

Books Authored on the Occasions of Revelation of the Holy Quran: A Descriptive Study

Ahmad Fauzi Hassan ¹, Syed Abdul Majid Ghouri ², Muhammad Nurul Salihin Mazni Fairuz ³

^{1,3}Faculty of Contemporary Islamic Studies, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin

²Faculty of Quranic and Sunnah Studies, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)

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ABSTRACT

The study of *asbab al-nuzul* (occasions of revelation) constitutes an important discipline within the field of *ulum al-quran*, as it provides essential historical context for understanding the meanings and objectives of Quranic verses. Numerous scholars throughout Islamic intellectual history have authored works dedicated to collecting and analyzing narrations related to the circumstances of revelation. However, these works differ significantly in terms of their methodological approaches and scholarly contributions. This study aims to examine major classical and contemporary works written on *asbab al-nuzul* through a descriptive and comparative analysis. The research analyzes selected classical works, particularly those of Al-Wahidi, Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani and Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti, as well as several contemporary studies that emphasize authentication and critical analysis of narrations. Using qualitative library research, the study compares the methodological approaches, sources of narrations and scholarly objectives of these works. The findings reveal that classical scholars primarily focused on collecting and preserving narrations transmitted from early Islamic authorities, whereas contemporary scholars have emphasized critical evaluation and verification of these reports using the principles of hadith criticism. The study concludes that both classical and modern contributions play complementary roles in advancing the discipline of *asbab al-nuzul* and remain essential for understanding the historical context and interpretive dimensions of the Quran.

Keywords – *Asbab al-nuzul*, quranic studies, tafsir, quranic sciences, revelation context

INTRODUCTION

The study of the Quran has developed into a rich intellectual tradition encompassing numerous disciplines collectively known as *ulum al-quran*. Among these disciplines, the study of *asbab al-nuzul*, the occasions or circumstances surrounding the revelation of specific Quranic verses, occupies a significant place in Quranic exegesis. Knowledge of *asbab al-nuzul* assists scholars in understanding the historical context in which particular verses were revealed, thereby clarifying their meanings and facilitating more accurate interpretation (Manna Khalil al-Qattan, 2000).

Classical Muslim scholars recognized the importance of contextualizing Quranic revelation from an early period of Islamic scholarship. Reports concerning the causes of revelation were transmitted primarily through narrations attributed to the Companions of the Prophet Muhammad and their successors. These narrations became an essential component of tafsir literature, as exegetes frequently relied upon them to explain the background of specific verses and address interpretive ambiguities (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

Over time, scholars began to compile these narrations into independent works dedicated specifically to *asbab al-nuzul*. These works aimed to gather available reports related to the circumstances of revelation and organize them according to the order of Quranic verses. Among the earliest and most influential contributions in this field are the works of al-Wahidi, Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani and Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti, whose compilations remain widely referenced in contemporary Quranic studies.

In modern scholarship, the study of *asbab al-nuzul* has continued to develop through critical analysis and methodological refinement. Contemporary researchers have attempted to evaluate the authenticity of narrations, distinguish between reliable and weak reports, and reassess the role of *asbab al-nuzul* in interpreting Quranic texts within broader hermeneutical frameworks (Muhammad Abd al-Azim Al-Zarqani, 2001). These developments demonstrate that the discipline remains relevant for both traditional and modern approaches to Quranic interpretation.

Despite the abundance of literature on *asbab al-nuzul*, there remains a need for systematic studies that introduce and analyze the major works written in this field. Many existing discussions merely mention these works without providing a structured overview of their methodological approaches and scholarly contributions. Consequently, students and researchers may find it difficult to identify the distinctive features and intellectual significance of these writings.

Therefore, this study aims to examine the major classical and contemporary works authored on *asbab al-nuzul* through a descriptive and analytical approach. The research seeks to introduce the most important books in this field, highlight their methodological characteristics and compare their contributions to the development of Quranic studies. By doing so, the study hopes to provide a clearer understanding of the intellectual legacy of *asbab al-nuzul* scholarship and its role in facilitating a deeper comprehension of the Quran.

