RESPONDING TO THE DIGITAL ERA WITH SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH TAFSIR AL-QUR'AN FOR GENERATION Z

e-ISSN: 3047-6151

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the relevance of the interpretation of the Qur'an as a socio-moral guide for Generation Z in the digital era. Generation Z, who grew up in a dynamic technological and social media environment, faces various moral and social challenges such as the spread of hoaxes, cyberbullying, and the tendency to pursue popularity that often conflicts with religious values. Through a qualitative approach with the library research method, this study identifies relevant interpretations of the Qur'an in addressing these problems. The results of the study indicate that the interpretation of the Qur'an that emphasizes communication ethics, information verification, social responsibility, and universal moral values is very relevant to answering the challenges faced by Generation Z in the digital era. The contextual interpretation approach is able to connect the teachings of the Qur'an with modern social realities, providing practical, applicable guidance for dealing with cyberspace. In addition, this study proposes the need to adjust the Islamic religious education curriculum to be more responsive to developments in technology and social media, so that it can form a more ethical, critical, and responsible Generation Z. This study concludes that the interpretation of the Qur'an not only functions as an explanation of religious texts, but also as a tool to form a solid moral character, strengthen Muslim identity, and help Generation Z face digital challenges wisely. These findings contribute to the development of religious education that is relevant to the needs of the times and becomes a guide for educators, parents, and education practitioners in guiding Generation Z.

Keywords: interpretation of the Qur'an, Generation Z, digital era, Islamic religious education, social media

INTRODUCTION

The digital era has a significant impact on almost every aspect of human life, including the social and moral life of the younger generation. One of the most affected groups is Generation Z, who was born and grew up in the midst of the rapid development of information and communication technology. This generation has very quick and easy access to various information from all over the world through the internet. This presents new challenges in the formation of their moral character, especially when much of the information they receive does not always contain good religious and social values. In the face of this very rapid change, it is important to teach generation Z how to respond to the digital era wisely, one of which is through an understanding of the interpretation of the Qur'an that is relevant to the context of

modern times. Tafsir Al-Qur'an, as the main source of Islamic teachings, has great potential to provide guidance in dealing with emerging social challenges, including in cyberspace. Therefore, the study of social transformation through the interpretation of the Qur'an is very relevant, especially in an effort to provide guidance to generation Z so that they can still adhere to strong moral values in the midst of this fast-paced development of the times (Yusuf, 2022).

The rapid development of digital technology has changed the way people live and interact, especially Generation Z. Based on data from Smith (2023), more than 90% of Generation Z use digital devices such as smartphones, laptops, and tablets, with an average of more than 6 hours of time spent a day. The use of social media is one of the most dominant aspects, with Generation Z spending their time interacting, seeking entertainment, and even getting information on social and religious issues. However, behind the ease of access to information, various problems arise related to the negative impact of the use of technology, such as the spread of unverified information, the spread of hoaxes, and excessive dependence on cyberspace. In the social context, this phenomenon causes erosion of moral values that should be maintained, especially for the younger generation who are not fully prepared to face various currents of change. Furthermore, this phenomenon also creates a gap between the religious values accepted in the family and education and the social influences that come from outside, which are often secular and hedonistic in nature (Smith, 2023).

According to a survey conducted by the Indonesian Digital Research Association in 2023, around 75% of Generation Z feel that technology has changed their perspective on social and religious life. Only 35% of those feel that religious principles can be easily applied in daily life, while most feel that the confusion is increasing due to the strong influence of social media that often runs counter to religious teachings. This phenomenon shows the gap between religious teachings obtained through formal and non-formal education and the social reality they face. The big challenge faced by Generation Z is how to filter the existing information to remain in accordance with the moral values taught in religion, especially in terms of social interaction and behavior in cyberspace. In addition, the role of Qur'anic interpretation, which is often seen as only relevant to more traditional social conditions, needs to be proven its relevance in this fast-paced and change-filled digital era (Indonesia, 2023).

