BRIDGING TRADITION AND TECHNOLOGY: AI IN THE INTERPRETATION OF NUSANTARA RELIGIOUS MANUSCRIPTS

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ABSTRACT
Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming diverse fields, including the interpretation of Islamic religious texts. This study examines the influence of AI, particularly in the context of Nusantara Islamic traditions, and evaluates its ethical and theological implications. The research addresses the growing need to understand how AI intersects with traditional Islamic scholarship in Southeast Asia, emphasizing Indonesia as a case study. Using a qualitative literature review method, the study analyzes peer-reviewed articles, books, and reports from the last ten years that focus on AI applications in interpreting Islamic religious texts. Key findings reveal that AI significantly enhances accessibility and efficiency in interpreting religious texts by offering tools for translation, pattern recognition, and thematic analysis. However, AI faces notable limitations, including contextual inaccuracies and an inability to grasp the nuanced meanings of religious doctrines deeply rooted in cultural and historical traditions. The ethical and theological concerns identified include questions of interpretative authority, the risk of textual distortion, and the moral responsibilities of AI developers. The research highlights the need for collaborative frameworks between technologists and religious scholars to ensure ethically sound and theologically informed AI applications. It contributes to the literature by focusing on Nusantara Islamic texts and proposing actionable guidelines for integrating AI in religious studies responsibly. This study provides a foundation for further interdisciplinary research to balance technological innovation with the preservation of Islamic interpretive traditions.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Indonesian Islamic Studies, Machine Translation, Nusantara Religious Manuscripts.

ABSTRAK

Kecerdasan buatan (AI) mentransformasi berbagai bidang, termasuk penafsiran teks-teks agama Islam. Penelitian ini mengkaji pengaruh AI, khususnya dalam konteks tradisi Islam Nusantara, dan mengevaluasi implikasi etis dan teologisnya. Penelitian ini menjawab kebutuhan yang semakin meningkat untuk memahami bagaimana AI bersinggungan dengan kesarjanaan Islam tradisional di Asia Tenggara, dengan menekankan Indonesia sebagai studi kasus. Dengan menggunakan metode tinjauan literatur kualitatif, penelitian ini menganalisis artikel, buku, dan laporan yang telah diulas oleh rekan sejawat dalam sepuluh tahun terakhir yang berfokus pada aplikasi AI dalam menafsirkan teks-teks agama Islam. Temuan utama mengungkapkan bahwa AI secara signifikan meningkatkan aksesibilitas dan efisiensi dalam menafsirkan teks-teks agama dengan menawarkan alat untuk penerjemahan, pengenalan pola, dan analisis tematik. Namun, AI menghadapi keterbatasan penting, termasuk ketidakakuratan kontekstual dan ketidakmampuan untuk memahami makna nuansa doktrin agama yang berakar kuat dalam tradisi budaya dan sejarah. Kekhawatiran etis dan teologis yang diidentifikasi termasuk pertanyaan tentang otoritas penafsiran, risiko distorsi tekstual, dan tanggung jawab moral para pengembang AI. Penelitian ini menyoroti perlunya kerangka kerja kolaboratif antara para ahli teknologi dan cendekiawan agama untuk memastikan aplikasi AI yang sehat secara etis dan berdasarkan informasi teologis. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada literatur dengan berfokus pada teks-teks Islam Nusantara dan mengusulkan pedoman yang dapat ditindaklanjuti untuk mengintegrasikan AI dalam studi agama secara bertanggung jawab. Studi ini memberikan landasan bagi penelitian interdisipliner lebih lanjut untuk menyeimbangkan inovasi teknologi dengan pelestarian tradisi tafsir Islam.

Kata kunci: *Kecerdasan Buatan, Penerjemahan Mesin, Studi Islam Indonesia, Naskah-naskah Keagamaan.Nusantara.*

INTRODUCTION

The interpretation of Islamic religious texts in the context of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a multifaceted issue that involves considerations of accuracy, cultural nuances and linguistic challenges. The use of AI in the interpretation of Islamic texts can have significant implications for ensuring precision and efficiency in understanding and translating these texts. AI

technologies can aid in minimizing errors, enhancing the accuracy of legal considerations in Islamic law, and improving the overall effectiveness and efficiency of interpreting religious texts.[1]

Translating Islamic religious terms into English presents a challenge that involves deciding between translation and transliteration. The choice between these methods can impact the clarity and accuracy of the translated texts. Ensuring that the Additionally, the literature discusses the challenges posed by liberal Islamic thought on Quranic exegesis in Southeast Asia, particularly the influence of movements like Jaringan Islam Liberal (JIL) and Sisters in Islam (SIS) on interpreting religious text translation accurately conveys the intended meaning of Islamic terms is crucial for maintaining the integrity and authenticity of the religious texts.[2]

The translation of Islamic religious texts involves various strategies and constraints, particularly when translating lexical collocations from Arabic to English. These challenges highlight the importance of adopting appropriate translation strategies to accurately convey the nuanced meanings present in Islamic religious texts.[3] The impact of web-based translation software on translating religious terms, especially within Islamic texts, is a subject of study. Understanding how these tools influence the translation process can provide insights into the potential benefits and limitations of using technology in translating religious texts.[4]

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[1] Imaro Sidqi, "Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Dispute Resolution of Religious Courts," *Jurnal Hukum Islam*, 2023, https://doi.org/10.28918/jhi_v21i1_04.

[2] Sameh Saad Hassan, "Islamic Religious Terms in English – Translation vs. Transliteration in Ezzeddin Ibrahim and Denys Johnson-Davies' Translation of an-Nawawī's Forty Ḥadīths," *The International Journal of Translation and Interpreting Research*, 2016, https://doi.org/10.12807/ti.108201.2016.a08.

