

Conference Paper

Sourcing the Academic Works for English References: An Analysis of Students' Perceptions

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Abstract

The role of English as the major language in the world has been impacting language policy in non-English speaking countries, including policy on scientific publication. Scholars are urged to access English sources. This study aimed to qualitatively explore Islamic economic students' perceptions about referencing their academic works with sources written in English. The data were obtained through interviewing the students and were analyzed descriptively. The majority of students did not refer to English-written sources. There are several factors which limit them in doing so, despite its importance and even though most of the participants have access to the sources.

Keywords: Academic works. English, Islamic economic, references, scientific works.

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1. Introduction

Globalization gives impact to many spectrums of human life, including the use of language (Kirkgöz, 2008; Tsui & Tollefson, 2007). English as the most spoken language of interaction (Chang, 2006) is much used by people of different mother tongues and countries of origin (Fithriani, 2018). The dominant use of English has resulted in the change of language policy in a number of countries where English is not dominantly spoken, including publication. English has also been used in major countries as well as international publication (Ferguson, 2011; Hamel, 2007). Scimago Journal & Country Rank (2020) have listed a number of high-ranked journals from certain field of interest and those are written in English. Hamel (2007) noted that 75% of international publication in the field of social science and humanities are written in English in compare to 90% in hard science written within the same language.

That also affects the field of Islamic Economic as it is getting popular (Karim, 2010). Despite having strong connection to Arabic, the most recent academic articles in Islamic

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Economic published in many prominent journal publishers are written in English. The experts of the field, as well Arabic, used English as the language of delivery in their works. As an example, Muhammad Abdul Mannan with his *Islamic Economics: Theory and Practice* (1986). Syed Nawab Haedir Naqvi in *Ethics and Economics: An Islamic Synthesis* (1981). Umer Chapra dengan antara lain *Toward a Just Monetary System* (1985) and *Islam and Economic Challenge* (1992) as well Masudul Alam Choudhury with his work on Islamic Economic dominantly published in highly-reputable journal publishers.

These works strongly support to construct theoretical and thinking framework for the students working on the academic writings, starting from brief articles to long final assignments. Scholars uphold their opinion strongly with the support of academic references and collecting information for their studies (Marlina & Kusumaningrum, 2017). Furthermore, internationalizing scientific works should have support from background data and accessible previous studies. However, Huang (2010) asserted that non-English-speaker PhD students treat English as secondary language of delivery which discourages them in improving English language skills for scientific publication purpose.

There are a number of studies highlight on the use of references for scientific research. Dewi (2015) concluded that postgraduate management science students at Faculty of Economic and Business of Airlangga University revealed that *Journal of Marketing* (19,34%) is the most referenced representing English journals as the most cited (71,5% citation). The study conducted by Fasae (2012) and Eckel (2009) showed that journal articles are the most referenced. Likewise, Zakiyah (2013) also found that a number of PhD thesis in Airlangga University used English sources as the main reference for academic articles including *Journal of Marketing*, *International Journal of Islamic Financial Service*, dan *Journal of The Academy of Marketing Science*.

In this writing, the writers will explore Islamic economic students' perception in referencing their works to English sources as well their ability in searching them. Moreover, the writers will investigate factors affecting students in accommodating English sources for their academic works.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Development of recent Islamic economic source texts

The emergence of Islamic economic is strongly tied to the period of uprising of Islam in 1970's marked by the Mecca Conference (Ibrahim & Alam, 2018). Since, the field

of Islamic economic significantly grew simultaneously with the rise of popularity of Islamic economic and finance in the world (Karim, 2010). There are wide-range studies on economic unexceptionally on classical texts on Islamic economic such as on *Kitab al-Kharaj*, authored by Abu Yusuf, *Kitab al-Kasb* by Muhammad al-Syaibani, ideas of Yahya bin Adam al-Qurasyi on tax and other financial responsibilities, *Kitab al-Amwal* written by Abu 'Ubaid al-Qasim bin Sallam and with the same light—his contemporary Ibn Zanjawayh, book of *Ishlah al-Mal* by Ibn Abi al-Dunya, the thought of Abu Bakr al-Khallal on general business and economic, and *al-Mahasin Isharah ila al-Tijarah* by al-Dimasyqi (Islahi, 2014).

