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Three different Bahasa-Indonesia-published list of subject headings and Library of Congress Subject Headings on Islam and Islamic-related matters: a comparative study

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Abstracts: In processing library materials, there are at least two activities involved i.e. classification and determining the subject heading(s), which the latter involved a certain list of subject headings. Different from classification notation such as UDC, DDC or Library of Congress Classification which are free from national languages bound, the use of subject headings are language-bound-activities because it listed subject headings presented in national language apart from those libraries which are using English subject headings. This paper studied the use of Islamic-related- subjects as listed in three different list of subject headings published in Bahasa Indonesia (national language of Indonesia) i.e. Daftar Tajuk Subyek untuk Perpustakaan [List of subject headings for libraries] (Tairas & Soekarman, 1990), Tajuk Subjek Universitas Indonesia [University of Indonesia Subject Headings] (Universitas Indonesia, 2000) and Daftar Tajuk Subjek Perpustakaan Nasional or National Library Subject Headings (Perpustakaan Nasional, 2010). The study begin with the entry Islam on those list of subject headings, then widened to the Islam-related-subject headings such as Al Quran; Masjid (Mosque), Hukum Islam (Islamic Law); Teologi (Theology) and subheadings under Islam such as Islam – Penyiaran (Islam – Spreading), Islam – Sejarah (Islam – History) etc. The results then compared with Library of Congress Subject Headings (30th ed, LCSH). It was found that the Daftar Tajuk Subyek untuk Perpustakaan contained the least subject headings, while the most complete one is Daftar Tajuk Subjek Perpustakaan Nasional. However, when compared with LCSH the Daftar Tajuk Subjek Perpustakaan Nasional lacked many subject entries and not enough sub-subjects on Islam. The findings are important because being the largest Muslim country in the world, the list of subject headings in Bahasa Indonesia should reflect the population users, the rising Islamic publications published in Bahasa Indonesia, the rising demand of users needs on Islam-related-subjects, and policy of literary warrant. While the subject headings issued by National Library of Indonesia geared towards its own needs as well as academic libraries, then there was an overlook on publication of list of subject headings geared for school including madrasah (Islamic-based schools) and pesantren (Islamic boarding schools) libraries, hence it is suggested to develop it. Such project needs the co-operation of National Library of Indonesia, Centre for Language Development, academic sectors especially those from library and information science schools, school librarians and probably the Council of Ulamas.

Key words

Islam, Indonesia, Libraries, Subject headings, Comparative studies, Bahasa Indonesia
Sub-themes

C 5. Islamic information resources

Introduction

More than a hundred years ago, Cutter stated that the objects of a catalog us to enable a person to find a book of which …the subject is known (Taylor, 2006). Subject heading can be defined as a “subject concept term or phrase found in a subject heading list and used in catalog records.” (Taylor, 2004). The use of subject headings in catalog records is to serve as access points by which works can be searched. As subject headings is part of verbal subject access then the subject headings can be compiled in different languages. It is different from scheme of classification which denotes the classification number followed by its explanation. The classification number is not translated, the explanation of the notation that was translated. Hence there are Dewey Decimal Classification version in different languages, in which case the notation is still the same but not the text.

With the verbal subject access in mind, there are few subject heading list in certain languages that was translated into another language. The exception is perhaps the translation of MeSH into Polish. So, it is not surprising that there are different version of subject headings in Bahasa Indonesia, a lingua franca for more than 200 million speakers in the dominant Muslim country.

The question is there any similarity or overlapping among the Bahasa-Indonesia-published-list of subject headings regarding Islam?

Methods

Three list of subject headings published in Bahasa Indonesia which still used by the Indonesian libraries were studied, those are (1) Daftar Tajuk Subjek Perpustakaan Nasional (National Library List of Subject headings) published by National Library of Indonesia, 2010, hereafter called NLI; (2) Daftar Tajuk Subjek Universitas Indonesia (University of Indonesia list of subject headings) published by University of Indonesia Library in 2000, hereafter called UI and (3) Daftar Tajuk Subyek untuk Perpustakaan (List of subject headings for libraries) authored by JNB Tairas and Soekarman K., published by Gunung Mulia publisher, its 13rd printing appeared in 2008.

Subject heading selected is Islam which is becoming the main point. From the subject heading Islam, then the research surveyed the covered subject entries. In this study, subject entries is considered synonym with descriptor with the consideration that those three list of subject headings are using the different approach. NLI used the thesaurus, hence each descriptor is followed by designator such as BT (Broader Term), Narrower Term (NT), Related Term (RT) U (Use), UF (Use For); all written in Bahasa Indonesia. The UI version is using the see and see also references using design x and xx. Tairas also using the designation x and xx.

