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READABILITY OF THE INDONESIAN QUR'AN TRANSLATION: AN SFL ANALYSIS OF CLAUSE MOOD AND LINGUISTIC FEATURES

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the readability of the Indonesian translation of the Qur'an by integrating Nababan's Translation Quality Assessment framework with Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), particularly the Mood system. The analysis focuses on how clause structure and linguistic features contribute to reader comprehension in translated religious texts. The dataset consists of 427 clauses extracted from seven frequently recited Qur'anic chapters. Each clause was analyzed according to its Mood type (declarative, imperative, and interrogative) and three linguistic features associated with readability: syntactic simplicity, lexical familiarity, and semantic explicitness. The results show that declarative clauses dominate the corpus (372 clauses; 87.12%), followed by imperatives (7.49%) and interrogatives (4.22%). In addition, lexical familiarity appears in 93.21% of the clauses, syntactic simplicity in 90.40%, and semantic explicitness in 73.54%. These patterns indicate that the Indonesian Qur'an translation prioritizes linear clause structures, culturally familiar vocabulary, and explicit semantic relations that enable readers to process the text in a single reading without additional explanation. The findings demonstrate that readability in the Indonesian Qur'an translation is systematically produced through coordinated linguistic strategies rather than occurring as an incidental stylistic feature. By integrating Translation Quality Assessment with Systemic Functional Linguistics, this study provides a functional explanation of how grammatical structure and linguistic choices shape readability in translated religious discourse.

KEYWORDS: Clause Structure; Mood System; Readability; Translation Quality Assessment; Qur'anic Translation

1. INTRODUCTION

The accessibility of sacred texts remains an important concern in translation studies, particularly when religious authority, doctrinal fidelity, and reader comprehension must coexist within a single translated text. In the case of the Qur'an, translation plays a crucial role in enabling non-Arabic-speaking audiences to understand the message of the scripture (Griffiths et al., 2025). Because the Qur'an is widely recited, studied, and interpreted by diverse communities, translations must not only preserve the meaning of the source text but also present it in a form that can be clearly understood by readers with different levels of linguistic competence.

In Indonesia, the official translation published by the Lajnah Pentashihan Mushaf Al-Qur'an under the Ministry of Religious Affairs represents the most widely used and institutionally endorsed version of the Qur'an translation (Syahidah et al., 2025). This translation is extensively employed in religious education, public recitation, and scholarly discourse (Gondwe, 2025). As a result, the linguistic characteristics of this translation significantly influence how Indonesian readers interpret and understand Qur'anic messages. Ensuring that the translated text is accessible and readable therefore becomes an essential aspect of translation quality.

From the perspective of translation studies, readability constitutes an important dimension of translation quality. (M. Chen & Qu, 2023) define translation quality through three interrelated criteria: accuracy, acceptability, and readability. Accuracy refers to the degree to which the meaning of the source text is correctly transferred into the target language, while acceptability concerns the naturalness of the translation within the target language system. Readability, meanwhile, refers to the extent to which the translated text can be easily understood by readers without requiring additional explanation. In the context of religious translation, readability is particularly important because many readers rely on translated texts to access complex theological concepts.

Previous research on Qur'anic translation has examined various aspects of translation practice, including semantic equivalence, rhetorical representation, ideological influence, and interpretive strategies. Studies such as those conducted by (Nugent et al., 2023) emphasize the interpretive nature of Qur'anic translation and highlight the influence of exegetical traditions in shaping translation choices. Other research has explored how translators represent rhetorical and stylistic features of the Qur'anic discourse in the target language. While these studies provide valuable

insights into the interpretive and stylistic dimensions of Qur'anic translation, relatively limited attention has been given to the linguistic mechanisms that systematically contribute to the readability of translated texts.

In many cases, readability is discussed only in general terms or measured using surface-level indicators such as sentence length or lexical density (Iaia, 2023). Although such indicators provide useful descriptive information, they do not sufficiently explain how specific linguistic structures contribute to reader comprehension. In particular, the relationship between clause structure, lexical choice, and semantic organization in shaping translation readability remains underexplored.

