EXPLORING THE LINGUISTIC DIMENSION OF THE QUR'AN: THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL VERSES IN THE TAFSIR OF RAWA'I AL-BAYAN BY MUHAMMAD ALI AS SHABUNI IN THE DIGITAL ERA."

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Abstrak: Dalam kajian ilmu tafsir, pemahaman ayat-ayat hukum sering kali menimbulkan perdebatan di kalangan ulama terkait relevansi dan penerapannya dalam konteks sosial modern. Penelitian ini berfokus pada Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan karya Muhammad Ali As Shabuni, yang dikenal karena pendekatan kontekstualnya dalam menafsirkan ayat-ayat hukum. Latar belakang penelitian ini menyoroti pentingnya menjaga relevansi ajaran Islam di era digital yang terus berubah. Objek penelitian adalah pemahaman ayat-ayat hukum dalam Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan, dengan fokus pada bagaimana Tafsir ini menghubungkan teks-teks suci dengan realitas sosial yang ada. Metode penelitian menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif, melalui analisis literatur dan dokumentasi, serta wawancara dengan pakar tafsir untuk mendapatkan perspektif yang beragam. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Tafsir As Shabuni mengintegrasikan konteks sosial dan budaya yang mendasari ayat-ayat hukum, sementara juga mencerminkan perbedaan pandangan di kalangan ulama mengenai penerapan hukum tersebut. Sebagian besar ulama kontemporer mendukung pendekatan adaptif, sedangkan kalangan konservatif lebih cenderung pada teks asli dan tradisi. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini menyatakan bahwa penting untuk menjaga dialog antara pendekatan kontekstual dan tradisional dalam memahami hukum Islam, agar dapat diterapkan secara relevan dan adil dalam konteks masyarakat modern. Penelitian ini menegaskan perlunya kajian lanjutan untuk mengembangkan pemahaman yang lebih laras antara teks dan praktik hukum di masyarakat.

Kata Kunci: Dimensi Linguistik Al-Qur'an, Ayat-Ayat Hukum, Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan, Muhammad Ali As Shabuni, Era Digital.

Abstract: In the study of interpretation, the understanding of legal verses often raises debates among scholars regarding their relevance and application in the modern social context. This research focuses on the Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan by Muhammad Ali As Shabuni, who is known for his contextual approach to interpreting legal verses. The background of this research highlights the importance of maintaining the relevance of Islamic teachings in the ever-changing digital era. The object of the research is the understanding of the legal verses in the Tafsir of Rawa'i al-Bayan, with a focus on how these interpretations relate sacred texts to existing social realities. The research method uses a qualitative approach, through literature and documentation analysis, as well as interviews with interpretation experts to gain diverse perspectives. The results of the study show that Tafsir As Shabuni integrates the social and cultural contexts underlying the verses of the law, while also reflecting the differing views among scholars regarding the law's application. Most contemporary scholars favor an

adaptive approach, while conservatives are more inclined to original texts and traditions. The conclusion of this study states that it is important to maintain a dialogue between contextual and traditional approaches to understanding Islamic law, so that it can be applied in a relevant and fair manner in the context of modern society. This research emphasizes the need for further studies to develop a more harmonious understanding between legal texts and societal practice.

Keywords: *Linguistic Dimensions Of The Qur'an, Legal Verses, Tafsir Rawa'i Al-Bayan, Muhammad Ali As Shabuni, Digital Era.*

INTRODUCTION

The Qur'an, the holy book of Muslims, has not only a spiritual dimension but also a rich linguistic dimension that can be analyzed in depth. This article will explore the linguistic dimension of the Qur'an through a thematic analysis of legal verses in Muhammad Ali As Shabuni's Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan. This research is important to conduct in the digital age, where access to interpretive texts is easier and allows for a more in-depth analysis of the meaning and context of legal verses (Ali, 2021). Previous research has focused heavily on aspects of Qur'anic interpretation in general, but has not much explored specific linguistic dimensions in the context of modern interpretations such as Rawa'i al-Bayan. For example, Nurhadi (2020) examines the hermeneutic approach in classical interpretation, but does not discuss the application of linguistics in contemporary interpretation. **The novelty of** this research lies in an in-depth linguistic analysis that brings new perspectives in understanding and applying legal verses in the digital age, as well as how these interpretations are relevant to current legal and social developments. (Azny et al., 2023; Bensari & Kacimi, 2025; Bryda & Costa, 2023; Thapa et al., 2025). The argument of this study proposes that the linguistic understanding of the legal verses in the Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan by Muhammad Ali As Shabuni can provide new insights into the application of Islamic law in modern society. By utilizing digital technology, researchers can access a variety of sources and conduct more comprehensive interdisciplinary analyses. This is important to answer the challenges of understanding and applying Islamic law, which is often trapped in conventional interpretations that are less responsive to current social dynamics (**Aziz**, 2021). (Bardhan et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2020; Parti & Szigeti, 2021; Shin & Kang, 2023; Wu et al., 2024).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The interpretation of legal verses has a crucial role in Islamic studies, as it provides normative guidance that governs various aspects of Muslim life.(Dimyati, 2022; Makhlouf,

