



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

Section: *Literature, Linguistics & Criticism***Mapping the current development of Arabic stylistics research in Indonesia: A bibliometric analysis**Saila Fadhila Ulfa<sup>1</sup>, Dian Puspita Sari Habib<sup>2</sup>, Alifia Zahratul Adha<sup>2</sup>, Intifa Fadhillah<sup>2</sup>, Rahmat<sup>3</sup>, Ilham Ramadhan<sup>3</sup>, Fitria Susan Meliyana<sup>4</sup>, Muhtarul Alif<sup>2</sup>, Muhammad Fadhil Syahridho<sup>2</sup>, Azhar Ismail Hasibuan<sup>2\*</sup>, Luthfi Zain<sup>2</sup> & Nurjanah<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia<sup>2</sup>Department of Qur'anic Studies and Tafsir, PTIQ University, Jakarta, Indonesia<sup>3</sup>Department of Humanities Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta Indonesia<sup>4</sup>Center for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies (CRCS), Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta Indonesia\*Correspondence: [azharismailhasibuan@gmail.com](mailto:azharismailhasibuan@gmail.com)**ABSTRACT**

This study aims to analyze the development of Arabic stylistics research, including those related to the Qur'an in Indonesia and identify trends in research topics published in Indonesian journals accredited by Sinta and indexed by Scopus. The urgency of this research lies in the indication of stagnation in Arabic stylistics studies in Indonesia, where emerging research themes tend to be repetitive and have not shown significant diversity or innovation. This study analyzes previous publications related to Arabic stylistics that have been published in Sinta-accredited and Scopus-indexed journals in Indonesia. Data were collected through Publish or Perish, Google Scholar, Scopus, and Semantic Scholar databases, with source limitations in the form of journals accredited by Sinta 1 to 6 and journals indexed by Scopus within the publication period of 2015–2024. The analysis was conducted using a bibliometric approach. Based on the search results, there are 113 articles related to Arabic stylistics consisting of 112 articles from Sinta journals and 1 article from Scopus journals. Data collection was carried out using Zotero. Data processing was carried out using VOSviewer to obtain data visualization results. Microsoft Excel was used to generate graphical visuals. The results show that research in Arabic stylistics in Indonesian journals experienced fluctuating developments between 2015 and 2024. Three main topic clusters emerged as trending topics: rhetorical stylistics, linguistic stylistics, and literary stylistics. From the visualization of Arabic stylistics research topics, this field is primarily used for theoretical applications and has not yet explored multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary studies.

**KEYWORDS:** Arabic rhetorics, Arabic stylistics, bibliometrics, research development**Research Journal in Advanced Humanities**

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## Introduction

The phenomenon of the development of Arabic language research in Indonesia in the last two decades has shown a significant increase, especially in the realm of linguistic studies (Safrudin et al., 2024, p. 323). However, surprisingly, most research still focuses on traditional aspects such as grammar (*nahwu-sharf*), semantics, or translation, while stylistic studies (*al-uslūbiyyah*), which are truly capable of revealing the depth of meaning of texts, are left behind and receive less serious attention. In fact, stylistics as a branch of linguistics functions to reveal the beauty, style, and uniqueness of texts, especially Arabic literary texts and the Qur'an, which cannot be reached by grammatical analysis alone. The absence of dominant stylistic research in Indonesia raises an academic problem: the gap between the very rich potential of study objects (classical, modern, and contemporary Arabic literature) and the relatively limited attention of researchers to stylistic approaches.

Stylistics, as the science of language style, studies the characteristics of language use in speech, variations in language style between individuals, and analyzes how a discourse text can be enjoyed by readers. Stylistics is closely related to the study of linguistics, although the two have different scopes. Ferdinand de Saussure divided the dimensions of language into two: *langue* and *parole*. *Langue* refers to the linguistic system consisting of the rules and norms that apply in a language, while *parole* is language in practice, namely the speech used by speakers. Simply put, linguistics focuses on *langue*, while stylistics focuses more on *parole* (Qalyubi, 2017, p. 64).

In the context of this research, Arabic stylistics refers to the stylistic study of Arabic texts, or Arabic stylistic theory applied to non-Arabic texts. Syihabuddin Qalyubi asserted that there is no significant difference between Arabic and non-Arabic stylistics other than the object of study. However, Arabic stylistics developed on the basis of *hadārah al-nash* (textual civilization), because from the beginning it cannot be separated from the science of Balaghah and the spirit of interpreting the Qur'an. Meanwhile, non-Arabic stylistics developed from *hadārah al-fikr* (thought civilization) (Qalyubi, 2010, p. 8).

Arabic stylistics was born from the roots of Balaghah science. Long before the emergence of modern Western linguists' thoughts on the concept of style, classical Arabic linguists had already studied the concept of style with the objects of study being the Qur'an, poetry, and speeches. Ibn Qutaibah (9th century AD) with his book *Ta'wil Musykil al-Qur'an*, al-Khattabi (10th century AD) with his book *Bayan I'jaz al-Qur'an*, and al-Baqillani (10th century AD) whose concept of style is similar to the concept put forward by Comte de Buffon (18th century AD) namely *le style est l'homme meme* (style is the person himself) (Qalyubi, 2017, pp. 8–9). This indicates that classical Arabic rhetoric truly understands modern stylistics, and discusses various standards of its study. Abdul Qahir al-Jurjani in his book *Dalail I'jaz* describes *al-uslub* (style) as rhythm and structure (Al-Jurjani, 1992, p. 469), and this is closely related to what is meant by stylistics in the modern era.