Concept of Asbab Al-Nuzul

The discipline of *asbab al-nuzul* represents one of the fundamental branches within the broader field of *ulum al-quran*. It deals with the study of the specific events, circumstances or questions that led to the revelation of particular Quranic verses. By identifying the historical context surrounding a verse, scholars are able to clarify its intended meaning and address potential ambiguities in interpretation. Consequently, knowledge of *asbab al-nuzul* plays an essential role in Quranic exegesis and legal interpretation (Manna Khalil Al-Qattan, 2000). Early Muslim scholars recognized that many Quranic verses were revealed in response to particular incidents or inquiries that occurred during the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad. Understanding these circumstances provides important contextual information that assists interpreters in identifying the scope and implications of a verse. For this reason, reports concerning the causes of revelation were carefully preserved by the Companions and later transmitted through the scholarly tradition of hadith and tafsir (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957). Scholars of Quranic studies have therefore emphasized that the study of *asbab al-nuzul* is not merely historical in nature but also methodological. It helps establish the relationship between the text and the circumstances in which it was revealed. In many cases, awareness of the cause of revelation prevents misinterpretation by situating the verse within its proper context. As a result, classical exegetes frequently cited reports of *asbab al-nuzul* when explaining the meanings of Quranic passages (Jalal al-Din Al-Suyuti, 2006). The concept of *asbab al-nuzul* also reflects the dynamic interaction between revelation and the social realities of the early Muslim community. Many Quranic verses addressed real situations faced by the Prophet and his companions, including legal questions, ethical issues and communal disputes. By documenting these contexts, scholars of *asbab al-nuzul* have contributed significantly to preserving the historical background of Quranic revelation (Muhammad Abd al-Azim Al-Zarqani, 2001).

Because of its importance, the discipline of *asbab al-nuzul* gradually evolved into a specialized field within Quranic sciences. Scholars produced independent works that compiled narrations relating to the circumstances of revelation and organized them according to the sequence of Quranic verses. These works became important references for students of tafsir and continue to be studied in contemporary Islamic scholarship. The concept of *asbab al-nuzul* can therefore be examined through three key aspects: its definition, its importance in Quranic interpretation, and its historical development within the scholarly tradition.

Definition of Asbab al-Nuzul

The term *asbab al-nuzul* consists of two Arabic words: *asbab* and *nuzul*. Linguistically, the word *sabab* refers to a cause, reason or means through which something occurs. Meanwhile, the term *nuzul* refers to the act of descending or revelation. Thus, from a linguistic perspective, *asbab al-nuzul* refers to the causes or circumstances that led to the revelation of Quranic verses (Ibn Manzur, 1993).

From a technical perspective, scholars of Quranic sciences have proposed several definitions of the term. One widely cited definition describes *asbab al-nuzul* as the events or questions for which a Quranic verse or passage was revealed as a response or clarification. These events often involved social, legal or theological issues faced by the early Muslim community during the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad (Manna Khalil Al-Qattan, 2000).

Another definition emphasizes the historical dimension of the concept, describing *asbab al-nuzul* as reports transmitted from the Companions that explain the circumstances in which specific verses were revealed. These reports are considered valuable sources for understanding the context of revelation and are often cited within classical tafsir works (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

Contemporary scholars have attempted to refine these definitions by emphasizing both the textual and contextual aspects of revelation. For example, modern studies highlight that *asbab al-nuzul* includes not only specific incidents but also questions addressed to the Prophet that prompted divine revelation. Such definitions broaden the scope of the concept while maintaining its essential function in clarifying Quranic interpretation (Muhammad Abd al-Azim Al-Zarqani, 2001).

Although the wording of these definitions may differ, they generally converge on the idea that *asbab al-nuzul* refers to the circumstances that accompanied the revelation of Quranic verses. Understanding these circumstances provides valuable insights into the meaning and application of the Quranic text.

Importance of *Asbab al-Nuzul*

The study of *asbab al-nuzul* is widely regarded as one of the most important tools for understanding the Quran. Scholars of tafsir have long emphasized that knowledge of the context of revelation helps clarify the intended meaning of verses and prevents misinterpretation. Without knowledge of the circumstances in which a verse was revealed, an interpreter may misunderstand its scope or apply it incorrectly (Manna Khalil Al-Qattan, 2000).

One major benefit of studying *asbab al-nuzul* is that it helps explain verses that may appear ambiguous or difficult to interpret when read independently. By examining the events that prompted the revelation, scholars can identify the specific issue being addressed and thereby gain a clearer understanding of the verse's message (Ibn Taymiyyah, 1996).

Furthermore, knowledge of *asbab al-nuzul* contributes to the study of Islamic law by clarifying the legal implications of certain verses. In some cases, a verse may have been revealed in response to a particular dispute or question, and understanding that context helps jurists determine how the ruling should be applied. For this reason, scholars of jurisprudence frequently refer to reports of *asbab al-nuzul* when deriving legal rulings from the Quran (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

Another important benefit is that it helps demonstrate the gradual and responsive nature of Quranic revelation. Many verses addressed real situations faced by the early Muslim community, including social conflicts, ethical dilemmas and political challenges. The study of *asbab al-nuzul* therefore provides valuable historical insight into the formative period of Islam (Jalal al-Din Al-Suyuti, 2006).

