



Islamic Educational Values in the Lyrics of the Song "Sesi Potret" and Their Relevance as a Medium for Islamic Religious Education Learning

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Abstrak

This study aims to identify the Islamic educational values contained in the lyrics of the song "Sesi Potret" by Ari Lesmana and Putra Permana and analyze its relevance as a learning medium for Islamic Religious Education (PAI). This song was chosen because it contains a strong moral message related to the relationship between children and parents, awareness of death, sincerity, regret, and respect for time. This study used a qualitative approach with the method *library research* through content analysis (*content analysis*). The primary data consisted of the lyrics of the song "Sesi Potret," while secondary data were obtained from various relevant literature sources, including books, journals, and scientific articles. The analysis was conducted by identifying value themes, categorizing them based on the Islamic educational value framework, interpreting the meaning of each value, and formulating its pedagogical implications. The research identified five Islamic educational values in the song's lyrics: *Birrul Walidain*, *Dhikrul Death*, *Sincerity*, *Tawbah* And *I hope*, as well as *There is no time left*. These five values have significant relevance as Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning media, particularly in affective-based learning and character building. This research contributes to the development of alternative Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning media that are contextual and relevant to the lives of today's students.

PENDAHULUAN

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) plays a strategic role in shaping the character and personality of students, who are not only intellectually intelligent but also spiritually and morally mature. As a subject encompassing the dimensions of faith, worship, and morals, PAI is required to continuously innovate in effectively conveying Islamic values to a generation living amidst the currents of modernization and digitalization.

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One of the main challenges faced by PAI teachers today is the difficulty in presenting learning that deeply touches students' affective dimensions (Faizin et al., 2024). Conventional approaches that focus on text memorization and lectures often fail to directly engage students' moral awareness. Therefore, a more contextual, relevant learning approach is needed, one that taps into students' life experiences emotionally and reflectively (Rokhman et al., 2023).

Music and song have long been recognized as communication media with extraordinary power in conveying moral messages and life values. In the context of Islamic education, music is not unfamiliar, as it has long been used as a means of preaching and transmitting religious values (Hannum, 2022). Song lyrics are essentially meaningful literary texts that can be studied like other narrative texts. When a song contains a moral message that aligns with Islamic values, it has great potential to be an effective, engaging, and contextual learning medium for students. Numerous studies have shown that internalization of Islamic values can be achieved through songs containing religious and moral messages (Nugraha et al., 2025).

The song "Sesi Potret," written by Ari Lesmana and Putra Permana, is one of Indonesia's most popular musical works, garnering widespread attention, particularly among young people. The song explores the theme of the permanent departure of a parent through death, evoking feelings of regret, longing, and profound reflection from a child's perspective. Thematically, the song touches on several values closely related to Islamic teachings, including: *Birrul Walidain*, *Dhikrul Death*, *Sincerity*, *Tawbah*, and awareness of the value of time. Previous research conducted by (Rarsina et al., 2026) examined this song through Schleiermacher's hermeneutic approach, focusing on grammatical and psychological interpretations. However, this study did not address the value dimension of Islamic education and its relevance as a medium for Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning, leaving significant research room to be filled.

Research on Islamic education values in popular art and culture has actually developed quite rapidly in recent years. A number of researchers have examined Islamic education values in animated films, novels, nasyid albums, and even the lyrics of popular Indonesian songs (Handaryanto & Huda, 2024) (Amirudin & Hibri, 2024) (Ramadhani & Erdanu, 2025). All of these studies show that popular art can be an effective vehicle for presenting Islamic education values in a more vivid and touching way. In this context, research on the song "Sesi Potret" becomes relevant and important to conduct from an Islamic education perspective, considering that this song has a wide audience among teenagers and young adults who are the main targets of Islamic education learning at the secondary and tertiary levels.

Based on the above background, this study aims to identify the Islamic educational values contained in the lyrics of the song "Sesi Potret" by Ari Lesmana and Putra Permana and analyze its relevance as a medium for Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning. This research is expected to contribute in the form of alternative learning media that are contextual and close to the lives of students, while also enriching the treasure trove of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) studies that utilize popular cultural works as learning resources. Theoretically, this study strengthens the argument that song lyrics can be treated as moral texts containing Islamic educational values that are worthy of being studied and integrated into the Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning process at various levels of education (Nurfadila et al., 2024) (Adib, 2022)

METODE

This study uses a qualitative, descriptive, interpretive approach. This qualitative approach was chosen because it aims to deeply understand the meaning and values contained in a cultural text, rather than to measure variables statistically. The type of research used is library research, which is research conducted by collecting and analyzing data from various relevant written sources (Sari & Asmendri, 2020) (Subagiya, 2023). This approach is considered appropriate because the main object of the study is song lyrics as texts that can be analyzed in depth through a systematic and comprehensive literature review, without requiring field data collection in the form of interviews or direct observation.

