وكرامتها. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، قد يقدم الدليل الإرشادي الوارد في هذه الدراسة حلولاً لجميع التحديات التي تعيق تمكين المرأة ومشاركتها محليا وعالميا.

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LIST OF TRANSLITERATIONS

1. ALPHABET

Arabic	Latin	Example	Transliteration
أ	‘	فأر	fa’r
ب	b	برد	burd
ت	t	تل	tall
ث	th	ثوب	thawb
ج	j	جدار	jidār
ح	ḥ	حليب	ḥalīb
خ	kh	خادم	khādim
د	d	ديك	dīk
ذ	dh	ذهب	dhahab
ر	r	رفيق	rafīq
ز	z	زميل	zamīl
س	s	سلام	salām
ش	sh	شعب	sha‘b
ص	ṣ	صخر	ṣakhr
ض	ḍ	ضيق	ḍayq
ط	ṭ	طالب	ṭālib
ظ	ẓ	ظالم	ẓālim
ع	‘	عقل	‘aql
غ	gh	غلام	ghulām
ف	f	فيل	fil
ق	q	قلب	qalb
ك	k	كلام	kalām
ل	l	لب	lubb

م	m	مال	māl
ن	n	نجم	najm
هـ	h	هول	hawl
و	w	ورق	waraq
ي	y	يم	yamm

2. SHORT VOWEL

Arabic	Latin	Example	Transliteration
اَ	a	كُتِبَ	kataba
اِ	i	عَلِمَ	‘alima
اُ	u	غُلِبَ	ghuliba

3. LONG VOWEL

Arabic	Latin	Example	Transliteration
آ ، اِى	ā	عَالَمٌ ، فَتَى	‘ālim, fatā
يِ	ī	عَلَيْهِمْ ، دَاعِي	‘alīm, dā‘ī
وِ	ū	عُلُومٌ ، أَدْعُوْ	‘ulūm, ad‘ū

4. DIPHTHONG

Arabic	Latin	Example	Transliteration
وَ	aw	نَوْمٌ	nawm
يِ	ay	لَيْلٌ	layl
يِ	iyy	شَافِعِي	shāfi‘iyy (ending)
وَ	uww	عُلُوْ	‘uluww (ending)

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

SWT	Subhānahu wata‘ālā
PBUH	Peace Be Upon Him
H	hijriyyah
M	mīlādiyyah
n.a.	no author
n.d.	no date/ no year
p.	page
pp.	pages
vol.	volume
PGPJ	Johor Women’s Teachers Association
UMNO	United Malays National Organisation
TAJRM	Malayan People’s Exemplary Anti-Japanese Army
DPMJ	Dato’ Paduka Mahkota Johor
WAO	Women’s Aid Organisation
UN	United Nations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
PERDASAMA	Persatuan Pedagang & Pengusaha Melayu Malaysia