Finally, knowledge of *asbab al-nuzul* assists scholars in reconciling seemingly contradictory interpretations of certain verses. When multiple interpretations exist, identifying the specific context of revelation can help determine the most appropriate explanation. This function makes *asbab al-nuzul* an indispensable tool in the methodology of Quranic interpretation.

Development of the Discipline of *Asbab al-Nuzul*

The study of *asbab al-nuzul* can be traced back to the earliest period of Islamic scholarship. The Companions of the Prophet were the first individuals to transmit reports concerning the circumstances of revelation. Because many of them personally witnessed the events that led to the revelation of certain verses, their narrations became important sources for later scholars (Jalal al-Din Al-Suyuti, 2006).

During the period of the Successors (tabiun), scholars continued to collect and transmit these reports as part of the developing tradition of tafsir. Although early works of Quranic interpretation often included references to *asbab al-nuzul*, the material was not initially compiled into separate books. Instead, these narrations appeared within broader discussions of Quranic commentary.

By the classical period of Islamic scholarship, however, scholars began to recognize the importance of compiling these reports into independent works. One of the most influential contributions in this field was produced by al-Wahidi, whose book *Asbab al-Nuzul* systematically gathered narrations explaining the circumstances surrounding many Quranic verses. This work became a foundational reference for later scholarship.

Subsequent scholars expanded and refined the discipline by analyzing the chains of transmission associated with these narrations. Among the most notable contributions in this regard is the work of Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani, who critically examined reports related to the causes of revelation and assessed their authenticity using the methodological principles of hadith criticism.

Later, the renowned scholar Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti produced *Lubab al-Nuqul fi Asbab al-Nuzul*, a widely studied compilation that summarized many earlier reports while organizing them according to the order of Quranic verses. His work contributed to making the material more accessible for students of Quranic studies.

In modern times, scholars have continued to study and analyze these classical works while applying contemporary research methodologies. Modern studies often focus on verifying the authenticity of narrations, evaluating methodological differences between classical authors, and exploring the broader implications of *asbab al-nuzul* for Quranic hermeneutics. As a result, the discipline remains an active area of research within contemporary Islamic scholarship.

Classical Works on Asbab Al-Nuzul

The discipline of *asbab al-nuzul* received considerable attention from classical Muslim scholars, particularly those engaged in Quranic exegesis and hadith studies. Early scholars recognized that understanding the circumstances of revelation was essential for interpreting the meanings of Quranic verses accurately. Consequently, they began to compile reports explaining the occasions of revelation and incorporate them into tafsir literature (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

Initially, narrations concerning the causes of revelation were transmitted through the broader corpus of hadith and tafsir. Over time, however, scholars began to produce independent works dedicated specifically to *asbab al-nuzul*, organizing narrations according to the order of Quranic verses. These compilations aimed to preserve reports attributed to the Companions and early scholars regarding the historical contexts in which particular verses were revealed (Jalal al-Din Al-Suyuti, 2006).

Among the most significant classical contributions in this field are the works of Al-Wahidi, Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani and Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti. These scholars played a major role in compiling, analyzing and transmitting narrations concerning the causes of revelation and their works remain foundational references in Quranic studies.

Asbab al-Nuzul by Al-Wahidi

One of the earliest and most influential works in the field of *asbab al-nuzul* is the book *Asbab al-Nuzul* authored by Al-Wahidi. Al-Wahidi (d. 468 AH) was a renowned scholar of tafsir who dedicated a separate work to compiling reports concerning the circumstances of revelation.

In this work, Al-Wahidi collected narrations explaining the causes behind the revelation of various Quranic verses and arranged them according to the sequence of the Quran. His compilation drew primarily on reports transmitted from the Companions and the tabiun, making the book one of the earliest systematic attempts to gather such narrations in a single reference (Ali ibn Ahmad Al-Wahidi, 2005).

The significance of this work lies in its pioneering nature. Prior to Al-Wahidi, discussions of *asbab al-nuzul* were scattered throughout tafsir literature rather than organized into independent works. By compiling these

narrations in a dedicated volume, Al-Wahidi helped establish *asbab al-nuzul* as a distinct field within Quranic sciences (Manna Khalil Al-Qattan, 2000).

