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Tracing Hadiths in Hadith Collections Using *Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li Alfaz al-Hadith al-Nabawi*: A Study in Islamic Education

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ABSTRACT

Hadith is the second primary source of Islamic teachings after the Qur'an and plays a significant role in explaining and elaborating Islamic laws and teachings. In the context of Islamic Education, mastery of Hadith retrieval methods is an essential competency for students to enable them to understand and examine the primary sources of Islamic teachings accurately. In learning and research activities, students often encounter difficulties in locating the original sources of Hadith due to the vast number of Hadiths dispersed across numerous Hadith collections. One of the reference works that facilitates this process is *Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li Alfaz al-Hadith al-Nabawi*, an index of Hadith compiled based on the words found in the Hadith text (matan) and arranged according to the Arabic alphabetical order. This study aims to explain the procedures for searching Hadith using *Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras* and to identify the common challenges faced by

students in its application. This research employed a library research method with a descriptive approach. The data were collected from various references on Hadith studies, particularly those related to Hadith takhrij methods and the use of Hadith indexing works. The findings indicate that *Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras* significantly facilitates the process of Hadith takhrij by enabling users to locate Hadiths in their original source books more quickly and systematically. However, students still encounter several challenges, including difficulties in identifying root words, understanding the abbreviations of Hadith collections, and interpreting the reference system used in the index. Therefore, a thorough understanding and continuous practice are necessary to ensure the proper and scholarly use of this reference work while strengthening students' competencies in Hadith learning within the field of Islamic Education.

Keywords: *Hadith Retrieval, Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras, Hadith Takhrij, Hadith Index, Hadith Studies, Islamic Education.*

A. Introduction

Hadith is the second primary source of Islamic teachings after the Qur'an, serving as an explanation, reinforcement, and elaboration of the teachings contained in the Qur'an. Therefore, an accurate understanding and retrieval of Hadith are essential, particularly for students and researchers in the field of Islamic studies. In the context of Islamic Education, the ability to retrieve Hadith from its authentic sources constitutes an important academic competency, enabling students to engage in learning and scholarly inquiry based on reliable Islamic references. However, the vast number of Hadiths dispersed across numerous Hadith collections often presents challenges in locating their original sources.

Throughout the development of Hadith studies, Muslim scholars have developed various methods and scholarly works to facilitate the retrieval of Hadith. One of the most significant is *Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li Alfaz al-Hadith al-Nabawi*. This reference work is organized according to the words found in the *matan* (text) of Hadith and arranged alphabetically based on the Arabic script, enabling users to locate Hadiths efficiently within the primary Hadith collections (Somad & Arifin, 2013, p. 45). The utilization of this work also supports the teaching and learning of Hadith studies within Islamic Education, particularly in developing students' systematic Hadith *takhrij* skills.

In practice, many students still encounter difficulties in identifying appropriate keywords, understanding the abbreviations of Hadith collections, and interpreting the reference system employed in the index. Therefore, this paper aims to explain the procedures for retrieving Hadith using *Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li Alfaz al-Hadith al-Nabawi*, so that the process of Hadith *takhrij* can be conducted accurately and in accordance with scholarly principles while also contributing to the enhancement of students' competencies in Islamic Education.

B. Literature Review

Hadith is the second primary source of Islamic teachings after the Qur'an and serves to explain, reinforce, and elaborate the teachings contained in the Qur'an. In the lives of Muslims, Hadith provides guidance in various aspects, including worship, morality, and social transactions (*mu'amalah*). Within the context of Islamic Education, understanding Hadith constitutes an essential component of the learning process, as it forms the foundation for comprehending and implementing Islamic teachings comprehensively. Given the vast number of Hadiths dispersed across numerous Hadith collections, an appropriate retrieval method is required to facilitate their understanding and application in academic activities and research (Ismail, 1992, p. 12).