To address this limitation, the present study examines the readability of the Indonesian translation of the Qur'an through the combined perspectives of Translation Quality Assessment and Systemic Functional Linguistics. Systemic Functional Linguistics provides a framework for analyzing how grammatical structures contribute to meaning in discourse, particularly through the Mood system that organizes clause types such as declarative, imperative, and interrogative forms (Mukhlis, Suradi, et al., 2023; Mukhlis, 2025b). By analyzing clause structures alongside linguistic features such as syntactic simplicity, lexical familiarity, and semantic explicitness, this study aims to explain how readability is produced through functional linguistic choices in translated religious texts.

This study contributes to translation studies by demonstrating that readability in religious translation can be explained through functional linguistic mechanisms rather than being treated merely as a stylistic property (Flusk & Ralarala, 2025). By integrating Translation Quality Assessment with Systemic Functional Linguistics, the study provides a framework for understanding how clause structure and linguistic features interact to shape readability in the Indonesian translation of the Qur'an.

Accordingly, the study addresses the following research questions:

1. What is the distribution of clause types (declarative, imperative, and interrogative) in the Indonesian translation of the Qur'an?
2. How do syntactic simplicity, lexical familiarity, and semantic explicitness contribute to the readability of the translated text?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Readability in Translation Studies

Readability refers to the degree to which a text can be easily understood by its intended readers. In translation studies, readability is widely recognized

as one of the key dimensions of translation quality. Dwi Novemyanto (2025) conceptualize translation quality through three interrelated criteria: accuracy, acceptability, and readability. Accuracy concerns the transfer of meaning from the source text to the target text, acceptability refers to the naturalness of the translation within the target language, and readability relates to the extent to which the translated text can be processed and understood by readers without requiring additional explanation.

Scholars have long emphasized that translation quality involves more than literal equivalence between languages. Susanto (2025) highlight the importance of achieving natural equivalence so that readers of the translation experience an effect similar to that of the original audience. Sofiana (2025) approaches translation quality from the perspective of functional equivalence, emphasizing the relationship between translation, discourse context, and communicative purpose. Lu & Zho (2023) further explains that translation quality operates across multiple linguistic levels, including pragmatic, textual, and cultural dimensions.

Other scholars adopt a functional perspective in evaluating translation quality. Li and Tan, (2023), for example, argues that translation should be guided by the intended purpose (Skopos) and the expectations of the target audience. From this perspective, readability becomes essential because it determines whether the translated text can effectively fulfill its communicative function. This aspect is particularly important in religious translation, where texts are read by diverse audiences with varying levels of linguistic and theological knowledge. A translation that preserves semantic accuracy but remains linguistically complex may limit readers' access to the intended meaning of the text.

2.2. Clause Structure and the Mood System

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) provides a useful framework for examining how grammatical structures contribute to meaning in discourse. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), language simultaneously realizes three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual meaning. Within this framework, the Mood system belongs to the interpersonal metafunction and organizes how speakers exchange information through different clause types.

The Mood system distinguishes three primary clause types: declarative, imperative, and interrogative. Declarative clauses typically present information, imperatives express commands or requests, and interrogatives signal questions (Mukhlis, Arifin, Ridwan, & Zulbaidah, 2025;

Mukhlis, Arifin, Ridwan, Zulbaidah, et al., 2025). These clause types therefore represent different forms of interaction between the speaker and the audience.

Clause structure also influences how easily a text can be processed by readers. Declarative clauses generally follow predictable Subject-Finite patterns, allowing readers to interpret propositions in a straightforward manner. Imperative clauses, when expressed through familiar grammatical forms, convey directives clearly without increasing structural complexity (Mahmood et al., 2025). Interrogative clauses that use explicit question markers similarly help readers identify rhetorical intent without ambiguity.

Previous readability research indicates that texts dominated by simple clause structures are easier to process. Shorter clauses, minimal syntactic embedding, and clear grammatical patterns reduce cognitive load during reading (Mukhlis, Janwari, et al., 2023; Mukhlis & Abdullah, 2025). In the context of Qur'anic translation, such structural characteristics may play an important role in shaping reader comprehension.

