Jordan-malaysia Relationship and its Influence on the Development of Hadith Studies in Malaysia

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Abstract: This article explicates the relationship between Jordan and Malaysia and its influence towards the development of Hadith studies in Malaysia. Jordan and Malaysia are two countries with significant relationship, especially in terms of Islamic studies. The 90’s era witnessed a major number of Malaysian students continuing their studies in universities of Jordan, either at the undergraduate, graduate or PhD levels. The focus of this study is on the contribution made by the prominent Muslim scholars or ulama of Jordan towards the development of Hadith studies in Malaysia, through their writing which had been made into syllabus of Malaysian public higher institutions. This study is significant in terms of identifying external factor that contributes towards the development of Hadith studies in Malaysia.

Key words: Hadith Studies %Jordan %Malaysia %Malaysian Higher Education Institutions %Ulama %Islam

INTRODUCTION

The field of Hadith is one of the fields in Islamic studies that have always garnered attention from the Islamic scholars or ulama since the time of the Prophet companions. Starting with the endeavours of the companions in preserving the Sunnah and defending it from deviation and later continued by the succeeding generation from the tabiin, atba’ al-tabiin, mutaakhirin and later ulama mu'asirin. The difference between them was that the contribution and role played by every individual was based on the need and requirement of the society during that particular time. The ulama of mutaqaddimin for example, made the effort of collecting as many Hadiths as possible to be documented in their writing. The ulama of mutaakhirin on the other hand contributed in terms of tahbab, ikhtisar and syarah of what had been written and collected by the mutaqaddimin ulama, while the ulama of mu’assirin endeavoured to do tahqiq and filtering the works of ulama mutaakhirin apart from perfecting what had been done previously.

In this article, the authors will endeavour to introduce a number of contributions made by prominent mu’asir ulama of Jordan in the field of Hadith, especially those who have both direct and indirect impact on the development of Hadith studies in Malaysia. Jordan has become the home of many renowned Hadith ulama including Syeikh Muhammad Nasir al-Din al-Albani [1] who himself had produced other ulama such as Syeikh Salim bin ’Id al-Hilali, Muhammad bin Musa Al Nasr, Ali bin Hasan al-Halabi al-Athari and Mashur bin Hasan al Salman. The existence of several of higher education institutions in Jordan that have been the attention of Malaysian students, also contributed to the web of knowledge in the field of Hadith, whether directly or indirectly.
**The Development of Hadith Studies in Jordan:** The study of Hadith in Jordan has developed rapidly, along with other fields in the Islamic studies. The growth of a number of higher education institutions in Jordan has catalysed the development of Islamic studies in the country. Among the universities that offered Islamic studies are A’l-Urduniyyah University, The pioneer university of Jordan established in 1962 (www.ju.edu.jo), al-Yarmouk University (www.yu.edu.jo), Mu’tagah University (www.mutah.edu.jo) and A’il al-Bayt University (www.aabu.edu.jo). The establishment of a number of Hadith research centres also proved the attentiveness of the government and the people of Jordan towards the importance of Hadith and Islamic studies. Among the Hadith research centres in Jordan are Jam’iyyah al-Hadith al-Syarif wa Ihya’ al-Turath (www.turath.org) dan Markaz al-Imam al-Albani lil Dirasat al-Manhajiyyah wa al-Abhath al-’Ilmiyyah (www.albancenter.net). These Hadith research centres are also considered as the main producers or computers software and cd rom related to Islamic studies. Through the establishment of Markaz al-Turath lil Barmajiyyat centred in Amman Jordan, the Muslim society is able to learn about Islam easily and quickly.

In this section, the authors will briefly explain the contributions of a number of universities, Hadith research centres and Markaz al-Turath li al-Barmajiyyat towards the development of Hadith in Jordan and its connection with the development of Hadith in Malaysia.

**Al-Urduniyyah University:** The Faculty of Syariah at al-Urduniyyah University was established in 1964 as a separate faculty from the al-Urduniyyah University. However in in 1971 it was absorbed and became part of the university.

This faculty offers two bachelors programme, one in Usuluddin (Foundations of Religion) and in Fiqh (Jurisprudence). The faculty also offers graduate programmes in Tafsir al-Quran, Hadith and Fiqh as well as programmes at the PhD level.

