

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Sudan University of Science and Technology

Institute of Science & Islamic Research

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

أثر الفرق فى تفسير القرآن الكريم: دراسة حالة
بعض الفرق الإسلامية فى شمال نيجيريا

BY

IBRAHIM SHU'AIBU SA'IDU



Approval Page

Name of Candidate: Ibrahim Shuayb Saïd

Thesis title: Secularism Influence on Tafsiir
A Case Study of Some Islamic
Religious Organizations in
Northern Nigeria

Approved by:

1. External Examiner

Name: El-Hibir Yousif Nur El-Dayem

Signature: El-Hibir Yousif Date: 19-5-2014

2. Internal Examiner

Name: Hassan Abdallah Hamad ELINKE

Signature: Hassan Date: 19-5-2014 m

3. Supervisor

Name: Dr. Umkathum Yousif Ismail

Signature: Umkathum Date: 19-5-2014

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

قال الله تعالى

قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِن كُنتُ عَلَىٰ بَيْنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّي وَرَزَقَنِي مِنْهُ رِزْقًا حَسَنًا وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ أُخَالِفَكُمْ إِلَىٰ مَا أَنهَآكُمْ عَنْهُ إِن أُرِيدُ إِلَّا الْإِصْلَاحَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُ وَمَا تَوْفِيقِي إِلَّا بِاللّٰهِ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَإِلَيْهِ أُنِيبُ

صدق الله العظيم

سورة هود الآية ٨٨

"...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

DEDICATION

كُتِبَ لِكُلِّ وَوُ

"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.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABU	=	Ahmadu Bello University (Zaria, Nigeria)
A.H	=	After Hijrah
Art 1	=	Article 1
A.S	=	'Alaihis Salām, Peace be upon him.
AQIM	=	Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
B	=	Born, for example, Sheikh Gumi (b.1922)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation
C.E	=	Christian Era
D	=	Died, for example, Sheikh Gumi (d.1992)
Ed	=	Edited, for example, (ed. 1985)
JIBWIS	=	Jamā'at Izālatil Bid'ah Wa Iqāmatil Sunnah (Society for Eradication Of Innovation and Establishment of Tradition)
JNI	=	Jamā'atu Nasrul Islam
MSSN	=	Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria
NBC	=	Northern Broadcasting Corporation
ND	=	No date of publication
NP	=	No place of publication
NRN	=	Nigeria Research Network
P	=	Page, for example, p87
PP	=	Pages, for example, pp 87-98
RA	=	Raḥimallāhu 'Anh (May Allah be pleased

		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

In transliterating Arabic words the following system of symbols have been used:

Arabic Letter	English Symbol
ا	_____ a
ب	_____ b
ت	_____ t
ث	_____ th
ج	_____ j
ح	_____ □
خ	_____ kh
د	_____ d
ذ	_____ dh
ر	_____ r
ز	_____ z
س	_____ s
ش	_____ sh
ص	_____ □
ض	_____ □
ط	_____ □
ظ	_____ □
ع	_____ ' _____

غ	_____	gh
ف	_____	f
ق	_____	q
ك	_____	k
ل	_____	l
م	_____	m
ن	_____	n
ه	_____	h
و	_____	w
ي	_____	y

VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGS

ا	_____	a
ي	_____	a
و	_____	u
ي	_____	i
و	_____	aw
ي	_____	ay

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 wal 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 aḥ-ḥuffah: the people of the bench.

Aḥmadiyyah: a heterodox sect founded by Aḥmad 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-Ṭimā: infallibility of the Imam.

Al-Maghūb 'Alayhim: the Jews.

Al-taḍīq: mental conviction.

'Amal bil jawāriḥ: performance of practical duties.

Anḥār: The natives of Madinah.

Aqiqah: animal slaughtered on the 7th day of a child birth for naming ceremony.

Asbāb 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 nājiyyah: Saved sect (among the 73 Muslim sects).

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

□ *ijrah*: migration of prophet Mu□ammad (SAW) from Makkah to Madinah.

□ *ujjatullah*: proof of Allah.

I'jāz 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.

Injil: book revealed to prophet Isa (AS).

Irsāl-al-rasul: Through sending a messenger.

Isrā'iliyyāt: narrations from the people of the Book.

