

CONTRIBUTION OF ISLAM IN THE WORLD (Case Study of Islamic Education Transmission)

Nurlathifah Thulfitriah B.

Postgraduate of Alauddin State Islamic University of Makassar

Email: nurlathifah_tfb@ymail.com

Abstract: *Talking about the civilization of western, of course, it cannot be separated from the old history of Islam and the peak of its civilization. Before the power of science raised the spirits of western people who gave birth to the renaissance, Islam had experienced its golden age, while Europe was confined by the dark age. It reads a terrible condition, which Islam is busy with scientific studies so that it gives a civilization that has a very high value, unlike the western which closes rationality and relies on mystical. The spirit of moderation, liberation, and tolerance built by muslims, made westerners who chose to leave the old age free from pressure to make intellectual contact with muslim scholars. It is noted that they helped Islam a lot in translating Greek books into Arabic and translated by westerners into Latin. If you look closely, there is a common thread to connect these two different Qiblas. Muslims who reached the peak of glory in the Middle Ages, of course there was “interference” from other nations, such as the western. On the other hand, advanced western nations cannot be separated from the great contribution—consciously or unconsciously—by muslims in the past. Therefore, it is deemed necessary to recall Islam and its great contribution to the western world through Islamic education.*

Keywords: *Islamic Education Transmission; Contribution; Muslims and Western*

INTRODUCTION

History records that Islam reached its peak of glory with the ability to maximize reason, thus controlling almost a third of the world. This perspective leads to the concept of a balance between science for science, science for society, human science, and science of world peace).¹ Al-Quran's statement read, thus stimulating the spirit of knowledge, spirit of exploration, as contained in the verses of al-Quran.

“Do not you think?” or “Are you unreasonable?” and other verses that require learning, studying, and teaching science. Although at the beginning of its development, the science movement was intended to study religion and then developed in a wider scope known as scientific integration.

In line with al-Quran says in QS al-An'am/6: 50.

قُلْ لَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ عِنْدِي خَزَائِنُ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبِ وَلَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنِّي مَلَكٌ إِنِّي أَتَّبِعُ إِلَّا مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْبَصِيرُ أَفَلَا تَتَفَكَّرُونَ

¹Ahmad Asmuni, “Kontribusi Islam terhadap Perkembangan Barat”, *Jurnal Tamaddun*, vol. 5, no. 1 (2017), p. 167.

Translation:

“Say: Is the blind one the same as the one who sees? Then do not you show it.”²

Science and technology are the result of the development of muslim scholars so that Islam becomes the door to open the secrets of nature for the modernization of the western, namely Europe and America.³ Between Islam and the western is the interaction of culture, social, and intellectual in Spain, so the two civilizations met with co-shelf opposite. The meeting point of Islamic civilization brought by Arabs and western civilization is in Spain—in particular; fostering a new cultural, social and intellectual style.

Culture and generosity science built by muslim scholars to give the opportunity that is wide open for certain groups, any tribe studying in Spain. Including, Europeans was gathering visit Cordova to join *naqli and ‘aqli study*⁴ so that many old Greek manuscripts were "patched" by Islam, then studied.⁵ The results of the enlightenment were brought back to their respective regions to develop science in mainland Europe.

Interesting Qomar's writings in his book *Pioneering the Second Islamic Glory* on this statement,

Philosophers and scientists muslim have described as a teacher and non-muslim scientist (western philosophers) as his disciples in which members interpretations of what is not yet understood.⁶

The written statement above is proof that Islam occupies a higher position than western philosophers—in terms of intellect. They carry out tasks like teachers, provide intense guidance for students who do not understand, shape and build personality, provide training to be skilled, understand what has not been understood or give explanations that are not yet clear.

Furthermore, muslim philosophers and scholars were tolerant; very open to anyone, including western people of different religions though.⁷ This was done by muslim scientists to save their students from the brink of destruction because they were left behind and backward. From here, it can be read how big the contribution of Islam to its encounter with the western world.

