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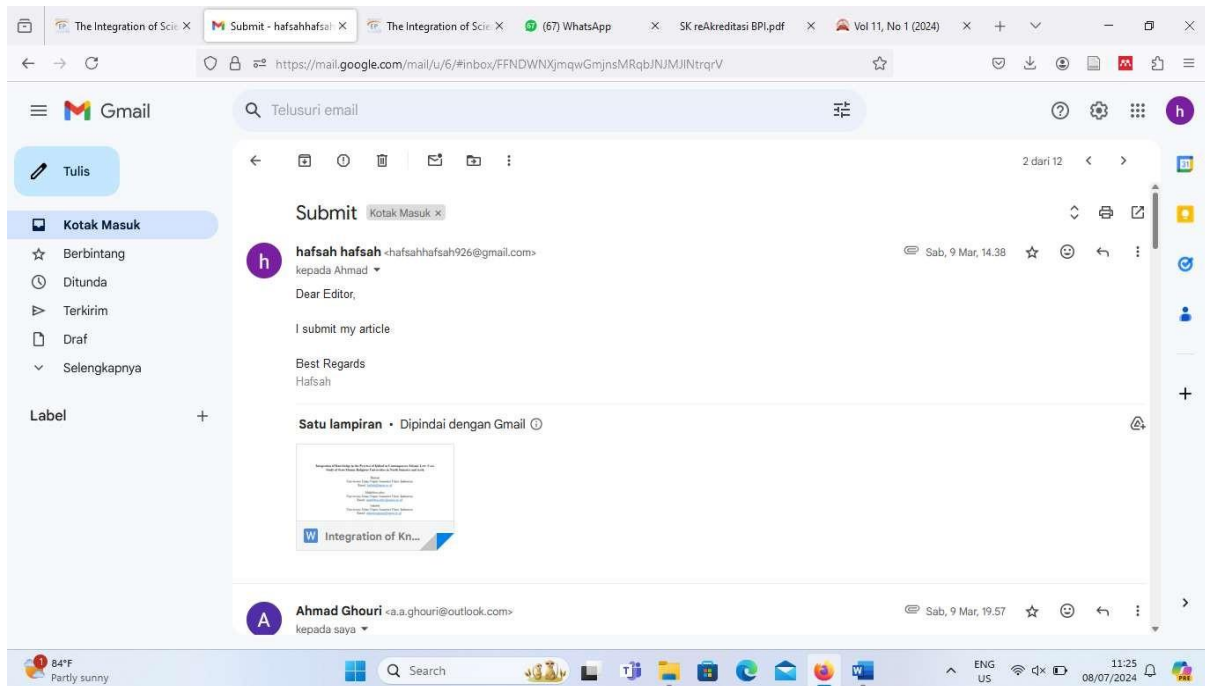
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The Integration of Scientific Knowledge in the Practice of Ijtihad in Contemporary Islamic Law: Case Study of State Islamic Religious Universities in North Sumatra and Aceh

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## Integration of Knowledge in the Practice of Ijtihad in Contemporary Islamic Law: Case Study of State Islamic Religious Universities in North Sumatra and Aceh

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**Abstract:** This article aims to discuss the integration of knowledge in the practice of ijthad in contemporary Islamic law at State Islamic Religious Universities in North Sumatra and Aceh. Specifically, this research aims, *first*; to analyze the application of science integration in contemporary Islamic law thesis in Indonesia. *second*; to formulate a form of integration of science as a trend in the method of ijthad in contemporary Islamic law. The research method used is qualitative research. The data consists of 40 theses taken from the Postgraduate Program at the North Sumatra State Islamic University, Medan, al-Raniry State Islamic University, Banda Aceh, and Syahada State Islamic University, Padang Sidempuan. Research data was obtained by interviewing the thesis supervisors, and observing and analyzing the thesis content. The results of this research show that: *first*; the theses written by postgraduate students in the last three years have used the integration of science in ijthad, but were carried out at the level of connecting the concepts of science integration (*Interdisciplinary*). *Second*; the formulation model for science integration used in writing a thesis is vertical and horizontal integration, not yet moral integration and actual integration. The solution to implementing science integration in thesis writing is the need for collaboration in thesis research writing between students and lecturers, and also a government policy regarding guidelines for writing theses based on science integration, which refers to guidebooks published by Islamic Religious Universities.

**Keywords:** Integration of knowledge, ijthad method, research methodology, contemporary Islamic law, North Sumatra and Aceh

### Introduction

The idea of science integration has been widely promoted by experts and has become an important topic in the development of research at Islamic Universities in Indonesia. Although this concept has been promoted by scientific development thinkers, its implementation in research methodology is still not systematic.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, developments in science and technology have had a significant impact on the evolution of Islamic law in contemporary society. The complex problems of contemporary Islamic law require an ijthad method that can accommodate scientific developments in knowledge.

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<sup>1</sup> Yongki Sutoyo and et al, *Integration of Science as a Research Program Paradigm: Study of the Thoughts of Imre Lakatos* (Darussalam Gontor University: Proceedings of the Conference on the Integration of the Interconnection of Islam and Science, 2020) p. 261-269.

Therefore, a model formulation of the *ijtihad* method is needed that can be applied in a research context to answer increasingly complex legal challenges in society.

Until now, the Islamic education system has experienced disintegration, mainly due to a lack of efforts to integrate different approaches. This situation is exacerbated by the unclear relationship between general education and religious education. The gap between the insight of religious teachers and the needs of students, especially in public schools, also supports this condition.<sup>2</sup> The gap between research, practice, and policy is often seen in educational institutions where teachers, researchers, and policymakers operate independently without cooperation and collaboration, resulting in institutions becoming weak and often contradictory. The relationship between teaching, research, and policymakers is often overlooked, so research-based teaching and knowledge mobilization become challenges and problems that need to be resolved.<sup>3</sup>

The problems of Islamic law that arise in the contemporary era are increasingly diverse, requiring the method of *ijtihad* to be applied in solving them using a variety of sciences (integration).<sup>4</sup> This is also the motivation for scientists to find solutions, including finding formulations and ideas for research paradigms, which discuss the concept of science integration. Various facts have emerged that the integration of knowledge can produce high-quality scientists. Ahmad Khawani<sup>5</sup> explained that the integration of religious knowledge and Islamic sciences is very important to implement in the curriculum. The integration of knowledge gives birth to Higher Education Scholars who develop education based on the integration of knowledge to produce superior and reliable graduates or alumni. This is because research carried out by researchers based on scientific integration can build in-depth analysis. After all, researchers have broad insight and in-depth mastery of knowledge which is implemented when researchers carry out planning, use theory, discuss research findings, and also write conclusions, recommendations, and research implications. The science integration approach can answer various problems of life in society.

Research program policies aim to achieve research quality that is relevant to the development of science and technology needed in society. The integration of science in research is designed and established as part of the scientific development policy at State Islamic Universities which makes it a characteristic and central theme and distinction of UIN.<sup>6</sup>

The integration of knowledge is becoming increasingly important to face global challenges such as climate change, health crises, environmental sustainability, and so on. By combining knowledge and perspectives from multiple disciplines, knowledge integration provides the opportunity to gain deeper insight into our world and helps us face the future more wisely. This also encourages motivation for the author to conduct research related to the strategic steps of the *ijtihad* method applied to contemporary Islamic law thesis research through a science integration approach.

The thesis is the culmination of the student's entire academic process. A thesis at the Master's (S2) level represents the entire postgraduate academic process. Quality thesis research is of course supported by supervisors, who care about the use of knowledge integration. The

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<sup>2</sup> A. Saifuddin, *Desecularization of Thought* (Bandung: Mizan, 1991) p. 105.

<sup>3</sup> Maria Assunção Flores, "Linking Teaching and Research in Initial Teacher Education: Knowledge Mobilization and Research-Informed Practice," *Journal of Education for Teaching* 44, no. 5 (2018): 621–636, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02607476.2018.1516351>.

<sup>4</sup> Muhamad Hasan Sebyar, "Minimum Age Limit for Marriage in Law no. 1 of 1974 Concerning Marriage, Integration Perspective Between Šabat and Taṭawwur Yusuf Al-Qarḍawy" (UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, 2018).

<sup>5</sup> Ahmad Khawani, "The Urgency of Integrating MI-AN Science with Islamic Science," *Tarbiyah Al-Awlad* 12, no. 2 (2022): 147–52, <https://doi.org/10.15548/alawlad.v12i2.5216>.

<sup>6</sup> Mujiburrahman and et al, *Science Integration: Policy and Application in Learning and Research at Several State Islamic Universities* (Banjarmasin: UIN Antasari, 2022) p. 37.

Islamic law thesis supervisors who were the object of this research were also asked for various understandings and opinions regarding the science integration approach in writing theses. How to design Islamic law thesis research regarding the use of knowledge integration, writing theory, designing methods with various integral scientific approaches, discussing research findings, drawing conclusions, recommendations, and implementing the results of Islamic Law thesis research. The integration of knowledge as a trending approach in resolving Islamic legal cases is one way of carrying out *ijtihad* and research.<sup>7</sup>

The researcher wants to explore data regarding the use of a science integration approach in supervising the thesis supervisors and explore the facts in theses written by Islamic Law master's students. Therefore, this research is considered important to understand the picture of the integration of knowledge applied in writing Islamic law theses at PTKIN.

The integration of knowledge used in the research approach can enrich the data because the data can develop to obtain information on various scientific objects. Ken McGary, Sheila, and Nick Morris revealed that data that comes from many fields, benefits from interesting patterns, and the potential for discovering knowledge in the bioscience field is truly extraordinary. The latest trends in data integration knowledge are very much needed in the development of science for life.<sup>8</sup>

Knowledge integration is a process of mixing until it becomes a complete or unified whole. Integrative involves combining several interrelated aspects, so that they combine to complement each other and become a unified whole. An integrative approach is an approach in which designs or policies are created in an integrated manner, by uniting, connecting, or linking various aspects so that nothing stands alone or separately.<sup>9</sup> What is meant by research is the integration between Islamic Law and science, history, sociology, psychology, and others. Science integration also includes the integration of Islamic sharia values with scientific values. There are various forms of Science integration (1) Verbal integration (2) Horizontal integration (3) actualization and (4) ethical integration Science integration needs to be included in the curriculum and the master plan for scientific development and in community service as the *tri dharma* of UIN North Sumatra College. The commitment to scientific integration as scientific development has been included in the *Wahdatul Ulum* UIN North Sumatra curriculum.<sup>10</sup>

Application of the integration of knowledge in various forms of approaches in research: carried out as: (1) *Interdisciplinary* Inter which means between, studying a topic with two scientific disciplinary approaches, an example of studying Islamic law using a sociological and economic approach (2) *Multidisciplinary*. From the word multi which means many, studying a topic with three more disciplinary approaches, (3) *Transdisciplinary* Mujamil Qomar stated that Islamic research that uses a transdisciplinary approach is Islamic education that involves various other disciplines in dealing with various life problems using different approaches and methods. have been mutually agreed upon. However, using a transdisciplinary approach is considered difficult because each person specializes in a particular disciplinary area.