Over time, a number of linguistic scholars have come to view Arabic stylistics as distinct from the science of Balaghah. Arabic stylistics (*ilm al-Uslub* or *Uslubiyyah*) has been more influenced by Western stylistics in its historical development. The expressive stylistic thinking developed by Charles Bally has begun to be adopted and incorporated into Arabic stylistic studies, translated as *Uslubiyyatu al-Ta'bir* (Saloini, 2024, p. 6). Thus, and many more developments in Western stylistic studies were translated into Arabic terms. Despite differences of opinion regarding the scope of Arabic stylistic studies and the science of Balaghah, Qalyubi views Arabic stylistics as the modern science of Balaghah (Qalyubi, 2017, p. 34). This is similar to Ratna's opinion which states that stylistics is modern rhetoric which is rooted in Aristotle's rhetoric (Ratna, 2007, p. 235).

In the Indonesian context, Arabic stylistic research is starting to gain attention through the works of academics such as Zubair in his book, "*Stilistika Arab: Studi Ayat-Ayat Pernikahan dalam Al-Qur'an*" (Arabic Stylistics: Study of Marriage Verses in the Al-Qur'an), and Syihabuddin Qalyubi in "*Ilm al-Uslūb: Stilistika Bahasa dan Sastra Arab*" (*Ilm al-Uslūb: Stylistics of Arabic Language and Literature*). The presence of these books is considered to provide a new color for the development of Arabic stylistic studies in Indonesia (Hidayat, 2022, p. 112), although in general the trend in stylistic research is still considered stagnant and not developing (Ratna, 2009, p. 38). Qalyubi's stylistic study of the Qur'an since his thesis and dissertation (*Stilistika al-Qur'an: Makna di Balik Kisah Ibrahim*) using the *khams mustawayāt* approach (five levels of stylistic analysis) became an important milestone that later gave birth to similar research (Hidayat, 2022, p. 113), for example; the thesis about Stylistics of the Story of Maryam in the Qur'an (Maryam, 2019, p. 6) and Amrulloh & Ikhwan's article entitled "Stylistic of the Qur'an: Reading the Story of Sulaiman" (Amrulloh & Ikhwan, 2021, p. 17). Thus, it

can be said that the presence of Qalyubi's works not only enriched Arabic stylistic literature in Indonesia, but also became a trigger for the development of a more intensive tradition of stylistic research on the Qur'an.

Further developments show that there is a cross-influence between Indonesian stylistic concepts (for example Gorys Keraf and Nurgiyantoro) and Arabic text analysis (Hidayat, 2022, pp. 116–117). Indonesian stylistic research extends to Arabic literary works such as poetry, novels, and short stories, as well as non-literary works. For example, Mutmainah used Gorys Keraf's Indonesian stylistic concepts to uncover President Mahmoud Abbas's style of speaking at the 76th UN session (Mutmainah, 2022, p. 199). One of the articles attempts to conduct a multidisciplinary study, namely cosmolinguistics in the study of the Qur'an, namely a combination of cosmology and linguistics with a stylistic approach (Mustaqim & Supriyadi, 2022, p. 83). However, a search of Indonesian journals shows that the majority of stylistic research is still applicative: limited to applying theory to text. Compared to journals in Arab countries, for example, discussions on Arabic stylistics are more varied and developed, encompassing theoretical, historical, comparative, theoretical, and multidisciplinary studies. Amal Hussien researches using a multidisciplinary approach, combining stylistics and psychology to understand the psychological condition of Jamal ibn Muammar through one of his literature works (Hussien, 2024, pp. 81–94). Another study written by Abd El Sattar Ali attempts to expand the object of analysis of Arabic stylistic studies towards modern texts, namely the phenomenon of journalistic language on the theme of health investigations (Abd El sattar Ali, 2025, p. 363).

To understand the developmental patterns and identify gaps in Arabic stylistics research in Indonesia, a comprehensive study of the trends and directions of research in this field is necessary. To date, no research has been found that specifically maps the distribution and trends of Arabic stylistics research in Indonesia using a bibliometric approach. Yet, such an analysis is crucial as a starting point for formulating the direction of future stylistics studies. The article that most closely addresses the development of Arabic stylistics in Indonesia is Moh. Wakhid Hidayat's article "*Membaca Ilmu Uslub: Stilistika Bahasa dan Sastra Arab dalam Khasanah Stilistika di Indonesia*" (Reading Uslub Science: Arabic Language and Literature Stylistics in the Indonesian Stylistics Treasury) in the book *Refleksi Kajian Bahasa, Sastra, dan Budaya* (Hidayat, 2022, p. 111). However, the focus of this research is limited to the contribution of Syihabuddin Qalyubi through the work of *‘Ilm al-Uslūb* to the development of stylistics in Indonesia. This means that this research does not yet provide a comprehensive picture of the maps, distribution and trends of Arabic stylistic research that has been carried out, so there is still a blank space that needs to be filled.

Thus, this study attempts to examine the development of Arabic stylistics research in Indonesia using bibliometric methods, thus identifying current Arabic stylistics research trends. Bibliometric research is still considered a relatively new field of study, although discussions on bibliometrics began in the 1950s. In the Arab context, bibliometric analysis has so far focused on research on the Qur'an, Arabic language education and teaching, and Arabic rhetoric and translation (Abdullah et al., nd; Aini & Shafie, 2024; Al Zahrawi et al., 2024; Farisha et al., 2023; Hafidh et al., 2023; Qobti & Almohaimeed, nd; Slamet Riyadi et al., 2024). The article entitled "Research Trends in Grammatical Arabic in the Arabic Language: A Bibliometric Review (1981-2023)" is one of the bibliometric articles that is closest to the theme of Arabic stylistics or Arabic linguistics, namely looking at research trends in Nahwu or Arabic grammar in the period from 1981 to 2023 (SDP Siregar et al., 2023). Furthermore, linguistic bibliometrics with the aim of learning Arabic has been studied by Ramadan Safruddin et al. who found as many as 26 publications indexed by Scopus between 2009 and 2024. The results of the study indicate that Indonesia occupies the top position in the number of publications, followed by Malaysia and Tunisia with a total of 11 publications. The identified research trends focus on the development of Arabic language learning, particularly on the themes of e-learning, bilingualism, and computational linguistics (Safrudin et al., 2024).