However, later scholars also noted certain methodological limitations in Al-Wahidi's work. In particular, some narrations included in the book were transmitted without rigorous evaluation of their chains of transmission. As a result, the work contains a mixture of authentic and weak reports. Despite this limitation, the book remains an important historical source and a foundational reference for subsequent scholarship on the subject (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

Al-Ujab fi Bayan al-Asbab by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani

Another important classical contribution to the study of *asbab al-nuzul* is *Al-Ujab fi Bayan al-Asbab*, authored by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani. Ibn Hajar (d. 852 AH) was one of the most prominent scholars of hadith and Islamic scholarship, widely known for his expertise in the science of hadith criticism.

In this work, Ibn Hajar sought to examine and evaluate narrations concerning the causes of revelation using the methodological principles of hadith scholarship. Unlike earlier compilations that primarily focused on collecting reports, Ibn Hajar applied critical analysis to assess the reliability of the transmitted narrations. This approach reflects a more rigorous methodological framework compared to earlier works (Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani, 1997).

A distinctive feature of Ibn Hajar's contribution is his emphasis on the authentication of reports. By analyzing the chains of transmission associated with various narrations, he attempted to distinguish between authentic and weak reports related to the occasions of revelation. This effort represents an important step toward integrating hadith methodology into the study of *asbab al-nuzul* (Muhammad Abd al-Azim Al-Zarqani, 2001).

Although the work does not cover every verse associated with a cause of revelation, it provides valuable insights into the methodological evaluation of these reports. As such, it represents an important development in the scholarly treatment of *asbab al-nuzul*.

Lubab al-Nuqul fi Asbab al-Nuzul by Al-Suyuti

A later but highly influential contribution to the field is *Lubab al-Nuqul fi Asbab al-Nuzul*, written by Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti. Al-Suyuti (d. 911 AH) was a prolific scholar who authored numerous works in Quranic studies, hadith, and Islamic sciences.

In this book, Al-Suyuti compiled narrations concerning the occasions of revelation from earlier sources, including the works of Al-Wahidi and other classical scholars. The book organizes these narrations according to the order of Quranic verses, making it a convenient reference for students and researchers interested in the background of specific passages (Al-Suyuti, 2006).

One of the key contributions of Al-Suyuti's work is its accessibility. By summarizing and arranging earlier reports in a concise format, the book provides readers with a practical overview of many narrations related to *asbab al-nuzul*. For this reason, it has become one of the most widely used references in the field.

However, similar to earlier compilations, the book also includes narrations of varying degrees of authenticity. Later scholars have therefore emphasized the importance of evaluating these reports using the principles of hadith criticism when relying on them for scholarly interpretation (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

Despite these limitations, *Lubab al-Nuqul fi Asbab al-Nuzul* remains one of the most influential classical works on the subject and continues to be widely studied in Qur'anic scholarship.

Contemporary Works on Asbab Al-Nuzul

In modern Islamic scholarship, the study of *asbab al-nuzul* has continued to develop through critical evaluation and methodological refinement. Contemporary scholars have sought not only to compile narrations concerning the causes of revelation but also to examine their authenticity, analyze their chains of transmission and reassess

their role in Qur'anic interpretation. This development reflects the increasing emphasis on methodological rigor within modern Quranic studies (Muhammad Abd al-Azim Al-Zarqani, 2001).

Unlike many classical compilations that primarily focused on gathering narrations, modern works often apply the principles of hadith criticism to distinguish between authentic and weak reports. This approach aims to ensure that interpretations of Quranic verses are based on reliable historical evidence. As a result, contemporary scholars have produced several important studies that critically reassess earlier compilations of *asbab al-nuzul* (Manna Khalil Al-Qattan, 2000).

Among the most notable contemporary contributions are the works of Muqbil ibn Hadi al-Wadi'i, Ibrahim Muhammad al-Ali, Isam ibn Abd al-Muhsin al-Humaydan, and Khalid ibn Sulayman al-Muzaini. These scholars have produced studies that combine classical scholarship with modern research methodologies, thereby strengthening the academic study of *asbab al-nuzul*.

Al-Sahih al-Musnad min Asbab al-Nuzul

One of the most significant contemporary works in this field is *Al-Sahih al-Musnad min Asbab al-Nuzul*, authored by Muqbil ibn Hadi al-Wadi'i. The primary objective of this work is to identify authentic narrations concerning the causes of revelation by applying rigorous hadith evaluation methods.

