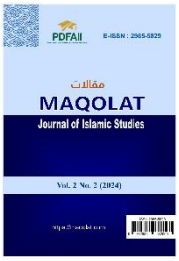

MAQOLAT: Journal of Islamic Studies
Journal website: https://maqolat.com/

ISSN : 2985-5829 (Online)
DOI: https://doi.org/10.58355/maqolat.v4i4.260

Vol. 4, No. 4 (2026)
pp. 641-654

Research Article

The Concept Of Tabayyun In The Al-Hujurat Letter, Verse 6: Its Relevance To The Distribution Of Information In The Digital Era

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Received : July 21, 2026
Revised : August 07, 2026
Accepted : September 14, 2026
Available online : October 29, 2026

How to Cite: Rifqah Hidayah, Ahmad Nurrohim, & Inna Hilwa Bariroh. (2026). The Concept Of Tabayyun In The Al-Hujurat Letter, Verse 6: Its Relevance To The Distribution Of Information In The Digital Era. *MAQOLAT: Journal of Islamic Studies*, *4*(4), 641–654. https://doi.org/10.58355/maqolat.v4i4.260

Abstract. This study aims to examine the concept of tabayyun in Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6 based on tafsir studies and analyze its relevance to the dissemination of information in the digital era. The study uses a qualitative approach with library research methods, through the study of the Qur'an, tafsir books, books, and scientific articles related to tabayyun, Islamic communication ethics, and digital literacy. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive-analytical content analysis techniques. The results show that tabayyun is an information verification principle that emphasizes the importance of checking the source, content, and impact of news before it is accepted or disseminated. In the context of the digital era, the values of tabayyun have very strong relevance as guidelines for communication ethics to prevent the spread of hoaxes, disinformation, slander, and hate speech. The implementation of tabayyun is also in line with the concept of modern digital literacy that prioritizes critical thinking, fact-checking, and responsibility in media use. Therefore, the implementation of tabayyun can be a

foundation in building a culture of honest, critical, and responsible communication and support the creation of a more accurate and reliable information ecosystem amidst the development of information technology.

Keywords: Tabayyun, Surah Al-Hujurat Verse 6, Islamic Communication Ethics, Digital Literacy, Hoax.

INTRODUCTION

The development of information and communication technology has transformed the way society obtains, produces, and disseminates information. The presence of social media and various digital platforms allows individuals to instantly disseminate information without adequate editing or verification. While this facilitates easy access to information, it also increases the risk of spreading hoaxes, disinformation, slander, and misleading information. This phenomenon highlights the importance of ethics in receiving and conveying information in the digital space.

From an Islamic perspective, the principle of caution regarding information has been emphasized in the Qur'an, especially Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6.[1]which instructs Muslims to conduct tabayyun, or verification, of news before believing or spreading it. The value of tabayyun serves not only as a moral guideline but also as an ethical foundation for maintaining the accuracy of information and preventing social harm from the spread of false news.

In the digital era, the concept of tabayyun (reference) has become increasingly relevant given the high flow of information circulating through social media, messaging apps, and other online platforms. Various studies have shown that applying the principle of tabayyun can contribute to building digital literacy, improving critical thinking skills, and reducing the spread of hoaxes and disinformation. Therefore, studying Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6 not only has normative value in the study of interpretation but also has practical implications for the communication behavior of modern society.

Based on this description, this study aims to examine the concept of tabayyun (reconciliation) in Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 6, and analyze its relevance to the dissemination of information in the digital era. Thus, this research is expected to contribute to the development of Islamic communication ethics that are in line with the challenges of current information technology developments.

Formulation of the problem

1. What is the concept of tabayyun in Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6 based on tafsir studies?
2. How relevant is the concept of tabayyun to the dissemination of information in the digital era?
3. How can the application of tabayyun values serve as an ethical guideline in dealing with hoaxes and disinformation in digital media?

[1]Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia, The Qur'an and Its Translation (Jakarta: Al-Qur'an Translation Agency, 2019), 912.

