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THE RESEARCH AND POLICY IN THE QURAN

Mohammad Bagher Babaie Talatapeh, Fatemeh Asgari, AmirReza Alizadeh Majd

Faculty member, University of Imam Hussein

Department of Management, Qazvin Branch, Islamic Azad University, Qazvin, Iran.

Department of Management, Qazvin Branch, Islamic Azad University, Qazvin, Iran.

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Abstract

The interdisciplinary study with an emphasis on Islamic Science is a new field which has been considered during the last years by many scholars and researchers. However, one of the main issues for the researchers who have entered this field is the research method and process. Introduction and explaining a precise and reliable method for the interdisciplinary field of Islamic management emphasizing on the rich and valuable source of holy Quran is the purpose of the present study. For this purpose, in addition to a brief review of the interpretation of the holy Quran and main methods and approaches of interpreting Quranic science, the interdisciplinary studies of management with Quranic perspective during the last decades, the strategies and examination of the thinking about Quran were done based on the management researches. The research approaches of examining Quran included the verse based approaches, method based approaches, surah based approaches, narrative based approach and problem based approach which has been extracted based on the inferential methods from among the Islamic management studies. Each of these approaches has functions, processes and weak and strong points which have been regarded in this paper. For this purpose, it can be claimed that there is no unique process but based on the purpose, research questions, expertise and skill and the time for the researcher, one can implement distinctive strategies. Finally, the reliability of the studying Quran is the issue that has been addressed in the present study based on two axes of parallel questions and their evaluation methods.

Keywords: Quran examination, Quran interpretation, research approach

Introduction

According to some scholars there is a balance between religion and science each having its one domain. They believe that religion is for the later life and science is for the material life of human being. With a brief look at the orders of Islam the

great religion, each scholar and researcher would clearly know that religion is the plan for present and future life and the present world is basically a passage where it would provide comprehensive plans (Javadi Amoli, 2002).

However, the dominance of the one dimensional view on religion and science during the last periods whether in the religious science of in universities have caused serious damage on human life and this gap cannot be filled except by the efforts and actions of the practitioners and scientists. Since movement would not be beneficial except by deep studies based on the original religious teaching, there is a need for proper attention given to this type of researches and of course the required condition for solving the new problems and having proper instruments for examining the reliability of the findings is to use reliable methods facing the religious texts and understanding them.

The methods of understanding the religious texts is not an issue upon which all agreed. Thus, one of the reasons for divisions in Islamic religion was the issue of different understandings of religion. Some only consider hadith as the basis for understanding and solving the problems and ignored the testimony of Quran and have put it away; some others have used analogy and metaphor and thinking and some others used thinking about religion (Motahari, 1994, p.25 and Motahari, 2001, p.96-128).

From examination to interpretation of Holy Quran

Holy Quran is the book for guiding and helping all human being during the history and after its sending. It is not devoted to a specific era or place or race (Modather, 31, Qlalm, 52 and Saba, 28). Language of Quran is the language of the world and based on the nature of human being (Rom, 30). Holy Quran is like a light which lightens and clarifies the way for all and explains the advantages, disadvantages for human being (Nahl, 89). All have been encouraged and invited to think about Quran (Mohammad, 24). Although everyone makes use of it as much as its understanding; however, all should be aware of Arabic literature and language in order to understand and use it) Javadi Amoli, 2000, 31-34).

It can be stated that the chain from inspiration to putting it into practice in Quranic society can be explained by reading it repeatedly, understanding, interpretation and practicing based on it (figure 1).

Figure-1 : chain from inspiration to practicing in Quranic society.

