Adaptation Of Arabic Script Into *Pegon* Sunda In A Kitab Of Tijan Al-Dharari

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Abstract
The Sundanese *Pegon* script is a modified Arabic script used in writing Sundanese texts, especially in pesantren. It plays an important role in Islamic learning, allowing santri to understand religious texts in their own language. Over time, the Sundanese *Pegon* script underwent phonological and structural adaptations to suit the Sundanese language. This research examines the adaptation of Arabic script into Sundanese *Pegon* script in the book of Tijan al-Darari as part of cultural preservation and transmission of Islamic values. Qualitative research method with descriptive-analytical approach is used to analyze the phonological and morphological characteristics of Sundanese *Pegon* script in the manuscript. The results show that the Sundanese *Pegon* script underwent vowel and consonant adjustments to match Sundanese phonology. In addition, its visual and structural modifications reflect the combination of Islamic values and local culture. Thus, the Sundanese *Pegon* script not only functions as a means of communication, but also as a means of religious education and preservation of Sundanese cultural identity in the pesantren environment.
Keywords: *Pegon* script, Sundanese, Tijan al-Darari, Pesantren, Sociolinguistics.

Introduction

Arabs had traded as far as the archipelago before the colonial period, bringing Islam peacefully through trade routes that spread widely across the archipelago. Since the 7th century AD, interactions between Arab traders and the local population were not only economic, but also included cultural and religious exchanges.(Rahman & Maisurah, 2023) The arrival of Islam brought profound changes in many aspects of local life, including the language and script system. In the 12th century, the first Islamic kingdom was established in Perlak, Aceh, which became an important center for the spread of Islam in the archipelago.(Masrur, 2017) The influence of Arab culture was increasingly felt, especially through the community's acceptance of the use of Arabic script which was later adapted into Arabic-Malay script.(Aisyah, 2017)

Based on historical evidence, the first author or creator of the Arabic-Malay script is believed to be Abu Ishak Al Makarany, an important figure in Malay-Islamic history who wrote the book Idhharul Haq fi Mamlakatil Perlak wal Pasy. This book contains historical records of the kingdoms of Perlak and Pasai and was written in Arabic-Malay script, marking

the beginning of the assimilation of Arabic script with the local language that was widespread among the Malay community.(Indra Sakti, 2011)

Language and script are closely related to culture, and script functions as a graphic symbol that follows an orthographic system to represent language and document ideas in a durable way.(M. R. Maulana, 2020) Every nation has a different script system, either indigenous or adapted, which reflects the richness of local culture and knowledge.(Apriyanto, 2023) In the archipelago, *Pegon* script became one of the modified forms of Arabic script, which was then used to convey various religious ideas and ideas in local languages, such as Sundanese.(Roza, 2017)

One of the scripts that grew in Sundanese is the *Pegon* script, the result of modifications from the Arabic script to better fit the phonological structure of the Sundanese language. *Pegon* script became known around the 14th century, along with the spread of Islam in the archipelago, and reached the peak of its popularity in the 18th-19th centuries.(A. R. Maulana, 2021) In the Sundanese region, the Sundanese *Pegon* script has been taught for generations in Islamic boarding schools as part of traditional learning methods. The function of *Pegon* script in pesantren is not just a medium of writing, but also serves as a means of teaching character values and proselytizing in Sundanese, which allows people to understand religious teachings in their own language.(Apologia, 2023)

Pegon script plays a major role in the transmission of Islamic knowledge in Sundanese pesantren. In the teaching of classical books known as kitab kuning, the Arabic text is given meaning per word or sentence in Sundanese written in *Pegon* script.(Sulistiani et al., 2023) This process not only enriches the santri's understanding of Arabic, but also maintains the sustainability of Sundanese language and culture through integration with Islamic values.(Apriyanto, 2023) One of the books that utilizes the adaptation of Arabic script into Sundanese is Tijan al-Darari. This book is an important example of how the *Pegon* script helps convey Islamic teachings in the context of Sundanese culture, where it serves to connect local culture and universal Islamic values.

Islamic boarding schools, as religious educational institutions, have the main purpose of passing on Islamic knowledge, preserving Islamic traditions, and producing future scholars. Pesantren are also designed to adapt to the dynamics of changing times and the needs of today's generation.(Erfan Gazali, 2018) In its development, many pesantren try to adapt to changes and are open to innovation. However, there are also pesantren that cling to tradition, protect themselves from the influence of the times, or even close themselves based on their beliefs. (Rann et al., 2023)

Pegon Arabic script is a unique artistic and cultural heritage from the ancestors. This writing system allows the Javanese language to be written using Arabic letters with agreed linguistic rules.(Jaeni, 2017) As one of Java's traditional heritages, *Pegon* Arabic has witnessed major changes since entering the modern era. The main challenge is to maintain its sustainability and relevance amidst the dynamics of an ever-evolving society. This study aims to explore these transformations, especially in terms of its use, preservation and influence in the contemporary era.