Research purposes

1. Describe the concept of tabayyun in Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6 based on tafsir studies.
2. Analyze the relevance of the concept of tabayyun to the dissemination of information in the digital era.
3. Explain the implementation of tabayyun values as Islamic communication ethics in dealing with the spread of hoaxes and disinformation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section reviews a number of literature related to the concept of tabayyun, the interpretation of Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6, and its relevance to the dissemination of information in the digital age. Previous research has shown that tabayyun is an important principle in Islam that emphasizes caution in receiving and disseminating information.

Several exegetical studies explain that Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6 contains an injunction to verify news before making decisions. This principle aims to prevent errors, slander, and regret resulting from inaccurate information. From an Islamic communication perspective, tabayyun is seen as a form of moral responsibility to maintain honesty and fairness in conveying information.

Research on digital literacy also highlights the increasing spread of hoaxes, misinformation, and disinformation through social media. Easy access to technology allows information to spread quickly, but it isn't always accompanied by adequate verification processes. Therefore, the ability to think critically and verify information sources is a crucial competency for digital citizens.

Several previous studies have found that the values of tabayyun align with the concept of fact-checking, or information verification, in modern digital literacy. Both emphasize the importance of verifying the credibility of sources, comparing information with other references, and avoiding the spread of unverified news. Thus, Islamic teachings, through the concept of tabayyun, have strong relevance in addressing communication challenges in the digital age.

However, most previous research has discussed tabayyun from the perspective of Quranic interpretation or communication ethics in general. Studies specifically linking the concept of tabayyun in Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6 to the phenomenon of information dissemination in the digital era are still relatively limited. Therefore, this study seeks to fill this gap by analyzing the meaning of tabayyun based on tafsir studies and examining its implementation as a guideline for Islamic communication ethics in addressing hoaxes and disinformation in digital media.

Based on this literature review, it is clear that tabayyun is not only a normative teaching in Islam but also has highly relevant practical value for building a critical, responsible, and truth-oriented communication culture. This research is expected to provide a conceptual contribution regarding the importance of applying tabayyun values in modern society, which is filled with the flow of digital information.[2]

[2]M. Quraish Shihab, Tafsir Al-Mishbah: Messages, Impressions, and Harmony of the Qur'an, Volume 13, 3rd Edition (Jakarta: Lentera Hati, 2018), 219–221.

Besides functioning as an information verification process, tabayyun also reflects ethical values that emphasize objectivity, fairness, and unhurried conclusions. In Islamic teachings, every individual has a moral responsibility to guard their spoken and written words to prevent harm to others. This principle is increasingly important in the digital age, when a single post or message can spread widely in a short time and influence public opinion. Therefore, the application of tabayyun is not only related to religious aspects but also serves as a foundation for building a culture of responsible communication.

On the other hand, the development of information technology demands that people possess strong digital literacy skills. Digital literacy encompasses not only the ability to use technological devices but also the ability to analyze, evaluate, and verify information before disseminating it. In this context, the values of tabayyun (religious inquiry) are closely linked to efforts to prevent hoaxes and disinformation. The integration of tabayyun teachings and digital literacy is expected to foster a more critical, selective, and wise society in utilizing digital media, thus creating a more accurate, reliable, and beneficial information ecosystem for community life.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with library research. This approach was chosen to examine the concept of tabayyun in Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6 and analyze its relevance to the dissemination of information in the digital era through a review of various literary sources.

The data sources in this research consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data consists of the Quran, specifically Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6, and commentaries on the verse's content. Secondary data was obtained from books, scientific journal articles, and previous research related to tabayyun (religious guidance), Islamic communication ethics, and information dissemination in the digital age.

