



Bridging Tradition and Modernity: Integrating Classical Interpretation and Modern Hermeneutics through Ijtihad in Qur'an Studies

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Abstract

This article discusses significant issues related to the fusion of classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics in the analysis of the Qur'an, using ijtihad as a framework, which refers to the process of independent reasoning and interpretation in Islamic law. This study examines how ijtihad can connect these two perspectives and understand the opportunities and challenges that arise from this integration. This research includes interviews with scholars, literature reviews, and text analysis using comparative analysis methods and is thus qualitative in its approach. The findings suggest that ijtihad allows the adaptation of Islamic teachings to the ever-changing social, political, and cultural contexts, resulting in a more relevant understanding of contemporary pressing issues such as human rights and gender equality. The research recommendations underscore the need for constructive dialogue between conservative and progressive clerics, youth engagement, and digital technology to spread new perspectives in interpreting the Qur'an.

Keywords: Classical Interpretation, Modern Hermeneutics, Ijtihad, Al-Qur'an, Integration, Constructive Dialogue.

Introduction

Classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics are two fundamental methodologies in studying the Qur'an, each with distinct characteristics and approaches. Classical interpretation, deeply rooted in Islamic tradition, focuses on understanding sacred texts through authoritative sources such as hadith and ijma' (consensus) (Hassan et al., 2023; Zaenuri, 2023), maintaining principles that have endured centuries. This approach provides stability to Muslims who seek certainty in interpreting religious teachings. On the other hand, modern hermeneutics presents a more adaptable and contextual perspective, underscoring the relevance of understanding the social, political, and cultural contexts in which revelation is received (Kelly, 1990; Naupal, 2019; Zainatul Nadra Zainol et al., 2018). This approach invites



readers to reflect on the applicability of Islamic values when addressing contemporary issues, such as human rights and gender equality. In this framework, *ijtihad*—scholars' intellectual effort or independent reasoning to interpret Islamic teachings—becomes essential (Hassan, 2023). *Ijtihad* allows Islamic teachings to adjust to changing times, which could facilitate the connection between classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics (Aroma Elmina Martha et al., 2024).

Although classical and modern hermeneutics have advantages, there is a significant tension between these approaches when studying the Quran (Purkon, 2022). Traditional religious leaders often view modern hermeneutics as a threat to textual authority, potentially undermining the integrity of Islamic teachings (Harrison, 2010; Zainatul Nadra Zainol et al., 2018). Traditional religious leaders see modern hermeneutics as a threat because its contextual and subjective approach can undermine the authority of classical interpretation, threaten the certainty of Islamic law, and encourage secularization and liberalization. Based on historical criticism and Western rationality, this hermeneutics contradicts the interpretation method based on revelation and the consensus of scholars. It has the potential to destabilize Islamic law, reduce the role of scholars, and trigger undesirable social changes. On the other hand, proponents of modern hermeneutics argue that the classical interpretation is too inflexible and does not adequately respond to current societal challenges (Alias et al., 2024; How, 2011). These limitations generate a pressing need to connect tradition with modernity. Faced with the ever-changing demands of contemporary society, Muslims are challenged to find relevant ways of understanding sacred texts. Therefore, it is critical to investigate how these two methodologies can interact and complement each other rather than remain in conflict (Santoso et al., 2022).

This study examines how *ijtihad* can contribute to the fusion of classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics, focusing on potential opportunities and challenges. By understanding how *ijtihad* can modify the interpretation of the Qur'an, this research seeks to contribute meaningfully to scholarly debates about understanding Islam in the contemporary era. In addition, concrete examples of how *ijtihad* has succeeded in bridging the gap between the two approaches will be identified (Fanani et al., 2021). Through an in-depth analysis of the interaction between classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics, the hope is to uncover innovative ways to apply Islamic teachings that are relevant and responsive to contemporary social dynamics (Alias et al., 2024).

This study will address several key questions to achieve this goal. First, how can *ijtihad* serve as a bridge between classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics? This question will lead to exploring the role of *ijtihad* in creating a space for dialogue between the two approaches. Second, what results can be achieved through this integrative approach? By addressing this question, this study aims to offer a clearer view of the advantages and difficulties of combining classical interpretation with modern hermeneutics. In this way, the research will not only enrich the academic literature but also provide practical guidance for Muslims in their understanding and application of the teachings of the Qur'an in an ever-evolving world.