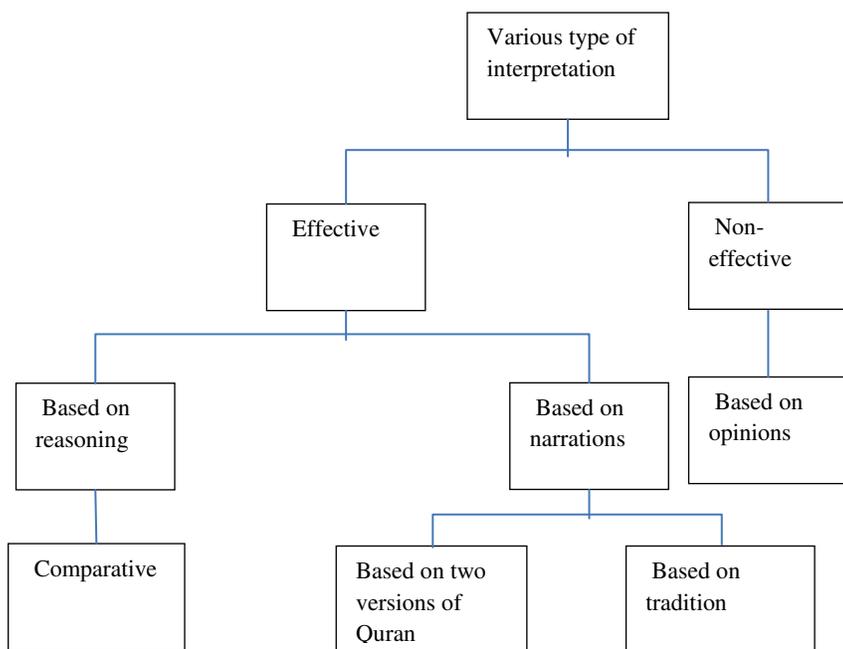


Thinking in the verses of Quran

Thinking in the verses of Quran is different from interpreting it. Thinking is about reflecting about the facts and origins of some issues which consider deep thinking and predicting future resulting in discovering the facts which have not been considered in the beginning.

Then thinking in Quran means thinking and reflecting to discover the meaning and latent relationship between each verses and the verses together.

Figure 2: various methods of interpretation based on the approach taken by Ayatollah Javadi Amoli.



1.2.2. Interpretative approaches to Quran

Interpretative approaches are divided into different categories based on the interpreter, beliefs, thoughts, orientations, processing, scientific specialty and interpreters’ taste:

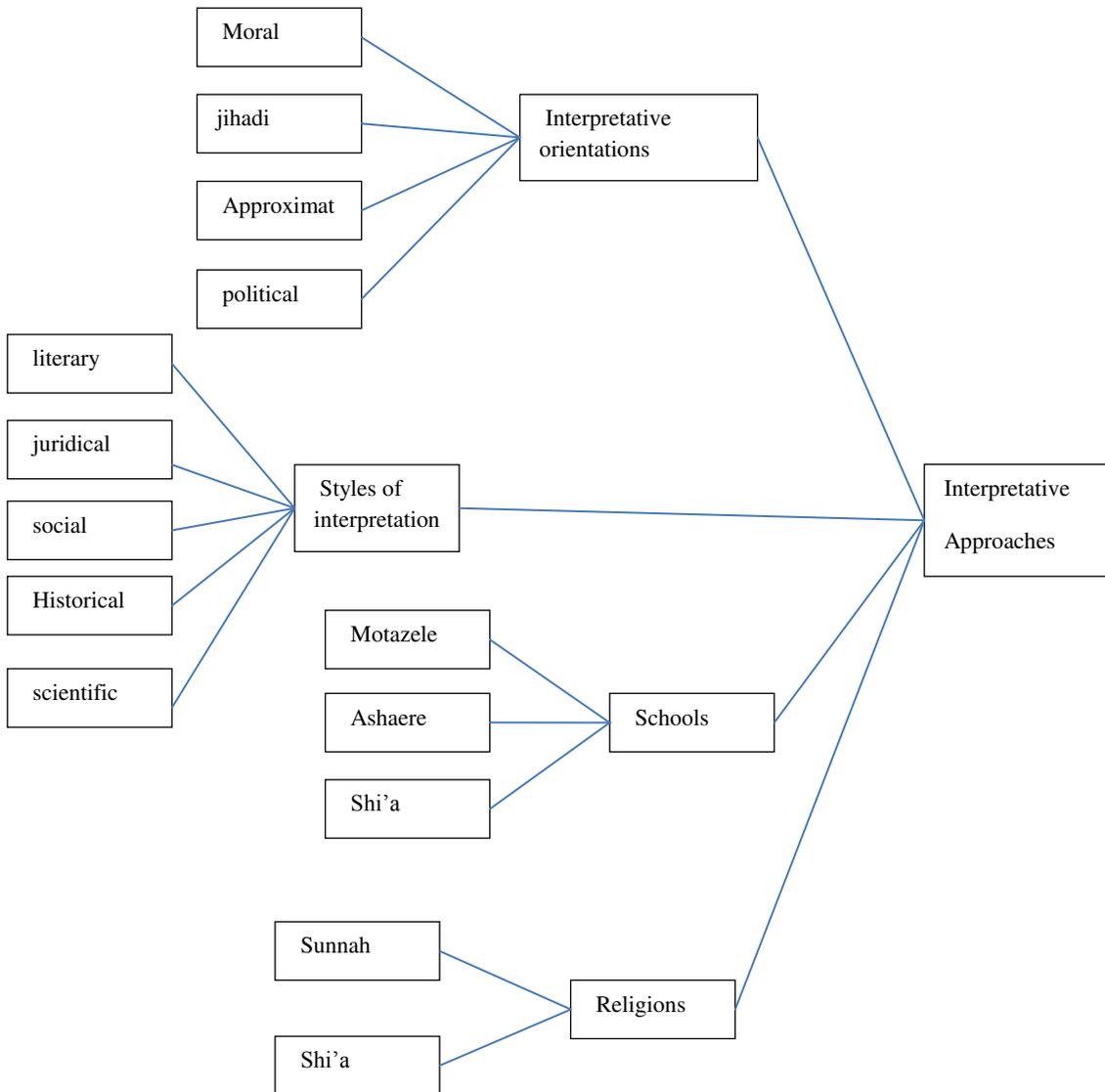
A- Interpretative approaches: the followers of Islam interpret Quran based on their beliefs. For example the followers of Shia religion consider the surface and depth of Quran and the verses related to the family of holy prophet. While the followers of Sunnah mostly consider the surface meaning of Quran and do not rely on the family of prophet and their interpretations.