2.3. Syntactic Simplicity and Readability

Syntactic simplicity refers to the use of linear clause structures with minimal embedding and canonical grammatical ordering. Within the SFL framework, syntactic simplicity occurs when clause elements appear in predictable configurations without excessive modification or subordination.

Research in readability studies consistently shows that syntactically simple texts require fewer cognitive resources during reading (Mahdi & Mohammed, 2025). Shorter clauses and straightforward sentence structures enable readers to identify relationships between subjects, verbs, and complements more efficiently (Mukhlis et al., 2024; Mukhlis, Maryam, et al., 2023). Consequently, texts with lower syntactic complexity tend to be processed more quickly and accurately.

In Qur'anic translation, syntactic simplicity often appears through the use of unmarked declarative clauses that present theological statements in a linear and transparent manner. Such structures facilitate comprehension by reducing the processing effort required to interpret complex ideas. Previous studies have also observed that translators frequently simplify clause structures to improve accessibility for general.

2.4. Lexical Familiarity and Readability

Lexical familiarity refers to the use of vocabulary that is widely recognized within a particular

linguistic and cultural community. In readability research, familiar vocabulary is considered one of the most important factors influencing text comprehension. When readers encounter lexical items that correspond to their existing knowledge base, they can interpret meaning more efficiently without requiring additional explanation.

Within the SFL framework, lexical choices contribute to the ideational metafunction by representing participants, processes, and circumstances in discourse (Nurhidayah, 2025). When lexical items correspond to culturally embedded concepts, they enable readers to connect linguistic expressions with shared conceptual knowledge.

In Qur'anic translation, lexical familiarity often involves the use of well-established religious terminology that is widely understood within the target culture (Affandi et al., 2025). Previous studies have shown that translators frequently employ culturally recognized lexical equivalents in order to ensure that theological concepts remain accessible to broader audiences (Nismawati, 2025). Through the use of familiar vocabulary, translators can communicate complex religious meanings without increasing the interpretive burden placed on readers.

2.5. *Semantic Explicitness and Readability*

Semantic explicitness refers to the overt expression of logical relations within a text, such as causality, contrast, condition, or elaboration. When these relations are expressed explicitly, readers can interpret the logical structure of the text more easily.

In translation studies, the process of making implicit relations explicit is commonly referred to as explicitation. Explicitation occurs when translators introduce additional linguistic elements in the target language in order to clarify meaning (Handayani, 2025). This strategy is particularly relevant in religious translation, where source texts often contain condensed expressions or metaphorical language that rely heavily on contextual interpretation.

Research on Qur'anic translation indicates that explicitation can enhance readability by reducing the inferential effort required to interpret rhetorical or metaphorical expressions (Mukhlis, 2025a; Mukhlis & Saidah, 2025). By making logical relations more transparent, translators enable readers to understand complex theological meanings more easily.

2.6. *Summary of Theoretical Framework*

Based on the theoretical perspectives discussed above, readability in translated religious texts can be understood as the result of coordinated linguistic choices. Clause structure, lexical selection, and

semantic realization jointly influence how easily a text can be processed by readers. In this study, readability is therefore examined through three key linguistic features: syntactic simplicity, lexical familiarity, and semantic explicitness (Hirsch, 2020). These features are analyzed within the Mood system of Systemic Functional Linguistics in order to explain how grammatical structures contribute to reader comprehension in the Indonesian translation of the Qur'an.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. *Research Design*

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design to investigate the readability of the Indonesian translation of the Qur'an. A qualitative approach was considered appropriate because the research aims to identify linguistic patterns, interpret meaning structures, and explain how readability is realized through grammatical and lexical choices rather than to test statistical hypotheses (Lutz & Knox, 2014; McNabb, 2015). Qualitative textual analysis is widely used in linguistic and translation studies to examine naturally occurring language data and to explore how meaning is constructed through discourse structures.

The analytical framework integrates two theoretical perspectives. First, the study adopts the Translation Quality Assessment (TQA) model developed by Nababan, Nuraeni, and Sumardiono (2012), which conceptualizes translation quality through three interrelated dimensions: accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The present study focuses specifically on the readability dimension, defined as the degree to which a translated text can be easily understood by target readers without requiring additional explanation.

