

Development of Qur'anic Commentaries and Translations in Arwi: An Analysis with Special Reference to Sheikh Mustafa Waliullah

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Abstract : Arwi is a language that has historically been significant among Tamil-speaking Muslim scholars. Over centuries, it has served as the medium for religious communication, especially in the translations and commentaries of religious texts. Despite its historical importance and the rich tradition of Qur'anic translations and commentaries in Arwi, there remains a significant gap in our understanding of the development and impact of these translations. This research analyzes the evolution of Qur'anic translations and commentaries in Arwi, with a particular focus on Sheikh Mustafa Waliullah's (1836-1888) seminal work, *Fathur-Rahman fi Tarjimati Tafsir Al-Qur'an*. This research examines the historical evolution of Arabu Tamil within Tamil-speaking Muslim communities, highlighting the linguistic and cultural amalgamation that characterizes Arabu Tamil. Furthermore, the study addresses the challenges encountered during the lexical translation of the Holy Qur'an into different languages, with a special emphasis on the methodologies employed by Arwi scholars while translating the Quran. It includes a detailed analysis of Sheikh Mustafa Waliullah's methodology, linguistic strategies, and theological considerations in his translation. This study aims to contribute to the understanding of Qur'anic scholarship in Tamil Nadu and to the preservation of the region's religious and linguistic heritage. It also compares other Arabu Tamil Tafsirs alongside the modern Tamil Tafsir of Abdul Hameed Baqawi to identify the various methodologies utilized by scholars in translating the Qur'an. Through this comparative analysis, the study seeks to enhance the understanding of Qur'anic scholarship in Tamil Nadu and contribute to the preservation of the region's religious and linguistic heritage.

Keywords : arwi, quranic commentaries, fathur-rahman fi tarjimati tafsir al-qur'an, sheikh mustafa waliullah

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