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<sup>7</sup> Muhaemin Latif et al., "Environmental Theology and Its Relevance to Islamic Law: Perception of Makassar Muslim Scholars, Indonesia" 7, no. 3 (2023): 1734–56, <https://doi.org/http://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id or index.php/samarah>.

<sup>8</sup> Renske AM de Kleijn et al., "Adaptive Research Supervision: Exploring Expert Thesis Supervisors' Practical Knowledge," *Higher Education Research & Development* 34, no. 1 (2015): 117–130, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2014.934331>.

<sup>9</sup> Rosniati Juwara, "Application of an Integrative Approach in Improving Reading Comprehension Ability in Indonesian Language Lessons for Grade IV Elementary School Students," *TAXONOMY: Journal of Basic Education Research* 1, no. 1 (2021): 15–21, <https://doi.org/10.35326/taxonomi.v1i1.1267> p. 15-21.

<sup>10</sup> Syahrin Harahap and et al, *Wahdatul Ulum, Paradigm of Scientific Integration and Character of UIN North Sumatra Graduates* (Medan: Perdana Publishing, 2021) p. 3-4.

<sup>11</sup>Transdisciplinary research methodology has become the focus of attention from various groups.

### **Research methods**

This research uses quantitative methods with descriptive analysis. The research location is the North Sumatra region, taking several PTKIN Islamic Law Study programs in North Sumatra and Banda Aceh. Primary data was taken directly from the results of interviews. Informants were determined professionally, namely the Head of the study program and the thesis supervisor lecturers at the PTKIN Postgraduate Program. The theses in each Islamic Law study program were taken for data collection using *content analysis*. The research sample was 40 theses consisting of 24 theses taken from a total of 80 students' theses who graduated in the last 3 years from the Postgraduate Program at UIN North Sumatra (30%) and 10 theses from UIN al-Raniri (30%) and 6 of 20 (30%) were taken from UIN Syahada Padang Sidempuan. Direct instruments or Observations, Interviews or Focus Group Discussions (FGD), with the thesis supervisor, and Thesis documents, by analyzing the contents of the thesis, then identifying simplifying, and interpreting, after that conclusions are drawn using inductive analysis. Qualitative data analysis using Atlas.ti software. This research also analyzes the contents of the thesis (content analysis) to ensure the validity of the research data. A cross-check of the data is carried out, all the data analyzed is valid, then the data is interpreted, simplified, and reduced, and then draws conclusions using inductive analysis.

### **Research Results and Discussion**

#### **A. Practice of Science Integration in the Content of Contemporary Islamic Law Thesis in North Sumatra and Aceh**

Sarah-Louise Jones et al (2015) stated that research alone does not provide information on practice but rather the process of translating knowledge is needed so that research findings become knowledge. Improving the education system throughout the world is difficult to achieve. The integration of science has been successful in the field of professional education, such as medicine which is accessible to practitioners and needs to be integrated with various other sciences. Explicit and transparent synthesis of findings from various studies can be guaranteed to be beneficial.<sup>12</sup>

Efforts made to implement scientific integration into the tri dharma of higher education, such as in learning activities, research activities, and various community service activities, continue to be studied but have not yet found a model and technical implementation. This article aims to explain a trend in the development of contemporary Islamic legal science through a systematic research methodology based on the integration of knowledge. Mujiburrahman et al stated that research process standards as minimum criteria for research activities consist of planning, implementation, and reporting in carrying out research using scientific methods systematically and must consider quality standards. The integration of science in research is a central theme at several UINs, becoming a characteristic and distinction.<sup>13</sup>

The formulation of the Science Integration research topic is described as follows:

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<sup>11</sup> Fadli Rahman and Hidayat Ma'ruf, "Strengthening and Development of Islamic and Transdisciplinary Education," *Journal of Education and Social Religion* 08, no. 02 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.32923/edugama.v8i2.2511> p. 249.

<sup>12</sup> Sarah-Louise Jones, Richard Procter, and Sarah Younie, "Participatory Knowledge Mobilization: An Emerging Model for International Translational Research in Education," *Journal of Education for Teaching* 41, no. 5 (2015): 555–73, <https://doi.org/DOI:10.1080/02607476.2015.1105540>.

<sup>13</sup> Mujiburrahman and et al, *Science Integration: Policy and its Application in Learning and Research at Several State Islamic Universities* .

Skill or scientific competency	Strategic Issues	Concept of Thought	Solution to problem	Required research topics
1. Technique	1	1	1	1
2. Health	1 2			
3. Agriculture	1 2 3			
4. Law	1 2 3			
5. Mipa	1 2			
6. Religion	1	1	1	1

This research analyzes 40 theses that examine munakahat fiqh, jinayah fiqh, siyasah fiqh, and iqtishodi fiqh. Some of the thesis titles and their forms of integration are as follows:

a. Manhaj Al-Wasatīyah Yūsuf Al-Qaradāwi in the Book of Fatawa Mu`âsirah

The integration of knowledge in this thesis combines Yusuf al-Qaradawi's Wasatiyah approach in contemporary fatwas with traditional Islamic legal concepts. This research analysis includes how these fatwas are applied in the current context, taking into account social, economic, and political developments. The contribution of this thesis provides a Wasatiyah approach to resolving contemporary issues in the society of North Sumatra and Aceh.

b. Legal Implications of Marriage Agreements After Constitutional Court Decision No. 69 or PUU-XIII or 2015 (Implementation of Marriage Agreements)

The integration of knowledge in this thesis integrates aspects of positive law, Islamic jurisprudence, and Constitutional Court decisions in analyzing the legal implications of marriage agreements. The aim is to investigate how the Constitutional Court's decision affects the implementation of marriage agreements and how Islamic law can provide an additional perspective on this issue. This thesis provides practical implications in the context of marriage in the communities of North Sumatra and Aceh.

c. Analysis of the Elements of Bribery (Risywah) Based on Law No. 20 of 2001 Jo. UU no. 31 of 1999 on Corruption Crime Cases from an Islamic Law Perspective in the Medan District Court

The integration of knowledge in this thesis can be seen from the elements of bribery in criminal acts of corruption by combining the perspectives of positive law and Islamic law. The approach taken is to compare the elements of bribery in statutory regulations with the view of Islamic law regarding *risywah* (bribery). The scientific integration offered in this thesis focuses on how Islamic law can provide additional or alternative views on handling bribery cases in the North Sumatra region.

d. Ijtihad Method of the Indonesian Ulama Council of North Sumatra Regarding the Legal Determination of the Use of Health Protocols in the Implementation of Congregational Prayers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The integration of knowledge in this thesis combines the *ijtihad* methodology from the Indonesian Ulama Council with the COVID-19 pandemic situation to determine the law on the use of health protocols in congregational prayers. The approach was taken by analyzing the views of local ulama and the fatwas issued in the context of public health and worship. The contribution of this thesis is to provide practical guidance for the people of North Sumatra and Aceh in carrying out congregational prayers during the pandemic.

e. Marriage Dowry Rates According to Islamic Law (Case Study of Application of Marriage Dowry Rates in Bireuen Regency Communities)

The integration of knowledge in this thesis examines the concept of marriage dowry levels in Islamic law with the social and cultural realities of society in the Bireuen Regency. The approach used is to conduct case studies and empirical analysis of the application of dowry rates in marriage in the area. The implications of this thesis provide insight into how Islamic law is applied in daily life in Acehese society while reflecting on developing local values.

f. Implementation of the Family Planning Program for Underage Muslim Couples in the District. Mandailing Natal Maqashid Syari'ah Perspective

The integration of knowledge in this thesis combines the concept of family planning programs with the principles of *maqashid sharia* to understand its implementation for underage Muslim couples. The approach is carried out using *maqashid shari'ah* analysis as a framework for evaluating the effectiveness and fairness of the implementation of family planning programs. This thesis provides policy recommendations that are more in line with the religious values and social needs of the Mandailing Natal community, thereby maintaining a balance between government programs and religious interests.

The results of this research provide an overview of the focus of studies taken by North Sumatra and Aceh students in the field of contemporary Islamic law. Studies on *Fiqh Munakahat* show a high interest in marriage law and family issues in Islam, while studies on *Fiqh Siyasah* highlight interest in aspects of politics and government. The analysis also reveals that students research topics that cover important aspects of legal settlements in a broad and in-depth manner that can be carried out through scientific integration research. In the daily lives of Muslims, reflecting the direct relevance and applicability of their research to Muslim societies. In an academic context, these findings provide rich and in-depth insight into the development of contemporary Islamic legal science. This in-depth analysis of various sub-disciplines provides a solid framework for future research in the field of Islamic law. In addition, this research demonstrates the importance of interdisciplinarity in understanding the complexity of Islamic law, covering relevant social, political, economic, and cultural aspects. Thus, the results of this research not only contribute to academic knowledge but also provide useful directions for the development and application of contemporary Islamic law in an ever-changing society.

