

## ANALYSIS OF NEGERI 5 MENARA MOVIE BASED ON ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE (A LITERATURE STUDY)

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**Abstrak :** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis film *Negeri 5 Menara* berdasarkan perspektif keislaman dengan pendekatan studi literatur. Film ini diadaptasi dari novel karya Ahmad Fuadi dan mengangkat kisah perjalanan pendidikan di sebuah pondok pesantren yang sarat dengan nilai-nilai Islam. Fokus penelitian adalah mengidentifikasi dan menginterpretasikan representasi ajaran Islam, seperti nilai keimanan, akhlak, ukhuwah Islamiyah, serta semangat menuntut ilmu. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah analisis isi dengan menggali tema-tema keislaman yang terkandung dalam narasi, dialog, dan karakter tokoh. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa film *Negeri 5 Menara* secara konsisten merefleksikan nilai-nilai Islam, terutama dalam motivasi pendidikan, pengembangan spiritual, dan hubungan antarindividu. Film ini juga berhasil menggambarkan pesan universal Islam yang relevan dengan kehidupan modern. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi pada pengembangan kajian Islam dalam ranah budaya populer serta menjadi rujukan bagi penelitian serupa di masa mendatang.

**Kata kunci:** *Negeri 5 Menara, Islamic perspective, literature review, film, content analysis.*

**Abstract :** This study aims to analyze the film *Negeri 5 Menara* from an Islamic perspective using a literature review approach. The film, adapted from Ahmad Fuadi's novel, portrays an educational journey in a pesantren (Islamic boarding school) setting, rich with Islamic values. The research focuses on identifying and interpreting the representation of Islamic teachings, such as faith, ethics, Islamic brotherhood (*ukhuwah Islamiyah*), and the spirit of seeking knowledge. The method employed is content analysis, exploring Islamic themes embedded in the narrative, dialogues, and character development. The findings reveal that *Negeri 5 Menara* consistently reflects Islamic values, particularly in promoting education, spiritual growth, and interpersonal relationships. The film successfully conveys the universal message of Islam in a way that resonates with modern life. This research is expected to contribute to the development of Islamic studies in popular culture and serve as a reference for future studies in similar fields.

**Keyword:** *Negeri 5 Menara, Islamic perspective, literature review, film, content analysis.*

## INTRODUCTION

Film is a form of communication media that functions not only as entertainment, but also as a means of conveying moral, social, and cultural messages. In the Islamic context, movies have great potential as a tool of da'wah to convey Islamic values to the wider community. As a popular media, movies are able to reach audiences from various backgrounds and create a new understanding of the themes raised. One of the movies that raised the theme of Islamic value-based education is *Negeri 5 Menara*. This movie is adapted from a novel by Ahmad Fuadi, which was inspired by the author's personal experience in a pesantren.<sup>1</sup>

*Negeri 5 Menara* tells the story of the struggle of Alif Fikri and his friends during their education at Pondok Madani, a boarding school that instills Islamic values as well as the spirit of studying.<sup>2</sup> The story not only depicts the dynamics of pesantren life, but also highlights important values such as ukhuwah Islamiyah, faith, discipline, and motivation to achieve goals. With a strong background of pesantren culture, this movie provides a unique view of how Islam can be applied in everyday life.<sup>3</sup>

The study of *Negeri 5 Menara* is important because it offers a representation of Islam that is relevant to modern reality.<sup>4</sup> As one of the literary works successfully adapted to the big screen, the movie brings together elements of art and religious values in one inspiring narrative.<sup>5</sup> The literature study approach allows in-depth analysis of film elements such as themes, characters, dialogue, and narration that play a role in conveying Islamic messages. This analysis contributes to the development of Islamic studies in the realm of popular culture, as well as expanding insights into how da'wah can be carried out through film media.<sup>6</sup>

In this study, the main focus is to identify and analyze the representation of Islamic values contained in the film *Negeri 5 Menara*. These values include spiritual aspects such as faith in Allah, strengthening noble morals, and the spirit of studying, which are in line with the principles of Islamic teachings.<sup>7</sup> In addition, this research also explores how human relationships in this film reflect the concept of ukhuwah Islamiyah taught in Islam.<sup>8</sup>

This research is expected to contribute to the development of Islamic studies, especially in understanding the role of popular media as a means of education and da'wah. Movies like *Negeri 5 Menara* not only provide entertainment, but also become a medium for reflection on deep religious values.<sup>9</sup> By analyzing the film from an Islamic perspective, this research seeks to reveal the potential of

<sup>1</sup> Nurudin, *Pengantar Komunikasi Massa* (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2017), 115.

