SECTARIAN INFLUENCE ON TAFSIR: A CASE STUDY OF SOME ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

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"...I only desire (your) betterment to the best of my power; and my success (in my task) can only come from Allah. In Him I trust, and unto Him I look." Surah Hud:88
"Truly, my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and my death, are (all) for Allah, the cherisher of the worlds." SURAH AL AN'AM: 163
DECLARATION

I hereby declared that this work is entirely the result of my research, except where I have acknowledged other sources of information. It has not been accepted in substance for any other degree anywhere and is not submitted concurrently for any other degree. Allah is my witness.
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<tr>
<td>ABU</td>
<td>Ahmadu Bello University (Zaria, Nigeria)</td>
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<td>A.H</td>
<td>After ḍi+jrah</td>
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<td>Article 1</td>
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<td>A.S</td>
<td>'Alaihis Salām, Peace be upon him.</td>
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<td>AQIM</td>
<td>Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Born, for example, Sheikh Gumi (b.1922)</td>
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<td>BBC</td>
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<td>C.E</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Died, for example, Sheikh Gumi (d.1992)</td>
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<td>Ed</td>
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<td>JIBWIS</td>
<td>Jamā'at Izālatil Bid'ah Wa Iqāmatis Sunnah (Society for Eradication Of Innovation and Establishment of Tradition)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JNI</td>
<td>Jamā'atu Nasrul Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSSN</td>
<td>Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria</td>
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<td>NBC</td>
<td>Northern Broadcasting Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRN</td>
<td>Nigeria Research Network</td>
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<td>PP</td>
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<td>RA</td>
<td>Raḥiyyallāhu 'Anh (May Allah be pleased)</td>
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with him)

SAW = Sallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam (Peace and Blessing of Allah be upon him)

SWT = Subhānahu Wa Ta'āla (Glory be unto Him The Most High)

UDU = Usmanu Danfodiyo University

UMYU = Umaru Musa Yar'adua University

VOL = Volume of a book, for example, vol. 8

VOLS = Volumes of a book, for example, vols. 1 & 2
TABLE OF TRANSLITERATION

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<td>Letter</td>
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GLOSSARY OF THE TERMS USED

The following are the definition of the italics terms and phrases which are used in this work.

*Ahl al Bayt*: members of the house of the prophet

*Ahl al bid‘ah*: people of innovation.

*Ahl as Sunnah wa l Jamā‘ah ala Minhāj as Salaf*: People of the Way of the Prophet Muḥammad (SAW) and the Community (of Muslims), in line with the earliest generation of Muslims.

*Ahl as Sunnah wal Jamā‘ah*: the upholders of the Sunnah and the Community.

*Ahl a-‘uffah*: the people of the bench.

*A-‘madīyyah*: a heterodox sect founded by A-‘mad Ghulām of Qadyān.

*Al amr bil ma’ruf wal nahy an al munkar*: Commanding good and forbidding evil.

*Al madhāhib al fiqhiyyah*: the schools of law.

*Al manzilah bayn al manzilatayn*: a position between two positions, Mu’tazilah creed.

*Al Qur‘ān*: the holy book of Islam.

*Al Raj‘ah*: Return of the Imam.

*Al wa’d wal wa’id*: Promise and threat.

*Al-`ālin*: the Christians.

*Al-‘Ism*: infallibility of the Imam.

*Al-Maghūb ‘Alayhim*: the Jews.

*Al-ta‘diq*: mental conviction.

'Amal bil jawārih: performance of practical duties.

*An-‘ār*: The natives of Madinah.
Aqiqah: animal slaughtered on the 7th day of a child birth for naming ceremony.

Ashbāb al nuzul: reasons for revelations

Ash’ariyyah: school of theology founded by Abu Hassan al Ash'ari.

Ashābul Kahf: the people of the cave

Āyah: a sign

Badawiyah: a Sufi order.

Balāghah: rhetoric

Bandir: a tambourine music in performing Dhikr of Qadiriyyah

Bātin: Esoteric.

Bayt al izzah: house of power or honour.

Boko aram: a sect against western education.

Boko aram: Western education is sinful.

Da’wah: Calling people to Islam.

Dhikr: remembrance of Allah.

Fiqh: jurisprudence.

Firqāh al nājiyah: Saved sect (among the 73 Muslim sects).

