Images Of Islam's Enemies Portrayed In the Arabic Poem Of Ka'ab Ibn Malik: A Representation-Based Analysis In The Prophetic Biography Context

By

Are you this author?

Kamal, NIMA (Kamal, Nurul Iman Mohamad Anuar) [1] ; Ashari, MZA (Ashari, Mohamad Zulfazdlee Abul Hassan) [1] ; Muttaqin, A (Muttaqin, Anwar) [1] ; Jamsari, EA (Jamsari, Ezad Azraai) [1] ; Abdullah, MN (Abdullah, Md Nor) [1] ; Safian, NL (Safian, Nursafira Lubis) [2]

View Web of Science ResearcherID and ORCID (provided by Clarivate)

Source IJAZ ARABI JOURNAL OF ARABIC LEARNING

View Journal Impact

Volume: 9 Issue: 2 Page: 860-874

DOI: 10.18860/ijazarabi.V9i2.40121

Published APR 2026

Indexed 2026-06-26

Document Type Article

Abstract

War poetry in the early Islamic era functioned as a historical record as well as a cultural instrument that helped shape, identity and define morality, while framing the perception of an 'enemy'. However, current research on Ka`ab ibn Malik's poetry had focused largely on textual, stylistic or biographical aspects, with limited attention to how the enemy's images are linguistically constructed and ideologically expressed in his poetry. This gap limits a deeper understanding of how early Islamic poetic discourse participated in the formation of collective memory and social boundaries. This study aimed to identify the various categories of enemy representation in Ka`ab's war poetry, analyse the linguistic and rhetorical strategies used to construct these images, and evaluate their ideological functions in the Prophetic biography based on a socio-historical context. This qualitative study employed a textual analysis guided by Representation Theory and Enemy Image Theory. The findings reveal six dominant patterns, namely betrayal, cowardice, aggression, doctrinal threat, resistance to the prophetic mission, and moral disgrace. These categories interact to create a unified ideological narrative in which the Muslim community is elevated through moral legitimacy, while its opponents are severely limited through strategic othering. This study also revealed that Ka`ab ibn Malik's poetry is a literary expression and a structured discourse that reinforces collective identity, moral cohesion and the early Muslim community's worldview.

Keywords

Author Keywords: Ka'ab Ibn Malik; War Poetry; Enemy Image; Representation Theory; Prophetic Biography

Author Information

Corresponding Address: Jamsari, Ezad Azraai (corresponding author)

Univ Kebangsaan Malaysia, Fac Islamic Studies, Res Ctr Arab Language & Islamic Civilizat, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

E-mail Addresses :

ezad@ukm.edu.my

Addresses :

[1] Univ Kebangsaan Malaysia, Fac Islamic Studies, Res Ctr Arab Language & Islamic Civilizat, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

[2] Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Dept Arab Language & Literature, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

E-mail Addresses :

nuruliman@ukm.edu.my; mozaha@ukm.edu.my; anwar86@ukm.edu.my; ezad@ukm.edu.my; monab@ukm.edu.my; nursafira@iium.edu.my

Categories/ Classification

Research Areas: Education & Educational Research; Linguistics

Web of Science Categories	Education & Educational Research; Linguistics

Funding

View funding text

Funding agency	Show All Details
Dana Pecutan Penerbitan (DPP)	
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	Show details

+ See more data fields

Journal information

IJAZ ARABI JOURNAL OF ARABIC LEARNING

← View Journal Impact

ISSN	2620-5912
eISSN	2620-5947
Current Publisher	Univ Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Jalan Gajayana 50, Malang, Malang 65144, INDONESIA
Research Areas	Education & Educational Research; Linguistics
Web of Science Categories	Education & Educational Research; Linguistics

0.2

Journal Impact Factor ™ (2025)

0.08

Journal Citation Indicator ™ (2025)

Citation Network

Use in Web of Science

In Web of Science Core Collection

0 Citations

Create citation alert

0
Last 180 Days

0
Since 2013

Learn more →

35
Cited References

→ View Related Records

This record is from:

Web of Science Core Collection

- Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)

How does this document's citation performance compare to peers?

← Open comparison metrics panel

Data is from InCites Benchmarking & Analytics

Suggest a correction
If you would like to improve the quality of the data in this record, please Suggest a correction

35 Cited References

View as set of results

Showing 30 of 35

(from Web of Science Core Collection)

Clarivate

© 2026 Clarivate. All rights reserved.

Legal Center
Privacy Statement
Copyright Notice
Training Portal
Product Support
Newsletter
Cookie Policy
Manage cookie preferences
Data Correction
Accessibility
Help
Terms of Use
Follow Us