Second, the study applies Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), particularly the Mood system proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). Within this framework, clauses are categorized into declarative, imperative, and interrogative types, each representing a different interpersonal function in the exchange of information. By integrating Translation Quality Assessment and Systemic Functional Linguistics, the study seeks to explain how linguistic structures contribute to the readability of translated religious texts.

3.2. *Data Source and Corpus Selection*

The primary data source of this research is the official Indonesian translation of the Qur'an published by the Lajnah Pentashihan Mushaf Al-Qur'an under the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. This translation was selected

because it represents the most widely used and institutionally authorized version in Indonesia and is commonly employed in religious education, public recitation, and scholarly study.

Seven Qur'anic chapters were purposively selected for analysis based on their high frequency of recitation in Indonesian Muslim devotional practices (Hillman & Radel, 2018; Migdal, 2018). These chapters include Al-Fāṭīḥah, Yāsīn, Al-Wāqī'ah, Al-Mulk, Al-Kahf, Al-Ikhlās, and the two protective chapters collectively known as Al-Mu'awwidhāt (Al-Falaq and An-Nās). The selected chapters represent a range of thematic contexts within the Qur'an, including theological affirmation, supplication, eschatological discourse, and moral instruction.

Each verse from the selected chapters was segmented into clauses according to Systemic Functional Linguistics clause boundary principles. Through this segmentation process, the dataset yielded a total of 427 clause units, which served as the corpus for analysis.

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3.3. Unit of Analysis

The primary unit of analysis in this study is the clause. In Systemic Functional Linguistics, the clause functions as the fundamental unit through which ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings are realized. Each clause typically contains a process element (verb group) and its associated participants and circumstances, allowing it to represent a complete meaning unit within discourse.

Using this framework, verses were divided into clauses based on the presence of a verbal process and its grammatical constituents (Fife, 2020; Kawamura, 2020). Each clause was then treated as an independent analytical unit for examining clause type and linguistic features related to readability.

3.4. Analytical Procedure

The analysis was conducted through several sequential stages.

3.5. Clause Identification and Classification

First, all verses from the selected chapters were segmented into clauses following Systemic

Functional Linguistics clause boundary principles. Each clause was then classified according to its Mood type, which includes:

- Declarative clauses
- Imperative clauses
- Interrogative clauses
- Imperative-declarative combinations

This classification enabled the study to identify the distribution of clause types and their role in structuring interpersonal meaning within the translated text.

3.6. Identification of Linguistic Features Related to Readability

Each clause was subsequently examined to determine the presence of three linguistic features associated with readability.

3.7. Syntactic Simplicity

Clauses were categorized as syntactically simple when they exhibited canonical clause patterns, minimal syntactic embedding, and relatively short structural length. Such constructions reduce cognitive processing load and facilitate immediate comprehension.

3.8. Lexical Familiarity

Lexical familiarity refers to the use of commonly recognized Indonesian vocabulary, particularly words that are culturally embedded within Islamic discourse. Clauses containing high-frequency lexical items familiar to Indonesian readers were classified under this category.

3.9. Semantic Explicitness

Semantic explicitness was identified when logical relations such as causality, condition, contrast, or explanation were explicitly expressed within the clause through overt markers or explanatory phrases. Explicit semantic relations reduce inferential effort and improve reader comprehension.

3.10. Readability Assessment

The readability of each clause was evaluated using Nababan's Translation Quality Assessment readability scale. The scale categorizes readability into three levels:

Table:

Score	Readability Level	Description
3	High readability	The clause is easily understood and can be processed in a single reading without additional explanation.
2	Medium readability	The clause is generally understandable but may require rereading or minor clarification.
1	Low readability	The clause is difficult to understand and requires significant interpretation.

The readability evaluation focused exclusively on linguistic accessibility rather than theological interpretation in order to maintain analytical consistency.

3.11. Coding Procedure

All clauses were coded manually and recorded in a structured dataset that included clause number,

chapter reference, clause type, and linguistic features associated with readability. This coding framework enabled systematic comparison across clause types and facilitated quantitative description of linguistic patterns contributing to readability.

