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# Confusion Over 'Ac and Logica Thinking among Muslim Youths



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# TODAY'S DISCUSSION

Introduction Purpose of Study Theoretical Framework Research Methodology Findings Conclusion

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### TOPICS TO COVER



## INTRODUCTION

### **BRIEF HISTORY OF TEACHING FOR** THINKING IN MALAYSIA

Begin in 1989 Made expilicit in curriculum in 1994 (CCTS Across Curriculum) **HOTS was introduced in 2011** i-think was implemented nationWide in 2014

### **RESULT: LITTLE SUCCESS**

### EVIDENCE FROM STUDIES

Zulkarami (2011); Wilson & Narasuman (2020); Lina Mursyidah and Wan mazwati (2021) Explicit teaching of and for thinking is not focused in Islamic Studies EVIDENCE FROM SOCIAL MEDIA • Equate 'aql and nafs • To have faith we have to discard 'aql

- Commit lots of fallacies and the most popular is ad hominem and red herring

				Nabi Muhammad bawa
M Al di be na	Merasa paling berpegang kepada Al-Quran dan Sunnah juga termasuk di dalam kecelaruan yang bergantung pada logik akal dan hawa nafsu.			agama memperkenalkar Muhammad Jibril ambil wahyu dari muhammad utk muhammad Mahu kenal Allah wajib l
2	d Like	Reply	<b>1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1</b>	muhammad Mahu kenal muhammad
				wajib kenal diri

"Iman itu diluar "AKAL" Selagi duduk masuk akal tidak dinamakan "IMAN", Kalau kita ada di zaman Nabi Nuh A.s mungkin kita menjadi penentang, Mana boleh terima "AKAL" buat kapal di puncak bukit."

Mana nak terima akal.. vaksin dibuat utk bunuh manusia... Assalamualaikum

Mahu kenal diri wajib kenal imam yg di takdirkan Allah. Itu tertibnya... Adam di ampunkan Allah setelah dia mengenal dirinya..

Tuan dah selesai ke kenal diri?

Jika sudah perkenalkan pada hamba ..sila2..

Jika diri sendiri pun tak kenal confirm tuan tak kenal

kenal

alie nan nk lwn ulama dan ustaz ke? Ulama dan ustaz berckp dgn ilmu. Ko berckp ikut setan ke?

3 m Like Reply

ali man x sangka muda2 dah murtad pd Islam dlm keadaan x sedar lagi..Hnya kerana mulut dan akal dah murtad. Ko nk ckp ko masih islam. Apabila dah pesendakan islam ke?

### IMPACT OF MISCONCEPTION OF 'AQL AND LOGICAL THINKING

- Taqlid (Imam al-Ghazali (1978);Yusuf, Abubakar,&Barmo (2021); Wan Mazwati & Rosnani Hashim (2017)
- Physical, mental and spiritual poverty that led to absence of original thought and innovation, ignorance, parochialism, narrow-mindedness (Sardar, 1991)
- Dependent on western intellectual knowledge (Bennabi, 1991)
- Loss of faith and religious mooring (Nasr, 1982)

## PURPOSE OF STUDY

- No study on young Muslims understanding of the concept 'aql according to the Quran was found. Most studies were on the connection between logical thinking and mathematics, science, computer programming and science, etc.
- To provide solution need to understand the phenomenon in the real world
- Since this is the first study, therefore, need to explore first to get the first insight of the problem
- The purpose of this study was to explore young Muslims conceptions of 'aql and logical thinking



## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK—'AQL

- Mentioned 49 times in the Quran in verb from
- Not mere accident but essence of man that made possible spiritual cognition [Muhammad Asad (1980)]
- Literally means withholding and restraining [Baalbaki & Baalbaki (2003)]

Innate property that binds and withholds objects of knowledge [al-Attas (1980)]

Locus: spiritual heart and spiritual brain—interdependence (al-<mark>Gh</mark>azali, 2007)



## FUNCTIONS OF 'AQL

- Capable of rational and ethical-spiritual intelligence [al-Sharqawi (2003), Crow (1999), Henzell-Thomas (2004)]
  Al-Mulk: 10; al-A'raf: 179; Yunus: 100
- Conclusion of functions of 'aql from al-Baqarah: 164
  To observe creations which are concrete using senses
  - To conclude using logical thinking that they are indicators of the abstract existence and the signs that point towards the ultimate directions thus
    - achieve spiritual cognition
  - To learn the Unknown from the known
- From the sense to learn the concrete to make conclusion on the abstract thus recognise and acknowledge the spiritual Wan Mazwati Wan Yusoff Department of FIDS, KIRKHS, IIUM

## LOGICAL THINKING

Other potential skills of 'aql will not be discussed Focus on logical thinking Mantiq is mentioned once in the Quran (al-Naml: 16) which is translated as language/speaking Even though not specifically mentioned, Quran challenges and provoke readers to use logical thinking to prove their claims; Imam al-Ghazali named Prophet Ibrahim as the first teacher of logical thinking (al-Ghazali, 1978, 1990) In this study, logic is explained from al-Ghazali's perspective



### DEFINITION

Logic is the study of principles of correct reasoning The tool used by philosophers to make and evaluate arguments to distinguish the sound from the bad ones

Simple logical structure consists of 3 statements one of which is a conclusion; and 2 other statements are called premises. They are the reasons for the conclusion

A premise is a statement that has truth value An argument with 2 premises and 1 conclusion is called syllogism.

### Bird is an animal Parrot is a bird It is logically follows that parrot is an animal



### LOGIC IN THE QURAN

Many Quranic verses provoke readers to Use logical thinking to examine arguments in the form of conditional proposition: if p then q; p therefore q or not q therefore not p

For the argument to be true, the first condition must be met or if the conclusion is not true, then the first concondition is not met, thus not true.