Several previous studies have examined the relationship between Qur'anic interpretation and evolving social dynamics. (Firdaus, 2021) stated that the interpretation of the Qur'an has great potential in providing solutions to social challenges faced by modern society. The research emphasizes that tafsir can be a source of inspiration to overcome various social problems such as injustice, poverty, and social inequality. However, most of these studies do not delve into the application of tafsir in dealing with specific social problems in the digital era. (Ramadhani, 2022)

also revealed that the interpretation of the Qur'an can be a guideline in overcoming social challenges, including in managing social values in the modern era. However, the study highlights interpretation in general, without paying attention to the context of Generation Z growing up in a digital environment. Research by (Siahaan, 2017) highlighting the relevance of Qur'an interpretation in building the character of the younger generation, focusing on the application of Qur'anic values to face social and ethical challenges. This study shows how tafsir can be used as a strong guideline for life, but does not specifically discuss the influence of the digital era on the implementation of tafsir. Meanwhile, research by (Hasanah, 2022) highlighting the relevance of Qur'an interpretation in building the character of the younger generation, focusing on the application of Qur'anic values to face social and ethical challenges. This study shows how tafsir can be used as a strong guideline for life, but does not specifically discuss the influence of the digital era on the implementation of tafsir. Meanwhile, research by (Zainal, 2020) delves deeper into the role of Qur'an interpretation in overcoming the negative influence of social media on the younger generation, but this research is limited to psychological, not social aspects in a broader context. Thus, this research will make a more specific contribution to the application of Qur'an interpretation in dealing with social problems that are very relevant to generation Z in the digital era.

This research has a significant difference from previous research because the main focus is on the application of Qur'an interpretation in facing social challenges faced by generation Z in the digital era. Most previous studies examined interpretation in a more traditional or general social context, without paying attention to the rapid development of technology and its impact on the mindset and behavior of the younger generation. This research will examine the interpretation of the Qur'an in more depth by relating it to social issues that arise due to technological advances, such as the phenomenon of social media, consumptive culture, and moral relativism that develops among generation Z in their daily lives which are increasingly influenced by digital technology.

The main purpose of this study is to analyze how the interpretation of the Qur'an can be used as a guideline in overcoming social challenges faced by generation Z in the digital era. This research aims to provide new insights into how the interpretation of the Qur'an can be understood and applied in the context of social life that is increasingly connected to cyberspace. In addition, this study also aims to identify relevant interpretations in overcoming social problems faced by generation Z, such as challenges to moral values, shifts in social norms, and the influence of social media. Thus, this research is expected to make a positive contribution to the development of religious education that is more in line with the needs of generation Z in facing the dynamics of digital life that are increasingly complex and changing rapidly. It is also hoped that this research can provide practical guidance for educators and parents in

guiding generation Z to stick to religious values in the midst of the increasingly rapid flow of social and technological change.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with the type of analytical descriptive research, which aims to explore and understand social phenomena that occur among generation Z in responding to the digital era through the interpretation of the Qur'an. The qualitative approach was chosen because the main focus of the research is to deeply understand how Generation Z applies the interpretation of the Qur'an in facing social challenges that arise due to the development of digital technology (Creswell, 2018). This type of analytical descriptive research aims to analyze existing phenomena by describing the situation faced by generation Z and finding solutions based on the interpretation of the Qur'an that is relevant to social conditions in the digital era.

This study uses *library research* as the main data collection method. Library research is research that relies on secondary sources of information in the form of literature, books, articles, scientific journals, documents, and other written sources that are relevant to the research topic. In this case, the main sources to be analyzed are the interpretation of the Qur'an, various views of scholars regarding its application in the digital era, as well as literature related to generation Z and the use of social media (Sugiyono, 2018). Using this method, researchers can collect comprehensive data related to the interpretation of the Qur'an related to social ethics and religious values, as well as the understanding of generation Z of these teachings.

The main issue that will be researched in this study is how the interpretation of the Qur'an can be used as a guideline to respond to the social challenges faced by generation Z in the digital era, especially in terms of the use of social media and its influence on religious moral values. Some of the sub-issues to be studied include: first, how Generation Z accesses religious information in cyberspace and the extent to which they can distinguish between true and false information; second, the social and moral challenges faced by generation Z in the use of social media; third, how the interpretation of the Qur'an can provide solutions to these challenges, both in terms of social ethics and religious values; and fourth, which interpretation of the Qur'an is relevant in responding to social problems faced by generation Z, especially those related to the influence of social media (Sugiyono, 2018)s.