Table 1. Integration of Islamic Law Science with Fields of Science

NO	FIELD		NUMBER OF THESIS		
			UINSU	UIN AR-RANIRY	UIN SYAHADA
1	<i>Social sciences</i>	Sociology	22	9	4
		Anthropology	5	0	0
		Psychology	3	1	0
		Economy	16	2	1

2	<i>Natural Science</i>	History	10	3	1
3	<i>Islamic Studies</i>	Al-Qur'an	24	10	5
		Hadith	24	9	4
		National Law	21	8	2
		Fiqh	23	10	6
		KHI	1	3	1
		Ushul Fiqh	16	7	1
		Morals	5	0	0
		Islamic Philosophy	5	0	0
4	<i>Islamic Science</i>	Custom	7	1	2
		Physics	0	0	0
		Chemistry	0	0	0
		Astronomy	0	0	0
		Medical	3	1	1
		Geography	9	3	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>194</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>28</b>

The theses of Islamic law study program students at UIN North Sumatra Medan are that the integration of Islamic legal knowledge is with the Koran 24 theses and hadith (100%) integration of Islamic law with the opinions of Islamic jurisprudence scholars 23 (95.8%), then with national laws 21 (87.5%), Islamic jurisprudence and economics each 16 (66.6%), biography 9 (37.5%) Islamic customs and philosophy each 5 (20.8%) medicine and psychology each 3 each (12.5%). The majority of master's theses in Islamic law at UIN North Sumatra relate to the Koran psychology and medicine. So the integration of knowledge in writing a thesis for UIN North Sumatra students, the integration of Islamic law knowledge is in the form of transdisciplinary science, the Modern Jurisprudence Study Program at UIN al-Raniry Banda Aceh integrates Modern Jurisprudence with the Qur'an 10 (100%), with Hadith 9 (90%), National Law as much as 7 (70%) KHI, History, geography each (30%), then customs, geography and medicine as much as 10% each. Likewise, UIN North Sumatra and UIN al-Raniry Banda Aceh mostly use the Koran and Hadith. The Islamic Family Law Study Program at UIN Syahada Padang Sidimpuan, the most integration carried out is with the opinions of the jurists 6 (85.7%), Al-Quran 5 (71.4%), Hadith and Sociology 4 (57%) each, customs and law. National Law 2 each (28.5%) and medicine, Ushul Fiqh, History, medicine, KHI, and economics each 1 (14.2%). The integration of knowledge in writing a thesis for Islamic law master's students at PTKIN still experiences obstacles, namely the students' ability to integrate knowledge, this is based on the lack of other scientific insights that students can master.

The most important integration of Islamic law knowledge in writing a thesis is the integration of the field of *Islamic studies* (Al-Qur'an, Hadith, Fiqh, Ushul Fiqih, KHI, Fatwa, Morals and National Laws (*Interdisciplinary*)). Integration between Islamic law and social science (sociology, Anthropology, economics, and psychology (*Transdisciplinary*)). Integration of science with Islamic law with *Islamic science* (*Transdisciplinary*) and Integration of science with Islamic law with natural science (*Transdisciplinary*). There are as many as 25% of these integrating various fields of science (*Multidisciplinary*). The table above also provides an illustration that among the theses written by students who integrated the most knowledge was UIN North Sumatra, followed by UIN Al-Raniry Banda Aceh, then



UIN Syahada Padangsidempuan. Muhaimen Latif revealed that the main sources of Islamic law, namely the Al-Qur'an and Hadith were used as references. sources of contemporary Islamic law.<sup>14</sup>

The importance of integrating knowledge has become a necessity in conducting research related to Islamic legal problems that arise in an increasingly complex society. An interdisciplinary approach is an integral part of understanding Islamic legal issues more comprehensively. The study of Islamic law should involve approaches from various other scientific fields so that integration and collaboration can occur. The application of knowledge integration in writing research theories found that the integration of knowledge from various scientific fields outside of law can provide significant strengthening of the results of *ijtihad*. The integration of science is considered the right step to face developments in the current era, which allows Islamic law research to be carried out in an integrated manner with various fields of science, such as computer science, robotics, e-commerce, and others.

## B. Formulation of Knowledge Integration, a Trend in *Ijtihad* Methods in Contemporary Islamic Law in Islamic Universities

*Ijtihad* according to *ushul fiqh* scholars is the effort of a *fiqh* expert to use all his abilities to explore practical (practical) laws from detailed postulates.<sup>15</sup> According to Al-Gazali (d.505H) *ijtihad* in general is *بذل المجتهد وسعه في طلب العلم بأحكام الشريعة* (exertion of abilities by *mujtahids* in seeking knowledge of Sharia law),<sup>16</sup> Al-Amidi (d. 631 H) defines *ijtihad* as *استفراغ الوسع في طلب الظن شيع من الأحكام الشرية على وجه يحس من النفس العجز عن المزيد فيه* (devote all abilities to search sharia law which is *Zhanni*).<sup>17</sup> Optimal efforts and sincerity of a scholar in adhering to the principles of *ijtihad* to resolve legal problems can be expressed in various forms: (1) *ijtihad* in the context of explaining the text. (2) *Ijtihad* regarding the development of existing laws and (3) *Ijtihad* in the sense of the use of *ra'yu*.<sup>18</sup> Contemporary *ijtihad* is necessary for connection with the development of society, different situations, and conditions. Through Islamic law research, both normative legal research and legal application (empirical legal research) have been carried out by many master's students at PTKIN.

Peter Mahmud Marzuki explained that research starts by finding research problems by asking about the law and looking for answers by conducting research. Beluau quoted Webster's Dictionary *scientific method. These are the principles and procedures for the systematic pursuit of knowledge including the recognition and formulation of a problem, the collection of data through observation and experiment, and the formulation and testing of hypotheses.*<sup>19</sup>

A way of working to understand or be aware of the object that is the target of the science in question.<sup>20</sup> Methodology comes from the words *methodos* and *logos* is a way to reach the goal of the science of methods, studying how to obtain and organize correct knowledge based on scientific methods. The scientific method is a procedure for obtaining knowledge

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<sup>14</sup> Latif et al., "Environmental Theology and Its Relevance to Islamic Law: Perception of Makassar Muslim Scholars, Indonesia."

<sup>15</sup> Muhammad Abu Zahrah, *Usul Fiqh* (Jakarta: Pustaka Firdaus, 2003) p. 567.

<sup>16</sup> Al-Gazali, *Al-Musyafah Min 'Ilm Al-Ushul Juz II* (Cairo: Al-Amityyah, 1442) p.3550.

<sup>17</sup> Al-Amidi, *Al-Ahkam Fi Ushul Al-Ahkam, Juz III* (Beirut: Dar al-Fikri, nd) p.250.

<sup>18</sup> Muhammad Musa Al-Tiwana, *Al-Ijtihad Wa Mada Hajatina Ilaihi Fi Hadza Al-Ashr* (Cairo: Dar Polar al-Hadisah, nd) p. 39.

<sup>19</sup> Peter Mahmud Marzuki, *Legal Research* (Jakarta: Kencana, 2007) p. 26.

<sup>20</sup> Sukiati, *Research Methodology: An Introduction* (Medan: Perdana Publishing, 2017) p. 1-2.

called science.<sup>21</sup>The method followed or guided in carrying out research or the steps used in research techniques. Integration of knowledge is a methodological trend in contemporary Islamic legal research referred to in this paper. This is the method used in Islamic legal research by conducting research in which the steps are to integrate solving Islamic legal problems with various other scientific disciplines.

The development of the times also has an impact on increasingly complex legal issues that require *ijtihad*. *Ijtihad* is the breath of Islamic law.<sup>22</sup>This means that if the activity of *ijtihad* thrives and is developed, Islamic law will thrive in society ( *The Living Law* ). Contemporary Islamic legal problems relate to new legal cases or contemporary legal problems that have not arisen in previous centuries.<sup>23</sup>These legal problems are resolved by carrying out *ijtihad*. Various methods of *ijtihad* have emerged from Islamic law experts, including *maqashid al-shari'ah* in the views of various scholars such as Jamaluddin Athiyah Muhammad, Abdullah Ahmed An-Naeem, Jasser Audah, Muhammad Syahrur who offer linguistic and semantic *ijtihad* methods and so on.

The objects of study of contemporary Islamic law as its scope are family law (*al-akhwal al-syakhsiyah*), public law (*jinayah and siyasah*), the field of worship, and mu'amalah. The research objects written in the thesis use various criteria. The criteria for a good thesis are as follows: (1) The thesis represents philosophical mastery of the problem being studied. (2) Thesis research requires novelty in the form of a new theory replacing an existing theory, developing an existing theory, or filling a theoretical gap. (3) The thesis must contribute to problem-solving and have real-life implications. (4) The main question of a thesis must be formulated precisely, a tentative answer to that question can be obtained through preliminary research. (5) The thesis aims to prove whether the theory still corresponds or no longer corresponds to empirical phenomena.

Several principles of *ijtihad* are used in resolving legal problems which can be expressed in various forms: (1) *ijtihad* in the context of explaining the text. (2) *ijtihad* regarding the development of existing law and (3) *ijtihad* in the sense of using *ra'yu*.<sup>24</sup>These three principles of *ijtihad* are implicitly stated in the thesis writing method.

A thesis as a scientific work has a structure and method that is by academic rules and norms. A thesis requires a systematic preparation process, starting from determining the topic, problem formulation, literature review, research methods, data collection, data analysis, and conclusion. The results of the thesis must be original and contribute to the development of knowledge in the chosen field of study. After the thesis has been prepared, the thesis will be tested in the form of a thesis exam or comprehensive exam by the lecturer or board of examiners. This process aims to ensure that the thesis meets established academic standards and can be recognized as scientific work that has contribution value to scientific development.

Carrying out a careful analysis using the seriousness of the writers, extensive literature exploration, as well as collecting the latest data and information relevant to the research topic, is necessary. The thesis is expected to make a new contribution to the field of study. Research results must have added value for the development of science, which can become an important reference for further research. Analytical and Reasoning skills in writing a Thesis is expected to improve analytical and reasoning skills, and one must be able to compose strong arguments and support them with valid evidence, A Thesis also demands a

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<sup>21</sup> Soerjono Soekanto, *Introduction to Legal Research* (Jakarta: UI Press, 1986) p. 5-6.

<sup>22</sup> Nurcholis Majid, *Islam, Doctrine and Civilization* (Jakarta: Paramadina Foundation, 1992) p. 364.

<sup>23</sup> Ali Imran Sinaga, *Contemporary Fiqh* (Medan: CV Pusdikra Mitra Jaya, 2020) p. 1.

<sup>24</sup> Al-Tiwana, *Al-Ijtihad Wa Mada Hajatina Ilaihi Fi Hadza Al-Ashr* .

high level of independence from a Masters's Student, must be able to design and implement research independently with guidance from the supervisor.

There are several steps taken in implicit ijihad in writing a contemporary Islamic law thesis based on the integration of knowledge, namely:

1. **Writing Research Design.**

Integrating knowledge is a consideration in formulating research problems that is very urgent and should even be an integral part of the study of Islamic law. It aims to provide a more comprehensive view of Islamic legal issues by involving approaches from various scientific fields. The integration of knowledge is relevant because it allows Islamic law research to deal with the latest developments. Researchers must explore various literature in fields other than law and see their relationships so that researchers can identify research problems. The explanation of the background of the problem in the proposal is explored from various theoretical reviews so that the research problem becomes clear and provides a strong foundation for deeper analysis and understanding.

