Computer Analysis for Authentication of Early Islamic Literatures

Abstract

The Orientlists denial of the existence of written sources of Islamic literature related to the 1st and 2nd century of Hijra. In fact some claim that many of the early literatures were written in the 3rd or even the 4th century by anonymous authors and were fictitiously attributed to people in the 1st and 2nd century. This applies to the Qur'an itself which – according to J. Wansbrough – is a product of the 3rd century. Our goal is to dispel some of these allegations through the usage of computers in solving the literary problem of early Islamic sources. Our objective would be to explore the method of transmission of knowledge in early Islamic period through utilization of the most advance technique, which may lead to prove the existence of written sources. Our approach would be to use Tafsir of Mujahid bin Jabr (d. 105 Hijra) as a text case. We will conduct an extensive text analysis to find out whether it can prove the existence of Tafsir Mujahid or was it a later development that was back-projected as claimed by Orientalists.