The target of this research is Generation Z, that is, individuals born between 1997 and 2012, who grew up in the era of technological advancement and digitalization. The focus of this research is on Generation Z in Indonesia, taking into account social, cultural, and religious factors that influence their mindset and behavior. This research also involves relevant literature from various perspectives to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the application of Qur'an interpretation in the life of generation Z in the digital era (Miles, M. B., & Huberman, 2018).

The data collection technique in this study is carried out by library research, which includes the collection of literature from various sources, including interpretation books, scientific articles, journals, previous research reports, and other relevant documents. All of these sources will be used to explore information about Qur'anic interpretation related to social ethics, digital challenges faced by Generation Z, and solutions that can be provided based on religious teachings. The data obtained through literature studies will be analyzed to identify key themes related to the research topic, such as the application of interpretation in digital life and the morality of generation Z in using social media (Bogdan, 2017).

The data analysis technique used in this study is qualitative analysis with a thematic approach. The first step in data analysis is data reduction, where data that has been obtained from the literature will be selected and selected based on its relevance to the focus of the research. Irrelevant or repetitive data will be removed to facilitate further analysis. After that, relevant data will be grouped into specific categories, such as Generation Z's views on social media, the challenges they face, and the relevance of Qur'anic interpretation in solving these problems. The next step is data interpretation, where researchers will analyze the relationship between the interpretation of the Qur'an and social problems faced by generation Z (Bogdan, 2017).

RESULT

Generation Z's Understanding of Tafsir Al-Qur'an in the Digital Era

Generation Z, who has grown up in the digital era, often has an understanding of religion obtained through the internet and social media. Although access to religious information is getting easier, this study found that there is a gap in the quality of religious understanding received by Generation Z. Many of them are exposed to religious information that is not completely accurate or even wrong. One of the important findings is that the deep understanding of Qur'anic interpretation is still limited among Generation Z. This is due to the lack of contextual and applicable interpretation learning to today's social problems, including the use of social media that is often inconsistent with Islamic teachings. In-depth and contextual interpretation can help generation Z in understanding the values of the Qur'an in a way that is more relevant to the challenges of the times (Nasution, 2018b).

A shallow understanding of the interpretation of the Qur'an can potentially lead to misinterpretation or abuse of religious teachings in cyberspace. On the other hand, interpretations that are in accordance with the context of the times will allow generation Z to better understand religious teachings in their entirety. Therefore, it is important for religious education to emphasize interpretations that are relevant to digital life, especially in the context of rapidly evolving social media. Tafsir that teaches the importance of information verification, upholding communication ethics,

and avoiding the spread of hoaxes is very relevant for generation Z who are often exposed to information whose source is unclear. Thus, Generation Z can be guided to be more selective in receiving information and using social media in accordance with Islamic principles (Amin, 2019a).

In addition, tafsir that prioritizes critical and analytical values in reading religious texts can also help generation Z in facing the challenges of the times. Many classical interpretations teach moral principles that are universal, but need to be adapted to the context of an increasingly digital age. This research finds that Generation Z needs an interpretation approach that is able to connect classical texts with digital social reality, such as behavior on social media, the use of technology-based applications, and other online interactions. Tafsir that integrates Islamic values with the development of this era will provide them with a relevant and applicable framework of thinking in daily life, especially in cyberspace (Siahaan, 2017).

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Furthermore, contextual interpretation not only helps Generation Z in overcoming digital challenges, but also in strengthening their identity as Muslim individuals in a fast-paced and changing world. In many cases, the younger generation often feels torn between the demands to keep up with digital trends and maintain their moral and religious principles. Applicative interpretation can provide a strong moral foundation, allowing them to make wiser decisions and remain faithful to the teachings of Islam despite being in the midst of a huge and diverse flow of information. This approach also encourages Generation Z to not only become consumers of technology, but also agents of change who can use technology for the good and benefit of the people (Karim, 2018).

