

Tafsir al-Jalalayn in Qur'anic Learning: A Conceptual Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This study examines Tafsir al-Jalalayn as one of the most influential classical works in Qur'anic exegesis, focusing on its interpretative method, characteristics, and contributions to tafsir studies. The research is motivated by the need to better understand the methodological framework of this tafsir, particularly in bridging classical and contemporary approaches to Qur'anic interpretation. Using a qualitative library research method, this study analyzes relevant scholarly literature and textual sources related to Tafsir al-Jalalayn. The findings reveal that Tafsir al-Jalalayn employs the *tahlili* (verse-by-verse) method, emphasizing linguistic analysis, vocabulary clarification, and concise explanation of Qur'anic verses. Its distinctive characteristics include brevity, clarity, systematic structure, attention to inter-verse relationships (*munasabah*), and consideration of the historical context of revelation (*asbab al-nuzul*). These features make it accessible to a wide range of readers, from students to academic scholars. Furthermore, the study highlights that Tafsir al-Jalalayn contributes significantly to Qur'anic studies by providing a practical and systematic approach to understanding the Qur'an, serving as

a classical reference for the development of tafsir methodology, and supporting linguistic analysis of the Qur'anic text. It also plays an important role in education and academic research. Therefore, *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* remains highly relevant as both an academic and practical resource in contemporary Qur'anic studies.

Keywords: *Tafsir al-Jalalayn, Qur'anic Learning, Conceptual Analysis*

A. Introduction

The interpretation of the Qur'an (*tafsir*) constitutes a fundamental aspect of Islamic scholarship, as it functions to understand the meanings and messages contained within the Qur'an in a correct and systematic manner [Al-Qattan, 2000: 45-46]. One of the exegetical works widely used within the Islamic intellectual tradition is *Tafsir al-Jalalayn*, composed by two prominent scholars, Jalaluddin al-Mahalli and Jalaluddin al-Suyuti [Shihab, 2013: 112]. This work is well known for its concise, clear, and accessible style of interpretation, making it a primary reference in various Islamic boarding schools (*pesantren*) and educational institutions [Al-Farmawi, 1994: 28].

This study is motivated by the importance of understanding the methods and characteristics of interpretation employed in *Tafsir al-Jalalayn*, particularly within the context of both classical and contemporary tafsir studies. Although numerous studies have examined classical exegesis, research that specifically analyzes the methodology, characteristics, and contributions of *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* remains relatively limited. Previous studies have primarily emphasized its linguistic features and brevity [Nurjanah, 2023: 76-77], yet few have explored the relevance of its methodological approach to modern Qur'anic understanding.

The objective of this study is to identify the interpretative method, characteristics, and contributions of *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* to the development of Qur'anic exegesis. The theoretical framework is grounded in *'Ulum al-Qur'an* and tafsir methodology, which highlight the role of classical exegetical works as primary references for systematically understanding the Qur'an [Al-Dhahabi, 2005: 102-104]. Through this approach, the study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* and its relevance as both an academic and practical resource in Qur'anic studies.

B. Literature Review

Tafsir al-Jalalayn is one of the classical exegetical works widely used as a reference in Qur'anic studies, particularly in Islamic boarding schools (*pesantren*) and educational institutions [Shihab, 2013: 112]. This work was composed by two prominent scholars, Jalaluddin al-Mahalli and Jalaluddin al-Suyuti, and is well known for its concise, precise, and accessible interpretative style [Al-Farmawi, 1994: 28]. The distinctiveness of *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* lies in its focus on linguistic aspects, clarification of vocabulary meanings, and brief yet comprehensive explanations of Qur'anic verses [Al-Qattan, 2000: 45-46].

Several previous studies have examined the method and characteristics of *Tafsir al-Jalalayn*. Nurjanah emphasizes that this tafsir employs a *tahlili* approach, namely a verse-by-verse interpretation that takes into account the context of revelation while prioritizing linguistic clarity. This is in line with Shihab, who argues that the work was designed to facilitate readers in understanding the message of the Qur'an without losing the essential meanings of each verse.

Furthermore, a study by Al-Dhahabi indicates that *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* contributes to presenting a systematic overview of the Qur'an's content, making it

useful for both academic and practical purposes. Research by Al-Farmawi adds that this work is also relevant for understanding the interconnection between verses and thematic coherence within the Qur'an, despite maintaining a concise interpretative format.

From these studies, it can be concluded that *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* occupies an important position in the classical tafsir tradition, both as a learning resource and as a reference for academic research. This study seeks to extend previous research by focusing on the method, characteristics, and relevance of *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* in contemporary tafsir studies, thereby providing a deeper understanding for both readers and researchers of the Qur'an.

