Islamic Study with An Integrative-Interdisciplinary Approach

Nugroho Notonegoro
Prof. K.H. Saifuddin Zuhri State Islamic University Purwokerto, Indonesia
Corresponding author's email: adv.nugroho@gmail.com

Abstract: Islamic studies as a form of humanities discipline at the scientific level can be understood through various dimensions. Islamic studies are no longer textual or normative, but contemporary Islamic studies are more anthropocentric. The purpose of this study is to find the definition of Islamic studies both terminologically and from an integrative and interdisciplinary approach, various interdisciplinary approaches, also the urgency and purpose of Islamic studies with an interdisciplinary approach. This study uses library research methods. The findings revealed that Islamic studies with an integrative-interdisciplinary approach is a way of studying Islam and solving the challenges/problems by using a review of various relevant science to gain or achieve a greater understanding of Islam and the purpose of interdisciplinary Islamic studies is to provide a more comprehensive understanding of Islam, provide an understanding of all aspects in the Al-Qur'an and Sunnah, and all aspects contained in the Al-Quran can be coherently connected.

Keywords: Islamic studies; integrative-interdisciplinary approach; definition and purpose

A. INTRODUCTION

The study of Islam as one of the disciplines of the humanities in the field of science can be understood in various dimensions. The study of Islam is no longer textual or normative, which involves the study of tafsir, hadith, fiqih, kalam, or tasawwuf, which is a derivative of the research of sources of teaching, namely the Qur'an and hadith. The study of contemporary Islamic studies is more anthropocentric, using various approaches taken from the social sciences and humanities, ranging from comparative historical, contextual, and hermeneutic-philosophical approaches. Until now, the development of science has been required to be more solvent to the various complexities of society's problems and more adaptive to the evolution of human civilization (Hendri Hermawan Adinugraha and Ahmad Hasan Asy'ari Ulama'I, 2020).

The term Islam Studies in English is Islamic Studies, and in Arabic it is Diresat al-Islamiyah. Reviewed from this point of view, Islamic Studies are simply referred to as "Islamic Studies." The Islamic Study has...
a comprehensive understanding and comprehension. It is natural that a term will have meaning depending on those who interpret it. Because the interpreters have different backgrounds, whether in studies, fields of science, experience, or various other differences, the formula and digestion resulting will also be different. In addition, the word study Islam itself is a combination of two words, namely the word studi and the word Islam. The word study has various meanings. According to Lester Crow and Alice Crow, study is an activity that is deliberately undertaken with the aim of obtaining insight, achieving greater understanding, or improving a skill. The word Islam itself has a much more complex meaning. The word Islam comes from the Arabic word aslama, which means to obey and rely on oneself. The word is rooted in the word salima, which means peace and well-being. Islam is the religion of the revelation of the Lord revealed by Allah to Muhammad as His last Messenger and applies to all men, wherever and whenever, whose teaching encompasses all aspects of human life (Umi Hani, 2022).

Based on the description above, the definition of Islamic studies according to the author is an activity that is deliberately attempted with the intention of obtaining information, achieving a greater understanding, or increasing a skill in revealed religion, which has the essence of monotheism or the oneness of God revealed by Allah SWT to the Prophet Muhammad SAW as His last messenger and applies to all human beings, wherever and whenever, and whose teachings cover all aspects of human life.

As for the approach, it means researching a particular object by using theory from a particular field of science. So in the approach, there are at least three things that must be met, namely:

1. There is research activity.
2. There is an object under study.
3. There is a theory from a certain science that is used to analyze.

Thus, the Islamic study approach can be interpreted as research on Islam with the aim of obtaining information, achieving a greater understanding, or improving a skill by using theory from a particular field of science.

Approach can also be called style or model. For example, research with a philological approach means research using a style or model of philological research. Then everything related to the research is in accordance with the style or model that fits with the science of Philology. In Islamic studies, for example, using the Ushul Fiqh approach This means that everything related to the research is in accordance with the style or model of Ushul Fiqh (Khoeruddin Nasution, 2018).

Islamic studies, which is simply interpreted as "Islamic studies", at first took place very simply; however, along with the development of the number and intellectual level of Muslims, the way of studying Islam also experienced developments, and the method or approach also consisted of various kinds of errors. one of which is the integrative-interdisciplinary approach, which will be discussed in this paper.
B. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This paper is a study and reflection on some of the literature related to the notion of Islamic studies with an integrative-interdisciplinary approach, various interdisciplinary approaches, and the urgency and purpose of Islamic studies with an interdisciplinary approach. So this article is a literature review that collects some data from various sources of information, such as books, articles, and the internet, related to the topic of discussion.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4. Definition of Islamic Studies with an Integrative-Interdisciplinary Approach

An integrative approach is a study that uses a unified and integrated point of view and/or analysis. Integrative analysis can be grouped into two categories (Fu’ad Arif Noor, 2018):

a. Integrative between all texts related to the problem being discussed or discussed.