B- Interpretative schools: the followers of various literary types such as the poets and narrators of Shia due to their literary orientation have provided some interpretations of Quran such as the interpretation by Ksahf Zamkhashri with Motazele approaches.

C- Interpretative styles (forms of interpretation): the interpreters sometimes based on their scientific expertise or their personal interests to a specific issue, have mostly used it and literary, juridical, social, mystic, moral and historical interpretation s can be categorized in this regard.

D- Periodic orientations: sometimes due to the time requirement, the interpreters tend to a specific direction.

Sometimes the spiritual issues and sometimes political issues determine the interpretative direction of an era.



The approaches of examining Quran

The present study focuses on the studies conducted based on Quranic approach (the third category of studies on Islamic management) and the interdisciplinary research methods of Islamic management in other areas despite the frequency have been postponed to another research time.

The brief review of the researcher indicates that the Quranic studies in management also have not been performed based on a specific approach. Although this frequency in its own right, they should be taken into account and even praised. However, the categorization and classification of the processes can facilitate the interdisciplinary researches on management and open new areas for the scholars. Thus, following the selected studies on the Islamic management based on Quran are examined.

3.1 verse based approaches

In this approach, the researcher recognizes and selects some related verses based on research topic and using the key words. Due to the importance of selecting the key words, in verse based approach, the help for selecting the related key words is given by the related scholars and experts using the guide book for synonyms and antonyms such as Forogh Alloghavia Askari (1973) can be beneficial. Further, in order to recognize the related verses, the related key words and derivatives can be found using the reference books such as Almojam Almoghars Lelquran (Sadri, 2007) and the Noor Quranic science software.

3.2 Method based approaches

In the verse based approaches, the research focuses on one or some individual verses while some researchers of Quranic science believe that in order to examine the research topics, focusing on one or some verses alone cannot be proper for finding a correct answer. Thus, they suggested a method based approach for their studies. The method or principles are the division contributed to Prophet by some researchers and they considered it as 555 subject units (Lesani Fesharaki and Moradi, 2006, p. 56). In this method, such as the verse based approach, the Quranic key words are significantly important. Further, in verse analysis of each verse, they are not considered by their own but the researcher considered a collection of the previous verses and the related verse in one method.