While no articles specifically analyzing Arabic stylistic bibliometrics have been found, discussions of Arabic stylistics have been conducted on several occasions within the context of linguistics, both Arabic and Qur'anic linguistics. For example, the article "Trends and Developments in Quranic Linguistic Research: A Bibliometric Analysis Based on Scopus Data" revealed a number of topic areas in Qur'an research that are included in the category of interest at the 'moderate' level, namely pragmatic analysis, discourse, linguistics, and stylistics (Aini & Shafie, 2024, pp. 18–19). Likewise in translation research (Al Zahrawi et al., 2024, p. 8), although the keyword stylistics is not directly related to translation, it is still related to the field of rhetoric as the main cluster

found in the bibliometric analysis of Arabic rhetoric.

This study is limited to data from journal articles indexed by Sinta and Scopus. This study also aims to identify the distribution of Arabic stylistics research in Indonesian journals. Furthermore, this article aims to uncover which journals publish the most articles on Arabic stylistics and which topics remain understudied in Arabic stylistics. In this regard, bibliometric research is crucial as it can serve as a reference for other researchers to develop stylistic studies in new directions. This will encourage the development of Arabic stylistics both in Indonesia and globally. Thus, the research question of this research is how is the development and distribution of Arabic stylistics research in Indonesian journals, and what are the trends in topics that are popular in Arabic stylistics publications in Indonesia?

## Methodology

### Research Design

This study employs bibliometric analysis method to examine the development of Arabic Stylistics research in Indonesia. Bibliometrics is a quantitative analysis method used to evaluate scientific literature, by analyzing publication patterns, citation frequencies, and authorship trends (İri & Ünal, 2024). Bibliometric analysis is a general and comprehensive analysis technique for looking at large amounts of scientific data (Md Din et al., 2023). This technique is used by many researchers to understand research dynamics, research developments on specific themes, identify research trends of interest, and can even be used to identify gaps and challenges in research (Al Zahrawi et al., 2024). Unlike SLR (Systematic Literature Review) analysis, bibliometric analysis does not require reading the entire text of an article. Bibliometrics focuses on publication trends and the relationships between articles based on metadata. Therefore, the research object, in the form of article data used in bibliometric research, tends to be large and broad. This is intended to gain a comprehensive overview of a particular topic, identify research gaps, generate new ideas for research, and contribute to a specific field of science (Donthu et al., 2021, p. 285).

The stages in bibliometric analysis are (1) identifying research objectives, (2) searching for literature data, (3) re-examining literature and metadata, (4) selecting bibliometric techniques, (5) data analysis process, (6) visualizing analysis results, and (7) interpreting and reporting analysis results (Passas, 2024). More specifically, the analysis stages can be summarized into four steps: identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion (Moher et al., 2009, p. 8). In other articles, the stages of the bibliometric analysis method used are (1) research topic and scope and choosing articles, (2) article screening, and (3) included articles (Yunita et al., 2024, p. 118). There are no significant differences in the stages of bibliometric analysis described above. In conclusion, bibliometric analysis requires a literature search, data processing, interpretation of results, and conclusions.

### Data Sources and Instruments

The data in this study consist of scientific journal articles collected from several academic databases, there are Publish or Perish, Google Scholar, Scopus, and Semantic Scholar. Data collection and management were conducted using Zotero as a reference management tool, while VOSviewer and Microsoft Excel were used as analytical and visualization instruments. The keyword in the article search included: “Stilistika Arab”, “Arabic Stylistics”, “Arabic Rhetoric”, “Ilm al-Uslub”, “Ilmu Uslub”, and “Uslubiyah”.

### Data Selection

Not all articles retrieved from the initial search were included as research data or samples. Therefore, a manual verification process was conducted to ensure the accreditation status of the journals and their relevance. The search results also indicated that several articles appeared in *Publish or Perish* but were not found in other databases. The data in this study were limited to articles indexed in Sinta 1 to 6 or Scopus, focusing on journals published in Indonesia within the publication period of 2015 to 2024. This time frame was selected as it reflects a significant development in Arabic stylistics studies in Indonesia. Meanwhile, only one article indexed in Scopus was found to be related to Arabic stylistics in Indonesia. From journals indexed in Sinta 1 to Sinta 6, retrieved through *Publish or Perish*, *Google Scholar*, and *Semantic Scholar*, a total of 112 articles were identified, bringing the overall number of articles analyzed in this study to 113.

## Data Analysis

Data analysis was conducted using VOSviewer to generate bibliometric visualizations, such as keyword co-occurrence and publication trends. These visual outputs were then interpreted to identify the patterns and relationships within the data. Additionally, Microsoft Excel was used to generate descriptive statistics and graphical representations to support the interpretation of bibliometric findings.

## Result

### The Development of Arabic Stylistics Research in Indonesia 2015-2024

Stylistics, or *al-uslūbiyyah*, is a branch of linguistics that studies the style of language in texts, whether literary, religious, or daily communication. In the Arabic tradition, stylistics is closely related to the classical Balaghah science, which includes the sciences of *Ma'ānī*, *Bayān*, and *Badī'* (Atabik, 2021, p. 60). In Indonesia, its development did not occur linearly, but rather through several historical phases influenced by the Islamic boarding school tradition, the development of Islamic higher education, and integration with modern Western linguistic theories (Fitriani, 2025, pp. 44–45).

