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Research Article

Sufistic Interpretation and its Influence in Islamic Spirituality: the Main characteristics of Sufistic Interpretation and its Method of Interpretation of the Verses of the Qur'an

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Abstrak. The main purpose of this study is to identify the main characteristics of Sufistic interpretation and analyze its methods of interpretation of Qur'anic verses as well as their influence on Islamic spirituality. The research method used is library research, which includes document analysis and literature review of works of sufistic interpretation, especially those written by figures such as Ibn Arabi and Jalaluddin Rumi. This study also involves a comparative analysis between sufistic interpretation and conventional interpretation to explore differences in approach and emphasis. The results of the study show that sufistic interpretation has two layers of meaning: the meaning of birth

(zahir) and the meaning of the inner (bathin). The sharia dimension provides legal guidelines, while the Sufism dimension opens up space for deeper spiritual understanding. Methods of interpretation in sufistic interpretation, such as ta'wil and contemplation, allow individuals to not only understand the text intellectually, but also feel the Divine presence in their lives. This study found that Sufistic interpretation plays an important role in enriching Islamic spirituality, encouraging people to deepen their relationship with God and live the teachings of the Qur'an in a more personal and transformative way. The significance of this research lies in its contribution to broadening the horizons of Qur'anic interpretation, particularly from a sufistic perspective, as well as demonstrating the relevance of this approach in the spiritual life of Muslims in the contemporary era. This research is expected to provide inspiration for further research on the relationship between sacred texts and spiritual experiences in the Islamic tradition.

Keywords: Sufi Tafsir; Islamic spirituality; Tafsir Method

INTRODUCTION

Understanding the Qur'an has an important position in the lives of Muslims as the main guide to happiness in this world and the hereafter. As science develops in understanding the Qur'an, various methods of interpretation, including sufistic interpretation, have emerged that emphasize the spiritual and esoteric aspects of the Qur'anic text (Alatas, 2024; Atak, 2024; Lala, 2024; Milani, 2024; Zare & Williams, 2024). Sufistic interpretation is a profound approach, influenced by the teachings of Sufism or Sufism, and encourages an inner understanding of divine messages (Cahyono et al., 2024). This tafsir was born in response to the need for a deeper understanding of the essence of Islamic teachings, focusing on mystical experiences and self-purification (Polinsky, 2024). This tradition has existed since the era of classical Islam and was revived by figures such as Al-Ghazali, Ibn Arabi, and Rumi, who gave a contemplative and mystical style in interpreting the verses of the Qur'an (Rohman et al., 2023). In contemporary life, Sufistic interpretation is increasingly attracting attention because it is able to answer the longing for spiritual depth in the midst of modern life which is often filled with materialism and individualism (Muktashim et al., 2024). This approach offers an understanding that goes beyond religious rituals, making religion a way of life that brings inner peace and peace.

The influence of Sufistic interpretation in the spiritual life of Muslims is quite significant. This approach enriches the understanding of the Qur'an by directing the people to reflect on the deep meaning of the verses, not just understanding their literal meaning (Affani & An, 2024). For example, concepts such as *ihsan* (performing worship with full awareness of God's presence) and *zuhud* (reducing dependence on the world) explained in Sufistic interpretation exert a strong influence on the formation of Islamic spirituality (Ayuni et al., 2023). This Sufistic approach also encourages more solemn and introspective worship practices, as well as enriches the understanding of symbolic or ambiguous verses. Sufistic interpretation not only serves as a theoretical understanding, but also inspires to practice the values of sincerity, patience, and love in daily life (Zahra et al., 2024). In addition, this tafsir

offers an inclusive and harmonious perspective that helps Muslims overcome differences in interpretation and diversity of understanding within society.

However, although there is a lot of literature that discusses sufistic interpretation from a theoretical perspective, there are several research gaps that have not been widely researched. One of them is the lack of empirical research on the direct impact of Sufistic interpretation on changes in individual spiritual behavior in Muslim societies (Pratama et al., 2024). This research is needed to see the extent to which Sufistic interpretation really affects the daily behavior and religious practices of Muslims (Faaqih et al., 2024). In addition, Sufistic interpretation is often studied on the basis of classical works and medieval Sufi traditions (Filmizan et al., 2024). Research documenting the relevance of Sufistic interpretation in modern Muslim society is still limited, especially in the face of the challenges of globalization, modernity, and secularization (Hartafan & AN, 2024). Another important research gap is the influence of Sufistic interpretation among the younger generation, who are now increasingly exposed to pragmatic and materialist views (Akram et al., 2024). The extent to which Sufistic interpretation can attract the attention of the younger generation and influence their spirituality is still very little discussed in the literature (Aliyatul et al., 2024). Finally, the literature on Sufistic interpretation is generally theoretical in nature and is rarely associated with interdisciplinary approaches such as psychology or sociology of religion, even though this approach can provide new insights into how Sufistic interpretation can play a role in the mental health and psychological well-being of Muslims (Huda et al., 2024).