2. **Coordinated** and collaborative mentoring pattern. Respondents hope for coordination between mentors with different scientific backgrounds, such as positive law and Islamic law, to create a more holistic approach.

3. **Focus on solving problems:** Integration of science is seen as an effective tool in finding solutions to various problems, including problems in the family which are related to the **integrated use of theories from various fields of science**. Integration of science allows authors to carry out a more comprehensive analysis of research results. Various points of view from different scientific fields can help in examining problems more holistically.

4. Methodology

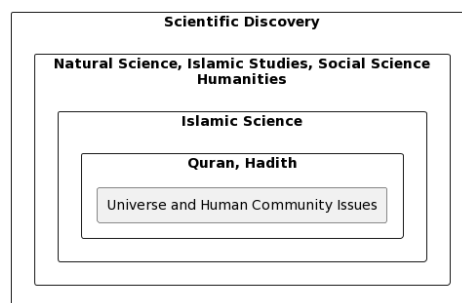
**In designing research methods in contemporary Islamic law, it is necessary to collaborate the principles of the ijihad method with scientific methods and adapt the use of technology**, such as in processing and analyzing research data taken by M as the main informant of society regarding the application of Islamic legal norms (*empirical legal research*), so that Islamic law theses can analyze data better and can utilize available technology.

**Efforts to strengthen the application of knowledge integration in thesis writing require the same perceptions of the thesis supervisor. This requires a guidebook on writing a thesis based on science integration.** Supervisors need to have a uniform understanding of the importance of integrating science into research methodology. This helps ensure that students receive consistent and appropriate guidance. **Integration must be balanced from various approaches.** The integration of knowledge should include various approaches, such as the Ushuliyah fiqh approach, tafsir, and cases. This approach must be balanced so that research results are more comprehensive.

**The importance of integrative reflection in conclusions.** Although there have been efforts to integrate science into research methodology, conclusions must also reflect this integration. Conclusions should better describe how perspectives from various scientific disciplines have contributed to the understanding of the problem under study. **A new methodology is needed** regarding the development of progressive and responsive Islamic law and requires a methodology that is more diverse and integrated. The integration of knowledge in research methodology is considered to be able to beautify and enrich the knowledge resulting from Islamic law thesis research. The research methodology should also include an analysis of the condition of contemporary legislation so that the research results are relevant to current developments.

Yongki Sutoyo revealed various concepts and methods of knowledge integration depending on the meaning of each figure and institution such as PTAI and PTU. Does integration mean a combination of religious knowledge and general knowledge merging into one, namely PT opening an Islamic study program? One model of science integration is integration-interconnection which was initiated by M. Amin Abdullah. This methodological style is supported by the Fiqh and Kalam thinking patterns of prioritizing *qiyas* from *mounting through syllogisms* and logical premises. Melting one thing with another. Become one. Interconnectivity is used to understand the complexity of human life, it requires building integrated sciences from religious sciences, social sciences, sciences, humanities, and sciences or natural sciences that are integrated and cannot stand alone. The concept he offered was "*Theoanthropocentric-Integralistic Scientific Spider Web Horizon*" which created the first layer, namely the Koran and hadith as the basis for religious ethics and morals.<sup>25</sup> Muhammad Ridwan responded to M. Amin Abdullah's concept that the scientific style developed in Indonesian Islamic education institutions has so far been limited to religious sciences.<sup>26</sup>

Syahrin made "*Wahdatul Ulum*" a scientific paradigm at UIN Simatra Utara, proposing the following integrative-collaborative transdisciplinary model:



Integrative transdisciplinarity is an approach that involves various perspectives but is integrated and unified by the research field and the results are included in the family of knowledge that is the basis of the researcher.<sup>27</sup> **Efforts to use theories** from scientific disciplines outside Islamic law are very important for analyzing thesis findings data. The use of theory is considered to enrich the analysis and provide a stronger basis for interpreting and vice versa. **Improving the quality of findings** through a science integration approach allows students to enrich their analysis with insights from various scientific disciplines so that the results are of higher quality and academically strong.

## Cconclusion

The integration of knowledge as an approach to writing a thesis will produce a quality thesis. This is important in the scientific development of PTKIN in Indonesia. Science integration as a scientific development trend needs to continue to be developed through various socialization activities, making policy regulations by the government. State Islamic Religious Universities in North Sumatra and Aceh do not yet have a guidebook for writing a thesis based on science integration. Knowledge integration is considered an effective way to strengthen more useful research results. Science integration is considered capable of highlighting weaknesses in research that has been carried out and assisting in formulating steps for

<sup>25</sup> Sutoyo and et al, *Integration of Science as a Research Program Paradigm: Study of Imre Lakatos' Thoughts* .

<sup>26</sup> Muhammad Riduan Harahap, "Integration of Science in the Perspective of Islamic Education Philosophy," *Journal of Islamic Studies...* 1, no. 1 (2020): 1–17.

<sup>27</sup> Harahap and et al, *Wahdatul Úlum, Paradidm of Scientific Integration and Character of Graduates of UIN North Sumatra* .

improvement or further development. PTKIN needs to immediately formulate research guidelines based on science integration.

In general, the writing of theses by students at PTKIN North Sumatra and Aceh both in the design of research plans, as well as in writing theory, determining research methods, and analyzing findings, results, and conclusions have implemented the integration of knowledge, but if we observe the integration of knowledge contained in student thesis research still at the *integration-interconnection stage*, around 25% of theses combine various fields of science ( *multidisciplinary* ).

The Quality Assurance Institute (LPM) creates guidelines for the integration of science in research (1) mastering how to integrate science in research methodology by the field of science, research object, as well as the level of complexity and depth of research, (2) having a scientific perspective in integrating science and religion. Apart from that, integration can also be realized by forming collaborative teams so that the strengths in one area can be combined with the weaknesses in other areas.<sup>28</sup>

### Suggestions -Suggestions

The difficulty experienced by HEIs in Indonesia in integrating science is that the expertise of the lecturers is from different scientific disciplines, making it difficult to carry out research using a science integration approach, so collaboration is needed in its implementation.

1. It is necessary to immediately create a guidebook by collaborating the principles of *ijtihad* in writing Islamic law theses based on the integration of knowledge.
2. The implementation of science integration into thesis writing should start from the integration of science into the learning curriculum so that students have good skills in using, designing, designing research theory studies, determining methods analyzing research results, and drawing conclusions oriented towards science integration.
3. The results of the best thesis research need to be published and a review needs to be given to students' best work.
4. PTKIN leaders in North Sumatra and Aceh need to initiate thesis research in collaboration with lecturers.