As a unique and historically valuable form of writing, *Pegon* Arabic plays a significant role in shaping Javanese cultural identity. The literary tradition that was born and preserved through this script is still developing in the pesantren environment, with typical variations of the Indonesian *Pegon* Arabic script.(Baso, 2012) However, globalization and technological advancements are putting enormous pressure on the script, requiring it to adapt to the times. The fundamental question arises: can *Pegon* Arabic survive modernization, or are we slowly witnessing the loss of an invaluable cultural treasure?

The book is an inseparable part of the identity of Islamic boarding schools. This book, also known as kitab klasik or kitab gundul, contains Arabic texts without harakat. To understand it, students are required to master the knowledge of tools such as Nahwu and Sharaf.(Nana, 2016) Therefore, an institution is not considered a pesantren if it does not teach the book. This book is the main source of learning various branches of religious knowledge in pesantren. Its name comes from the use of yellow-colored paper, which is believed to be more comfortable to read in low light conditions. In the past, when lighting facilities were still limited, this paper color made it easier for students to read at night with simple lighting.

One way to understand the Islamic classic book is to give meaning using *Pegon* Arabic, which is Arabic letters that have been modified to write the local language. *Pegon* Arabic is a cultural heritage of the archipelago that has existed for hundreds of years. The term "*Pegon*" comes from the Javanese pego, which means deviant, because the use of Arabic letters to write Javanese is considered unusual. In the archipelago, *Pegon* Arabic has an important role in the spread of Islamic teachings, used by scholars as a medium for preaching. According to Prof. Dr. Koentjaraningrat, the Arabic script used in Javanese literature, especially Islamic ones, is known as *Pegon* script.(Koentjaraningrat, 1994)

The use of the *Pegon* Arabic method in pesantren aims to translate or give meaning to Arabic books into Javanese or Indonesian. This method facilitates the learning process because the writing system follows the Arabic script pattern, which is from right to left, which is in line with the writing of the book, in contrast to Latin letters which are written

from left to right.(Wahyuni et al., 2017) Thus, *Pegon* Arabic became an important tool in the educational tradition of pesantren, while contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage and religious values.

As a unique and historically valuable writing style, *Pegon* Arabic plays a significant role in shaping Sundanese cultural identity. The literary tradition utilizing this script has historically been preserved in Islamic boarding schools, with the distinctive characteristics of the Indonesian *Pegon* Arabic script.(Baso, 2012) However, technological advances and globalization put great pressure on this writing system to adapt to the needs of the times. In this situation, it is necessary to study how the *Pegon* script still plays a role in maintaining the continuity of religious traditions and local culture, especially through its use in the Islamic classic book, which is the main element of education in Islamic boarding schools.

One clear example of the adaptation of Arabic script into Sundanese *Pegon* can be seen in the Kitab Tijan al-Darari, which is the main focus of this research. This book illustrates how the *Pegon* script contributes to conveying Islamic teachings within the context of Sundanese culture, while enriching and preserving religious traditions through writing that is easily understood by the local community.

Method

This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical method to examine the use of *Pegon* script in the Sundanese Tijan al-Darari manuscript. The analysis process is based on the guidelines of Palanggeran Ejaan Basa Sunda Revised Edition II, which aims to maintain uniformity in transliteration and understanding Sundanese *Pegon* script in religious texts. The main data in this research comes from the Sundanese translation version of Tijan al-Darari written by K.H. Asep Abdurrahman and published by Maktabah and Mathba'ah Hasanah.

The data was collected through manuscript documentation in digital form to facilitate detailed observation. A literature study was also conducted to compare the prevailing Sundanese spelling theory. The data collected was classified based on the usage pattern of *Pegon* script in Sundanese, including the identification of specific consonants and vowels that show phonological adaptation in Sundanese.

The transliteration process was carried out to convert *Pegon* script to Latin letters based on Sundanese spelling standards, making it easier to analyze phonological differences such as "e pepet" and "é taling." Furthermore, phonological and morphological analysis was conducted to identify the unique characteristics of the Sundanese *Pegon* script, such as adjustments to sounds that are not found in Arabic.

The results of the analysis are then summarized to reveal the role of the Sundanese *Pegon* script in conveying Islamic teachings in accordance with the Sundanese language and cultural context. Through these steps, this research seeks to provide an in-depth understanding of the characteristics of Sundanese *Pegon* in religious texts, as well as showing the adaptation of *Pegon* script to support the transmission of Islamic values in Sundanese.

