

Artikel

Beyond Tradition: Muhammad Arkoun's Multidisciplinary Approach to Qur'anic Interpretation

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Abstract

This study explores Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical approach to Qur'anic interpretation, which emphasizes the importance of understanding the Qur'an within its socio-historical context. Arkoun's critical stance toward traditional Islamic scholarship and his advocacy for a multidisciplinary framework have made significant contributions to modern Qur'anic studies. The study aims to analyze Arkoun's method, focusing on his use of historical, anthropological, and semiotic-linguistic approaches to reinterpret revelation in a contemporary context. The qualitative methodology employed in this study involves an extensive literature review and contextual analysis of Arkoun's works, examining his key concepts such as wahyu (revelation), Umm al-Kitab (Mother of the Book), and liqa' Allah (meeting with God).

The findings reveal that Arkoun challenges the static understanding of the Qur'an by promoting a dynamic and adaptable interpretation that responds to modern societal needs. His emphasis on historical contextualization allows for a nuanced understanding of the Qur'an's ethical and social principles, particularly in addressing issues such as gender equality, human rights, and interfaith dialogue. Arkoun's semiotic-linguistic approach provides further depth to his analysis by uncovering the symbolic and rhetorical structures within the Qur'an. However, his methodology also faces criticism, particularly from scholars concerned about the potential erosion of the Qur'an's sacredness and the risk of subjective interpretation.

The study concludes that Arkoun's hermeneutical framework offers a valuable contribution to contemporary Islamic thought by encouraging critical engagement with the Qur'an in ways that promote inclusivity, adaptability, and dialogue between tradition and modernity. His approach underscores the necessity of continuous reinterpretation to keep the Qur'an relevant to evolving ethical, social, and political challenges. The findings suggest that further research could explore the practical applications of Arkoun's hermeneutics in various contemporary contexts, contributing to the ongoing evolution of Qur'anic interpretation and Islamic studies.

Keywords: *Muhammad Arkoun, Hermeneutics, Qur'anic Interpretation, Historical Contextualization, Semiotic Analysis, Islamic Thought*

INTRODUCTION

The interpretation of the Qur'an has evolved significantly from its early traditional roots to a more critical and analytical approach in contemporary Islamic studies. Historically, classical tafsir (exegesis) focused on preserving the sacredness of the Qur'anic text through the authority of religious scholars and traditions. However, modern developments in hermeneutics have encouraged scholars to revisit Qur'anic interpretations using multidisciplinary methodologies that consider historical, social, and linguistic contexts. This shift highlights the necessity of addressing contemporary challenges in understanding sacred texts through methods that go beyond traditional approaches (Zulkarnaini, 2023).

The traditional methods of interpreting the Qur'an, such as tafsir bil ma'tsur, rely heavily on narrations and the authority of classical scholars. These approaches were primarily concerned with preserving the authenticity and sanctity of the text, emphasizing its divine origin and immutable nature. However, critics argue that such methods may not adequately address the complexities of modern issues, especially in a rapidly changing global society (Abdulloh, 2024). As contemporary issues like gender equality, human rights, and pluralism emerge, scholars have increasingly recognized the limitations of traditional tafsir in providing comprehensive solutions to these challenges. Consequently, there has been a growing interest in adopting critical approaches, particularly hermeneutics, to bridge the gap between classical Islamic thought and contemporary needs (Arief, 2022; Hidayat, 2024).

The distinction between traditional tafsir and hermeneutical approaches lies in their respective methodologies and objectives. While traditional tafsir often seeks to preserve the text's original meaning based on historical narrations, hermeneutics focuses on interpreting the text within its broader socio-historical context. Muhammad Arkoun, a prominent advocate of Qur'anic hermeneutics, argued that the Qur'an should be understood not only as a sacred text but also as a product of its time and culture. He proposed that the text is dynamic and should be continually

reinterpreted to remain relevant to contemporary audiences (Faradilla, 2018). Arkoun's perspective challenges the rigidity of traditional exegesis by encouraging readers to explore the Qur'an's meanings through a critical lens that embraces diversity in interpretation (Dozan, 2021).