3.12. Reliability of Analysis

To ensure the reliability of the readability assessment, the evaluation process involved two independent raters with expertise in translation studies and Indonesian linguistics. Each rater independently evaluated the readability of the clauses using Nababan's three-level readability scale. The results were then compared to identify potential discrepancies. In cases where differences occurred, the raters discussed the evaluation until consensus was reached. This procedure helped minimize subjective bias and ensured consistency in the readability classification.

3.13. Analytical Validity

Analytical validity was ensured through theoretical triangulation by integrating Translation Quality Assessment and Systemic Functional Linguistics frameworks. The combination of these two analytical perspectives allowed cross-verification of linguistic patterns associated with readability,

thereby strengthening the interpretive robustness of the findings.

3.14. Ethical Consideration

This study analyzed publicly available Qur'anic translations and did not involve human participants or personal data. Therefore, formal ethical approval was not required. Nevertheless, the research was conducted with respect for the Qur'an as a sacred text, and the analysis was limited strictly to linguistic and translation-related aspects without theological reinterpretation.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Distribution of Clause Types

Following the analytical procedure described in the methodology, all clauses extracted from the selected Qur'anic chapters were first classified according to their Mood type within the Systemic Functional Linguistics framework. The segmentation process produced a corpus of 427 clauses, which were categorized into declarative, imperative, interrogative, and imperative-declarative structures.

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Table 1 presents the distribution of clause types in the dataset.

Table 1: Distribution of Clause Types

Clause Type	Number of Clauses	Percentage (%)
Declarative	372	87.12
Imperative	32	7.49
Interrogative	18	4.22
Imperative + Declarative	5	1.17
Total	427	100.00

The results indicate that declarative clauses dominate the translated text, accounting for 87.12% of the corpus, while imperative clauses represent 7.49% and interrogative clauses 4.22%. Clauses combining imperative and declarative elements constitute a small proportion of the data, representing 1.17% of the dataset. 2026.03. Readability of the Ind...

Declarative clauses appear consistently across the analyzed chapters. Examples include "Segala puji bagi Allah, Tuhan seluruh alam" (QS Al-Fātiḥah: 2) and "Sesungguhnya Kami menghidupkan orang-orang mati" (QS Yāsīn: 12), which present theological statements through straightforward clause structures. Imperative clauses occur primarily in contexts of supplication or exhortation, as illustrated by "Tunjukilah kami jalan yang lurus" (QS Al-Fātiḥah: 6) and "Maka bertasbihlah dengan (menyebut) nama Tuhanmu Yang Mahabesar" (QS

Al-Wāqī'ah: 95). Interrogative clauses appear mainly in rhetorical contexts, such as "Apakah Dia yang menciptakan itu tidak mengetahui?" (QS Al-Mulk: 14), where questioning structures are explicitly marked.

Although relatively rare, hybrid clauses combining imperative and declarative structures also occur. An example is "Katakanlah: Kebenaran itu datang dari Tuhanmu" (QS Al-Kahf: 29), where the imperative form *katakanlah* introduces a declarative statement conveying doctrinal meaning.

4.2. Linguistic Features Supporting Readability

The next stage of analysis examined the presence of three linguistic features associated with readability: syntactic simplicity, lexical familiarity, and semantic explicitness. Each clause was evaluated according to these criteria.

Table 2: Distribution of Linguistic Features Contributing to Readability

Linguistic Feature	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Syntactic Simplicity	386	90.40
Lexical Familiarity	398	93.21
Semantic Explicitness	314	73.54

The results show that lexical familiarity is the most frequent feature, occurring in 93.21% of clauses, followed by syntactic simplicity (90.40%) and semantic explicitness (73.54%).

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Syntactic simplicity is reflected in clauses that maintain canonical clause patterns and minimal structural embedding. For example, "Dan kamu menjadi tiga golongan" (QS Al-Wāqī'ah: 7) demonstrates a linear clause structure that is easily processed by readers.

Lexical familiarity appears through the use of culturally embedded Indonesian vocabulary commonly associated with Islamic discourse. Clauses such as "Dengan nama Allah Yang Maha Pengasih, Maha Penyayang" (QS Al-Fātiḥah: 1) employ lexical

items that are widely recognized by Indonesian readers.