By looking at these various gaps, this research will be very relevant and has the potential to make a significant contribution in revealing the extent to which Sufistic interpretation can affect the spiritual quality of Muslims in modern life (Fadhilah & Nirwana, 2023). In-depth research on Sufistic interpretation can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the role of this interpretation, not only as a guide to religious understanding, but also as a relevant source of spiritual enlightenment for modern society (Cahyo et al., 2022).

The Urgency of Research In the realm of Islamic studies, especially in the study of interpretation, various approaches have emerged that offer unique perspectives on the understanding of the Qur'an (Nur Rochim et al., 2023). One approach that often attracts attention, both from academics and religious practitioners, is sufistic interpretation (Majid & An, 2024). This tafsir focuses on the esoteric and symbolic interpretation of the Qur'an, emphasizing the deep inner aspects (Faisal Purnomosidi et al., 2024). This approach often emphasizes spiritual experience and inner transformation more than literal or legal interpretation.

The urgency of this research is increasingly relevant because of the development of modern spirituality which shows an increase in interest in sufistic studies, both among Muslims and the wider community (Anshara et al., 2024). In the midst of globalization and modernization, which often marginalize the values of religiosity, many individuals are looking for inner equality and a deeper meaning of life (Abdurrahman et al., 2024). The Sufistic approach to understanding the Qur'an offers an alternative to finding the depth of this meaning and can be a means to meet these spiritual needs.

However, the Sufistic approach to tafsir also faces criticism, especially from groups that adhere to the literal understanding of religious texts (Meylani et al., 2024). For them, the sufistic approach is considered too subjective and opens up space for interpretations that are not in accordance with the normative rules in Islam (Nirwana, 2019); (Nirwana, 2020a). This research is important to provide a more balanced and in-depth understanding of how Sufistic interpretation is not only valid in Islamic spirituality but also contributes positively to the increasingly individualistic aspects of modern life.

This research aims to: Map and Analyze Sufistic Interpretation Approaches: Formulate various views and approaches in Sufistic interpretation, both from classical and contemporary scholars, and explore the esoteric meanings they offer (AN & Zaglul Fitriani, 2020). Identifying the Influence of Sufistic Interpretation in Islamic Spirituality: Analyzing the extent to which Sufistic interpretation affects the spiritual life of Muslims, both in daily worship practices and in the achievement of deeper meaning in life (Nirwana, Hayati, et al., 2020). Bridging the Discourse between Sufistic Interpretation and Normative Interpretation: Seeking a balance of views between the Sufistic approach and the normative approach so that both can be understood more holistically (Nirwana AN, 2021). Offering a New Perspective in the Development of Modern Islamic Spirituality: Examining the relevance of sufistic interpretation in the context of modern Islamic spirituality that can be a solution to human inner problems in the era of globalization.

Through these goals, this research is expected to enrich the scientific treasures of interpretation and provide alternative views for those who seek spiritual balance in life, especially in the midst of modern life which often distances humans from the depths of the heart (Nirwana, Djuned, et al., 2020). The solutions that are expected to be obtained from this research include: Expanding Insight into Diverse Interpretations in Islam: By understanding sufistic interpretation, Muslims and academics can have a broader understanding of the diversity of approaches in understanding the Qur'an (Nirwana, 2020b). This is important to strengthen tolerance and openness in religion (Nirwana, Hidayat, & Suharjianto, 2020). Presenting a New Perspective in the Development of Personal Spirituality: Sufistic interpretation provides an alternative to the attainment of spirituality that is based not only on external rituals but also on inner cleansing and transformation (Nirwana et al., 2023). This approach can be a solution for individuals who feel bored or lack meaning in their daily worship practices (Nirwana, Tamami, et al., 2021). Making Sufistic Interpretation a Unifying Tool in the Midst of Islamic Diversity: In a global context, Muslims face the challenge of division due to differences in interpretation (Nirwana AN et al., 2022). Sufistic interpretation, which tends to be more inclusive and emphasizes universal aspects, can be one approach that encourages the unity of the people (Nirwana AN, Mustofa, et al., 2023). Finding the Relevance of Sufistic Tafsir in Modern Life: By understanding the esoteric messages contained in the Qur'an, Sufistic Tafsir is expected to provide guidance for Muslims in facing the challenges of modern life such as materialism, hedonism, and identity crises (Basir et al., 2022). There is also a formulation of the problem to be solved: What are the main

characteristics of Sufistic interpretation and its method of interpretation of the verses of the Qur'an?

