

Social and Cultural Integration: A Discourse Analysis of Islamic Themes in the Basis Magazine, 1998–2000

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ABSTRACT

This article delves into the discourse on Islam found within the articles published in Basis Magazine during the period of 1998–2000. Basis Magazine, founded by members of the Society of Jesus (SJ) in 1951, has continued its publication under their stewardship to the present day. Since 1998, Basis Magazine has regularly featured writings with Islamic themes contributed by both Muslim and non-Muslim intellectuals. This article aims to examine why Basis Magazine, with its Catholic missionary vision and spirit, embraced Islamic themes in its publications during the 1998–2000 period and to what extent these Islamic and Islamic-themed articles in Basis Magazine reflect the mission of interreligious dialogue in response to the "cultural freedom" of the Reform Era. This research employed a qualitative historical analysis methodology using text analysis techniques. Primary sources included articles with Islamic themes published in Basis Magazine between 1998 and the early 2000s, as well as interview sources. The research findings indicate that following the fall of the New Order regime in 1998, Indonesia experienced "cultural freedom," including increased freedom of expression that significantly influenced the media landscape in Indonesia. The inclusion of articles with Islamic themes was Basis Magazine's way of responding to the "cultural freedom" in the contemporary context. The Islamic discourse presented in Basis Magazine predominantly focused on contextual issues related to religious polarization and conflicts that were occurring in Indonesia at the dawn of the Reform Era, including discussions on pluralism and the significance of interreligious dialogue within the framework of the nation-state. The Islamic discourse in Basis Magazine exhibited a fluid nature, simultaneously suggesting coexistence and close interaction among adherents of various value systems and worldviews.

Kata Kunci: Islamic discourse, Basis Magazine, Reform Era, social integration, Indonesia