3.3. Surah based approach

One of the approaches of examining Quran which have been recently considered by researchers is Surah based approach. In this approach, all the surahs or one specific surah of Quran are considered by the researcher. This method is mostly based on the consequential interpretation.

3.4 narrative based approach

Narrative based approach is one of the research approaches in Islamic management which instead of emphasizing on the key words and the verses approaches or focusing on a specific surah, considers the Quranic narratives and the latent points. In this approach, the Quranic narration is precisely examined based on different verses and surah.

3.5 problem based approach

The researchers and managers of the management knowledge and real environment of an organization more than focusing on a general issue are faced with specific problems. In order to correct decision making and solving the problem, they have to understand the issue and find the conflict. This approach can be used for solving the problems regarding the value system of Quran.

1. Selecting the research topics
2. Recognizing and precise definition of the problem (opening the problem) considering the real problems in organizational environment or in common literature of knowledge management
3. Determining the problem or problems
4. Solving the problem based on Holy Quran emphasizing on complete review of Quran and its verses
5. Writing the reviewing points under each verse citing the number of the verses
6. Classifying the points based on concepts for more general concepts
7. Creating conceptual networks from the concepts for answering the issue

4. The issue of researcher capability and evaluating the reliability

Considering the capability and ability of the researcher before entering the issue of evaluating the research is significantly important. This issue is important since although by considering the Quranic issues, there are a lot of consequences for the researcher and society. However, it does not mean that it has to create significant features and enforce them. The examiner should have proper understanding of the holy Quran verses; otherwise, what he loses is more than what is created.

After the important issue of the researcher features in the approaches for examining Quran, one of the basic issues of the theorists and scholars is how to examine the research reliability. The concepts such as reliability and validity are used for evaluating the research results. Using these traditional concepts and its techniques is not acceptable in the qualitative and analytical methods and can be replaced by creating and developing the criteria based on qualitative studies.

Three methods in accessing the reliability of the research can be mentioned as traditional approach (based on reliability of the results), holistic approach (based on emphasizing research) and appropriateness approach (based on the reliability evaluation with research administration).

Conclusion

in contrast to the traditional view of science which is one a method and that is the common proofing method in natural science which is known as the natural science for producing and evaluating the science, scientific research methods can be build and varied. Methodology evolution during the past decades and creating qualitative and quantitative and hybrid approaches and then other approaches, is the results of staying away of the previous researchers. Thus, due to the venture of some creative and liberal researchers, sometimes new approaches are created in the studies which have been common in a short time and other researchers have used it. The Islamic interdisciplinary studies also for the active and productive presence in science production area require the new methods based on ideology of Islam. Inference and examination in juridical, narration and deduction sciences used in understanding hadith and examining the philosophy and speech and interpretation of Quran shows the interest of the Islamic scholars and researchers to the methods and their application in different areas of Islamic science. After the area of interval in the area of science production based on the needs of Islamic society, now it is the time for reviewing the good traditions of research and examining the Islamic sciences and thus the new interdisciplinary studies based on Islamic science are formed. The present study the present study focuses on the studies conducted based on Quranic approach (the third category of studies on Islamic management) and the interdisciplinary research methods of Islamic management in other areas despite the frequency have been postponed to another research time. Five approaches of examining Quran during the last years have been flourished in research area of Islamic management as:

1. the verse based approaches emphasizing on the Quranic key words
2. method based approaches based on related verses
3. surah based approaches based on some surah with specific goal
4. narrative based approach based on Quranic stories
5. and problem based approach based problems in all verses of Quran

And then some specific process of research can be inferred. In addition, the research tries to show that each approach, features and functions should be used based on research topics and capability of the researcher. However, the five approaches of Quran is an introduction and the research should avoid the personal interpretation and should offer their findings to the scholars of the Quranic science and verses or interpretative books (Naghipour, 2006) and (Lesani Fesharaki and Moradi, 2006). Further, by referring to the verses under each verse and reliable books (such as Tafsir Alborhan) for preventing the subjective examination.

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