

**THE DEBATE AMOUNG MUFASSIR ON THE MEANING
OF *UMMIY*
(A COMPARATIVE APPROACH)**



THESIS

**Submitted to Faculty of Ushuluddin
to Fulfill a Requirement to Gain Undergraduate Degree
In Islamic Theology (Tafsir-Hadith)**

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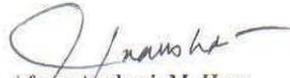
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I declare that this thesis is definitely my own work. I am fully responsible for content of this thesis. Other writer's opinions or findings included in the thesis are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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MOTTO

Nothing is Impossible

“Istasfti Qolbak!”

DEDICATION

The thesis is dedicated to:

My dear parents; H. Noor Sholeh and Hj. Hani'am Maria.

Love and respect are always for you. Thank you for the valuable efforts and contributions in making my education success.



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This thesis is entitled **The Debate Among Mufasssir On The Meaning Of *Ummiy* (A Comparative Approach)**. Submitted to Faculty of Ushuluddin to Fulfill a Requirement to Gain Undergraduate Degree in Islamic Theology (Tafsir and Hadith) State Institute of Islamic Studies (IAIN) Walisongo Semarang.

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In the end, I realize that this writing has not reached perfection in the truest sense. However, I hope that this thesis can be useful for me myself especially and also for the common reader.

Semarang, June 14, 2013

The writer,

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ABSTRACT

The illiteracy of Prophet Muhammad always becomes academically controversy past and now. It causes some interpretation of *ummiy* definition. Al-Qur'an has talked about *ummiy* six times, in different redaction and context. It is either in singular form like *ummiy* or plural as *ummiyyun/ummiyyin*. It appears in QS. al-A'raf: 157-158, QS. ali Imran: 20/75, QS. al-Baqarah: 78, and the last QS. al-Jumu'ah: 2.

In this research, the researcher will use library research. In analyzing data, researcher only focuses on discussing the verses that explain *ummiy*. Furthermore, researcher wants to get deeply understanding of the meaning by using method comparative (*muqorolah*). The purpose is to know several aspects related to like *asbab al-Nuzul*, *munasabah ayah*, vocabulary, etc.

Moreover, here researcher will use the book of interpretation by three interpreters who have different era, background and method. The first one is Ibnu Katsir (1258-1286 M). He was famous as scholar of last period (*mutaakhirin*). In interpreting Al-Qur'an, he used *tahlili* method, *muqarin* and *tafsir bil ma'tsur*. Secondly is Sayyid Quthb (1906-1966M). His book—Tafsir Fi Zhilalil Qur'an—is often used as reference by scholars past and now. His ability in language and literature are the uniqueness of his book. The last is Quraish Shihab (1944). His famous interpretation in Indonesian, and so far considered as objective interpreter. From those three interpreters will make different result of term *ummiy*.

In general, the term of *ummiy* in al-Qur'an has some meaning. *Firstly*, about the invitation of faith, missionary follows prophet. *Secondly* is based on definition which means no ability in reading and writing. However, it does not

mean uneducated. In other side, the root of term *ummiy* can be *ummah*, which means at that time Arab people rarely can read and write. Although, prophet is called as *ummiy*—no ability to read and write—his ability in science and knowledge is from Allah directly. Al-Qur'an which revealed to him, which the authenticity was guided.

We are required to follow the Prophet's character and the nature of the *ummiy*. Like *hablumminallah*, relationship to God, which we are required to continue always being in state of faith and keeping *Aqidah*. Then *hablumminannas*, human relations. We should always be an honest, trustworthy, keeping promises, and other goodness to fellow humans, as has been taught by Rasulullah PBUH. Both are in the field *muamalah* (buying and selling) and when socializing to the public.

TRANSLITERATION¹

ENGLISH TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM CONSONANTS

A	ء	A	ء	A	ا
b	ب	-	؟	-	ك
-	ج	s	س	l	ل
t	ت	sh	ش	m	م
th	ث	ʃ	ص	n	ن
j	ج	d	د	h	هـ
-	ح	ḍ	ط	w	و
ḥ	ح	z	ظ	y	ي
kh	خ	‘	ع	-a ¹	ء
d	د	gh	غ	2	ا
dh	ذ	f	ف	1 (-at in construct state)	
r	ر	q	ق	2 (article) al- and 'l-	
z	ز	k	ك	3 (when not final)	

VOWELS

Long or	؟	ā
	و	ū
	ي	ī
Doubled	ءِ	iyy (final form i)
	وُ	uww (final form u), etc.
Diphthongs	وِ	au or aw
	يِ	ai or ay
Short	---	a
	---	u
	---	i

¹ This English transliteration system refers to L.C (Library of Congress) model. *Pedoman Penulisan Skripsi Fakultas Ushuluddin IAIN Walisongo Semarang*, (Semarang: Fakultas Ushuluddin IAIN Walisongo, 2007), edition.1, p.120-121.

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