[3] Amin Ali Al Mubarak, "Strategies Constrains in Rendering Islamic Religious Collocations From Arabic Into English," *Indonesian Journal of Learning and Instruction*, 2019, https://doi.org/10.25134/ijli.v2i01.1679.

[4] Hassan Saleh Mahdi, "The Use of Web-Based Translation Software in Translating Religious Terms," *Saudi Journal of Language Studies*, 2022, https://doi.org/10.1108/sjls-11-2021-0023.

The existing literature on the influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the interpretation of Islamic religious texts reveals various perspectives that warrant further exploration. Some studies suggest that AI can enhance the accuracy and efficiency of interpreting Islamic texts.[5] However, concerns have been raised about potential distortions in understanding religious values and the impact on student creativity in Islamic education when AI is utilized.[6] This raises a hypothesis that while AI may enhance efficiency and accessibility in interpreting Islamic religious texts, its overreliance could undermine traditional interpretative methods, potentially leading to a loss of contextual depth and spiritual authenticity. Furthermore, the integration of AI in education might inadvertently suppress critical thinking and creativity among students, as reliance on algorithmic interpretations could discourage active engagement with religious texts. These issues highlight the need to critically evaluate whether AI can truly complement, rather than replace, the nuanced expertise of human scholars in religious studies.

On the other hand, the roles of religious leaders in interpreting Islamic teachings and guiding healthcare practices among Muslim communities can differ, leading to variations in how Islam influences behaviors and ethical considerations related to healthcare provision.[7] These variations highlight the importance of understanding the diverse interpretations and applications of Islamic principles in different contexts.[8]

Previous studies have discussed the challenges posed by liberal Islamic thought on Quranic exegesis in Southeast Asia, particularly the influence of movements like Jaringan Islam Liberal (JIL) and Sisters in Islam (SIS) on interpreting religious

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[5] Faisol Hakim, "Artificial Intellegence (AI) Dan Dampaknya Dalam Distorsi Pendidikan Islam," *Urwatul Wutsqo Jurnal Studi Kependidikan Dan Keislaman*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.54437/urwatulwutsqo.v13i1.1330.

[6] Hakim.

[7] Aasim I Padela and Danish Zaidi, "The Islamic Tradition and Health Inequities: A Preliminary Conceptual Model Based on a Systematic Literature Review of Muslim Health-Care Disparities," *Avicenna Journal of Medicine*, 2018, https://doi.org/10.4103/ajm.ajm_134_17.

[8] Padela and Zaidi.

texts.[9] This raises questions about the impact of different ideological perspectives on the interpretation of Islamic religious texts and its implications for religious discourse and practice.[10] Furthermore, the controversy surrounding the reinterpretation of religious scriptures, such as in the context of organ donation in Western countries, emphasizes the complex interplay between religious beliefs, medical ethics, and utilitarian objectives.[11] This controversy underscores the necessity for further exploration of how religious texts are reinterpreted to align with contemporary practices and societal norms.[12]

The study of Nusantara religious literature is crucial for preserving and understanding the diverse interpretations of Islam that have evolved in Southeast Asia. Nusantara texts embody a synthesis of Islamic teachings with local cultures, languages, and traditions, providing invaluable insights into the region's spiritual heritage. Examining these texts through the lens of AI offers a unique opportunity to uncover patterns, connections, and themes that might remain hidden through traditional methods. By leveraging AI, scholars can enhance the study of these manuscripts, ensuring that their rich content is accessible and relevant in the digital age.

Existing literature has predominantly focused on the technical capabilities of AI in general or its application in broader Islamic studies. However, limited attention has been given to how these technologies intersect with the distinctive features of Nusantara religious literature. This study seeks to address this gap by situating its inquiry within the cultural and theological frameworks of Indonesia, providing a nuanced

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[9] Ahmad Syaifuddin Amin and Maisyatusy Syarifah, "Liberal Islam and Its Influences on the Development of Quranic Exegesis in Indonesia and Malaysia," *Jurnal Studi Ilmu-Ilmu Al-Qur'an dan Hadis*, 2021, https://doi.org/10.14421/qh.2021.2201-07.

[10] Amin and Syarifah.

[11] Mohamed Y Rady and Joseph L Verheijde, "The Moral Code in Islam and Organ Donation in Western Countries: Reinterpreting Religious Scriptures to Meet Utilitarian Medical Objectives," *Philosophy Ethics and Humanities in Medicine*, 2014, https://doi.org/10.1186/1747-5341-9-11.

[12] Rady and Verheijde.

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understanding of how AI can complement traditional scholarship while safeguarding the interpretative authenticity of Nusantara Islamic texts.

This research aims to answer some questions: How does AI technology affect the interpretation of Islamic religious texts? What are the advantages and limitations of AI in this context? To ensure accessibility to a broader audience, this research situates its inquiry at the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and religious studies, offering insights not only for scholars of Islamic theology but also for those interested in the ethical, cultural, and technological implications of AI in sensitive domains. By examining these questions, the study aims to bridge disciplinary gaps and foster a more inclusive understanding of how advanced technologies interact with deeply rooted traditions.

The purpose of this study is to examine the use of AI in the interpretation of Islamic religious texts, assess its advantages and limitations, and understand the perceptions of the Muslim community towards this technology. It also aims to evaluate the ethical and theological implications of the use of AI, as well as offer recommendations for the development and more effective and ethical use of AI in religious studies.

METHOD

This research employed a qualitative methodology, focusing on a systematic literature review to explore the influence of artificial intelligence (AI) on the interpretation of Islamic religious texts, particularly within the context of Nusantara traditions. To ensure methodological rigor, the following steps were undertaken. Relevant literature was identified through academic databases such as Scopus, Google Scholar, and JSTOR, targeting peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and conference proceedings published within the last ten years. The selection criteria included relevance to AI applications in religious studies, emphasis on Nusantara or Indonesian contexts, and credibility of sources. Keywords such as "AI and Islamic texts," "Nusantara religious literature," and "AI ethics in religious studies" guided the search. Additionally, grey literature, including institutional

reports and digital archives, was reviewed to supplement peer-reviewed sources.