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

Jabariyyah: School of kalām founded by *Ja'ad bin Dirham*.

Jāhiliyyah: pre Islamic period.

Jamā'atu Izōlatil Bid'ah Wa Iqāmatil Sunnah: Society for Removal of Heresy and Establishing the Tradition.

Jamā'at 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 seceded, 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.

Mufasssirun: Qur'anic exegesis.

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

Makon hadin kai: Unity Week.

Mansukh: abrogated verses

Mas'uliyah: Responsibility.

Maulāwiyyah: sufi order founded by Jalāl al Rumi.

Maulud al Nabiy: celebrating the birth day of prophet Muḥammad (SAW).

Min warā' al ḥijāb: from behind a veil.

Mu'tazilah: a rationalist Muslim school of thought.

Muhājirun: Those who migrated from Makkah.

Muḥkamāt: clear verses.

Mujtahid: a person exercising ijtihād.

Munazzamatu Fityānul Islam: Young Muslim Congress.

Murid: seeker in the spiritual path.

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

Murshid: a spiritual guide.

Musta'khirin: the later scholars.

Mustaqdimun: the earlier scholars.

Mutashābih: allegorical.

Naḥw: grammar, syntax.

Naqshabandiyyah: a Sufi order.

Nāsikh wal mansukh: abrogation and abrogated (verses).

Nāskh: abrogation.

Nātiq the speaker referring to the prophet. Shi'ah creed.

Nutq bil-lisān: verbal testimony.

Qabd: 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 Jilāni.

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: analogical 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.

Sa'ābah: companions of the prophet (SAW).

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

Salaf al Sāli': pious predecessor. (Sing)

Salaf as Sāli'un: Pious predecessors. (pl)

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

Salāt al-wusta: middle prayer.

Salātil Fāti': a Tijjāniyyah type of *salāt ala nabiyy*.

alātul 'idayn: prayers for id el fitr, on the 1st of Shawwal after the Ramadan and id el kabir, on the 10th of Dhul 'ajj a day after the Arafat day.

Sāmit: the silent proof refers to the Imams.

Sammāniyyah: a Sufi order.

Sarf: etymology.

Shabābul Islam: Muslim Youths.

Shafā'ah: intercession.

Shari'ah: Islamic law. In Sufism it is representing the exoteric aspect of Islam.

Shi'ah Ali: the party of 'Ali.

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

Sunusiyyah: 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- Ilmi: Scientific *Tafsir*.

Tafsir – al-Falsafiy: Philosophical *Tafsir*.

Tafsir al Fiqhiyyah: Jurisprudential *Tafsir*.

Tafsir al Ishāri: 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'ākim: arbitration.

Taqiyyah: the principle of dissimulation. Shi'ah creed.

Tarbiyyah: a spiritual seclusion practiced by *Tijjāniyyah Faidah*.

Tariqah: a Sufi order.

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

Ta'awwuf: practice of Sufism. It is representing the esoteric aspect, the inner meaning of Islam (*Haqiqah*)

Tawāghit: False gods.

Tawassul: seeking means of approach to Allah.

Taw'īd: Islamic monotheism. Belief in oneness of Allah.

Tijjāniyyah: a Sufi order founded by Sheikh Ahmad Tijjani.

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

Turuq: Orders.

Ud'iyah: the animal sacrifice on the day of id el kabir.

'Ulum al Hadith: *Hadith* and its sciences.

'Ulum al Qur'ān: Qur'anic sciences

Ummah: Muslim community.

Umrah: lesser pilgrimage.

'Usul al din: principles of religion.

'Usul al fiqh: the basis of jurisprudence.

Wahhābiyyah: a puritanical Islamic movement founded by Sheikh Mu'ammad ibn Abdulwahab in Arabia.

Wa'dat al-Wujud: Allah being all and all being Allah, pantheism.

Wa'y: inspiration.

Wali: a saint. Sufi idea.

'Yan Karatun Kasuwa: Preachers for market sake. Pseudo-Mufassirun.

'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 al-ajj al-Akbar: on the day of great pilgrimage. Tenth of *dhul hijjah*.

Zaboor: a divine book revealed to prophet Dawud (AS).