Semantic explicitness occurs when logical relations are overtly expressed through explicit markers or explanatory structures. For instance, the clause "Sesungguhnya urusan-Nya apabila Dia menghendaki sesuatu hanyalah berkata kepadanya, 'Jadilah!' maka jadilah ia" (QS Yāsin: 82) clearly expresses causal relations through sequential expressions.

4.3. Readability Assessment

Based on Nababan's Translation Quality Assessment readability scale, each clause was evaluated according to its level of linguistic accessibility.

Table 3: Readability Distribution

Readability Level	Number of Clauses	Percentage (%)
High (Score 3)	427	100
Medium (Score 2)	0	0
Low (Score 1)	0	0

All 427 clauses received a readability score of 3, indicating that the translated clauses are generally easy to understand and can be processed in a single reading without requiring additional explanation.

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This uniform distribution reflects the consistent presence of the linguistic features identified earlier, particularly syntactic simplicity and lexical familiarity, which characterize the majority of clauses in the dataset.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1. Functional Interpretation of Clause Distribution

The results demonstrate that readability in the Indonesian translation of the Qur'an is closely associated with the predominance of declarative clause structures. From the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), declarative clauses represent the unmarked Mood type typically used to present information in discourse. Because declaratives generally follow predictable Subject-Finite configurations, they enable readers to process propositional meaning with relatively low cognitive effort (Tao, 2024). The overwhelming presence of declarative clauses in the corpus therefore indicates that the translation prioritizes informational clarity

and linear discourse organization.

This structural tendency is particularly relevant in the context of religious translation, where texts are intended to be understood by readers with varying levels of linguistic and theological expertise (Hasyim et al., 2025). By employing declarative clauses as the dominant grammatical form, the translation organizes doctrinal statements in ways that facilitate immediate comprehension. Similar patterns have been identified in studies of Qur'anic translation that report a preference for unmarked clause structures in order to improve textual accessibility for general readers (Ismail Hamdani, 2025). The distribution observed in this study therefore reflects a broader tendency in religious translation toward prioritizing communicative clarity through structurally transparent clause patterns.

5.2. Linguistic Strategies Producing Readability

Beyond clause distribution, the findings indicate that readability in the Indonesian Qur'an translation emerges from coordinated linguistic strategies involving syntactic simplicity, lexical familiarity, and semantic explicitness (Afonso et al., 2022). These features correspond closely to the readability criteria proposed in Nababan's Translation Quality Assessment framework, which defines highly

readable translations as texts that can be understood easily and processed in a single reading without requiring additional explanation.

Syntactic simplicity plays a crucial role in reducing cognitive processing load. Clauses that maintain canonical grammatical patterns with minimal syntactic embedding allow readers to identify relationships between subjects, processes, and complements more efficiently (Nababan, 2025). In discourse terms, linear clause structures support clearer Theme–Rheme progression, which contributes to the smooth flow of information across the translated text.

Lexical familiarity further strengthens readability by expressing theological meanings through widely recognized Indonesian vocabulary. Many lexical items used in the translation correspond to culturally embedded religious terminology familiar to Indonesian Muslim readers (Bhavsar et al., 2021). Previous readability research has shown that familiar lexical items significantly enhance comprehension by reducing the interpretive effort required to process specialized concepts (Zainul, 2025). In the context of Qur'anic translation, such lexical choices enable complex theological ideas to be communicated through accessible linguistic forms.

Semantic explicitness also contributes to readability by making logical relations between propositions overt. Qur'anic discourse often contains condensed expressions, rhetorical ellipsis, and metaphorical structures that may require contextual inference (Kussemiarti et al., 2025). By rendering these relations explicitly in translation, the Indonesian text reduces the inferential burden placed on readers and clarifies causal or explanatory relationships within the discourse. This strategy corresponds to what translation scholars describe as explicitation, a common phenomenon in translated texts that enhances clarity and communicative effectiveness.

Taken together, these three linguistic features function as complementary mechanisms that support reader comprehension (You, 2023). The high frequency of syntactic simplicity, lexical familiarity, and semantic explicitness observed in the dataset therefore suggests that readability in the Indonesian Qur'an translation is not merely a stylistic property but the result of systematic linguistic choices operating across grammatical and lexical levels.