C. Research Method

This study employs a library research method with a qualitative approach, involving an in-depth review and analysis of literature related to *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* [Creswell, 2014: 22]. The qualitative approach is chosen because the study emphasizes understanding the context, characteristics, and interpretative methods applied in *Tafsir al-Jalalayn*, and therefore does not require numerical measurement or statistical analysis. The type of research used is descriptive qualitative research. This study aims to systematically describe the interpretative methods, characteristics, and contributions of *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* in Qur'anic exegesis studies. The findings are presented narratively, with a focus on thematic and linguistic analysis of Qur'anic verses as explained in *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* [Al-Qattan, 2000: 45-46].

D. Results and Discussion

1. The Definition of Tafsir al-Jalalayn

Tafsir al-Jalalayn is one of the most well-known classical Qur'anic commentaries within the Islamic scholarly tradition. It was authored by two prominent scholars, Jalal al-Din al-Mahalli (d. 864 AH/1460 CE) and Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti (d. 911 AH/1505 CE), which is why it is referred to as "al-Jalalayn" or "the Two Jalals" [Shihab, 2013: 112]. This tafsir is مشهور for its concise, clear, and direct explanatory style, making it highly accessible to readers from various backgrounds, including students in Islamic boarding schools and universities [Al-Farmawi, 1994: 28].

Tafsir al-Jalalayn employs the *tahlili* method, which involves interpreting the Qur'an verse by verse according to the ترتيب of the mushaf. It places strong emphasis on linguistic aspects, including vocabulary meanings and sentence structures within Qur'anic verses. This method enables readers to grasp the meanings of verses quickly and systematically without losing the core message of the Qur'an [Nurjanah, 2023: 76-77]. In addition, *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* also considers the relationship between verses (*munasabah*) and the historical context of revelation (*asbab al-nuzul*), thereby providing a comprehensive and harmonious understanding of the themes discussed in the Qur'an [Al-Qattan, 2000: 45-46].

Overall, *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* can be regarded as a concise yet comprehensive exegesis, characterized by its clarity and efficiency in conveying meaning. Its features make it particularly effective in helping readers understand the Qur'an from linguistic, semantic, and contextual perspectives. Consequently, this tafsir remains highly relevant today as a primary reference in both classical Qur'anic studies and contemporary academic research [Shihab, 2013: 115].

2. The Method of Interpretation in Tafsir al-Jalalayn

Tafsir al-Jalalayn employs the *tahlili* approach, which involves interpreting the Qur'an verse by verse according to the ترتيب of the mushaf. This method emphasizes linguistic understanding, word meanings, and sentence structure so that the message of the Qur'an can be conveyed in a concise, precise, and systematic manner [Shihab, 2013: 112-113].

- a. **Verse by Verse Interpretation (Tahlili).** The *tahlili* method means that each verse is explained sequentially based on its position in the Qur'an. This approach focuses on clarifying words, terms, and sentence structures, enabling readers to directly grasp the core message of each verse without the need to consult lengthy commentaries [Nurjanah, 2023: 76-77].
- b. **Linguistic and Vocabulary Analysis.** Tafsir al-Jalalayn places strong emphasis on linguistic meaning. Jalal al-Din al-Mahalli and Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti explain difficult words, technical terms, and relevant aspects of Arabic grammar. This allows readers to understand the Qur'anic text clearly, particularly in terms of linguistic nuances that influence the meaning of the verses [Al-Farmawi, 1994: 30].
- c. **Attention to the Relationship Between Verses (Munasabah).** Despite its concise nature, Tafsir al-Jalalayn pays attention to the interconnection between verses to maintain consistency of meaning. This ensures that verses are not understood in isolation, but rather within their thematic relationships, whether within a single surah or across different surahs [Al-Qattan, 2000: 45-46].
- d. **Consideration of the Historical Context of Revelation (Asbab al-Nuzul).** The method of Tafsir al-Jalalayn also addresses the context in which verses were revealed, particularly to explain the background of specific rulings or commands. This approach helps readers understand the relevance of the verses to the socio-historical conditions during the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), thereby maintaining contextual interpretation [Al-Dhahabi, 2005: 102-103].
- e. **Concise and Compact Style.** A distinctive characteristic of Tafsir al-Jalalayn is its brevity and directness in conveying the main meaning, without extensive elaboration as found in other commentaries. This makes the work accessible and efficient for readers seeking a quick yet meaningful understanding of Qur'anic verses [Shihab, 2013: 115].

3. The Characteristics of Tafsir al-Jalalayn

Tafsir al-Jalalayn is one of the classical Qur'anic commentaries that possesses distinctive features, making it easily recognizable and continuously relevant in Qur'anic studies. Its main characteristics can be outlined as follows:

- a. **Concise and Compact.** One of the most prominent features of Tafsir al-Jalalayn is its brevity combined with depth of meaning. The commentary avoids lengthy explanations and instead focuses directly on the core meaning of each verse, making it easier for readers to quickly grasp the message of the Qur'an [Shihab, 2013: 115].
- b. **Focus on Linguistic Aspects.** Tafsir al-Jalalayn places strong emphasis on linguistic analysis. The authors explain the meanings of words, technical terms, and sentence structures within Qur'anic verses. This approach helps readers understand the nuances of the Arabic language that influence interpretation and contextual meaning [Al-Farmawi, 1994: 30].