Data collection was conducted using documentation or literature study methods, namely identifying, reading, recording, and reviewing various references relevant to the research focus. Next, the data was analyzed using descriptive-analytical content analysis techniques to understand the meaning of the tabayyun concept and interpret its relevance in facing the challenges of information dissemination in the digital age.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The concept of Tabayyun in Surah Al-Hujurat Verse 6 Based on Tafsir Studies

Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6 is one of the verses that is the main basis for Islamic communication ethics. Allah SWT says:

God willing

فَتَبَيَّنُوٓا أَن تُصِيبُوا قَوْمًۢا بِجَهَٰلَةٍ فَتُصْبِحُوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نَٰدِمِينَ

Meaning: "O you who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with news, then ascertain its truth, lest you harm a people out of ignorance (carelessness), and then become regretful for what you have done" (QS. Al-Hujurat: 6).

Etymologically, the word tabayyun comes from the root word bayyana, which means to explain, examine, or confirm something until it becomes clear. From an interpretive perspective, the command fatabayyanu implies that a believer is not permitted to accept information raw without verifying its source, content, and veracity. This principle aims to maintain justice, avoid erroneous decision-making, and prevent regret from arising from actions based on erroneous information.[3]

Classical commentators explain that this verse was revealed in connection with the sending of a companion to collect zakat from a tribe, which led to a misunderstanding, resulting in a report that was inconsistent with the facts. Through this verse, Allah provides guidance that all incoming news, especially from parties whose credibility is questionable, must be verified before being used as the basis for action. This aspect demonstrates that Islam highly values the accuracy of information and prohibits decision-making based on prejudice or unverified reports.

In contemporary tafsir studies, the concept of tabayyun is understood more broadly as communication ethics and information literacy. This command applies not only to receiving news from individuals known to be wicked but also serves as a universal guideline for responding to all information flows, especially in the digital era characterized by the rapid spread of news through social media. Therefore, tabayyun is realized through checking information sources, comparing them with credible data, and considering the social impact before sharing news with others.

Furthermore, the primary value of tabayyun is maintaining public welfare and preventing harm (mafsadah). Mistakes in receiving or disseminating information can lead to slander, damage a person's reputation, divide community unity, and even trigger broader conflict. Therefore, Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 6, emphasizes that verifying information is a form of moral and social responsibility for every individual. Hastily believing news without sufficient evidence contradicts the principle of caution taught in the Quran.

In both academic and social contexts, the implementation of tabayyun reflects the ability to think critically, objectively, and responsibly. One is required to prioritize facts over assumptions, seek clarification before making judgments, and avoid disseminating information whose validity has not been verified. Thus, tabayyun is not only a normative teaching in Islam but also relevant as a foundation for ethical communication and information management in the modern era.

Based on the interpretation study, it can be concluded that the concept of tabayyun in Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6 is an order to verify and clarify every piece of information before believing, spreading, or taking action based on that information.[4]This value aims to maintain justice, prevent harm from misinformation, and foster a culture of honest, critical, and responsible communication. Its relevance is increasingly strong amidst the rapid flow of digital information, making tabayyun a crucial principle in creating an intelligent and integrated society.

1. Asbabun Nuzul

[3]Abdul Wahab Munawwir, The Most Complete Al-Munawwir Arabic-Indonesian Dictionary, Revised Edition (Surabaya: Pustaka Progressif, 2017), 116–117.

[4]Christina Juditha, "Hoax Communication Interaction on Social Media and Its Anticipation," Jurnal Pekommas 3, no. 1 (2018): 33–35, https://doi.org/10.30818/jpkm.2018.2030104.

According to the history presented by Ibnu Katsir, this verse was revealed regarding the incident of Walid bin Uqbah bin Abi Mu'ait who was sent by Rasulullah SAW to collect zakat from the Bani Mustaliq. Due to old enmity during the period of ignorance, Walid felt afraid and returned without meeting them, then reported to the Prophet that the Bani Mustaliq refused to pay zakat and wanted to kill him. Hearing this report, Rasulullah SAW almost sent troops, but then this verse came down to order clarification (tabayyun) before taking action.

