



*FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING IN THE MODERN ERA
ACCORDING TO THE PROPHET'S HADITH*

**PEMBELAJARAN BAHASA ASING DI ERA MODERN
MENURUT HADITS NABI**

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Abstrak

Dalam konteks era modern yang dicirikan oleh kemajuan teknologi dan fenomena globalisasi, kemampuan untuk berkomunikasi dalam berbagai bahasa asing menjadi semakin krusial. Paralel dengan periode kehidupan Rasulullah SAW, di mana pentingnya pemahaman terhadap bahasa-bahasa asing diungkapkan melalui peran sentral Zaid bin Tsabit sebagai penerjemah. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memberikan pemahaman yang mendalam akan signifikansi mempelajari bahasa asing di era modern menurut hadis Nabi. Metode yang digunakan adalah kualitatif dengan model pendekatan studi pustaka kemudian disimpulkan secara deskriptif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Pembelajaran Bahasa Asing Di Era Modern Menurut Hadits Nabi sangatlah penting karena digunakan untuk berinteraksi dengan siapapun tanpa batas sekalipun berbeda Negara. Selain itu, pembelajaran bahasa asing di era moder ini sangat lah mudah dan terjangkau karena munculnya berbagai platform seperti aplikasi mobile learning, platform percakapan video online, dan sumber daya daring. Maka dengan itu semua seseorang dapat memenuhi kebutuhannya untuk berinteraksi dengan tanpa batas, meskipun begitu perlu ada yang namanya pengawasan agar tidak terjadi hal-hal yang tidak di inginkan seperti mengakses konten berbahasa asing yang tidak sesuai dengan usia, tergesernya bahasa Indonesia atau bahasa daerah dan hilangnya nilai-nilai budaya local.

Kata kunci: Pembelajaran, Bahasa Asing, Era Modern, Hadits Nabi

Abstract

In the context of the modern era which is characterized by technological advances and the phenomenon of globalization, the ability to communicate in various foreign languages is becoming increasingly crucial. Parallel to the period in the life of Rasulullah SAW, where the importance of understanding foreign languages was expressed through the central role of Zaid bin Thabit as a translator. This research aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the significance of studying foreign languages in the modern era according to the hadith of the Prophet. The method used is qualitative with a literature study approach model and then concluded descriptively. The research results show that learning foreign languages in the modern era according to the hadith of the Prophet is very important because it is used to interact with anyone without borders, even in different countries. Apart from that, learning foreign languages in this modern era is very easy and affordable due to the emergence of various platforms such as mobile learning applications, online video

conversation platforms, and online resources. So with that, a person can fulfill their need to interact without limits, however, there needs to be something called supervision so that undesirable things don't happen, such as accessing foreign language content that is not age-appropriate, the displacement of Indonesian or regional languages and the loss of local cultural values.

Keywords: *Learning, Foreign Language, Modern Era, Hadith Of The Prophet*

INTRODUCTION

Human life is in a context that is constantly changing, both in space and time. This also applies in the field of education, where educators are required to continue to develop to current and future global demands (Amrona et al., 2023). In line with this, Sayyidina Ali Bin Talib once gave a message stating that educators must educate their children according to their times because they will face different times from the current generation of educators. Therefore, the approaches, strategies, methods, and learning models used in the educational process must be adapted to current developments (Wathoni, 2020).

Currently, the world is in a modern era where geographical boundaries are no longer an obstacle. Humans can interact freely and without limits because technological developments have removed distance as an obstacle. This era is also known as the technological era or Industry 4.0, which is marked by advances in automation technology that accelerate the rate of information and transportation (Nurhuda et al., 2023). Almost all aspects of life cannot be separated from industrial products and technology.

The ease of interaction between people in different countries has become a significant reason for learning a foreign language. Foreign languages that were previously considered exclusive and only accessible to a certain number of individuals have now become accessible to anyone. If previously foreign language learning could only be done through formal education at schools or course institutions, now there are various conveniences in mastering foreign languages through downloading mobile learning applications available on the Play Store or App Store. The mobile learning application is an application available on Android devices, which can be used as a practical medium for learning, processing, and obtaining information, and can be used anywhere and at any time. (Andika & Mardiana, 2023)

Transnational communication was also experienced by Rasulullah when preaching to spread the religion of Islam. Non-Arab groups also interacted with the Prophet Muhammad, such as Romans, Jews, and other groups. To facilitate communication with non-Arab people, the Prophet Muhammad had a translator who also made him aware of the importance of learning foreign languages (Nurhuda, Sinta, et al., 2023). Among the leading translators of that time, Zaid bin Thabit played a significant role in translating letters sent by the Prophet Muhammad to foreign kings such as Persia, Syria, Rome, and the Jews (St. Noer Farida Laila, 2012). Based on the above background, the author is interested in discussing foreign language learning in a modern context and its study according to the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used is qualitative, which means trying to reveal scientifically and naturally related phenomena or events that occur in detail either through going directly into the field or through a literature review, while what is used in this study is a literature study (Murjazin et al., 2023). Literature study is the process of collecting various sources relevant to a theme from ebooks, journals, websites, books, articles, or other primary and secondary sources. Then the content is analyzed in depth using a content analysis model, then finally verifiable conclusions are drawn (Azami et al., 2023)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Foreign Language Learning in the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad

Language is a medium used to express self-expression, convey opinions, and solve problems, and plays a very important role in the communication process, both through words and through non-verbal actions (Maghfiroh, 2015). Language is the main tool for communication in human life, both individually and socially collectively. With language we can establish communication between fellow humans, we can even find out the meaning or linguistic intent of what our objects say (Rois & Rubini, 2021).