²Kementerian Agama RI, *Mushaf Wakaf: Al-Quran dan Terjemahnya* (Cet. II; Jakarta: Forum Pelayanan Al-Quran, 2013), p. 133.

³Mumuh Muhsin, “Warisan Islam terhadap Perkembangan Islam: Mengapresiasi Pemikiran Nurcholish Madjid dan S. I. Poeradisastra” (Papers presented at the national seminar in Padjajaran University, Bandung, 10th December 2010), p. 6.

⁴Muhammad Dahlan, “Kontribusi Peradaban Islam terhadap Peradaban Barat; Suatu Tinjauan Historis”, *Rihlah: Jurnal Sejarah dan Kebudayaan*, vol. 6 no. 1 (2018), p. 1.

⁵As-Syaikhu, “Intelktualitas Islam dan Kontribusinya atas Kemajuan Dunia Barat”, *Jurnal Falasifa*, vol. 10, no. 2 (2019), p. 96.

⁶Mujamil Qomar, *Merintis Kejayaan Islam Kedua: Merombak Pemikiran dan Mengembangkan Aksi* (Cet. I; Penerbit Teras: Yoyakarta, 2011), p. 36.

⁷Wahyuddin Noor, “Menelisik Sumbangan Islam untuk Peradaban Modern”, *Jurnal Dakwah dan Pengembangan Sosial Kemanusiaan*, vol. 8, no. 1 (2017), p. 77.

MUSLIM INTELLECTUAL TRACES AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESTERN WORLD

Have you ever heard that Islam triumphs in the darkness of the west? It is based on the fact about the rise of intellect muslim in the area of science that is integral and harmonious and in parts of Europe there is stagnation due to the dogmatism of the church. More, Obaid⁸ called the West in the middle ages as the dark age and at the same time Islam shone brightly with civilization called the golden age, even illuminates the dark and closed parts of Europe, also reflects light to other parts of the world.

This situation is a rational reason, why scientists in parts of Europe choose to emigrate from their own country. Islam is admired from any side because of the wisdom that is built, the spirit of developing knowledge that does not go up and down is the main attraction in knowing the treasures of science and making it the mecca of knowledge to find out more about the world of civilization.

Transfer of knowledge of “Islam to the Western World” by Obaid recorded by way-how to this⁹, namely:

University Establishment

Through the establishment of major universities over several centuries, universities in Baghdad, Cairo University, Cordova University, and many more. Among the most famous to this day is Cairo University in Egypt—+10 centuries-old with 12 thousand alumni.

Great Library Establishment

Through the large library containing thousands of volumes, call the western people to visit and even stay for reviewing and translating books.¹⁰ The development of science was followed by the expansion of libraries spread across Spain with a fantastic number. Hasyim Asy'ari said that the Canterbury Church library—the center of the wealthiest libraries in the western world—could not exceed the number of volumes in the Islamic world.¹¹

Furthermore, recorded in history that the treasures of muslim scholarship at that time reached 600,000 volumes of books in the Cordova Library, Al-Hakim Library in Andalusia has 40 rooms with 18,000 volumes. History also records a large library in Baghdad—the capital of the Abbasid dynasty, which holds thousands of scientific literature initiated by al-Ma'mun (the caliph of love of science).¹²

Through this information, it is clear that Baghdad and Cordova are centers of science and culture that have contributed greatly to the civilization of the classical and medieval Islamic world. In short, these two places are the forerunners of the scientific mecca of the

⁸H. Moh. Yahya Obaid, *Kontribusi Islam terhadap Kebangkitan Barat* [t. d.], p. 19.

⁹H. Moh. Yahya Obaid, *Kontribusi Islam terhadap Kebangkitan Barat*, p. 28-29.

¹⁰ Muh. Huzain, “Pengaruh Peradaban Islam terhadap Dunia Barat”, *Tasamuh: Jurnal Studi Islam*, vol. 10, no. 2 (2018), p. 363.

