

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

The emergence of liberation theology in the West reaps some problems in the lives of Christians, the idea was conceived from the ideas of churchmen such as Gustavo Gutierrez (Peru), Juan Louise Segundo (Uruguay), Hugo Asmann (Brazil) and John Sabrino (El Salvador), and others to fight injustice, poverty and oppression.¹ They hope for the theology of liberation, which is an understanding of the role of religion in the scope of the social environment.² In other words, this understanding is an attempt to contextualize religious teachings and values on concrete issues around them and as a response to the economic and political situation which is considered to be miserable to the people.

Based on from the History of Liberation Theology, the essence is no longer theocentric but becomes anthropocentric. Because according to Thomas C. Bruneau, a famous theologian in America about the Church in Bralisia was carrying out reforms to find new ways to shift to the lower classes of society with the aim of maintaining their influence in society.³ The liberation theology is the result of ideological and doctrinal debates that become theology itself. Which in its development entered into conflict with Rome in the 1980s. Among all the sins that Rome laid down to the organizers of this new theology. One of the most considered the most dangerous and worrying is the sin of Marxism according to a representative of the conservative sect, namely the chairman of the CELAM (Conference

¹ Natalie, "Evaluasi Kritis Terhadap Doktrin Gereja Dari Teologi Pembebasan," 1/2 (Oktober 2000), p. 183

² rsyadPrayogi. Islam:TeologiPembebasanSebagaiMetodeGerakanSebuahRefleksi Pemikiran.<https://www.kompasiana.com/arsyadprayogi/552aeb9ef17e61f352d62400/islam-teologi-pembebasan-sebagai-metode-gerakan-sebuah-refleksi-pemikiran>. 15 juli 2018. 20.00.

³ Micheal Lowy, (Yogyakarta : Insist Press, 2013), p. 27

Episcopal of Latin America) namely bishop Lopez Trujillo.⁴ Therefore Marx's analysis disrupts and destroys the neat order of the Church.

From the description above, it can be concluded that liberation theology is uniting the real conditions of injustice, ignorance and poverty to make a tool against the status quo or the rulers.⁵ With the renewal of the theology, they want a more just condition as a manifestation of the kingdom of God in this world. Whereas the liberation in this theology of the reflection of Christian faith in the poor in Latin America in the 1960s, namely the Church Institutions has the role of freeing from injustice and changing the status quo into equality in the society.⁶ With this movement aroused suspicion that this liberation theology used Marxist analysis as a socialist movement. Thus further the idea of liberation theology in the Christian religion will have an impact not believe in god or atheism.

Islam further introduces the concept of liberation theology as a monotheistic teaching brought by the Prophets which was perfected by the Prophet Muhammad as an Islamic religion. It is a human commitment to God that has meaningful dimension of human liberation and humanity.⁷ According to Nurcholis Madjid, the liberation in question is the first self liberation from lust () which prevents humans from accepting the truth because of conceit and closed attitudes and fanatical attitudes because they feel they have knowledge. Self-liberation is actually one of the essential meanings of the witnessing sentence () with a negative formulation confirmation , which has implications for increasing one's human dignity. the two Tauhid contain social liberation. In the Qur'an, the principle of tauhid or the life view of the Almighty God is directly related to the attitude of rejecting the . The word is always interpreted as arbitrary, , tyrannical or anything that crosses the line.⁸ It's a one of the effects of social liberation from the spirit of tauhid is

⁴ , p . 103

⁵ Gustavo Gutierrez, , (New York: Orbis Books, 1973), p. 43

⁶ Jon Sobrino, (New York: Orbis Books, 1993), p. 27

⁷ Ahmad Rajaf, , (Yogyakarta : Istana Publishing, 2014), p. 43

⁸ Nurcholis Madjid, Is (Jakarta : Paramadina, 1992, cet.1), p 72.

one's ability to escape from the shackles of tyrannical power.

From the discussion above, the writer choose this title to look for and add insight into the scope of similarities and differences in liberation theology according to Christianity and Islam. Because the formation of this liberation theology has a very influential difference in its role and function, the researcher this study with the title of the concept of liberation theology according to Christianity and Islam.

B. Problem of Study

Based on the explanation from the background above. From that the writer limits this study to make it more focused and clear on the subject, so the writers designed the problem formulation as follows:

1. What is the concept of liberation theology according to Christianity and Islam ?
2. What are the differences and similarities in the concepts of liberation theology in Christianity and Islam ?

C. Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study refers to the formulation of the problem which will be the content of the research as follows:

1. Knowing the concepts of liberation theology according to Christianity and Islam.
2. Knowing the differences and similarities in the concepts of liberation theology according to Christianity and Islam.

