

Research Paper

The symmetrical challenge of context in the interpretation of the Qur'an

Dr. Seyed Mohsen Mousavi¹ Hojjat Ali
Nejad^{*2}

¹ Assistant Professor of Quran and Hadith Sciences, Mazandaran University

² Associate Professor, Department of Quranic Sciences and Hadith, University of Mazandaran



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Abstract

Context is one of the most important in-text analogies in the interpretation of the Holy Quran and has always been the work of commentators throughout the history of interpretation. However, the excess of taking advantage of this symmetry and not setting special rules and principles for its use in interpretation causes major challenges such as different interpretations of the same verse in similar cases, non-comprehensive use of context for all verses, imposing the commentator's point of view on the Qur'an and doubting the narrations of the dignity of revelation in the interpretation. Utilizing the context is not as efficient as it can be used as a rule in the interpretation of all verses; the commentator can only use it as a counterpart to confirm his interpretive point of view. However, the same does not apply to all verses. This research used a descriptive-analytical method to address this issue.

***Corresponding Author:** Hojjat Ali Nejad

Address: Associate Professor, Department of Quranic Sciences and Hadith, University of Mazandaran

Email: alinegad.hojjat@gmail.com

Extended abstract

1. Introduction

Using the contextual solution in the interpretation of the Holy Quran has a history dating back to the interpretation and translation of the Qur'an and to the time of the Companions and their followers. However, it seems that in the present age, the commentators of the Qur'an have used the context in detail extensively. The commentators have used this analogy to determine the concise meaning of the word, determining the probable meaning, and other cases. Since using context in the interpretation of the Holy Qur'an is a rational practice, there is no doubt that the context is symmetrical in understanding a verse. However, those interpreters who have taken advantage of the context have faced some challenges in their interpretations. The purpose of this study was to investigate the challenges that arise in commentators' interpretations using the symmetric context. Moreover, this research aimed to answer the question of whether the commentators who have used the context in a single verse do not differ in their interpretations and have reached a common conclusion. No research has been done regarding the possible contextual challenge and the problems that arise in interpretations.

2. Research method

This research dealt with this issue using the descriptive-analytical method. Descriptive research is a study in which the researcher gives a systematic description of the phenomenon and its

characteristics while studying and researching it. In this method, library study and review of existing texts and sources were used.

3. Results

Although the authenticity of the context has been driven from the rational way, and the commentators pay attention to the beginning and end of a verse in understanding it, which is considered in all languages and has a rational basis, there are no special rules and principles for its use. This has caused challenges in interpreting the Qur'an. In the interpretations of commentators who have used context as an interpretative rule, we sometimes come across interpretations that although the commentators have preferred a point of view because of the context, the result obtained by those commentators is not the same and they are in contradiction with each other.

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