Methods

1. Research Design

This study takes a qualitative approach to explore and understand the interaction between classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics in the context of *ijtihad*. This qualitative method allows researchers to delve deeper into informants' perspectives and meanings, as well as consider the social and cultural contexts that influence the interpretation of sacred texts (Zakher et al., 2015). Through comparative analysis, this study examines various methodologies scholars use in interpreting the Qur'an, including *Tafsir bil Ma'tsur*, which relies on the Qur'an, Hadith, and the opinions of the Companions, and *Tafsir bil Ra'yi*, which



emphasizes rational analysis and *ijtihad*. . This comparative analysis not only helps to understand how different approaches can complement each other but also highlights the challenges and opportunities that Muslims face in applying the teachings of the Qur'an today (Purkon, 2022).

2. Data Collection

The data collection method employed in this study includes various techniques, such as interviews with scholars, literature review, and text analysis. Interviews were conducted to gain a direct perspective from scholars with experience and in-depth knowledge of tafsir and *ijtihad*. Informants are selected based on specific criteria, including their experience studying the Qur'an, involvement in religious practices, and understanding modern hermeneutics. These criteria ensure that the informants can provide a rich and relevant perspective. In addition to the interviews, literature reviews were conducted to gather information from various sources, including books, academic journal articles, and previous works addressing classical interpretation, modern hermeneutics, and *ijtihad*. These sources are carefully selected based on their relevance to the research topic (Hassan et al., 2023), as well as the credibility and authority of their authors. Textual analysis is also carried out to identify patterns and themes that emerge in interpreting the Qur'an, focusing on how *ijtihad* is applied in different contexts.

3. Data Analysis

The analysis techniques employed in this study include identifying themes and patterns that emerge from the data collected. This process begins with transcribing the interviews and preparing field notes from the literature review and textual analysis. Once the data is compiled, the researcher thoroughly reads it to detect the main themes pertinent to the research objectives. Data validation is a crucial step in qualitative research, and triangulation is employed to ensure the accuracy and credibility of findings. Triangulation was achieved by comparing interviews, literature reviews, and textual analysis data (Mudjia Rahardjo, 2010). By integrating various data sources, researchers ensure that the findings remain valid and reflect various perspectives. This approach helps produce a more comprehensive understanding of how classical exegesis and modern hermeneutics can be integrated through *ijtihad* and its implications for studying the Qur'an and religious practices within Muslim communities.

Discussion

The Strengths and Weaknesses of Classical Exegesis in a Contemporary Context

Classical exegesis has a significant strength in maintaining textual authority and tradition integrity (Gilliot, 2009; Sholihah & Kahar, 2023). This approach often relies on authoritative sources such as hadith and the consensus of scholars (*ijma'*), which provide a solid foundation for understanding sacred texts (Hassan et al., 2023; Majid et al., 2023). By adhering to methodologies tested over the centuries, classical exegesis creates a robust framework for Muslims to understand religious teachings. This is especially important for those seeking certainty in interpretation, where individuals may feel anxious or confused when faced with rapid social change. For example, in the context of *tafsir al-Ṭabarī*, one of the earliest and most influential exegetical works, the interpretation of Qur'anic verses is often accompanied by references to authentic hadith and the opinions of earlier scholars (Batrov, 2021; Usman & Ibrahim, 2014). This legitimizes interpretation and offers a sense of stability in religious understanding (Alias et al., 2024). However, despite these strengths, classical interpretation shows significant limitations in addressing contemporary social challenges, especially in issues such as gender (Elmir, 2021; Millati, 2020). Many classical interpretations adopt patriarchal views that may no longer be relevant in modern contexts. For example, classical interpretation favours uneven distribution in discussing women's inheritance rights (Kuehn, 1987; Suhra et al., 2023). In many interpretations, male heirs often receive a double share of



what female heirs receive, a practice rooted in the social values prevailing at the time of revelation. This approach creates an imbalance contrary to the broader principles of social justice that are increasingly recognized today.

A study conducted by Badran (2009) revealed that many classical interpretations fail to consider the social impact of their conclusions (Badran, 2009), leading to distortions in the understanding of women's rights. This challenges Muslim women seeking to assert their rights in modern society. In this context, classical interpretation is often an obstacle to progress, as its inflexible interpretation can lead to dissatisfaction and injustice in society. Meanwhile, Muslim women around the world are fighting to demand their rights, responding to perceived injustices in traditional interpretations (Hassan et al., 2023).