The analytical method used in this study is content analysis with an Islamic educational values framework. Content analysis is a research method used to systematically and objectively identify, classify, and interpret the content of a text (Selvi, 2019). In this study, content analysis was applied to the lyrics of the song "Sesi Potret" to identify moral themes relevant to Islamic educational values. The analytical framework used is based on the concept of Islamic educational values, which include the dimensions of faith (aqidah), worship (ibadah), and morals, with a particular emphasis on the moral dimension, given the song's thematic content, which is more in touch with the moral and relational realms (Rokhman et al., 2023) (Nurfadila et al., 2024).

The data sources in this study are divided into two categories. Primary data are the lyrics of the song "Sesi Potret" by Ari Lesmana, obtained from official sources and verified for authenticity. Secondary data consist of various relevant literature references, including scientific journals, Islamic education textbooks, academic articles, and previous research results related to the values of Islamic education, *birrul walidain*, *dhikrul maut*, *ikhlas*, *tawbah*, *qimatul waqt*, as well as studies of song lyrics from an educational perspective. All secondary data sources used have gone through a selection process based on topic relevance, publication credibility, and the latest year of publication, with priority given to sources published within the last five years (Creswell, 2015) (Sidqi et al., 2025).

The data collection and analysis procedures in this study were carried out through four sequential stages. The first stage was theme identification, which involved carefully and repeatedly reading song lyrics to identify moral themes that emerged explicitly and implicitly. The second stage was value categorization, which involved grouping the themes found into appropriate Islamic educational value categories based on a predetermined theoretical framework. The third stage was interpretation of meaning, which involved interpreting the meaning of each value within the context of Islamic teachings by referring to the Quran, Hadith, and the opinions of Islamic scholars and academics. The fourth stage was formulation of pedagogical implications, which involved formulating the relevance of the values found as Islamic education learning media and resources that can be implemented in the classroom (Selvi, 2019) (Sari & Asmendri, 2020).

To ensure the validity and reliability of the analysis results, this study used a data source triangulation technique, namely by confirming the findings from the lyric analysis with various relevant literature references. Each value found in the song lyrics was confirmed with the arguments of the Quran, hadith, and the views of Islamic education experts to ensure that the interpretations made had a strong academic foundation. In addition, the researcher also conducted a comparative reading of the results of previous studies that examined Islamic Religious Education values in popular cultural works, in order to position the findings of this study appropriately within the existing research map. This approach is believed to produce a comprehensive, coherent, and academically accountable analysis (Creswell, 2015) (Sidiq & Choiri, 2019).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research result

Overview of the Values in the Lyrics of the Song Portrait Session

A content analysis of the lyrics of the song "Sesi Potret" by Ari Lesmana and Putra Permana identified five Islamic educational values contained both explicitly and implicitly in the lyrics. *Birrul Walidain* (devotion to parents), *Dhikrul Death* (awareness of death), *Sincere* (sincerity), *Repentance And I hope* (repentance and regret), as well as *There is no time left* (valuing time). This finding was obtained through a careful and systematic process of identifying themes within the entire song's lyrics, then categorizing them based on an Islamic educational values framework that refers to the moral dimension of Islamic teachings. Each value found has a clear textual representation in the song's lyrics and can be directly linked to normative Islamic sources, namely the Quran and the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad.

The Value of Birrul Walidain

The first value found in the lyrics of the song "Sesi Potret" is *birrul walidain*, or devotion to parents. This value is strongly depicted through the narrative of a child who has been unable to return home to see his parents for years due to financial constraints. Excerpt from the lyrics "*Last year I had a million reasons / sorry I couldn't go home my income was just enough*" depicts the situation of a child who is trapped in economic priorities to the point of forgetting his moral obligation to be present with his parents. When he is finally able to return home with gifts as a token of his attention, it turns out that the parents he longs for have already passed away, as implied in the lines "*but strangely you weren't the one who greeted me / oh so it turns out you were the one who came home first*." This narrative implicitly teaches that physical presence, attention, and making time for parents are core parts of *Birrul Walidain* which is often underestimated by children in modern times.