2. The meaning of Tabayyun according to commentators

The word tabayyun (تَبَيَّنُ) comes from the root word ba-ya-na, which means clear, obvious, or bright. Etymologically, tabayyun means seeking clarity, examining, and verifying information before making a decision or taking action. Tafsir Al-Mishbah explains that tabayyun is the effort to seek clarity about something until its true state is clear. He emphasizes that this verse teaches the principle of checking and rechecking all information, especially that which comes from sources whose credibility is questionable (fasik).

Ibn Kathir interpreted that Allah commands us to be careful of news from wicked people, so that no decisions are taken based on their words without verification, because that can lead to injustice.

Hamka, in his Tafsir Al-Azhar, emphasized that this verse contains a significant lesson about a Muslim's critical attitude. He argued that Islam does not require its followers to be gullible (blind imitation), but rather to be selective and discerning in accepting information.

Meanwhile, Al-Qurtubi stated that the command to verify is general, encompassing all information that could have legal, social, or political implications. Imam Al-Qurtubi also read this verse with two terms: fatabayyanū (examine) and fatatsabbatū (ascertain its truth), both of which have complementary meanings.

3. Elements of Tabayyun

Based on tafsir studies, tabayyun contains three main elements:

a. Verify the source of information, ensure the credibility of the news presenter;
b. Verify the content of the information, examine the substance and truth of the news;
c. Consideration of consequences, taking into account the impact of the dissemination of the information.

These three elements show that tabayyun is not just a passive attitude of waiting for the truth, but rather an active action to seek, research and ensure the validity of information.[5].

The Relevance of the Tabayyun Concept to the Dissemination of Information in the Digital Era

The development of information and communication technology has transformed the way society obtains, produces, and disseminates information. The presence of social media, instant messaging platforms, and various news sites allows

[5]Indonesian Ulema Council, MUI Fatwa Number 24 of 2017 concerning Law and Guidelines for Transactions Through Social Media (Jakarta: MUI General Secretariat, 2017), 7–8.

information to circulate rapidly, without the constraints of time and space.[6]However, this convenience also comes with an increased risk of spreading hoaxes, disinformation, slander, and information manipulation. In this context, the concept of tabayyun (religious review) is a highly relevant principle as an ethical guideline for addressing the flow of information in the digital age.

Conceptually, tabayyun is the process of researching, clarifying and ensuring the truth of information before accepting it as fact or disseminating it to other parties.[7]This principle is based on Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 6, which instructs Muslims to verify news to avoid making decisions based on misinformation. In the digital age, the application of tabayyun extends beyond the identity of the news anchor to examining the source of the information, the credibility of the media, the accuracy of the data, the context of the news, and the supporting evidence.

Applying tabayyun (verification) in the dissemination of digital information can be done through several steps. First, check the credibility of the source by ensuring that the information comes from a reputable institution or party. Second, compare the information with other independent sources to ensure consistency of the facts. Third, critically examine the content of the information and avoid being easily influenced by sensational or provocative headlines (clickbait). Fourth, refrain from sharing information before confirming its truth, especially if the information has the potential to harm certain individuals or groups.[8].

From the perspective of Islamic communication ethics, tabayyun also reflects moral responsibility in the use of digital technology. Every social media user plays a role as both a producer and a disseminator of information, so sharing unverified news can contribute to the spread of hoaxes and worsen social conditions. Therefore, tabayyun teaches the importance of prudence, honesty, and accountability in communicating in the digital space.

Besides its religious dimension, the concept of tabayyun aligns with the principles of digital literacy, which emphasize critical and evaluative thinking skills regarding information. Digital literacy encourages individuals to assess the validity of sources, recognize bias, understand context, and use information responsibly. Thus, tabayyun can be viewed as an ethical foundation that strengthens digital literacy practices in addressing the challenges of information overload in the modern era.