Moreover, classical interpretations often ignore the broader socio-political context, which has become crucial in today's increasingly interconnected world (Bhatia & Bhatia, 2011; Bradley, 2012; Jahn, 2006; Puchnina, 2021). In many cases, static interpretations can render Islamic teachings irrelevant to contemporary issues, such as human rights, pluralism, and social justice (Hassan et al., 2023). For example, when discussing topics such as immigration or interfaith relations, classical interpretation may not provide an adequate response, as it cannot quickly adapt to this broader context (Ali, 2018). This is particularly evident in the debate on minority rights, where overly traditional interpretations often fail to recognize the importance of respecting and protecting the rights of individuals in diverse societies (Makhlouf, 2023).

In the face of these limitations, Muslims must understand that traditions do not have to be inflexible but can be interpreted and understood in a broader and more relevant context. This highlights the need to adopt a more dynamic approach to interpreting the Qur'an, one that respects tradition while also responding to the needs and aspirations of modern society (Purkon, 2022).

Advantages and Disadvantages of Modern Hermeneutics in the Tafsir of the Qur'an

Modern hermeneutics offers a more flexible and contextual approach to interpreting the Qur'an, one of its main advantages (Ohlander, 2009; Sayed Abdelnasser, 2024). In a world in constant transformation, where social, political, and cultural dynamics play a crucial role in shaping the perspective of society, this approach motivates readers to take into account historical and social contexts when interpreting sacred texts (Zacharias et al., 2024). In this way, modern hermeneutics seeks to make understanding of the Qur'an more pertinent to contemporary issues, such as religious pluralism, human rights, and social justice. This approach invites Muslims to read the text literally and dig into deeper meanings that might have been ignored in more rigid classical interpretations (Ahmad, 2023).

A critical example of the application of modern hermeneutics can be seen in the interpretation of women's rights. In many classical interpretations, women's roles are often socially and legally restricted. Nonetheless, scholars advocate for a more inclusive and egalitarian understanding through the perspective of modern hermeneutics. An example of this is Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd, a leading scholar in this field, who argues that the Qur'an, in essence, offers a space for gender equality, although patriarchal social contexts throughout Islamic history have shaped interpretations that restrict women's rights (Zayd et.al 1994). This approach allows the reader to recognize that sacred texts reflect the norms of their time and can be interpreted in light of broader values of justice and equality. QS. Al-Baqarah (2:282) mentions that the testimony of two women is equal to one man in financial transactions. Classically, this was understood as evidence of women's inferiority. However, modern hermeneutics interprets it as reflecting 7th-century Arab social conditions, not a fixed law. Scholars such as Fazlur Rahman argue that this verse must be understood in the context of modern justice, where women have equal access to education and the economy.

Another strength of modern hermeneutics is its ability to adapt to changing socio-political contexts (Duderija, 2020). By considering factors such as globalization, migration, and social conflicts, modern hermeneutics allows for a more responsive interpretation of the realities of the everyday life of Muslims (Freamon, 2008; Ohlander, 2009). For example, modern hermeneutics encourages interfaith dialogue and recognition of diversity in the context of increasing religious pluralism. This is evident in the work of Fazlur Rahman, who argues that a comprehensive understanding of the Qur'an should include not only the text itself but also the socio-historical context in which revelation is received and discussed (Ahmad, 2023). In this way, modern hermeneutics seeks to avoid dogmatic and rigid interpretations, paving the way for a more inclusive understanding.

However, despite these advantages, modern hermeneutics faces challenges and criticisms. One of the main drawbacks of this approach is that conservative scholars often regard it as a threat to the text's authority. They are concerned that excessively subjective interpretations may lead to uncontrolled interpretations, potentially leading to distortions of the original meaning of the Qur'an. Critics argue that modern hermeneutics can blur the clear boundaries between right and wrong in Islamic teachings. They believe that too liberal interpretations can undermine the unity of Muslims and cause divisions within the ummah, the Islamic holy community.