<sup>2</sup> Ahmad Fuadi, *Negeri 5 Menara* (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2009), 5

<sup>3</sup> Azyumardi Azra, *Islam Nusantara: Perspektif Islam di Asia Tenggara* (Bandung: Mizan, 2000), 67.

<sup>4</sup> Richard Dyer, *Film as a Medium of Communication* (London: Routledge, 2003), 47.

<sup>5</sup> Ismail Raji Al-Faruqi, *Islamic Thought in the Modern World* (Kuala Lumpur: IIIT, 1998), 98.

<sup>6</sup> Arthur Asa Berger, *Media Analysis Techniques* (London: Sage, 2008), 122.

<sup>7</sup> Al-Ghazali, *Ihya Ulumuddin* (Cairo: Darul Fikr, 2004), 88.

<sup>8</sup> Quraisy Shihab, *Membumikan Al-Qur'an* (Bandung: Mizan, 2002), 123.

<sup>9</sup> Abdullah Yusuf Ali, *The Holy Qur'an: Translation and Commentary* (Maryland: Amana Publications, 2001), 247.

film as a tool for spreading Islamic values in modern society.

As a medium for da'wah, movies are unique in conveying Islamic messages implicitly or explicitly.<sup>10</sup> This uniqueness lies in the way movies combine visual, audio and narrative elements to create a deep emotional experience for the audience.<sup>11</sup> In this case, *Negeri 5 Menara* utilizes a cinematic approach to bring universal Islamic values to life. Meaningful dialogues, inspirational scenes, and a distinctive pesantren setting are important elements in creating a religious atmosphere that stays with the audience.

For example, one of the important values raised in this movie is the spirit of *man jadda wajada* (whoever puts in effort will succeed). This value is not only a motivation for the characters, but also reflects Islamic teachings on the importance of effort and tawakal in achieving life goals. In addition, the value of ukhuwah Islamiyah is also seen in the interaction between Alif and his friends who come from various regions in Indonesia. They learn to respect each other's differences and work together in facing challenges.<sup>12</sup>

However, although the film is rich in Islamic values, it is important to criticize the extent to which these values are consistently implemented throughout the narrative. Are the values displayed only as decorative elements, or are they really at the core of the story? The literature approach in this study makes it possible to explore these aspects in more depth, resulting in a comprehensive analysis.

Furthermore, this research also aims to answer several important questions, such as how are Islamic values represented in the characters, dialogues, and conflicts of the story? Is the movie able to reflect Islamic teachings contextually, making it relevant to modern life?<sup>13</sup> By answering these questions, this research not only provides new insights into *Negeri 5 Menara*, but also opens up opportunities for further studies on film as an effective medium of da'wah.

In conclusion, *Negeri 5 Menara* is a clear example of how Islamic values can be integrated into popular culture without losing its religious essence.<sup>14</sup> Through this analysis, it is hoped that people can better understand the strategic role of movies in shaping the understanding of Islam, especially among the younger generation.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with the type of literature study to analyze the film *Negeri 5 Menara* from an Islamic perspective.<sup>15</sup> The qualitative method was chosen because it allows researchers to explore the meaning and values contained in the movie in depth, as well as understand

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<sup>10</sup> Nurudin, *Pengantar Komunikasi Massa* (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2017), 115.

<sup>11</sup> John Hartley, *Communication, Cultural and Media Studies: The Key Concepts* (London: Routledge, 2013), 156.

<sup>12</sup> Arthur Asa Berger, *Media Analysis Techniques* (London: Sage, 2008), 122.

<sup>13</sup> Abdullah Yusuf Ali, *The Holy Qur'an: Translation and Commentary* (Maryland: Amana Publications, 2001), 247.

<sup>14</sup> Richard Dyer, *Film as a Medium of Communication* (London: Routledge, 2003), 51.

<sup>15</sup> Creswell, John W., *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (California: Sage Publications, 2014), 46.

the social and cultural context that shapes the story and characters in the movie.<sup>16</sup>

The first step in this research is the selection of the movie as the object of research. After that, the researcher watched the whole movie to identify the scenes that contain Islamic values. Furthermore, the analysis was conducted by describing and interpreting each relevant scene, based on Islamic concepts such as *morals*, *tawakal*, *ukhuwah Islamiyah*, and *da'wah*. Researchers also refer to relevant literature, such as hadith and Qur'anic verses, to further explore the meaning of each scene analyzed.<sup>17</sup>

The data obtained is analyzed descriptively and interpretatively, by presenting findings that focus on how this film represents Islamic values in everyday life. The results of this study are expected to provide new insights into the role of film as an effective da'wah media in spreading Islamic values to the wider community.<sup>18</sup>

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Overview of *Negeri 5 Menara* Movie

*Negeri 5 Menara* is an Indonesian movie adapted from the novel of the same name by Ahmad Fuadi. The movie was released in 2012 and directed by Affandi Abdul Rachman. Based on the highly popular novel, *Negeri 5 Menara* tells the journey of a teenager named Alif Fikri, who aspires to achieve his big dreams despite having to deal with various difficult life challenges.