In the context of Indonesian, stylistics began to be recognized in 1956 when figures such as Slamet Mulyadi, Natawidjaja, and Aminuddin studied stylistics within the Indonesian linguistics. Meanwhile, attention to Arabic linguistics emerged more recently through the thinking of Syihabuddin Qalyubi (Fitriani, 2025, pp. 44–45). The presence of Arabic stylistics in Indonesia can be understood as part of the dynamics of Arabic language studies that continue to undergo transformation, especially as academics' attention to the aesthetic aspects of language increases.

In the early stages, Arabic language studies in Indonesia were still dominated by traditional approaches, especially *Nahwu*, *Sharaf*, Balaghah, as well as interpretation of the Qur'an and hadith (Setyawan & Qalyubi, 2022, pp. 38–41; J. Siregar & Agustiar, 2024, pp. 150–153). This focus aligns with the pesantren tradition, which emphasizes mastery of classical Islamic texts. However, since the early 21st century, a renewed focus on stylistics (*al-uslūbiyyah*) has emerged as a modern approach that offers broader and deeper analysis of the style and aesthetics of texts.

As a discipline, Arabic stylistics has a long and complex history in Indonesia. This study not only traces its evolution and adaptation within the context of Indonesian language and literature but also attempts to identify the historical, sociocultural, and religious factors surrounding it. Although modern stylistic theory is heavily influenced by developments in Western science, the study of Arabic stylistics in Indonesia remains firmly rooted in the classical Arabic linguistic tradition (J. Siregar & Agustiar, 2024, pp. 150–153). This is reflected in the dominant use of ancient manuscripts and Arabic archives as primary sources, although sometimes disorientation occurs due to the tendency of some Indonesian historians to rely more on European sources.

The map of the development of Arabic stylistics, or *'Ilm al-Uslub*, which has its roots in classical Balaghah science, is clearly described by Syihabuddin Qalyubi in his book *'Ilm al-Uslub: Stilistika Bahasa dan Sastra Arab*. He traces the journey from Ibn Abbas to modern figures such as Amin al-Khuli and Ahmad al-Syayib who are considered the pioneers of modern Arabic stylistics (Qalyubi, 2017, pp. 59–62). The ideas of these figures were then adapted by Qalyubi into the Indonesian scientific treasury through the concept of analysis of *al-mustawayat al-khams* which includes the levels of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and imagery.

The initial milestone of Arabic stylistic studies in Indonesia can be traced to Syihabuddin Qalyubi's 1997 research in the form of a thesis entitled "*Stilistika al-Qur'an; Pengantar Orientasi Studi al-Qur'an*" (Stylistic of the Qur'an; An Introduction to the Orientation of Qur'anic Studies). This research then continued with the publication of the book "*Stilistika al-Qur'an; Makna di Balik Kisah Ibrahim*" (2008) (Stylistic of the Qur'an; The Meaning Behind the Story of Ibrahim). Since then, Qalyubi's works have become important references and have inspired much subsequent research. Wakhid Hidayat stated that when traced through Google Scholar, the influence of Qalyubi's thought is clearly visible in subsequent generations of stylistic research (Hidayat, 2022, p. 114). Therefore, we can see the following summary of the periodization of Arabic stylistics history in Indonesia:

Table 1 *Periodization of Arabic Stylistics History in Indonesia*

PERIOD	TIME	MAIN FEATURES	FOCUS OF STUDY	IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS/FIGURES
Pre-Independence – 1950s	Traditional Islamic boarding school	Classical balāghah studies (ma’ānī, bayān, badī’)	Rhetoric, Majaz, Isti’arah, interpretation of the Qur’an, and da’wah	The classic Islamic Book ( <i>Kitab Kun-ing</i> ) emerged, among which those still related to ‘ilm al-Uslub are <i>al-Balāghah al-Wādhahah</i> , <i>Jawāhir al-Maknūnah</i> (Aliyah, 2018, pp. 12–23; Online, nd).
Growth (1960s–1980s)	The beginning of IAIN/UIN and UGM	The emergence and introduction of modern Arabic literary studies	Poetry, prose and modern Arabic novels (Kahlil Gibran, Najib Mahfouz, Najib el-Kilani and Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti) (Makyanie, 2012; Sambodja, 2014).	Lecturers at UIN Syarif Hidayatullah, UIN Sunan Kalijaga and UGM
Translation of Arabic Literary Works into Indonesian	2000s		Many works of modern writers have been translated by: Najib Mahfudz, Nawal el-Sa’dawi, Najib Kailani and Taufiq El-Hakim	Navila, a publisher in Yogyakarta city with a strong vision and mission for the development of Arabic literature, emerged. The Navila movement also sparked enthusiasm for translating Eastern works, a movement followed by other publishers such as Tarawang, Fajar Pustaka Baru, Bentang, and the Obor Indonesia Foundation (Fitriyah, 2022, pp. 58–65).
Development (2000–2010)	Academic research	Stylistics as a method of interpretation and literary analysis	Analysis of the style of the Qur’an, contemporary Arabic literary works.	Thesis & dissertation at UIN/IAIN like Syihabuddin Qalyubi (Hidayat, 2022, p. 113).
Contemporary (2010–present)	The digital era & journal publication	Integration of modern stylistic theory (Jakobson, Leech & Short) with Balaghah.	The Qur’an, modern Arabic literature, political speeches & da’wah.	Publications in Indonesian journals (2015–2024, increasing trend).

