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ABSTRACT

This study attempts to examine the grammatical differences in the readings of the two Qur'anic reciters: Abu 'Amr ibn al-'Ala' (d. 154 AH), the head of the grammatical school of Basrah, and 'Ali ibn Hamzah al-Kisa'i (d. 189 AH), the founder of the grammatical school of Kufah. It intends to clarify the aspects of grammatical differences in their two readings, and the conformity of these readings with their schools: Basrah and Kufah. The study adopts a descriptive-inductive method, by collecting the Qur'anic verses that contain the grammatical differences between the two reciters, of which there are about 200 verses. It then classifies these verses into various categories with reference to the aspects of their differences, and analyzes them in line with the books of the Qur'anic readings (*al-qira'at*) and commentaries (*al-tafasir*). The study concludes that the grammatical differences in the readings of the two reciters occur in all parts of the word: letter, noun and verb, with more differences in the verbs compared to the other two parts. It also proves that the two reciters do not follow a particular grammatical form in their readings, but in the case of gender, Abu 'Amr is consistent in using the feminine form while al-Kisa'i in using the masculine form, and from this perspective, their readings do not completely resemble their linguistic environment. It furthermore demonstrates their harmony in the meaning despite the reading differences, because the arguments are based on the grammatical assumptions and interpretations (*al-ta'wilat*). The study also reveals that the two reciters are not completely bound by their grammatical schools or individual choice, but in some cases, one of the readings adopts the grammatical choice of another reader.

APPROVAL

The thesis of Nik Hanan bt Mustapha has been examined and approved by the following:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. Other sources are acknowledged by footnotes giving explicit references and a bibliography is appended.

Name: Nik Hanan Mustapha

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C.H.M Versteegh

Arabic Grammar and Quranic Exegesis in Early Islam

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⁴ C. H. M. Versteegh, *Arabic Grammar and Quranic Exegesis in Early Islam*, E. J. Brill, Leiden, 1993, p. 192.

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