



Research Paper

The Impact of Historical Attitude of the Jurist on the Interpretation of Religious Texts with Emphasis on *Ḥadīth al-Bismila* (Hadith on Bismillah)

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HTTPS: 10.22034/MFU.2023.62615

Received: March, 2, 2023

Accepted: July, 7, 2023

Available online: July, 11, 2023



Keywords:

jurisprudence, interpretation of texts,
historical attitude, hadith family,
bismila.

Abstract

Different impressions of religious texts have always been one of the controversial issues, and in the science of interpretation and principles of jurisprudence, certain rules and procedures for the correct interpretation of texts have been presented. However, different perusals of texts have a history as old as jurisprudence. The need for interpretation of texts in the historical horizon of issuance is among the important rules of interpretation that can help to prefer one of the jurisprudential perusals over the others. One of the differences in jurisprudence of Islamic schools is *jahr* (raising the voice) when reciting *bismillah* (In the Name of Allah) in prayer. The Shāfi'īs and Imāmīs are in favor of *jahr*, while the Ḥanafīs, Mālikīs and Ḥanbalīs are in favor of non-*jahr* (i.e., lowering the voice). The main reason for both viewpoints is making reference to identical traditions that express the quality of the Imamate of the Prophet (S.A.W.). The present research has investigated the *influence* of the historical attitude of jurists on the interpretation of identical traditions with a descriptive-analytical method and by citing library sources; and by presenting historical evidence and forming a hadith family, it has shown that the mentioned traditions do not necessarily indicate the negation of *bismila* and it is clarified by the induction of the related hadiths that the mention of the phrases of the first verse in the hadiths was to refer to the *sūra* and the necessity of reciting *Sūrat al-Fātiḥa* in prayer, which due to the acceptance and popularity of the names of the *sūras* from the second century onwards, this phrase has been taken as the negation of *bismila*.

Hafidi, W. (2023). The Impact of Historical Attitude of the Jurist on the Interpretation of Religious Texts with Emphasis on *Ḥadīth al-Bismila* (Hadith on Bismillah). *Comparative Studies on the Schools of Jurisprudence and its Principles*, 6(1), 135-114

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Extended Abstract

1- Introduction

Textual interpretation is a dynamic and living process, and over time, multiple readings of texts have been made. Accepting the historicity of understanding does not mean accepting the validity of all readings; however, more than one acceptable reading can exist for a text. The necessity of interpreting texts in the historical horizon of their issuance is one of the important rules of the science of interpretation, and the attention of Muslim scholars to the impact of historical conditions on understanding the texts led them to record the reasons for the revelation of verses and the reasons for the issuance of hadiths from the very beginning. One of the areas where differences in understanding have led to differences in jurisprudence is the verses related to the quality of reciting "Bismillah" in prayer. Jurisprudential opinions in this area can be divided into two main categories: Shafi'is and Imamis believe in pronouncing "Bismillah" aloud, while Hanfis, Malikis, and Hanbalis believe in not pronouncing it aloud. Proponents of both views have referred to similar hadiths. The question now arises: What factors have caused different interpretations of similar hadiths and narrations over time?

2- Method

This article is based on library resources and is written using a descriptive-analytical approach. In this research, an attempt has been made to examine the impact of time on different interpretations of a single text. In other words, the relationship between the historical horizon of interpreters in understanding a single text in different periods is examined. To explain the subject accurately, hadiths related to the quality of performing prayers have been selected. By induction of hadiths related to the quality of reciting "Bismillah", it becomes clear that with the

passage of two centuries since the issuance of hadiths, differences in the interpretation of these hadiths have gradually intensified. In this research, an attempt has been made to explain the impact of the difference in the historical horizon of jurists on different interpretations through the historical analysis of different interpretations.

3- Result

The findings of this research indicate that historical horizons and contexts have a significant impact on the interpretation of texts, which has been less considered in the semantic analysis of different interpretations.

4- Conclusion

The difference in the quality of pronouncing "Bismillah" aloud is a jurisprudential issue on which different sects have made different interpretations based on similar hadiths. This research, by examining the historical process of naming the surahs of the Quran, has shown that the difference in interpretation of similar hadiths is due to the difference in the historical horizon of jurists and hadith scholars from the text, and by paying attention to the historical development, it is possible to give preference to jurisprudential opinions and indicates that the denial of pronouncing "Bismillah" aloud among some sects is due to a lack of attention to the historical conditions of the issuance of hadiths.

5- Funding

There is no funding support.

6- Authors' contribution

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7- Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflict of interest.

8-Acknowledgement

I am grateful to the editor-in-chief and my esteemed colleagues at the journal.