The development of Arabic stylistics in Indonesia can be understood as a long journey from the classical tradition of Islamic boarding schools to a modern approach that integrates global linguistic theory. Starting from the dominance of classical rhetorical Balaghah in Islamic boarding schools, Arabic language studies then transformed through the introduction of modern Arabic literature in universities, followed by the rise of translations of Arabic literary works into Indonesian, until finally transforming into a mature academic analytical method in the form of stylistics as has been done by Syihabuddin Qalyubi. In the contemporary era,

this development increasingly demonstrates the integration between classical scholarly heritage and modern theories, thus opening new space for the development of Arabic language and literature in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, the development of Arabic stylistics research published in Indonesian scientific journals over the past decade has shown significant dynamics. To obtain a more comprehensive picture of the direction and trends of these studies, a bibliometric analysis of publications from 2015 to 2024 was conducted. The mapping results show fluctuating annual publication numbers, reflecting varying levels of research attention and intensity over time. This development pattern can be more clearly visualized in the following graph.

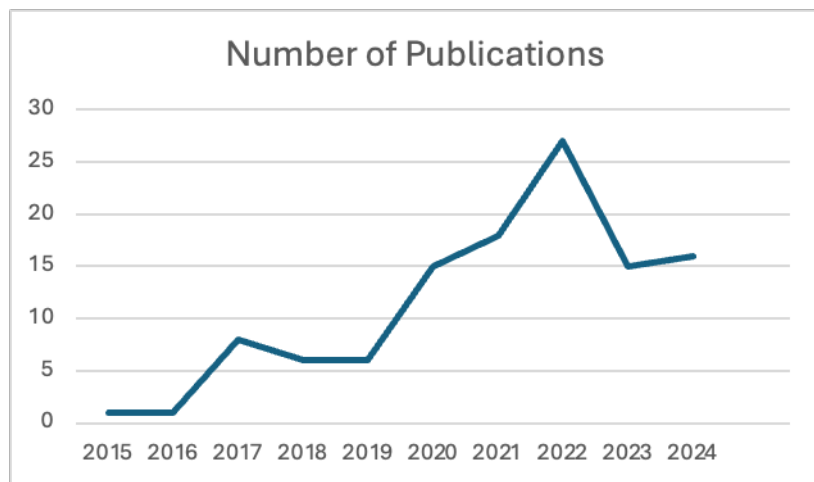


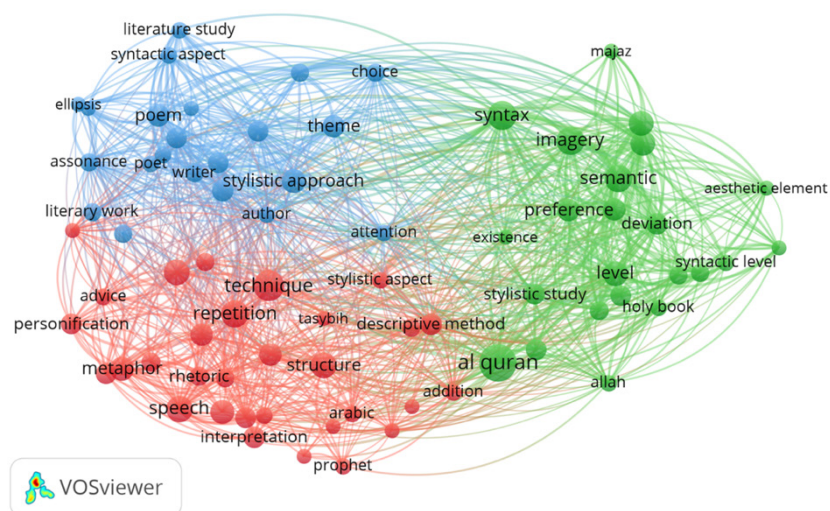
Figure 1 *Development of Arabic Stylistics Research Publications in Indonesia 2015-2024*

Based on the graph of the number of Arabic stylistics publications in Indonesia between 2015 and 2024, significant developments can be observed. In the initial period, namely 2015–2016, publications were still very limited, with only one article per year, reflecting the minimal academic attention to Arabic stylistic studies. However, starting in 2017, there was a significant increase with eight publications, although there was a decline again in 2018–2019, with the figure remaining relatively stagnant at six publications. The positive trend was truly visible only in 2020, marked by a sharp increase to 15 publications, which then continued to increase to 18 publications in 2021, even reaching a peak in 2022 with 27 publications.

This significant increase is in line with the findings of Fitriani (2025) who emphasized that stylistic studies, especially those with an Arabic character, are increasingly gaining a place in Indonesian academic discourse after the presence of the monumental works of Syihabuddin Qalyubi which became the initial foundation for stylistic research on the Qur'an since 1997 (Fitriani, 2025). However, after this peak, there was a drastic decline in 2023 to 15 publications, possibly influenced by research cycle factors, shifts in the focus of linguistic studies, and limited research support. However, 2024 showed signs of stabilization, with a slight increase to 16 publications. Overall, this pattern illustrates a fluctuating development: from an initial slow phase, to a period of rapid growth, then experienced a decline again, but still maintaining a level much higher than the initial period. Thus, these data support Hidayat's argument (Hidayat, 2022, p. 116) that the development of Arabic stylistics in Indonesia does show a positive direction, although it tends towards theoretical and applied research.

#### Trends in Arabic Stylistics Research Topics in Indonesia 2015-2024

To obtain an overview of trends in Arabic stylistics research topics in Indonesia, analysis was used co-occurrence via VOSviewer. VOSviewer is a computer application designed to construct and display bibliometric maps. This application can be used to create author or journal maps based on co-citation data or to create keyword maps based on co-occurrence data (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010, p. 524). By analyzing co-occurrence data in Arabic stylistics journal articles in Indonesia, VOSviewer can display graphic visualizations of topics that are frequently discussed in analysis as well as an overview of the network of relationships between topics.



