



**Pemahaman Intertekstual dalam Kitab Pengkhotbah - Studi Terjemahan Bahasa Inggris
oleh Mahasiswa Teologi dan Pendapat Masyarakat**

*Intertextual Understanding in the Book of Ecclesiastes - An English Translation Study by
Theology Students and Public Opinion*

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Abstract: *This study aims to investigate the intertextual understanding of Ecclesiastes in English by theology students and the opinions of the general public. The main focus of this research is to understand how students can read and understand the Bible, especially the Book of Ecclesiastes, in English. In addition, this study also seeks to explain how students and the community can form active communication and discussions regarding intertextual understanding. In addition, this research aims to explore how Christians in Jakarta, especially in suburban areas such as Bekasi, Depok, Tangerang, and Bogor, view the presence of Christian theology students in contributing to society. The research method used in this study involved opinion surveys and interviews with theology students and the general public. Theology students will be asked to read and understand the book of Ecclesiastes in English translation, while their opinions and responses will be collected through surveys and interviews. Opinions from the general public will be collected through a survey which will be disseminated in various areas of Jakarta, especially in the suburbs. The collected data will be analyzed qualitatively to identify the main patterns and findings in intertextual understanding and perceptions of the contribution of Christian theology students in society. This research is expected to provide practical benefits in increasing understanding of the Bible in English, especially the Book of Ecclesiastes, as well as strengthening active communication and discussion in intertextual understanding. In addition, the results of this study can strengthen the relationship between Christian theology students and the community, especially in the Jakarta area, by demonstrating their contribution to service and positive contributions to society.*

Keywords: *intertextual, book of ecclesiastes, biblical study*

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menyelidiki pemahaman intertekstual dalam Kitab Pengkhotbah dalam bahasa Inggris oleh mahasiswa teologi serta pendapat masyarakat umum. Fokus utama penelitian ini adalah untuk memahami bagaimana mahasiswa dapat membaca dan memahami Alkitab, khususnya Kitab Pengkhotbah, dalam bahasa Inggris. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga berusaha untuk menjelaskan bagaimana mahasiswa dan masyarakat dapat membentuk komunikasi aktif dan diskusi mengenai pemahaman intertekstual. Selain itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggali bagaimana orang-orang Kristen di Jakarta, terutama di wilayah pinggiran seperti Bekasi, Depok, Tangerang, dan Bogor, melihat kehadiran mahasiswa teologi Kristen dalam berkontribusi terhadap masyarakat. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini

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melibatkan survei pendapat dan wawancara terhadap mahasiswa teologi serta masyarakat umum. Mahasiswa teologi akan diminta untuk membaca dan memahami Kitab Pengkhotbah dalam terjemahan bahasa Inggris, sementara pendapat dan tanggapan mereka akan dikumpulkan melalui survei dan wawancara. Pendapat masyarakat umum akan dikumpulkan melalui survei yang akan disebarluaskan di berbagai wilayah Jakarta, terutama di wilayah pinggiran. Data yang terkumpul akan dianalisis secara kualitatif untuk mengidentifikasi pola dan temuan utama dalam pemahaman intertekstual dan persepsi terhadap kontribusi mahasiswa teologi Kristen dalam masyarakat. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan manfaat praktis dalam meningkatkan pemahaman Alkitab dalam bahasa Inggris, khususnya Kitab Pengkhotbah, serta memperkuat komunikasi dan diskusi yang aktif dalam pemahaman intertekstual. Selain itu, hasil penelitian ini dapat memperkuat hubungan antara mahasiswa teologi Kristen dengan masyarakat, khususnya di wilayah Jakarta, dengan menunjukkan kontribusi mereka dalam pelayanan dan kontribusi positif bagi masyarakat.

Kata kunci: intertekstual, kitab gerejawi, penelaahan Alkitab

INTRODUCTION

Currently, many researchers are conducting community service research entitled Intertextual Insights. The background of this research arises from the understanding that the Book of Ecclesiastes is a part of the Bible that has its own characteristics. This book contains philosophical thoughts and life experiences written by Ecclesiastes regarding the meaning of life and the search for happiness. In studying Ecclesiastes, it is important for students of Theology to be able to understand this text in English, the international language that is widely used in academic circles¹. Mastering English and being able to understand Ecclesiastes in that language will be of great benefit to students of Theology. They will be able to access various translations and comments on the Book of Ecclesiastes that have been developed by theological scholars. Intertextual understanding, namely the ability to connect the text of Ecclesiastes with the wider theological context in the Bible, is also an important aspect that needs attention.

In addition, through this research, the author want to see how students and the community can establish active communication and in-depth discussions about intertextual understanding. This discussion will involve various parties, including theology students, lecturers, and the Christian community in Jakarta. With an open communication forum, it is hoped that understanding of the Book of Ecclesiastes can be enriched and broadened, as well as encouraging deeper reflection and growth of faith². Seeing the contribution of Christian Theology students in society is another

¹ ISABELLE LÉGLISE and BETTINA MIGGE, "Language-Naming Practices, Ideologies, and Linguistic Practices: Toward a Comprehensive Description of Language Varieties," *Lang. Soc* 35, no. 3 (2006): 313–339.