Implementing tabayyun in digital life offers extensive benefits, such as reducing the spread of fake news, preventing slander and hate speech, safeguarding the reputation of individuals and institutions, and strengthening public trust in circulating information. Conversely, ignoring the principle of tabayyun can trigger

[6]Abdul Rahman, "Tabayyun in the Qur'an and Its Relevance to Media Literacy," Journal of Qur'anic Studies 15, no. 2 (2019): 168–171.

[7]Dini Kurnia Sari, "Media Literacy in the Millennial Generation in the Digital Era," Profesional: Journal of Communication and Public Administration 6, no. 2 (2019): 32–34.

[8]Muhammad Yunus and Ahmad Salim, "Islamic Communication Ethics in Facing Hoaxes in the Digital Era," Journal of Da'wah and Communication 5, no. 2 (2020): 119–121.

misunderstandings, social polarization, conflict, and even material and immaterial losses due to inaccurate information.[9]

Thus, the concept of tabayyun regarding the dissemination of information in the digital era is not only a normative teaching in Islam, but also a practical necessity in building a healthy and responsible communication ecosystem. Critical thinking, fact-checking, and caution before receiving and disseminating information are concrete implementations of the value of tabayyun, which can support the creation of an ethical, intelligent, and truth-oriented digital society.[10].

Characteristics of Information Dissemination in the Digital Era

The digital era is characterized by the rapid flow of information through social media, instant messaging apps, and other digital platforms. According to We Are Social data, Indonesia has 212.9 million internet users, with an average daily social media usage time of 3 hours and 18 minutes. This allows information to spread at a rapid pace without adequate filtering.

The main characteristics of information dissemination in the digital era include:

a. Speed (velocity), information is spread in seconds;
b. Large volume (big data), massive amount of content;
c. Interactivity, each user can be both a producer and a consumer of information (prosumer);
d. Anonymity, the identity of the source often cannot be verified.

These characteristics create an ecosystem vulnerable to the spread of hoaxes, hate speech, and disinformation. According to data from the Ministry of Communication and Informatics, more than 11,000 pieces of hoax content were identified throughout 2022–2023, with the largest categories being health, politics, and religion.[11]

Tabayyun as a Principle of Islamic Digital Literacy

The concept of tabayyun (religious practice) has strong relevance to today's digital communication challenges. When put into a contemporary context, tabayyun can be understood as a form of digital literacy grounded in Islamic values.[12]. Some points of relevance include:

First, The principle of source verification in tabayyun aligns with the concept of source checking in journalism and media literacy. Before sharing information, a Muslim must verify the source of the news, ensuring its credibility, honesty, and competence.

[9]Cecep Mubarok and Ni Made Dwi Adnjani, "Tabayyun in Digital Communication from the Perspective of the Qur'an," Journal of Islamic Communication 12, no. 1 (2022): 47–50.

[10]Rulli Nasrullah, Social Media: Perspectives on Communication, Culture, and Sociotechnology, 2nd Edition (Bandung: Simbiosa Rekatama Media, 2017), 78–82.

[11]Ministry of Communication and Informatics of the Republic of Indonesia, Annual Report on Handling Hoax Content 2022–2023 (Jakarta: Directorate General of Public Information and Communication, 2023), 14–16.

[12]Wi Rahadi, "User Behavior and Hoax Information on Social Media," Journal of Management and Entrepreneurship 5, no. 1 (2017): 60–63, https://doi.org/10.26905/jmdk.v5i1.1342.

Second, the principle of content verification aligns with fact-checking practices widely developed by organizations such as MAFINDO, Cek Fakta Liputan6, and Turn Back Hoax. Tabayyun encourages people to read more than just the headline (clickbait) but also the entire content and compare it with other sources.