In the aftermath, Islamic economic corpus was found significantly on the works of Shah Walilullah Dahlawi (1762 AC), Muhammad bin Abdul Wahab (1787 AC), Jamaluddin Al Afghani (1897 AC), Mufti Muhammad Abduh (1905 AC), Muhammad Iqbal (1938 AC), Ibnu Nujaym (1562 AC), Ibnu Abidin (1836), and Syeh Ahmad Sirhindi (1524 AC). Muhammad Abdul Mannan has authored plenty of pieces of works on Islamic economic from *Islamic Economics: Theory and Practice* (1986), *Islamic Economics as a social science: Some methodological issues* (1983), and to *The Making of an Islamic Economic Society* (1984). Syed Nawab Haedir Naqvi worked on *Ethics and Economics: An Islamic Synthesis* (1981), *Development economics: A new paradigm* (1993), and *Perspectives on morality and human well-being: A contribution to Islamic economics* (2003). Umer Chapra wrote *Toward a Just Monetary System* (1985) and *Islam and Economic Challenge* (1992), among other works. Also, Masudul Alam Choudhury published series of Islamic economic articles on internationally-recognized journals including *Contributions to Islamic economic theory: A study in social economics* (1986). There are also some other prominent names who worked on the same matters among them are Muhammad Najatullah Siddiqi (1931 AC), Monzer Kahf, Sayyid Mahmud Taleghani, and Muhammad Baqir as Sadr.

The studies on Islamic economic gained its popularity since Salih in 1933 published his worked in Arabic "*Arab Economic Thought in the Fifteenth Century*", outlining the thought of Ibn Khaldun, al-Maqrizi, and al-Dulaji on economic followed by al-Hashimi in 1937 published an article "*Economic Views of al-Biruni*" as well Rif'at with his "*Ibn Khaldun's Views on Economic*" in Persian. Abdul Qadir in 1941 also wrote "*The Social and Political Ideas of Ibn Khaldun*" in English. In 1944, Nash'at wrote dissertation titled "*Economic Thought in the Prolegomena of Ibn Khaldun*" for his PhD in Cairo University (Islahi, 2014).

2.2. Globalization and English among Scientific Works

Extensive reading relates to skills of academic writing (Safitri, 2018). Quality of reading source determines quality of writing. An academic piece of work which is based on reliable sources will be referred. To get it more updated, a researcher should refer to most recent studies. In the present time, technology allows people to browse academic journals of many fields of expertise. Fasaie (2012) and Eckel (2009) presented an analysis of citation used in range of journals noted that most academic writers refer to journal articles. It is considerably true that the most of high-ranked journal publishers used English in the writing (Scimago Journal & Country Rank, 2020). In economic, there are *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Finance*, dan *Review of Economic Studies*.

As mentioned earlier, the impact of globalization puts English as the main spoken language in the world. This also gives an impact on academic publication which used English as the major language of delivery regarding to its dominance (Chang, 2006; Ferguson, 2011; Hamel, 2007). Reviewing to the study by Hamel (2007), he contended that 75% of academic articles in social science and humanities as well 90% in natural science are written in English. Thus, it will be a great loss and backward if academics cannot access those corpuses.

The importance of English reference texts is beyond the importance of its topic of interest such as economic, politics, laws, engineering, health, and social science. Furthermore, the development of research methodologies is also dependable to those texts. With language capability, those source texts could assist academics or students in developing their studies.

3. Research Method

The participants of this study are Islamic economic students who have finished their study in 2020 in Faculty of Economic and Business at State Islamic University of North Sumatra. The participants were selected by *purposive sampling* method under certain criteria. There are 9 responders out of 20 targeted participants consisting of 2 men and 7 women with age range 21 to 23-year-old.

To obtain the data, the writers conducted in-depth interview about the use Islamic economic source texts in English on their academic writing product as their perception of them.

The data, thus, were analyzed through thematic content analysis (Fullana, Pallisera, Colomer, Pena & Perez-Buriel, 2016). The analysis was done by reading the interview transcript repetitively targeting to decode meaning and discourse. Later, it was numbered accordingly to theme, subtheme, and expanding theme. The data were interpreted afterwards through critical discourse analysis to figure out exact meaning meant by the participants.