**Al-Yarmouk University:** The Faculty of Syariah and Islamic Studies of Yarmouk University was established in 1990. In the beginning the faculty operated with two departments which were Department of Fiqh and Islamic Studies and the Department of Usuluddin in 1992. Currently the faculty owns four departments which are Department of Usuluddin, Department of Fiqh, Department of Islamic Economy and Banking and Department of Islamic Studies which covers Islamic Education, Mass Dakwah and Family Institution Research.

Apart from offering studies at the level of undergraduate, the faculty also offers its students graduate studies level in the fields mentioned above.

When comparing between al-Urduniyyah University and al-Yarmouk University, Islamic studies for both universities are out under the Faculty of Syariah which offers a number of study programmes including the field of Usuluddin. Under the Usuluddin programme, subjects that are offered also include Hadith studies. This is different compared to some universities in Middle East which have a separate Hadith faculty such as Madinah Islamic University, syu’bah Hadith at al-azhar University or Faculty of al-Quran and al-Sunnah at some Malaysian universities. However this does not prevent the study of Hadith from rapidly developing through the contribution of its ulama who have been actively engaged in writing and producing works of quality in the field of Hadith, engaging in tahrqiq and filtering the works of previous ulama. The theses produced in the field of Hadith have also increased in these universities.

Malaysian students are among the thousands who studied at both prestigious universities either at the bachelor or graduate level. In the early 90s, there had been Malaysian universities such as International Islamic University Malaysia, University of Malaya and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia which sent their students to further their studies at the graduate level. Among Malaysian graduate students produced by Jordanian universities in the field of Hadith are Dr Azwira bin Abdul Aziz, Dr Rohaizan Baru Md Zain, Ustaz Syed Nazmi Tuan Taufik and Ustaz Ahmad Fauzi Hasan.

**Jam’iyyah al-Hadith al-Syarif wa Ihya’ al-Turath:** Established with the permission of Wizarah al-Thaqafah Jordan, on 26th of January 1993. Among the objectives of its establishment are to provide service in regard to prophetic Hadith and all branches of knowledge relating to it, to spread the sunnah and to do tahrqiq on kutub al-Turath. The Jam’iyyah also organised a number of academic discourses related to Hadith. One of them was “Ikhtilaf al-’Ulama’ fi al-Hukm ‘ala al-Hadith: Asbabuhu wa Atharuhu” which took place at the al-Urduniyyah University on May 8, 2001 and another seminar entitled “al-Bu’d al-Insani fi Syahsiyyah Rasul...
Allah s.a.w” on June 2, 2007. The Jam’iyyah also hosted its own website and can be found at www.turath.org. One of its unique features is articles that can be downloaded and edited.

Markaz al-Imam al-Albani li al-Dirasat al-Manhajiyah wa al-Abhath al-‘Ilmiyyah: This centre is actually a muassasah which was established with the permission of Jordan Information Ministry, reference number 69/3665, dated December 3, 2000. The centre was officiated on Monday, 13th of Syawal 1421 corresponding with January 8th, 2001, and pioneered by prominent ulama of Jordan, who were students to Syeikh Muhammad Nasir al-Din al-Abani and they are Syeikh Salim bin ‘Id al-Hilali, Syeikh Muhammad bin Musa Al Nasr, Syeikh Ali bin Hassan al-Halabi al-Athari and Syeikh Masyhur bin Hasan Al Salman. Syeikh Salim bin ‘Id al-Hilali and Syeikh Ali bin Hassan al-Halabi al-Athari were two prominent Hadith ulama invited to the seminar organised by Universiti Sains Malaysia, “Tokoh-Tokoh Hadith Pasca Kurun ke 13 Hijrah: Kesarjanaan dan Sumbangan” (Prominent Hadith Scholars of 13th Hijra: Intellectualism and Contributions) held on the 28th and 29th of August, 2007. This centre is situated 900 metres from Amman al-Zarqa’ road near the hostel of al-Amir Hasyim. Since its establishment, the centre has organised 25 nadwah ilmiyah related to the importance of holding on to manhaj ahli sunnah wa al-jamaah.

