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Center of Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) is a scholarly journal published by the Arabic Literature Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS), Indonesia. CMES Journal is published biannually, in June and December.

CMES Journal features research articles and literature reviews on various topics related to Middle Eastern studies, including language, literature, culture, society, and politics. Articles are written in English, Arabic, or Indonesian.

Starting from Volume 16, Number 1, June 2023, CMES Journal has introduced a fresh new journal layout and design. This update aims to refresh the appearance of the CMES Journal, align it with modern international journal standards, and provide readers with an enhanced reading experience.

The objectives of the CMES Journal are as follows:

1. To publish research findings and literature reviews related to the Middle Eastern region across various fields as a platform for disseminating scholarly ideas.
2. To foster knowledge and insights among academics and researchers in Middle Eastern studies from diverse perspectives worldwide.
3. To serve as a platform for researchers of the Middle East worldwide to engage in academic discussions and seek scholarly solutions to regional challenges.

Historically, CMES Journal was initially published as part of the academic activities of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Literature and Fine Arts, UNS, established under the Decree of the Dean of FSSR Number 2545/H27.1.1/KP/2009 on April 16, 2009. The establishment of the journal was a driving force behind the creation of the Arabic Literature Department. With establishing the Arabic Literature Department under the Decree of DIKTI Number 1762/02.2/2010 on July 2, 2010, the publication of CMES Journal became a regular academic activity organized by the department. At present, based on the Decree of the Director General of Higher Education, Research, and Technology, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, Number 177/E/KPT/2024 dated August 30, 2024, the CMES Journal has been officially elevated to SINTA 3 accreditation status.

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PREFACE

Dear Esteemed Researchers.

The editorial team of the *Center of Middle Eastern Studies* (CMES) Journal is pleased to present Volume 18, Issue 1, published in June 2025. This edition compiles ten scholarly articles that reflect a diverse and interdisciplinary engagement with the Middle East and the wider Arab world. To assist readers in navigating the contents, the articles are thematically grouped into four main categories: Middle Eastern sociopolitical studies, Arabic literature, Arabic linguistics, and translation studies.

The first section explores the sociopolitical dynamics of the Middle East. Muhammad Hayyi' Lana Alkhan et al. open the issue with a critical analysis of the normalization of Turkey–Saudi Arabia relations under President Erdoğan, discussing strategic interests and global reactions. Muhammad Faishol Al Hamimy contributes a semiotic reading of hope and love in Nizār Qabbānī's poem dedicated to Beirut. Auliya Rachman and Ahmad Salehudin examine the role of football in Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 as a means of promoting religious moderation and soft power. Mellinda Raswari Jambak et al. analyze Israel's retaliatory attacks on Hamas in light of international humanitarian law, exposing legal violations and global polarization. The section concludes with Faruq Alkafi and Munawar Ahmad's study of artificial intelligence in Iran's missile technology and its influence on regional security alliances.

The second section turns to spiritual themes in Arabic literature. Uswatun Khasanah and Moh Sony Fauzi examine the Sufi values of *maḥabbah* and *fanā'* in Taufiq al-Ḥakīm's short story "Arinī Allāh," highlighting the character's spiritual quest. Fina Mazida Husna et al. offer a hermeneutic interpretation of *Nūr Muḥammad* in "Maulid ad-Dība'ī," emphasizing its theological symbolism.

In the third section, Zaini Nur Afifah and Abdul Malik investigate the form and function of *ism tafḍīl* in Mourid Barghouti's novel *Ra'aitu Rāmallāh*, revealing its stylistic and semantic roles. Fauzun Jamal complements this with a sociolinguistic analysis of foreign vocabulary in Arabic hadith literature, proposing updated criteria and approaches to facilitate better understanding among non-Arabic-speaking learners.

The final article by Muhamad Saiful Mukminin and Sajarwa addresses translation and cultural adaptation through the lens of Javanese address terms rendered into Arabic in the novel *Gadis Kretek*. Their study reveals how linguistic and cultural nuances affect the portrayal of social relationships.

These contributions reflect the CMES Journal's commitment to fostering critical dialogue, multidisciplinary inquiry, and scholarly exchange in Middle Eastern and Arabic studies. The editorial team extends sincere appreciation to all authors, reviewers, and partners who have made this publication possible.

Sincerely,

Khabibi Muhammad Luthfi
Editor in Chief

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