In addressing the challenges posed by modernity, Arkoun emphasized the necessity of employing a multidisciplinary approach to Qur'anic interpretation. He integrated insights from linguistics, anthropology, and history to construct a comprehensive framework for understanding the Qur'an's message. His approach, though controversial, underscores the importance of contextualizing the text to ensure its relevance in addressing contemporary issues (Djalal, 2016; Hasib, 2017). For instance, issues such as social justice, human rights, and interfaith dialogue are better understood when the Qur'an is interpreted through a historical and cultural lens that accounts for the changing dynamics of society (Annafiri, 2022; Rani, 2023).

The application of hermeneutics in Islamic studies offers significant contributions to addressing the complexities of modern challenges. By focusing on the socio-historical contexts of the text, hermeneutics allows interpreters to engage with contemporary issues in a meaningful way. For example, the hermeneutical approach has been instrumental in exploring Qur'anic views on gender equality, which traditional exegesis often overlooks or interprets rigidly (Renci, 2024). Similarly, issues related to human rights can be reassessed using hermeneutics to uncover underlying ethical principles within the Qur'an that promote justice and compassion (Mujahidin, 2023).

However, the incorporation of hermeneutics into Qur'anic studies is not without its criticisms. Some scholars argue that hermeneutics, as a method rooted in Western philosophical traditions, may not fully align with Islamic principles. There is concern that applying hermeneutics to the Qur'an could lead to subjective interpretations that undermine the text's sacredness and authority (Arrasyid, 2024). Additionally, critics fear that treating the Qur'an as merely an academic text could diminish its spiritual

significance and reduce it to a historical document rather than divine revelation (Imam, 2016).

Despite these criticisms, the contributions of hermeneutics to contemporary Islamic thought cannot be overlooked. The postmodern emphasis on pluralism and relativism in hermeneutics encourages a more inclusive approach to interpreting the Qur'an. This perspective acknowledges the diversity of interpretations and the possibility of multiple valid readings of the text, which aligns with the evolving nature of human understanding and societal needs (Abdulloh, 2024; Mabur & Abas, 2023). In this context, Arkoun's hermeneutical framework provides a valuable model for reconciling traditional Islamic thought with modern intellectual developments.

The objective of this study is to examine Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical approach to Qur'anic interpretation, particularly his views on revelation and the dynamic nature of the text. By analyzing Arkoun's methodology, this study aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on modernizing Islamic thought and addressing contemporary challenges through critical interpretation. This study also seeks to highlight the potential of hermeneutics in fostering a more nuanced understanding of the Qur'an, which is essential for promoting dialogue and mutual understanding in a diverse and pluralistic world.

Arkoun's innovative approach fills a critical gap in Islamic studies by addressing the limitations of traditional tafsir and proposing a more dynamic interpretive framework. His emphasis on the historical and cultural dimensions of the Qur'an aligns with contemporary needs, providing a pathway for scholars to explore the text's relevance in modern contexts. This study not only underscores the importance of Arkoun's contributions but also advocates for a more open and inclusive approach to Qur'anic interpretation, which is essential for addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

Methodology

The methodology utilized in this study follows a qualitative approach that is commonly adopted in Qur'anic interpretation research. Qualitative research emphasizes the depth of analysis, focusing on textual understanding through various methods such as literature reviews, document analysis, and interviews with scholars or religious leaders. This research aims to analyze Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical approach to the Qur'an by applying three key methodologies: the literature review method, the historical-anthropological method, and the semiotic-linguistic method.