¹¹Hasyim Asy'ari, “Renaissance Eropa dan Transmisi Keilmuan Islam ke Eropa”, *Jurnal Sejarah Peradaban Islam*, vol. 2, no. 1 (2018), p. 5.

¹²Nursaman, *Sejarah Pendidikan Islam Membangun Peradaban di Baghdad, Cordova, dan Indonesia* [t. d.], p. 7-9.

East and West, where Islam is represented as a religion that is relevant to all nations—universal, by its nature.

Student Delivery

Western scholars came to muslim areas to study privately, Constantinus Africanus was one of them and was followed by other regions in Europe. It is true that Spain—at that time—was a center of learning with the existence of Cordova University.¹³ They studied mathematics, philosophy as a result of the translation of Greek books. Thus, western scholars were born who built universities following the learning system applied by muslims. For example, Frederick II was the first to establish the University of Naples in Europe,¹⁴ Bologna Italy, and other universities.

From this, it is clear that Islam shows the western world that education is not only for muslims, but all human beings—including non-muslims.¹⁵ Through the literature produced by muslim scholars, they are affected and open the way to western innovation, pursue scientific experiments, explore discoveries through research, and formulate theories that are generated through the search effort.

The following is the real contribution of Islamic education to the western world¹⁶, namely:

Intellectual Field

- a. Philosophy; Abu Bakr Muhammad bin al-Sayigh—known as Ibn Bajjah—appeared as an important figure in the history of muslim philosophers, then in the 12th century, there was Abdul Wahid Muhammad bin Rushd—Ibn Rushd—from Cordova.¹⁷ Thereafter, Arab philosophers began dyeing his mind by understanding Averroes, one of which is the concept of free will; individual freedom but the space for movement is not outside the laws of nature and God.¹⁸
- b. Exact Science; Among the great works of muslim scientists in the exact field, namely:
 1. Algebra; Islamic literature known in mathematics, the world of arithmetic by al-Khwarizmi—the owner of the full name, Muhammad bin Musa bin Khwarizmi. To this day, an algebraic theory is used in education.
 2. Astrology; Islamic literature is known in the field of astronomy, learns about the rotation of the celestial bodies.¹⁹ Muslims interested in learning about astronomy as closely associated with the worship of Islam-like, the initial determination of fasting feast of ‘Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. So important is this knowledge,

¹³Hasyim Asy’ari, “Renaissance Eropa dan Transmisi Keilmuan Islam ke Eropa”, *Jurnal Sejarah Peradaban Islam*, vol. 2, no. 1 (2018), p. 5.

¹⁴H. Moh. Yahya Obaid, *Kontribusi Islam terhadap Kebangkitan Barat*, p. 28.

¹⁵Muh. Huzain, “Pengaruh Peradaban Islam terhadap Dunia Barat”, *Tasamuh: Jurnal Studi Islam*, vol. 10, no. 2 (2018), p. 364.

¹⁶As-Syaikhu, “Intelektualitas Islam dan Kontribusinya atas Kemajuan Dunia Barat”, *Jurnal Falasifa*, vol. 10, no. 2 (2019), p. 97.

¹⁷Badri Yatim, *Sejarah Peradaban Islam* (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2003), p. 93.

¹⁸Novrizal Wendi, “Pengaruh Peradaban Islam terhadap Dunia Barat”, *Tasamuh: Jurnal Studi Islam*, vol. 8, no. 1 (2016), p. 64.

¹⁹Dedi Wahyudi dan Rahayu Fitri AS, “Islam dan Dialog Antar Kebudayaan (Studi Dinamika Islam di Dunia Barat)”, *Jurnal Fikri*, vol. 1, no. 2 (2016), p. 278-279.

that Ibrahim bin Yahya al-Naqqas—an expert Muslim astronomer—is included in the top 20 most important astronomers in the world. His contribution is still visible today, through careful calculations based on the rotation of the celestial bodies.