4. Result and Discussion

This study reported: 1) The students' knowledge of Islamic economic text written in English and their ability to access, 2) the students' interest and perception in incorporating those texts to their academic work, and 3) the limiting and contributing factors in using those texts.

4.1. Knowledge and Skill

Knowledge improves greatly with interest (Carrell & Wise, 1998). Widely saying, "No affection without knowing" (Out of sight, out of mind). An individual's interest to execute is inextricably related to his knowledge of it. The writers inquired the participants whether they are informed or not the English source texts. There were 7 participants are informed and the rest 2 are uninformed. There were also at least 5 participants are informed of major journal article search engines such as Emerald Insight, Taylor and Francis, or Springer, Sage Publication. The, the students are perceivably informed of the English texts and how to access the texts.

A large number of participants are good in understanding the English texts while 3 others are less. It, however, does not avoid them to hone their English language skills. Participant IV mentioned, "My language (English) capability is limited but I attempt to improve as it is a must to open me access to the English source texts." It does not correspond to Huang (2010) who stated that non-English speaker of PhD students are unwilling to improve their language skill for international publication.

4.2. Interest and Perception

Interest are central in the process of selecting and persisting in processing certain information among the other one (Hidi, 1990). Individual's interest may intervene his judgment on something he will do. To this aspect, many of participant were interested

in the English texts. 6 among them sought the text via university library and 8 other participants browse on the internet search engine. The result shows that there is single participant who included the texts into his final assignment, apart from Dewi (2015) and Zakiyah (2013) who reported that the English texts are mainly cited in the academic writings.

A great deal of participants regarded the texts advantageous to the writing product. Those text will promote more extensive information and context (Participant III). The study will be more global (Participant I) as it refers to internationally-known subject not the domestic one, making it more relevant to local context and promotes universality (Participant IV and Participant V). Still, Participant VI believed that those texts will put more scientific impression on a scientific article as well as it is more convincing. Participant IV and IX added among the most characteristic of a reliable academic article is its accessibility, thus, they recognized that those texts are not too significant.

4.3. Limiting and Contributing Factors

Majority of participants do not include the English reference into their final assignment despite they are knowledgeable and accessible to those texts such as in books and articles on the internet. They are remarkably interested in and perceive positively toward of it. Thus, the least citation of the English reference for the writing is not contributed by knowledgeability, but barely capability and interest. Hence, what are the limiting factors?

Participant IX admitted that he has less ability in interacting in English and consequently had him extra time for processing the translation of the source text. The translation skill became Participants VI's issue. He also added that many students avoid using it as it may be a burden to them. This is parallel to Huang (2010) who presented that non-English-speaking students treat English as complimentary in academic study so they do not want to waste their time to learn it.

Participant VII also added that lecturers and supervisors do not oblige them to include it. It is equivalent to Participant II's. Each participant agreed that none of lecturers asked them to do it. There are just 3 of them believed that it is merely suggested by the lecturer, not to require it. On the other hand, Participant VII opined that most students are less aware of its importance and urgency to include it into their thesis. This requires emphasis and encouragement from related stakeholders or lecturers to include those texts rather than organize local texts only.

Also, Participant III is interested in including those texts despite he is limited to find relevant texts to his thesis. Participant II, III, IV, V, VI, VIII also admitted that they have tried to find those texts in the library while Participant II, IV, and VI did not find what they had looked for. As a result, there 6 participants attempted to find the source texts in the library but a half of them could not find it. The availability of the source text in the library is a significant issue in the quality of citation of students' academic works. This remains a problem in many universities as Dewi (2015) reported that the available references in the reading room at Faculty of Economic and Business in Airlangga University reached 47,06% out the unavailable ones. This issue could be tackled by finding relevant source texts in many online journals.

5. Conclusion

The use of English references in Islamic economic to academic works is significant. Students are required to be capable and accessible to those texts such as in books or online articles. Also, students are remarkably interested in including those texts and have a positive perception about them despite excluding those texts from their writings. There are a number of limiting factors, such as proficiency in understanding English which requires them an extra time to translate, no policy of institution or lecturer to mandatorily include the texts so they are not forced to do it, less knowledgeable of its urgency, less availability of those texts in the library databases, and less accessible to the available journals on the internet.

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