The Value of Dhikrul Maut

The second value identified is *dhikrul maut*, or awareness of death. In the lyrics of this song, death is depicted with a very powerful and poetic metaphor through the following passage: "*I visited your new house / there was no you / only a board and your name*" which directly refers to the grave as the final home of the parents. This imagery forces the listener to confront the reality of death, which comes unexpectedly and cannot be negotiated. Death in this song is not presented as something distant and abstract, but as a concrete reality that can come at any time to those we love most. *dhikrul death* This song is very effective in building the listener's awareness that death is inevitable and should encourage people not to delay doing good to their loved ones while there is still an opportunity.

Sincerity Value

The third value found is sincerity as a complex and profound moral educational value. What is interesting in this song is that sincerity is not described as something that is easy to achieve, but rather as a process of heavy inner struggle as reflected in the lines "*Regarding sincerity, it turns out I'm still an amateur / I'm overwhelmed by pride*." This confession is a very honest and authentic representation of the essence of sincerity in Islam, namely that sincerity is not a condition that simply comes, but rather a spiritual state that requires struggle, reflection, and continuous practice. The honesty of this lyric about the difficulty of sincerity has high pedagogical value because it teaches students not to be hypocritical about their own feelings in the process of achieving true sincerity.

The Value of Tawbah and Nadam

The fourth value identified in the lyrics of the song "Sesi Potret" is *tawbah* and *nadam*, or repentance and deep regret. This value is expressed through the character's strong expression of regret at not being able to accompany his parents, as depicted in the lines "*I regret that I didn't have time to accompany you / I should have whispered*

magic words into your ear."This regret is not just a simple feeling of sadness, but rather a deep nadam, a full awareness of negligence and failure in fulfilling one's obligations as a child. From an Islamic educational perspective, nadam, or sincere regret, is the initial stage and the primary requirement for accepted repentance. This value teaches students that regret born of moral awareness is the starting point for self-change toward goodness.

The value of time is lost.

The fifth value found is qimatul waqt, or respecting time as an irrevocable trust. This value is the common thread that connects the entire song's narrative, reflected explicitly in the lines. *"this distance is too far / if I miss you I can't."* Time spent with parents cannot be rewound, and the opportunity to be present, accompany, and express love only comes twice. The lyrics of this song serve as a powerful reminder of the preciousness of every moment spent with loved ones. The awareness of the value of time fostered through this song has significant educational relevance, particularly in shaping the character of students who are wise in using their time for meaningful and worshipful activities.

Supporting Values: Awareness of Monotheism and Parents' Prayers

In addition to the five main values above, the analysis also found supporting values in the form of awareness of the vertical relationship between humans and Allah SWT, which is reflected in the following excerpt: *"Thanks to your prayers, the Almighty will answer."* This confession demonstrates the character's awareness of God's power in governing human sustenance and life, while also emphasizing the special place that parents' prayers hold in Islam. The value of monotheism embedded in this narrative reinforces the spiritual dimension of the song's overall message. While this value is not as profound and profound as the five main values found, its presence provides a nuance of faith that complements the song's overall moral message and enriches it as a source of Islamic educational value.

Relationship Between Values

The research findings also show that the five Islamic educational values found in the song Sesi Potret do not stand alone separately, but are interrelated and form a complete moral narrative. *Birrul Walidain* cannot be separated from qimatul waqt because negligence in respecting time causes failure in carrying out *Birrul Walidain*. Likewise *Dhikrul Death* cannot be separated from tawbah and nadam, because the awareness of sudden death triggers deep regret that should encourage behavioral change. Sincerity, the most difficult value to achieve, is the culmination of the emotional and spiritual journey depicted in this song. The interconnectedness of these values makes the song "Sesi Potret" a very rich and complex medium for integrative learning of Islamic educational values.

Potential as a Media for Islamic Education Learning

Regarding its relevance as a medium for Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning, the analysis results show that the song "Sesi Potret" has great potential to be integrated into Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning at various levels of education, especially for materials related to morals towards parents, awareness of death and the end of the world, the formation of noble character, and affective value education. This song is able to present these values in an emotional, narrative format, and close to the life experiences of students so that they are more easily absorbed and experienced personally. The potential of this song as an "affective stimulus" in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning is very high considering its ability to arouse empathy, self-reflection, and moral awareness, which are the main goals of moral education in Islam.

Discussion

Song Lyrics as a Medium for Transmitting Islamic Educational Values

Research findings identifying five Islamic educational values in the lyrics of

the song "Sesi Potret" reinforce the argument that popular works of art, including songs, can be a rich medium for transmitting religious and moral values. In the Islamic educational tradition, art and culture are never viewed as contradictory to religious values as long as they do not violate the boundaries of sharia and contain messages that are beneficial to human life (Hannum, 2022). The song "Sesi Potret" in this regard perfectly fulfills these criteria because all its messages align with Islamic teachings on morality, death, sincerity, repentance, and the value of time. These findings strengthen the position of song lyrics as moral texts worthy of study from an Islamic educational perspective, as has been done by several previous researchers on other songs (Ramadhani & Erdanu, 2025).