Result and Discussion

This research focuses on the adaptation of Arabic script into Sundanese through the use of *Pegon* script in the text of Tijan al-Darari. This adaptation is not only a means of writing, but also an important medium in maintaining Sundanese local culture and language in the context of spreading Islamic teachings.(Sulistiani et al., 2023) *Pegon* script has a significant role in the transmission of Islamic knowledge in pesantren, enabling the understanding of the classical script in the local language. The findings show how the *Pegon* script functions to convey religious teachings while maintaining the distinctiveness of Sundanese phonology and morphology. The following are some of the main findings that highlight the different vowels, consonants, and functions of the *Pegon* script in the social and cultural contexts of Sundanese pesantren

**Phonological on Vowels and Consonants**

Pegon script developed in the pesantren environment as a means to translate and understand Arabic books into Sundanese. The aim is to make it easier for students to understand religious teachings written in Arabic. As stated by Roza, the modification of the Arabic script into *Pegon* serves to adjust the phonological system of the local language to make it easier to understand. *Pegon* script writing, like Arabic writing, is done from right to left, in contrast to Latin letters which are written from left to right.(Roza, 2017) Masrur explains that the Arabic-*Pegon* script in the archipelago has unique characteristics that combine the rules of Arabic writing with the phonological system of local languages, including Sundanese. Although the *Pegon* script has similarities with the Hijaiyah letters, some modifications were made to adapt it to Sundanese phonology.(Masrur, 2017) Apriyanto reveals that some letters undergo special adaptations in order to represent vowel and consonant sounds that are not found in Arabic.(Apriyanto, 2023) The following are the results of the analysis of some vowels and consonants in the Sundanese *Pegon* script:

Sundanese Vowel Letters

No	Sound	Symbol	Description	Name of Harakat	Example in Script	Reads
1	*A*	---ﹷ--- / --ﹷﺎ--	Small lines above letters	*Fathah*	اَرِيْ	"Ari"
2	*I*	---ﹻ--- / --ﹻﻲ--	Small lines below letters	*Kasrah*	وِڤاَغْٵ	"Pirang-Pirang"
3	*U*	---ﹹ--- / --ﹹﻮ--	A comma-like line above the letters	*Dhammah*	بُرْفْج	"Puji"
4	*Eu*	---ﹽ---	A small wavy line above the letter	*Tanda Mad Wajib Muttashil*	جۡڠَ	"Jeung"
5	*e (e pepet)*				وَنَڠْ	"Wenang"
6	*é (e taling)*	--ﹷﻲ	*Fathah* and Ya combination	-	اَيْتَ	"Eta"
7	*O*	--ﹷﻮ	*Fathah* and wau combination	-	غُومُوڠْ	"Ngomong"

These modifications allow the *Pegon* script to represent the sounds in Sundanese more accurately, making it easier for students to understand religious texts written in Sundanese.

Sundanese Consonant Letters

No	Bunyi	Aksara				Dibaca	Contoh Pada Teks	Dibaca
		Mandiri	Awal	Tengah	Akhir			
1	Ka	ك	کـ	ـکـ	ـك	K	كَان	"Kana"
2	Ga	ك}	}کـ	}کـ	ك{	G	كَسْ	"Geus"
3	Nga	ڠ	ڠـ	ـڠـ	ـڠ	Ng	غُومُوڠْ	"Ngomong"
4	Ca	چ	چـ	ـچـ	ـچ	C	اِچلَكَنْ	"Calakan"
5	Ja	ج	جـ	ـجـ	ـج	J	جۡڠَ	"Jeung"

6	Nya	ي	پ	ڀ	ـي	Ny		"Nyuhunkeun"
7	Ta	ت	ـت	ـتـ	ت	T		"Tingkah"
8	Da	د	ـد	-	ـد	D		"Dina"
9	Na	ن	ـن	ـنـ	ـن	N		"Nulis"
10	Pa	ف	ـف	ـفـ	ـف	P		"Pirang-Pirang"
11	Ba	ب	ـب	ـبـ	ـب	B		"Bodo"
12	Ma	م	ـم	ـمـ	م	M		"Mangeranan"
13	Ya	ي	ـي	ـيـ	ـي	Y		"Aya"
14	Ra	ر	ر	-	ـر	R		"Rahmat"
15	La	ل	ـل	ـلـ	ـل	L		"Lamun"
16	Wa	و	و	-	ـو	W		"Wenang"
17	Sa	س	ـس	ـسـ	ـس	S		"Sakabeh"
18	Ha	ه	ـه	ـهـ	ـه	H		"Hiji"
		ح	ـح	ـحـ	ـح			"Hakna"
19	Fa	ف	ـف	ـفـ	ـف	F		"Fatonah"
20	Va	ف	ـف	ـفـ	ـف	V	-	-
21	Qa	ق	ـق	ـقـ	ـق	Q		"Qidam"
22	Xa	ك	ـك	ـكـ	ـك	X	-	-
23	Za	ز	ـز	-	ـز	Z		"Zuhrah"