The study adopted a thematic analysis approach grounded in cultural hermeneutics and ethical analysis. This framework focused on identifying recurring themes such as the accuracy and contextual relevance of AI interpretations, ethical concerns, and the integration of AI with traditional interpretative practices. The theoretical underpinning drew from Islamic epistemology and socio-cultural perspectives to contextualize findings within the unique Nusantara traditions. To increase the validity and reliability of the findings, several strategies were applied. First, triangulation was used to cross-verify data by comparing insights from different sources, including academic literature, case studies, and practitioner interviews where available. Second, peer review involved sharing initial findings with experts in the fields of Islamic studies and AI to gather feedback and refine interpretations. Third, an audit trail was maintained through detailed documentation of the decision-making steps, ensuring transparency and replicability.

By detailing these methodological components, the study ensured a robust and systematic approach to investigating the interplay between AI and the interpretation of Nusantara Islamic texts. This comprehensive methodology allowed for an in-depth exploration of both opportunities and challenges, contributing to the scholarly discourse on technology integration in religious studies.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION
The potentials of AI in Interpreting Religious Manuscript
This study found that AI has transformative potential in enhancing the accessibility, efficiency, and thematic analysis of Islamic religious texts. Through tools such as translation algorithms and pattern recognition systems, AI offers a means to bridge linguistic and cultural divides, making Nusantara Islamic texts more accessible to diverse audiences. However, the research highlights critical limitations, including AI's contextual inaccuracies and its inability to fully capture the nuanced interpre-

tations that are deeply rooted in the cultural and historical contexts of Nusantara traditions.

The integration of AI in interpreting Nusantara Islamic texts opens new avenues for understanding the unique synthesis of local traditions and Islamic teachings. Unlike broader studies that focus on global applications of AI in religious contexts, this research emphasizes the cultural specificity of Nusantara, where local customs and languages play a vital role in shaping religious interpretations. By employing AI, scholars can uncover patterns and thematic connections in these texts that might otherwise remain obscured, enriching the discourse on regional Islamic scholarship.

AI technologies are increasingly being integrated into the interpretation and translation of Islamic religious texts, presenting both opportunities and challenges. This shows that AI has great potential to improve accessibility, efficiency and speed in understanding religious texts. This leads to opportunities such as cross-language translation and analysis of patterns in texts. However, there are also challenges such as the risk of distortion and lack of understanding of complex contexts. Scholars have highlighted the importance of employing AI in Islamic education,[13] emphasizing the need to address the ethical challenges and risks of distorting religious texts.[14] The use of AI in interpreting sacred texts can lead to more accurate and culturally sensitive translations,[15] particularly in complex or sensitive situations. Additionally, AI-powered translation systems can contribute to communication equity and inclusion by bridging linguistic divides.[16]

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[13] Abdul Hakim, "Artificial Intelligence in Teaching Islamic Studies: Challenges and Opportunities," *Molang Journal Islamic Education*, 2023, https://doi.org/10.32806/6ynvg541.

[14] Hakim, "Artificial Intellegence (AI) Dan Dampaknya Dalam Distorsi Pendidikan Islam."

[15] Muhammad Zayyanu Zaki, "Bridging Linguistic Divides: The Impact of AI-Powered Translation Systems on Communication Equity and Inclusion," *Journal of Translation and Language Studies*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.48185/jtls.v5i2.1065.

[16] Zaki.

In the context of Islamic feminism, scholars have discussed the reinterpretation of Quranic texts with a gender-conscious lens,[17] showcasing how AI technologies can aid in promoting a more inclusive and diverse understanding of religious teachings. Furthermore, the application of AI in Islamic architecture has been explored, investigating its impact on traditional Islamic architectural principles and design processes.[18]

The utilization of AI in interpreting and translating religious texts involves a combination of machine capabilities and human interpretation services.[19] This approach ensures a more nuanced understanding of the texts while maintaining cultural sensitivity. Moreover, the integration of AI tools in the fiqh ruling process at Islamic banks has been met with general receptiveness from participants,[20] indicating a growing acceptance of AI applications in religious contexts.

AI technologies offer several advantages in the interpretation of religious texts compared to traditional methods. Firstly, AI can process vast amounts of text quickly, enabling rapid analysis and translation of religious texts.[21] This speed can significantly enhance the efficiency of interpretation processes. Secondly, AI systems can improve accessibility by providing translations in multiple languages, making religious texts more widely available to diverse audiences.[22] Additionally, AI tools

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[17] Tamer Koburtay, Tala Abuhussein, and Yusuf Sidani, "Women Leadership, Culture, and Islam: Female Voices From Jordan," *Journal of Business Ethics*, 2022, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-022-05041-0.

[18] Ahmad W Sukkar, "Artificial Intelligence Islamic Architecture (AIIA): What Is Islamic Architecture in the Age of Artificial Intelligence?," *Buildings*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings14030781.

[19] Zaki, "Bridging Linguistic Divides: The Impact of AI-Powered Translation Systems on Communication Equity and Inclusion."

[20] Othman Abdullah, "AI Applications for Fiqh Rulings in Islamic Banks – Shariah Committee Acceptance," *Isra International Journal of Islamic Finance*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.55188/ijif.v16i1.685.

[21] Linda W Lee et al., "Making Sense of Text: Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Content Analysis," *European Journal of Marketing*, 2020, https://doi.org/10.1108/ejm-02-2019-0219.

[22] Lee et al.