For example, many disbelievers accuse of Prophet Muhammad authored the Quran. Allah show them that their claim is not true.

"And if you are in doubt as to that which We revealed to Our servant, then produce a chapter like it and call on your witnesses beside Allah if you are truthful (al-Baqarah: 23) Wan Max

### **Modus Tollens**

If you are truthful (p) then produce a surah (q) The fact is you have not produced a surah up to now (not q), then you are not truthful (not p)

### LOGIC IN THE QURAN

This example is taken from Imam al-Ghazali's book "Qistas al-Mustaqim" based on Surah al-Baqarah verse 258. He said Prophet Ibrahim used conditional proposition

to argue with King Namrud.

The one who can make the sun rise (p) is the God (q) My God can make the sun rise (p), then my God is The God (q)





### SCHOLARS' VIEWS ON LOGIC

Hamka–Philosophy with logical tool can exercise the intellect Ibnu Khaldun–Logical-philosophical thinking sharpens the mind through orderly presentation of proofs and arguments, so that the habit of excellent and correct arguing is obtained Ibnu Rushd–Logical/intellectual reasoning is a religious obligation. Since logical reasoning is a method of philosophy, the study of philosophy is religious obligation

## **AL-GHAZALI'S POSITION**



Logic is a just balance with which we distinguish true from false knowledge Logic does not contradict Islamic doctrine; for logic is found in the Quran and prove its truth

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He who does not master logic, among scholars, is not reliable in knowledge

### AL-GHAZALI'S DEFINITION

"Logic is the study of methods of demonstration and of forming syllogism, of the conditions for the premises of proof, of the manner of combining the premises, of the conditions for the sound definitions and the manner of ordering it" (Mihak al-Nazar)

"What connection has this with the essentials of religion that It should be denied" (Munqidh min al-dalal)

**AL-GHAZALI'S DE TOWARDS** "I claim that 4 QG his criterion to balance or measure religious knowledge, arithmetics, geometry, medical sciences, jurisprudence, theology aand kalam. I can with this criteria, distinguish in it the true from the false" (Mi'yar al-'llm if fann al mantiq)

# LIMITATION OF LOGICAL THINKING

Cannot claim to know the unseen existence unless indicated by observable indicators Without the observable effects, no metaphysical existence can be known by logical thinking





### THESE ARE SIGNS FOR THOSE WHO USE THEIR REASON



### EXPLORATORY CASE STUDY

to get a first picture of a problematic situation that transpired in the real world by analysing the actual behaviour in the real setting delicately to avoid obstructing the reality.

### DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Semi-structured interview questions were Used to collect data from 10 young Muslims from IIUM and their close friends. The interview questions were open and broad to avoid putting words into their mouths. By doing so, interference was minimized so that real data can be collected.



## Data Analysis Procedure

completed.

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The recorded interviews were transcribed based on the predetermined themes which were the concept of 'aql and its functions, locus of 'aql, views on logical thinking including its consequences and logical thinking in the Quran. Even though the study only used single data source but the data gathered were verified by the participants after the transcriptions were

## FINDINGS CONCEPT OF 'AQL AND ITS FUNCTIONS

GIFT FROM ALLAH

COMPONENT OF HUMAN BRAIN

1 respondent

METHOD OF ORGAN/FACULTY THINKING

1 respondent

4 respondents

## OF THINKING

3 respondents

ORGAN TO APPRECIATE AND OBEY ALAH

## LOCUS OF 'AQL

6



### BRAIN

5 respondents



### HEART

2 respondents

### DON'T KNOW

3 respondents



## VIEWS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRAIN AND HEART IN CONNECTION WITH 'AQL

Majority of the respondents (8) brain or 'aql is used think, to decide what is bad and what is good.

"Only brain is able to think of what to do", said 1 respondent. "Heart only pumps blood but brain gives command to the whole body what will happen if there is no brain?" Said another girl. "Brain control the whole body and heart cannot differentiate good and bad thing" agreed another girl. surprisingly one person said that good decision is from the brain and bad decision is from the heart

## SPIRITUAL COGNITION—ASSESSED BY ASKING HOW THEY VIEW THE SKY, SUN AND EARTH

Majority of the respondents said that the sun, the sky and the earth are creations of Allah from which we appreciate the Power of Allah al-Mighty and these are also signs of the existence of Allah who create. By looking at these, they said that nothing can be compared to Allah.

One girl gave an answer, "Creation of Allah but I am not really sure" Wan Mazwati Wan Yusoff Depa<u>rtment of FIDS, KIRKHS, IIUM</u>



## **POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES OF** LOGICAL THINKING

RESPONDENT SAID WE WILL NEVER GO ASTRRAY

MAKE DECISION AND SOLVE PROBLEM

CAN GAIN KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

OVERCOME DAILY CHALLENGES

GENERATE CREATIVE IDEAS ANSWERS

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CAN AVOID MAKING WRONG DECISION

> GIVE WELL-REASONED

## NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF LOGICAL THINKING



might be immoral because of weaknesses in thinking can harm us mentally

lead to wrong understanding and illusion

our mind is limited to think logically we will be sad and revengeful

adopt liberalism and go astry

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we only need faith because faith is beyond our 'aql logic

lead to believe in wrong unseen things that come from 'aql logic

## CONCLUSION

### Misconception of 'aql

- o as a thinking faculty located in the brain that is used to think of what is good and bad; to make decision and to solve worldly problems
  - o is equated with logical thinking and limited to make conclusion on the unseen things
  - 'Aql has nothing to do with faith or 'iman' and the negative consequence of using 'aql is unbelief and mental problem o no one said that 'aql bound nafs so that one can be moral
- Concisely, the understanding is far from what has been explained by scholars