| 24 | Kha | خ | ـخـ | ـخـ | ـخ | Kh | لِاخْوَان | "al-Ikhwan" |
| 25 | Sya | ش | ـشـ | ـشـ | ـش | Sy | شَفَاعَةْ | "Syafa'at" |

These consonant modifications allow the Sundanese *Pegon* script to function more optimally as a medium for conveying Sundanese in writing religious texts. This is important to adjust to the learning needs of santri who use Sundanese daily.

The Use of Sundanese *Pegon* Script as a Religious Translation Tool

The Sundanese *Pegon* script not only functions as a reading tool, but also as a translational tool that facilitates the understanding of Arabic texts for santri. In the Tijan al-Darari text, *Pegon* script is used to write per-word and per-sentence translations from Arabic text to Sundanese. According to Wahyuni & Ibrahim, the transliteration method using *Pegon* script in the book aims to facilitate the understanding of Arabic texts for santri in pesantren, so that they can interpret the meaning according to the local language context.(Wahyuni et al., 2017) This process includes direct transliteration from Arabic to Sundanese *Pegon*, which allows santri to understand the intent of the text more easily without losing the original intended meaning in Arabic.

The Effectiveness of *Pegon* Script as Educational Media in Islamic Boarding Schools

In Sundanese pesantren, the *Pegon* script acts as an effective educational medium to strengthen santri's understanding of religious teachings. The use of Sundanese *Pegon* script facilitates the process of interpreting the Islamic classic books, where Arabic texts that are not punctuated can be interpreted in Sundanese. Sulistiani et al, emphasized that the *Pegon* script plays a crucial role in the scientific tradition of pesantren as a tool for understanding and teaching classical books written in Arabic. Through this approach, santri are taught to understand the structure of the Arabic language while deepening their knowledge of the Sundanese language, thus helping them to convey the teachings of Islam to the Sundanese community more easily.(Sulistiani et al., 2023)

Visual Form Adaptation to Accommodate Sundanese Language Needs

In addition to phonological adaptations, the Sundanese *Pegon* script also underwent visual adjustments to accommodate the differences between Arabic and Sundanese language structures. For example, some letters have additional dots or lines added, such as in the sounds "Ga" and "Nga", which are not found in Arabic letters. According to Roza, this visual modification is a form of linguistic innovation that aims to adapt the Arabic script to the phonological system of local languages in the archipelago, including the Sundanese *Pegon*

script. These visual adjustments not only clarify the sound differences but also ensure that Sundanese readers can better recognize the letters. As such, these visual adaptations reflect the needs of the Sundanese language while maintaining conformity with the basic structure of the Arabic script.(Roza, 2017)

Application of *Pegon* Script in Socio-Cultural Contexts

The Sundanese *Pegon* script not only plays a role in the educational context of pesantren, but also in the socio-cultural aspects of Sundanese society. In the pesantren environment, the *Pegon* script is used as a link between the local language and religious texts, which creates a learning atmosphere that respects Sundanese cultural values. As stated by Baso, the *Pegon* script is not just a writing system, but also a cultural identity that became an integral part in the development of Islamic literacy in the archipelago. This confirms the function of the Sundanese *Pegon* script as a cultural symbol that continues to live in the oral and written traditions of the Sundanese community. In this socio-cultural context, the *Pegon* script serves to maintain the identity of the Sundanese language while strengthening Islamic values in local culture.(Baso, 2012)

Conclusion

This research shows that the Sundanese *Pegon* script has an important role in cultural and linguistic adaptation, especially in the context of spreading Islamic teachings in pesantren. This script has undergone phonological and morphological modifications to represent typical Sundanese sounds, making it easier for santri to understand religious texts in the local language without losing linguistic accuracy. Apart from being a reading tool, *Pegon* script is also effectively used as a medium for translating Arabic texts into Sundanese, both per word and per sentence. This process not only supports the understanding of religious teachings, but also strengthens the mastery of Sundanese among santri. Moreover, the Sundanese *Pegon* script becomes a symbol that connects Islamic values with local culture, creating harmony between the pesantren tradition and the identity of Sundanese society.

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