This paper limited the subject entries to those under Narrower Term, because Broader Term covers subject entries which is not always directly related the subject entries. For example Islam is a part of Religions Islam also has BT Indonesia – religious Life.
For example, NLI shows the arrangement as follows:

**ISLAM**

**IK**  
Al Quran

Aqaid dan ilmu kalam

Bahaisme

Fiqih

Hadis

Those five subject entries are considered narrower term, belongs to First Circle. From the five subject entries then the search further, Al Quran yields one narrower term Musyabaqah Tilawatil Qur’an. This subject entry belongs to Second Circle. The process is repeated to other four subject entries. The results are parts of Second Circle. From Circle Second then the search repeated again, so there will be Third Circle, Fourth Circle

In this paper, the subdivision and sub-subjects are not included, for example Islam – Bibliography, Islam – History, Alquran - Tafsir

### Results and analysis

The data collecting is conducted manually, every subject entry under Islam checked. The results are shown (Tabel 1)

**TABEL 1 RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First Circle</th>
<th>Second circle</th>
<th>Third Circle</th>
<th>Fourth Circle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Indonesia’s List of subject headings</td>
<td>5 subject entries</td>
<td>3 subject entries</td>
<td>2 subject entries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universitas Indonesia’s List of subject headings</td>
<td>8 subject entries</td>
<td>3 subject entries (two are identical)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tairs and Soekarman’s List of subject headings for libraries</td>
<td>4 subject entries</td>
<td>6 subject entries</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Library of Indonesia’s *List of subject headings*

This list was published in 2010, replacing the 2002 version. Alas, a survey of randomly selected subject headings showed there is no difference from the 2010 edition with 2002 version, even the error!

Under the subject entry Islam there are five narrower terms, that are:

- Al Qur’an
- Aqaid dan Ilmu Kalam
- Bahaisme
- Fiqih
- Hadis

Those are entries found under the IK (Istilah Khussu) or Narrower Term. Under Al Qur’an was not found, instead it was filed under the term Al Quran. Its narrower term is Musyabaqah Tilawatil Quran, which is not listed in the subject heading list.

- Aqaid dan Ilmu Kalam in its NT yield one subject entry, that is Hadis – Aqaid. Hadis – Akaid has no NT term.

- Bahaisme has no NT entries, only RT (Related Term) Bahaiyah (Tarekat).

- Fiqih is not found, instead there is a note Gunakan (Use) Hukum Islam. This is not consistent as the term Fiqih was under Islam but when someone search under Fiqih instead the reader was referred to Hukum Islam [Islamic Law]. Under the term Hukum Islam, it produced two NT entries, that are Ijma’ dan qiyas and Ijtihad. The term Ijma’ dan qiyas does not produce any NT entries. The term Ijtihad also does not produce any NT entries.

- Hadis produced two NT entries, that are Gharibul hadis and Mustalah hadis, while the latter entries don’t produce further NT entries. So it stops at the Second Circle

Universitas Indonesia’s *List of subject headings*. This monograph was produced in 2002, still using the x and xx references. At First Circle, there are 8 descriptors as follows:

- Akhlak Islam
- Aqaid dan Ilmu Kalam
- Al Qur’an
- Fiqih
- Hadis
- Kebudayaan Islam
- Sosiologi Islam
- Tasawuf

Akhlak Islam does not produce any NT entries because it was not listed under the Akhlak Islam eventhough was listed under Islam!
Aqaid dan Ilmu Kalam produce 1 NT entries i.e. Kalam, Ilmu. However, it stops there, no further NT entries was produced.

Al Qur’an was written at Circle one, however, it was found as Al Qur’an, instead it was arranged under Alqur’an (p. 29). It produced 1 NT entries i.e. Islam, Sumber ajaran [Islam, sources]

The term Fiqih was not found although it was listed under Islam, instead the UI used the term Fiqhhu’dawah. The term Fiqhhu’dah does not produce any NT terms. However, on the same arrangement there are separated 9 fiqih headings, began with term fiqih, such as Fiqih mazhab Auz’ai, fiqih mazhab empal [Fiqih of four schools], Fiqih mazhab Hambali, Fiqih mazhab Hanafi, Fiqih mazhab Malik, Fiqih mazhab Sauri, Fiqih mazhab Syafi’I, Fiqih mazhab Syi’ah, Fiqih perbandingan [Comparative fiqih]

Hadis does not produce any narrower term entries, limited to the term Hadis; however, there other term such as Hadis Arba’in, Hadis Doif, Hadis Mutawatir, Hadis Mustalah, Hadis Kutub Sittah. Under the term Hadis Kutub Sittah there are 6 terms, that are Ashih Bukhari, Sahuh Muslim, Sunan Abdu Dawud, Sunan Ibn Majah, Sunan Nasal, Sunan Tirmirzi.

Kebudayaan Islam [Islamic culture] does not have any narrower term.

Sosiologi Islam [Sociology of Islam] produce 3 NT entries, Etika social, Islam dan ekonomi, Islam dan politik, Islam dan struktur internasional. Etika social l apparently is RT of Sosiologi Islam. It stopped there

Tasawuf does not produce further narrower term.