**Figure 2** Visualization of Arabic Stylistics Research Topics in Indonesia 2015-2024

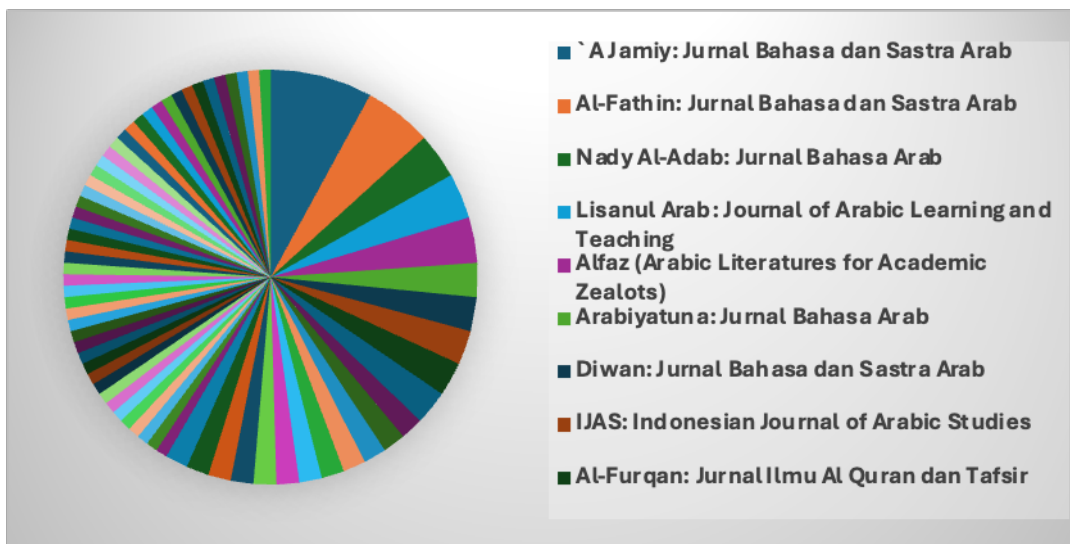
Data processing through VOSviewer with co-occurrence analysis yielded results as shown in Figure 2, a visualization of Arabic stylistics research topics in Sinta and Scopus indexed journals in Indonesia. The processed data comprised 113 research articles, with keyword processing options in VOSviewer taken from the title and abstract fields. The minimum number of occurrences of the same term was limited to 5, meaning terms appearing below 5 were not processed into visualization images. This was done to observe the frequency of research topic trends, as the more frequently a term is used, the more popular the topic is.

This processing produces a visualization like the one in Figure 2. The visualization results indicate three clusters of Arabic stylistics research topics in Indonesia as a whole. The first cluster is displayed as a red network map. This cluster contains terms such as “speech,” “repetition,” “rhetoric,” “tasybih,” “personification,” and “interpretation.” The terms in the red cluster indicate that this cluster can be considered a rhetorical stylistics cluster.

The second cluster, shown in the green network map, consists of terms such as “syntax,” “figure of speech,” “imagery,” “preference,” and “semantic.” In general, it can be said that the green cluster is a linguistic stylistics cluster. This means that the topic revolves more around linguistic analysis in stylistic studies, such as semantic analysis, syntax, deviation phenomena or forms of structural deviation in language, preferences for both words and sentences, and the analysis of figures of speech or similes. The terms included in the green cluster share a similar linguistic theme. Furthermore, the green cluster also contains the term “al-Qur’an” with a fairly large circle size. This means that the frequency of stylistic research on the Qur’an is more often conducted through a linguistic approach. Although not as much as linguistic stylistic studies, the keyword “al-Qur’an” also has a network connected to the rhetorical stylistics cluster.

The third cluster is the blue cluster, represented by terms such as “literary work,” “poem,” “poet,” “theme,” “author,” and “literature study.” The blue cluster can be called the literary stylistics cluster, meaning that Arabic stylistic research revolves around the analysis of literary works. This cluster focuses on the object of stylistic study itself, namely literary works.





### Distribution of Arabic Stylistics Research in Indonesian Journals

Figure 4 *Distribution of Research and Number of Publications on Arabic Stylistics in Indonesian Journals.*

Table 2 *Distribution of Research and Number of Publications on Arabic Stylistics in Indonesian Journals.*

JOURNAL NAME	INDEX	Number of Publications
`A Jamiy: Journal of Arabic Language and Literature	Sinta 4	9
Al-Fathin: Journal of Arabic Language and Literature	Sinta 3	6
Nady Al-Adab: Arabic Language Journal	Sinta 4	4
Lisanul Arabic: Journal of Arabic Learning and Teaching	Sinta 4	4
Alfaz (Arabic Literatures for Academic Zealots)	Sinta 4	4
Arabiyatuna: Arabic Language Journal	Sinta 2	3
Diwan: Journal of Arabic Language and Literature	Sinta 2	3
IJAS: Indonesian Journal of Arabic Studies	Sinta 3	3
Al-Furqan: Journal of Quranic Studies and Interpretation	Sinta 5	3
Diwan: Journal of Arabic Language and Literature	Sinta 5	3

From the image above, it can be seen that the journal 'A Jamiy published by the Department of Arabic Literature of the University of Muhammadiyah Gorontalo with a Sinta index of 4 occupies the top position as the journal that publishes the most articles on the topic of Arabic stylistics with a total publication are 9 articles in the period between 2015-2024. The second position is occupied by the journal Al-Fathin which is indexed Sinta 3 from the Department of Arabic Language and Literature IAIN Metro Lampung with a total publication are 6 articles, followed by other journals with a total publication are 4 to 1 article.