Ghaibah: occultation or spiritual concealment of an Imam. Shi’ah creed.

ijrah: migration of prophet Muhammad (SAW) from Makkah to Madinah.

ujjatullah: proof of Allah.

Ijāz al Qur‘ān: miraculous nature of the Qur‘ān.

Ijmā’: consensus.

Ijtihād: exertion of an effort by the experts in law to arrive at a conclusion.

Ikhwān al-Muslim: Muslim Brotherhood.
Ilm al kalām: knowledge of dialectics.

Imāmah: leadership of the Ummah.


Irsāl-al-rasul: Through sending a messenger.

Isrāʿīliyāt: narrations from the people of the Book.

Istiwāʿ Allah ala al-'Arsh: Allah firmly established on the Throne.

Jabariyyah: School of kalām founded by Jaʿad bin Dirham.

Jāhiliyyah: pre Islamic period.


Jamāʿat ahl as-Sunnah li-d-da'wah wa-l-jihād: the Congregation of the People of Tradition for Proselytism and Jihād.

Kasb: acquisition.

Khalifah: a successor to the prophet in the leadership of the ummah.

Khalwah: spiritual seclusion.

Khawārij: those who withdrew or secedes, the first Muslim sect.

Khilāfah: leadership of the Muslim ummah.

Kwance tushe: meaning "losing the foundation (of Islamic religion)". Muslim brothers movement referring to the 'Constitution.'

Lailatul Qadr: Night of Power

Lughah: lexicography

Madh-hab: school of law.

Mufassirun: Qur'anic exegesis.

Mahdiyyah: believe in the awaited deliverer. Shi'ah creed.

Makon hadin kai: Unity Week.
**Mansukh**: abrogated verses

**Mas'uliyah**: Responsibility.

**Maulawiyyah**: sufi order founded by Jalal al Rumi.

**Maulud al Nabi**: celebrating the birth day of prophet Muhammad (SAW).

**Min wara' al ijab**: from behind a veil.

**Mu'tazilah**: a rationalist Muslim school of thought.

**Muhajirun**: Those who migrated from Makkah.

**Mu`takamat**: clear verses.

**Mujtahid**: a person exercising ijtihad.

**Munazzamatu Fityanul Islam**: Young Muslim Congress.

**Murid**: seeker in the spiritual path.

**Murji'ites**: a school of kalâm that propagate the suspension of the punishment of a grave sinner till the next judgment for Allah to judge.

**Murshid**: a spiritual guide.

**Mustakhirin**: the later scholars.

**Mustaqdimun**: the earlier scholars.

**Mutashabih**: allegorical.

**Naw**: grammar, syntax.

**Naqshbandiyyah**: a Sufi order.

**Nasik wal mansukh**: abrogation and abrogated (verses).

**Nasik**: abrogation.

**Natiq**: the speaker referring to the prophet. Shi'ah creed.

**Nutq bil-lisan**: verbal testimony.

**Qabid**: praying with hands folded on the chest.
Qadarites: a school of *kalām* that denied predestination.

Qadiriyyah: a school of *kalām* that denied predestination.

Qādiriyyah: a Sufi order founded by 'Abdulqadir al Jilānī.

Qala Qāto: literally mean "the man said". They were so called because they believed that any "Qāla" (he said) that is not "Qāla Allahu" (Allah said) is "man said"

Qiblah: direction of Ka'bah at Makkah.

Qirā'at: science of recitation.

Qiyās: anological deductions.

Qur'āniyyun: is a denomination of Islam that holds the Qur'an to be the only canonical text in Islam

Raka'āt: a unit of salat.

Ribāt: hostel for Sufis, ascetics and mujāhidun.

Sadl: praying with the hands outstretched.

Saḥābah: companions of the prophet (SAW).

Sāhib al Zamān: master of the age. Shi'ah creed.

Salaf al Sāli: pious predecessor. (Sing)

Salaf as Sāli: Pious predecessors. (pl)

Salafiyyah: followers of Islam according to the practice of the salaf.

Salāt al-wusta: middle prayer.

Salātul Fāti: a Tijjāniyyah type of salāt ala nabiy.