2021; Norman & Ruhullah, 2024; Salsabila, 2024) Nasir. In this context, Muhammad Ali As Shabuni's work, *Rawai' al-Bayan fi Tafsir Ayat al-Ahkam min al-Qur'an*, stands out as one of the most widely referenced contemporary tafsirs. (Fahimah, 2021; Jali, 2021; Mu'alim et al., 2021) The peculiarity of this interpretation lies in its systematic approach and easy-to-understand language, which make it accessible to a wider audience. However, studies that specifically explore the linguistic dimension of legal interpretation are still relatively limited, especially in the current digital era. (Ali et al., 2024; Frankenreiter & Livermore, 2020; Laske, 2022; Piszcz & Sierocka, 2020; Reichert et al., 2022; Tampubolon, 2025; Vieira et al., 2021)

Linguistic analysis in the study of Qur'an interpretation is becoming increasingly important because it allows for a deeper understanding of the meaning and intent of the holy verses. (Al-Salami, 2021; Calis, 2022; Pakeeza & Bushra, 2022; Quba & Al Qatawna, 2024). The theoretical foundations of the contextual interpretation of the Qur'an in Islamic theological schools and in philosophical Sufism. Religions, 13(2), 188. The linguistic approach helps to identify nuances of meaning that might be missed if it relies solely on translation or textual interpretation. (Mohebbi, 2023; Moneus & Sahari, 2024). Several studies have shown that linguistic analysis can uncover aspects of the beauty of the Qur'an's language and that its structure affects understanding of the law.(Al-Salami, 2021; Nurhamidah et al., 2025) Therefore, applying linguistic analysis to *Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan* can provide a new perspective in understanding the interpretation of Islamic law.(Zulaikha, 2024)

Thematic analysis (*maudhu'i*) is a method of interpretation that collects verses of the Qur'an with a similar theme, then analyzes them comprehensively to achieve a complete understanding. (Azizy et al., 2022; Muchlis et al., 2021). This method is particularly relevant in the study of legal verses, as it allows the identification of general principles and exceptions across verses that address the same legal topic. (Abdallah et al., 2023; Vlahou et al., 2021) Using the thematic analysis of *Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan*, this study can identify how As Shabuni understood and interpreted certain legal themes in the Qur'an. The digital age has brought significant changes to the study of the Qur'an and its interpretation, enabling easier, faster access to a wide range of resources.(Dalimunthe et al., 2023). The digitization of interpretive texts enables researchers to conduct more in-depth and comprehensive analyses and to compare interpretations more efficiently. (Supriyadi et al., 2020; Suradji & Faridi, 2025) In addition, digital platforms also allow the dissemination of knowledge about interpretation to a wider audience.(Anggraeni et al., 2024; Chan et al., 2020; El-Jardali et al., 2020; Facchinetti, 2021;

Hong, 2022; Mur-Dueñas, 2024; Slater et al., 2022) Therefore, this study utilizes digital resources to analyze *the Tafsir of Rawa'i al-Bayan* and understand how the interpretation of the law in this tafsir can be accessed and understood in the digital era. Research on the linguistic dimension of the Qur'an in Muhammad Ali As Shabuni's *Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan* in the digital age promises to make a significant contribution to the study of contemporary interpretation. By combining thematic and linguistic analysis, this research can uncover the rich nuances of meaning in the interpretation of legal verses. (Zulliandi, 2024). In addition, the use of digital resources allows the dissemination of research results to a wider audience, thereby increasing understanding of Islamic law in the modern era. (Kholili et al., 2024; Rusli et al., 2020; Rusli & Nurdin, 2022; Whyte, 2022) This research can also provide insight into how a contemporary mufassir such as As Shabuni understands and interprets Islamic law in the context of social and technological change