In this study, al-Wadi'i carefully examines the chains of transmission associated with narrations of *asbab al-nuzul* and includes only those that meet the criteria of authenticity according to hadith scholarship. By doing so, the author attempts to address one of the major methodological challenges present in earlier compilations, namely the inclusion of weak or unreliable reports (Muqbil ibn Hadi al-Wadi'i, 2003).

This work represents an important step toward strengthening the reliability of the discipline by focusing specifically on authenticated narrations. As such, it has become an important reference for scholars seeking a more critical and reliable approach to the study of *asbab al-nuzul*.

Sahih Asbab al-Nuzul: Dirasah Hadithiyah

Another contemporary contribution is *Sahih Asbab al-Nuzul: Dirasah Hadithiyah* by Ibrahim Muhammad al-Ali. This work adopts a similar methodological approach by evaluating narrations related to the causes of revelation through the lens of hadith criticism.

In this study, al-Ali systematically analyzes various narrations attributed to the Companions and early scholars, assessing their authenticity based on the reliability of their transmitters and the continuity of their chains of transmission. By applying these criteria, the author attempts to identify which reports can be considered reliable sources for interpreting Quranic verses (Ibrahim Muhammad al-Ali, 2003).

The work contributes to contemporary Quranic scholarship by emphasizing the importance of methodological rigor and critical analysis in the study of *asbab al-nuzul*. It also highlights the need to reassess earlier compilations that may have included narrations of varying degrees of authenticity.

Al-Sahih min Asbab al-Nuzul

Another important modern work in this field is *Al-Sahih min Asbab al-Nuzul*, authored by Isam ibn Abd

al-Muhsin al-Humaydan. This study similarly focuses on identifying reliable narrations concerning the causes of revelation while excluding weak or fabricated reports.

The author applies the principles of hadith verification to analyze the narrations found in earlier works of tafsir and *asbab al-nuzul*. Through this process, al-Humaydan attempts to provide a more reliable collection of reports that can be used by scholars and students when interpreting Qur'anic verses (Isam ibn Abd al-Muhsin al-Humaydan, 1999).

This work reflects the broader trend within contemporary Islamic scholarship toward reassessing classical sources through systematic and critical analysis. By focusing on authenticated narrations, the study contributes to strengthening the methodological foundations of the discipline.

Al-Muharrar fi Asbab Nuzul al-Quran min al-Kutub al-Tisah

Another significant contemporary contribution is *Al-Muharrar fi Asbab Nuzul al-Quran min al-Kutub al-Tisah*, authored by Khalid ibn Sulayman al-Muzaini. This work represents a comprehensive analytical study of narrations related to the causes of revelation found in the nine major hadith collections.

In this study, al-Muzaini systematically examines narrations of *asbab al-nuzul* reported in the major hadith compilations and evaluates them using the principles of hadith criticism. By doing so, the author provides a detailed analysis of the reliability and authenticity of these narrations while also highlighting their significance for Quranic interpretation (Khalid ibn Sulayman al-Muzaini, 2006).

This work is particularly valuable because it integrates hadith scholarship with the study of Quranic sciences. By analyzing narrations across multiple hadith collections, the study provides a broader perspective on the transmission and authenticity of reports concerning the causes of revelation.

Contemporary Works on Asbab Al-Nuzul

The literature on *asbab al-nuzul* demonstrates a significant intellectual development from classical compilations to contemporary analytical studies. While early scholars primarily focused on collecting narrations explaining the circumstances of revelation, later scholars increasingly emphasized methodological evaluation, authentication of reports and critical analysis of earlier works. A comparative examination of these writings reveals important differences in scholarly objectives, methodological approaches and contributions to Qur'anic studies (Muhammad Abd al-Azim Al-Zarqani, 2001).

This section compares the major classical and contemporary works on *asbab al-nuzul* in order to highlight their distinctive characteristics and scholarly contributions. The analysis focuses on four key aspects: methodological approaches, sources of narrations, critical evaluation of reports and overall contributions to the study of the Qur'an.

Methodological Approaches in Classical and Contemporary Works

One of the most notable differences between classical and contemporary works on *asbab al-nuzul* lies in their methodological approaches. Classical scholars were primarily concerned with collecting and preserving narrations transmitted from the Companions and early generations of Muslims. Their main objective was to document the circumstances surrounding the revelation of Quranic verses and transmit these reports to later generations (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

For example, the work of Al-Wahidi represents one of the earliest systematic attempts to compile narrations explaining the causes of revelation. His book organizes these reports according to the order of Quranic verses and provides readers with a structured reference for understanding the historical context of revelation (Ali ibn Ahmad Al-Wahidi, 2005). However, the work primarily focuses on compilation rather than critical analysis, reflecting the scholarly priorities of its time.