The story begins when Alif, who comes from a village in Sumatra, has to leave his hometown to study at a boarding school called Pondok Madani. In this pesantren, Alif meets new friends who come from all over Indonesia. Together, they live a life full of challenges, from learning religious knowledge, dealing with tensions in relationships between friends, to achieving their dreams with enthusiasm and effort.

One of the main themes explored in this movie is the spirit to achieve goals, which in Islam is often associated with the concept of *Man Jadda Wajada* (whoever is serious, he will succeed). This theme is reflected in the struggle of Alif and his friends to achieve their goals, even though they come from different backgrounds and face many obstacles. Their success is not only seen from their academic achievements, but also from the maturity of their personalities in dealing with life.

In addition, the movie also highlights the importance of the value of *ukhuwah Islamiyah* or brotherhood in Islam, which is depicted through the interactions of Alif and his friends at the pesantren. Despite coming from various regions with different cultural backgrounds, they learn to understand each other, appreciate differences, and work together. In the pesantren, they not only learn religious knowledge, but also about how to form a strong and dignified character.

The beauty of the story in *Negeri 5 Menara* lies not only in the plot of the story, but also in the

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<sup>16</sup> Bogdan, Robert C., dan Sari Knopp Biklen, *Qualitative Research for Education* (Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2007), 23.

<sup>17</sup> Krippendorff, Klaus, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (California: Sage Publications, 2013), 39.

<sup>18</sup> Moleong, Lexy J., *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif* (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 2019), 6.

background of the pesantren which illustrates the nuances of Islamic life full of local wisdom values. Pesantren, as a place of education and teaching, symbolizes the struggle to achieve dreams based on religious values.

Visually, the movie depicts very beautifully various aspects of pesantren life, ranging from the atmosphere of learning in class, activities outside the classroom, to social relationships between students that show cohesiveness and togetherness. Every element in this movie tries to convey a deep moral message, namely the importance of knowledge, hard work, and brotherhood in achieving life goals.

In addition, *Negeri 5 Menara* also succeeds in showing how education in pesantren can shape a person's character, strengthen his faith, and provide a deeper understanding of the true meaning of life. The movie conveys a message to the audience, especially the younger generation, about the importance of not only pursuing worldly success, but also exploring the spiritual values taught in Islam.

Overall, *Negeri 5 Menara* is a movie that is not only entertaining, but also contains many educational and inspirational values. The movie teaches its audience about the importance of education, brotherhood, and the struggle to achieve dreams with a tireless spirit. With an approach that prioritizes Islamic values and local wisdom, this movie touches the hearts of the audience and provides a deep reflection on life.

#### **About the Author of *Negeri 5 Menara* Movie**

The original author of *Negeri 5 Menara* is Ahmad Fuadi, an Indonesian writer and journalist who is famous for his fictional works on the themes of education and Islamic boarding school life. *Negeri 5 Menara* is Fuadi's first novel, published in 2009 by Gramedia Pustaka Utama. The novel immediately received a positive response and became a best-seller, even adapted into a movie with the same title in 2012.<sup>19</sup>

Ahmad Fuadi was born in Minangkabau, West Sumatra, and has a background close to the world of pesantren, which is one of the main sources of inspiration in his works. Before writing *Negeri 5 Menara*, Fuadi had studied in various educational institutions, both in Indonesia and abroad. His experience studying at Pondok Modern Gontor, a renowned Islamic boarding school in Indonesia, had a profound influence on the themes he raised in his works.

As a writer, Fuadi focuses on stories that highlight the values of Islamic education, the spirit of struggle, and the power of friendship. Through *Negeri 5 Menara*, he managed to portray life in a pesantren very realistically and inspired many readers, especially young people. In his novels and movies, Fuadi has raised the concept of *man jadda wajada* (whoever is serious, he will succeed), which is the main message in the movie *Negeri 5 Menara*. The message illustrates that effort and hard work are the main keys in achieving dreams and achieving life goals.