Markaz al-Turath lil Barmajiyyat [2]: This centre produces computer software and was established in 1993. The earliest software produced by the centre was the CD-ROM al-Mawsu’ah al-Dhahabiyyah fi al-Hadith al-Nabawi al-Syarif wa ‘Ulumuhi. Encouraging response from the society had spurred more CD-ROM in Islamic studies especially in the Hadith field. The latest production was al-Jami’ al-Kabir li Kutub al-Turath al-Islami wa al-‘Arabi which includes 2000 titles in a single software. The production of the software in Islamic Studies was under the supervision and advices of the prominent ulama of Jordan who were lecturers at universities in Jordan. Among the CD-ROMs produced by the centre and used in Malaysia are:

C Al-Maktabah al-Alijkyyah li al-Sunnah al-Nabawiyah [3].

The CD-ROM contains more than 1300 volumes in various branches of knowledge Ulum al-Hadith. It provides other facilities such as search ability and the materials can be edited and printed. The third production of the CD-ROM is more attractive with addition to 3500 volumes.

Maktabah al-Ajza’ al-Hadithiyyah [4]: This CD-ROM contains the collection of al-ajza’ al-Hadithiyyah and was the first programme of its kind. There are 150 ajza’ al-Hadithiyyah as well as search facility which enable the materials to be edited and printed.

Al-Mawsu ‘ah al-Dhahabiyah li al-Hadith wa ‘ulumuh (first edition): There are 400 volumes related to the field of Hadith and ulum al-Hadith in this CD-ROM. Among the features available in the CD-ROM is information on the juzuk and pages as well as takhrij to more than 200 thousands Hadith.

Mawsu ‘ah al-Takhrij al-Kubra wa al-Asar al-Syamilah [5]: This CD-ROM contains takhrij to 250 thousand Hadith.

Maktabah ‘Ulum al-Hadith: The CD-ROM contains more than 90 volumes in Ulum al-Hadith and has the features of editing, printing and search in various methods. The information is also provided in juzuk and pages.


The Contribution of Prominent Ulama of Jordan Towards Hadith Development in Malaysia: The prominent ulama of Jordan, who are mostly lecturers in Jordanian universities, play a role as significant as prominent mu’asir ulama from other countries in spreading and safeguarding the Hadiths of the Prophets. The contribution of the Jordanian ulama in the Hadith field is evident from several written works by authors who specified the ulama’s contributions such as by Syeikh ‘Abd Allah Abu Su’aulik in his book “Juhud al-Mu’asirin fi Khidmat al-Sunnah al-Musyarrafah”[6] while another writer, al-Sayyid ‘Arif Salih Sidqi Ahmad produced “Juhud al-Mu’asirin fi al-Urdun fi Khidmat al-
Hadith al-Syarif wa al-Sunnah al-Nabawiyyah” which was presented in Nadwah al-Urdun fi al-Hadith al-Syarif wa al-Sirah al-Nabawiyyah. Likewise Dr Mujahid Bahjat in his writing also listed a number of prominent Hadith ulama from Jordan. His paper was presented at the International Seminar of Hadith Heritage from 8th until 9th of July 2004 at Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Among the prominent ulama of Jordan in the field of Hadith are:

- Sultan Sanad al-‘Ukayilah
- Syaraf Mahmud al-Qudah
- ‘Abd al-Karim al-Uraykat
- ‘Abd al-Majid Mahmud
- Muhammad ‘Abd al-Rahman Tuwalibah
- ‘Ali Qasim al-Umar
- Muhammad ‘Abd Mahmud al-Sahib
- Muhammad Mukhtar al-Mufti
- Mahmud Nadi ‘Ubaydat
- Hamam Sa’id
- Yasin al-Syamali
- Al-Syeikh Salim al-Khilali
- Al-Syeikh ‘Ali al-Halabi
- Al-Syeikh Masyhur Hasan Salman
- Umar Sulayman Makhal
- Al-Syeikh Muhammad Abu Su’aylik
- ‘Abd al-Razzaq Abu al-Basl
- Ziyad Abu Hamad
- Qasim Muhammad Ghanim
- Al-Syeikh ‘Ali Abu Syukr

Below are brief introductions to several ulama of Jordan who had indirectly contributed to the development of Hadith studies in Malaysia.