Literature Review

Annemarie Schimmel wrote an article entitled: *Mystical Dimensions of Islam*, The result of her study is that Schimmel elaborates on the influence of Sufistic interpretation on spiritual understanding in Islam, especially through the concepts of love and makrifat (mystical knowledge)(Nirwana, Sari, et al., 2021). He found that Sufistic interpretation gave way to the expression of mystical experience in Islam and supported Sufistic practice as a spiritual path.

Toshihiko Izutsu conducted research entitled: *Sufism and Taoism: A Comparative Study of Key Philosophical Concepts*, Izutsu examined Sufistic concepts in interpretation such as fana (self-fusion in God) and baqa (eternity with God), and compared mystical aspects of Islam with Taoism(AN, 2013). He found that Sufistic interpretation enriched the theological perspective of Islam and encouraged a deeper understanding of human existence in its relationship with God.

Henry Corbin made a research entitled: *Alone with the Alone: Creative Imagination in the Sufism of Ibn 'Arabi*, Study Results: In this research, Corbin explored Ibn 'Arabi's Sufistic interpretation centered on the concept of wahdat al-wujud (existential unity)(An et al., 2021);(AN & Cahyo, 2023). The results of the study show that Ibn 'Arabi's Sufistic Commentary promotes a highly personal and imaginative understanding of the relationship with God, where interpretation is considered a means for spiritual attainment.

Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd made a research entitled: *The Qur'an and Hermeneutics: Toward a Sufi Interpretative Model*, Study Results: Abu Zayd proposed an interpretation model that included a Sufistic approach in the hermeneutics of the Qur'an, with the aim of strengthening spirituality and ethical values(Andri Nirwana et al., 2024). He concluded that Sufistic interpretation is able to give a deeper meaning to the allegorical text of the Qur'an, especially in verses related to love and divinity.

Seyyed Hossein Nasr wrote a book titled: *The Garden of Truth: The Vision and Promise of Sufism, Islam's Mystical Tradition*, Nasr examines how Sufistic interpretation develops spirituality and offers a path to inner peace and understanding of God(Nirwana AN & Jalil, 2022). Through the approach of sufistic interpretation, Nasr found that Sufism fosters deep spiritual awareness and practices that lead to the ultimate goal of union with God.

William C. Chittick made a research entitled: *The Sufi Path of Knowledge: Ibn al-'Arabi's Metaphysics of Imagination*, Results: Chittick explored Ibn 'Arabi's Sufistic interpretation and its influence on the development of mystical concepts in Islam(Andri Nirwana et al., 2019a). In his study, Chittick concluded that Sufistic interpretation is key to understanding deeper reality, paving the way for humans to approach God through mystical visions and divine love.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research Approach and Type

- Approach: This research uses a qualitative approach, which aims to explore the meaning, value, and concept of spirituality in sufistic interpretation (Nirwana, Hidayat, Hayati, et al., 2020). Through this approach, the research focuses on a deep understanding of Sufistic interpretation and its impact on Islamic spirituality.
- Type of Research: This research is a *library research*, where data is collected and analyzed from relevant literature sources, such as tafsir works, Sufism books, scientific journals, and secondary literature that discusses Sufistic interpretation (Nirwana AN, Nurrohim, et al., 2023).

Data Source

- Primary Data: The main sources in this study are Sufistic tafsir books from prominent Sufi scholars, such as *Futuh al-Makkiyah* by Ibn 'Arabi, *Lata'if al-Isharat* by al-Qusyairi, and Rumi's works that have aspects of spiritual interpretation (Nirwana et al., 2019).
- Secondary Data: Journal articles, academic books, and previous research examining concepts in Sufistic interpretation and their influence on the development of Islamic spirituality, as well as biographical books of relevant Sufi scholars (Utaminingsih & Purwati, 2024).