After the success of *Negeri 5 Menara*, Fuadi continued his writing journey by publishing other

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<sup>19</sup> Ahmad Fuadi, *Negeri 5 Menara* (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2009), 5.

novels, such as *Ranah 3 Warna* and *Rantau 1 Muara*. These two novels also received rave reviews from readers, continuing Fuadi's reputation as a writer who promotes education, teenage life, and the struggle to achieve goals.<sup>20</sup>

Fuadi is also known as a writer who is active in the world of journalism and media, where he has worked for several major media outlets in Indonesia. This experience gives him a broader insight into people's lives and is an important asset in creating works that touch a wide range of readers.<sup>21</sup>

As a writer, Ahmad Fuadi has created works that are not only entertaining but also provide valuable life lessons. His work continues to inspire the younger generation of Indonesia to dare to dream, struggle, and not give up easily in facing life's challenges.<sup>22</sup>

### **Islamic Perspectives in the Film Negeri 5 Menara**

#### 1. Scene 1: 02:04

**picture:** Father and Son discuss religious schools



**Sumber:** Capture of Youtube, 2024

In this scene, the conversation between father and son about the choice of religious school reflects the importance of studying religious knowledge in Islam. In Islamic teachings, studying is an obligation for every Muslim, as stated in Surah Al-Mujadilah (58:11) which states that Allah raises the degree of those with knowledge. The father in this scene acts as a guide who directs his son to choose religious education, which not only provides knowledge but also forms good morals. In addition, this scene also illustrates the responsibility of parents in educating children in accordance with Islamic principles, which emphasize the importance of religious education for the life of the world and the hereafter.

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<sup>20</sup> Fuadi, *Ranah 3 Warna* (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2012), 88.

<sup>21</sup> Taufik, Sulaiman, "Wawancara dengan Ahmad Fuadi," *Majalah Pendidikan* 8, no. 3 (2013): 39.

<sup>22</sup> Ahmad Fuadi, *Rantau 1 Muara* (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2014), 72.

2. Scene 2: 03:45

**picture:** thinking about Alif's education



**Sumber:** Capture of Youtube, 2024

In this scene, the character is seen contemplating the decision for Alif's education. In an Islamic context, this reflects the importance of *istikhara* (prayer to choose the best) and careful consideration in every important decision, especially those related to children's education. In Islam, parents are expected to consider not only the worldly but also the spiritual aspects of planning for their child's future.

Contemplating Alif's educational choices reflects the value of *ikhtiar* (effort) balanced with *tawakal* (surrendering to Allah) after trying. This decision also teaches that religious education is an invaluable provision for a better future, both in this world and the hereafter, in accordance with the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW: "Seeking knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim."

This scene illustrates the importance of decisions based on careful consideration and prayer, to seek goodness and blessings in life, which is in accordance with Islamic principles about decisions in life that should cover both aspects, worldly and ukhrawi.

3. Scene 3: 06:29

**Picture:** Alif prays



**Sumber:** Capture of Youtube, 2024

In this scene, Alif performs the morning prayer, which reflects deep Islamic values. Prayer is a primary obligation for every Muslim, as a form of devotion to Allah and a way to maintain a spiritual

connection. In Islam, prayer teaches discipline, obedience, and submission to Allah's commands. In addition, prayer also serves as a means to calm the heart and mind, and strengthen Muslim identity. By showing Alif's devotion to prayer, this scene emphasizes the importance of prayer as a pillar of religion and the cornerstone of a Muslim's life.

4. Scene 4: 08:08

**Picture:** Father and Alif discuss



**Sumber:** Capture of Youtube, 2024

In this scene, we see a conversation between Alif and his father that shows the importance of good communication in Islam. Islam teaches the importance of deliberation and discussion in decision-making, in accordance with the principle of *shura* (deliberation) taught in the Qur'an (Surah Ash-Shura: 38). In this dialog, the father acts as a guide, giving direction with love, while Alif listens and respects his advice. This scene reflects the value of *ukhuwah* (brotherhood) and *hikmah* (wisdom) in interaction, which is the basis for harmonious relationships in the family in accordance with Islamic teachings.

5. Scene 5: 11:39

**picture:** Family eating together



This scene depicts a family eating together, which reflects the value of *ukhuwah* (brotherhood) and *silaturahmi* (establishing good relations) in Islam. Islam strongly recommends strengthening family



relationships through joint activities, including eating together, which is also a moment to share blessings. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: “*Eat together and do not eat separately, for the blessing is in being together.*” (HR. Bukhari). In addition, eating together also teaches gratitude to Allah for the blessings given, in accordance with the prayer before eating in Islam. This scene shows the importance of togetherness and gratitude in Muslim family life.