In short, the integrative approach between texts is the same as the approach or one of the models in interpretation, which is called the Maudu’i interpretation model (thematic interpretation). The beginning of the debate on the dichotomy of knowledge in Islam began with the emergence of an interpretation in Islamic teachings that God is the sole owner of knowledge (Maha’Alim). The knowledge given to humans is only a small part of His knowledge, but humans are given the freedom to achieve as much as possible. This belief ultimately gave birth to a debate on the dichotomy of science, with “anthropocentric” science groups confronting “theocentric” science groups.

Based on the epistemological argument, anthropocentric science is stated to originate from humans with the characteristics of reason or ratio, while theocentric science is stated to originate from God with the characteristic of “revelation”. So there is a conflict between science and reason.

b. Integrative between texts and other sciences related to the problem being discussed; this is synonymous with an interdisciplinary approach.

An interdisciplinary approach is an approach to solving a problem using an integrated review of various allied scientific perspectives (Ratu Vina Rohmatika, 2019).

Another definition of an interdisciplinary approach is cooperation between one science and another, so that it is a unit with its own method (Khoeruddin Nasution, 2018).

The interdisciplinary study in question uses a number of approaches or perspectives. In studies, for example, using sociological, historical, and normative approaches simultaneously. The importance of
this approach is increasingly recognized by the limitations of research results that only use one particular approach. For example, in studying religious texts such as the Qur’an and the Sunnah of the Prophet, it is not enough to rely only on a textual approach; it must be complemented by a sociological and historical approach at the same time, and even a hermeneutic approach, for example. For example, in understanding the verses of Al-Qur’an Surah An-nisa about polygamy, even though textually it means that it is permissible for a person to practice polygamy, local cultural studies, psychological studies of a wife, and social norms or customs where we live need attention. Because if not, then there will not be happiness and harmony in the family but new, more complicated problems (Ratu Vina Rohmatika, 2019).

In summary, interdisciplinary Islamic studies can be explained by the use of different terms, namely integration, induction, interconnection, and systems analysis. Wesley and Wronsky use the terms "correlation" for an interdisciplinary approach and "integration" for an integrated approach. In simple terms, the term refers to "connecting and comprehensive". So, interdisciplinary study is an attempt to combine various scientific disciplines that are related to each other while remaining within a predetermined research framework (Syamsul Darlis, 2019).

Whereas in Amin Abdullah’s view, integration will experience difficulties in integrating Islamic and general studies, which sometimes do not get along with each other because both want to beat each other; therefore, there is a need for the idea of interconnection (Imam Machali, 2015). According to Amin Abdullah, this paradigm of "interconnection" assumes that in order to understand the complexity of the phenomena of life faced and lived by humans, any scientific building, whether religious scholarship (including Islam and other religions), social science, the humanities, or the natural sciences, cannot be stand-alone. Once a certain science claims to be able to stand alone, feels that it can solve problems on its own, and does not need help or contributions from other sciences, then this self-sufficiency will sooner or later turn into narrow-mindedness, not to call it fanaticism for the particularity of scientific disciplines. Collaboration, mutual greeting, mutual need, mutual correction, and mutual connection between scientific disciplines will be more able to help humans understand the complexities of the lives they lead.
and solve the problems they face (Amin Abdullah, 2006).

Whereas, according to Amin Abdullah, the integrative-interconnective/integrative-interdisciplinary approach is an approach that seeks mutual respect; general science and religion are aware of each other’s limitations in solving human problems; this will give birth to a collaboration at least based on mutual understanding of approaches and methods of thinking (process and procedure) between the two sciences (Imam Machali, 2015).

Whereas in many definitions, the notion of an interdisciplinary approach is an approach to solving a problem by using a review of various allied scientific points of view that are relevant or appropriate in an integrated manner, Khoiruddin Nasution, in defining the interdisciplinary approach, divides it into two schools of thought, namely (Khoeruddin Nasution, 2017):

1) The first group believes that an interdisciplinary approach is an approach to solving a problem by using views not only from one perspective but from various perspectives of allied sciences that are appropriate, relevant, and integrated. From the first group, we get the keyword "allied sciences". Examples are the religious sciences, social sciences, exact sciences, and so on. The existence of allied science boundaries will be very visible relative to their limits and can be legally accepted.

2) The second group considers that interdisciplinarity is collaboration between one science and another that makes a unit with its own method. From the second opinion, it can be said that integration between one science and another will form a new science and new methods. For example, the combination of sociology and religion gave birth to the sociology of religion.