Linguistically, the term *takhrij al-Hadith* is derived from the Arabic word *kharaja*, which means "to bring out" or "to reveal." Terminologically, *takhrij al-Hadith* refers to the process of tracing and identifying the original source of a Hadith while providing information regarding its authenticity and classification (Izzan, 2012, p. 3). Through *takhrij*, researchers are able to identify the source, chain of transmission (*sanad*), and status of a Hadith, thereby ensuring its scholarly authenticity. One of the principal reference works used in this process is *Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li Alfaz al-Hadith al-Nabawi*. This index is designed to facilitate the retrieval of Hadiths based on specific words found in the *matan* (text) of the Hadith and has become an important reference for students and contemporary Hadith researchers (Setiadi, 2019, p. 150). Mastery of *takhrij* methods through this reference also contributes to the development of students' competencies in the study of Hadith within Islamic Education.

The advancement of information technology has also significantly influenced the field of Hadith studies. Today, Hadith retrieval is no longer limited to classical printed collections but can also be conducted through digital applications and platforms such as *Maktabah Syamilah*. These technological developments enable users to search for Hadiths more efficiently using keywords, themes, or narrators' names. Nevertheless, a sound understanding of traditional manual retrieval methods based on classical reference works remains essential to ensure that the results of Hadith retrieval are academically reliable and scientifically accountable (Ningsih, 2023, p. 172). Therefore, instruction on the use of Hadith indexing works continues to play an important role in Islamic Education by fostering students' systematic academic skills and their ability to utilize authentic Islamic sources. Research Method

The methodology of this study is designed to provide a systematic framework for examining and analyzing the *tafsir maudhu'i* method. This research employs a qualitative approach, with a primary focus on literature review and textual analysis. The study begins with the collection and critical examination of relevant literature on *tafsir maudhu'i*. The sources utilized include academic journal articles and scholarly works by Muslim intellectuals who have discussed this method. Through this approach, the study is expected to offer a comprehensive overview of the *tafsir maudhu'i* method, as well as its contribution to the understanding and application of Qur'anic teachings in the modern era.

C. Research Method

This study employed a qualitative research method using a library research approach. The research was conducted by collecting various sources related to Hadith studies, including books, scholarly journals, academic articles, and other relevant references associated with the topic under investigation. This approach was selected because it is appropriate for examining the concepts and methods of Hadith retrieval, which can support the development of Hadith instruction within the context of Islamic Education.

Data were collected through a systematic process of reading, comprehending, and recording essential information from the selected sources. The collected data were subsequently analyzed using a descriptive-analytical method, which involves systematically describing, interpreting, and presenting the material relevant to the research topic. This analysis was undertaken to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the use of *Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras* and its relevance in supporting the teaching and learning of Hadith within the field of Islamic Education.

The primary data source for this study was *Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li Alfaz al-Hadith al-Nabawi* by A.J. Wensinck (1969), while the secondary data sources consisted of books, scholarly journals, and other academic literature on Hadith studies, *takhrij* methodology, and Islamic Education.

D. Results and Discussion

1. Definition of *Mu'jam al-Mufahras li Alfaz al-Hadith*

Etymologically, the term *al-Mu'jam* (المعجم) is derived from the root word *al-'ujm* (العجم), which refers to "non-Arabs" or "those who are not fluent in Arabic." Ibn Jinni, in *Sirr Sina'at al-I'rab*, as cited by Emil Ya'qub, explains that the Arabic root (ع ج م) conveys the meanings of *al-ibham* (ambiguity) and *al-ikhfa'* (concealment), which are the opposites of *al-bayan* (clarity) and *al-ifsah* (eloquence). From this perspective, the term *mu'jam* is used to describe a systematically organized collection of vocabulary intended to eliminate ambiguity in the meaning of words (Wensinck, 1969, p. 1).

Mu'jam al-Mufahras li Alfaz al-Hadith is one of the most monumental works in the field of modern Hadith studies, playing a significant role in facilitating the process of *takhrij al-Hadith*. Unlike classical Hadith collections, which are generally organized according to chains of transmission (*sanad*) or chapters of Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*), this work employs an alphabetical arrangement based on the initial letter of each root word. Every keyword (*mufradat*) serves as a main entry, under which excerpts of Hadith texts (*matan*) containing that word are listed, together with references to the original Hadith collections, Hadith numbers, and their locations within the source texts (Arifah et al., 2023, p. 62).