Data Collection Techniques

- Document Study: The data collection technique in this study is through document study, where the researcher collects data from various relevant written sources (Fiddarain et al., 2024). This method includes a critical reading of Sufistic interpretive works and an interpretive analysis of texts that discuss Sufistic concepts.
- Bibliography: During the reading process, researchers create bibliographic notes to record important information, key themes, and central concepts found in the data source.

Data Analysis Techniques

- Content Analysis: This technique is used to understand and identify central themes and Sufistic concepts related to spirituality in the books of tafsir (Andri Nirwana et al., 2019b). Content analysis helps in classifying the main ideas, such as the concepts of love, mortality, *baqa*, and *makrifat*, which are important parts of sufistic interpretation.
- Qualitative Analysis: After identifying the main themes, researchers use qualitative analysis to understand the deep meaning behind the text, looking for connections between the concept of Sufistic interpretation and the practice of Islamic spirituality (A.N. et al., 2024).
- Source Criticism: Involves evaluating the accuracy and relevance of the data, ensuring that the sources used are credible and appropriate to develop an understanding of the influence of sufistic interpretation on spirituality (Rhain et al., 2024).

Research Steps

- Identification of Research Topics and Problems: Formulate research problems and focus on the influence of Sufistic interpretation on Islamic spirituality.
- Literature Collection: Searching for and collecting relevant primary and secondary literature, especially works of tafsir and Sufism that contain Sufistic aspects.
- Data Classification: Grouping data based on key themes, such as the concepts of love, makrifat, mortality, and baqa in sufistic interpretation.
- Data Analysis: Using content and qualitative analysis to understand and interpret the themes that have been classified.
- Writing Research Results: Compile the results of the analysis in the form of descriptions and interpretations, show the influence of Sufistic interpretation on Islamic spirituality, and conclude how Sufistic interpretation affects the understanding and practice of spirituality in Islam.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Theoretical Framework

Sufistic interpretation, as one of the approaches to the interpretation of the Qur'an, focuses on the esoteric and inner dimensions that go beyond the literal understanding of the text. Sufistic interpretation is an interpretation method that emerged from the Sufism tradition that aims to find the deepest meaning or essence of the verses of the Qur'an (Esack, 2002);(Muthoifin, Abuzar, et al., 2024). Through this approach, Sufi mufasirs seek to bring together spiritual experience and symbolic meaning in the Qur'an to reach the level of ma'rifat or essential knowledge(Muthoifin, Hamid, et al., 2024). In the course of Islamic history, Sufistic interpretation has played a major role in developing a profound aspect of spirituality among Muslims, especially in regions that have strong Sufism traditions.

Definition of Sufistic Interpretation

According to Al-Ghazali, Sufistic interpretation is a method that emphasizes the inner aspect of the verses of the Qur'an, where this interpretation not only seeks the visible meaning (exoteric) but also the hidden meaning (esoteric) (Nasr, 2006);(Nirwana et al., 2024). This interpretation was born from the belief that each verse has layers of meaning that can only be understood through spiritual experience(An et al., 2025). Sufi mufasir believes that the deepest meanings of the Qur'an are not accessible to those who only have linguistic or logical knowledge, but require a cleansing of the heart and deep inner experience(Ardiansyah et al., 2024).

One of the Sufistic figures who is famous for his tafsir is Ibn Arabi, a great Sufi from Andalusia. In his commentary, Ibn Arabi used an approach called "ta'wil", which is an interpretation method that emphasizes symbolism, where every word in the Qur'an contains a meaning related to the Divine essence(AN, ., et al., 2024). Meanwhile, Jalaluddin Rumi, with a more poetic style, explains the verses of the Qur'an with a narrative and metaphorical approach to invite readers to enter the deep inner world.