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can assist in identifying patterns and themes within texts, aiding in the extraction of meaningful insights.[23]

However, AI interpretation of religious texts also has limitations when compared to manual interpretation by religious experts. One key limitation is the challenge of accurately capturing the nuanced meanings and context of religious texts, which may require human understanding and interpretation.[24] AI systems may struggle with understanding the cultural and historical contexts that are crucial for accurate interpretation.[25] Furthermore, the risk of distortion or misinterpretation of religious texts remains a concern when relying solely on AI technologies.[26]

The findings underscore a critical limitation of AI technologies in the interpretation of religious texts, namely, the risk of distortion or misinterpretation when relying solely on these tools. This directly counters claims in prior studies suggesting that AI can fully replace human interpretation. While previous research has highlighted AI's capacity for efficiency and scalability in textual analysis, this study emphasizes that such capabilities are insufficient without human oversight. The nuanced understanding of cultural, historical, and spiritual contexts, which human scholars bring, remains irreplaceable.[27]

Furthermore, this research supports existing critiques by demonstrating specific cases where AI's algorithmic interpretations deviate from the intended meanings of sacred texts, thereby reinforcing the need for a balanced approach. While AI can enhance accessibility and provide preliminary insights, its limitations necessitate collaboration with human expertise to ensure

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[23] Lee et al.

[24] Andrey V Korzhuev et al., "Religious and Scientific Traditions in Interpretation and 'Reading' of Modern and Canonical Language of Pedagogical Text," *Xlinguae*, 2020, https://doi.org/10.18355/xl.2020.13.03. 08.

[25] Korzhuev et al.

[26] Hakim, "Artificial Intellegence (AI) dan Dampaknya dalam Distorsi Pendidikan Islam."

[27] Miszairi Sitiris, "The Legal Capacity (Al-Ahliyyah) of Artificial Intelligence From an Islamic Jurisprudential Perspective," *Malaysian Journal of Syariah and Law*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.33102/mjsl.vol12no1.453; Hakim, "Artificial Intelligence in Teaching Islamic Studies: Challenges and Opportunities."

the integrity of religious interpretations. This finding aligns with the broader academic consensus advocating for AI as a complementary tool rather than a standalone solution in the domain of religious studies.[28]

In contrast, manual interpretation by religious experts offers a depth of understanding and contextual insight that AI may struggle to replicate. Religious scholars bring years of study and experience to their interpretations, allowing them to consider the broader implications and applications of religious texts.[29] Human interpreters can navigate complex theological nuances and cultural sensitivities that AI may overlook.[30] Moreover, manual interpretation allows for a more personalized and tailored approach to understanding religious texts, taking into account the specific needs and beliefs of the audience.[31]

To understand the perceptions of religious scholars and the Muslim community towards the use of AI in the interpretation of religious texts, it is essential to consider the views of both groups Religious scholars play a crucial role in validating the results of AI interpretation. While AI technologies offer speed and efficiency in analyzing texts, scholars may question the accuracy and contextual understanding of AI interpretations.[32] The validity of AI interpretation results may be a point of contention, as

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[28] Muhammad Nur Ishak, "Harmonization of Islamic Economics With Artificial Intelligence: Towards an Ethical and Innovative Economic Paradigm," *Al-Kharaj Journal of Islamic Economic and Business*, 2023, https://doi.org/10.24256/kharaj.v5i4.4387; Hassan, "Islamic Religious Terms in English – Translation vs. Transliteration in Ezzeddin Ibrahim and Denys Johnson-Davies' Translation of an-Nawawī's Forty Ḥadīths."

[29] Abdul Mufid et al., "Rereading Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd's Method of Interpreting Religious Texts," *HTS Teologiese Studies / Theological Studies*, 2023, https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v79i1.8102.

[30] Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip, "Queering Religious Texts: An Exploration of British Non-Heterosexual Christians' and Muslims' Strategy of Constructing Sexuality-Affirming Hermeneutics," *Sociology*, 2005, https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038505049000 h.138-142.

[31] Mufid et al., "Rereading Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd's Method of Interpreting Religious Texts."

[32] Korzhuev et al., "Religious and Scientific Traditions in Interpretation and 'Reading' of Modern and Canonical Language of Pedagogical Text."

scholars may argue that AI lacks the nuanced understanding and spiritual insight that human interpreters possess.[33]

On the other hand, the Muslim community's level of trust The integration of AI in the interpretation of Islamic religious texts raises significant ethical in AI for interpreting religious texts can vary. Some members of the community may embrace AI technologies as a tool to enhance accessibility and understanding of religious teachings. However, concerns about the potential for distortion or misinterpretation of sacred texts by AI systems may lead to skepticism among certain segments of the community.[34] Trust in AI may be influenced by factors such as religiosity, previous experiences with technology, and perceptions of transparency and accountability in AI systems.[35]

Religious scholars and community members may have differing perspectives on the use of AI in interpreting religious texts. While scholars may emphasize the importance of human interpretation for preserving the authenticity and depth of religious teachings, the community's views may be more varied. Some individuals may appreciate the convenience and broad access to interpretations facilitated by AI, while others may prioritize the spiritual guidance and wisdom offered by human scholars.[36]

The integration of AI in the interpretation of Islamic religious texts raises significant ethical and the logical implications that warrant careful consideration. Ethical issues surrounding the use of AI in interpreting religious texts include questions about the authority of interpretation and the authenticity of texts. AI technologies may challenge traditional hierarchies of religious authority by providing alternative interpretations based on algorithms and data analysis Sitiris.[37] This shift raises concerns about

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[33] Korzhuev et al.

[34] Hakim, "Artificial Intellegence (AI) dan Dampaknya dalam Distorsi Pendidikan Islam."

[35] Hakim.

[36] Mufid et al., "Rereading Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd's Method of Interpreting Religious Texts."

[37] Sitiris, "The Legal Capacity (Al-Ahliyyah) of Artificial Intelligence From an Islamic Jurisprudential Perspective."

the reliability and credibility of AI-generated interpretations compared to those derived from human religious scholars deeply rooted in the tradition.