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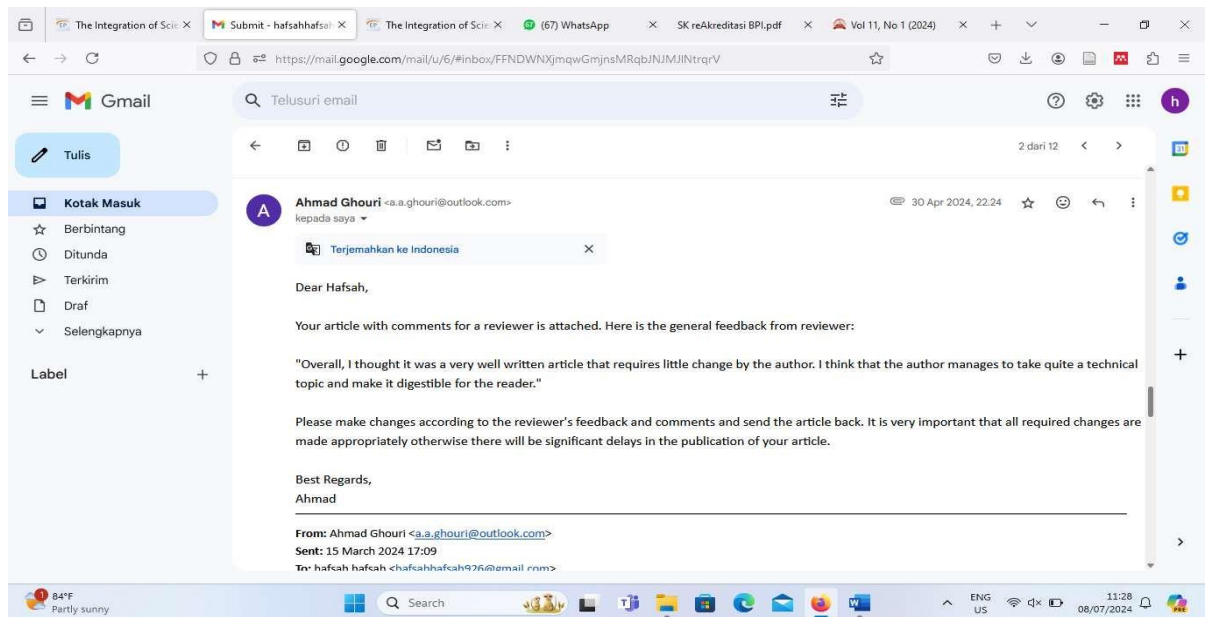
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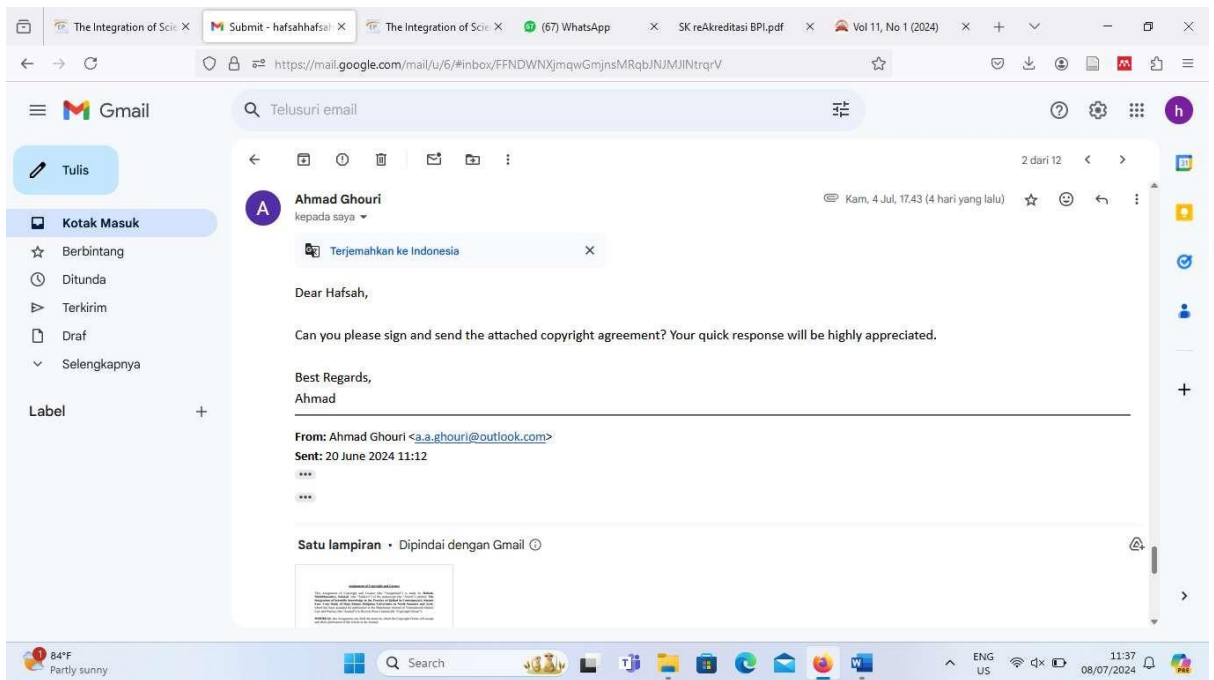
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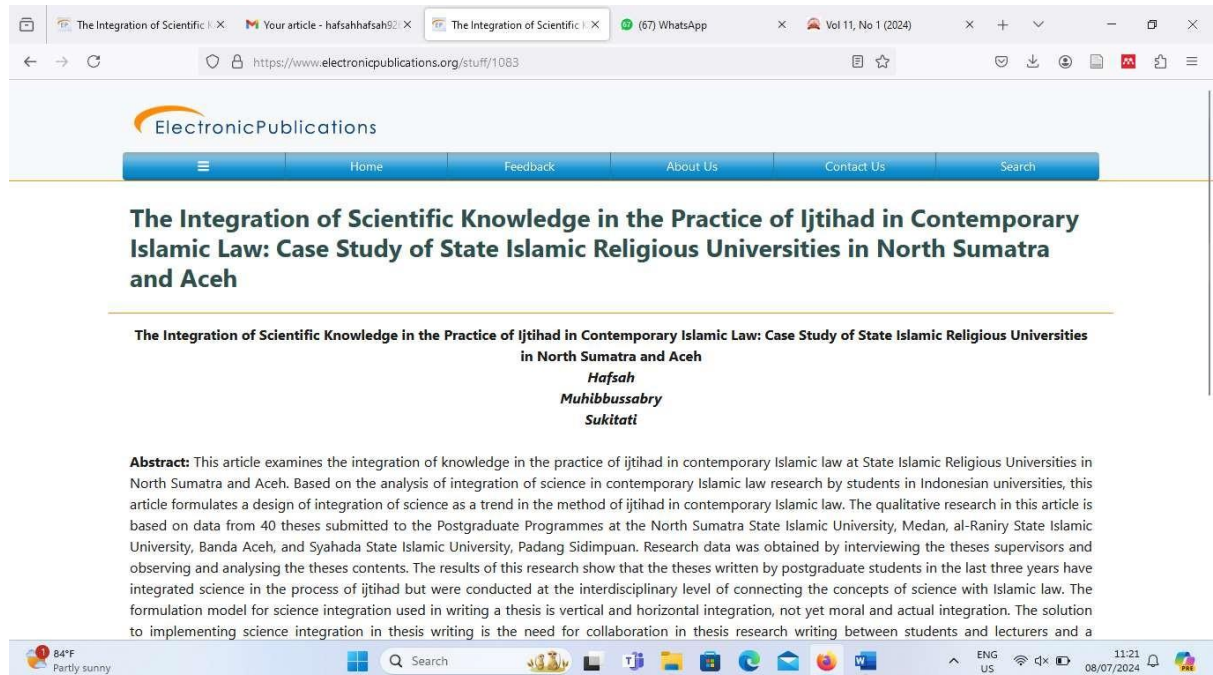
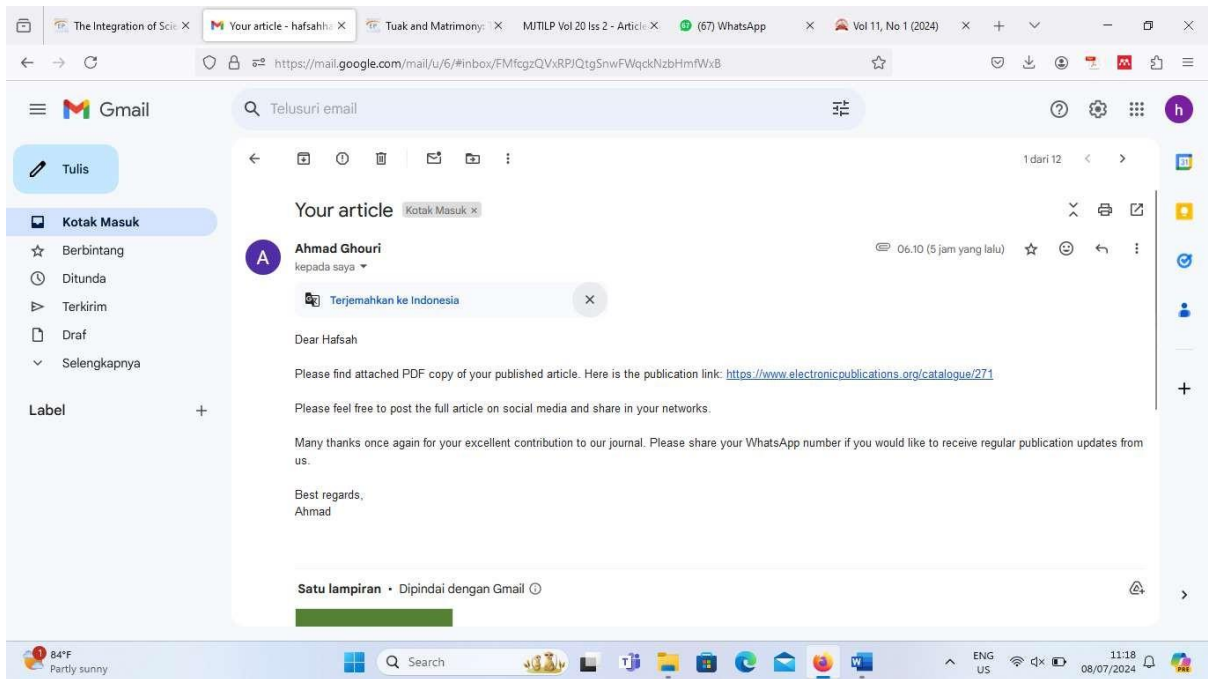
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## The Integration of Scientific Knowledge in the Practice of Ijtihad in Contemporary Islamic Law: Case Study of State Islamic Religious Universities in North Sumatra and Aceh

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Sukitati\*\*\*

**Abstract:** This article examines the integration of knowledge in the practice of *ijtihad* in contemporary Islamic law at State Islamic Religious Universities in North Sumatra and Aceh. Based on the analysis of integration of science in contemporary Islamic law research by students in Indonesian universities, this article formulates a design of integration of science as a trend in the method of *ijtihad* in contemporary Islamic law. The qualitative research in this article is based on data from 40 theses submitted to the Postgraduate Programmes at the North Sumatra State Islamic University, Medan, al-Raniry State Islamic University, Banda Aceh, and Syahada State Islamic University, Padang Sidempuan. Research data was obtained by interviewing the theses supervisors and observing and analysing the theses contents. The results of this research show that the theses written by postgraduate students in the last three years have integrated science in the process of *ijtihad* but were conducted at the interdisciplinary level of connecting the concepts of science with Islamic law. The formulation model for science integration used in writing a thesis is vertical and horizontal integration, not yet moral and actual integration. The solution to implementing science integration in thesis writing is the need for collaboration in thesis research writing between students and lecturers and a government policy regarding guidelines for writing theses based on science integration, which refers to guidebooks published by Islamic Religious Universities.

**Keywords:** Integration of Knowledge; *Ijtihad* Method; Religion and Science; Research Methodology; Contemporary Islamic Law; North Sumatra and Aceh

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The contemporary challenges facing Islamic law are increasingly diverse, requiring the application of the method of *ijtihad* in solving them using the integration of a variety of sciences. This also motivates scientists to find solutions, including formulations and ideas for research paradigms that discuss the concept of science integration.<sup>1</sup> Various facts have emerged that the integration of knowledge can produce high-quality scientists. Ahmad Khawani explained that integrating religious knowledge and Islamic sciences are very important to implement in the curriculum as a system of plans and arrangements regarding learning

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<sup>1</sup> A. Saifuddin, *Desekularisasi Pemikiran* (in Indonesian) [*Desecularisation of Thought*] (Jakarta: Mizan 1991) 101-105.

materials. In essence, the curriculum is a learning plan). The integration of knowledge gives birth to Higher Education Scholars who develop education based on the integration of knowledge to produce superior and dependable graduates or alumni. This is because research based on scientific integration can build in-depth analysis. After all, researchers have broad insight and in-depth mastery of knowledge, which is implemented when planning, using theory, discussing research findings, and writing conclusions, recommendations, and research implications. The science integration approach can answer various problems in society.<sup>2</sup>

Research programme policies aim to achieve research quality relevant to the development of science and technology needed in society. The integration of science in research is designed and established as part of the scientific development policy at State Islamic Universities, making it a characteristic and central theme and distinction of UIN (Universitas Islam Negeri/ State Islamic University). Integrating knowledge is becoming increasingly important to face global challenges such as climate change, health crises, environmental sustainability, and others. By combining knowledge and perspectives from multiple disciplines, knowledge integration allows us to gain deeper insight into our world and help us face the future more wisely. This also motivates authors to conduct research related to the strategic steps of the *ijtihad* method applied to contemporary Islamic law thesis research through a science integration approach.<sup>3</sup>

The researcher aims to (I) explore data regarding the use of a science integration approach in supervising the thesis supervisors and, (II) explore the facts in theses written by Islamic Law master's students. Therefore, this research is considered important to understand the picture of the integration of knowledge applied in writing Islamic law theses at State Islamic Religious College (abbreviated as PTKIN in Indonesia). The integration of knowledge used in the research approach can enrich the data because the data can be developed to obtain information on various scientific objects. Ken McGary, Sheila Garfield, and Nick Morris revealed that data that comes from many fields, benefits from interesting patterns, and the potential for discovering knowledge in the bioscience field is truly extraordinary. The latest trends in data integration knowledge are very much needed in the development of science for life.<sup>4</sup>

Knowledge integration is a process of mixing until it becomes a complete or unified whole. Integration involves combining several interrelated aspects so that they combine to complement each other and become a unified whole. An integrative approach is an approach in which designs or policies are created in an integrated manner by uniting, connecting, or linking various aspects so that nothing stands alone or separately.<sup>5</sup> What is meant by research is the integration between Islamic Law and science, history, sociology, psychology, and others. Science integration also includes the integration of Islamic sharia values with scientific values. There are various forms of science integration: (1) Verbal integration, (2) Horizontal integration, (3) actualisation, and (4) ethical integration. Science integration needs to be included in the curriculum and the master plan for scientific development and in community

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<sup>2</sup> Maria Assunção Flores, 'Linking Teaching and Research in Initial Teacher Education: Knowledge Mobilisation and Research-Informed Practice' (2018) 44 (2) *Journal of Education for Teaching* 610, 621.