Methods and Characteristics of Sufistic Interpretation

Sufistic interpretation has different characteristics from other interpretations. This method includes several unique approaches, including:

1. Ta'wil Interpretation: Ta'wil is a method of understanding the Qur'an that focuses not only on the text but also on the inner context or hidden meaning of the verses. This interpretation emphasizes the relationship between man and God as well as the inner essences that are invisible to the naked eye (Schimmel, 1987);(Waston, Wiranto, et al., 2024);(Wahid et al., 2023).
2. Symbolism: Sufistic interpretation often uses symbols or metaphors to explain Divine concepts(Waston, Muthoifin, et al., 2024). For example, water and light are often used as symbols of divine knowledge or guidance(Marthoenis et al., 2019). This symbolism is intended to invite readers to interpret verses in their lives, so that the spiritual meaning of the Qur'an can be felt directly.
3. Inner Experience (Dzauq): According to Sufis, inner experience or a direct sense of God's presence is one of the necessary means to understand the meaning of the Qur'an in depth. Al-Qushayri states that a Sufi needs to experience dhikr, night prayers, and self-isolation in order to gain enlightenment in understanding the verses (Qushayri, 1995);(Sukisno et al., 2024).
4. Separation between Zahir and Batin: Sufistic interpretation distinguishes between the meaning of birth (zahir) and the meaning of the mind (batin) of the Qur'an(Suwarsono et al., 2024). For Sufis, the verses of the Qur'an not only have explicit legal meanings but also have deeper secrets. For example, they see the sharia commandments not only as an outward rule, but also as a means to get closer to God.

Figures of Sufistic Tafsir

Some important figures in the tradition of Sufistic interpretation who have made significant contributions to the development of spiritual understanding in Islam include:

- Ibn Arabi: In *Futuh al-Makkiyah* and *Fushus al-Hikam*, Ibn Arabi interpreted the Qur'an with a profound metaphysical approach. He introduced the concept of "Wahdat al-Wujud" (unity of being) which focuses on the relationship between God and man as interrelated entities in a single entity(Yahya et al., 2022).
- Al-Ghazali: Al-Ghazali in his works such as *Ihya Ulum al-Din* presents Sufistic views on the Qur'an, in which he combines fiqh and Sufism to provide a comprehensive interpretation(Amatullah et al., 2022). According to him, the Qur'an is the main source for understanding the relationship between man and God.
- Jalaluddin Rumi: Rumi, through works such as *Masnawi*, uses poetry as a means to interpret the verses of the Qur'an in a symbolic and loving way(Muhlisin et al., 2022). For him, the Qur'an is a "book of love" that teaches humans to love God.

The Influence of Sufistic Interpretation in Islamic Spirituality

Sufistic interpretation has a significant impact on the development of spirituality in Islam. Its influence is seen in the following aspects:

1. **Developing Spiritual Awareness:** Sufistic interpretation encourages a Muslim to experience the Qur'an in a more personal and profound way (AN et al., 2022). This approach invites people to not only understand the Qur'an textually, but also to bring its values to life in daily life.
2. **Strengthening the Tradition of Dhikr and Contemplation:** Sufistic interpretation emphasizes the importance of the practice of dhikr as a way to appreciate and feel the meaning of the Qur'an (AN, Syakira, et al., 2024). This practice is believed to bring a person closer to God and help cleanse the heart so that it becomes sensitive to the inner meanings in the verses.
3. **Giving a Dimension of Love and Love in Islam:** With an emphasis on divine love, Sufistic interpretation has taught the importance of love as the basis of all worship (AN, Khasanah, et al., 2024). Rumi, for example, emphasized that love for God is the path that leads man to the highest level of ma'rifat (Nirwana, 2017).
4. **Fostering Tolerance and Wisdom:** Sufistic interpretation, with its more inclusive approach, teaches the values of tolerance and universal love (Salsabila & AN, 2024). The Sufis often viewed every form of life as a manifestation of God, so they taught cosmic wisdom and awareness (AN, 2015).

Main Characteristics

Sufistic interpretation is an approach in the interpretation of the Qur'an that prioritizes spiritual and mystical aspects. Here are the main characteristics and methods of interpretation:

1. **Spiritual Approach:** Sufistic Interpretation emphasizes on the inner meaning and spiritual experience of the verses of the Qur'an (Rahmadianty & AN, 2023). He tries to explore moral and ethical values that can be applied in daily life.
2. **Symbolism and Metaphor:** Sufism often uses symbolism and metaphor to explain deeper meanings (Farisi & AN, 2023); (AN, 2019). Sentences are considered clues that require a further understanding than just textual meaning.
3. **Connection with God:** This interpretation focuses on the individual's relationship with God. Verses are considered a way to attain closeness to God and understand His essence.
4. **Personal Experience:** Many Sufistic interpretations are based on the personal experiences of the Sufis (Hafsah et al., 2022). They often recount mystical experiences that are relevant to the interpreted verse.
5. **Tazkiyah (Purification of the Soul):** Sufistic Tafsir prioritizes the process of purifying the soul as an important step in understanding the Qur'an (Afifah et al., 2023). This includes spiritual practice and self-control.