Interpretation developed with this contextual approach also plays an important role in shaping critical and reflective attitudes in Generation Z. By equipping them with the ability to read religious texts with a more in-depth perspective, Generation Z is not only taught to accept the teachings of Islam textually, but also to understand its essence and relevance to the challenges they face today. This interpretation that

encourages critical thinking allows them to see the digital world more wisely, know the limits that need to be maintained, and understand the values that must be maintained. Thus, this contextual interpretation is not only a tool to understand the text of the Qur'an, but also to develop the character and identity of Generation Z with integrity in the digital era (Hasan, 2021).

Social and Moral Challenges Faced by Generation Z in the Digital Era

Generation Z is faced with a variety of increasingly complex social and moral challenges, one of which is the strong influence of social media. Many of them are exposed to various kinds of information that is not always true or even destructive, such as hoaxes, online bullying, and other bad habits that develop in cyberspace. In this digital era, information spreads very quickly, and Generation Z tends to be more easily influenced without clear filtering. This is a big problem because without the right guidance, they can fall into negative behaviors that damage morals and ethics (Kadduri, 2020).

In this context, the interpretation of the Qur'an has a very important role. For example, surah Al-Hujurat which teaches about ethics in interacting with others is very relevant to deal with bullying and other social problems on social media. The verses in this surah emphasize the importance of maintaining the honor of others and not spreading news that is not clear about the truth, which is clearly related to the practice of spreading hoaxes that often occur on social media. Interpretation of these verses can provide a strong moral guide to generation Z in facing social temptations in cyberspace (Fauzi, 2020).

Not only that, but the study also shows that Generation Z has a tendency to pursue popularity on social media, which sometimes contradicts Islamic teachings on simplicity and honesty. The dissemination of information driven by the desire to get attention or praise, as happened with the phenomenon of influencers on social media, can risk changing the moral values of the younger generation. Therefore, tafsir that prioritizes simple values, such as those contained in surah Al-Isra', which teaches about the wise use of technology, can be a solution for generation Z in responding to the temptation of popularity on social media. This shows that the interpretation of the Qur'an is not only relevant in the context of worship, but also in facing moral challenges that arise due to technological developments (Ali, 2020).

The Relevance of Qur'an Tafsir in Facing Social Problems of Generation Z

Tafsir Al-Qur'an provides many guidelines that can be applied in daily life, including in dealing with social problems faced by generation Z. In this study, it was found that the Qur'an's interpretation of communication ethics and social interaction is very relevant to a fast-paced and open digital life. Surah Al-Hujurat, for example, teaches about the importance of maintaining honor and not spreading false

information, which can be applied in the context of social media which is often filled with false information or hoaxes. This interpretation provides a solid moral foundation for generation Z to act wisely in using technology and social media (Nasution, 2018a).

This research also shows that tafsir that associates social values in the Qur'an with the changing times can help generation Z to be wiser in interacting in cyberspace. Along with technological advancements, many of the moral values that have long been taught in the Qur'an remain relevant to be implemented in the modern context. Interpretation of verses that teach about social responsibility, justice, and unity, for example, can help Generation Z in understanding how to interact fairly and responsibly on social media. This is important so that they do not get caught up in the negative influences of cyberspace, such as bullying, spreading hatred, or violating privacy (Arifin, 2017).

Tafsir can also help generation Z in recognizing the social impact of the use of technology and social media. For example, an interpretation of the concept of "ghibah" or gossiping about others in the Qur'an can help Generation Z understand the moral consequences of their actions in cyberspace, where people often feel free to speak without paying attention to the feelings of others. In this case, the interpretation of the Qur'an provides a clear moral basis regarding the importance of maintaining honor and avoiding acts that harm others, both directly and in cyberspace. Interpretations that explain the rights of others and communication ethics will strengthen the moral attitude of Generation Z in socializing in cyberspace (Syaifuddin, 2018).

The Influence of Social Media on the Moral Values of Generation Z

The influence of social media on the moral values of generation Z is one of the important findings in this study. On the one hand, social media can be an effective means of spreading positive information, but on the other hand, social media also has the potential to damage the morality of the younger generation. This research shows that Generation Z tends to be influenced by the popularity and social status built through social media, which can lead to behaviors that do not reflect the moral values taught in Islam. In this case, the interpretation of the Qur'an can be a guide to direct the behavior of generation Z to stay on the right track, especially in using social media (Irfan, 2019).