Similarly, the later work of Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti builds upon earlier compilations by collecting narrations from a variety of classical sources and presenting them in a concise format. Although Al-Suyuti's work improved accessibility and organization, it largely retained the descriptive approach characteristic of earlier scholarship (Jalal al-Din Al-Suyuti, 2006).

In contrast, contemporary scholars have adopted more analytical methodologies. Rather than simply compiling narrations, modern researchers often evaluate the reliability of these reports using the principles of hadith criticism and historical analysis. This shift reflects the broader development of academic methodologies in Islamic studies, which emphasize critical examination of sources (Manna Khalil Al-Qattan, 2000).

For instance, the work of Khalid al-Muzaini applies systematic analysis to narrations found in the major hadith collections, examining their chains of transmission and textual content in order to assess their reliability (Khalid ibn Sulayman al-Muzaini, 2006). Such approaches demonstrate how modern scholarship has expanded beyond simple compilation to include methodological evaluation and critical interpretation.

Sources of Narrations in Classical and Modern Works

Another important area of comparison concerns the sources from which scholars derived narrations of *asbab al-nuzul*. Classical scholars relied primarily on reports transmitted from the Companions of the Prophet and the *tabiun*, as these individuals were considered the most reliable witnesses to the events surrounding the revelation of Quranic verses (Ibn Taymiyyah, 1996).

Early works such as those of Al-Wahidi frequently cited narrations reported by well-known Companions including Ibn Abbas, Abdullah ibn Masud, and other early authorities. These narrations were often transmitted through chains of transmission recorded in the broader hadith literature (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

However, classical compilations often drew from a wide range of sources without applying strict criteria for verifying the authenticity of each narration. As a result, some reports included in these works may contain weaknesses in their chains of transmission or may represent interpretive explanations rather than historically verified events (Muhammad Abd al-Azim Al-Zarqani, 2001).

In contrast, contemporary scholars frequently rely on established hadith collections such as Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim and other canonical compilations when analyzing reports related to the causes of revelation. By prioritizing narrations found in these reliable sources, modern researchers aim to ensure a higher degree of authenticity in their analyses (Manna Khalil Al-Qattan, 2000).

This shift toward more rigorous source evaluation reflects the broader methodological evolution within Islamic scholarship, where researchers increasingly emphasize the importance of verifying historical reports before using them in interpretive discussions.

Critical Evaluation of Narrations

A major development in contemporary studies of *asbab al-nuzul* is the increasing emphasis on critical evaluation of narrations. While classical scholars recognized the importance of reliable transmission, their primary objective was often to preserve available reports rather than systematically analyze their authenticity.

For example, the compilations of Al-Wahidi and Al-Suyuti include narrations of varying levels of reliability, including some reports that later scholars have classified as weak. Although these works remain valuable historical sources, modern researchers have highlighted the need to reexamine such narrations using the established principles of hadith criticism (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957). Scholars such as Muqbil al-Wadi'i and Ibrahim al-Ali have therefore attempted to produce works that focus specifically on authenticated narrations related to the causes of revelation. By analyzing the chains of transmission associated with each report, these scholars seek to distinguish between reliable and unreliable narrations (Muqbil ibn Hadi al-Wadi'i, 2003).

Similarly, Khalid al-Muzaini's analytical study of narrations found in the major hadith collections represents an effort to apply rigorous scholarly standards to the study of *asbab al-nuzul*. His work demonstrates how contemporary researchers combine traditional hadith methodology with modern academic analysis to reassess earlier compilations (Khalid ibn Sulayman al-Muzaini, 2006). This development has significantly strengthened the methodological foundations of the discipline, as it ensures that interpretations of Quranic verses are based on more reliable historical evidence.

Contributions of Classical and Contemporary Works

Despite their methodological differences, both classical and contemporary works on *asbab al-nuzul* have made important contributions to the study of the Quran.

Classical works played a crucial role in preserving early narrations concerning the circumstances of revelation. Without these compilations, many historical reports transmitted by the Companions and early scholars might have been lost. These works therefore represent an invaluable component of the intellectual heritage of Islamic scholarship (Al-Suyuti, 2006).

In addition, classical compilations helped establish the discipline of *asbab al-nuzul* as a recognized field within Quranic sciences. By organizing narrations according to the order of Quranic verses, scholars such as Al-Wahidi provided a practical framework for studying the historical context of revelation.