This alphabetical approach represents a major innovation in Hadith studies, as it enables researchers to locate a Hadith simply by identifying one keyword from its *matan*. For example, to search for a Hadith containing the word *iman* (faith), a researcher only needs to consult the entries under the letter *alif* and will find all Hadiths containing that term along with their corresponding source references. Thus, *Mu'jam al-Mufahras* functions as a comprehensive Hadith index containing excerpts of Hadith texts that facilitate the retrieval of specific keywords or expressions from the nine major Hadith collections (*Kutub al-Tis'ah*) (Winarto, 2022, p. 3).

2. Compiler of *Mu'jam al-Mufahras*

Mu'jam al-Mufahras was compiled by a group of Western Orientalist scholars led by A.J. Wensinck, in collaboration with J.P. Mensing, W.P. Juynboll, H. Hirschfeld, and several other scholars. The project began in the early twentieth century and was published gradually by E.J. Brill, Leiden University Press, the Netherlands, between 1936 and 1969. This work represents a landmark achievement in the history of Hadith retrieval methodology (Setiadi, 2019, p. 152).

Arent Jan Wensinck was born in Rotterdam in 1882 and passed away in 1939. He was an Orientalist scholar specializing in the Arabic language, Islamic studies, and the history of early Islamic theology. As a professor at Leiden University, he actively participated in numerous Arabic philological research projects and became one of the principal contributors to the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*. In addition to *Mu'jam al-Mufahras*, Wensinck authored several influential works on Islamic theology, Hadith history, and the development of Islamic law (Arifah et al., 2023, p. 64).

Despite coming from the Western academic tradition, Wensinck was widely recognized for his rigorous scholarly methodology. His study of Hadith emphasized philological analysis, textual structure, and the interrelationship among Hadith sources rather than theological or doctrinal perspectives. Although Wensinck passed away before the project was completed, his colleagues continued the work until its

full publication. The significance of *Mu'jam al-Mufahras* within the Muslim scholarly community was further strengthened through the contribution of Muhammad Fu'ad Abd al-Baqi, who adapted its indexing system to make it more accessible to Muslim academics (Fauzi, 2019, p. 5).

3. Objectives and Functions of *Mu'jam al-Mufahras*

Mu'jam al-Mufahras occupies a fundamental position in the historical development of Hadith research methodology in the modern era. Prior to the publication of this work, a Hadith researcher (*talib al-Hadith*) was required to possess an exceptional memory or spend years searching through thousands of chapters across dozens of volumes of Hadith collections to locate a single Hadith text (Izzan, 2012, p. 31). Within the context of Islamic Education, this reference work serves as an important resource for supporting the teaching and learning of Hadith, particularly in developing students' ability to retrieve Hadith sources systematically and according to scholarly standards.

The primary objective of compiling this work was to create a "navigation key" that enables users to locate the original source of a Hadith by using only one or two keywords from its *matan* (text). More specifically, its objectives are: first, to improve efficiency in terms of time and effort during the process of *takhrij al-Hadith*; second, to codify and systematically organize Hadith texts according to their root words (*ishtiqaq*); third, to facilitate comparative studies of Hadith texts across different Hadith collections; and fourth, to document the richness of vocabulary contained in the nine major Hadith collections (*Kutub al-Tis'ah*), namely *Sahih al-Bukhari*, *Sahih Muslim*, *Sunan Abu Dawud*, *Sunan al-Tirmidhi*, *Sunan al-Nasa'i*, *Sunan Ibn Majah*, *Sunan al-Darimi*, *Al-Muwatta'* of Malik, and *Musnad Ahmad ibn Hanbal* (Wensinck, 1969, p. 2). These objectives are also consistent with efforts to enhance students' academic competencies in understanding Hadith retrieval methods within the teaching and learning of Islamic Education.