<sup>3</sup> Muhaemin Latif and others, 'Environmental Theology and Its Relevance to Islamic Law: Perception of Makassar Muslim Scholars, Indonesia' (2023) 7 (3) *Samarah* 1734, 1757.

<sup>4</sup> Renske AM de Kleijn and others, 'Adaptive Research Supervision: Exploring Expert Thesis Supervisors' Practical Knowledge' (2015) 34 (2) *Higher Education Research & Development* 101, 117.

<sup>5</sup> Rosniati Juwara, 'Penerapan Pendekatan Integratif Dalam Meningkatkan Kemampuan Membaca Pemahaman Pelajaran Bahasa Indonesia Siswa Kelas IV SD' (in Indonesian) ['Application of Integrative Approach in Improving Reading Comprehension Ability of Indonesian Language Class IV Students'] (2021) 1 (2) *Taksonomi: Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Dasar* 15, 21.

service as the tri dharma of UIN North Sumatra College. The commitment to scientific integration as scientific development has been included in the Wahdatul Ulum UIN North Sumatra curriculum.

Application of the integration of knowledge in various forms of approaches in research: conducted as (1) *Interdisciplinary* Inter, which means between studying a topic with two scientific disciplinary approaches, an example of studying Islamic law using a sociological and economic approach, and (2) *Multidisciplinary*. From the word multi, which means many, studying a topic with three more disciplinary approaches, (3) *Transdisciplinary* Mujamil Qomar stated that Islamic research that uses a transdisciplinary approach is Islamic education that involves various other disciplines in dealing with various life problems using different approaches and methods. have been mutually agreed upon. However, using a transdisciplinary approach is difficult because each person specialises in a particular disciplinary area.<sup>6</sup> Transdisciplinary research methodology has become the focus of various groups.

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses quantitative methods with descriptive analysis.<sup>7</sup> The research location is the North Sumatra region, taking several PTKIN Islamic Law Study programmes in North Sumatra and Banda Aceh. Primary data was taken directly from the results of interviews. Informants were determined professionally: the Head of the study programme and the thesis supervisor lecturers at the PTKIN Postgraduate Programme. The theses in each Islamic Law study programme were taken for data collection using content analysis. The research sample was 40 theses consisting of 24 theses taken from a total of 80 students' theses who graduated in the last 3 years from the Postgraduate Programme at UIN North Sumatra (30%) and 10 theses from UIN al-Raniri (30%) and 6 of 20 (30%) were taken from UIN Syahada Padang Sidimpuan. Direct instruments or observations, interviews or focus group discussions (FGD) with the thesis supervisor, and thesis documents by analysing the thesis contents, then identifying, simplifying, and interpreting after conclusions are drawn using inductive analysis. Qualitative data analysis using *Atlas.ti* software. This research also analyses the contents of each thesis (content analysis) to ensure the validity of the research data. A cross-check of the data is conducted if all the data analysed is valid. Then the data is interpreted, simplified, and reduced, and conclusions are drawn using inductive analysis.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Practice of Science Integration in the Content of Contemporary Islamic Law Research in North Sumatra and Aceh

Sarah-Louise Jones et al. (2015) stated that research alone does not provide practice information; rather, translating knowledge is needed so that research findings become knowledge. Improving the education system throughout the world is challenging. The integration of science has been successful in professional education, such as medicine, which

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<sup>6</sup> Fadli Rahman dan Hidayat Ma'ruf, 'Penguatan Dan Pengembangan Pendidikan Islam Dan Transdisipliner' (in Indonesian) ['Strengthening and Development of Islamic and Transdisciplinary Education'] (2022) 08 (1) Jurnal Kependidikan Dan Sosial Keagamaan 222, 249.

<sup>7</sup> Elman Johari, 'Hadits Scientific: The Wage Integration Paradigm in Sharia Economic Concept' (2023) 1 (2) Journal of Nusantara Economy 10, 19.

is accessible to practitioners and needs to be integrated with various other sciences. Explicit and transparent synthesis of findings from various studies can be guaranteed to be beneficial.<sup>8</sup> Efforts to implement scientific integration into the tri dharma of higher education, such as in learning activities, research activities, and various community service activities, continue to be studied but have not yet found a model and technical implementation. This article aims to explain a trend in the development of contemporary Islamic legal science through a systematic research methodology based on the integration of knowledge. Mujiburrahman, Muhammad Rosidy and Musyaroffah, stated that research process standards as minimum criteria for research activities consist of systematically planning, implementing, and reporting when conducting research using scientific methods, and quality standards must be considered. Integrating science in research is a central theme at several UINs, becoming a characteristic and distinction.<sup>9</sup>

The formulation of the Science Integration research topic is described as follows:

Skill or scientific competency	Strategic Issues	Concept of Thought	Solution to problem	Required research topics
1. Technique	1	1	1	1
2. Health	1 2			
3. Agriculture	1 2 3			
4. Law	1 2 3			
5. Mathematics and Natural Sciences	1 2			
6. Religion	1	1	1	1

Source: Author's Interpretation

This research analyses 40 theses that examine *munakahat fiqh* (Islamic family law), *jinayah fiqh* (Islamic criminal law), *siyasah fiqh* (Islamic political law), and *iqtisadi fiqh* (Islamic economic law). Some of the thesis titles and their forms of integration are as follows:

### 1. *Manhaj Al-Wasafiyah Yûsuf Al-Qaradâwi in the Book of Fatawa Mu`âsirah*

The integration of knowledge in this thesis combines Yusuf al-Qaradawi's Wasatiyah approach in contemporary *fatwas* with traditional Islamic legal concepts. This research analysis includes how these *fatwas* are applied in the current context, considering social, economic, and political developments. The contribution of this thesis provides a Wasatiyah approach to resolving contemporary issues in the society of North Sumatra and Aceh.

<sup>8</sup> Sarah-Louise Jones, Richard Procter and Sarah Younie, 'Participatory Knowledge Mobilisation: An Emerging Model for International Translational Research in Education' (2015) 41 (1) Journal of Education for Teaching 539, 555.

<sup>9</sup> Mujiburrahman, Muhammad Rosidy and Musyaroffah, *Science Integration: Policy and Application in Learning and Research at Several State Islamic Universities* (Banjarasin: UIN Antasari, 2022) p. 37.



**2. *Legal Implications of Marriage Agreements After Constitutional Court Decision No. 69 or PUU-XIII or 2015 (Implementation of Marriage Agreements)***

The integration of knowledge in this thesis integrates aspects of positive law, Islamic jurisprudence, and Constitutional Court decisions in analysing the legal implications of marriage agreements. The aim is to investigate how the Constitutional Court's decision affects the implementation of marriage agreements and how Islamic law can provide an additional perspective on this issue. This thesis provides practical implications in the context of marriage in North Sumatra and Aceh communities.

**3. *Analysis of the Elements of Bribery (Risywah) Based on Law No. 20 of 2001 Jo. UU no. 31 of 1999 on Corruption Crime Cases from an Islamic Law Perspective in the Medan District Court***

The integration of knowledge in this thesis can be seen from the elements of bribery in criminal acts of corruption by combining the perspectives of positive law and Islamic law. The approach compares the elements of bribery in statutory regulations with the view of Islamic law regarding *rishwah* (bribery). The scientific integration offered in this thesis focuses on how Islamic law can provide additional or alternative views on handling bribery cases in the North Sumatra region.

**4. *Ijtihad Method of the Indonesian Ulema Council of North Sumatra Regarding the Legal Determination of the Use of Health Protocols in the Implementation of Congregational Prayers During the COVID-19 Pandemic***

The integration of knowledge in this thesis combines the *ijtihad* methodology from the Indonesian Ulema Council with the COVID-19 pandemic to determine the law on using health protocols in congregational prayers. The approach was taken by analysing the views of local ulama and the *fatwas* issued in public health and worship. The contribution of this thesis is to provide practical guidance for the people of North Sumatra and Aceh in conducting congregational prayers during the pandemic.

**5. *Marriage Dowry Rates According to Islamic Law (Case Study of Application of Marriage Dowry Rates in Bireuen Regency Communities)***

The integration of knowledge in this thesis examines the concept of marriage dowry levels in Islamic law with society's social and cultural realities in the Bireuen Regency. The approach used is to conduct case studies and empirical analysis of the application of dowry rates in marriage in the area. The implications of this thesis provide insight into how Islamic law is applied in daily life in Acehese society while reflecting on developing local values.

**6. *Implementation of the Family Planning Programme for Underage Muslim Couples in the District. Mandailing Natal Maqasid Shari'ah Perspective***

The integration of knowledge in this thesis combines the concept of family planning programmes with the principles of *Maqasid Shari'ah* to understand its implementation for underage Muslim couples. The approach uses *Maqasid Shari'ah* analysis to evaluate the effectiveness and fairness of the implementation of family planning programmes. This thesis provides policy recommendations that align with the religious values and social needs of the Mandailing Natal community, thereby maintaining a balance between government

programmes and religious interests. The results of this research provide an overview of the focus of studies taken by North Sumatra and Aceh students in contemporary Islamic law. Studies on *Fiqh Munakahat* show a high interest in marriage law and family issues in Islam, while studies on *Fiqh Siyasah* highlight interest in aspects of politics and government. The analysis also reveals that students research topics that cover important aspects of legal settlements in a broad and in-depth manner that can be conducted through scientific integration research. In the daily lives of Muslims, their research's direct relevance and applicability to Muslim societies are reflected. In an academic context, these findings provide rich and in-depth insight into contemporary Islamic legal science development. This in-depth analysis of various sub-disciplines provides a solid framework for future research in Islamic law. In addition, this research demonstrates the importance of interdisciplinarity in understanding the complexity of Islamic law, covering relevant social, political, economic, and cultural aspects. Thus, the results of this research not only contribute to academic knowledge but also provide useful directions for the development and application of contemporary Islamic law in an ever-changing society.

