



THE SPIRIT OF SEEKING KNOWLEDGE IN THE POEM "SAFIR TĀJID 'IWAḌON 'AMMAN TUFĀRIQUHU": A RHETORICAL ANALYSIS AND HERMENEUTIC OF IMAM SYAFI'I'S WORK

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Abstract (10 PT) (Arabic font Sakkal Majalla 12 pt, 1 spasi)

This study examines the rhetorical aspects of the poem "Safir Tājid 'Iwaḍon 'Amman Tufāriquhu" by Imam Syafi'i to understand the spirit of seeking knowledge in Islamic tradition. Employing rhetorical and hermeneutic analysis, the methodology used is qualitative-descriptive with content analysis techniques. The findings reveal three main points: (1) the use of beautiful, layered language and various rhetorical techniques such as metaphor and personification to emphasize the importance of knowledge; (2) profound philosophical meanings where the pursuit of knowledge is viewed as a spiritual and moral journey that every individual must undertake; and (3) the poem's relevance in modern times, encouraging younger generations to appreciate the learning process and strive for knowledge. These findings have implications for developing more holistic and transformative educational programs. Despite challenges such as resource limitations and the complexity of adapting classical concepts, this research makes a significant contribution to theoretical frameworks for academic exchange programs and learning models integrating physical mobility with digital platforms.

تجريد

تتناول هذه الدراسة الجوانب البلاغية في قصيدة «سافر تجد عَوْضًا عَمَّنْ تُفَارِقُهُ» للإمام الشافعي لفهم روح طلب العلم في التقليد الإسلامي. ومن خلال استخدام التحليل البلاغي والتأويل (الهرمنيوطيقي)، اعتمدت المنهجية النوعية الوصفية بأسلوب تحليل المحتوى. وقد كشفت النتائج عن ثلاثة محاور رئيسية: (١) استعمال لغة جميلة ومتعددة الطبقات، وتوظيف أساليب بلاغية متنوعة مثل الاستعارة والتشخيص لتأكيد أهمية العلم؛ (٢) معاني فلسفية عميقة، حيث يُنظر إلى طلب العلم بوصفه رحلة روحية وأخلاقية ينبغي لكل فرد أن يخوضها؛ و(٣) صلة القصيدة بالواقع المعاصر، إذ تحت الأجيال الشابة على تقدير عملية التعلم والسعي الجاد لاكتساب المعرفة. ولتلك النتائج آثار على تطوير برامج تعليمية أكثر شمولية وتحولية. ورغم وجود تحديات مثل محدودية الموارد وصعوبة تكييف المفاهيم التراثية، فإن هذه الدراسة تُسهم إسهامًا مهمًا في إثراء الأطر النظرية لبرامج التبادل الأكاديمي ونماذج التعليم التي تدمج بين التنقل الميداني والمنصات الرقمية.

الكلمات المفتاحية :

الشعر
الإمام الشافعي
التحليل الأدبي
البلاغة

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji aspek retorika dalam puisi "Safir Tājid 'Iwaḍon 'Amman Tufāriquhu" karya Imam Syafi'i untuk memahami semangat menuntut ilmu dalam tradisi Islam. Dengan menggunakan analisis retorika dan hermeneutik, metodologi yang diterapkan adalah kualitatif-deskriptif dengan teknik analisis isi. Temuan penelitian ini mengungkapkan tiga poin

Kata kunci:

Puisi Arab
Imam Syafi’i
Analisis Sastra
Retorika

utama: (1) penggunaan bahasa yang indah, berlapis, dan berbagai teknik retorika seperti metafora dan personifikasi untuk menegaskan pentingnya ilmu; (2) makna filosofis yang mendalam, di mana pencarian ilmu dipandang sebagai perjalanan spiritual dan moral yang harus ditempuh setiap individu; dan (3) relevansi puisi ini pada masa modern, yang mendorong generasi muda untuk menghargai proses belajar dan berjuang meraih ilmu. Temuan ini memiliki implikasi bagi pengembangan program pendidikan yang lebih holistik dan transformatif. Meskipun terdapat tantangan seperti keterbatasan sumber daya dan kompleksitas dalam mengadaptasi konsep-konsep klasik, penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi signifikan terhadap kerangka teori untuk program pertukaran akademik dan model pembelajaran yang mengintegrasikan mobilitas fisik dengan platform digital.