Birrul Walidain: From Normative Text to Emotional Experience

The value of *birrul walidain* found in the song "Sesi Potret" has a very high relevance to Islamic Religious Education (PAI), especially in the context of the crisis in the relationship between children and parents in the modern era. *Birrul walidain* in the Quran is explicitly mentioned and placed right after the command to worship Allah, which shows how high the position of this value is in Islam (Suhaili, 2023) (Jukhairin, 2023). In the real life of today's students, many are starting to lose the intensity of emotional relationships with their parents due to busyness, distance, and the influence of technology. The song "Sesi Potret" presents as a mirror that shows the consequences of neglecting to fulfill *birrul walidain* concretely and emotionally (Safrudin & Nasaruddin, 2025) (Alfianto & Nasir, 2026). Through this song, students are not only taught about the obligations of *birrul walidain* normatively, but are invited to feel them deeply through emotional experiences mediated by the song's narrative.

Dzikrul Maut: Death as a Pedagogical Mirror

The value of remembering death in the song "Sesi Potret" holds a very important position within the framework of Islamic education. In Islamic teachings, remembering death is one of the recommended spiritual practices because it has a transformative impact on human behavior. People who frequently remember death tend to be more careful in their every action, do not delay good deeds, and are more serious in preparing provisions for the afterlife (Khosim, 2022) (Safitri et al., 2025). The song "Sesi Potret" presents *dzikrul maut* not in the form of a lecture or direct advice, but through an emotional narrative that shows the real impact of not remembering that death can come at any time on loved ones. This method of delivery is much more effective pedagogically because it directly touches the affective dimension of students, not just the cognitive (Nurhayati & Anggraeni, 2025) (Maharani et al., 2024).

Sincerity: An Authentic Representation of Inner Struggle

The discussion of the value of sincerity in the song "Sesi Potret" opens up a very interesting pedagogical perspective that differs from conventional teachings of the value of sincerity. In conventional Islamic Education (PAI) learning, sincerity is often taught as an ideal state to be achieved without much explanation of the process and difficulties involved. This song instead presents a more honest and humane side of the struggle towards sincerity: that sincerity is a journey full of inner struggle, not just a sudden decision (Rofi'i et al., 2024) (Saiin et al., 2022). The recognition that the character is still very amateur in practicing sincerity serves as a strong point of identification for students who may also have experienced similar experiences. This aligns with Al-Ghazali's view that sincerity is the culmination of a spiritual journey that requires long and consistent spiritual training (Athoillah, 2025). This approach is far more authentic and meaningful than simply defining sincerity textually.

Tawbah and Nadam: Regret as the Starting Point of Change

The values of tawbah and nadam reflected in the song "Sesi Potret" also have valuable pedagogical implications for Islamic Religious Education (PAI). In Islam, sincere regret for negligent actions is a primary requirement for repentance to be accepted. Nadam, or deep regret, is evidence that a person has achieved true moral awareness of the mistakes they have made. This song portrays nadam not as weakness, but as an emotional strength that drives change and personal growth (Mukaromah, 2023) (Buwono & Susilo, 2025). In the context of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning, the nadam depicted in this song can be used as a reflection material for students on mistakes they may have made in their relationships with their parents. Using songs as a stimulus for self-reflection and tawbah is a highly effective affective learning strategy in Islamic value-based character education (Tambak et al., 2021).

Qimatul Waqt: Krisis Waktu di Era Digital

The value of qimatul waqt, or respect for time, which is the central theme of the song "Sesi Potret," has enormous relevance in the context of Islamic character education in the digital era. Today's generation of students faces a very real time paradox: on the one hand, they live in the most technologically connected era, but on the other hand, they are experiencing a crisis in the depth of their relationships with those closest to them, including their parents (Adnan, 2022) (Umar et al., 2024). The song "Sesi Potret" very clearly shows the consequences of not valuing time with parents, namely regret that can no longer be repaired after death. In Islam, time is a trust that will be accounted for before Allah, and wasting time with parents is a concrete form of not fulfilling that trust (Firdiansyah et al., 2025) (Kumalasari & Aini, 2023). This message is highly relevant to be instilled in students as part of comprehensive Islamic character education.