Table 1. Integration of Islamic Law Science with Fields of Science

NO	FIELD		NUMBER OF THESIS		
			UINSU	UIN AR-RANIRY	UIN SYAHADA
1	<i>Social sciences</i>	Sociology	22	9	4
		Anthropology	5	0	0
		Psychology	3	1	0
		Economy	16	2	1
2	<i>Natural Science</i>	History	10	3	1
3	<i>Islamic Studies</i>	Al-Qur'an	24	10	5
		Hadith	24	9	4
		National Law	21	8	2
		Fiqh	23	10	6
		KHI	1	3	1
		Usul al-Fiqh	16	7	1
		Morals	5	0	0
		Islamic Philosophy	5	0	0
4	<i>Islamic Science</i>	Custom	7	1	2
		Physics	0	0	0
		Chemistry	0	0	0
		Astronomy	0	0	0
		Medical	3	1	1
		Geography	9	3	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>194</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>28</b>

Source: Author's Interpretation

The theses of the Islamic law study program students at UIN North Sumatra Medan result from integrating various Islamic law sciences. Theses resulting from integration with the Quran

amounted to 24 theses. Theses that are the result of integration with hadith amounted to 24 (100%), integration of Islamic law with the opinions of *fiqh* scholars 23 (95.8%), then integration of Islamic law with national law 21 (87.5%), integration of Islamic law with *fiqh* and economics each 16 (66.6%), integration of Islamic law with biography 9 (37.5%), integration of Islamic law with customs and philosophy each 5 (20.8%), integration of Islamic law with medicine and psychology each 3 (12.5%). Most master's theses in Islamic law at UIN North Sumatra relate to the Koran psychology and medicine. So the integration of knowledge in writing a thesis for UIN North Sumatra students, the integration of Islamic law knowledge is in the form of transdisciplinary science, the Modern Jurisprudence Study Programme at UIN al-Raniry Banda Aceh integrates Modern Jurisprudence with the Qur'an 10 (100%), with Hadith 9 (90%), National Law as much as 7 (70%) KHI, History, geography each (30%), then customs, geography and medicine as much as 10% each. Likewise, UIN North Sumatra and UIN al-Raniry Banda Aceh mostly use the Koran and Hadith. The Islamic Family Law Study Programme at UIN Syahada Padang Sidempuan, the most integration conducted is with the opinions of the jurists 6 (85.7%), Al-Quran 5 (71.4%), Hadith and Sociology 4 (57%) each, customs and law. National Law 2 each (28.5%) and medicine, Usul al-Fiqh, History, medicine, KHI, and economics each 1 (14.2%). The integration of knowledge in writing a thesis for Islamic law master's students at PTKIN still experiences obstacles, namely the students' ability to integrate knowledge, based on the lack of other scientific insights that students can master.

The most important integration of Islamic law knowledge in writing a thesis is the integration of the field of Islamic studies (Al-Qur'an, Hadith, Fiqh, Usul al-Fiqh, KHI, *Fatwa*, Morals and National Laws (Interdisciplinary)). Integrating Islamic law and social science (Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, and Psychology (Transdisciplinary)). Integrating science with Islamic law and with Islamic science (Transdisciplinary) and science with natural science (Transdisciplinary). As many as 25% of these integrate various fields of science (Multidisciplinary). The table above also illustrates that among the theses written by students who integrated the most knowledge were UIN North Sumatra, UIN Al-Raniry Banda Aceh, and UIN Syahada Padangsidempuan. Muhaimen Latif revealed that the main sources of Islamic law, namely the Al-Qur'an and Hadith, were used as references sources of contemporary Islamic law.

Integrating knowledge has become necessary in researching Islamic legal problems that arise in an increasingly complex society.<sup>10</sup> An interdisciplinary approach is integral to understanding Islamic legal issues more comprehensively. The study of Islamic law should involve approaches from various other scientific fields so that integration and collaboration can occur. Applying knowledge integration in writing research theories found that integrating knowledge from various scientific fields outside of law can significantly strengthen the results of *ijtihad*. The integration of science is considered the right step to face developments in the current era, which allows Islamic law research to be conducted in an integrated manner with various fields of science, such as computer science, robotics, e-commerce, and others.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Ahmad Rusyaid Idris, Muhammad Khusaini and Syaiful Anwar Al-Mansyuri, 'Contemporary Islamic Law in Indonesia: The Fulfillment of Child Custody Rights in Divorce Cases Caused by Early Marriage' (2024) 3 (1) MILRev: Metro Islamic Law Review 1, 7.

<sup>11</sup> Desy Maryani and others, 'A Model of Implementing Restorative Justice Perspective of Trong Yowari Traditional Jurisdiction, Jayapura Regency' (2023) 2(1) Nusantara: Journal of Law Studies 35, 40.

## B. Formulation of Knowledge Integration, a Trend in Ijtihad Methods in Contemporary Islamic Law in Islamic Universities

*Ijtihad*, according to *usul al-fiqh* scholars, is a *fiqh* expert's effort to use all his abilities to explore practical laws from detailed postulates.<sup>12</sup> According to al-Gazali (d.505H), *ijtihad*, in general, is *بذل المجتهد وسعه في طلب العلم بأحكام الشريعة* (exertion of abilities by *mujtahids* in seeking knowledge of Sharia law). Optimal efforts and sincerity of a scholar in adhering to the principles of *ijtihad* to resolve legal problems can be expressed in various forms: (1) *Ijtihad* in the context of explaining the text. (2) *Ijtihad* is regarding developing existing laws, and (3) *Ijtihad* is using *ra'yu* (mind sense). Contemporary *ijtihad* is necessary for the connection with the development of society and different situations and conditions. Through Islamic law research, both normative legal research and legal application (empirical legal research) have been conducted by many master's students at PTKIN.

Peter Mahmud Marzuki explained that research starts by finding research problems by asking about the law and looking for answers by conducting research. Belau quoted Webster's Dictionary scientific method. These are the principles and procedures for the systematic pursuit of knowledge, including recognising and formulating a problem, collecting data through observation and experimentation, and formulating and testing hypotheses.<sup>13</sup>

A way of working to understand or being aware of the object that is the target of the science in question. The methodology comes from the words *methodos* and *logos*, which is a way to reach the goal of the science of methods, studying how to obtain and organise correct knowledge based on scientific methods. The scientific method is a procedure for obtaining knowledge called science.<sup>14</sup> The method followed or guided in research, or the steps used in research techniques. Integration of knowledge is a methodological trend in contemporary Islamic legal research referred to in this paper. This method is used in Islamic legal research by conducting research in which the steps are to integrate solving Islamic legal problems with various other scientific disciplines.<sup>15</sup>

The development of the times also impacts increasingly complex legal issues that require *ijtihad*. *Ijtihad* is the breath of Islamic law.<sup>16</sup> This means that if the activity of *ijtihad* is developed, Islamic law will thrive in society (The Living Law). Contemporary Islamic legal problems relate to new legal cases or contemporary legal problems that have not arisen in previous centuries. These legal problems are resolved by conducting *ijtihad*. Various methods of *ijtihad* have emerged from Islamic law experts, including *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* in the views of various scholars such as Jamaluddin Athiyah Muhammad, Abdullah Ahmed An-Naeem, Jasser Audah, Muhammad Syahrur, who offer linguistic and semantic *ijtihad* methods and so on.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Muhammad Abu Zahrah, *Ushul Fikih* (in Indonesian) [*Basic Jurisprudence*] (Jakarta: Pustaka Firdaus 2003) 566-567.

<sup>13</sup> Peter Mahmud Marzuki, *Penelitian Hukum* (in Indonesian) [*Legal Research*] (Bandung: Kencana 2007) 23-26.

<sup>14</sup> Mirza Mahbub Wijaya, 'Integration of Science and Religion in Methodological Review: Analysis of Miracle Verses' (2022) 10 (1) *Nizham: Jurnal Studi Keislaman* 27, 36.

<sup>15</sup> Suud Sarim Karimullah, 'The Implications of Islamic Law on the Rights of Religious Minorities in Muslim-Majority Countries' (2023) 2 (2) *MILRev: Metro Islamic Law Review* 81, 90.

<sup>16</sup> Ahmad Ash Shiddieqy, Padlan Padil Simamora and Dinda Difia Madina, 'Contemporary Islamic Politics in Tunisia: The Journey of Islamic Democracy Post-Arab Spring' (2024) 3 (1) *MILRev: Metro Islamic Law Review* 119, 224.

<sup>17</sup> Dwi Astuti Wahyu Nurhayati and Novi Tri Oktavia, 'Relevance of al Mawardi's Reflection in the Development of Islamic Economic Activities' (2022) 1 (1) *Journal of Nusantara Economy* 38, 48.

The objects of study of contemporary Islamic law as its scope are family law (*al-akhwal al-syakhsiyah*), public law (*jinayah and siyasah*), the field of worship, and *mu'amalah*. The research objects written in the thesis uses various criteria. The criteria for a good thesis are: (1) The thesis represents philosophical mastery of the studied problem. (2) Thesis research requires novelty in the form of a new theory replacing an existing theory, developing an existing theory, or filling a theoretical gap. (3) The thesis must contribute to problem-solving and have real-life implications. (4) The main question of a thesis must be formulated precisely; a tentative answer to that question can be obtained through preliminary research. (5) The thesis aims to prove whether the theory still corresponds or no longer corresponds to empirical phenomena.<sup>18</sup> Several principles of *ijtihad* are used in resolving legal problems, which can be expressed in various forms: (1) *ijtihad* in the context of explaining the text. (2) *ijtihad* regarding the development of existing law, and (3) *ijtihad* in using *ra'yu*. These three principles of *ijtihad* are implicitly stated in the thesis writing method.<sup>19</sup>

As a scientific work, a thesis has a structure and method based on academic rules and norms. A thesis requires a systematic preparation process, starting from determining the topic, problem formulation, literature review, research methods, data collection, data analysis, and conclusion.<sup>20</sup> The thesis results must be original and contribute to developing knowledge in the chosen field. After the thesis has been prepared, the thesis will be assessed in the form of a thesis exam or comprehensive exam by the lecturer or board of examiners. This process ensures that the thesis meets established academic standards and can be recognised as scientific work contributing to scientific development.<sup>21</sup>

Conducting a careful analysis using the seriousness of the writers, extensive literature exploration, and collecting the latest data and information relevant to the research topic is necessary. The thesis is expected to make a new contribution to the field of study. Research results must have added value for the development of science, which can become an important reference for further research. Analytical and reasoning skills in writing a thesis is expected to improve analytical and reasoning skills, and one must be able to compose strong arguments and support them with valid evidence. A thesis also demands a high level of independence from a master's Student must be able to design and implement research independently with guidance from the supervisor.<sup>22</sup> There are several steps taken in implicit *ijtihad* in writing a contemporary Islamic law thesis based on the integration of knowledge, namely:

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<sup>18</sup> Hendri Hermawan Adinugraha and Mashudi Mashudi, 'Al-Maslahah Al-Mursalah Dalam Penentuan Hukum Islam' (in Indonesian) ['Al-Maslahah Al-Mursalah in the Determination of Islamic Law'] (2018) 4 (1) Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi Islam 53, 63.