The literature review is a crucial step in qualitative research, as it provides a theoretical foundation and identifies gaps in existing scholarship. Literature reviews allow researchers to document and systematically analyze previous works. In her study of Syaikh Nawawi Al-Bantani's *Marah Labid*, she employed this method to build a framework for analyzing classical tafsir (Malihah, 2023). Literature-based analysis is also used in exploring various *hukmi* interpretations across Islamic schools of thought, illustrating that reviewing existing literature is key to understanding the evolution of Qur'anic interpretations (Abdulloh, 2024). This method enables a broader understanding of Arkoun's contributions to Qur'anic hermeneutics, especially in addressing contemporary challenges in Islamic thought.

The historical-anthropological method is pivotal in analyzing the Qur'an within its socio-historical context. This approach examines the cultural and historical conditions in which the Qur'an was revealed and interpreted. By doing so, it provides insights into how historical realities shaped the reception and understanding of the text (Nurrohim, 2024). In the context of Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical framework, this method helps to explore how his ideas were influenced by his interactions with both Islamic traditions and modern Western thought. Arkoun argued that Qur'anic interpretations must evolve in response to contemporary societal needs, and this perspective is best understood through a historical lens.

Arkoun's methodology highlights that revelation should not be treated as a static divine message but as a dynamic interaction between God and humanity. This understanding is informed by the socio-cultural context in which the text was revealed. The historical-anthropological method allows researchers to investigate the relationship between religious texts and the social practices of their time (Nurrohim, 2024). Applying this approach helps contextualize Arkoun's assertion that the Qur'an's meanings are not fixed but evolve through time, adapting to different cultural and historical realities.

The semiotic-linguistic method further enhances the exploration of Arkoun's hermeneutics by focusing on the signs, symbols, and linguistic structures within the Qur'anic text. This method enables researchers to uncover deeper meanings beyond the literal interpretation of the text (Imadudin & Ain, 2022). By analyzing the linguistic and symbolic elements in the Qur'an, interpreters can engage with its themes in a more nuanced way. Arkoun's emphasis on exploring the "Umm al-Kitab" (Mother of the Book) as a foundational concept within the Qur'an reflects his belief that the text's core message can yield multiple interpretations depending on the context.

However, the use of the semiotic-linguistic method presents challenges, particularly regarding the balance between textual analysis and spiritual understanding. Critics argue that focusing too heavily on linguistic analysis may neglect the spiritual and theological dimensions of the Qur'an (Qomariyah & Cahyadi, 2023). Additionally, there is a risk of subjective interpretation, where personal biases influence the understanding of the text. To address these concerns, it is essential to integrate the semiotic-linguistic approach with historical and theological insights to achieve a more comprehensive interpretation.

In this study, the literature review method is applied to analyze both primary and secondary sources related to Arkoun's works. This includes his original writings, such as *Lectures du Coran*, as well as scholarly analyses that discuss his contributions to modern Qur'anic studies. The literature review helps identify key themes in Arkoun's thought, such as his critique of

traditional Islamic scholarship and his call for a more critical and contextual approach to interpreting the Qur'an (Arief, 2022; Faradilla, 2018).

The historical-anthropological method is used to situate Arkoun's ideas within the broader intellectual landscape of his time. By examining the historical circumstances in which Arkoun developed his theories, this study aims to uncover the cultural and philosophical influences that shaped his approach to the Qur'an. Arkoun's engagement with postmodern thought, for instance, highlights his belief in the necessity of reinterpreting religious texts to address modern societal challenges (Hidayat, 2024; Nasrudin, 2016).

The semiotic-linguistic method is employed to analyze Arkoun's interpretation of key Qur'anic concepts, focusing on how linguistic structures and symbolic meanings are constructed within the text. For instance, Arkoun's understanding of the term *liqa' Allah* (meeting with God) emphasizes its dynamic and evolving nature, reflecting the idea that the Qur'an's message remains relevant across different historical periods (Imadudin & Ain, 2022). This method provides insights into the rhetorical and linguistic devices used in the Qur'an, which Arkoun argues should be critically examined to unlock the text's deeper meanings.