Relevance as a Media for Islamic Education Learning: Strategy and Implementation

In terms of its relevance as a medium for Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning, the song "Sesi Potret" can be effectively integrated into various learning strategies centered on the affective dimension. Some strategies that can be implemented include using the song as an initial stimulus before discussions on the theme of birrul walidain or dhikrul maut, using lyrics as material for text analysis carried out in groups to discover Islamic values within it, and using the song as material for personal reflection in students' learning journals (Nugraha et al., 2025) (Wardana et al., 2025). This popular arts and culture-based approach to Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning has been proven to increase students' emotional engagement and accelerate the process of internalizing values because it directly touches the dimensions of their experiences and feelings, not just the cognitive dimension (Syarifah et al., 2024) (Hannum, 2022).

Theoretical Contribution: Popular Culture as a Source of Islamic Education Values

This research also makes an important theoretical contribution in enriching the Islamic Religious Education (PAI) study framework that utilizes popular culture as a source of values. To date, studies of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) values have focused more on classical texts such as the Quran, Hadith, and Islamic texts, which are certainly very important but need to be supplemented with contextual sources that are close to the lives of today's students (Damayanti et al., 2024). Works of art and popular culture that contain positive values and are in line with Islamic teachings can and should be utilized as additional learning resources that enrich students' learning experiences. This research proves that popular songs such as "Sesi Potret," although not formally categorized as Islamic art, can contain very rich Islamic educational values and are worthy of being used as effective Islamic Religious

Education (PAI) learning media (Fatahillah, 2024) (Mariyono, 2024).

Affective Learning and Islamic Character Formation

The findings of this study also strengthen the argument for the importance of an affective and experiential Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning approach in shaping students' character. Islamic education should not stop at the cognitive realm of memorizing and understanding value concepts, but must also be able to touch and stimulate students' affective and psychomotor dimensions. The song "Sesi Potret" (Portrait Session), with its emotional power, presents Islamic values not as abstract concepts, but as real and touching life experiences. This approach is far more effective in shaping students' attitudes, character, and behavior than a one-way lecture approach (Tambak et al., 2021). Thus, integrating the song "Sesi Potret" (Portrait Session) into Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning is not merely a matter of creativity and media innovation, but a pedagogical choice based on a strong theoretical foundation for how Islamic values are most effectively internalized in students.

Research Position in Existing Study Map

A comparison between this study and the study by (Rarsina et al., 2026) that used Schleiermacher's hermeneutic approach shows that the same research object can produce different and complementary findings when examined from different perspectives. Schleiermacher's hermeneutic approach successfully uncovered the grammatical and psychological meanings of the song in depth, while the Islamic educational value analysis approach used in this study successfully uncovered pedagogical dimensions and learning implications that were not covered by the hermeneutic approach. These two studies together provide a more comprehensive and multidimensional understanding of the richness of meaning contained in the song "Sesi Potret". This also shows that the study of popular art from an Islamic education perspective still has much room for further development and deepening by Islamic Education researchers in the future.

Conclusion

This study successfully identified five Islamic educational values contained in the lyrics of the song "Sesi Potret" by Ari Lesmana: *birrul walidain*, *dhikrul maut*, *ikhlas*, *tawbah dan nadam*, and *qimatul waqt*. These five values do not stand alone, but are interrelated and form a unified whole. The narrative is a cohesive and complete moral message. These findings demonstrate that a thematically sound popular song can contain rich and profound Islamic educational values, even if it is not formally categorized as Islamic art. This research also emphasizes that the study of popular cultural works from the perspective of Islamic educational values is a highly potential area for further development, given that such works have a very broad reach and appeal to today's students.

In terms of relevance as a PAI learning medium, this study found that the song *Sesi Potret* has enormous potential to be integrated into PAI learning, especially for materials related to morals towards parents, awareness of death and the end of the world, sincerity, repentance, and respect for time. The emotional power of this song makes it very effective as an affective stimulus that can directly touch the dimensions of students' feelings and experiences, so that the process of internalizing values can take place more deeply and meaningfully. The integration of this song in PAI learning can be done through various strategies such as using it as a stimulus for discussion, group text analysis, or personal reflection in a learning journal.

This study recommends that Islamic Religious Education (PAI) educators and curriculum developers be more open to utilizing popular cultural works containing positive values as learning resources and media that complement conventional teaching materials. This approach will not only make Islamic Religious

Education (PAI) learning more relevant and engaging for students, but also more effective in shaping authentic Islamic character and personality. For further research, it is recommended to conduct an empirical study on the effectiveness of using the song "Sesi Potret" as a PAI learning medium through classroom action research or experiments that directly involve students, so that the potential discovered in this library research can be tested and proven empirically in a real learning context.

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