Method of Interpretation

- **Tafsir Bil-Ma'na (Meaning):** Seeking deeper meaning from the text, not just understanding the literal meaning.

- Reflection and Meditation: Using meditation and reflection to meditate on verses, thus revealing the meaning stored within them.
- Spiritual Context: Considers the spiritual and social context of the verses, as well as how they are applied in everyday life.
- Dialogue with Tradition: Relating interpretation to the teachings and experiences of the previous Sufis, as well as the classical texts in Sufism.
- Use of the Heart: Interpretation not only relies on the intellect, but also involves the heart and feelings, which are considered to be the source of spiritual knowledge (Syabannurrahman et al., 2022).

With this approach, Sufistic interpretation seeks to bridge the gap between the sacred text and the spiritual experience of the individual, thus giving depth to the understanding of the Qur'an.

Main Characteristics of Sufistic Tafsir

Sufistic interpretation is a unique approach in interpreting Qur'anic verses that prioritize inner and esoteric meaning, in contrast to conventional interpretation which focuses more on the meaning of *zahir*. Here are some of the main characteristics of Sufistic interpretation:

Duality of Meaning: Sufistic interpretation recognizes the existence of two layers of meaning in each verse of the Qur'an, namely the meaning of birth (*zahir*) and the meaning of the mind (*bathin*) (Anwar et al., 2022). According to Ibn Arabi, each verse has a dimension of sharia and Sufism, where the interpretation of birth provides a legal aspect, while the inner interpretation reveals the spiritual aspect (Haji et al., 2022). Sufistic tafsir holds the principle that every verse in the Qur'an has two layers of meaning, namely the meaning of birth (*zahir*) and the meaning of the mind (*bathin*) (Romadhon et al., 2022). This concept is one of the foundations in the Sufistic approach to the understanding of the Qur'an (Andilau et al., 2022). Sufism, which is a mystical school in Islam, emphasizes the importance of spiritual experience and inner appreciation (Azizi et al., 2023). In this context, Sufistic interpretation seeks to reveal the deepest essence of God's revelation, not only from the legal aspect, but also from the spiritual dimension that can guide a servant on the journey to God (Soleh et al., 2022).

According to Ibn Arabi, one of the most important figures in the Sufistic tradition, every verse of the Qur'an has two dimensions: sharia and Sufism (Indrianto et al., 2022). The sharia dimension, which reflects the meaning of birth, refers to the laws and guidelines contained in these verses (Syakirin et al., 2022). It includes rules that govern the behavior of individuals and society, providing clear instructions on what to do and avoid in living daily life (Fattah et al., 2023). This interpretation is very important for Muslims because it serves as a foundation in carrying out Islamic law (Kartika et al., 2023). On the other hand, the dimension of Sufism offers a deeper and transcendental understanding of these verses (Izi et al., 2022). The inner meaning of a verse invites individuals to delve into spiritual experiences and reflect on their relationship with God (Ardhi et al., 2022). Through this approach, the verses of the Qur'an are interpreted as an invitation to dive into the depths of the soul, search for

meaning behind words, and be aware of God's presence in every aspect of life (Suri & Nirwana AN, 2022). Ibn Arabi argued that this inner understanding not only complements the understanding of birth, but also provides a broader insight into the purpose of human creation and existence (Akhyar et al., 2021); (Basir et al., 2022).

Concrete examples of this duality of meaning can be found in verses that speak of God's love and compassion. For example, when the Qur'an mentions the mercy of Allah, the tafsir zahir can explain the importance of Allah's mercy as a moral guide (Rhain et al., 2024). However, from an inner point of view, this can be interpreted as an invitation to feel God's deep love, which should awaken sincere gratitude and devotion in the heart of a servant (Mahmud et al., 2023). In this context, God's love is not just a concept, but an experience that must be experienced and contemplated in the depths of the soul (Hidayat & Khaq, 2024).

Thus, the duality of meaning in Sufistic interpretation provides a rich framework for understanding the Qur'an (Dahlia & Wahab, 2023). He asserts that sacred texts not only speak on a surface level, but also hold a depth of meaning that can change one's perspective on life and one's relationship with God (Nurrohm et al., 2024). In a world often caught up in materialism, this approach reminds us not only to pay attention to the outward aspects of religious teachings, but also to dive into deeper meanings that can provide spiritual enlightenment and bring us closer to the Divine essence (Nugroho et al., 2024); (Azizah et al., 2024).