In conducting this study, several steps were taken to ensure a rigorous methodological framework. First, primary and secondary sources were gathered through comprehensive literature reviews to build a theoretical foundation. Second, the historical-anthropological method was applied to analyze Arkoun's works within their socio-historical context, examining the cultural influences that shaped his hermeneutical framework. Finally, the semiotic-linguistic method was used to explore the linguistic and symbolic dimensions of Arkoun's interpretation, ensuring a balanced approach to textual analysis.

The integration of these three methods allows for a holistic understanding of Arkoun's contributions to Qur'anic interpretation. By combining literature review, historical-anthropological analysis, and semiotic-linguistic exploration, this study aims to offer a comprehensive evaluation of Arkoun's hermeneutical framework and its relevance to

contemporary Islamic thought. The qualitative nature of this research enables a deeper engagement with the complexities of Qur'anic interpretation, particularly in addressing modern challenges such as pluralism, social justice, and human rights (Annafiri, 2022; Rani, 2023; Renci, 2024).

However, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of each method. The literature review may not capture the full breadth of Arkoun's thought, particularly when relying solely on translated works. The historical-anthropological method requires careful consideration of the socio-historical context to avoid anachronistic interpretations. The semiotic-linguistic method, while insightful, carries the risk of subjective interpretation (Qomariyah & Cahyadi, 2023). Therefore, integrating multiple methods ensures a more balanced and comprehensive approach to analyzing Arkoun's contributions.

The methodology employed in this study integrates literature review, historical-anthropological, and semiotic-linguistic methods to provide a nuanced analysis of Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical approach. By addressing both the historical and linguistic dimensions of the Qur'an, this study aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on modernizing Islamic thought and adapting Qur'anic interpretations to contemporary challenges. The combination of these methods allows for a more in-depth understanding of Arkoun's ideas and their significance in the broader context of Qur'anic studies.

RESULTS

This section presents the findings of the study on Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical approach to Qur'anic interpretation. It explores his biographical background, intellectual development, methodological contributions, and key concepts such as revelation, historical contextualization, and semiotic analysis. The study highlights how Arkoun's unique approach provides new perspectives on understanding the Qur'an and its relevance to contemporary challenges.

Muhammad Arkoun, born in 1928 in Algeria, grew up in a complex socio-political environment during the French colonial era. His early life experiences, including exposure to both traditional Islamic teachings and Western education, shaped his intellectual journey and critical outlook on Islamic studies (Budi, 2022; Hidayat, 2024). Arkoun pursued higher education in philosophy, linguistics, and history, eventually becoming a prominent scholar in Islamic thought. His academic background and experiences in Europe, particularly in France, influenced his critical engagement with religious texts and his advocacy for a multidisciplinary approach to Qur'anic interpretation (Nasrudin, 2016). Arkoun's intellectual journey reflects a dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity, which is evident in his critical stance toward traditional Islamic scholarship.

Arkoun is widely recognized for his innovative hermeneutical approach, which challenges the traditional understanding of revelation. He argues that revelation should not be seen solely as the sacred word of God but also as a cultural product that requires contextual and critical analysis (Budi, 2022). According to Arkoun, the Qur'an should be interpreted as a dynamic text that evolves with historical and social contexts. This perspective contrasts with traditional tafsir methods, which often emphasize a fixed and immutable understanding of the text. Arkoun's approach seeks to bridge the gap between the sacred and the secular by integrating insights from various disciplines such as linguistics, anthropology, and history (Faradilla, 2018; Nasrudin, 2016).

One of Arkoun's key contributions is his emphasis on the historical contextualization of revelation. He asserts that understanding the Qur'an requires an analysis of the socio-historical context in which it was revealed. Arkoun's historical-anthropological method examines the relationship between the text and the cultural practices of the time. This approach allows for a more nuanced understanding of the Qur'an, recognizing that its message was shaped by the historical realities of seventh-century Arabia (Nurrohim, 2024). By acknowledging the historical dimension of revelation, Arkoun advocates for a more dynamic and adaptable interpretation that can

address contemporary issues such as human rights, gender equality, and interfaith dialogue (Budi, 2022; Hidayat, 2024).