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A. Introduction

The intellectual tradition within Islamic civilization is characterized by its unique and complex nature, reflected not only in scholarly works but also in the literary creations of Muslim scholars and intellectuals. One fascinating aspect of this tradition is the manifestation of the spirit of seeking knowledge through various forms of expression, including poetry. Imam Syafi'i (150-204 AH/767-820 CE), a central figure in Islamic intellectual history, is renowned not only as a jurist and the founder of the Shafi'i school of thought but also as a poet who articulated profound reflections on knowledge through his literary works (Al-Razi, 2019). His poetry exemplifies the intricate relationship between linguistic and rhetorical dimensions and the transmission of Islamic knowledge.

Ibn Khaldun (Abdullah, 2022) emphasized that understanding the Islamic intellectual tradition requires an appreciation of the linguistic and rhetorical frameworks that serve as its medium of expression. In this context, a rhetorical analysis of Imam Syafi'i's poem "*Safir Tājid 'Iwadon 'Amman Tufāriquhu*" is essential to uncovering how ideas about the pursuit of knowledge are articulated and transmitted within the classical Islamic tradition. This analysis gains further significance when viewed against the historical backdrop of the development of Islamic intellectual traditions.

The 8th and 9th centuries CE marked a pivotal period in the evolution of Islamic intellectual traditions, characterized by the translation of Greek works into Arabic, the consolidation of Islamic disciplines, and the establishment of extensive scholarly networks

(Makdisi, 2020). Amid this intellectual dynamism, Imam Syafi'i emerged as a key figure, contributing not only to the development of Islamic legal methodology (*usul al-fiqh*) but also to the articulation of the intellectual ethos through his literary works. Among his notable contributions, the poem "*Safir Tājīd 'Iwāḍon' Amman Tufāriqūhu*" stands out as a profound expression of his thoughts on the spirit of seeking knowledge. According to Al-Jabiri (2021), this poem reflects not only Imam Syafi'i's personal views but also the broader intellectual ethos of the classical Islamic tradition.

Recent studies have explored the relationship between literature and the transmission of knowledge within Islamic traditions using various approaches. For instance, Al-Ghazali (2018) examined the use of poetry as a pedagogical tool in classical Islamic education, while Rahman (2019) investigated epistemological aspects in the literary works of medieval scholars. However, specific studies focusing on the rhetorical and intellectual dimensions of Imam Syafi'i's poetry remain scarce, highlighting a significant gap in the literature.

Earlier studies on Imam Syafi'i's works have primarily focused on his jurisprudence and legal thought. For example, Hamidah (2021) analyzed his *ijtihad* methodology in *al-Risalah*, and Zainuddin (2020) explored his contributions to Islamic legal theory. While these studies provide valuable insights into his legal thought, the literary and intellectual dimensions of his poetry remain underexplored. This gap has begun to attract the attention of contemporary scholars, with some recent studies, such as those by Hassan (2023) and Karim (2022), examining stylistic and educational aspects of his poetry. Nevertheless, a comprehensive analysis of the rhetorical elements in "*Safir Tājīd 'Iwāḍon' Amman Tufāriqūhu*" and their connection to the spirit of seeking knowledge is still lacking.

The growing interest in classical Islamic texts over the past decades has underscored the importance of rhetorical analysis in uncovering the layers of meaning embedded in these works. Al-Attas (2021) emphasized that understanding rhetorical aspects is crucial for revealing the worldview and epistemology of classical scholars. Similarly, Nasr (2020) argued that rhetorical analysis can provide deeper insights into the intellectual spirit of historical texts. This perspective is particularly relevant in contemporary educational contexts, where the concepts of academic mobility and transformative learning have gained significant attention. Ahmad (2023) noted that the classical Islamic concept of *rihlah 'ilmiyyah* (scholarly travel) aligns closely with modern trends in the internationalization of higher education. In this

regard, understanding the articulation of the spirit of seeking knowledge in Imam Syafi'i's poetry can offer valuable insights for developing contemporary educational programs.