The dominance of these two top journals demonstrates that the development of Arabic stylistics publications in Indonesia is strongly based on journals managed by Department of Arabic Language and Literature. This data also indicates the contribution made by Islamic higher education institutions, both private and state, such as IAIN (State Islamic Institute) or UIN (State Islamic University) in Indonesia, in the dissemination and development of modern Arabic stylistics science through their journals.

Among the Arabic language and literature journals in the graph above, one journal stands out: *Al-Furqan: Ilmu Al-Qur'an dan Tafsir* (Qur'anic Science and Interpretation). This journal focuses on the Qur'an, not specifically Arabic stylistics. This means that Arabic stylistics can be a valuable analytical tool in Qur'anic studies. Although its position compared to other Arabic language and literature journals remains low, this figure demonstrates the development of Arabic stylistics research in Indonesian journals, which deserves appreciation. This Arabic stylistics contributes to the richness of other scientific disciplines. This figure can serve as an encouragement and reference for academics and researchers in Arabic stylistics to direct their research to journals outside the Arabic language and literature domain. This, in turn, encourages opportunities for research collaboration, methodology development, and the enhancement of the quality of scientific writing.

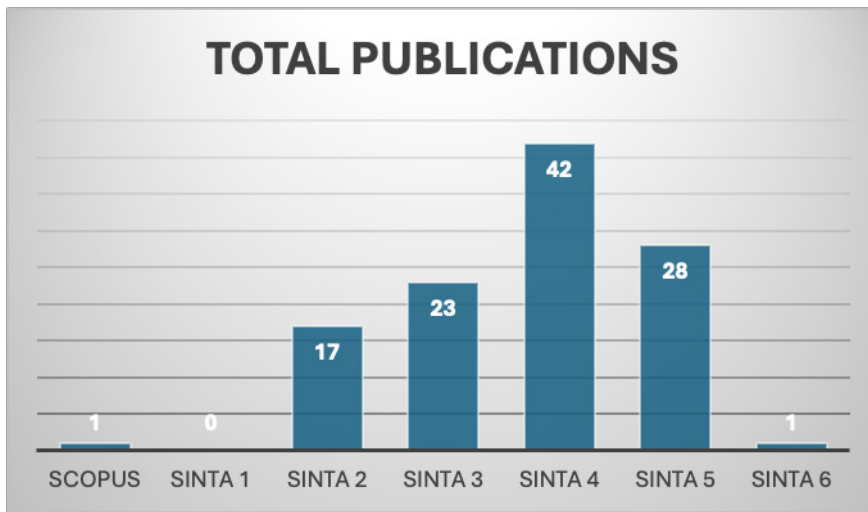


Figure 5 Graph of Total Publications of Arabic Stylistics in Indonesian Journals

In Indonesia, one of the nationally recognized journal indexes is Sinta. Sinta (The Science and Technology Indeks) is an information system managed by the Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology to measure the performance of science and technology in Indonesia, including the quality of scientific journals. Sinta can also be said to be a national journal database recognized by the Ministry of Education, Research, and Technology, so that the journals included in it are considered worthy of being used as references for scientific works (Salmaa, 2023).

If analyzed based on the journal index level, the data will be as shown in Figure 5. The graph above shows the distribution of Arabic stylistics research in Indonesian journals based on the journal index level. National journals with a Sinta index level 4 occupy the highest position in publishing Arabic stylistics research articles with a total of 42 publications. The second position is Sinta 5 with a total of 28 publications, followed by Sinta 3 with a total of 23 published articles, and Sinta 2 with a total of 17 published articles. This shows that most research in the field of Arabic stylistics in Indonesia is published in journals with a middle ranking in the Sinta system.

Meanwhile, Scopus and Sinta level 6 journals have only published one research article on Arabic stylistics over a nine-year period. The journal with a Scopus index in question is the *Ulumuna Journal* published by UIN Mataram, and the journal with a Sinta 6 index above is the *Al-Fakkaar Journal* from the Darul ‘Ulum Islamic University in Lamongan. The article that successfully penetrated the Scopus journal was written by Ahmad Atabik with the title “Al-Nazm Stylistic Discourse in I’jaz al-Qur’ān Based on Al-Jurjānī’s Perspective: Analysis of Arabic Literature Criticism on the Qur’an Studies”. Atabik in his article reviews the Nazm theory initiated by Abdul Qahir al-Jurjani in relation to I’jazul Qur’an (Atabik, 2021, p. 57). Nazm Al-Jurjani’s theory is recognized as a new idea that contributes to the development of Arabic stylistics. The article in the Sinta 6 journal referred to in the graphic above is an article entitled “Stylistics Study: Analysis of Language Style in the Lyrics of the Song “Qeset Hobb” Ramy Ayach” by Arsal, et al. The study analyzes the object of Arabic song lyrics using Gorys Keraf’s language style theory (Arsal et al., 2024, p. 18).

The data in the graph above also shows that Arabic stylistics research in Indonesia remains relatively limited, limited to mid-tier Sinta journals. The graph also shows that existing research topics are currently under-competitive, preventing them from reaching more reputable journals, such as Sinta 2, Sinta 1, or Scopus.

## Discussion

This study demonstrates that the development of Arabic stylistics studies in Indonesia during the 2015-2024 period has been fluctuating and not yet fully consistent in terms of themes, approaches, and publication output. Bibliometric findings and topic mapping using VOSviewer indicate that Arabic stylistics in Indonesia has shifted from an introductory phase toward academic institutionalization. However, it still largely relies on classical linguistic-structural approaches and predominantly focuses on textual objects.