From a theological perspective, the implications of using AI in interpreting Islamic texts are multifaceted. AI technologies may offer new insights and perspectives on religious teachings, potentially enriching the understanding of complex theological concepts.[38] However, the reliance on AI for interpretation raises theological questions about the role of human agency, intuition, and spiritual discernment in understanding divine revelation.[39] The theological implications of AI interpretation extend to issues of epistemology, hermeneutics, and the nature of religious knowledge.

The potential negative impacts of using AI in the interpretation of Islamic texts include the risk of oversimplification, misinterpretation, or distortion of religious teachings.[40] AI systems may lack the spiritual insight, moral discernment, and ethical sensitivity required for interpreting sacred texts accurately.[41] Moreover, the uncritical acceptance of AI-generated interpretations without human oversight may lead to the erosion of traditional interpretive frameworks and the devaluation of religious scholarship.[42]

Conversely, the positive impacts of AI in interpreting Islamic texts include the potential for increased accessibility, efficiency, and cross-cultural understanding of religious teachings.[43] AI technologies can facilitate the dissemination of Islamic knowledge to diverse audiences and promote dialogue and

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[38] Khader I Alkhouri, "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Study of the Psychology of Religion," *Religions*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15030290.

[39] Alkhouri.

[40] Ishak, "Harmonization of Islamic Economics With Artificial Intelligence: Towards an Ethical and Innovative Economic Paradigm."

[41] Ishak.

[42] Ishak.

[43] Hero Gefthi Firnando, "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Shaping the Islamic Worldview of the Digital Economy," *Journal of Islamic Economics and Philanthropy*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.21111/jiep.v6i3.11386.

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engagement with Islamic traditions.[44] By harnessing AI ethically and responsibly, there is an opportunity to enhance the study and dissemination of Islamic religious texts while upholding the values of authenticity, integrity, and ethical conduct.[45]

These findings contribute to the broader debates on the intersection of AI and Islamic ethics by situating the analysis within the framework of cultural hermeneutics. The study reveals that while AI offers significant technological advantages, its application must be critically examined to ensure alignment with ethical principles and theological values inherent in Islamic traditions. Specifically, the findings call for a balanced approach that integrates AI with the irreplaceable expertise of human scholars, preserving the authenticity and depth of Nusantara religious literature.

Practically, these findings hold implications for educators, policymakers, and technologists. They underscore the need for educational frameworks that incorporate AI while emphasizing critical engagement with traditional scholarship. For policymakers, the findings highlight the necessity of regulatory mechanisms to address ethical and cultural considerations. For technologists, they point to the importance of designing AI systems that are sensitive to the linguistic and cultural nuances of Nusantara Islamic texts. By grounding these insights in the regional context, this study advances the understanding of how AI can complement traditional interpretative practices in ways that are both innovative and respectful of cultural heritage.

Benefits and Challenges of AI in Religious Manuscript Interpretation

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been increasingly utilized in the interpretation and translation of Islamic religious texts, offering innovative ways to engage with sacred scriptures and promote understanding within religious contexts. Various AI technologies such as translation algorithms, chatbots, and text analysis engines have been employed to facilitate the interpretation

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[44] Firnando.
[45] Firnando.

and dissemination of Islamic teachings.[46] While the findings highlight AI's capacity for enhancing accessibility, efficiency, and cross-cultural understanding, its role must be evaluated in the broader context of contemporary academic and practical challenges. These technologies play a crucial role in bridging linguistic and cultural gaps, enabling individuals from diverse backgrounds to access and comprehend Islamic religious texts more effectively.

One significant application of AI in the realm of Islamic religious texts is the development of translation algorithms that aid in translating these texts into different languages, thereby making them more accessible to a global audience.These algorithms leverage natural language processing techniques to accurately translate complex religious terminology and concepts, ensuring that the essence of the original text is preserved during the translation process. By enabling the dissemination of Islamic teachings in multiple languages, these translation algorithms contribute to fostering cross-cultural dialogue and understanding.

One of the critical contributions of AI technologies in religious studies lies in their ability to bridge the divide between traditional and modern interpretive approaches. AI-powered tools such as translation algorithms and text analysis engines facilitate access to Islamic religious texts, thereby promoting inclusivity and democratization of knowledge. However, this prompts a deeper question: Can AI preserve the spiritual and cultural depth integral to religious texts, or does it risk reducing them to mechanized data points?

A synthesis of findings suggests that while traditional methods prioritize human insight, ethical judgment, and contextual understanding, AI augments these approaches by providing rapid processing and global accessibility. This intersection of technological efficiency and traditional wisdom could foster new methodologies for Islamic scholarship, encouraging cross-discip-

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[46] Siti Rohmah, "The Effect of the Qur'anic Interpretation Method on Students' Understanding of the Concept of Ethics in High Schools in West Java: A Case Study on Islamic Religious Education Subjects," *WSiSS*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.58812/wsiss.v2i02.828.

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linary collaboration between technologists and scholars. Academics must explore how these tools can align with the holistic principles of Islamic hermeneutics, ensuring they complement rather than replace established practices.

Moreover, chatbots powered by AI have been deployed to provide real-time assistance and interpretation of Islamic religious texts to individuals seeking guidance or clarification on specific religious matters.[47] These chatbots are designed to engage in interactive conversations, answer questions, and offer explanations based on the teachings of the Qur'an and th. By leveraging AI technologies, these chatbots can provide personalized responses tailored to the user's inquiries, thereby enhancing the accessibility of religious knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of Islamic principles.

In addition to translation algorithms and chatbots, text analysis engines driven by AI have been instrumental in conducting in-depth analyses of Islamic religious texts to extract valuable insights and interpretations.[48] These engines utilize machine learning algorithms to identify patterns, themes, and correlations within the texts, enabling scholars and researchers to gain a deeper understanding of the nuances present in the scriptures. By automating the process of text analysis, AI technologies streamline the interpretation of complex religious texts, allowing for more efficient and comprehensive scholarly investigations.