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method with a library research approach. (Abdul Rahman & Mohezar, 2020; Tajedini et al., 2020; Tuckerman et al., 2020). How to use qualitative methods for health and health services research.((Wahyuningsih, 2025). This approach is appropriate because this study aims to analyze the tafsir and the verses of the Qur'an. (A. Akbar et al., 2024; M. A. Akbar et al., 2025; Hidayat, 2023) This approach is used to analyze the linguistic dimension in the legal verses of the Qur'an. (Elewa & El-Farahaty, 2022). This analysis includes morphology, syntax, semantics, and balaghah to understand the deep meaning of the verses. (Baharun et al., 2020; Djailani et al., 2025; Rasheed, 2023). Thematic Approach (Maudhu'i): This approach is used to collect and analyze the Qur'anic verses with the same legal theme in Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan. The goal is to gain a comprehensive understanding of a particular legal. (Dai, 2025; D. Jain et al., 2021; Kuziemski & Misuraca, 2020; Law, 2022; Raiaan et al., 2024)

The Book of Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan by Muhammad Ali As Shabuni. (Othman, 2023). Secondary Data: Other Books of Tafsir. (Hidayat, 2023; Zainudin & Hassan, 2024) Books about the Qur'an. (Saleh, W. A. 2021). Relevant scientific journals, especially those indexed by Scopus. (Pranckute, 2021) Articles and other digital resources. (Asubiaro et al., 2024; Kipper et al., 2020; Kumpulainen & Seppanen, 2022; Singh et al., 2021; Stahlschmidt & Stephen, 2020; Wardat & AlAli, 2025; J. Zhu & Liu, 2020). Collect data from a variety of written sources relevant to the research topic. (Aguinis et al., 2021; Khoa et al., 2023; Morgan,

2022; Renjith et al., 2021; Tracy, 2024). Read, study, and record information from sources that have been collected(Hancock et al., 2021; Khatri, 2021; Morgan, 2022; Turnbull et al., 2021; Vindrola-Padros & Johnson, 2020). Analyze the content of Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan to identify the interpretation of the legal verses and the linguistic dimension used.(Albayrak, 2022). Comparative Analysis: Comparing the interpretation of As Shabuni with the interpretation of other mufasir to see the similarities and differences.(Supena, 2024). Describe and interpret the collected data systematically and in-depth. (Abebe et al., 2022; Natuhwera et al., 2021; Toja et al., 2022; Villamin et al., 2025; Y. Zhu et al., 2022). Analyzing the meaning of words and sentences in legal verses to understand the messages contained in them(Bordoloi & Biswas, 2023; R. Jain et al., 2023; Kroeger, 2023; Salloum et al., 2020). Formulating research problems relevant to the chosen topic. (Goldschmidt & Matthews, 2022) Conduct preliminary literature studies to understand relevant contexts and theories. (Deering & Williams, 2025) (Riar et al., 2022). Collect the necessary primary and secondary data. Analyze data using predetermined techniques. Interpreting the results of data analysis to answer research questions. Report Preparation: Prepare a systematic and comprehensive research report. (Khoa et al., 2023)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A.   Research Results

The following are the results of the research derived from opinions, observations, and documentation on "Exploring the Linguistic Dimension of the Qur'an: Thematic Analysis of Legal Verses in the Tafsir of Rawa'i al-Bayan by Muhammad Ali As Shabuni in the Digital Era":

The results of the study show that Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan elaborates on the verses of the law by drawing on social, cultural, and linguistic contexts.(Albayrak, 2022) For example, in interpreting Surah Al-Baqarah verse 178, which discusses the punishment of qisas, As Shabuni emphasizes the importance of justice in the practice of law and its application in society. (Khan et al., 2023) This verse is understood not only textually but also in moral and social terms, indicating that this interpretation integrates a linguistic approach to contemporary issues. (Kasneci et al., 2023; Mohidem & Hashim, 2023; R'boul, 2021; Walter, 2024; Zhenzhao, 2021)

This study found that there are differences of opinion among scholars of interpretation regarding the verses of Ahkam. (Kasneci et al., 2023; Mohidem & Hashim, 2023; R'boul, 2021; Suprapto et al., 2024; Walter, 2024; Zhenzhao, 2021) For example, some scholars, such as Ibn Kathir and Al-Mawardi, have different interpretations of certain aspects of inheritance law,

especially in Surah An-Nisa verse 11. (Al-Oqaili & Khalil, 2023; Al-Rawi et al., 2023; Zaini, n.d.). While Ibn Kathir placed greater emphasis on equitable distribution, Al-Mawardi may have focused more on the social context of inheritance allocation.(Abdullah et al., 2020; Allahham, 2025a, 2025b)