3. Science Chemistry; In development, Muslim scientists contributed greatly in discovering several chemical substances that can be combined to form useful new substances. The work in the form of a summary of the chemical sciences is a great service from Jabir Abu Musa bin Hayyan, known as the “Father of Chemistry” because he is an expert in the field of chemistry. One of the findings is a distillation device that makes it easier to get fuel oil.²⁰ Because of this, many chemical terms have been adapted from Arabic, such as alcohol, alkali, and even chemical terms.
 4. Medical Sciences; a famous muslim figure who is an expert in this field is Abu Ali al-Hussein bin Abdullah bin Sina—as Ibn Sina or Avicenna. Not only that, 300 years before Servet—a Portuguese doctor—by people who claimed to be the first inventor, in fact in 1289 Ibn al-Nafis, a Syrian national, managed to accurately represent the human blood circulation system.²¹ Not only that, al-Razi, an expert on smallpox and measles who wrote a book on Pediatric Medicine.²² In addition, al-Zahrawi Abu al-Qasim Khalaf, a surgeon who was very famous and whose books became a reference for muslim doctors centuries after.
 5. Optical Science; by Ibn Haritsam, the inventor of the lens glass which is the key to the world of industry and technology. His writings *Maqalah fī Hayāt al-Alam* have been translated into several languages so that Keppler's discovery—known to modern opticians—is based on the work of Ibn Haritsam.
- c. Sociology and Politics; A famous sociologist in western civilization is Ibn Khaldun. His work is *Prolegomena*, a book that discusses general reflections on human history, differences in certain climates, nomadic life people²³, the customs of the people in an area, including the background of civilization and the status of human social institutions. Meanwhile, in the political field, al-Farabi wrote about the requirements to become a plenary head of state to ensure the survival of the population.
- d. History; Because Arab society (in particular) is very famous for its wandering nature; long trips across continents for trade, so it is necessary to know the science of geography and know the history of each region that is traversed or explored. Famous muslim scientists in the field of history are Hasan Ali al-Masudi and Ibn Maskawaih, a muslim historian who wrote the book *Tajārib al-Umam*, a story about Arabs and Persians who had fought before Islam was born.

²⁰Chairil Anwar, “Kontribusi Islam terhadap Perkembangan IPTEK”, *Jurnal UNISIA*, no. 24 (1994), p. 35.

²¹Mohammed Arkoun, *Rethinking Islam*, terj. Yudian W. Asmin dan Lathiful Khuluq, *Rethinking Islam* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 1996), p. 24.

²²Dedi Wahyudi dan Rahayu Fitri AS, “Islam dan Dialog Antar Kebudayaan (Studi Dinamika Islam di Dunia Barat)”, *Jurnal Fikri*, vol. 1, no. 2 (2016), p. 278-279.

²³That is, moving or not settling (nomadic), quoted from KBBI Edition V Version 0.4.0 Beta.

- e. Arts; in the field of sound the famous legend of a singer named Abul Hasan Ali bin Nafi'—nicknamed Ziryab—with his expertise in changing musical instruments²⁴ thus prompting him to establish a music conservatory for children in Andalusia.

Physical Building

It has become an advanced scientific tradition, namely physical development with beautiful architectural nuances. The results of muslim art are calligraphy ornaments, classical ornaments; the magnificent and sturdy buildings that were designed by the hands of muslims can be seen from palaces, mosques, libraries, urban planning developments, settlements, parks, and other public buildings. Among the luxurious buildings is the mosque of Cordova, the City of al-Zahra—the country's most magnificent, beautiful Granada with its al-Hamra palace, Cordova University, and many other buildings.

