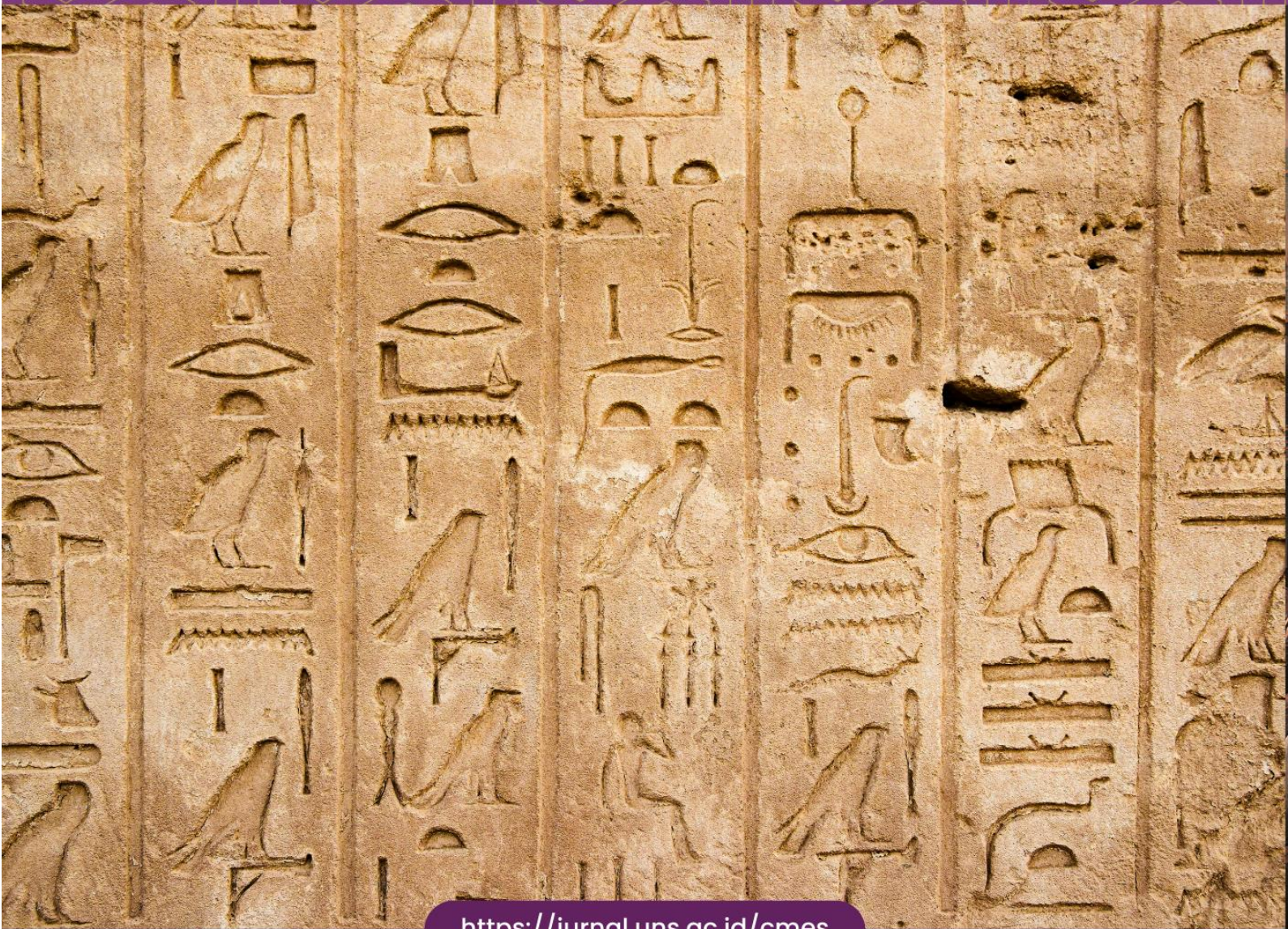




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Center of Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) is a scholarly journal published by the Arabic Literature Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS), Indonesia. CMES Journal is published biannually, in June and December. CMES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

The editorial team of the *Center of Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) Journal* is pleased to present Volume 18, Issue 2, published in December 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 part examines the current sociopolitical events in the Middle East. Sangidu et al. begin with “Discursive Co-optation and Structural Domination in the Reconsolidation of Authoritarianism in Egypt after the Arab Spring”, which is a critical report of the process of stabilizing authoritarian power through post-revolutionary political discourse. This is preceded by “The Influence of K-Pop on Saudi Arabian Government Policy: A Case Study of the K-Pop Music Festival, KCON in Riyadh” by Anggraini et al. which focuses on the cultural globalization and its influence on the policy orientation led by the state in Saudi Arabia. Hamdan et al. discuss ideological representation and identity formation entrenched in party naming practices in “The Names of Political Parties in Egypt: A Discourse Analysis of Islamic Political Party Names after the Arab Spring 2011”. The paper is rounded off with “Comparison of the Role of Tourism in the Economic Diversification Agenda of Saudi Arabia and the UAE” by Khalish et al. which compares strategic economic responses in both vision agendas of states.

The second part moves to literary research, providing a variety of contributions to Arabic poetry and narrative prose. Dewantara et al., in their article titled “An Analysis of the Meaning of the *Shi’r Ṣalāwāt Simṭ al-Durar* by Ḥabīb ‘Alī ibn Muḥammad al-Habshī in the Semiotic Study of Riffatere” reveal multisensory spiritual symbolism embedded in the poem through linguistic deviations. The techniques of narrative that predict social reality and psychological struggle are discussed by Surur and Oktaviani in “Depiction of Naturalism in the Novel *Tafṣīl Thānawī* by Adania Shibli”. Isnarti et al. comment on the “*Tawassul* in the *Qaṣīdah Yartāḥ Qalbī* by Ḥabīb ‘Umar ibn Ḥafīz: A Michael Riffaterre Semiotic Study”, pointing out the intertextual levels and devotional aspects of the *qaṣīdah*. Thoriq and Faishol conclude the section with “Analysis of Actantial Schema and Functional Structure in Short Story *Ṭablīyah min al-Samā’* by Yūsuf Idrīs”, examining the actantial schemes and structural processes of the narrative.

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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