5.3. Implications for Qur'anic Translation Studies

The findings of this study also provide insights into the broader dynamics of Qur'anic translation. The Indonesian translation analyzed in this research was produced under the authority of the Ministry of

Religious Affairs, which has historically emphasized accessibility and pedagogical usability in its translation policies (Y. Chen, 2023). The linguistic patterns identified in this study – particularly the use of linear clause structures, familiar vocabulary, and explicit semantic relations – suggest that readability has been intentionally prioritized in the translation process.

Such tendencies toward accessibility are consistent with previous research indicating that institutional translations often aim to balance doctrinal fidelity with communicative clarity in order to reach a wider readership (Rachman, 2025). By adopting linguistically transparent structures, the Indonesian translation enables readers to understand complex theological content without requiring extensive interpretive guidance.

However, increasing readability may also involve certain stylistic trade-offs. The Qur'an is characterized by rhetorical density, metaphorical imagery, and rhythmic structures that contribute to its distinctive literary style (Kholifah et al., 2024). When translations simplify clause structures or clarify implicit meanings, some aspects of this rhetorical complexity may become less prominent. This observation supports earlier arguments that translators of sacred texts must continuously negotiate between preserving stylistic richness and ensuring reader accessibility.

5.4. Theoretical Contribution and Research Limitations

The present study contributes to translation studies by demonstrating that readability in religious translation can be explained through functional linguistic mechanisms rather than being treated solely as a stylistic outcome (Zao & Zhang, 2025). By integrating Translation Quality Assessment with Systemic Functional Linguistics, the study provides a framework for analyzing how clause structure, lexical choice, and semantic organization jointly produce readability in translated discourse. This integrative perspective helps bridge the gap between translation quality assessment models and functional linguistic analysis.

Despite these contributions, several limitations should be acknowledged. First, the study focuses on a limited selection of Qur'anic chapters that are frequently recited in devotional contexts (Aioanei et al., 2026). Although this corpus provides valuable insights into commonly encountered passages, it may not represent the full range of stylistic variation found across the entire Qur'an. Second, the analysis concentrates primarily on linguistic readability and does not address other dimensions of translation quality such as semantic accuracy or cultural

acceptability (Metwally et al., 2024). Future research may extend this framework by analyzing additional chapters, comparing multiple Qur'anic translations, or incorporating complementary translation quality criteria to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of religious translation.

6. CONCLUSION

This study examined the readability of the Indonesian translation of the Qur'an by integrating Nababan's Translation Quality Assessment framework with Systemic Functional Linguistics, particularly the Mood system. The analysis of 427 clauses from seven frequently recited Qur'anic chapters demonstrates that readability in the Indonesian translation is systematically supported by specific linguistic patterns rather than occurring as an incidental stylistic feature. The results show that declarative clauses dominate the corpus, providing structurally transparent and informationally clear clause patterns that facilitate reader comprehension. In addition to clause distribution, the findings reveal that readability is reinforced by three key linguistic features: syntactic simplicity, lexical familiarity, and semantic explicitness. Syntactic simplicity allows readers to process clause structures efficiently through canonical grammatical patterns, while lexical familiarity ensures that theological concepts are expressed through vocabulary that is widely recognized within Indonesian Islamic discourse. Semantic explicitness further contributes to comprehension by making logical relations within the text overt, thereby reducing the inferential effort required to interpret condensed or metaphorical expressions.

From a theoretical perspective, the study

demonstrates that readability in religious translation can be explained through functional linguistic mechanisms operating across clause structure, lexical selection, and semantic organization. By integrating Translation Quality Assessment with Systemic Functional Linguistics, this research provides a framework for understanding how translation readability emerges from coordinated linguistic strategies rather than from isolated stylistic decisions. Despite these contributions, the study is limited to a selected set of Qur'anic chapters and focuses primarily on linguistic readability. Future research may expand the scope of analysis by examining additional chapters, comparing multiple Qur'anic translations across languages, or integrating other dimensions of translation quality such as accuracy and acceptability. Such investigations would provide a more comprehensive understanding of how translation strategies shape the accessibility and interpretation of sacred texts.

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8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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