Apart from some of the explanations described by the author above, it turns out that there are still hundreds of muslim scientists from all fields that cannot be raised in this paper. That is, in short, the contribution of Islam can be seen clearly in the western world by looking at developments in the following matters, among others:

- a. Enriching the treasures of western literature by translating Greek books into various scientific fields.
- b. Muslim scientists, show an inclusive attitude to culture.
- c. Giving an overview to western people about the model of educational institutions, from low education to college.
- d. Introduced the world's paper mills to westerners, thus opening a forum for writing scientific works afterward.
- e. Islam stimulated western people to rise against adversity, so the renaissance movement was born²⁵ which is secularist and dichotomous.

After getting “nutritional intake” from muslim scholars, they are aggressively developing in the field of science in the European region—the place of origin. Thus, tracing the traces of the contribution of Islam in other western worlds can be seen from the work *Introduction to the History of Science*²⁶ which covers nearly a third of the book's 840 pages. This, of course, is the task of education observers in the modern era, to dig back so that the next generation is not blinded by history.

SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS OF ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN THE WESTERN WORLD

The author finds several arguments that can be the answer to the question, “Why is Islam able to develop science and technology so that it becomes the center of civilization?” coupled with a fairly long period—centuries. Summing up some of the literature that discusses Islam and civilization it is found that.

²⁴Philip K. Hitti, *History of the Arabs: From the Earliest Times to the Present*, terj. R. Cecep Lukman Yasin dan Dedi Slamet Riyadi, *The History of the Arabs* (Cet. I; Jakarta: PT Serambi Ilmu Semesta, 2010), p. 654.

²⁵Mohammed Arkoun, *Rethinking Islam*, terj. Yudian W. Asmin dan Lathiful Khuluq, *Rethinking Islam*, p. 24.

²⁶George Sarton, *A Guide to the History of Science* (New York: The Ronald Press Company, 1952), [n. p.].

Guidelines for the Quran and Hadith

Islam underlies the Koran and hadith as a reference for studying science and technology. Nearly one-eighth of the verses—750 verses—in the holy book command the use of reason, study nature and humans, along with their reflections. In line with that, the hadith of the Prophet, instructing people to study knowledge from any source and anywhere, even says “Seek knowledge as far as China”—in fact a non-muslim country—is deliberately mentioned because of his contribution in the inventor of the first paper. Without realizing it, it became a way for muslim scholars to print and record the books they had written. Chairil Anwar²⁷ mentions that a paper transfer for non-muslim contributions resulted in the creation of 400,000 books in the library of Cordova.

Factor Requirement (Needs Factor)

It is exemplified inventions that facilitate human activities that are practical and useful for the public stimulate the development of science and technology. Because of this, chemists, physicists, astronomers, mathematicians, pharmacists, and medicine emerged. Like the needs of worship, muslims need certainty about the scheduling of prayer times and the direction of the Qibla. To that end, the science of astronomers muslim used to set the time of prayer, fasting ramadan, and the celebration of ‘Eid or hajj.

Choice Factors (Appreciation Factor)

The award in question is the promise of the Qur’an for people who have the knowledge and teaches it in QS al-Mujādalah/58: 11 that Allah swt., will elevate the degree of those who believe and have knowledge. It is also recorded in history, about society’s high respect for scientists, so that there is an awareness of developing science and technology.

Furthermore, Montgomery Watt²⁸ in his book *Islam and World Civilization* members, the statement that there are three (3) things that memes been influenced Islamic culture to the western world, namely:

- a. The contribution of muslims is unquestionable, judging by the “saving” level of life of the backward Europeans at that time.
- b. The character of Islam and Arab influences has been widely adopted by Europeans, but not realized.
- c. The Islamic literature studied has awakened the spirit and growth of Europe’s innovative imagination and political genius.
- d. In response to this, the influence of Islam on the western world lies not only in the fields of science and technology but in all aspects of life. For example, Muhammad Dahlan²⁹ in his journal wrote that the graduation gown used today by westerners is an adaptation of the model of muslim students who graduate from Islamic universities.