*Third,*The principle of considering consequences aligns with digital ethics (netiquette), which emphasizes user responsibility for any content they share. In Islam, spreading false information can lead to slander, a sin equated with murder (Quran 2:191).[13]

Tabayyun and the Post-Truth Phenomenon

The digital era has also given rise to the post-truth phenomenon, a condition in which emotions and personal beliefs are more influential in shaping public opinion than objective facts. In this context, tabayyun (religious discourse) has become increasingly relevant as the antithesis of post-truth culture. Tabayyun places truth (facts) above feelings and interests, preventing Muslims from easily becoming trapped in echo chambers or filter bubbles that reinforce cognitive biases.[14].

Thus, tabayyun is not only a classical ethical principle, but also a communication paradigm that is relevant and urgent to be applied in contemporary digital life.[15].

Application of Tabayyun Values as Ethical Guidelines in Dealing with Hoaxes and Disinformation in Digital Media

1. Hoaxes and Disinformation as Contemporary Communication Challenges

A hoax is false information intentionally created and spread to deceive or mislead readers, while disinformation is the dissemination of false information for a specific purpose, whether political, economic, or ideological. Both have serious consequences, including social division, political polarization, economic losses, and even threats to life, as seen in the COVID-19 vaccine hoax.

2. Implementation of Tabayyun Values as Islamic Communication Ethics

The application of tabayyun values in dealing with hoaxes can be formulated in several practical steps:

a. Selective in Receiving Information (Initial Verification) Every Muslim is obliged to not immediately believe the information received, especially that sourced from anonymous accounts, broadcast messages, or non-credible platforms. This principle is in line with the principle of ushul fiqh: "Dar'ul mafāsid muqaddamun 'alā jalbil maṣāliḥ" (rejecting harm is more important than seeking benefit).
b. Critical in Analyzing Content Tabayyun requires Muslims to have a critical attitude by examining:

[13]We Are Social, Digital 2023: Indonesian Internet and Social Media User Statistics Report (Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur: We Are Social & Hootsuite, 2023), 18–19.

[14]Lee McIntyre, Post-Truth, Indonesian Print (Jakarta: Pustaka Obor Indonesia, 2019), 41–43.

[15]Claire Wardle and Hossein Derakhshan, "Information Disorder: Toward an Interdisciplinary Framework for Research and Policymaking," Council of Europe Report (Official Translation 2018), 22–24.

The original source of the news (whether from credible media or not);
Publication date (whether it is still relevant or outdated);
Author and his background;
Supporting evidence such as data, photos, or videos (which also need to be checked for authenticity via reverse image search).

c. Confirmation through Trusted Sources (Cross-Check) The value of tabayyun encourages clarification through various sources. Currently, Muslims can utilize official channels such as cekfakta.com, kominfo.go.id/aduankonten, or refer to the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) fatwa Number 24 of 2017 concerning the Law and Guidelines for Transactions through Social Media (MUI, 2017).

d. Refrain from Spreading Uncertain Information Rasulullah SAW said:

بِالْمَرْءِ كَذِبًا أَنْ يُحَدِّثَ بِكُلِّ مَا سَمِعَ

(HR. Muslim).

This hadith emphasizes that refraining (imsak) from spreading unverified information is an integral part of tabayyun.

e. Responsibility for Every Shared Content: In Islam, the finger that types and the thumb that presses the share button will be held accountable in the afterlife. Allah SWT says:

لَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِۦ عِلْمٌ ۚ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ مَسْئُولًا

"And do not follow that which you have no knowledge of. For the hearing, the sight, and the conscience, all of these will be questioned about." (QS. Al-Isra': 36).

3. Tabayyun as the Foundation of Digital Islamic Communication Ethics

Based on the description above, it can be formulated that tabayyun is the foundation of digital Islamic communication ethics which includes five principles:

Principle of Truth (ash-shidq): convey only what is true and verified.
The Principle of Caution (al-iḥtiyāṭ): do not rush in disseminating information.
Principle of Responsibility (al-mas'ūliyyah): be aware of the consequences of every content shared.
The Principle of Benefit (al-manfa'ah): ensuring that the information disseminated brings goodness.
Principle of Justice (al-'adālah): not being partial and not tyrannizing other parties.