<sup>19</sup> Nurlinda, 'Al-Ghazali's Views on the Economy and Development of the Ummah' (2023) 1 (1) Journal of Nusantara Economy 12, 25.

<sup>20</sup> Muna Madrah and others, 'The Policy Integration Concept of the Mahram Relationship on Nurseling Study on Nurseling Practices in Semarang, Central Java-Indonesia' (2022) 17 (2) AL-IHKAM: Jurnal Hukum & Pranata Sosial 346, 356.

<sup>21</sup> Rupi'i Amri, 'Dinamika Ijtihad pada Masa Taklid dan Kemunduran' (in Indonesian) ['The Dynamics of Ijtihad in the Period of Taklid and Decline'] (2019) 16 (2) Tarjih: Jurnal Tarjih dan Pengembangan Pemikiran Islam 1, 16.

<sup>22</sup> Ali Sodiqin, 'Science-Based Ijtihad: Religious and Scientific Dialectic on Fatwas Regarding Congregational Worships amid the Covid-19 Pandemic' (2021) 21 (1) Ijtihad: Jurnal Wacana Hukum Islam dan Kemanusiaan 63, 79.

### **1. Writing Research Design**

Integrating knowledge is a consideration in formulating research problems, and it is very urgent and should be an integral part of studying Islamic law. It aims to provide a more comprehensive view of Islamic legal issues using various scientific methods. Integrating knowledge is relevant because it allows Islamic law research to deal with the latest developments. Researchers must explore various literature in fields other than law and see their relationships so that researchers can identify research problems. The explanation of the background of the problem in the proposal is explored from various theoretical reviews so that the research problem becomes clear and provides a strong foundation for deeper analysis and understanding.

### **2. Coordinated and Collaborative Mentoring Pattern**

Respondents hope for coordination between mentors with different scientific backgrounds, such as positive and Islamic law, to create a more holistic approach.

### **3. Focus on Solving Problems**

Integration of science is seen as an effective tool in finding solutions to various problems, including problems in the family related to the integrated use of theories from various fields of science. Integration of science allows authors to conduct a more comprehensive analysis of research results. Various points of view from different scientific fields can help examine problems holistically.

### **4. Methodology**

In designing research methods in contemporary Islamic law, it is necessary to collaborate the principles of the *ijtihad* method with scientific methods and adapt the use of technology, such as in processing and analysing research data taken by the main informant of society regarding the application of Islamic legal norms (empirical legal research), so that Islamic law theses can analyse data better and can utilise available technology.

Efforts to strengthen the application of knowledge integration in thesis writing require the same perceptions of the thesis supervisor. This requires a guidebook on writing a thesis based on science integration. Supervisors need to have a uniform understanding of integrating science into research methodology. This helps ensure that students receive consistent and appropriate guidance. Integration must be balanced from various approaches. The integration of knowledge should include various approaches, such as the *Usul al-Fiqh* approach, tafsir, and cases. This approach must be balanced so that research results are more comprehensive.<sup>23</sup>

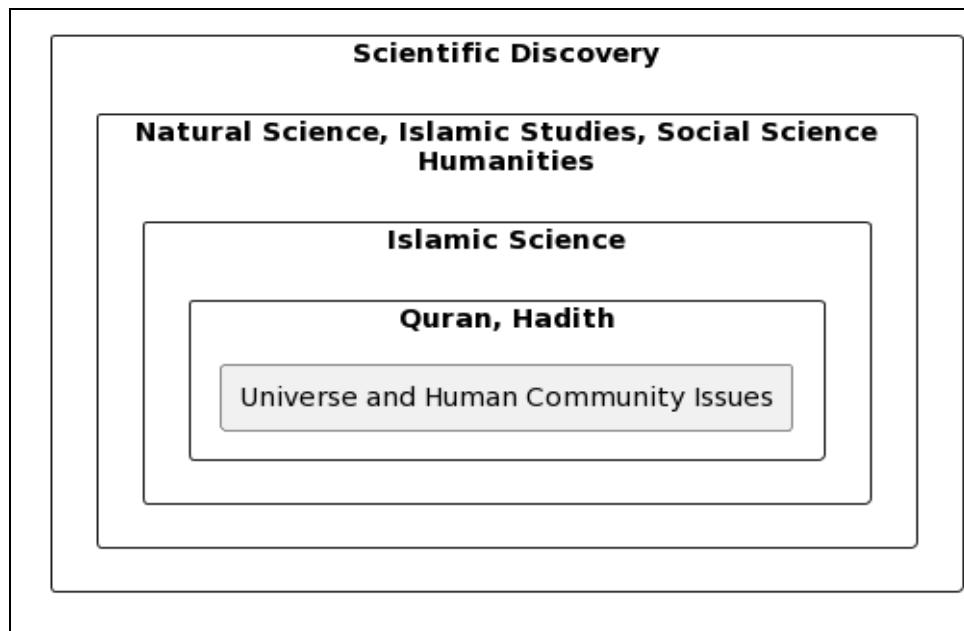
Although there have been efforts to integrate science into research methodology, conclusions must also reflect this integration. Conclusions should better describe how perspectives from various scientific disciplines have contributed to understanding the problem under study. A new methodology is needed to develop progressive and responsive Islamic law, and a more diverse and integrated methodology is required. The integration of knowledge in research methodology is considered to be able to beautify and enrich the knowledge resulting from Islamic law thesis research. The research methodology should also include an analysis of the

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<sup>23</sup> Bakhtiar Bakhtiar, Fitra Nelli and Firdaus Firdaus, 'Disclosure of Ijtihad: The Changes of the Early Time of Dawn as a Sharia and Science Integration Effort' (2022) 20 (1) Jurnal Ilmiah Al-Syir'ah 7, 16.

condition of contemporary legislation so that the research results are relevant to current developments.<sup>24</sup>

The various concepts and methods of knowledge integration depend on the meaning of each figure and institution, such as PTAI and PTU. Does integration mean combining religious and general knowledge into one, namely, PT opening an Islamic study programme? The methodological style is supported by the Fiqh and Kalam thinking patterns of prioritising *qiyas* from *mounting through syllogisms* and logical premises. Melting one thing with another. Become one. Interconnectivity is used to understand the complexity of human life; it requires building integrated sciences from religious sciences, social sciences, sciences, humanities, and sciences or natural sciences that are integrated and cannot stand alone. The concept he offered was "*Theoanthropocentric-Integralistic Scientific Spider Web Horizon*", which created the first layer, namely the Koran and hadith, as the basis for religious ethics and morals. The "*Wahdatul Ulum*", a scientific paradigm at UIN North Sumatra, proposes the following Integrative-Collaborative Transdisciplinary Model:



Integrative transdisciplinarity is an approach that involves various perspectives but is integrated and unified by the research field, and the results are included in the family of knowledge that is the basis of the researcher. Efforts to use theories from scientific disciplines outside Islamic law are very important for analysing thesis findings data. The use of theory is considered to enrich the analysis and provide a stronger basis for interpreting and vice versa. Improving the quality of findings through a science integration approach allows students to enrich their analysis with insights from various scientific disciplines so that the results are of higher quality and academically strong.

<sup>24</sup> Sukron Kamil and Zakiya Darajat, 'Mosques and Muslim Social Integration: Study of External Integration of the Muslims' (2019) 4 (1) *Insaniyat : Journal of Islam and Humanities* 24, 37.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Integrating knowledge as an approach to writing a thesis will produce a quality thesis. This is important in the scientific development of PTKIN in Indonesia. Science integration as a scientific development trend needs to continue to be developed through various socialisation activities, such as making policy regulations by the government. State Islamic Religious Universities in North Sumatra and Aceh do not yet have a guidebook for writing a thesis based on science integration. Knowledge integration is considered an effective way to strengthen more useful research results. Science integration is considered capable of highlighting weaknesses in research conducted and assisting in formulating steps for improvement or further development. PTKIN needs to formulate research guidelines based on science integration immediately.

In general, the writing of theses by students at PTKIN North Sumatra and Aceh, both in the design of research plans, as well as in writing theory, determining research methods, and analysing findings, results, and conclusions, have implemented the integration of knowledge, but if we observe the integration of knowledge contained in student thesis research still at the *integration-interconnection stage*, around 25% of theses combine various fields of science (*multidisciplinary*). The Quality Assurance Institute (LPM) creates guidelines for the integration of science in research: (1) mastering how to integrate science in research methodology by the field of science, research object, as well as the level of complexity and depth of research, (2) having a scientific perspective in integrating science and religion. Apart from that, integration can also be realised by forming collaborative teams so that the strengths in one area can be combined with the weaknesses in other areas.

The difficulty experienced by Higher Education Institutions is a defined approach to integrate science in Islamic studies, so collaboration is needed in its implementation.

1. It is necessary to immediately create a guidebook by collaborating the principles of *ijtihad* in writing Islamic law theses based on the integration of knowledge.
2. Implementing science integration into thesis writing should start with integrating science into the learning curriculum so that students have good skills in using, designing, and designing research theory studies, determining methods, analysing research results, and drawing conclusions oriented towards science integration.
3. The results of the best thesis research need to be published, and a review needs to be given for students' best work.
4. PTKIN leaders in North Sumatra and Aceh must initiate thesis research in collaboration with lecturers.