Prof Dr Syarf Mahmud Salman al-Qudah: Professor Dr Syarf Mahmud Salman al-Qudah is a professor in the field of Hadith at al-Urduniyyah University. Received his first degree in Syria in 1973 and later pursued his studies at the Masters level at al-Azhar University in 1975 and PhD in the same university in 1980. Among of his written works are:

- Asbab Ta’addud al-Riwayat fi Mutun al-Hadith al-Nabawi printed by Dar al-Furqan in 1999
- Al-Huda al-Nabawi fi al-Raqaiq printed by Dar al-Furqan in 1999
- Mata Tunfakhu al-Ruh fi al-Janin printed by Dar al-Furqan in 1990

C Al-Hadith al-Nabawi al-Syarif printed by Maktabah al-Radhi, Amman Jordan
C Al-Minhaj al-Hadith fi ‘Ulm al-Hadith printed by Muassasah al-Bayan Kuala Lumpur

He also produced articles which have been included in leading journals of Jordan such as:

- Mafatih al-Ghayb Khams la ya’lamuha illa Allah was included in al-Dirasat Journal, volume 15, number 3, 1988
- Ilmu Mukhtalif al-Hadith Usuluhu wa Qawaiduhu in Al-Dirasat 2001

His book Al-Minhaj al-Hadith fi ‘Ulm al-Hadith which was published by Muassasah al-Bayan was once used as lesson notes for the subject Ulum al-Hadith at Selangor International Islamic College. Parts of the book is also still used as lesson notes for the subject Mustalah al-Hadith for students of Executive Diploma for Usuluddin Studies at University of Malaya.

Professor Syarf Mahmud al-Qudah had once been invited to present papers at Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya in 2003 for the seminar “Nadwah Nahw Siyaghah Hadithah li Muqarrarat al-Dirasah al-Syar’iyyah”. In the seminar he presented three papers, which were:

- Athar al-Waqi’ al-Mu’asir fi Tatwir al-Muqarrarat al-Syar’iyyah
- Musyikilat Tadris al-Ulum al-Syar’iyyah bi al-Lughah al-‘Arabiyyah
- Usus ‘ard al-Muhtawa wa al-tabwib

Through the three papers, he proposed several ideas and suggestions towards improving the curriculum of Islamic studies as well as increasing the use of Arabic language as the main medium in the teaching of Islamic studies. From the above information, his contribution both directly and indirectly is very much evident in the both the field of Islamic studies and Hadith.
Professor Syarf Mahmud al-Qudah was once been appointed as external evaluator for the programme of the Bachelor al-Quran and al-Hadith Academy of Islamic Studies, as well as external examiner for Hadith dissertations and theses for Masters and PhD levels.

Professor Yaser Ahmad Shamali: He is a professor of Hadith at the al-Urduniyyah University. Gained his bachelor degree from Umm al-Qura in 1984 and furthered his studies at the Masters and PhD levels at the same university in the year 1988 and 1993 respectively. Among his contributions to the development of Hadith in Malaysia was through his writing, *Istikhrad al-Hadith ‘an Tariq Ma’rifah al-Rawi* which was included in *Al-Wadith fi Fann al-Takhrij wa Dirasah al-Asanid*. His work is still being used as part of lesson notes for the subject *Ilm al-Takhrij* at Selangor International Islamic University College.


Dr Sultan Sanad ‘Akayilah: Dr Sultan Sanad ‘Akayilah is also a lecturer at Jordan’s primer university. He received his first degree in 1977 and his Master’s degree in 1981 and later PhD in 1985 in the Saudi Arabia. Among his works are *Nadrah Kayfa Nadrus ‘Ilm Takhrij al-Hadith* published by Dar al-Radhi (1998), *Naqd al-Hadith bi al-Ard ‘ala al-Qawa’id wa al-Ma’umat al-Tarikhiiyah* published by Dar al-Fath Anman (2001) and *al-Wadith fi Fan al-Takhri*, a publication of al-‘Alamiyyah, Amman (1999). He also contributed several articles for journals such as *al-Ahadith allati Akhrajah al-Bukhari fi Ghayr Mazanniha* (al-Dirasat Journal, 2000) and *Asbab Tajawwug al-Sahabah fi Dhabt al-Hadith* (al-Dirasat Journal, 1998). He had also collaborated with a few other writers for the book *al-Wadith fi Fan al-Takhrij wa Dirasat al-Asanid* through his writing on the introduction to ‘ilm al-Takhrij.