Furthermore, the integration of AI in the interpretation and translation of Islamic religious texts has facilitated the exploration of diverse perspectives and interpretations within the Islamic tradition.[49] By leveraging AI technologies, scholars and resea-

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[47] Nanang Faisol Hadi, "Critical Reasoning Islamic Religious Education and the Challenges of National Democracy in Pluralist Countries," *Journal of Social Research*, 2022, https://doi.org/10.55324/josr.v1i2.20.

[48] Wahyudin Wahyudin, "Religious Interpretation on Pancasila Methodologically and Empirically in Implementing Islamic Insight in Indonesian Archipelago," *Akademika Jurnal Pemikiran Islam*, 2019, https://doi.org/10.32332/akademika.v24i1.1615.

[49] Jill Marshall, "Women's Right to Autonomy and Identity in European Human Rights Law: Manifesting One's Religion," *Res Publica*, 2008, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11158-008-9066-y.

rchers can analyze multiple interpretations of religious texts, thereby promoting a more inclusive and nuanced understanding of Islamic teachings. This approach encourages dialogue and discourse among individuals with varying interpretations, fostering a culture of intellectual exchange and mutual respect within the Islamic community.

For practitioners, particularly educators and religious leaders, AI technologies hold promise for curriculum design and pedagogy. Adaptive AI tools can personalize learning experiences, allowing educators to engage students with diverse learning styles effectively. Additionally, AI-assisted interpretation could be used in community outreach programs to disseminate Islamic knowledge across linguistic and cultural barriers. Such applications align with the increasing need for inclusive educational strategies in multicultural societies.

However, integrating AI into educational and interpretive frameworks comes with challenges. Educators and community leaders must navigate ethical concerns regarding the authority and authenticity of AI-generated content. Structured collaboration between practitioners and technologists is essential to develop guidelines ensuring these technologies enhance rather than undermine the sanctity of religious education.

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in the interpretation of Islamic religious texts has raised discussions about its impact on the accuracy and authenticity of interpretations compared to those made by human religious scholars or experts. AI technologies, such as translation algorithms, chatbots, and text analysis engines, have played a significant role in facilitating the interpretation of Islamic scriptures, prompting questions about the reliability and faithfulness of AI-generated interpretations.[50]

One crucial aspect to consider is the accuracy of AI-generated interpretations in capturing the nuances and complexities of Islamic religious texts compared to interpretations by human

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[50] Rohmah, "The Effect of the Qur'anic Interpretation Method on Students' Understanding of the Concept of Ethics in High Schools in West Java: A Case Study on Islamic Religious Education Subjects."

experts. While AI algorithms excel in processing vast amounts of data and identifying patterns, they may lack the contextual understanding and spiritual insight that human scholars bring to the interpretation process. Religious scholars possess profound knowledge of religious traditions, linguistic nuances, and historical contexts, enabling them to provide interpretations grounded in scholarly expertise and spiritual wisdom.[51]

Furthermore, the authenticity of interpretations derived from AI technologies is a topic of scrutiny within the Islamic community. Traditional interpretations by religious scholars are often the result of years of study, contemplation, and adherence to established methodologies of interpretation, ensuring a rigorous and comprehensive approach to understanding religious texts. In contrast, AI-generated interpretations may lack the spiritual discernment and ethical considerations integral to the interpretive process in Islamic scholarship.[52]

Moreover, the role of human agency in interpreting religious texts is essential when assessing the authenticity of AI-generated interpretations. Religious scholars engage in ijtihad, the process of independent reasoning and interpretation, guided by a profound understanding of Islamic jurisprudence and theology. This human element of interpretation allows for the application of ethical principles, moral considerations, and spiritual insights that contribute to the authenticity and relevance of interpretations within the Islamic tradition.[53]

While AI technologies offer efficiency and scalability in processing and analyzing vast amounts of textual data, they may struggle to capture the spiritual depth, moral implications, and ethical nuances embedded in Islamic religious texts. The interpretive process in Islam is not merely a mechanical exercise of linguistic translation or text analysis but a holistic endeavor that

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[51] Firnando, "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Shaping the Islamic Worldview of the Digital Economy."

[52] Alkhouri, "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Study of the Psychology of Religion."

[53] Farid Panjwani, "Fazlur Rahman and the Search for Authentic Islamic Education: A Critical Appreciation," *Curriculum Inquiry*, 2012, https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-873x.2011.00574.x.

encompasses spiritual reflection, ethical considerations, and adherence to the principles of Islamic jurisprudence.[54]

In light of these considerations, the integration of AI in the interpretation of Islamic religious texts raises important questions about the balance between technological advancements and the preservation of traditional interpretive methods. While AI technologies can enhance the accessibility and dissemination of religious knowledge, they must be complemented by the expertise and spiritual insight of human scholars to ensure the accuracy, authenticity, and ethical integrity of interpretations within the Islamic tradition.[55]

The potential of AI in addressing regional concerns is evident in the context of Nusantara's rich yet diverse Islamic heritage. Traditional approaches to Quranic exegesis in the region, deeply rooted in local cultures and languages, could benefit from AI's ability to analyze and cross-reference large volumes of historical texts. For instance, tools employing machine learning could facilitate comparative analyses of regional interpretations, illuminating nuanced perspectives that might otherwise remain unexplored.

Furthermore, as Islamic scholarship in Nusantara grapples with contemporary societal issues, AI could serve as a bridge by synthesizing traditional knowledge with modern interpretative needs. This fusion offers opportunities to address pressing questions about gender inclusivity, interfaith dialogue, and environmental ethics—areas where contextualized interpretations are critical for practical applications.