We can see the second group of schools of belief in interdisciplinary studies according to the existing reality that the synthesis of two different scientific disciplines can develop into an independent discipline. This understanding gives us knowledge that interdisciplinary research is also a science, which results from the development of a scientific discipline. As a consequence of its position as a new science, it must have new methods resulting from
new epistemology, axiology, and ontology.

Based on the description above, simply in the author's language, the notion of Islamic studies with an integrative-interdisciplinary approach is a way of studying Islam and solving the challenges and problems in it by using a review of various relevant or appropriate allied scientific perspectives in an integrated manner to obtain or reach a greater understanding.

5. Various Interdisciplinary Approaches

A number of scientists offer a study model that integrates general science (observation results, demonstrative) and religious knowledge (text texts). There are various names to refer to this offer, and one of them is integrative-interconnective studies. Islamic studies with an integrative-interconnective/integrative-interdisciplinary approach have yet to find a standard form, even though this offer has been around for a long time with all its variants and forms. But efforts towards the development of this theory need to be carried out seriously, continuously, and mutually supportively, not looking for deficiencies. With the help of various sciences in Islamic studies, it is proven to be able to provide new understandings and formulations that are even more comprehensive when compared to previous models of understanding and concepts, namely a purely normative approach. In this context, the term that appears may also refer to a non-Islamic studies approach or interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, or transdisciplinary studies (Khoeruddin Nasution, 2018).

Because of this, the definition of integration and interconnection has not yet found a standardized concept but is still in the process of developing a more perfect concept. Amin Abdullah, a professor who is very aggressively provoking the use of this approach, for example, defines integration by referring to the keyword 'melted'. While the definition of interconnection is an attempt to make a social order based on faith science so that it is more in contact and direct dialogue with the new sciences in the 18th and 19th centuries AD, such as Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, and philosophy (Khoeruddin Nasution, 2018).

When broken down by its characteristics, this interdisciplinary approach can be divided into 4 types of approaches, namely: interdisciplinary approach, multidisciplinary approach, transdisciplinary approach, and crossdisciplinary approach. The purpose of the four approaches can be explained as follows (Yuwana Sudikan, 2015):

Interdisciplinary (interdisciplinary) is an intensive interaction between one or more disciplines, both directly related and not, through research programs with the aim of integrating concepts, methods, and analysis. Multidisciplinarity is the amalgamation of several disciplines to jointly address
certain problems. Transdisciplinarity is an effort to develop a new theory or axiom by building links and connections between various disciplines.

An interdisciplinary approach is an approach to solving a problem by using an integrated review of the various viewpoints of allied sciences. What is meant by cognate sciences are the sciences that are in a particular scientific family, namely the Natural Sciences (IIK), Social Sciences (IIS), or Humanities (IIB) as an alternative. Relevant science means science that is suitable to be used in solving a problem. As for the term integrated, what is meant is that the sciences used in solving a problem through this approach are intertwined with each other implicitly, constituting a unanimity or unity of discussion or description included in each of its sub-descriptions if the discussion or description consists of sub-descriptions. The main feature or keyword of this indisciplinarity approach is inter (integrated between knowledge in the same scientific family) or integration.

A multidisciplinary approach (multidisciplinary approach) is an approach to solving a problem by using a review of various points of view from many relevant sciences. The relevant sciences used can be in the Natural Sciences (IIK) cluster, Social Sciences (IIS) cluster, or Humanities Sciences (IIH) cluster, alternatively. Relevant knowledge can be used in the Natural Sciences (IIK) cluster, Social Sciences (IIS) cluster, or Humanities Sciences (IIH) cluster as an alternative. The use of science or knowledge in solving a problem through this approach can be implicit or explicit, but it will be better if it is explicit. This is done to show the person's scientific responsibility. This approach was not accepted before because it was considered to violate scientific ethics by scientific experts, especially by those whose knowledge was used by people who were not experts. However, today this is possible because of the rapid development of
science, technology, and art (science and technology) and the complexity of problems that are generally difficult to solve with only one science approach (a monodisciplinary approach). Even at the same time, it is well accepted by scientists, including expert scientists, as long as the solution to a problem shows sufficient quality and correctness. Thus, someone who uses a transdisciplinary approach must also fulfill the following conditions: a) use knowledge outside of his main area of expertise, usually in solving a problem using knowledge outside of his main area of expertise; b) the knowledge used is in the same scientific cluster as the main expertise; c) have a good understanding of the knowledge used outside of the main scientific expertise; d) show results of sufficient quality and correctness. The main feature of the transdisciplinary approach is trans (crossing knowledge in the same scientific family) or crossing it.