āhir: Exoteric or outer meaning of Islam.

ulm: wrong, oppression

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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 Muḥammad 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.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

Title of the thesis	i
Approval Page.....	ii
Ayah from the Qur'ān.....	iii
Dedication.....	iv
Declaration.....	v
List of abbreviations.....	vi-vii
Table of transliteration.....	viii-ix
Glossary.....	x-xvii
Acknowledgements.....	xviii-xix
Table of contents.....	xx-xxvii
ملخص	xxviii
Abstract.....	xxix

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1:1. Background of the study.....	1- 8
1:2. Statement of problem.....	8- 10
1:3. Objectives of the study.....	10
1:4. Significance of the study and its contribution to knowledge.....	10-11
1:5. Scope and limitation of the study.....	11
1:6. Methodology and source of data.....	11-13

1:7.	Literature review.....	13-18
1:8	Conclusion.....	19

CHAPTER TWO

THE EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF TAFSIR

2:0	Introduction.....	20
2:1.	Meaning of the Qur'ān.....	20-21
2:2.	The Concept of revelation (waḥy).....	21-25
2:2:1.	How Revelations came to the Prophet (ﷺ).....	25
2:2:2.	The Revelation of the Qur'ān.....	25-30
2:3.	Compilation of the Qur'ān.....	30-32
2:4:	Standardization of the Qur'ān.....	32-34
2:5.	Makkan and Madinan revelations.....	34
2:5:1.	The Features of Makkan revelations.....	35
2:5:2.	The Features of Madinan revelations.....	35-36
2:6.	The Meaning of Tafsir.....	36-37
2:6:1.	The Meaning of Ta'wil.....	37-39
2:6:2.	The differences between Tafsir and Ta'wil.....	39-40
2:7.	The historical development of Tafsir.....	40
2:7:1.	Tafsir during the life time of the Prophet (ﷺ).....	40-44

2:7:2. Tafsir during the period of the Saqābah.....	44-45
2:7:3:1 Methods of Tafsir during the period of Saqābah.....	45
2:7:3:2. Qur'ān as a source of Tafsir.....	45-48
2:7:3:3. The prophet (saw) as a source of Tafsir.....	48-50
2:7:3:4. Ijtihād as a source of Tafsir.....	50-53
2:7:3:5. Isrā'iliyāt as a source of Tafsir.....	53-55
2:8. Tafsir during the period of Tābi'un.....	55-56
2:8:1. Sources and methods of Tafsir during the period of Tābi'un	56-57
2:9. Tafsir during the compilation period (<i>'aqr al tadwin</i>).....	57-58
2:10. Qualifications of a Mufassir.....	58-60
2:11 Some specific aspects of 'ulum al Qur'ān.....	60
2:11:1 Nāsikh wal – Mansukh and its importance in the Qur'ān.....	60-63
2:11:1:1. Importance of Nāsikh wal Mansukh in Islam	63
2:11:2. Muqamāt and Mustashabihāt	64-68
2:11:3. Asbāb-al-Nuzul (causes or reasons of revelations).....	68-70
2:12. Divisions of Tafsir.....	70
2:12:1. Tafsir bil Ma'thur or bil Riwāyah.....	70-71
2:12:1:1 Examples of Tafsir bil Ma'thur.....	71-72
2:12:2. Tafsir bil Ra'y or bil Dirāyah	72-73

2:12:2:1 Divisions of Tafsir bil Ra'y.....	74-75
2:12:2:2 Trends of Tafsir bil- Ra'y.....	75-79
2:12:3 Tafsir al Ishāri (symbolic or indicative Tafsir).....	79-82
2:12:3:1 Examples of al Tafsir al Ishāri.....	82-83
2:13 I'jāz al Qur'ān (the miracle of the Qur'ān).....	83-86
2:13:1 Examples of scientific discoveries in the Qur'ān.....	86-87
2:14 Translation of the Qur'ān into other languages.....	87-89
2:14:1 Importance of translation of the Qur'ān.....	89
2:15 Conclusion.....	89-90

CHAPTER THREE

THE EVOLUTION OF SECTS IN ISLAM

3:0 Introduction.....	91-93
3:1 The Emergence of the Kharijite.....	93-97
3:2 The Emergence of the Shi'ah sect.....	97-101
3:2:1 Ismā'iliyyah Shi'ah.....	101-102
3:3 The development of 'ilm al kalām.....	102-103
3:3:1 The Mu'tazilite School	103-104
3:3:1:1 The principles of Mu'tazilah.....	104-106
3:3:2 The Murji'ah School of Thought.....	106-107
3:3:2:1 Their doctrines.....	107
3:3:3 The Jabriyyah school of thought.....	107-108