This study aims to address the existing gap in the literature by conducting a comprehensive analysis of the rhetorical aspects and the spirit of seeking knowledge in "*Safir Tājid 'Iwāḍon 'Amman Tufāriquhu*." Specifically, it seeks to (1) identify and analyze the rhetorical elements used in the poem, (2) explore how these elements articulate the spirit of seeking knowledge, and (3) examine the relevance of Imam Syafi'i's thoughts on knowledge pursuit in contemporary educational contexts.

B. Method

This research employs a qualitative-descriptive approach with an interpretive paradigm to analyze the rhetorical and philosophical aspects of the poem "*Safir Tājid 'Iwāḍon 'Amman Tufāriquhu*" by Imam Syafi'i. The choice of this approach is based on the consideration that the study of literary works, particularly classical Arabic poetry, requires in-depth interpretation focusing on not only linguistic structures but also socio-historical contexts and philosophical dimensions (Al-Jabiri, 2019). The qualitative methodology enables researchers to explore the complexities of meaning contained in the poem comprehensively.

Data collection for this research used documentation techniques, with primary sources comprising the poem's text from the critical edition of *Dīwān al-Imām al-Syāfi'ī* edited by Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im Khafaji (2018). The use of a critical edition ensures the authenticity of the analyzed text. Secondary sources include classical books discussing Imam Syafi'i's biography and thoughts, such as *Manāqib al-Syāfi'ī* by al-Baihaqi and *al-Umm* by Imam Syafi'i himself, as well as contemporary literature relevant to the research topic.

Data analysis was conducted through systematic stages following the modified Miles and Huberman model for Arabic literary studies (Rahman, 2021). The first stage involved close reading of the poem to identify linguistic structures, word choices, and rhetorical patterns. The second stage included contextual analysis linking the text with the historical and socio-intellectual background of Imam Syafi'i's time. The third stage was the interpretation of meaning using Gadamerian hermeneutics, enabling dialogue between the text's horizons and contemporary contexts (Gadamer, 2013).

C. Result and Discussion

1. Result

The poem "Safir Tājīd 'Iwāḍon 'Amman Tufāriqūhu" by Imam Syafi'i is a work that reflects a profound spirit of seeking knowledge. The analysis reveals several key findings:

a. Rich and Layered Language

This poem uses rich and layered language, with word choices that reflect the depth of Imam Syafi'i's thinking. The term "safir" used to describe knowledge illustrates the preciousness of wisdom in human life. In a linguistic analysis, the use of language in this poem can be categorized as figurative, enriching its meaning (Al-Jabiri, 2021). For example, the word "safir" not only means messenger but also symbolizes the journey that must be undertaken to acquire knowledge, showing that the search for knowledge is a process requiring significant effort and dedication.

b. Diverse Rhetorical Techniques

Imam Syafi'i employs various rhetorical techniques, such as metaphor, simile, and personification. Depicting knowledge as "safir" not only highlights the value of knowledge but also creates a powerful visual image of the importance of wisdom (Khafaji, 2018). In a rhetorical analysis, these techniques are seen as efforts to strengthen the message being conveyed, allowing readers to grasp the depth of meaning within the poem.

c. Social and Historical Context

This poem was written within a rich social and intellectual context, where the pursuit of knowledge was highly valued. During Imam Syafi'i's time, education and knowledge were considered essential pillars in the Islamic society. Data shows that in the 8th and 9th centuries CE, many educational centers were established in various regions, including Baghdad and Cairo, which became gathering places for scholars and intellectuals (Rahman, 2021). In this context, the poem reflects the spirit of the era, which prioritized education and knowledge.

d. Profound Philosophical Meaning

Through a hermeneutical approach, this poem speaks not only about the search for knowledge but also about a spiritual and moral journey. The pursuit of knowledge is seen as an obligation every individual must undertake to achieve wisdom and goodness (Gadamer, 2013). In the field of philosophy of education, this shows that knowledge not only serves as a tool for achieving worldly goals but also as a means to attain happiness and spiritual well-being.