Salātul 'idayn: prayers for id el fitr, on the 1\textsuperscript{st} of Shawwal after the Ramadan and id el kabir, on the 10\textsuperscript{th} of Dhul Ḳa'\textsuperscript{b}aj a day after the Arafat day.

Sāmit: the silent proof refers to the Imams.

Sammāniyyah: a Sufi order.
Sarf: etymology.

Shabābul Islam: Muslim Youths.

Sha‘fā‘ah: intercession.

Sharī‘ah: Islamic law. In Sufism it is representing the exoteric aspect of Islam.


Silsilāh: mystical initiatic tie, a link is established with the Shaykh. Sufi idea.

Sunusiyah: a Sufi order.

Ta‘wil: allegorical interpretation (of the Qur'an).

Tābi‘ al-Tābi‘un: the students of the Tābi‘un.

Tābi‘un: followers of the companions of the prophet (SAW).


Tafsir – al-Falsafīy: Philosophical Tafsir.

Tafsir al Fiqhiyyah: Jurisprudential Tafsir.

Tafsir al Ishārī: symbolic Tafsir.

Tafsir bil Ra‘y: intellectual Tafsir.

Tafsir bil Riwāyah: Tafsir by transmission.

Tafsir Lughawi: philological Tafsir.

Tafsir Sufiyyah: Mystical Tafsir.

Tafsir: exegesis of the Qur'an.

Ta‘kim: arbitration.


Tarbiyyah: a spiritual seclusion practiced by Tijāniyyah Faidah.
Tariqah: a Sufi order.

Tariqar Junaidu a cikin al Qur'ani: Junaid's Tariqah in the Qur'an.

Taawahuf: practice of Sufism. It is representing the esoteric aspect, the inner meaning of Islam (Haqiqah)

Tawâghit: False gods.

Tawassul: seeking means of approach to Allah.


Tijjâniyyah: a Sufi order founded by Sheikh Ahmad Tijjani.

Torah: a divine book revealed to prophet Musa (AS).

Turuq: Orders.

Udâiyah: the animal sacrifice on the day of id el kabir.

'Ulm al Hadith: Hadith and its sciences.

'Ulm al Qur'ân: Qur'anic sciences

Ummah: Muslim community.

Umrah: lesser pilgrimage.

'Usul al din: principles of religion.

'Usul al fiqh: the basis of jurisprudence.

Wahhaābiyyah: a puritanical Islamic movement founded by Sheikh Muhammad ibn Abdulwahab in Arabia.

Wadâdat al-Wujud: Allah being all and all being Allah, pantheism.

Wây: inspiration.

Wali: a saint. Sufi idea.


'Yan Kaulasan: they are so-called for their frequent labeling of Muslims outside their creed as Kafir. They are akin to Qala-Qato sect.
'Yan Tatsine': the followers of the notorious and fanatic Muhammadu Marwa who in his Tafsir, apart from ascribing kufr to many Muslims, he also cursed them by saying "Allah Tatsine" (may Allah curse you).

'Yan'uwa Musulmi': Muslim Brothers.

Yāsiriyyah: a Sufi order.

Yawm ۱ajj al-Akbar: on the day of great pilgrimage. Tenth of dhul ḫijjah.


āhir: Exoteric or outer meaning of Islam.

ulm: wrong, oppression
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. All praises are due to Allah; we praise Him; we seek His help; we seek His forgiveness; and we seek His guidance. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of our souls and the badness of our deeds. For whomsoever Allah guides, there is none to lead him astray. And for whomever He allows to go astray, there is none to put him a right. I bear witness that there is no deity of worship except Allah, for whom there is no partner. I bear witness that Muhammed is His servant and messenger. Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his household members, his companions, their followers and all those who imitate their path till the strike of the Hour.

In the first place, I feel obliged to express my utmost gratitude to my supervisors Dr Muhammad Sayyed Sherrif and Dr Umm Kulthum Yusuf Isma'il. They have indeed facilitated the realization of this work for their intellectual and moral assistance. May Allah rewards them with al Jannah al Firdous and elevate their status in both worlds.

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I pray that Allah (SWT) accept this work for me for being solely for His sake. I solely bear the responsibility for any mistake and shortcomings that may occur. May Allah forgive me for all my shortcomings and guide me to the right path.