6. The Urgency And Purpose Of Islamic Studies With An Interdisciplinary Approach

Along with the development of the phenomena of pluralism and globalization, of course, there are many problems that must be viewed with multiple approaches. Because of that, solutions are needed from each discipline of knowledge. But at the same time, it takes a multi-disciplinary person who is able to see problems as interrelated webs. Insofar as science is related to life's problems, one scientific field alone cannot answer life's problems, which are actually complex and interrelated. Life's problems cannot only be solved by fiqh, theology, economics, mathematics, and so on; they require an interdisciplinary treatment or approach (Saifuddin Mujtaba, 2015).

According to Amin Abdullah, the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to Islamic studies is based on the fact that Islamic Studies, especially when viewed from the Religionswissenschaft perspective, requires its reviewers to pay full attention to what is meant by "religion" and "religion" in Muslim society and by scholars. Muslim Islamic studies need methodological assistance to uncover religious data in order to understand more wisely that all religions that have specific historical-empirical vehicles can have the same religious elements, which are understood transcendentally and universally. These normative-theological religious data have historical, social, cultural, and political content. So, in its historical-empirical form, religion has always been part of the historical and social setting of its community, and at the same time, phenomenologically, religion has a general pattern that can be understood intuitively and intellectually by human beings wherever they are (Saifuddin Mujtaba, 2015).

According to Qomarudin Hidayat, "What we know as interdisciplinarity is actually not something new in Islamic history. In the process of revelation of the Koran, which was revealed
Notonegoro

gradually, for example, we see that a number of verses of the Koran were written at the time of the Prophet Muhammad. It immediately became a public discourse and had a wide influence on all aspects of Islamic society at that time. In other words, these verses directly touch on the problems of people’s lives at a very concrete level. This shows that the Qur’an has an open character and that the verses of the Qur’an discuss the problems that exist in society in their totality, not just one of their dimensions. So, if we want to follow the example of Rasulullah SAW, in applying the teachings of the Koran, like it or not, we have to learn the Koran by having a dialogue with life’s problems. Dialogue with real-life problems means looking at Islamic teachings from multiple perspectives and across disciplines. With what Qomarudin explained above, the fact that Islam is studied in an interdisciplinary manner is a necessity that must be carried out in Islamic studies so that Islam can contribute to discourse in solving problems, practical problems that occur in society (Saifuddin Mujtaba, 2015).

Apart from being able to contribute to discourse by practically solving problems that occur in society, the interdisciplinary Islamic studies carried out certainly have a mission or goal to be achieved, and the objectives are as follows (Dedi wahyudi, 2022):

a. The first objective of carrying out an interdisciplinary approach to Islamic studies is to provide a more comprehensive understanding of Islam.

b. The second objective is to provide an understanding of all aspects contained in the Qur’an and Sunnah.

c. The third goal is for all aspects contained in the Quran to be coherently connected.

D. CONCLUSION

Islamic Studies is an activity that is deliberately pursued with the intention of obtaining information, achieving a greater understanding, or improving a skill in the revealed religion with the core of monotheism or the oneness of God revealed by Allah SWT to the Prophet Muhammad SAW as His last and valid messenger for all human beings, wherever and whenever, whose teachings cover all aspects of human life.

The Islamic study approach can be interpreted as research into Islam with the aim of obtaining information, achieving a greater understanding, or improving a skill by using theory from a particular field of knowledge.

According to the author, Islamic studies with an integrative-interdisciplinary approach is a way of studying Islam and solving its challenges and problems by using a review of various relevant or appropriate allied scientific viewpoints in an integrated manner to gain or achieve a greater understanding.
Khoiruddin Nasution, in defining the interdisciplinary approach, divides it into two schools of thought, namely:

1. The first group believes that an interdisciplinary approach is an approach to solving a problem by using views not only from one perspective but from various perspectives of allied sciences that are appropriate, relevant, and integrated. From the first group, we get the keyword "allied sciences". Examples are the religious sciences, social sciences, exact sciences, and so on. The existence of allied science boundaries will be very visible relative to their limits and can be legally accepted.

2. The second group considers that interdisciplinarity is collaboration between one science and another that makes a unit with its own method. From the second opinion, it can be said that integration between one science and another will form a new science and new methods. For example, the combination of sociology and religion gave birth to the sociology of religion.

The objectives of interdisciplinary Islamic studies are as follows:

1. The first objective of carrying out an interdisciplinary approach to Islamic studies is to provide a more comprehensive understanding of Islam.

2. The second objective is to provide an understanding of all aspects contained in the Qur'an and Sunnah.

3. The third goal is for all aspects contained in the Quran to be coherently connected.

REFERENCES


Notonegoro