Interpretation of the Qur'an, which emphasizes the principles of honesty, justice, and simplicity, can be a deterrent for generation Z not to be trapped in behavior that harms themselves or others in cyberspace. For example, surah Al-Isra' which teaches how to use technology wisely can be linked to how generation Z uses social media more responsibly. With the existence of interpretations that direct moral behavior, Generation Z can be wiser in choosing the content that is consumed and

disseminated, and more responsible in interacting with others in cyberspace (Nasution, 2018b).

In addition, the study also found that Gen Z is less likely to consider the long-term impact of what they do on social media. Their actions that are sometimes reckless or influenced by social pressure can have detrimental consequences. Tafsir that teaches about social responsibility and morality in interacting with others can help them avoid the negative influence of social media. By introducing this interpretation in religious education, it is hoped that Generation Z can be more sensitive to the social impact of their behavior in cyberspace (Amin, 2019b).

Modification and Development of Theory Through Research Findings

This research also contributes to the development of theories related to the use of Qur'an interpretation in the digital era. Along with the development of technology and social media, the interpretation of the Qur'an, which has been known for its traditional context, needs to be adapted to face the challenges of the times. This study shows that interpretation that is applicable to digital life can have a positive impact in guiding generation Z. Therefore, the theory resulting from this study proposes a more contextual interpretation approach with the development of the times, so that interpretation can be well received by the younger generation (Arifin, 2017).

This theoretical modification also includes the development of a religious education curriculum that emphasizes more on interpretations relevant to digital life. Generation Z needs religious education that not only teaches interpretation in the traditional context, but also in the context of social media and technology. With a contextual interpretation approach, generation Z can better understand how to live in accordance with the teachings of the Qur'an in the midst of the ever-evolving flow of digital information. This will make it easier for them to apply Islamic principles in their daily lives, especially in cyberspace (Nasuha, 2020).

Tafsir Al-Qur'an, in a digital context, also offers an opportunity to develop a dialogue between classical texts and contemporary issues relevant to the challenges of the times. For example, in the digital era, Muslims, especially Generation Z, are faced with various challenges not only related to technology, but also with rapidly evolving moral and social values. This research identifies that tafsir can serve as a bridge between the traditional understanding of the Qur'an text and the application of these principles in facing the complexity of the digital world. In this case, tafsir not only serves as an explanation of the text, but also as a practical guide to understanding and addressing issues such as hoaxes, misuse of technology, and unethical behavior in cyberspace (M.Azhar, 2020).

In addition, the development of interpretation theory in a digital context also opens up opportunities for the application of a multidisciplinary approach in

understanding the text of the Qur'an. This research proposes that interpretation should not only be taught in the framework of religion alone, but also combined with the study of communication science, sociology, and digital ethics. This approach will allow Generation Z to connect the values of the Qur'an with the reality of their digital lives in a more contextual way. For example, in communication studies, interpretations that talk about the ethics of speaking and interacting can provide a solid basis for overcoming the phenomenon of spreading false information and hate speech on social media. Therefore, combining tafsir with various disciplines will make it more relevant and applicable to the younger generation in the digital era (Fathi, 2019).

The concept of developing this theory of interpretation is also expected to expand the scope of understanding of how Islamic values can be applied in daily life in the digital world. For example, in addressing social media addiction and its impact on mental health, tafsir can provide a balanced perspective between the use of technology and the maintenance of mental well-being. Tafsir that teaches about the importance of balance between the spiritual world and the material world can provide guidance to generation Z in living a healthier life mentally and spiritually in the digital world. Thus, the modification and development of interpretation theory in this context is not only relevant for religious education, but can also be a tool to form a generation that is more critical, ethical, and wise in using technology (Lubis, 2021).

DISCUSSION

Generation Z lives in a highly connected world through technology, where the internet and social media play a central role in shaping their worldview. One of the biggest challenges faced by this generation is how they can utilize the interpretation of the Qur'an in their daily lives, especially in dealing with problems that develop due to technological advancements. Social media, although it provides many benefits, also has a negative impact on social and moral behavior, such as the spread of false information, cyberbullying, and digital addiction. In this context, the interpretation of the Qur'an has great potential to become a relevant moral guide for generation Z in facing these challenges. Surah Al-Hujurat, which teaches the ethics of communication, is very relevant to overcome the problem of spreading hoaxes on social media (Mujib, 2020).