Arkoun's comparative analysis of revelation in Islam and other religious traditions further demonstrates his commitment to a broader, more inclusive approach to understanding sacred texts. He highlights the similarities in how different religious texts function as moral and spiritual guides for their followers. However, he also emphasizes the importance of considering the unique historical and cultural contexts in which these texts emerged (Faradilla, 2018). This comparative approach encourages Muslims to view revelation as part of an ongoing dialogue between tradition and modernity, as well as between different religious communities.

A significant aspect of Arkoun's methodology is his use of semiotic analysis to explore the deeper meanings of the Qur'anic text. Drawing on the semiotic theories of Charles Sanders Peirce and Charles Morris, Arkoun analyzes the signs, symbols, and linguistic structures within the Qur'an (Ashri, 2024; Maslekhan, 2024). Peirce's categorization of signs into icons, indexes, and symbols provides a framework for understanding how the Qur'an conveys meaning through various forms of representation. Morris's emphasis on the importance of context in interpreting signs aligns with Arkoun's focus on the socio-historical context of revelation (Maslekhan, 2024). By applying semiotic analysis, Arkoun uncovers the complexity of the Qur'an's message and demonstrates how its meaning can evolve over time.

Arkoun's semiotic-linguistic approach also involves analyzing key Qur'anic concepts such as *wahyu* (revelation) and *Umm al-Kitab* (Mother of the Book). He argues that *Umm al-Kitab* serves as a foundational source of guidance for Muslims, but it must be understood within a broader context that includes interaction with other religious texts and critical thinking (Faradilla, 2018). Arkoun's interpretation of *Umm al-Kitab* reflects his belief that the Qur'an is not a static text but a dynamic one that invites continuous exploration and reinterpretation.

The concept of historical contextualization is central to Arkoun's hermeneutics. He emphasizes that the Qur'an must be understood within

the cultural and historical milieu in which it was revealed. Arkoun argues that religious texts cannot be separated from their socio-political contexts and that a critical analysis of these contexts is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the text (Budi, 2022; Nasrudin, 2016). This approach challenges traditional interpretations that view the Qur'an as a timeless and unchanging text. Instead, Arkoun presents the Qur'an as a living document that interacts with the cultural and historical realities of its time and continues to evolve in response to new challenges.

Arkoun's focus on historical contextualization also addresses the concept of *liqa' Allah* (meeting with God) in the Qur'an. He interprets this concept as an ongoing, dynamic relationship between humanity and the divine, rather than a fixed eschatological event. This interpretation highlights the evolving nature of the Qur'an's message and its relevance to contemporary spiritual and ethical concerns (Imadudin & Ain, 2022). By framing *liqa' Allah* as a continuous dialogue, Arkoun encourages Muslims to engage with the Qur'an in a way that is responsive to modern realities and ethical dilemmas.

The application of Arkoun's hermeneutical approach has significant implications for contemporary Islamic thought. His emphasis on critical thinking and contextual analysis challenges the rigid frameworks of traditional Islamic scholarship and opens new avenues for interpreting the Qur'an. Arkoun's approach is particularly relevant in addressing issues such as social justice, human rights, and interfaith dialogue, which require a more flexible and adaptable understanding of religious texts (Annafiri, 2022; Rani, 2023; Renci, 2024). By integrating insights from various disciplines, Arkoun's methodology provides a holistic framework for engaging with the Qur'an in a way that is both respectful of tradition and responsive to contemporary needs.

However, Arkoun's approach is not without its critics. Some scholars argue that his use of Western philosophical concepts and methodologies may undermine the traditional understanding of the Qur'an as divine revelation. There is concern that Arkoun's emphasis on historical and

cultural contextualization may lead to subjective interpretations that deviate from established Islamic teachings (Qomariyah & Cahyadi, 2023). Additionally, some critics worry that his semiotic-linguistic analysis may overlook the spiritual and theological dimensions of the Qur'an. Despite these criticisms, Arkoun's contributions to Qur'anic hermeneutics have had a profound impact on contemporary Islamic thought and continue to inspire new approaches to interpreting sacred texts.