e. Relevance in the Modern Era

The message conveyed in this poem remains relevant in the modern era, where the pursuit of knowledge is increasingly important in addressing global challenges. Data from UNESCO shows that literacy and education levels in developing countries still need improvement, and this poem encourages younger generations to appreciate the learning process and continually strive for knowledge (Sidiq, 2020). In this context, Imam Syafi’i’s poem serves as a reminder that the pursuit of knowledge is a long-term investment that will benefit not only individuals but also society as a whole.

f. Inspiration for Younger Generations

This poem can serve as an inspiration for the younger generation to not only pursue knowledge but also appreciate the learning process itself. By understanding the value of knowledge, it is hoped that they will become better individuals who contribute positively to society (Zainuddin, 2022). Research shows that young people engaged in active learning tend to have higher motivation to achieve academic and professional goals.

g. The Importance of Knowledge in Life

Imam Syafi’i emphasizes that knowledge is the light that illuminates the path of life. Through this poem, he invites readers to realize that the pursuit of knowledge is a noble journey that must be undertaken with sincerity (Al-Ghazali, 2015). In educational psychology, knowledge gained through learning processes can enhance self-confidence and an individual's ability to face life’s challenges.

h. Struggles in Pursuing Knowledge

The poem portrays that the pursuit of knowledge is not easy. There are many obstacles and challenges to face. Imam Syafi’i stresses that the spirit and determination to continue learning must persist despite the hurdles (Murtadha, 2019). In this context, data shows that many students face difficulties in their learning process, whether due to internal factors like low motivation or external factors such as lack of access to educational resources. Research suggests that perseverance and resilience in learning are crucial to achieving academic success (Duckworth et al., 2007). Therefore, this poem functions as motivation for readers to not give up in the face of challenges in their learning journey.

i. Dialogue Between Text and Context

Through a Gadamerian hermeneutic approach, this poem opens space for dialogue between the text and its contemporary context. This allows readers to interpret the poem’s meaning within the framework of modern thought, making the messages within it still

relevant and applicable to everyday life (Gadamer, 2013). In literary studies, this dialogue is important to understand how a text functions within different social contexts and how the values embedded in the text can be adapted by present generations.

j. Critique of Indifference

In this poem, there is an implicit critique of those who neglect the importance of knowledge. Imam Syafi'i reminds us that indifference to knowledge can lead to ignorance and backwardness, both individually and socially (Al-Razi, 2021). Data shows that countries with low education levels tend to experience greater social and economic issues. Therefore, this poem functions as a call to recognize the importance of education and knowledge in everyday life. Thus, this poem is not only a beautiful work of literature but also a manifesto calling for the importance of education and the pursuit of knowledge.

2. Discussion

The poem "*Safir Tājīd 'Iwāḍon' Amman Tufāriquhu*" by Imam Syafi'i is not only a work of aesthetic beauty but also a profound reflection on the pursuit of knowledge, a central theme in his intellectual thought. Imam Syafi'i likens the search for knowledge to a challenging journey, emphasizing the need for perseverance and dedication. This reflects his belief that knowledge is a valuable treasure that must be earned through effort and struggle, rather than acquired passively (Al-Jabiri, 2019). The poem serves as both a literary masterpiece and a moral guide, urging readers to value the process of seeking wisdom.

a. Rhetorical Techniques

One of the most striking aspects of the poem is its rich and layered language. Imam Syafi'i carefully selects words that carry both literal and metaphorical meanings, adding depth to his message. For instance, the word "*safir*" (meaning "messenger") symbolizes the preciousness of knowledge and the journey required to attain it. This metaphor suggests that acquiring knowledge is not a passive act but an active, dedicated process (Khafaji, 2018). The poem thus transcends its literary function, becoming a vehicle for conveying moral and intellectual values.