² John Van Seters, "The Edited Bible," in *The Edited Bible* (Penn State University Press, 2021).

important aspect that the researcher want to examine. Jakarta, as the densely populated capital city of Indonesia, has various social problems and challenges. Through this research, the researcher would like to highlight how Christian Theology students, especially in suburban areas of Jakarta such as Bekasi, Depok, Tangerang and Bogor, can contribute in solving social problems and providing moral and spiritual enlightenment to society. This research is expected to provide new insights regarding intertextual understanding in the Book of Ecclesiastes by Christian Theology students and how they contribute to society. Through a deep understanding of the book of Ecclesiastes in English and active communication with the community, Theology students can become agents of positive change in building a society based on Christian values.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach and a participatory approach in examining intertextual understanding in the Book of Ecclesiastes by Theology students and the views of society³. First, a literature study is carried out to gain a deep understanding of the intertextual understanding in the Book of Ecclesiastes and relevant theories. Relevant literature sources were identified and analyzed to obtain a strong theoretical basis in this study. Furthermore, primary data was obtained through in-depth interviews with Theology students who have experience in studying the Book of Ecclesiastes in English⁴. This interview was conducted using an interview guide that had been prepared previously. Theology students were interviewed to understand their challenges, strategies, and experiences in reading and understanding the Book of Ecclesiastes in English. These interviews were recorded and then analyzed to identify patterns and themes related to intertextual understanding. In addition, secondary data was also obtained through participatory observation in communication and discussion activities between students and the community related to intertextual understanding. This observation was carried out with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of how students and the public communicate and discuss intertextual understanding in the Book of Ecclesiastes. During the observation, detailed field notes were taken to support data analysis.

³ Yvonne Darlington and Dorothy Scott, *Qualitative Research in Practice: Stories from the Field* (Routledge, 2020).

⁴ Kenneth L Barker et al., *NIV Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2020).

Data obtained from interviews and participatory observation were analyzed qualitatively. Interview transcripts and observation notes were analyzed using a thematic approach to identify patterns, themes, and concepts related to intertextual understanding in Ecclesiastes. In addition, a comparative analysis was also carried out on the various English translations of the Book of Ecclesiastes used by Theology students. This comparison aims to understand the variations and differences in intertextual understanding that may occur due to the use of different translations. The findings from the data analysis are then interpreted in depth. The themes, concepts, and patterns that emerge are analyzed and interpreted according to the research objectives. The intertextual understanding of Ecclesiastes by Theology students and their attempts at reading and understanding in English are explored and interpreted carefully.

This research also includes the views of the community regarding intertextual understanding in the Book of Ecclesiastes and the contribution of Theology students in society. Data from participatory observations and interviews with the community were analyzed and interpreted to understand their perspectives and see how the community could see the presence of Theology students in their contribution to society ⁵. Overall, this study uses a qualitative approach and a participatory approach to examine intertextual understanding in the Book of Ecclesiastes by Theology students and the views of society. This method allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of the challenges, strategies, and contributions of Theology students in understanding the Book of Ecclesiastes in English, as well as seeing a societal perspective regarding the intertextual understanding and contribution of Theology students in society.

RESULTS

The results of this study indicate that intertextual understanding in Bible studies, particularly the Book of Ecclesiastes, by Theology students has significant implications. Through an emphasis on the study of English translations, this research provides insight into students' efforts to read and understand the Book of Ecclesiastes in a foreign language. Theology students face challenges in reading and understanding the Book of Ecclesiastes in English. Their limited English skills, the complexity of the language of Ecclesiastes, and differences in cultural contexts are obstacles that need to be overcome. However, with the right guidance and strategies, students are able to

⁵ Jason Andrew Leader, "How Christologies May Be Shaped by the Broader Visual Cultural Environment" (ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2010).

overcome these challenges and improve their understanding of intertextual texts. Active interaction and discussion between students and the community is an important factor in deepening intertextual understanding⁶. Through group discussions, forums, or community meetings, students can share their understanding, exchange opinions, and complement each other in interpreting the Book of Ecclesiastes. This active communication allows them to see the relationship between Ecclesiastes and other texts in the Bible and gain a richer perspective.

Through active participation in society, Theology students can make a meaningful contribution. People in Jakarta, especially those who are Christians and live in suburbs, such as Bekasi, Depok, Tangerang and Bogor, can see the presence of Theology students as a source of knowledge and inspiration. Students can be involved in various social activities, such as church services, social services, religious teaching, and the like, which can improve the quality of life of the local community. This research shows the importance of intertextual understanding in Bible studies, especially in the context of Ecclesiastes. Theology students need to be given proper education and guidance to read and understand the Book of Ecclesiastes in English. Active communication and discussion between students and the community also need to be encouraged so that intertextual understanding can develop⁷. In addition, the presence of Theology students in society can be seen as a valuable contribution, especially by Christians in Jakarta, especially in the suburbs.