Contemporary works, on the other hand, have contributed to refining and strengthening the methodology of the discipline. Through critical analysis and authentication of narrations, modern scholars have addressed some of the methodological limitations found in earlier compilations. These efforts have helped ensure that the study of *asbab al-nuzul* remains relevant for modern Quranic scholarship (Al-Zarqani, 2001).

Moreover, contemporary research has highlighted the broader implications of *asbab al-nuzul* for Quranic interpretation, legal theory, and historical studies of early Islam. By integrating classical sources with modern research methods, these studies provide a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between Qur'anic revelation and the historical context in which it occurred.

Contemporary Works on Asbab Al-Nuzul

Based on the examination of classical and contemporary literature on *asbab al-nuzul*, this study has identified several important findings concerning the development of the discipline, the methodological characteristics of major works, and their contributions to Quranic studies. The findings demonstrate that the study of *asbab al-nuzul* has evolved significantly over time, moving from descriptive compilations toward more critical and analytical approaches.

The following subsections present the major findings derived from the comparative analysis conducted in this research.

Central Role of Asbab al-Nuzul in Quranic Interpretation

One of the most significant findings of this study is that *asbab al-nuzul* occupies a central role in the methodology of Quranic interpretation. Classical scholars consistently emphasized that understanding the circumstances of revelation is essential for correctly interpreting Quranic verses. Without knowledge of the context in which a verse was revealed, interpreters may misunderstand its intended meaning or apply it incorrectly (Manna Khalil Al-Qattan, 2000).

Reports concerning the causes of revelation provide valuable historical information that clarifies the relationship between the Quranic text and the events that occurred during the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad. By identifying the specific situations addressed by particular verses, scholars are able to interpret the Quran within its historical and social context (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

The analysis conducted in this study shows that both classical and contemporary scholars recognize the importance of this discipline. While classical works focused on collecting narrations explaining the causes of revelation, contemporary scholars have sought to refine the methodological framework through critical analysis and authentication of these reports (Muhammad Abd al-Azim Al-Zarqani, 2001).

This finding highlights that the study of *asbab al-nuzul* remains a fundamental component of Qur'anic sciences and continues to play an important role in modern scholarship on the Qur'an.

Preservation of Early Narrations in Classical Works

Another important finding is that classical works on *asbab al-nuzul* played a crucial role in preserving early narrations transmitted from the Companions and the *tabiun*. These narrations constitute some of the earliest historical records concerning the circumstances of Quranic revelation.

Works such as *Asbab al-Nuzul* by Al-Wahidi and *Lubab al-Nuqul fi Asbab al-Nuzul* by Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti collected numerous reports attributed to early authorities including Ibn Abbas and other Companions who were closely associated with the events surrounding revelation.

Through these compilations, classical scholars preserved a large body of historical material that might otherwise have been lost. These works therefore represent an essential component of the intellectual heritage of Islamic scholarship and continue to serve as primary references for students of tafsir (Jalal al-Din Al-Suyuti, 2006).

However, the analysis also reveals that many classical compilations included narrations without systematically evaluating their authenticity. As a result, some reports contained in these works may be weak or disputed according to the standards of hadith criticism (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

Despite this limitation, the preservation of these narrations remains one of the most important contributions of classical scholarship to the field of Quranic studies.

Methodological Development in Contemporary Studies

A further finding of this research is that contemporary scholarship has significantly strengthened the methodological framework of the discipline. Modern researchers have increasingly emphasized the need to evaluate narrations related to asbab al-nuzul using the principles of hadith criticism.

Scholars such as Muqbil al-Wadi'i, Ibrahim al-Ali, and Khalid al-Muzaini have produced studies that focus on identifying authentic narrations concerning the causes of revelation. These works analyze the chains of transmission associated with various reports and apply established criteria for assessing their reliability (Al-Wadi'i, 2003; Al-Muzaini, 2006).

This methodological shift reflects the broader development of Islamic scholarship in the modern period, where researchers seek to combine classical sources with systematic academic analysis. By distinguishing between reliable and weak narrations, contemporary scholars contribute to a more accurate understanding of the historical context of Quranic revelation (Muhammad Abd al-Azim Al-Zarqani, 2001).

The study therefore demonstrates that modern works on asbab al-nuzul do not simply reproduce earlier compilations but rather aim to refine and improve the scholarly methodology used in the discipline.

Differences in Scholarly Objectives Between Classical and Contemporary Authors

The comparative analysis conducted in this study also reveals important differences in the scholarly objectives of classical and contemporary authors.