6. Scene 6: 11:39

**picture:** Alif leads the prayer



In this scene, Alif leads the prayer, which reflects the value of *tawhid* (the oneness of Allah) and *worship* in Islam. Leading a prayer is an act that shows obedience and closeness to Allah, as well as a sense of responsibility in guiding others to worship. In Islam, prayer is a form of direct communication with Allah, and leading prayer shows courage and leadership in a positive way. In addition, it also reflects the value of *ukhuwah* (brotherhood) and *togetherness*, as communal prayer is a moment to strengthen relationships between members of a family or community, as well as seeking blessings and guidance from Allah.

7. Scene 7: 26:5

**picture:** Share food



**Sumber:** Capture of Youtube, 2024

This scene shows the act of sharing food, which reflects the value of *alms* and *social care* in Islam. Islam strongly emphasizes the importance of sharing with others, both in material and non-material

forms. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: “Whoever feeds a hungry person, Allah will feed him in Paradise.” (HR. Tirmidzi). Sharing food also teaches the value of *ukhuwah* (brotherhood) and *sincerity*, and fosters a sense of empathy for the needs of others. In Islam, sharing is not only about physical nourishment, but also about giving love and strengthening social bonds.

8. Scene 8: 29:03

**picture:** Ustadz Salman



This scene reflects the value of *ikhtiar* (effort) and *tawakal* (surrender to Allah) in Islam. Ustadz Salman encourages the students by quoting the mantra “Man Jadda Wajada” which means “Whoever makes an effort will succeed.” This reflects the teachings of Islam which encourages its people to make maximum efforts in achieving goals, but still surrender to God's destiny after trying. Likening the log to a log cut with a sharp machete shows the importance of perseverance and earnestness in achieving the desired results, which is part of the Islamic *moral* teachings to not give up easily and always try vigorously.

9. Scene 9: 40:19

**picture:** Give encouragement



This scene illustrates the value of *ukhuwah* (brotherhood) and *ta'awun* (mutual help) in Islam. Alif and his friends encourage Baso, who is about to participate in a speech on the theme of “The Qur'an”. This reflects the teachings of Islam which emphasize the importance of supporting each other in goodness and virtue. In the Qur'an, Allah says in Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:2), “Cooperate in goodness and piety, and do not cooperate in sin and enmity.” This scene teaches the importance of cooperation and mutual support between fellow Muslims to achieve good goals, such as improving understanding of the Qur'an.

10. Scene 10: 01:45:06

**picture:** Baso teaches the Koran



**Sumber:** *Capture of Youtube, 2024*

This scene reflects the value of *knowledge* and *da'wah* in Islam. Baso teaching the children the Koran shows concern for religious education and a desire to share knowledge. In Islam, demanding knowledge and teaching it to others is a highly recommended charity. The Prophet Muhammad said: *"Whoever takes a path in search of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him the way to heaven."* (HR. Muslim). Although Baso faced personal challenges, he still chose to share his knowledge, which reflects the value of *sincerity* and *sacrifice* in Islam. Baso's actions teach us the importance of sharing religious knowledge, even in difficult circumstances.

## CONCLUSION

The film *Negeri 5 Menara* offers various deep Islamic values through inspiring characters and storylines. Through the various scenes analyzed, this film shows the importance of values such as discipline, obedience in worship, the spirit of business (*man jadda wajada*), and togetherness in the family and community. Values such as *ukhuwah Islamiyah*, sincerity, and concern for others are also reflected in the interactions between the characters, such as Alif, Baso, and their friends.

As a medium for preaching, this film succeeds in integrating Islamic teachings effectively into everyday life, teaching that success comes from serious effort, perseverance in worship, and concern for others. Apart from that, this film also shows the importance of sharing knowledge and guiding others on the right path, as the characters in the film do. Thus, *Negeri 5 Menara* is not only for entertainment, but also as a means to spread Islamic messages that are relevant to modern life.

Through a simple but meaningful approach, *Negeri 5 Menara* also teaches that religious

education and teaching is not limited to Islamic boarding schools or formal institutions, but can be applied anywhere, including in everyday life. The courage of the characters in facing life's challenges and sticking to Islamic principles shows that Islamic preaching and values can be passed on through real actions, not just words.

This film also touches on other important themes such as social responsibility, sacrifice, and the importance of having good relationships with family and each other. The enthusiastic and supportive interactions between Alif's friends, as well as their concern for each other, show how loving Islamic values can be applied in every aspect of life, whether in education, family, or social interactions.

Thus, Negeri 5 Menara becomes a very relevant representation in the context of film propaganda in this modern era. The Islamic messages contained in this film not only inspire viewers to deepen their understanding of religious teachings, but also give them the enthusiasm to continue trying and doing good, in accordance with Islamic teachings which prioritize noble morals, perseverance and brotherhood.

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