The results of this study demonstrate that Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical approach offers a valuable framework for understanding the Qur'an in a contemporary context. His emphasis on historical contextualization, semiotic analysis, and multidisciplinary engagement provides new insights into the dynamic nature of revelation and its relevance to modern challenges. Arkoun's methodology encourages a more inclusive and adaptable interpretation of the Qur'an, promoting dialogue between tradition and modernity, as well as between different religious communities. By challenging traditional interpretations and advocating for a critical and contextual approach, Arkoun's hermeneutics contribute to the ongoing evolution of Islamic thought and the exploration of the Qur'an's multifaceted meanings.

DISCUSSION

The application of Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical approach to contemporary Islamic studies highlights its potential to provide new insights into Qur'anic interpretation. His methodology, which emphasizes the socio-historical context of the Qur'an, challenges traditional interpretations and proposes a dynamic, flexible, and responsive approach to the evolving needs of modern society. Arkoun's ideas, though controversial, offer a way to engage critically with the text while preserving its relevance in addressing contemporary issues such as gender equality, human rights, and pluralism (Annafiri, 2022; Budi, 2022). His hermeneutical framework is particularly significant in facilitating dialogue between Islamic traditions and modern intellectual discourse.

One of the key contributions of Arkoun's approach is his insistence on understanding the Qur'an as a text that interacts with its socio-cultural environment. Unlike traditional tafsir, which often focuses on preserving the fixed meanings of the text, Arkoun's hermeneutics encourages readers to explore how historical circumstances shaped the Qur'an's message. By acknowledging that the Qur'an was revealed in a specific historical context, Arkoun argues that its interpretation should evolve to remain relevant to contemporary challenges (Faradilla, 2018; Nasrudin, 2016). This perspective allows Muslims to engage with the Qur'an in a way that addresses modern ethical, social, and political issues, thus promoting a more inclusive and adaptable understanding of the text.

The historical contextualization of the Qur'an is a central theme in Arkoun's hermeneutics. He emphasizes that the Qur'an must be understood in relation to the socio-political and cultural realities of seventh-century Arabia. This historical approach helps to uncover the underlying ethical principles of the Qur'an, which can then be applied to contemporary issues in a way that aligns with modern values. For example, Arkoun's approach has been used to explore themes of social justice, equality, and human rights in the Qur'an, challenging the rigid interpretations that often prevail in traditional scholarship (Budi, 2022; Hidayat, 2024). By recognizing the historical dimension of revelation, Arkoun provides a framework for engaging with the Qur'an in a manner that is both respectful of tradition and responsive to contemporary needs.

One of the most significant applications of Arkoun's hermeneutics is in the discussion of gender equality and human rights. Traditional interpretations of the Qur'an have often been criticized for their perceived patriarchal bias, which can be traced back to the socio-cultural norms of the time when the text was revealed. Arkoun's approach challenges these interpretations by encouraging readers to consider the historical context in which such norms were established. By applying a critical lens to the text, Arkoun's hermeneutics reveals that the Qur'an contains ethical principles that promote justice, equality, and human dignity, which can be interpreted

in ways that support contemporary human rights frameworks (Budi, 2022; Renci, 2024). This perspective has significant implications for addressing issues such as gender equality and minority rights within the Muslim community.

However, Arkoun's hermeneutical approach is not without its criticisms. One of the main challenges in applying hermeneutics to Qur'anic interpretation is the concern that it may undermine the sacredness and authority of the text. Critics argue that treating the Qur'an as a historical document rather than a divine revelation risks reducing it to a mere cultural artifact (Arrasyid, 2024). Additionally, some scholars worry that the use of Western philosophical concepts in interpreting the Qur'an may lead to subjective interpretations that deviate from established Islamic teachings (Qomariyah & Cahyadi, 2023). These concerns highlight the tension between maintaining the integrity of the text and adopting new interpretative frameworks to address contemporary issues.