Walid bin Hasan al-A’ni: The late Dr Walid bin Hasan al-A’ni was born in Iraq in 1955. He received his first degree in Syariah in 1977. He later continued his studies at the Master’s level at Umm al-Qura University in 1984 and later his PhD in 1991. He took the position as a lecturer at al-Yarmouk University since 1992 until his death in 1996. Although he was originally from Iraq, his contribution in the Hadith field as well as good relationship with Malaysian students at al-Yarmouk University made him one of the figures with considerable influence in the development of Hadith field in Malaysia. His close association with Malaysian students at the university can be seen from the classes of *Mukhtasar Sirah al-Nabawiyyah* by Ibn Hisyam which were held specially for the Malaysian students of al-Yarmouk University. By showing his commitment in conveying the history of the Prophet which is closely connected to the study of Hadith, his contribution in the field is apparent. His other contributions to the Hadith studies in Malaysia was through his work *Manhaj Dirasat al-Asanid wa al-Hukm ‘alayha*. Several parts of the book were the teaching materials at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The book was also the primary reference for the subject *Dirasat al-Asanid*, offered to the students of bachelor degree at the Department of al-Quran and Hadith, University of Malaya.

A Brief Introduction of Books by Ulama of Jordan Used in Malaysian Higher Education Institutions: In this section the authors will briefly outline several Hadith books written by the ulama of Jordan that were once used or still being used as teaching materials in higher education institutions in Malaysia, by looking at the aspects of arrangement, writing style and the relevancy to the need and requirement of Malaysian students.

Below are the books that are being used or once used as teaching materials in Malaysian higher educational institutions:
**Introduction To Al-Minhaj Al-Hadith Fi 'Ulum Al-Hadith By Prof Syarf Mahmud Al-Qudah [7]**: This book was written based on the author’s experience of teaching the subject of *Ulum al-Hadith* at al-Urduniyyah University. The book was published in 2003 with 192 pages and was a collaboration between Muassasah al-Bayan Kuala Lumpur and Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya. Among the writing methods employed by the author are:

- Introducing a new style and form from the aspect the arrangement of the subjects learnt in *Ulum al-Hadith* by dividing them into seven parts, as follows:

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<th>Num</th>
<th>Parts</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Al-Fasl al-Tamhidi</td>
<td>Dr. Sultan Sanad al-‘Akayilah</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Al-Fasl al-Awwal: Istikhraj al-Hadith ‘an Tariq Ma’rifah al-Rawi</td>
<td>Dr. Yasir Ahmad Syamali</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Al-Fasl al-Thani: Istikhraj al-Hadith ‘an Tariq Ma’rifati Tarafihi</td>
<td>Dr. ‘Umar Sulayman Makhal</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Al-Fasl al-Thalith: Istikhraj al-Hadith ‘an Tariq Ma’rifat Kalimah min al-Hadith aw Kalimah Gharibah jih</td>
<td>Dr. Muhammad ‘Id Mahmud al-Sahib</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Al-Fasl al-Rabi’: Istikhraj al-Hadith ‘an Tariq Ma’rifah Mawdu’ihi</td>
<td>Al-Syeikh Muhammad ‘Abdullah Abu Su’aylik</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Al-Fasl al-Khamis: Istikhraj al-Hadith ‘an Tariq Ma’rifah Sijaf fi al-Sanad aw al-Matn</td>
<td>Dr. Qasim Muhammad Ghannam</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Al-Fasl al-Thadith: Istikhraj al-Hadith ‘An Tariq al-Hasab</td>
<td>Dr. Muhammad ‘Id al-Sahib and Dr. Sulayman Makhal</td>
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The division presented by him is very different from Dr Mahmud Tahan’s book *Taysir Mustalah al-Hadith* [14]. Prof Sharf Mahmud Al-Qudah in his book placed the discussion on Hadith’s division from the aspect of rejection and acceptance at the end of the book while this issue was elaborated by Dr Mahmud a-Tahan in the beginning of his book. The justification given by Prof Syarf Mahmud Al-Qudah was that there are many terms and valid definitions that require detailed explanation and if the chapter was to be placed earlier, it would cause confusion to students.