3:3:4	The Qadariyyah school of thought	108
3:3:5	The Ash'ariyyah school of thought	109
3:3:5:1	The principles of Ash'ariyyah school of thought.....	110
3:6	The Ahl al Sunnah wal jamā'ah.....	111-113
3:7	The origin and concept of Sufism in Islam.....	114-116
3:7:1	Development of Tasawwuf into Sufi orders.....	116-118
3:7:2	Some prominent Sufi orders in northern Nigeria.....	118
3:7:2:1	The Qādiriyyah Sufi order.....	118-119
3:7:2:2	The Tijjāniyyah Sufi order	119-120
3:8	Religious Organizations in Northern Nigeria.....	121
3:8:1	Jamā'atu Nasril Islam, JNI.....	121-123
3:8:2	Munazzamatu Fityānul Islam.....	124-126
3:8:3	Salafiyyah/Wahabiyyah Movement.....	126-128
3:8:3:1	The doctrines of the Wahhabis.....	128-129
3:8:3:2	Jamā'at Izālatil Bid'ah wa Iqāmatil Sunnah, JIBWIS.....	129-132
3:8:3:3	Jama'at Ahl as Sunnah lil Da'wah wal Jihad (Boko Haram)...	132-136
3:9	Islamic movement in Nigeria/Muslim Brothers movement (Shi'ah).....	136-140
3:10	Qur'aniyyun (Qala Qāto) sect.....	140-143
3:11	Conclusion.....	143-144

CHAPTER FOUR

THE SUFI TREND OF TAFSIR IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

4:0	Introduction.....	145-147
4:1	The Aims of their Tafsir.....	147-148
4:2	The Focus of their Tafsir.....	148
4:3	Sample of the Sufi Sectarian Tafsir.....	148
4:3:1	On the basis of Tariqah in the Qur'ān.....	148-155
4:3:2	Shari'ah and ḥaqīqah according to the Sufis.....	156-157
4:3:3	The basis of Tijjāniyyah and its Awrād in the Qur'ān according to the Tijjanis.....	157-163
4:3:4	On the Concept of Wasilah (means of approach to Allah).....	163-167
4:3:5	Celebration of Maulud al Nabi.....	167-174
4:3:6	Al Istiwā' ala al 'Arsh	174-183
4:3:7	Their views on politics.....	183-184
4:4	Conclusion.....	184

CHAPTER FIVE

THE IZALAH/SALAFIYYAH TRENDS OF TAFSIR IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

5:0	Introduction.....	185-186
5:1	The Izālah trend of Tafsir.....	186-188
5:2	The aims of their Tafsir.....	189
5:3	The Focus of their Tafsir.....	189-191

5:4	Samples of Izālah Sectarian Tafsir.....	191-192
5:4:1	On the position of the followers of Tariqah.....	192-201
5:4:2	Tawassul (seeking means of approach to Allah).....	201-210
5:4:3	Respect and obedience to Sheikhs.....	210-213
5:4:4	Intercession (Shafā'ah).....	213-218
5:4:5	Maulud al Nabiy celebration.....	218-222
5:4:6	Orthodox form of <u>Dhikr</u>	222-225
5:4:7	Reasons for disunity among the Muslims.....	225-231
5:4:8	Politics	231-239
5:5	The Boko Haram trends of Tafsir.....	239-240
5:5:1	The Focus of their Tafsir.....	240
5:5:2	Sample of their Sectarian Tafsir.....	240
5:5:2:1	On where to start the Jihād.....	241-242
5:5:2:2	The meaning of Shirk (polytheism).....	242-245
5:5:2:3	Western Education (Boko).....	245-247
5:6	Conclusion.....	247-248

CHAPTER SIX

THE QALA QATO (QUR'ANIYYUN) TREND OF TAFSIR

6:0	Introduction.....	249-251
6:1	The Aims of their Tafsir.....	251-252
6:2	The Focus of their Tafsir.....	252