Despite these criticisms, Arkoun's approach has opened new avenues for dialogue between Islamic traditions and modern intellectual discourse. His emphasis on critical thinking and contextual analysis encourages Muslims to engage with the Qur'an in a way that promotes intellectual openness and creativity. By integrating insights from various disciplines, such as linguistics, anthropology, and history, Arkoun's methodology provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the Qur'an's message in a contemporary context (Faradilla, 2018; Maslekhan, 2024). This interdisciplinary approach allows for a more nuanced understanding of the text, which is essential in addressing complex social, political, and ethical issues in the modern world.

Arkoun's comparative analysis of revelation across different religious traditions also contributes to his hermeneutical framework. He argues that all religious texts, including the Qur'an, should be understood within the cultural and historical contexts in which they emerged. This comparative approach fosters a more inclusive understanding of revelation, recognizing that different religious traditions share common ethical principles and moral

teachings. By encouraging Muslims to view the Qur'an as part of a broader dialogue with other religious texts and traditions, Arkoun promotes interfaith dialogue and mutual understanding (Faradilla, 2018; Hidayat, 2024). This perspective is particularly relevant in today's globalized world, where diverse religious communities must navigate issues of coexistence and mutual respect.

The use of semiotic analysis in Arkoun's hermeneutics further enriches his interpretative framework. Drawing on the theories of Charles Sanders Peirce and Charles Morris, Arkoun explores how the Qur'an communicates meaning through signs, symbols, and linguistic structures (Ashri, 2024; Maslekhan, 2024). This semiotic approach allows for a deeper exploration of the text's layers of meaning, uncovering the rhetorical devices and thematic patterns that contribute to its overall message. However, as critics point out, there is a risk that focusing too heavily on linguistic analysis may neglect the spiritual and theological dimensions of the Qur'an (Qomariyah & Cahyadi, 2023). Therefore, it is essential to balance semiotic analysis with historical and theological insights to ensure a holistic interpretation.

Arkoun's emphasis on the concept of *Umm al-Kitab* (Mother of the Book) illustrates his belief that the Qur'an's core message is dynamic and adaptable. He interprets *Umm al-Kitab* as a foundational source of guidance that invites continuous exploration and reinterpretation. This concept aligns with his broader hermeneutical framework, which encourages Muslims to engage with the Qur'an in a way that reflects contemporary realities and ethical challenges (Faradilla, 2018). By framing the Qur'an as a living document that evolves over time, Arkoun's approach promotes a more flexible and adaptable understanding of the text, which is essential in addressing the complexities of modern life.

The discussion of Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical approach highlights its potential to enrich contemporary Islamic thought and address the challenges of modern society. His emphasis on historical contextualization, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary analysis provides new insights into Qur'anic interpretation, promoting a more inclusive and

dynamic understanding of the text. While his approach is not without its criticisms, Arkoun's contributions to Qur'anic hermeneutics have opened new avenues for dialogue between Islamic traditions and modern intellectual discourse. His methodology encourages Muslims to engage with the Qur'an in a way that respects its sacredness while also recognizing the need for continuous reinterpretation in response to evolving social, political, and ethical issues. By promoting a critical and contextual approach to Qur'anic interpretation, Arkoun's hermeneutics contributes to the ongoing evolution of Islamic thought and the exploration of the Qur'an's multifaceted meanings.

CONCLUSION

This study has explored Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical approach to Qur'anic interpretation, emphasizing his efforts to reinterpret revelation within a socio-historical framework. Arkoun's methodology challenges traditional Islamic scholarship by proposing a dynamic and contextualized understanding of the Qur'an that addresses contemporary issues. Through a multidisciplinary approach combining historical, anthropological, and semiotic analysis, Arkoun's interpretation offers a fresh perspective on how sacred texts can remain relevant in modern society. His work highlights the importance of acknowledging the historical context in which the Qur'an was revealed, as well as the necessity of continuously engaging with the text to uncover new meanings suited to evolving social realities.