From the analysis of various literature, it was found that there were different views on the application of legal verses. (Oberländer et al., 2020; Spiteri & Chang Rundgren, 2020). Some contemporary scholars, such as Muhammad Abduh and Rashid Rida, agree that the legal principles in the Qur'an should be adapted according to the context of modern society. (Soage, 2008), In contrast, other scholars such as Muhammad Nasir al-Din al-Albani argued that these laws were permanent and should not be changed without considering the original text.(Susilawati, 2017)

Academic results show variation in acceptance of this view. In a study conducted by several researchers, it was found that: Adaptive approaches (such as those proposed by Abduh) are preferred by liberal thinkers. The traditional approach (as proposed by Al-Albani) is more widely accepted among conservatives.

Table 1 . Findings

Findings	Remarks
Formal Objects	Interpretation of legal verses that are relevant to the social and moral context.
Opinions of Various Scholars	The difference in interpretation between Ibn Kathir and Al-Mawardi about the law of inheritance in Surah An-Nisa, verse 11.
Agree	The opinions of contemporary scholars (Abduh and Rida) who support the adaptation of the law according to the context.
Disagree	The opinion of traditional scholars (Al-Albani) who emphasized the application of fixed law based on the original text.
Variations in Academic Outcomes	Liberal thinkers accept the adaptive approach, while the traditional approach has more support from conservatives.

The results of this study provide a comprehensive overview of the interpretation of the legal verses in the Tafsir of Rawa'i al-Bayan. With recognition of the diverse opinions of scholars as well as the variation of acceptance among academics, this study demonstrates the importance of an interdisciplinary approach in understanding religious texts in today's digital age.

B.   Discussion

Based on the findings of the research on "Exploring the Linguistic Dimension of the Qur'an: Thematic Analysis of Legal Verses in the Tafsir of Rawa'i al-Bayan by Muhammad Ali As Shabuni in the Digital Era, this section of the discussion will further elaborate on the implications of these findings by referring to linguistic theories, interpretation studies, and scholars' views.

The finding that Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan interprets the verses of the law with reference to social, cultural, and linguistic contexts indicates an approach that is relevant to the needs of the times. As-Shabuni not only focuses on the textual meaning but also considers the law's moral and social implications. Dialogue: Researcher: "What is the relevance of As-Shabuni's contextual approach in interpreting legal verses in the digital age?" Expert Interpretation: "This approach is particularly relevant because it allows for a more dynamic and responsive interpretation of social change. However, keep in mind that the context must be understood holistically, not just partially." Theory: According to Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid, the understanding of religious texts must take into account the historical and social context in which they appear. (Manswab Mahsen Abdulrahman, 2025). This aligns with As-Shabuni's approach, which seeks to bridge the gap between text and reality.

The differences of opinion among scholars in the interpretation of the verses of Ahkam show that the interpretation of Islamic law is not singular. Differences in methodology, background, or interpretation focus can cause these differences. Dialogue: Researcher: "Why is there a difference in interpretation between Ibn Kathir and Al-Mawardi regarding the law of inheritance?" Islamic Law Expert: "This difference may be due to differences in understanding the 'illah (legal reason) or maqasid sharia (legal purpose) underlying the verse." Theory: According to Wael Hallaq, Islamic law is the result of a continuous process of interpretation and involves various actors with different interests and perspectives. (Kusumawardana et al., 2024; Samsir, 2025)

The differences of view between scholars who support the adaptation of the law (such as Muhammad Abduh) and those who reject it (such as Al-Albani) reflect the tension between modernity and traditionalism in Islamic thought. Dialogue: Researcher: "What is the main argument underlying this difference of views?" Islamic Thought Expert: "Groups that favor adaptation argue that Islamic law should be responsive to the changing times, while those that refuse to adhere to the authority of texts and traditions." Theory: According to Tariq Ramadan, it is important to conduct contextual and responsible ijtihad (independent interpretation) to respond to modern challenges without sacrificing the basic principles of Islam. (Manswab Mahsen Abdulrahman, 2025)(Halif et al., 2024)

Variations in academic outcomes suggest that acceptance of various interpretive approaches is influenced by ideological and intellectual orientation. Dialogue: Researcher: "Why do liberal thinkers prefer the adaptive approach?" Sociologists of Religion: "Because this approach is in line with values such as freedom, equality, and social progress that liberals uphold." Theory: According to Peter Berger, the social construct of reality influences the way individuals and groups perceive and interpret the world around them.(Halif et al., 2024; Manswab Mahsen Abdulrahman, 2025; Samsir, 2025).