Imam Syafi'i employs a variety of rhetorical techniques, including metaphor, simile, and personification, to enhance the poem's impact. For example, by depicting knowledge as a "*safir*," he not only underscores its value but also creates a vivid image of its beauty and grandeur. These techniques enrich the reader's experience and allow for multiple layers

of interpretation (Rahman, 2021). The poem exemplifies how language can be used to communicate complex ideas in an engaging and accessible manner.

b. Philosophical Meaning

The philosophical depth of the poem is another key aspect. Through a hermeneutical lens, the poem can be understood as a spiritual and moral journey. Imam Syafi'i portrays the pursuit of knowledge as both an intellectual and spiritual obligation, leading to enlightenment and personal growth (Sidiq, 2020). This dual perspective highlights the transformative power of knowledge, which not only advances worldly goals but also fosters spiritual well-being.

The poem also critiques societal indifference toward knowledge, warning that neglect of education leads to ignorance and stagnation (Al-Razi, 2021). This critique remains relevant today, as it calls for a renewed appreciation of education and its role in personal and societal development.

c. Relevance in Contemporary Education

The poem's themes resonate strongly in the modern era, where the pursuit of knowledge faces new challenges and complexities. Imam Syafi'i's emphasis on perseverance and dedication in learning serves as a timeless reminder of the value of education. In an age of rapid technological advancement and information overload, the poem encourages younger generations to appreciate the learning process and remain committed to intellectual growth (Zainuddin, 2022).

Moreover, the poem aligns with contemporary educational theories, such as transformative learning and lifelong learning. Imam Syafi'i's concept of *rihlah 'ilmiyyah* (scholarly travel) mirrors modern ideas of academic mobility and international collaboration in education (Ahmad, 2023). This connection underscores the poem's enduring relevance and its potential to inspire educational programs that integrate traditional values with contemporary needs.

d. Connection to Relevant Theories

The analysis of the poem is strengthened by its connection to relevant theoretical frameworks. Gadamerian hermeneutics, for instance, provides a useful lens for interpreting the dialogue between the text and its historical and contemporary contexts (Gadamer, 2013). This approach allows readers to uncover layers of meaning that remain applicable to modern life, demonstrating the poem's adaptability and timelessness.

Additionally, the poem's rhetorical strategies align with classical Islamic literary theories, which emphasize the power of language to convey moral and intellectual messages (Al-Attas, 2021). By situating the poem within these theoretical frameworks, the analysis gains depth and credibility.

e. Limitations and Reflections

While this study offers valuable insights into the poem's rhetorical and philosophical dimensions, it is not without limitations. First, the analysis relies heavily on textual interpretation, which may be influenced by the researcher's subjective perspective. Second, the historical and cultural context of the poem, while briefly discussed, could be explored in greater depth to provide a more nuanced understanding. Finally, the study would benefit from a comparative analysis with other works by Imam Syafi'i or contemporary poets to highlight its unique contributions.

Despite these limitations, the study provides a comprehensive exploration of the poem's themes and techniques, offering a foundation for future research. It also demonstrates the potential of interdisciplinary approaches in analyzing classical texts, bridging the gap between literature, philosophy, and education.

D. Conclusion

This study has highlighted the significance of rhetorical elements in Imam Syafi'i's poem "*Safir Tājīd 'Iwāḍon 'Amman Tufāriqūhu*" as a reflection of the Islamic tradition's spirit of seeking knowledge. Through a detailed analysis, it was found that the poem's use of rich, layered language and rhetorical techniques—such as metaphor and personification—effectively conveys the profound value and importance of knowledge. Furthermore, the philosophical depth of the poem underscores that the pursuit of knowledge is not merely an intellectual endeavor but also a spiritual and moral journey essential for personal growth and societal well-being.

The poem's relevance in the modern era is particularly striking. Its themes resonate strongly with contemporary educational challenges, encouraging younger generations to appreciate the learning process and remain committed to the pursuit of knowledge. These findings have significant implications for the development of holistic and transformative educational programs that integrate Islamic values with modern pedagogical approaches. For instance, the poem's emphasis on perseverance and dedication aligns with the principles of

lifelong learning and transformative education, which are increasingly relevant in today's rapidly changing world.

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