Foreign language refers to language originating from another country or culture. Throughout the world, there are thousands or even millions of different foreign languages, apart from Indonesian (Saragih, 2022). Foreign language context is used to refer to languages outside the country where a person lives. In Indonesia itself, it is known that several foreign languages are currently international languages, namely: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and Mandarin (Sartono, 2020).

To spread the teachings of Islam, the Prophet Muhammad and his companions were faced with the challenge of communicating with non-Arab communities, including Jews, Romans, and other groups (Nurhuda, 2023). To overcome this, the Prophet Muhammad had a translator who also made him aware of the importance of learning foreign languages. Among the leading translators of that time, Zaid bin Thabit played a significant role in translating letters sent by the Prophet Muhammad to foreign kings such as Persia, Syria, Rome, and the Jews. Apart from that, Zaid Ibnu Thabit was also responsible for translating the letters sent by these kings to the Prophet Muhammad (St. Noer Farida Laila, 2012).

The Prophet Muhammad's order for Zaid bin Thabit to learn other languages is contained in the hadith below.

حَدَّثَنَا عَلِيُّ بْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالَ: أَخْبَرَنَا عَبْدُ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنُ أَبِي الزِّنَادِ عَنْ أَبِيهِ عَنْ خَارِجَةَ
بْنِ زَيْدِ بْنِ ثَابِتٍ عَنْ أَبِيهِ زَيْدِ بْنِ ثَابِتٍ قَالَ: «أَمَرَنِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنْ أَتَعَلَّمَ

لَهُ كَلِمَاتٍ مِنْ كِتَابِ يَهُودَ قَالَ: إِيَّيَ وَاللَّهِ مَا آمَنْتُ بِيَهُودَ عَلَى كِتَابٍ». قَالَ: فَمَا مَرَّ بِي نِصْفُ شَهْرٍ حَتَّى تَعَلَّمْتُهُ لَهُ، قَالَ: فَلَمَّا تَعَلَّمْتُهُ كَانَ إِذَا كَتَبْتُ إِلَى يَهُودَ كَتَبْتُ إِلَيْهِمْ وَإِذَا كَتَبُوا إِلَيْهِ قَرَأْتُ لَهُ كِتَابَهُمْ . هَذَا حَدِيثٌ حَسَنٌ صَحِيحٌ. وَقَدْ رُوِيَ مِنْ غَيْرِ هَذَا الْوَجْهِ عَنْ زَيْدِ بْنِ ثَابِتٍ رَوَاهُ الْأَعْمَشُ عَنْ ثَابِتِ بْنِ عُبَيْدِ الْأَنْصَارِيِّ عَنْ زَيْدِ بْنِ ثَابِتٍ قَالَ: أَمَرَنِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنْ أَتَعَلَّمَ السُّرْيَانِيَّةَ .

"Ali bin Hujr told us, he said; has informed us of Abdurrahman bin Abu Az-Zinad from his father from Kharijah bin Zaid bin Thabit from his father, namely Zaid bin Thabit, he said; Rasulallah SAW ordered me to learn the language of the Jews for Him, He said: "By Allah, I do not believe the Jews in my letter." Zaid said; "Half a month passed until I could master it for him." When I controlled him when he wanted to send a letter to the Jews, I wrote it for them and when they sent a letter to him, I read their letter to him." This hadith is authentic. Narrated through another sanad from Zaid bin Thabit. Narrated by Al-A'masy from Thabit bin Ubaid Al-Ansari from Zaid bin Thabit he said; "The Prophet SAW ordered me to learn Syriac." (HR. Tirmidhi)

This hadith was narrated by Abu Isa Muhammad bin Isa bin Saurah at-Tirmidhi better known as Imam at-Tirmidhi. The narrators of this hadith are Zaid bin Thabit as the first narrator, Kharijah, Abu Abdurrahman, Abdurrahman bin Abu Az-Zinad, and Ali bin Hujr. As stated in the hadith, this hadith is authentic in the opinion of Abu Isa at Tirmidhi.

In the book *Tuhfatul Ahwadzi bi al syrah Jami At Tirmidhi*, it is explained that at that time the Prophet Muhammad was worried that if he ordered Jews to write something from him that was intended for the Jews, then he would add or subtract from its contents. On the other hand, if a book came from among the Jews and the Jews read it to him, he would add to or subtract from it (Mubarakfuri, nd).