A concrete example of this debate appears in the issue of women's rights (Syatībī, 2012). While modern hermeneutics provides room for a more inclusive and egalitarian interpretation, it also faces rejection from more traditionalists. Many argue that attempts to reinterpret sacred texts in a modern context could undermine the original meaning contained in the Qur'an. For example, in discussions about women's inheritance rights, some conservative scholars emphasized the need to maintain traditional interpretations, which tend to favour unequal distribution between men and women. This rejection suggests that although progress has been made in understanding women's rights, challenges remain in gaining widespread acceptance of more modern interpretations (Raysuni, 2002). In addition, modern hermeneutics also faces challenges in terms of legitimacy. While many interpreters seek to adopt a more contemporary and inclusive approach, they often face sharp criticism from more conservative circles. This creates a tension between the need to align understanding with changing social realities and the commitment to preserving traditions. In this context, finding a balance between innovation in interpretation and respect for traditional heritage is essential.

In conclusion, modern hermeneutics offers a more flexible and contextual approach to interpreting the Qur'an, allowing readers to explore more profound and relevant meanings in the face of contemporary challenges posed globally. Despite concerns and criticism from a conservative perspective, this approach provides an opportunity to create a more inclusive and responsive understanding of contemporary issues. As such, Muslims need to engage in constructive dialogue regarding interpreting sacred texts, which considers traditional authority and the need to adapt to an ever-changing world (Hassan, 2023).

The Role of Ijtihad in the Integration of Classical Interpretation and Modern Hermeneutics

Ijtihad plays a vital role in blending classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics, offering a more comprehensive and relevant approach to understanding the Qur'an. Scholars can adopt elements of both approaches through ijtihad to create a more holistic understanding of sacred texts. Ijtihad, which means "effort" or "reasoning," allows scholars to rely on established classical interpretations and consider the evolving social, cultural, and political contexts (Falak, 2020; Qasim, 2023). This is crucial in facing complex and dynamic challenges in the modern era. For example, a scholar may use the principles of classical interpretation to

provide the historical context necessary to understand certain verses. Classical interpretation often relies on authoritative sources such as hadith and ijma', which provide legitimacy and understanding that is recognized by society (Osman, 2019; Sookhdeo, 2006). However, scholars can adapt interpretations to contemporary issues Muslims face worldwide by applying modern hermeneutic methods. This approach encourages interpreters to look at the text separately and consider the broader social and political implications of their understanding in today's society (Arrasyid et al., 2023).

A concrete example of the success of ijihad can be seen in the work of Fazlur Rahman, a prominent scholar who proposed the concept of "double movement" in interpretation. According to Rahman, understanding the Quran must be done in two stages (Ahmad, 2023; Rahman, 1994). First, the text must be understood in its historical context, where the interpreter must consider the cultural background and social conditions in which the revelation was received. Second, after understanding this context, the interpreter must look for ways to apply the teachings in modern situations. This approach shows that ijihad allows for rich interpretation and bridges the gap between tradition and modernity so that the understanding of the Qur'an is more relevant for Muslims in contemporary times.

Rahman also emphasized the importance of universal values in the Qur'an (Akbar, 2020; Femy et al., 2023), such as justice, compassion, and equality. According to him, these values should be the basis for any interpretation. Thus, ijihad can be used to find solutions that align with Islam's core principles while remaining sensitive to changing social contexts. For example, in the issue of women's rights, ijihad allows interpreters to explore the meaning of verses related to women and the family in a way that not only upholds traditional norms but also broadens the understanding of women's rights in modern society. Furthermore, ijihad serves as a tool to overcome the challenges Muslims face in various global contexts. In an increasingly pluralistic society, where interaction between different cultures and religions is every day, ijihad can help Muslims to respond constructively. By combining classical exegesis and modern hermeneutics, scholars can create interpretations that are not only theologically robust, but which are also responsive to the needs of society.

However, the implementation of ijihad is not without challenges. One of the main obstacles scholars face in combining these two approaches is the rejection from conservatives, who are concerned that ijihad may lead to too liberal and subjective interpretations. They argue that this could weaken the authority of the text and cause divisions in the Muslim community. In this context, it is essential to encourage constructive dialogue between different perspectives so that ijihad can be accepted as a legitimate interpretation of the Qur'an. Furthermore, it is essential to note that ijihad is not easy. This process requires a deep understanding of the Arabic language, historical context, and the core principles of Islam. Therefore, only those with adequate qualifications and experience can perform ijihad. It also highlights the importance of education and training for Muslim scholars so as to ensure that ijihad is carried out appropriately and productively.