The historical fact about “Europe owes to Islam” has been controversial for some time due to not accepting western people, now it is becoming clear and recognized, “*We have a*

²⁷Chairil Anwar, “Kontribusi Islam terhadap Perkembangan IPTEK”, *Jurnal UNISIA*, no. 24 (1994), p. 36.

²⁸W. Montgomery Watt, *Islam dan Peradaban Dunia* (Jakarta: PT. Gramedia Pustaka, 1997), p. 42.

²⁹Muhammad Dahlan, “Kontribusi Peradaban Islam terhadap Peradaban Barat; Suatu Tinjauan Historis” *Rihlah: Jurnal Sejarah dan Kebudayaan*, vol. 6 no. 1 (2018), p. 7.

*debt to Islam civilization, and it must not be forgotten by European generation.*³⁰ Contrary to what George Sarton—a well-known history writer—in his book,

*“... to say that there was no Arabic science is like saying that, there is no American science. The Arabic simply translated Greek writings, they were industrial imitators and by the way, translation was not made by themselves but by Christians and Jews.”*³¹

It's just that in history, Islam experienced ups and downs marked by a decline in the 13th century, another story in the Western world. Wahyudi and Fitri³² writes that this non-muslim nation is progressing in the fields of science and technology. In fact, at the time of Islam rule the world, the west is still “asleep” for centuries.³³ Chaos ensued because of the Mongol colonization followed by the Crusades and French imperialism led by Napoleon Bonaparte with an attack of 38,000 soldiers destroying Islam. Later, several intellectuals and modern European literary treasures were taken, including scientific laboratories and Arabic printing presses.³⁴

Beginning at that time, the rise of the western people known as the renaissance upright and became a symbol of the power and power of the western world, by al-Siba'i³⁵ called it two seals, namely the stamp of Greek philosophy—the material tendency, and the seal of being far from religion. Therefore, anthropocentric thoughts were born.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION

Conclusion

From this paper, several conclusions can be drawn, namely:

Science and technology are the result of the development of muslim scholars so that Islam becomes the door to open the secrets of nature for the modernization of the western world, namely Europe and America. Between Islam and the west there was a cultural, social, and intellectual interaction in Spain, so that two civilizations with opposite styles met.

The traces of muslim intellectuals and their contribution to the western world can be seen from the sending of non-muslim students to study in muslim areas, the construction of large universities, and the spread of libraries with thousands of literary treasures.

3 (three) things that affect the culture of Islam against the west, namely: a) “Rescue” the level life of the people of Europe are underdeveloped; b) Islamic character and Arab influences have been widely adopted by Europeans; and c) the Islamic literature studied has aroused the spirit of Europe's innovative imagination and political genius.

³⁰H. Moh. Yahya Obaid, *Kontribusi Islam terhadap Kebangkitan Barat*, p. 22.

³¹George Sarton, *A Guide to the History of Science*, [n. p.].

³²Dedi Wahyudi dan Rahayu Fitri AS, “Islam dan Dialog Antar Kebudayaan (Studi Dinamika Islam di Dunia Barat)”, *Jurnal Fikri*, vol. 1, no. 2 (2016), p. 269.

³³Muhammad Dahlan, “Kontribusi Peradaban Islam terhadap Peradaban Barat; Suatu Tinjauan Historis”, *Rihlah: Jurnal Sejarah dan Kebudayaan*, vol. 6 no. 1 (2018), p. 2.

³⁴K. Amstrong, *Berperang Demi Tuhan: Fundamentalisme dalam Islam, Kristen, dan Yahudi* (Cet. III; Jakarta: Penerbit Mizan, 2002), p. 92-93.

³⁵Musthafa Husni al-Siba'i, *Khazanah Peradaban Islam* (Cet. I; Bandung: Pustaka Setia, 2002), p. 16.

Implication

It turns out that there are still hundreds of muslim scientists from all fields that cannot be presented in this paper. Of course, it is the duty of education observers in the modern era, to explore history so that the next generation is not blinded by history.

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