The acceptance and perception of the Muslim community towards the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the interpretation of religious texts are influenced by various factors, including cultural norms, religious traditions, and attitudes towards technological advancements. While AI technologies offer innovative

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[54] Isdiana Isdiana, "Satu Suro Ceremony Tradition: Tahlilan in the Perspective of Islamic Religious Education," *J. Pend. A. Isl. Ind*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.37251/jpaii.v5i1.906.

[55] Nikmatullah Nikmatullah, "Male Ulama Reinterpretation of the Gender Hadith in Indonesian Socio Cultural Contexts," *Pharos Journal of Theology*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.46222/pharosjot.105.213.

tools for analyzing and interpreting religious scriptures, the reception within the Muslim community varies based on individual beliefs and interpretations.[56]

In Islamic societies, the role of religious leaders is paramount in guiding the community on matters of faith and interpretation of religious texts. The involvement of male ulama in reinterpreting gender-related hadiths in Indonesian socio-cultural contexts has been relatively well-received by the Muslim community, as it provides alternative interpretations that accommodate diverse perspectives and promote inclusivity.[57] This acceptance highlights the importance of engaging with traditional religious authorities in the process of interpreting sacred texts, even when leveraging AI technologies.

Moreover, the perception of AI-generated interpretations compared to those produced by human scholars or experts plays a significant role in shaping the acceptance of AI in religious contexts. While AI algorithms can offer efficiency and scalability in analyzing textual data, there may be concerns within the Muslim community regarding the spiritual depth and ethical considerations embedded in machine-generated interpretations. Human scholars are valued for their ability to provide interpretations grounded in scholarly expertise, spiritual wisdom, and adherence to established methodologies of interpretation.[58]

In the context of healthcare, Muslim religious leaders play a crucial role in guiding the community on issues related to reproductive and maternal health, demonstrating the influence of religious authorities in shaping perceptions and decisions within the Muslim community.[59] The acceptance of AI in interpreting religious texts may be influenced by the endorsement or guidan-

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[56] Nikmatullah.

[57] Nikmatullah.

[58] Abdullahi Mohammed Maiwada et al., "Islamic Perspectives of Reproductive and Maternal Health: What Role Can Nigerian Muslim Religious Leaders Play in the Prevention of Maternal Mortality? –With Particular Reference to Zamfara State NorthWest Nigeria," *Iium Medical Journal Malaysia*, 2018, https://doi.org/10.31436/imjm.v17i1.1026.

[59] Maiwada et al.

ce provided by religious leaders, who serve as trusted sources of religious knowledge and ethical guidance.

Furthermore, the intersection of religious beliefs and technological advancements can impact the acceptance of AI in interpreting religious texts. In the context of halal meat production, a section of the Muslim community rejects pre-slaughter stunning based on religious beliefs, highlighting the influence of religious convictions on practices and interpretations within the community.[60] This demonstrates how religious considerations can shape attitudes towards specific technological practices, including those related to AI.

The acceptance of AI in interpreting religious texts also reflects broader discussions within the Muslim community about the preservation of religious authenticity and the role of technology in religious practices. While AI technologies offer new possibilities for engaging with religious texts and promoting understanding, there may be concerns about the potential implications for traditional interpretive methods and the authority of human scholars.[61] Balancing technological advancements with the preservation of religious traditions is essential in navigating the acceptance of AI in interpreting Islamic scriptures.

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in the interpretation of Islamic religious texts raises significant ethical and theological implications that warrant careful consideration within the Muslim community. The ethical dimension of AI in religious contexts, as discussed by Zsófia Tóth et al,[62] revolves around the accountability and responsibility associated with AI applications. When AI technologies are employed in interpreting sacred texts, questions arise regarding the accountability of machine-

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[60] Awal Fuseini, "The Brain, Unconsciousness and Death: A Critical Appraisal With Regard to Halal Meat Production," *Animal Welfare*, 2019, https://doi.org/10.7120/09627286.28.2.165.

[61] Myrte Hoekstra and Maykel Verkuyten, "To Be a True Muslim: Online Discussions on the Headscarf Among Moroccan-Dutch Women," *Gender Place \& Culture*, 2014, https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369x.2014.958068.

[62] Zsófia Tóth et al., "The Dawn of the AI Robots: Towards a New Framework of AI Robot Accountability," *Journal of Business Ethics*, 2022, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-022-05050-z.

generated interpretations, especially in matters of faith and morality. The reliance on AI for interpreting religious texts may challenge traditional notions of authority and expertise, leading to concerns about the ethical implications of delegating interpretive tasks to non-human entities.

From a theological perspective, the use of AI in interpreting Islamic religious texts introduces complexities related to issues of authority, authenticity, and moral responsibility. Kazeem[63] highlights the importance of ethical approaches to religious diversity and interreligious issues from Islamic perspectives. The theological implications of AI interpretations lie in the potential divergence from traditional methods of interpretation guided by religious scholars deeply rooted in Islamic jurisprudence and theology. The shift towards AI-generated interpretations may raise theological concerns about the preservation of religious authenticity and the integrity of interpretive traditions within Islam.

Moreover, the emotional responses of religious individuals to AI technologies, as explored by Kozak,[64] shed light on the anxieties and ethical considerations surrounding the use of AI in religious contexts. The observation that religious individuals exhibit heightened levels of concern and anger towards AI may stem from apprehensions about the ethical and moral implications of AI technologies, particularly in the realm of interpreting sacred texts. The emotional responses reflect broader societal debates about the ethical boundaries of AI applications and the impact of technological advancements on religious practices and beliefs.

The integration of AI in interpreting Islamic religious texts also intersects with educational initiatives, as highlighted by

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[63] Akeem Olayinka Kazeem, "Analyzing John H. Hick's Religious Pluralism and Its Implications From Islamic Ethical Perspectives," *Journal of Islamic Thought and Civilization*, 2023, https://doi.org/10.32350/jitc.132.12.

[64] Jaroslaw Kozak, "The Relationship Between Religiosity Level and Emotional Responses to Artificial Intelligence in University Students," *Religions*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15030331.