To bridge the gap between classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics, ijihad emerged as a crucial tool. Moch. Nur, a scholar and academic, emphasized that "ijihad plays an essential role in bridging tradition and modernity (Ichwan, 1999). We can find deeper meaning in sacred texts by understanding the social context." This view is supported by Siti Nurjanah, a women's rights activist, who notes that many classical interpretations fail to consider women's rights. He argues, "Modern hermeneutics provides room for a more inclusive reinterpretation (Hassan et al., 2023)."

In addition, *Alwānī, Ṭāhā Jābir* al, a historian, affirmed, "In the historical context, many values in the Qur'an can be applied to overcome contemporary challenges (Alwānī, 2006)." He underlined the importance of ijihad, which combines both approaches to create relevant

understanding. In this context, Abdullah M, a religious leader, added "Although classical interpretation provides stability, we cannot ignore the ever-changing social reality (Amiri, 1993)." This underscores the need for dialogue between traditional and modern approaches.

A leading researcher, Khadimi, suggested that education integrating *ijtihad* with classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics can equip the younger generation with a more holistic understanding of Islam. According to him, this approach not only enriches religious insights but also allows for a more contextual understanding of the teachings of the Qur'an (Khadimi, 1998). In Zakaria Ali's view, technology has a crucial role in disseminating new insights related to the interpretation of the Qur'an that are relevant to contemporary challenges. He emphasized, "Technology must be used to the fullest to disseminate more relevant and contextual interpretations, which can answer the challenges of Ages (Aribi, 2015)." By leveraging technology this will assist scholars to share their findings, as they engage with the public, and collaborate on large platforms such as online forums, webinars, and digital libraries which can also facilitate the exchange of ideas, making *ijtihad* far more accessible and widespread. In addition, big data analysis and also artificial intelligence can assist scholars in examining voluminous of Islamic texts and historical jurisprudence. This will greatly help them in making more informed and contextually relevant decisions in everyday life.

In the era of globalization and rapid technological development, *ijtihad* can be expanded by utilizing digital platforms to share knowledge and encourage discussion on contemporary issues. Online fatwa sites like Dar al-Ifta and MUI provide Islamic legal guidance on sharia fintech, cryptocurrency, and AI ethics. Scholars such as Nouman Ali Khan and Hamza Yusuf use social media and podcasts to spread modern interpretations, while digital discussion forums such as Zoom and Telegram allow for direct interaction in discussing contemporary *fiqh*. In this way, *ijtihad* becomes more inclusive and responsive to the challenges of the times. Social media and online forums allow Islamic scholars to reach a wider audience and discuss new interpretations of the application of Qur'anic teachings in the modern context. The platform creates opportunities for more open, inclusive, and interactive dialogue among Muslims from different parts of the world. In addition, digital technology can effectively disseminate innovative ideas related to *ijtihad* and modern hermeneutics, thereby enriching religious discourse among the younger generation. *Ijtihad* is not merely a one-time process but a continuous endeavour. Scholars should thus regularly reassess any rulings in light of changing circumstances, delve into new research, and relook at evolving societal needs.

Ijtihad is essential in combining classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics to create a more comprehensive and relevant understanding of the Qur'an. By applying the principles of these two approaches, *ijtihad* enables Muslims to respond to the challenges of the times while maintaining fidelity to tradition. This integrative approach deepens the understanding of sacred texts and opens up space for innovation and development in religious practice in the modern era. Active involvement in this process—whether through education, dialogue, or digital technology—will strengthen the legitimacy of *ijtihad* as an essential method of understanding and applying Islamic teachings in an ever-changing social context.

Implications of the Integration of Classical Interpretation and Modern Hermeneutics through *Ijtihad* in the Study of the Qur'an

The integration between classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics through the *ijtihad* mechanism has significant implications in the development of Qur'an studies, especially related to the adaptation of Islamic understanding to contemporary ever-changing social contexts. This approach broadens the interpretive horizons of sacred texts and allows Islam to remain relevant amid dynamic, changing times. The importance of this integration lies in its ability to accommodate complex social realities while maintaining the legitimacy of religious traditions that have been tested for centuries. This integrative approach can facilitate the *ijtihad*

process to dialogue traditional understanding with modern challenges, providing more contextual and practical solutions for Muslims.