Historically, this study confirms that Arabic stylistics in Indonesia remains deeply rooted in the tradition of classical *balāghah*, as reflected in the dominance of rhetorical analysis, *majāz*, *tashbīh*, and Qur’anic

linguistic studies. While modern stylistic theories have been introduced, their application remains partial and supplementary rather than constituting a primary analytical framework. This condition places Arabic stylistics in Indonesia in a transitional position between classical and modern paradigms (Qalyubi, 2017; J. Siregar & Agustiar, 2024).

In terms of publication trends, the significant increase in articles between 2020 and 2022 reflects growing academic interest, particularly following the consolidation of Qalyubi's works as methodological references. However, the decline in publications after 2022 suggests that this development remains unstable and is influenced by research cycles, resource limitations, and the lack of sustained research orientation.

The co-occurrence analysis reveals three main clusters rhetorical, linguistic, and literary stylistics which are interconnected but not yet conceptually integrated. The dominance of linguistic stylistics indicates a strong structuralist tendency, while literary stylistics remains largely confined to poetry and selected literary texts, with limited exploration of non-literary discourse. This highlights a significant gap, as stylistics should extend beyond literary language to encompass broader social and ideological communication.

Accordingly, this study identifies a substantial research gap in the exploration of contemporary non-literary texts, socio-political discourse, and digital texts. The limited engagement with interdisciplinary approaches such as connections with social sciences, media studies, and language technology suggests that Arabic stylistics in Indonesia is still primarily oriented toward text as an aesthetic entity rather than as a dynamic discursive practice. In fact, Arabic linguistic studies hold considerable potential for development in areas such as Natural Language Processing (NLP) and artificial intelligence.

Furthermore, the distribution of publications shows that most Arabic stylistics articles are published in mid-tier Sinta-indexed journals (Sinta 3–5), while contributions to internationally indexed journals such as Scopus remain very limited. This indicates that Arabic stylistics research in Indonesia has not yet achieved strong global competitiveness, although exceptions demonstrate that theoretically robust and critically engaged studies have the potential to be recognized internationally.

In conclusion, Arabic stylistics in Indonesia needs to move beyond descriptive and confirmatory approaches toward more critical, reflective, and innovative frameworks. The integration of modern stylistic theories with *balāghah* should not remain merely eclectic but should lead to the development of new analytical models that are contextually relevant to Indonesia's linguistic and social realities. Practically, these findings provide important insights for academics and journal managers to promote thematic diversification, methodological rigor, and stronger international research orientation.

## Conclusion

This study reveals that Arabic stylistics and Qur'anic studies in Indonesia have developed in a fluctuating manner, with research trends primarily centered on rhetoric, linguistics, and literary works. Arabic stylistics and Qur'anic studies in Indonesia possess unique potential as a hybrid academic tradition that integrates classical Islamic scholarship with modern linguistic approaches. This contribution is significant in enriching the global discourse on Arabic stylistics, which has largely been dominated by Middle Eastern and Western perspectives. However, for this contribution to be globally recognized, research in Arabic stylistics in Indonesia needs to explicitly engage with universal issues, such as technology and media, discourse studies, language aesthetics, ideology, and cross-cultural communication.

Nevertheless, this study has several limitations, particularly regarding the scope of data, which is restricted to Sinta- and Scopus-indexed journals, publication years, and the use of specific keywords in the bibliometric analysis. These limitations provide opportunities for future research to expand the data corpus, explore alternative methodological approaches, and examine Arabic stylistics within broader interdisciplinary and global contexts. Overall, this study confirms that Arabic stylistics and Qur'anic studies in Indonesia have developed significantly but remain in a phase of academic consolidation. Future challenges lie not only in increasing the quantity of publications but, more importantly, in strengthening theoretical rigor, practical relevance, and international contribution, so that Arabic stylistics in Indonesia can stand on par with the global scholarly community.

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**Conflicts of Interest:**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

**Authorship and Level of Contribution**

The authors' contributions to this study are described as follows. Saila Fadhila Ulfa contributed to the conceptualization of the title and research questions, mapping the main issues examined in the study, developing the research framework, and operating bibliometric tools for data analysis. Dian Puspita Sari Habib was responsible for finalizing the manuscript, reviewing the entire draft, editing the academic language, and adapting the manuscript to the target journal template. Alifia Zahratul Adha conducted the literature review, identified the research gap, classified relevant references, and supported the development of the theoretical framework. Intifa Fadhillah collected research data through *Publish or Perish*, Google Scholar, Scopus, and Semantic Scholar, selected relevant sources, and organized the data used as the research corpus. Rahmat contributed to writing and developing the research background, refining the research questions, determining the methodological approach, and reviewing the alignment between the objectives, methods, and findings of the study. Ilham Ramadhan conceptualized the results section, analyzed the classified data, developed the initial interpretation of the visualization results, and helped present the findings systematically. Fitria Susan Meliyana prepared the discussion narrative by relating the findings to previous studies, comparing the results, and strengthening the academic arguments in the discussion section. Muhtarul Alif designed tables, graphs, and data visualizations using Microsoft Excel, organized the data presentation in an informative manner, and helped ensure the readability of the research findings. Muhammad Fadhil Syahridho contributed to finalizing the manuscript, writing the abstract and conclusion, and reviewing the entire draft. Azhar Ismail Hasibuan contributed to the conceptualization of the title, writing the initial draft of the manuscript, collecting and organizing data using Mendeley, operating bibliometric tools, analyzing the research data, and serving as the Corresponding Author. Luthfi Zain was responsible for selecting relevant sources that had been classified through Publish or Perish, Google Scholar, Scopus, and Semantic Scholar, as well as screening and organizing the data used as the research corpus. Nurjanah contributed to the proofreading process of the manuscript, examined the consistency of content across sections, and reviewed and refined the management of references and citations using Mendeley

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