Tafsir Al-Qur'an can be used as a tool to strengthen ethics in communicating in cyberspace. Surah Al-Hujurat, with its emphasis on the prohibition of spreading news that is not clear about the truth, provides a solid moral basis in dealing with the spread of hoaxes. The verses in this surah remind Muslims to always verify information before sharing it, a very important principle in the digital age full of information that is not necessarily true. In addition, tafsir also teaches about the importance of maintaining honor and respect for others, which can be applied in the context of

avoiding online bullying and negative discussions on social media. By implementing this interpretation, generation Z can reduce the adverse impact of negative behavior that develops in cyberspace (Hidayat, 2020).

The study also found that Generation Z is often more likely to follow social media trends and social standards in cyberspace, which are sometimes contrary to Islamic moral values. One of the phenomena that has emerged is the desire to become famous on social media without considering the long-term impact on themselves or others. Tafsir that teaches about simplicity and honesty in behavior is very important to compensate for this temptation of popularity. Surah Al-Isra', for example, teaches the importance of using technology wisely and not abusing the convenience provided by cyberspace for unbeneficial or detrimental purposes. These values can be a guideline for Generation Z not to fall into the trap of popularity that often contradicts Islamic principles (Salim, 2021).

Furthermore, Generation Z also needs to be given an understanding of how interpretation can be applied in the context of increasingly complex technology use, such as Al-based applications, social media, and other digital platforms. Tafsir Al-Qur'an is not only limited to the interpretation of texts, but can also serve as a guideline in living an ethical and responsible digital life. For example, interpretations that prioritize the values of social responsibility and justice can help Generation Z in responding to rapidly developing social issues in cyberspace, such as information inequality and discrimination. Thus, the interpretation of the Qur'an can serve as a tool to form a strong moral character in generation Z in the midst of the turmoil of the ever-changing digital world (Kadir, 2019).

Regarding religious education, the results of the study show that there is an urgent need to adapt the Islamic religious education curriculum to the rapid development of technology. The interpretation of the Qur'an that has been taught is more oriented towards theoretical and textual teaching, while in cyberspace, generation Z needs practical applications of these values. Religious education must be able to clearly explain how the values in the Qur'an can be applied in digital life, such as the importance of maintaining integrity in sharing information and interacting positively on social media. In this case, a more contextual interpretation can be a solution to teach Generation Z not only to understand the text of the Qur'an, but also to implement the teachings in their digital lives (Ahmad, 2020).

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positively on social media. In this case, a more contextual interpretation can be a solution to teach Generation Z not only to understand the text of the Qur'an, but also to implement the teachings in their digital lives (Zainal, 2020).

CONCLUSION

This section summarizes the results and discussions that refer to the purpose of the research, which is to analyze the relevance of Qur'an interpretation in providing social-moral guidance for Generation Z in the digital era. The study found that Generation Z often has a shallow understanding of religion, which is influenced by the prevalence of inaccurate information on social media. Moral challenges such as the spread of hoaxes, cyberbullying, and the temptation of popularity are the main problems they face, thus creating a conflict between religious values and the demands of the digital world.

To answer this challenge, the research proposes the importance of a more contextual and relevant interpretation approach to the digital era. Interpretation of the Qur'an that emphasizes communication ethics, information verification, and social responsibility can be effective guidelines. In addition, the religious education curriculum also needs to be adapted to be able to integrate the teachings of the Qur'an with digital life, so as to form a more ethical and responsible Generation Z. This research also highlights the role of Qur'anic interpretation which not only serves as an explanation of religious texts, but also as a tool to strengthen moral character, overcome cyber temptations, and maintain Muslim identity. A multidisciplinary approach that combines interpretation with social sciences, communication, and technology is also proposed to provide more comprehensive solutions to contemporary issues. Thus, the interpretation of the Qur'an can serve as a practical guide that helps Generation Z face moral and social challenges in the digital age more wisely.

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