One of the critical implications of this integration is its ability to respond to crucial social issues, such as human rights, gender equality, and social justice. In the context of human rights, for example, many verses in the Qur'an can be interpreted through the lens of modern hermeneutics to support universal values, such as justice and equality. The Qur'an supports justice and equality through verses such as QS. Al-Hujurat/49:13 on human equality, QS. An-Nisa/4:135, emphasizes justice without bias and QS. Al-Baqarah/2:256, which affirms religious freedom. QS. An-Nahl/16:90 calls for social justice and virtue. Modern interpretations of these verses reinforce the values of human rights and equality in Islam in accordance with the challenges of the times. Ijtihad plays an essential role in exploring the meaning of these verses, especially about individual rights in the contemporary world. For example, research shows that the values of justice in the Qur'an can be interpreted to support women's rights in various aspects of life, including education, political participation, and access to employment (Badarussyamsi, 2023). Thus, integrating classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics through ijtiḥad offers practical solutions for Muslims and strengthens Islam's position as a religion that supports social justice in an ever-changing global context.

Another implication of this integration is the increased relevance of Islam in the eyes of the younger generation. The younger generation, heavily influenced by technological developments and globalization, often feel that classical interpretations do not reflect their social realities. Modern hermeneutic, more contextual, and flexible approaches can help bridge this gap. By involving ijtiḥad as a tool to reinterpret the texts of the Qur'an in a dynamic social context, the younger generation can feel more connected to the teachings of Islam. Furthermore, using digital technology and social media platforms to discuss modern interpretation issues can effectively disseminate knowledge and encourage more inclusive discussions among Muslims.

However, this integration also faces several challenges, especially from conservatives who tend to hold fast to classical interpretation. For them, modern hermeneutics is often seen as a threat to Islamic teachings' textual authority and integrity. This fear is based on the assumption that a more flexible interpretive approach could lead to subjective interpretations and potentially blur the doctrinal boundaries guarded by classical interpretation. For example, some conservative clerics reject a more egalitarian interpretation of women's rights, arguing that such an interpretation could disrupt traditional gender norms that have long been respected in Muslim societies. This tension reflects a broader debate about the validity and legitimacy of modern hermeneutics in studying the Qur'an.

In addition to the resistance from conservatives, another challenge is to ensure that the integration between classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics does not sacrifice the essence of Islamic teachings and traditional understanding. Ijtiḥad must be carried out carefully and responsibly, given that this process involves efforts to reinterpret sacred texts in an ever-changing socio-political context. To overcome this challenge, constructive dialogue between groups with different views is needed. This is important so that this integration is widely accepted not only by academics but also by Muslims as a whole.

Finally, to maximize the benefits of this integration, Islamic education needs to emphasize the importance of ijtiḥad as a tool for understanding and applying the teachings of the Qur'an in a modern context. An education that combines classical interpretation with modern hermeneutics will equip future generations with the ability to navigate contemporary challenges without losing their grip on the core values of Islam. In this case, technology and digital platforms can also be used to spread new insights about the interpretation of the Qur'an that are more relevant to the current era of globalization.



Conclusion

The integration of classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics through *ijtihad* is a potential approach to enriching the study of the Qur'an and expanding the understanding of Islam in the contemporary era. This approach not only maintains the authority of religious traditions but also allows Islam to respond to increasingly complex social challenges, including issues of human rights, gender equality, and social justice. *Ijtihad* serves as a bridge that connects classical interpretation with modern hermeneutics, creating a more inclusive and contextual understanding of sacred texts. However, this integration process is not without its challenges. Resistance from conservatives and concerns about the potential distortion of Islamic teachings through overly liberal interpretation are significant obstacles. To overcome these challenges, a constructive dialogue between the more traditional and progressive circles and a careful approach to implementing *ijtihad* are needed. Islamic education also plays a vital role in equipping the younger generation with a holistic understanding of classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics so that they can face the challenges of the times by adhering to the basic principles of Islam. Ultimately, integrating classical interpretation and modern hermeneutics through *ijtihad* can enrich the understanding of Islam and make it more relevant in an ever-changing global context. By leveraging technology and digital platforms, Muslims can access new insights into a more inclusive and responsive interpretation of the Qur'an to the social, political, and cultural challenges faced in this modern era.

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