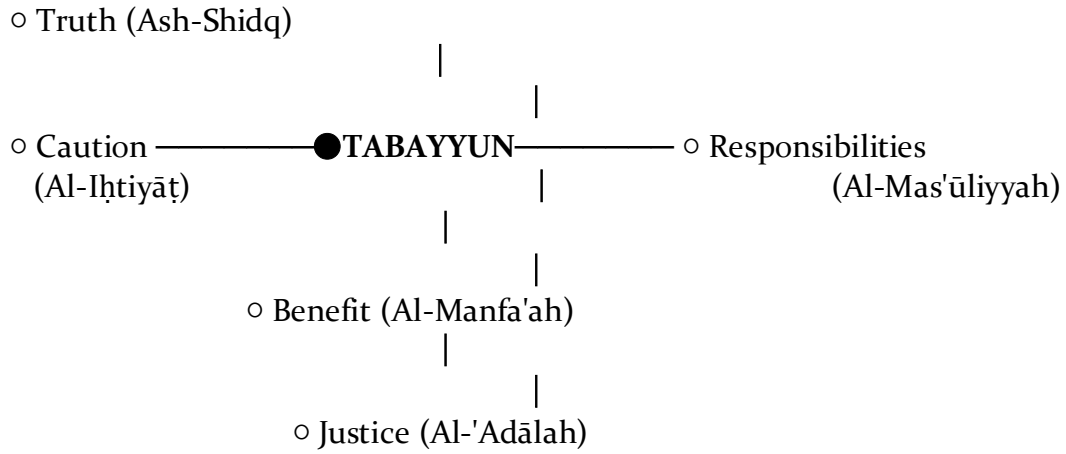
The application of these five principles makes tabayyun a protective shield for Muslims against the onslaught of hoaxes and disinformation. Thus, tabayyun is not only a religious value but also a digital literacy competency that urgently needs to be cultivated, whether through formal education, religious sermons, or media literacy campaigns.

4. Strategies for Strengthening Tabayyun Culture in the Digital Era

To strengthen the internalization of tabayyun values, synergy between various parties is required:

The family as the first institution instills a critical and cautious attitude in media use.

Educational institutions (schools, Islamic boarding schools, universities) integrate digital literacy based on the Qur'an into the curriculum.
Religious figures and preachers utilize digital platforms to preach Islamic communication ethics.
The government is strengthening anti-hoax regulations and education.
Digital platforms provide verification features and fact-check labels.
This synergy is expected to form a healthy digital ecosystem, where the values of tabayyun become a shared culture in communicating in cyberspace.[16]



The urgency of Tabayyun and the quality of information

The development of information and communication technology has facilitated the production, distribution, and consumption of information. However, this ease also increases the risk of disseminating inaccurate, misleading, or even deliberately manipulated information. In this context, the concept of tabayyun (verification) becomes highly relevant as a principle of information verification aimed at ensuring the truthfulness of news before it is accepted or disseminated. Tabayyun is not only an ethical value in Islamic tradition but also serves a practical function as a mechanism for building a culture of critical and responsible information literacy.

The urgency of tabayyun (verification) is increasingly apparent in the digital media era, where information can spread instantly across various platforms without adequate editing or verification. The absence of tabayyun has the potential to trigger the spread of hoaxes, slander, hate speech, and disinformation, which can lead to social conflict, damage individual reputations, and undermine public trust in information sources.[17]Therefore, implementing tabayyun is a preventative measure to minimize the negative impacts of uncontrolled information flow while also supporting the creation of fact-based communication and moral responsibility.

From an information quality perspective, tabayyun serves as an instrument for assessing the validity and credibility of news. Information quality is generally

[16]Eli Pariser, The Filter Bubble: What the Internet Hides from You, Translation (Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia, 2017), 55–58.