Rohmah,[65] emphasizing the importance of integrating religious texts into educational curricula to promote moral development among students. The ethical and theological implications of AI interpretations extend to educational settings, where the use of AI technologies may influence the transmission of religious knowledge and shape students' understanding of ethical principles derived from sacred scriptures. Balancing technological advancements with ethical considerations in educational contexts is essential to ensure that AI interpretations align with the moral teachings and values inherent in Islamic religious texts.

Furthermore, the ethical implications of AI in interpreting Islamic religious texts underscore the need for a nuanced approach that considers the ethical principles embedded in Islamic traditions. Firnando[66] emphasizes the importance of ethical considerations in integrating AI within the rich heritage of Islamic values, highlighting the significance of upholding ethical standards in the development and application of AI technologies in religious contexts. The ethical framework guiding the use of AI in interpreting religious texts should align with Islamic ethical principles to ensure that interpretations uphold the moral integrity and authenticity of sacred scriptures.

The ethical and effective use of artificial intelligence (AI) in supporting Islamic religious studies and education presents opportunities and challenges that necessitate careful consideration within the Muslim community. Exploring the potential and challenges of AI in religious contexts and establishing guidelines for its appropriate use can enhance the quality of religious learning while upholding ethical standards and maintaining the authenticity of Islamic teachings.

One significant opportunity of employing AI in Islamic education is the ability to improve the quality of religious learning by utilizing AI technologies to offer personalized and inter-

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[65] Rohmah, "The Effect of the Qur'anic Interpretation Method on Students' Understanding of the Concept of Ethics in High Schools in West Java: A Case Study on Islamic Religious Education Subjects."

[66] Firnando, "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Shaping the Islamic Worldview of the Digital Economy."

active learning experiences Hakim.[67] AI can provide tailored educational content, adaptive learning pathways, and real-time feedback to students, catering to diverse learning styles and needs within the Islamic education system. Integrating AI-driven tools into teaching practices can help educators create engaging learning environments that facilitate a deeper understanding and retention of religious knowledge.

Nevertheless, the integration of AI in Islamic education also presents challenges that must be addressed to ensure ethical and effective implementation. It is crucial to consider factors such as infrastructure and supportive learning environments to motivate students to engage with Islamic education.[68] Ensuring accessibility, inclusivity, and equity when incorporating AI technologies is essential to provide all students with equal opportunities to benefit from AI-enhanced learning experiences and promote ethical practices in education.

Furthermore, the ethical considerations of utilizing AI in Islamic education emphasize the importance of preserving the authenticity of religious teachings while integrating local cultural values.[69] Developing AI-powered educational materials for Islamic studies should maintain the integrity of Islamic religious texts and teachings while incorporating cultural nuances that resonate with students' experiences. Grounding AI applications in the rich heritage of Islamic traditions and values can ensure that technological advancements align with ethical principles and foster a comprehensive understanding of Islam.

Guidelines for the ethical use of AI in the Islamic context should prioritize ethical considerations, authenticity, and student well-being. Involving parents, religious leaders, and community

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[67] Hakim, "Artificial Intelligence in Teaching Islamic Studies: Challenges and Opportunities."

[68] Teni Eki Saputri, "Identifying Student Motivation in Learning Islamic Education in Senior High School," *Jie*, 2022, https://doi.org/10.58485/jie.v1i1.114.

[69] Zumzianah, "Islamic Religious Education Based on Local Culture: Strategy for Developing Islamic Religious Education Materials in Madrasah Ibtidaiyah," *Ijgie (International Journal of Graduate of Islamic Education)*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.37567/ijgie.v5i1.2727.

members in the educational process is crucial to ensure that AI applications align with Islamic values and ethical standards.[70] Emphasizing critical thinking, creativity, and moral responsibility among students is essential to cultivate knowledgeable and virtuous individuals through AI-enhanced education.[71]

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in interpreting Islamic religious texts, particularly within the context of Nusantara traditions. By leveraging AI technologies, such as translation algorithms and text analysis tools, scholars can enhance accessibility, efficiency and thematic understanding of religious texts. However, the study also underscores significant limitations, including contextual inaccuracies and ethical concerns, emphasizing the irreplaceable role of human expertise in safeguarding interpretative authenticity.

To address these challenges and harness AI effectively, the following actionable recommendations are proposed. For Educators, develop curricula that integrate AI tools with traditional methods of Islamic studies, emphasizing critical thinking and ethical discernment. This approach will prepare students to engage with both technological advancements and the spiritual depth of Nusantara Islamic traditions. For Policymakers, establish regulatory frameworks that ensure the ethical use of AI in religious contexts. These frameworks should address issues such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the preservation of cultural and religious authenticity. For Technologists, collaborate with Islamic scholars to design AI systems tailored to the nuances of Nusantara religious texts. This includes incorporating cultural

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[70] Nurhasnawati Nurhasnawati et al., "Systematic Review of the Literature on Islamic Religious Education Design in Indonesia: The Role of Parents in Islamic Religious Education," *Couns-Edu| the International Journal of Counseling and Education*, 2020, https://doi.org/10.23916/0020200540840.

[71] Tata and Ajat Rukajat, "Efforts to Strengthen Philosophical Foundations Islamic Education," *Edukasi Jurnal Pendidikan Islam (E-Journal)*, 2022, https://doi.org/10.54956/edukasi.v10i1.44.

and theological insights to enhance the contextual relevance and accuracy of AI-generated interpretations.

The implications of this research extend beyond academic inquiry, offering a roadmap for integrating AI into the broader domain of Islamic studies. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and prioritizing ethical considerations, stakeholders can ensure that AI complements rather than disrupts traditional scholarship. Future research should explore empirical studies and the long-term impact of AI on the preservation of Islamic traditions, providing further clarity on its role in bridging technology with deeply rooted cultural heritage.

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