The strategic functions of this work in Hadith studies are extensive. Its primary function is to serve as a reference tool for locating Hadiths by providing detailed information on the relevant Hadith collection and chapter in which a particular Hadith is found. In addition, it functions as a tool for identifying textual variations (*ikhtilaf al-alfaz*), supporting thematic Hadith studies (*mawdu'i*), and verifying the authenticity of Hadith texts by confirming their inclusion in the *Kutub al-Tis'ah* (Qomarullah, 2016, p. 27). Therefore, the use of *Mu'jam al-Mufahras* is valuable not only for Hadith research but also for Islamic Education, as it promotes the use of authentic Islamic sources while fostering students' academic and research competencies.

4. Abbreviations of Hadith Collection in *Mu'jam al-Mufahras*

The alphabetical indexing system of *Mu'jam al-Mufahras* is accompanied by abbreviated symbols representing the names of the Hadith collections. These abbreviations enable readers to identify immediately the original source from which a particular Hadith is cited. The abbreviations are presented as follows:

No	Symbol	Hadith Collection
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1	خ	Shahih al-Bukhari
2	م	Shahih Muslim
3	د	Sunan Abu Dawud
4	ت	Sunan al-Tirmidzi
5	ن	Sunan al-Nasa'i
6	جه	Sunan Ibn Majah
7	حم	Musnad Ahmad bin Hanbal
8	مي	Sunan al-Darimi
9	ما	Al-Muwatta' Malik

5. Practical Steps for Retrieving Hadith Using *Mu'jam al-Mufahras*

To use *Mu'jam al-Mufahras*, researchers must first identify a keyword from the *matan* (text) of the Hadith they wish to locate, reduce it to its root form, and then search for the initial letter of that root word in the index. After locating the appropriate section, the researcher identifies the corresponding phrase to find the intended Hadith. The following illustrates the practical procedure using a sample Hadith:

لَا تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ حَتَّى يَتَبَاهَى النَّاسُ فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ

“The Hour will not be established until people compete with one another in boasting about (the construction of) mosques.”

a. Select the Hadith Text (*Matan*)

First, determine the *matan* (text) of the Hadith to be searched. Then, identify one or more words that will serve as the search keywords.

b. Convert the Keywords into Their Root Forms

Select the keywords and reduce them to their Arabic root forms (*ishtiqaq*). For example:

تَقُومُ → akar kata قوم | السَّاعَةُ → akar kata سوع
يَتَبَاهَى → akar kata بهي | الْمَسَاجِدِ → akar kata سجد

c. Search Under the Corresponding Initial Letter

Locate the section corresponding to the first letter of the selected root word. *Mu'jam al-Mufahras* is arranged alphabetically according to the Arabic alphabet.

For example, searching under the root word سوع leads to the following entry in Volume 3, page 26:

لَا تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ حَتَّى يَتَبَاهَى النَّاسُ فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ
صلاة ١٢٢ تم ٢ مساجد ن ١٣ صلاة د تم .
مساجد جه (٢) : مساجد ن (١٢) صلاة د. (٢) مساجد م (٢)
حم. : (١٢٣) صلاة دى ٣ (٢٨٣ , ٢٣٠ , ١٥٢ , ١٣٤ , ١٤٥)

The information above can be interpreted as follows (Winarto, 2022, p. 5):

No	Mu'jam Reference	Description
1	مساجد م (٢)	Found in <i>Sahih Muslim</i> , Kitab al-Masajid, Hadith No. 2
2	د. صلاة (١٢)	Found in <i>Sunan Abu Dawud</i> , Kitab al-Salah, Chapter 12
3	ن. مساجد (٢)	Found in <i>Sunan al-Nasa'i</i> , Kitab al-Masajid, Chapter 2
4	ج.ه. مساجد (٢)	Found in <i>Sunan Ibn Majah</i> , Kitab al-Masajid, Chapter 2
5	دي. صلاة (١٢٣)	Found in <i>Sunan al-Darimi</i> , Kitab al-Salah, Chapter 123
6	٣ (١٤٥, ١٣٤, ١٥٢, ٢٣٠, ٢٨٣) حم	Found in <i>Musnad Ahmad</i> , Volume 3, pp. 134, 145, 152, 230, and 283

d. Verify the Hadith in the Original Collections

After identifying the Hadith references from the selected keywords, the next step is to consult the original Hadith collections in order to verify the complete text (*matan*) and the chain of transmission (*sanad*). Based on the search using the two keywords above, the Hadith is found in the following sources:

No	Primary Hadith Collection	Location
1	Shahih Muslim	Kitab al-Masajid, Hadith No. 2
2	Sunan Abu Dawud	Kitab al-Salah, Chapter 12
3	Sunan al-Nasa'i	Kitab al-Masajid, Chapter 2
4	Sunan Ibn Majah	Kitab al-Masajid, Chapter 2
5	Sunan al-Darimi	Kitab al-Salah, Chapter 123
6	Musnad Ahmad	Volume 3, pp. 134, 145, 152, 230, and 283

6. Advantages and Limitations of *Mu'jam al-Mufahras*

As a scholarly reference, *Mu'jam al-Mufahras* possesses both strengths and limitations that should be understood by its users. Its major advantages include, first, the efficiency of Hadith retrieval, as researchers who know even a single word from a Hadith can quickly locate it in its original source; second, its extensive coverage, as it indexes the nine major Hadith collections (*Kutub al-Tis'ah*), which are regarded as the standard references in Hadith scholarship; and third, its role as the principal tool for *takhrij bi al-lafz* (Hadith retrieval by keywords), making it an indispensable resource for students and Hadith researchers (Dalimunthe, 2015, p. 23). Within the context of Islamic Education, these advantages contribute significantly to the teaching and learning of Hadith by enabling students to develop more effective and systematic skills in retrieving authentic Hadith sources.

Despite these strengths, the work also has several limitations. First, *Mu'jam al-Mufahras* functions solely as an index and does not provide evaluations of Hadith authenticity, such as whether a Hadith is *sahih*, *hasan*, or *da'if*. Consequently, researchers must consult Hadith commentaries (*sharh*) or critical editions (*tahqiq*) for further verification. Second, the work was compiled by non-Muslim Orientalist scholars, leading some researchers to raise critical observations regarding the background and objectives of its compilation. Third, its effective use requires a solid

command of Arabic, particularly *sarf* (Arabic morphology), in order to identify the correct root words. As a result, users who lack sufficient proficiency in Arabic may encounter difficulties in utilizing the index effectively (Arifah et al., 2023, p. 69). Therefore, within Islamic Education, adequate guidance is essential to ensure that students are able to use this reference work accurately, critically, and in accordance with established principles of Hadith scholarship.

E. Conclusion

Mu'jam al-Mufahras li Alfaz al-Hadith al-Nabawi is a monumental scholarly work that continues to be highly relevant in contemporary Hadith studies. Its publication has transformed the process of *takhrij al-Hadith* from a time-consuming manual practice, which previously required years of memorization and extensive searching, into a systematic and scholarly retrieval method that can be carried out within minutes. Through its alphabetical indexing system based on Arabic root words, this work enables users to locate a Hadith within the nine primary Hadith collections by identifying only a single keyword from its *matan* (text). Within the context of Islamic Education, the use of this reference supports the teaching and learning of Hadith by equipping students with systematic skills for retrieving Hadith from authentic primary sources.

Accordingly, a thorough understanding of how to use this work constitutes a fundamental competency for students of Hadith studies. This study concludes that *Mu'jam al-Mufahras* serves as an invaluable resource for scholarly Hadith research, including the study of *sanad* (chain of transmission), *matan* (text), and the verification of the authenticity of Hadith sources. Nevertheless, as the work functions solely as an index, it should always be used in conjunction with the original Hadith collections and other authoritative references on Hadith criticism. Mastery of this reference also contributes to strengthening students' academic competencies within the teaching and learning of Islamic Education.

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that students and researchers first develop a strong foundation in the Arabic language, particularly in *sarf* (Arabic morphology), to facilitate the identification of root words during the Hadith retrieval process. In addition, regular practice under appropriate academic guidance is essential to ensure that Hadith retrieval using *Mu'jam al-Mufahras* is conducted accurately, efficiently, and in accordance with established principles of Hadith scholarship. Such efforts are expected to enhance the quality of Hadith instruction in Islamic Education while strengthening students' ability to utilize authentic Islamic sources in a rigorous and scholarly manner.

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