C Presenting a review of definitions in *Ulum al-Hadith* so that they are more concise, clear and precise with the intended meanings

C Presenting an adequate discussion in its content so that it is appropriate with the needs of first-year students and can be completed within a period of one semester

C Providing related debates in a simplified form

C The use of tables and charts to ease students’ comprehension of the content

C Placing the appropriate Arabic diacritical marks for every word as a way of facilitating the students

C Referring to several other books, among them *Manhaj al-Naqd fi ‘Ulum al-Hadith* by Dr Nur al-Din ‘Itr

The book was a result of joint effort and produced by *Jam’iyyah al-Hadith al-Syarif wa Ihya’ al-Turath*. Contains 352 ages with the first 186 pages as the first part of the book and the first publication was in 1999. What is unique about this book is that compared to previous book of takhrij, it emphasizes practical aspects and the use of IT in takhrij.
The second part of the book is related to *Dirasat al-Asanid wa al-Hukm 'ala al-Hadith* and does not feature in this discussion as it is not used in Hadith studies at higher education institutions.

**Introduction To Manhaj Dirasat al-Asanid wa al-Hukm 'Alayha by Dr Walid bin Hasan al-'Ani, [9]:** This book by the late Dr Walid bin Hasan al-Ani was printed in 1997 with 215, containing 215 pages. In this book, the author tried to formulate *hukum* or rulings that are appropriate with the terms of *al-Jarh wa al-Ta’dil* by Ibn Hajr in his book *Taqrib al-Tahdhib*. The book is divided into five parts as follows:

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<td>1</td>
<td>Al-Mabahth al-Awwal</td>
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<td>· Ahkam al-Syeikh Ahmad Muhammad Syakir ala hazzi al-maratib</td>
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<td>· Munaqasyah al-syeikh Ahmad Syakir</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Al-Mabahth al-Thani</td>
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<td>Al-Darjah al-Sabi’ah ‘inda Ibn Hajar “al-Mustur ay Majhul al-Hal”</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Al-Mabahth al-Thalith</td>
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<td>Al-Darjah al-Sadithah ‘inda Ibn Hajar “al-Muqbal”</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Al-Mabahth al-Rabi’</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Al-Mabahth al-Khamith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Al-Martabah al-Rabi’u ‘inda Ibn Hajar “Sadaq” aw “La Ba’i sa bihi”</td>
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His effort has more or less facilitated the students of Hadith in identifying the rulings of Hadith through terms used by Ibn Hajar in his book *Taqrib al-Tahdhib*.

**Introduction to the book Al-Sirah al-Nabawiyyah by Dr Yahya Mahmud Salman [10]:** This book is still currently part of the teaching notes at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia for the subject *Sirah al-Rasul* and previously it was also part of the subject *al-Sirah al-Nabawiyah* at Selangor International Islamic University College.

This book started with the history of the Prophet, the importance of prophetic history, related references and the benefits of prophetic history. It was followed by the explanations of pre-Islamic society as well as the genealogy of the Prophet. Among the features of this book is every event is included with lessons that can be learnt from it. Tables, charts and maps of battles are also included in order to aid students in following and understanding prophetic history. This book uses Arabic diacritical marks, with easy language and a number of Arabic words are included with their meanings. Overall, the content of the book is brief and simple, appropriate for students in the diploma and bachelor degree.

**CONCLUSION**

In general, the ulama of Jordan who are mostly lecturers of premier Jordanian universities have played a major role in the development of Hadith studies in Malaysia. Through the thoughts and ideas presented in their high-quality works, the comprehension of students in Hadith has increased. The production of these works has also indirectly lessen the dependency on *turath* books, where some of them are not suited for students who are new in the study of Hadith. The simple writing style and elaborated in new forms and arrangements made the book as reader-friendly and easy to learn.

**REFERENCES**