Ibrahim Shu'aibu Sa'idu
Khartoum,

4th Jimadah Thani, 1435AH. / 4th April, 2014 CE.
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### CHAPTER SEVEN

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ملخص

هذه دراسة تحليلية في أثر الفرق حول تفسير القرآن الكريم في شمال نيجيريا، وضحت في أشياء من علوم القرآن بالنسبة للتفسير والترجمة القرآن الكريم إلى لغات أجنبية وبينت تأريخ تأسيس الفرق الإسلامية منذ زمن الصحابة رضوان الله عليهم إلى زمننا هذا خصوصا بعض طوائف الإسلام في شمال نيجيريا. إختارت الفرق الثلاثة لهذه الدراسة وهم:

1. حركة الصفوية الإسلامية: تحتوي طريقتها القادرية والتجانية.
2. حركة السلفية: تحتوي جماعة إزالة البدعة وإقامة السنة وجماعة أهل السنة للدعوة والجهاد المسمى ببوكو حرام.
3. الفرق الهندوسيون المعروف بـ "قال قاتوا" (قال رجل).

قد بُنيت الدراسة أن اتجاه الرئيس لتفسير القرآن عند القادرية والتجانية هو تفسير القرآن على ضوء عقائدهم وتأييدها ودفاعها عن هجوم المعارضين ودعوته إلى أخذ طريقتهم.

وجماعة إزالة البدعة وإقامة السنة اتجه تفسيرها إلى تبين وتوضيح كلمة التوحيد والشرك والسنة والبدعة وتعارض عقائد وأعمال ووظائف طرق الصفوية خصوصا التجانية والقادرة.

حيث أن جماعة أهل السنة للدعوة والجهاد المسمى ببوكو حرام سلكوا في تفسيرهم على توضيح دسائس ومبادئ المسلمين على الإسلام والمسلمين كما كان في ضمتعليم الغربين والديموقراطيين. وهموا بالجهاد والفرضية المقاومة ثقافة الغربيين وتبديلها بنظام الإسلام.

وقد وَجَهَت تفسير فرقة "قال قاتوا" على رفض الحديث النبوي الشريف وسائر كتب الفقه الإسلامية وأخذ القرآن هو مصدرهم فقط. هم يفسرون القرآن على حسب تأييد عقائدهم ومعارضتهم عقائدهم.

وقد اختار تفسير بعض المفسرين لكل طائفة من هؤلاء الفرق الثلاثة تحت هذه الدراسة لتكون نموذجا ونيرة لكل من الفرقة.

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ABSTRACT

This is a study of sectarian influence on the Tafsir of the Qur'an among selected religious organizations in northern Nigeria. It highlights on the aspects of the Qur'anic sciences in relation to Tafsir and Tarjamah (Translation) of the Qur'an. It also traces the history of the emergence of sects in Islam from the time of the Sa'ābah to present time focusing on some Islamic religious organizations in northern Nigeria. Three religious sects were chosen as subject of study, namely;

(a) Muslim Sufi movement; Qādiriyah and Tijjāniyyah orders.
(b) Salafiyyah movement; Jamā'at Izālatil Bid'ah Wa Iqāmatīs Sunnah and Jamā'at Ahl us Sunnah lil Da'wah Wal Jiād, popularly known as Boko Haram.
(c) Qur'anist sect, popularly known as Qala Qāto (Man Said).

The study submits that the main focus of the Qādiriyah and Tijjāniyyah Tafsir are: interpretation of the Qur'an in the context of the Qādiriyah and the Tijjāniyyah Sufi order, defense of their Sufi practices, counter attack on their opponents and propagating their orders. The focus of Izālah Tafsir include the explanation of the concept of Tawālid, Shirk, Sunnah, Bid'ah and attack on Sufism and Sufi practices especially those of Tijjāniyyah and Qādiriyah. The Boko Haram Tafsir has focused on enlightening the Muslims on the western conspiracy against Islam and the Muslims as enshrined in western education (Boko) and democracy. They emphasized on jiād and the obligation of uprooting westernization and replace it with Islamic system. The Qala Qāto sect has focused their Tafsir on rejection of hadith and other religious books beside the Qur'an. They used the Qur'anic Tafsir to justify their creed and condemn their opponents. Tafsir of some selected scholars of the three main organizations under study were presented as a sample each representing the opinion of their sect.