In addition, the results of this study reveal that intertextual understanding in the study of the Book of Ecclesiastes has a significant impact on society, students, and Bible preachers in general. Intertextual understanding in the Book of Ecclesiastes enriches the general understanding of society, especially those who are Christians in Jakarta and its surroundings. Through the study of English translations, this research helps people to interpret and relate the Book of Ecclesiastes to other texts in the Bible. This allows them to see deeper messages and embrace a wider perspective in understanding the Bible. Theology students have an important role in helping people understand and apply the intertextual understanding in the Book of Ecclesiastes.

⁶ Maria-Eireini Panagiotidou, "Intertextuality and Literary Reading: A Cognitive Poetic Approach" (July 12, 2012).

⁷ Angela Choi Fung Tam, "The Role of a Professional Learning Community in Teacher Change: A Perspective from Beliefs and Practices," *Teachers and Teaching* 21, no. 1 (2015): 22–43.

Through active communication and discussion with the community, students can share their knowledge about the intertextuality of the Bible, explain complex concepts, and provide deeper interpretations. Thus, they can become a source of inspiration and guidance for the public in understanding the message of the Book of Ecclesiastes more holistically.

This research shows that having an intertextual understanding in Ecclesiastes can increase discussion and communication between students and the community. Through forums, study groups, and community meetings, students can initiate active dialogue about intertextual understanding⁸. This creates an environment that encourages the exchange of ideas, shared reflection, and a deeper understanding of the message contained in the Book of Ecclesiastes. This research shows that the intertextual understanding in the study of Ecclesiastes contributes to the general understanding of the Bible community, students, and preachers. Theology students have an important role in helping people understand and apply this intertextual understanding. With the existence of intertextual understanding, active discussion and communication are formed between students and the community. This makes a valuable contribution to the spiritual development and understanding of the Bible in the Christian community in Jakarta and its surroundings.

DISCUSSION

This research discusses the importance of intertextual understanding in the study of Ecclesiastes in the minds of the public, students, and Bible students in general. Following are some important discussions related to this research:

First, the intertextual understanding of the Book of Ecclesiastes among the people has a significant impact. Through this understanding, people can relate the messages in the Book of Ecclesiastes with other Bible texts. This allows them to gain a deeper and more comprehensive insight into the meaning and purpose contained in the Book of Ecclesiastes. In addition, intertextual understanding enriches people's perceptions of the themes and issues raised in the Book of Ecclesiastes, giving them a broader perspective to contemplate the meaning of life and human existence.

Second, for students, intertextual understanding in the study of Ecclesiastes helps them to deepen their understanding and interpretation of biblical texts. Through research and study of the English translation of the Book of Ecclesiastes, students can explore and compare the text with the

⁸ Myles Munroe, *Understanding the Purpose and Power of Men* (Whitaker House, 2017).

original language versions and other Bible texts. Intertextual understanding also broadens their understanding of the relationship between Ecclesiastes and the broader historical, cultural, and theological context. This enables students to develop a more critical and in-depth perspective in understanding and applying the messages of the Book of Ecclesiastes in everyday life.

Third, it is important for students and the community to establish active communication and discussion regarding the intertextual understanding of the Book of Ecclesiastes. Through study group meetings, discussion forums, or even activities at church, students can share their knowledge and understanding with fellow students and community members. This creates a space for shared reflection, exchange of ideas, and in-depth dialogue on themes and messages in Ecclesiastes. In this context, it is important for students to become facilitators of discussions that encourage active participation and mutual learning between community members.

In conclusion, the intertextual understanding of Ecclesiastes has had a significant impact on society, students, and Bible students in general. This understanding gives people a broader and deeper perspective on the messages in Ecclesiastes. For students, intertextual understanding helps them deepen their understanding and interpretation of biblical texts. Active communication and discussion among students and the community also plays an important role in enriching this understanding. Thus, this study underscores the importance of intertextual understanding in the study of Ecclesiastes in society and in academic circles.

CONCLUSION

This research resulted in several important conclusions regarding intertextual studies in the Book of Ecclesiastes in the minds of the general public, students, and Bible students in general, as well as understanding of the intertextual study of the Bible, especially the Book of Ecclesiastes. This research reveals that the intertextual study in Ecclesiastes has a significant impact in enriching the understanding of the Bible in English. Communication and active discussion are very important in expanding this understanding among students and the community. In addition, Christian theology students have great potential to make meaningful contributions to society through understanding and applying the values of the Book of Ecclesiastes. Thus, this study emphasizes the importance of intertextual understanding and the role of theology students in developing a deeper understanding of the Bible and applying Bible teachings in the context of everyday life.

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