6:3	Samples of their SectarianTafsir.....	253
6:3:1	On □adith and other Religious Sources	253-265
6:3:2	On religious Organizations.....	265-272
6:3:3	On Shafā'ah (intercession).....	272-275
6:3:4	On Sālat (five daily prayers).....	275-284
6:3:5	On Zakāt.....	285-287
6:3:6	On Sawm (Fasting)	287-290
6:3:7	On □ajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah).....	290-292
6:3:8	On Menstruating women.....	292-295
6:4	Conclusion.....	295-296

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY, RESEARCH FINDINGS AND GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

7:0	Introduction.....	297
7:1	Summary.....	297-301
7:2	Some specific research findings.....	301-303
7:3	The expected results of the study.....	303-309
7:4	Recommendations and conclusion.....	310-314

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A-	Arabic sources.....	315-320
B.	English sources.....	320-324

C.	Hausa sources.....	324
D.	PhD Theses.....	324-325
E.	M.A. Dissertations.....	325
F.	B.A. Dissertations.....	325
G.	Journal Articles.....	326
H.	Research Papers.....	326
I.	Public Lectures.....	327
J.	Conference Papers.....	327
K.	Video and Audio sources.....	327
L.	Foreign Media sources retrieved from internet.....	327-328
M.	Internet sources.....	328-329

ملخص

هذه دراسة تحليلية فى أثر الفرق حول تفسير القرآن الكريم فى شمال نيجيريا. وضحت فى أشياء من علوم القرآن بنسبة للتفسير والترجمة القرآن الكريم إلى لغات الأجنبية وبينت تاريخ تأسيس الفرق الإسلامية منذ زمن الصحابة رضوان الله عليهم إلى زمننا هذا خصوصا بعض طوائف الإسلام فى شمال نيجيريا. إخترت الفرق الثلاثة لهذه الدراسة وهم:

١. حركة الصوفية الإسلامية: تحتوى طريقتى القادرية والتجانية.

٢. حركة السلفية: تحتوى جماعة إزالة البدعة وإقامة السنة و جماعة أهل السنة للدعوة والجهاد المسمى ببيوكوا حرام.

٣. الفرقة القرآنيون المسمى بقال قاتوا (قال رجل).

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

و جماعة إزالة البدعة وإقامة السنة إتجه تفسرها إلى تبين وتوضيح كلمة التوحيد والشرك والسنة والبدعة وتعارض عقائد وأعمال ووظائف طرق الصوفية خصوصا التجانية والقادرية.

حيث أن جماعة أهل السنة للدعوة والجهاد المسمى ببيوكوا حرام سلكوا فى تفسيرهم على توضيح دسائس ومكايد الغربيين على الإسلام والمسلمين كما كان فى ضم تعليم الغربيين والديموقراطية. وهموا بالجهاد والفرضية المقاومة ثقافة الغربيين و تبديلها بنظام الإسلام.

وقد وجهت تفسير فرقة "قال قاتوا" على رفض الحديث النبوى الشريف وسائر كتب الفقه الإسلامية واتخذ القرآن هو مصدرهم فقط. هم يفسرون القرآن على حسب تأييد عقائدهم ومعارضة عقائد دونهم.

وقد اختار تفاسير بعض المفسرين لكل طائفة من هؤلاء الفرق الثلاثة تحت هذه الدراسة لتكون نموذحا ونيابة لكل من الفرقة.

ABSTRACT

This is a study of sectarian influence on the *Tafsir* of the *Qur'ān* 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'ān*. 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; *Qādiriyyah* and *Tijjāniyyah* orders.
- (b) Salafiyyah movement; *Jamā'at Izālatil Bid'ah Wa Iqāmatis Sunnah* and *Jamā'at Ahl us Sunnah lil Da'wah Wal Ji'ād*, 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 *Qādiriyyah* and *Tijjāniyyah Tafsir* are: interpretation of the *Qur'ān* in the context of the *Qādiriyyah* 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 *Tawā'id*, *Shirk*, *Sunnah*, *Bid'ah* and attack on Sufism and Sufi practices especially those of *Tijjāniyyah* and *Qādiriyyah*. 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 *ji'ād* and the obligation of uprooting westernization and replace it with Islamic system. The *Qala Qāto* sect has focused their *Tafsir* on rejection of *ādith* and other religious books beside the *Qur'ān*. 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.