Therefore, Sufistic interpretation is not just a method of interpretation, but also a spiritual path. He invited Muslims to make the Qur'an a guide to life that is not only understood intellectually, but also experienced spiritually (Kerwanto et al., 2024). In this effort, each verse becomes more than just a text, but rather a window into a deeper understanding of God and His relationship with His servants. The use of Intuition and Irfan: The hallmark of Sufistic interpretation lies in its use of intuition (irfan) which involves spiritual experience and the whispering of the heart (Beni, 2024). This allows the mufasir to capture meanings that are invisible to the naked eye. Interpretation Methodology: Sufistic interpretation methods are divided into two broad categories: Isyari Tafsir which focuses on supernatural cues and Nazhari Tafsir which uses Sufism and philosophical theories (Uthman, 2024). This approach creates space for a deeper understanding of the verses of the Qur'an.

Spiritual Engagement: Sufistic mufasirs not only rely on intellectual knowledge, but also engage spiritual practice as a means to achieve higher understanding (Elbashir et al., 2024). The process of self-purification is considered important to receive revelation or inspiration from God. Limitations of Validity: One of the drawbacks of Sufistic interpretation is the lack of a clear benchmark of validity, so interpretations are often subjective and only accepted by certain communities (Hidayah et al., 2024); (Muhammad, 2023); (Mukrimun & Misman, 2023); (Abidin, 2023).

Methods of Interpretation in Sufistic Interpretation

- a. The methods of interpretation in Sufistic interpretation include several different approaches:

- b. Tafsir Isyari: This method focuses on revealing the hidden meanings behind the text of the Qur'an through gestures that can only be understood by certain people, such as Sufis or salic(Nafisa et al., 2023).
- c. Nazhari Tafsir: In this approach, interpretation is carried out using Sufism and philosophical theories, where each verse is considered to have a specific meaning that is deeper than what appears outwardly(Nasrul Hoir, 2023).
- d. Meaning Merger: Sufistic mufasirs seek to compromise between zahir and inner meaning, so that their interpretation covers both aspects integrally. This aims to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of the teachings of the Qur'an(Aozora Tawazun et al., 2023).
- e. Interpretation Requirements: In the interpretation process, there are several requirements that must be met in order for sufistic interpretation to be accepted, including the existence of shari'a postulates that support the results of the interpretation(Dhea Salsabila et al., 2023).
- f. Sufistic Commentary offers a rich and profound approach to understanding the Qur'an by emphasizing the importance of spiritual experience and intuition in the interpretation of these sacred texts(Ai et al., 2023).

CONCLUSION

Sufistic interpretation has made a significant contribution in enriching the scientific treasures of Qur'an interpretation and developing the spirituality of Muslims. This approach emphasizes inner experience and cleansing of the heart as a condition for understanding the Divine message in depth. In the context of modern life, Sufistic interpretation remains relevant because it is able to teach deep spiritual aspects and guide Muslims to live with love, compassion, and closeness to God. By combining zahir and inner interpretation, Sufistic interpretation becomes an important heritage in the Islamic tradition that continues to inspire the development of spirituality of people around the world. In this study, it has been identified that the main characteristic of Sufistic interpretation lies in the approach that recognizes the existence of two layers of meaning in each verse of the Qur'an, namely the meaning of birth (zahir) and the meaning of the mind (bathin). Sufistic interpretation not only focuses on legal or sharia aspects, but also delves into a deep spiritual dimension that can guide individuals on their journey toward God. This approach emphasizes the importance of personal experience and inner enlightenment as key to understanding Divine revelation. The methods of interpretation used in Sufistic interpretation, such as ta'wil, contemplation, and divine inspiration, show that the interpretation of Qur'anic verses is not just a textual analysis, but also a spiritual practice that allows individuals to establish a closer relationship with God. Through this method, the verses of the Qur'an are interpreted not only as legal guidelines, but also as a means to feel the Divine presence in daily life. In conclusion, Sufistic interpretation makes a significant contribution in enriching Muslims' understanding of the Qur'an. He highlighted that Divine revelation has a depth of meaning that can be explored through a more personal and spiritual approach. Thus, Sufistic interpretation not only invites the faithful to understand the sacred text outwardly, but also to bring its teachings to life in a transformative spiritual experience.

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