One of the primary findings of this study is Arkoun's assertion that the Qur'an is not a static text with fixed meanings but a dynamic and adaptable source of guidance. He emphasizes that revelation must be understood as both a sacred and cultural product, shaped by the historical circumstances of its time. Arkoun's focus on historical contextualization allows for a more nuanced interpretation that considers the ethical and social principles embedded in the Qur'an, which can be applied to modern issues such as gender equality, human rights, and interfaith dialogue. By doing so, Arkoun

offers an alternative to rigid interpretations that may no longer address the complexities of contemporary life.

The discussion in this study has also underscored the relevance of Arkoun's semiotic-linguistic approach. His application of semiotic theories to Qur'anic interpretation demonstrates how meaning is constructed through signs and symbols within the text. This approach allows for a deeper exploration of the Qur'an's thematic structures and rhetorical devices, revealing its multifaceted messages. However, this method also highlights the need for caution, as excessive reliance on linguistic analysis may risk overlooking the text's spiritual and theological dimensions. Therefore, a balanced approach that integrates semiotic analysis with historical and theological insights is essential to achieve a holistic understanding of the Qur'an.

Arkoun's hermeneutics has significant implications for contemporary Islamic thought. His emphasis on critical thinking, historical contextualization, and interdisciplinary engagement provides a framework for Muslims to engage with the Qur'an in a way that respects its sacredness while remaining open to reinterpretation. His approach is particularly valuable in addressing complex social, political, and ethical issues in the modern world. By promoting a more inclusive and adaptable interpretation of the Qur'an, Arkoun's methodology encourages dialogue between Islamic traditions and modern intellectual discourse, fostering mutual understanding and respect between diverse communities.

Despite its contributions, Arkoun's hermeneutical approach has also faced criticism. Some scholars argue that his reliance on Western philosophical concepts and methodologies may undermine the traditional understanding of the Qur'an as divine revelation. There are concerns that his approach could lead to subjective interpretations that deviate from established Islamic teachings. However, this study argues that Arkoun's hermeneutics provides a necessary response to the challenges of modernity, offering a way to engage with the Qur'an that is both respectful of tradition and responsive to contemporary needs.

The findings of this study contribute to the existing body of knowledge on Qur'anic interpretation by highlighting the potential of Arkoun's approach to enrich Islamic thought. His methodology offers a pathway for Muslims to engage critically with their sacred texts while remaining faithful to the ethical and spiritual principles of Islam. By integrating historical, anthropological, and semiotic insights, Arkoun's hermeneutics provides a comprehensive framework for exploring the dynamic relationship between the Qur'an and its socio-historical context.

This study also opens avenues for further research. Future studies could explore the practical application of Arkoun's hermeneutics in addressing specific contemporary issues, such as gender equality, environmental ethics, or interfaith relations. Additionally, comparative studies between Arkoun's approach and other hermeneutical frameworks in Islamic and non-Islamic traditions could provide deeper insights into the potential of contextualized interpretation. Finally, examining how Arkoun's ideas have influenced modern Islamic scholarship and education systems could offer valuable perspectives on the evolving role of hermeneutics in Islamic studies.

This study demonstrates that Muhammad Arkoun's hermeneutical approach offers a valuable framework for reinterpreting the Qur'an in a contemporary context. His emphasis on historical contextualization, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary analysis provides new insights into the dynamic nature of revelation and its relevance to modern challenges. By encouraging a more flexible and adaptable understanding of the Qur'an, Arkoun's hermeneutics contributes to the ongoing evolution of Islamic thought and fosters dialogue between tradition and modernity. His work continues to inspire scholars to engage with sacred texts in ways that promote critical reflection, inclusivity, and mutual understanding, ensuring that the Qur'an remains a living and relevant source of guidance for Muslims in the 21st century.

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