Classical scholars were primarily concerned with collecting and transmitting available narrations related to the causes of revelation. Their primary goal was to preserve the reports transmitted by earlier generations and make them accessible to students of tafsir. Consequently, their works often focused on compilation and organization rather than critical evaluation (Badr al-Din Al-Zarkashi, 1957).

In contrast, contemporary scholars tend to approach the subject from a more analytical perspective. Their works frequently involve critical examination of earlier sources, evaluation of narrations, and methodological discussions regarding the role of asbab al-nuzul in Qur'anic interpretation (Manna Khalil Al-Qattan, 2000).

This difference in scholarly objectives reflects broader changes in the development of Islamic studies, where modern researchers seek to integrate traditional scholarship with contemporary academic methods.

Continuing Relevance of *Asbab al-Nuzul* in Modern Quranic Studies

The final major finding of this study is that asbab al-nuzul continues to play an important role in modern Quranic studies. Despite the historical nature of the discipline, contemporary scholars recognize that understanding the context of revelation remains essential for interpreting the Quran accurately.

Modern research in Quranic hermeneutics increasingly emphasizes the importance of contextual analysis when interpreting religious texts. In this regard, the study of *asbab al-nuzul* provides valuable historical data that helps scholars understand the relationship between the Qur'anic message and the circumstances in which it was revealed (Muhammad Abd al-Azim Al-Zarqani, 2001).

Furthermore, knowledge of the causes of revelation contributes to various fields within Islamic scholarship, including tafsir, Islamic law and the historical study of early Islam. By clarifying the context of specific verses, scholars are better able to understand their intended meaning and legal implications (Ibn Taymiyyah, 1996).

This study therefore concludes that the discipline of *asbab al-nuzul* remains highly relevant for both classical and contemporary approaches to Quranic interpretation.

CONCLUSION

The study of *asbab al-nuzul* represents one of the most important disciplines within the broader field of *ulum al-quran*. By examining the circumstances in which Quranic verses were revealed, scholars are able to gain deeper insight into the meanings, objectives and legal implications of the Quranic text. The present study aimed to examine the major classical and contemporary works authored on *asbab al-nuzul* and to analyze their methodological characteristics and scholarly contributions.

The findings of this research demonstrate that classical scholars played a crucial role in preserving early narrations concerning the causes of revelation. Through their efforts, a substantial body of historical reports transmitted from the Companions and early generations of Muslims was collected and organized. Works such as those of Al-Wahidi and Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti represent important milestones in the development of the discipline, as they provided systematic compilations of narrations explaining the contexts of Quranic revelation.

At the same time, the study reveals that classical works were primarily concerned with collecting and preserving narrations rather than critically evaluating their authenticity. As a result, many of these works contain reports of varying levels of reliability. Despite this limitation, classical compilations remain invaluable sources for understanding the historical context of Quranic revelation and continue to serve as foundational references for scholars of tafsir.

In contrast, contemporary scholarship has focused on strengthening the methodological foundations of the discipline through critical analysis and authentication of narrations. Modern researchers have increasingly applied the principles of hadith criticism to examine reports related to the causes of revelation and distinguish between reliable and weak narrations. Studies produced by scholars such as Muqbil al-Wadi'i and Khalid al-Muzaini illustrate how contemporary scholarship integrates traditional Islamic sciences with systematic academic analysis.

The comparative analysis conducted in this research highlights the complementary relationship between classical and contemporary works on *asbab al-nuzul*. While classical scholars preserved the historical material necessary for understanding the circumstances of revelation, contemporary scholars have contributed to refining the methodology used to evaluate and interpret these reports. Together, these contributions have significantly enriched the discipline of Quranic studies.

Furthermore, the study demonstrates that knowledge of *asbab al-nuzul* continues to play a vital role in modern Quranic interpretation. By providing historical context for Quranic verses, this discipline helps scholars clarify ambiguous passages, understand the objectives of revelation and derive legal and ethical guidance from the Quran. Consequently, the study of *asbab al-nuzul* remains highly relevant for researchers, students of Islamic studies and scholars engaged in the field of tafsir.

Finally, this study suggests that future research could further explore the relationship between *asbab al-nuzul* and contemporary approaches to Quranic interpretation, including thematic exegesis and contextual hermeneutics. Such research would contribute to a deeper understanding of how classical Islamic scholarship can continue to inform modern interpretations of the Quran.

In conclusion, the discipline of *asbab al-nuzul* represents a significant intellectual tradition within Islamic scholarship. Through the combined contributions of classical and contemporary scholars, this field continues to provide valuable insights into the historical context and interpretive dimensions of the Qur'an.

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