- c. **Systematic and Sequential Structure.** This tafsir follows the ترتيب of verses in the mushaf, applying the *tahlili* method. Such a systematic arrangement allows for a more structured flow of understanding and enables readers to follow the interpretation logically, while also recognizing the connections between verses within a surah [Nurjanah, 2023: 76-77].
- d. **Attention to Inter-verse Relationships (*Munasabah*).** Despite its concise style, Tafsir al-Jalalayn considers the relationships between verses. By understanding these connections, readers gain a more comprehensive insight into the thematic unity of the Qur'an rather than viewing verses in isolation [Al-Qattan, 2000: 45-46].
- e. **Inclusion of Historical Context (*Asbab al-Nuzul*).** The tafsir also addresses the background of revelation to explain legal rulings, commands, or prohibitions found in the Qur'an. This enables readers to understand verses not only linguistically but also within their historical and situational contexts [Al-Dhahabi, 2005: 102-103].
- f. **Accessible to a Wide Audience.** Its concise, clear, and systematic nature makes Tafsir al-Jalalayn accessible to readers from diverse educational backgrounds, ranging from students in Islamic boarding schools to academic researchers. It continues to serve as a primary reference in both classical Qur'anic studies and modern scholarly research [Shihab, 2013: 118].

4. The Contributions of Tafsir al-Jalalayn

Tafsir al-Jalalayn has made significant contributions to the study of Qur'anic exegesis, particularly in terms of methodology, education, and practical application. Its main contributions can be outlined as follows:

- a. **Facilitating a Concise and Systematic Understanding of the Qur'an.** Tafsir al-Jalalayn is well known for its concise yet meaningful interpretive style. This enables readers to quickly grasp the meanings of Qur'anic verses without losing their essential message. This contribution is especially valuable for students in Islamic boarding schools, university students, and general readers who seek a foundational and systematic understanding of the Qur'an [Shihab, 2013: 115].
- b. **Serving as a Classical Reference for the *Tahlili* Method.** This tafsir employs the *tahlili* method, which interprets verses sequentially according to the order of the mushaf. As a result, Tafsir al-Jalalayn has become one of the primary classical references for exegetical studies that follow this approach. It also provides a foundation for the development of more systematic modern methods of Qur'anic interpretation [Nurjanah, 2023: 76-77].
- c. **Emphasizing Linguistic Analysis.** Tafsir al-Jalalayn places considerable emphasis on explaining word meanings, technical terms, and sentence structures in the Qur'an. This contribution greatly assists readers in understanding the nuances of the Arabic language, as well as the relationship between vocabulary and contextual meaning. Consequently, the tafsir remains highly relevant for linguistic studies of the Qur'an [Al-Farmawi, 1994: 30].
- d. **Addressing Inter-verse Relationships and Historical Context.** Despite its brevity, Tafsir al-Jalalayn pays attention to *munāsabah* (the relationship between verses) and *asbab al-nuzul* (the circumstances of revelation). This contribution allows readers to go beyond literal meanings and understand the socio-historical context of the verses, resulting in a more comprehensive and coherent interpretation [Al-Qattan, 2000: 45-46].

- e. **Becoming a Reference for Education and Research.** Tafsir al-Jalalayn has long been used as a teaching material in Islamic boarding schools, madrasahs, and higher education institutions. In addition, it serves as an important reference in academic research on classical tafsir, the *tahlili* method, and Qur'anic linguistic analysis. This enduring role highlights its continued relevance in both educational and scholarly contexts [Shihab, 2013: 118].

E. Conclusion

Based on the analysis, Tafsir al-Jalalayn can be regarded as one of the most significant classical works in Qur'anic exegesis, characterized by its concise, systematic, and linguistically focused interpretative approach. The study finds that the tafsir applies the *tahlili* method, interpreting the Qur'an verse by verse while emphasizing vocabulary meaning, sentence structure, and clarity of language. In addition, it incorporates important elements such as *munasabah* (the relationship between verses) and *asbab al-nuzul* (the context of revelation), which contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of Qur'anic messages. The characteristics of Tafsir al-Jalalayn its brevity, clarity, and accessibility make it a highly effective tool for learning and teaching the Qur'an across different educational levels. Its contributions are evident in its role as a foundational reference in classical tafsir studies, its support for linguistic and thematic analysis, and its continued use in educational institutions and academic research. In conclusion, Tafsir al-Jalalayn not only represents a classical heritage of Islamic scholarship but also remains relevant in contemporary Qur'anic studies. Its methodological simplicity and depth of meaning provide valuable insights for both beginners and advanced researchers, making it an enduring and essential resource for understanding the Qur'an.

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