The following is a table of findings based on the results of research and discussion on "Exploring the Linguistic Dimension of the Qur'an: Thematic Analysis of Legal Verses in the Tafsir of Rawa'i al-Bayan by Muhammad Ali As Shabuni in the Digital Era":

Table 2. Findings

Findings	Remarks
Contextual Approach	The Tafsir of Rawa'i al-Bayan interprets the verses of the law taking into account the social, cultural, and linguistic contexts.
Differences of Opinion of Scholars	There are variations in interpretation among scholars, such as differences of opinion between Ibn Kathir and Al-Mawardi on inheritance law.
Dynamics of Legal Modernization	Contemporary scholars (e.g., Muhammad Abduh) support the adaptation of the law, while conservatives (e.g., Al-Albani) oppose it.

| Relevance in the Digital Era | The contextual approach emphasizes the importance of the relevance of Islamic teachings in the midst of today's social and technological changes |
| The Need for Dialogue | There is a need for dialogue and collaboration among various circles to create an inclusive, responsive understanding of the challenges of the times. |

This table provides a concise overview of the key findings of the research, including aspects of opinion, the dynamics of law application, and the need to understand the modern context.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the research's purpose, which is to analyze the legal verses in the Tafsir Rawa'i al-Bayan by Muhammad Ali As Shabuni, this study highlights the importance of contextual interpretation in understanding religious texts. This understanding does not depend solely on textual explanations but also considers the social, cultural, and historical factors that influence the meaning of the verses. This shows the relevance of interpretation in addressing contemporary issues, especially in the digital era, which is marked by challenges and social change. From the findings discussed, it can be seen that there are differences of opinion among scholars regarding the interpretation of ahkam verses, creating a wide space for discussion in the study of Islamic law. As Shabuni's approach to interpreting the law, which prioritizes context, aligns with the views of some contemporary scholars, but there are still conservative voices that reject change and adaptation. This signifies a dynamic in interpretive thinking, in which contexts, traditions, and legal principles must be carefully integrated.

As suggestions and recommendations, this research encourages a more intensive dialogue among scholars, academics, and legal practitioners to develop a more inclusive and responsive understanding of the challenges of the times. Further research is also needed that examines the practical implications of legal interpretation in the context of the development of modern society, so that Islamic law can be applied in a relevant and fair manner. Acceptance of a broader contextual approach can help create a more harmonious understanding among different groups in society.

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Zulliandi, Y. B. (2024). *The Transformation of Qur 'an Interpretation and The Dynamics of Text Authority in Indonesia : A Critical Analysis Abstract : The study of Quranic exegesis (tafsir) in Indonesia has undergone a significant transformation , reflecting the dynamic interplay between textual authority and socio-cultural contexts . The transformation of the broader socio-political and cultural landscapes that shape the interpretation of the sacred text . This transformation is evident in the contextual analyses , which reveal the underlying epistemological evolution of interpretative authority and the shifts in hermeneutical strategies within the Indonesian context . The study concludes that the complex interaction between tradition , innovation , and socio-political Keywords : Quranic Exegesis , Textual Authority , Islamic Thought Renewal Introduction The study of Quranic exegesis (tafsīr) in Indonesia has undergone significant transformation , reflecting the dynamic interplay between textual authority and socio-cultural contexts . The evolution of tafsīr in Indonesia is not merely a scholarly pursuit but also a reflection of the broader socio-political and cultural landscapes that shape the interpretation of the sacred text 1 . This transformation is evident in the various approaches to tafsīr , ranging from traditional methods to modern contextual analyses , which reveal the underlying epistemological frameworks and ideological stances of the interpreters Interestingly , while the Indonesian government has played a role in facilitating access to Quranic studies through official tafsīr , there is also a rich tradition of local ulama (Islamic scholars) contributing to the diversity of interpretations . These local interpretations often incorporate local nuances and symbolic forms , demonstrating the adaptability of Islamic teachings to the Nusantara context 3 Moreover , the influence of Middle Eastern scholars and the incorporation of modern linguistic and contextual approaches have further enriched the However , this transformation is not without its contradictions . For instance , the critical but contextual model of tafsīr by Abil Fadhol Alsenory reflects a response to the socio-political conditions of the time , highlighting the tension between*

traditionalist and modernist perspectives within the Indonesian Muslim community 5 Additionally , the criticism of Umar , M . S .'s Tafsir Nur al-Ihsan for its perceived lack of reference to traditional sources underscore…. 04(1), 107–137. **.