Tairas and Soekarman’s Subject Headings List for libraries produced 4 subjec entries which form the First Circle,. The subject entries are Al Quran, Hukum Islam [Islamic Law], Mesjid [Mosque] and Teologi [Theology]. In relation to thesaurus, theology actually related with Islam but not a narrower term of Islam (Library of Congress, 2000; Sears’ list, 2010). Al Quran does not produce narrower term, Hukum Islam produces 6 narrower terms, while Mesjid does not produce any narrower terms. The term Teologi produces 23 related terms none narrower term.

Findings

(1) All the three subject heading lists has limited term on Islam. Compare with the LCSH, those three works are incomparable with LCSH.

(2) UI and Tairas & Soekarman is still using the designator x and xx for SEE and SEE Also reference. Those designators is rather confusing because SEE ALSO refers to related and narrower subjects; that is why nowadays the subject heading lists are using NT (Narrower Term), BT (Broader Term), RT (Re;ated Terms).

(3) The writing of the holy book is different. Tairas and Soekarman is using Al Qur’an, as did with UI also Al Qur’an while NLI use Al Quran.
(4) There is some major error in using the subject entries. For example NLI listed among others the term Fiqih. But when someone checks the term Fiqih, it was not used; instead under Fiqih use Hukum Islam! UI listed under Islam among others the term Akhlak Islam (Islamic morality). It was not found the term Akhlak Islam. Tairas and Soekarman listed under Islam among other is Hukum Islam. Under Hukum Islam its listed Hukum Perdata (Islam) [Private Law – Islam] but the term Hukum Perdata (Islam) is not found!

Comparison with Library of Congress Subject Headings

Library of Congress Subject Headings (hereafter called LCSH) is perhaps the largest list of subject headings. Presently, the LCSH reached its 33rd edition. Owing to the limited availability of LCSH in Indonesia, this paper used the available 22nd ed. The term Islam 29 narrower terms. Further search to Second Circle was discontinued because it is LCSH incomparable with those three Bahasa Indonesia subject headings in terms of exhaustiveness, relatedness and coverage.

The need of subject headings for madrasah/school libraries.

The present NLI’s List of Subject Headings is discontinued and currently there is a team in NLI tasked with the compilation of new subject headings focused on NLI’s needs and hopefully can be used for academic and special libraries (Mulyani, 2011). The terms are more scientific oriented rather than for school or public libraries usage. Based on the lack of Islamic-related-terms as found on the NLI’s List of Subject Headings, the team proposed a much wider terms on Islamic issues. The referal is LCSH, albeit the team used an old, twenty-second version published in 1992!

UI’s Subject Headings List was discontinued (Luki, 2011) because the expert cum editor passed away in 2011, lack of budget also mentioned and there are plans to migrate to LCSH. LCSH was also used by private academic libraries network such Jaringan Perpustakaan APTIK (Association of Catholic Universities in Indonesia Library Network), Virtual Christian University Network, some Islamic State Universiteis (Zulaikha, 2011).

Based on the author’s findings Tairas and Soekarman ‘s Subject Heading List is not good enough for Islamic-subject related terms (it reach only the Second Circle) hence itu could not be used for madrasah libraries. Although it has reached its 13th printing, there is plan to revise it as Mr Tairas deceased two years ago while Mr Soekarman has no desire to revise it (Soekarman K)

With no apparent suitable subject heading lists for madrasah/school and public libraries then there is a need to compile new subject headings. The requirements for the subject heading list are as follow.

(1) Convenience of the public. Cutter said the term most familiar to the general public. (Cutter, 2009). If Cutter was thinking of the local library’s public, then the proposed subject headings list focus on students and public library.
(2) Uniform and unique headings. That is all material on a given subject must be tagged with the same headings. If a subject has more than one name (“Fiqih” and “Hukum Islam” for instance) one must be chosen as the valid or authorized heading, with SEE or USE references from alternate term.

(3) Direct and specific entry. The rule for direct entry was set forth by Cutter in his Rules for a Dictionary Catalog. The principle of direct entry applies to how headings are formulated:. The heading Islamic influences is direct; the heading Java (Indonesia) – Civilization – Islamic influences is indirect, although they are both just as specific.

(4) Consistent and current terminology. Two elements are particularly important in this respect: synonym (and changing usage. Choices among synonymous terms may require difficult decision such as the terms Muslims, Moors, Moslems).

(5) Using the Subject-Predicate approach instead of Predicate-Subject approach as commonly found in English language. For example in Bahasa Indonesia the term is Langit Biru [Langit is sky, biru is blue] while in English language the term used is Blue Sky. Perhaps the French language subject headings, if any, is grammatically near to Bahasa Indonesia than English language; however, it doubtful if the French libraries using the subject heading list.

(6) The subject coverage is enough to handle a 20,000 title collection. This is the same with Sears List of Subject Headings (2010). The total is enough for Indonesian madrasah/school libraries which is the minimum requirement as at least 1,000 title (Standar Nasional Indonesia, 2009)

(7) Consistency in writing the term. For the holy book, Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia use the term Alquran, not Al Qur’an or Al Quran although in its first edition, Majelis Ulama Indonesia (Indonesian council of Ulema) suggested the term Al Quran.
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