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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 the establishment of 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.

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PREFACE

Dear Esteemed Academics,

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, we express our deepest gratitude to Allah SWT for the opportunity to present the December 2024 edition of the Center of Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) Journal, Volume XVII, Number 2. This issue reflects our commitment to advancing scholarship and dialogue in Middle Eastern studies. It features nine insightful articles contributed by scholars from Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and Taiwan, spanning the fields of literature, linguistics, and other Middle Eastern studies disciplines.

This edition begins with *The Securitization of the Egypt Government in 2019-2023 as* an *Effort to Resolve the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Issue* by Adiba Aliyya Rahma, Syahla Fitri Ayuni, Naufal Fauzan Deva Laksana, and Septyanto Galan Prakoso. This article examines Egypt's securitization strategies in addressing the GERD dispute, providing a foundation for the following article, *Investigating the Iran Presidential Helicopter Crash* (2024): *Causes, Geopolitical Dynamics, and Policy Impacts* by Ruben Cornelius Siagian and Michael Haratua Rajagukguk, which analyzes the technical and geopolitical dimensions of the tragic event.

Shifting to socio-economic transformation, *Public Perception of Socio-Economic Transformation in Saudi Arabia: The Case of the New Murabba Project* by Nadiya Azahra Hidayat and Siti Rohmah Soekarba explores the public's view of the Kingdom's modernization efforts under Vision 2030. Following this, *Historical Portrait of Shiites and Sunnis in Iraq in the Poem "Nachnu Sya'bun Laa Yastachii": A Literary Sociological Perspective* by Saddam Reza Hamidi and Dihyat Haniful Fawad delves into sectarian dynamics through a literary lens.

Continuing with literary studies, *Narrative Transformation in the Ecranisation of Kamil Kilani's Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves* by Kamilia Nur Azizah, Muhammad Nur Kholis, and Rumpoko Setyo Jatmiko analyzes the narrative shifts in cinematic adaptations. This theme transitions into *Gender Injustice in Nawal As-Sa'dawi's Suquuth Al-Imaam: An Ideological Feminism Analysis* by Akmal Hibatullah Ramadhan, Yayan Rahtikawati, and Rohanda, which investigates systemic oppression from a feminist perspective.

Classical Arabic literature is revisited in *The Intertextual Reading of Ibn Syuhaid's Poetry in Risālah At-Tawābi' wa Az-Zawābi* by Nur Hidayah, Sangidu, and Hindun, offering a critical intertextual analysis. The eighth article, *Paralingual Elements in Egyptian Print Commercial Advertisements: A Semiotic Analysis* by Mohammad Masrukhi, examines the intersection of verbal and nonverbal elements in advertising. Finally, *Content Analysis of Abu Ubaidah's Speech on Aljazeeramubasher's Instagram During Operation Al-Aqsa Tempest* by Ilya Husna, Sefriyono, Zulfis, Rezkiya Afril, and Nabil Ahmed Banonah explores the rhetorical strategies and their influence on public opinion. These articles collectively offer a rich, interdisciplinary narrative on transformation, identity, and cultural dynamics within the Middle East.

The editorial board hopes this issue will inspire further scholarly exploration and collaboration. We warmly invite contributions to upcoming editions of the CMES Journal as we continue to provide a platform for academic excellence in Middle Eastern studies.

With warmest regards,

Dr. Reza Sukma Nugraha Editor-in-Chief

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