[17]Ibn An-Nawawi, Sharh Sahih Muslim, Volume 1, Latest Edition (Jakarta: Darus Sunnah, 2018), 147–148.

measured based on several indicators, such as accuracy, relevance, completeness, consistency, and timeliness. Information that meets these indicators is more suitable for use as a basis for decision-making and public opinion formation. Conversely, unverified information has the potential to contain bias or errors that can mislead recipients.

The relationship between tabayyun and information quality is complementary. The tabayyun process encourages individuals to examine the source, content, and context of information before accepting or disseminating it, thereby maintaining the quality of the information being circulated. Thus, the application of the tabayyun principle not only has a religious dimension but also significantly contributes to strengthening digital literacy, improving the quality of public communication, and fostering a more critical, rational, and responsible society in dealing with various types of information in the digital age.

Amidst the rapid flow of digital information that isn't always accompanied by guarantees of truth, the values of tabayyun offer relevant and applicable ethical guidelines. Applying tabayyun doesn't require one to be skeptical of everything, but rather encourages the development of critical, responsible, and cautious thinking before receiving or disseminating information. By internalizing these values, digital citizens are expected to become more mature in consuming information, while also contributing to breaking the chain of hoaxes and disinformation that can damage social order.

Challenges of Implementing Tabayyun in the Digital Media Ecosystem

The development of digital technology has transformed people's communication patterns, becoming faster and more seamless. Information can be produced and disseminated by anyone through various social media platforms, messaging apps, and internet-based websites. This convenience offers the benefit of expanding access to information, but on the other hand, it also increases the risk of circulating inaccurate, provocative, or misleading news. In such conditions, the implementation of tabayyun (verification) faces increasingly complex challenges because people often prioritize the speed of obtaining and sharing information over verifying its accuracy.

One of the main challenges is the low level of awareness about verifying information sources. Many digital media users readily believe headlines, images, or video clips without checking their context or validity. This phenomenon is exacerbated by social media algorithms that tend to display content based on user preferences, creating echo chambers that reinforce beliefs without critical scrutiny. As a result, hoaxes and disinformation spread more easily and influence public opinion.

Furthermore, the culture of instant information sharing is often driven by the desire to gain attention, increase interaction on social media, or be the first to report news. This situation can shift the values of caution taught in the concept of tabayyun. In fact, Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6 emphasizes the importance of researching information before taking action to avoid causing harm, slander, or regret later.

Therefore, strengthening the culture of tabayyun (religious dialogue) needs to be supported by increased digital literacy, media ethics education, and collective awareness of responsibility for all information disseminated. The synergy between Islamic values and digital skills is expected to create a healthier, more critical, and truth-oriented communication ecosystem.[18]Thus, tabayyun is not only understood as a normative teaching in the Qur'an, but also as a practical principle that is relevant to answering the challenges of communication in the digital era.

CONCLUSION

Based on the study's findings, it can be concluded that the concept of tabayyun (verification) in Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 6, is a principle of information verification that teaches individuals to research, clarify, and confirm the truth of news before believing or spreading it. According to scholarly interpretations, tabayyun encompasses not only checking the credibility of the news source but also assessing the content of the information and considering the potential impact of its dissemination. This principle is an essential part of Islamic communication ethics, which emphasizes honesty, justice, and responsibility.

In the digital era, tabayyun (religious practice) is highly relevant because the rapid flow of information through social media and various online platforms increases the potential for the spread of hoaxes, disinformation, and slander. The values of tabayyun align with modern digital literacy practices, such as fact-checking, evaluating the credibility of sources, and critically evaluating information before sharing it with the public. Thus, tabayyun is not only a normative teaching in Islam but also a practical guideline for developing wise media behavior.

Consistent implementation of tabayyun values is expected to strengthen information quality, promote a healthy communication culture, and mitigate the negative impact of the spread of fake news in society. Therefore, internalization of tabayyun principles needs to be supported through education, increased digital literacy, and the role of families, religious leaders, educational institutions, the government, and all digital media users to create a more responsible, integrity-based, and truth-oriented information ecosystem.

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