Therefore, the Prophet asked Zaid bin Thabit to learn Hebrew, or in other words Syriac. Zaid completed his language learning in half a month. After Zaid became fluent in Jewish, the Prophet handed over the matter of correspondence to the Jews to Zaid bin Thabit.

In general, the aim of learning a foreign language is to be able to relate to other people and then communication becomes easier because language is the key to communication being established (Malia, 1993). Communication in this modern era is not only carried out by people with one language. Human social interaction can be carried out globally with the existence of cyberspace. People from different countries can easily communicate with today's technological advances. Therefore, understanding between languages is needed so that communication can be easily established (Nurhuda, 2022).

Differences in language between people are also natural from Allah, as explained in QS Ar-Rum verse 22.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَخْتَلَفُ الْأَلْسِنَتَكُمْ وَالْوَنُكْمَ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

"And among the signs of His power is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and the color of your skin. Indeed, in that there are true signs for those who know."

Currently, international language use is predominantly represented by English. English is increasingly emerging in importance, especially in the context of the era of globalization and free markets. Globalization demands an ever-increasing intensity of relations between countries (Nurhuda, Engku Ab Rahman, et al., 2023). Apart from that, in the world of education, English plays an important role in the development of knowledge, considering that many educational theories are written in English. Therefore, it is important and even mandatory for students and educators to master English to compete with other countries (Wathoni, 2020).

Apart from English, another language that has its important to master is Arabic. Arabic has a specificity and significance that is no less than other foreign languages. In fact, in the context of Islamic education, Arabic is considered the most important language and must be understood, because Arabic is the language of worship for Muslims (Azami, Nurhuda, & Murjazin, 2023). The prayer service is carried out using Arabic, following the instructions of the Prophet Muhammad to perform the prayer as the people saw the Prophet's prayer. Arabic is the main language in Islam because the Koran and Hadith are written in Arabic (Wathoni, 2020).

2. Foreign Language Learning in the Modern Era

Foreign language learning in Indonesia has experienced a significant evolution in the course of its history. In the colonial era, foreign languages such as Dutch, English, and German were taught in several schools, especially for children of noble and Dutch descent. Mastery of a foreign language among natives during the Dutch colonial period was even an indicator of high or prestigious social class in society (Santoso, 2014).

As time goes by, learning foreign languages is no longer the privilege of elitist groups. Nowadays, anyone can easily learn it. English in formal education has been introduced to children from an early age, such as through playgroups and kindergartens which provide English language teaching to their students (Santoso, 2014).

Technological developments in modern times also have an important role in the foreign language learning process. In the past, learning was only done by paying attention to the teacher in class or by using books. Nowadays students can easily learn autodidactically using the devices they have (Amrona, Nurhuda,

et al., 2023). The emergence of supporting language learning applications such as pocket dictionaries, online language courses, etc. make it easier for students to access foreign language learning while focusing on the teacher.

The emergence of online video conversation platforms such as Ome TV, Skype, Google Duo, Discord, FaceTime, and Just Talk in this modern era helps improve foreign language speaking skills. By using this platform, someone can very easily directly communicate with native speakers from other countries. Not only sharpening speaking skills, online conversation applications also help hone listening skills. Someone can improve their mastery and development of the foreign language they want without having to take lessons and courses by using an online video conversation platform. (Julianto & Tezar, 2022)

Foreign language writing and reading skills can be easily honed in this modern era too. Foreign language articles are easily accessible on the internet and social media, such as Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and others. Digital dictionaries and translators are also available to help translate vocabulary that is difficult to understand (Ni'am et al., 2023). The phenomenon of artificial intelligence also supports the ease of learning foreign languages. Although there are still many pros and cons to artificial intelligence such as Chat-GPT for educational purposes, it cannot be denied that the emergence of this technology has helped accelerate digital literacy and its ability to translate a language more quickly. (Ramadhan et al., 2023)

Even though access to learning in the modern era is getting easier, the negative impacts it brings are also a challenge to face. Children with devices can easily access content in foreign languages that is not necessarily suitable for their age if there is no careful supervision by their parents. The main language, Indonesian or regional languages, may also be displaced because children prefer to use foreign language terms that seem cooler. If this continues, it will cause the loss of local cultural values.

CONCLUSION

The modern era provides humans with the opportunity to interact freely and independently so that human communication relations between countries can be established through understanding each other's foreign languages. This also happened during the time of the Prophet, when he spread the message of Islam to non-Arab groups such as Romans, Jews, and other groups. To support these activities, the Prophet had a prominent translator named Zaid bin Thabit. He was instrumental in translating letters sent by the Prophet Muhammad to foreign kings such as Persia, Syria, Rome, and the Jews. This historical flashback is very relevant in this modern era, where foreign language learning is easily accessible through technology such as mobile learning which is available on the Play Store or App Store. Even so, there are still challenges that need to be faced, such as the ease with which children can access foreign language content that is not age-appropriate, the displacement of Indonesian or regional languages, and the

loss of local cultural values because they think that using a foreign language is more trendy.

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