D. Significance of Study

This study is expected to be theoretically useful in this study as follows:

1. Theoretically:
 - a. Contribute to scientific knowledge that can be expanded later
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by researchers specifically, who have an interest in the concepts of liberation theology in Christianity and Islam

- b. Knowing the release of the concepts of liberation theology in Christianity and Islam until now.
 - c. Recognize the concept of liberation theology in a normative manner with the existence of data and facts.
 - d. Knowing the differences and similarities comprehensively from liberation theology in Christianity and Islam.
2. Practically

This study is expected to be of practical use in this study as follows:

- a. Can add insight and direct experience for the writer on the concept of liberation theology in Christianity and Islam.
- b. Understanding to the general public about the concepts of liberation theology in Christianity and Islam.
- c. To contribute to enriching reading in the UNIDA Gontor environment, especially the Faculty of Ushuluddin

E. Literature Review

As far as the writer does a search, he has never found the title of a thesis, thesis, dissertation entitled The Concept of Theology of Religion-Based Christian Liberation and Islam, but only those related to liberation theology, namely:

1. Research written by **Reni Susanti** with the title **Relevance of the Theology of the Liberation of Ali Syariati with the Present (Tela'ah of Theology of Liberation of Ali Syariati)**, Faculty of Islamic Education majoring in comparative religion at the Batu Sangkar State Islamic College in 2014.⁹ **The purpose of this study is To find out how the relevance of the theology of the**

⁹ Reni Susanti. Fakultas Ushuluddin jurusan perbandingan agama. Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri Batu Sangkar. 2014.

release of Ali Shariati with the present. Which is based on his understanding of tauhid, Islam, human beings and the determinants that become a human barrier in developing. From this research, it explains the relevance of the theology of the liberation of Ali Shariati with the present based on his understanding of tauhid, Islam, mankind and the determinants that become human barriers in developing. The method used is qualitative research using a sociological and analytical-phenomenological descriptive approach. This research focuses more on aspects of Islam without comparison in history in Christianity and its teachings.

2. Research written by **Muh Alwi** with the title **Liberation Theology in Islam (Study of Hasan Hanafi's Thought)**, Ushuluddin Faculty majoring in Islamic at the State Islamic University (UIN) Alauddin Makassar in 2015.¹⁰ The purpose of this research is to find out occur in the body of Islam by changing the perspective on the Muslim ummah. From this research, Hassan Hanafi uses a dimension of revolutionary movements taken and the treasures of Islamic scholarship. As he did with critics of classical scientific traditions, criticisms of Western scientific traditions, and criticisms of contemporary scientific traditions. The method used is qualitative research using the Philosophical approach. And in this study only focused on the concept of theology of Islamic liberation without a comparison between Islam and Christianity.
3. Research written by **Oktavia Damayanti** with the title **Implementation of Humanism in the view of Yusuf Bilyarta Mangunwijaya; A Concept of Liberation Theology in Yogyakarta**, Faculty of Islamic Education majoring in comparative religion at Syarif Hidayatullah Islamic State University Jakarta

¹⁰ Muh Alwi. Fakultas Ushuluddin jurusan Aqidah Islam. Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Alauddin Makassar. 2015.

2017.¹¹ The purpose of this study is to understand the views of Father Mangunwijaya on humanism and the model of humanism implementation in Yogyakarta. From the research, it has been said about Yusuf Bilyarta Mangunwijaya's humanism view in its implementation of contemporary and social life in an individualist nature. The method used by this researcher is qualitative research using a Sociological approach. In this study, the themes and teachings of theology of liberation have not yet focused.

From the above literature review, the researcher noticed that more research on the concept of liberation theology in Islam. But a special study on the concept of liberation theology in Christianity and Islam has not been written. This condition motivated researchers to write about the concept of Liberation Theology according to Christianity and Islam.

F. Theoretical Framework

Theoretical framework is a conceptual model of how a person theorizes with regard to the relationships between several identified factors from a problem that aims to make a temporary answer to the problem of his research.¹²

Liberation theology is a concept that originates from the treasures of the tradition of the Christian Church. The term liberation theology is a compound word consisting of the words theology and liberation. The word theology, according to Karl Rahner and Herbert Vorgrimler comes from the Greek word (theology), which means the talk of gods, or God itself, especially legendary or philosophical.¹³ Theology is basically a conscious effort of Christians to listen to the whisperings of revelation, the words expressed by God in history, absorb knowledge of him by using scientific methods and to reflect various demands on his steps in action. Whereas the

¹¹ Oktavia Damayanti. Fakultas Ushuluddin jurusan Aqidah Islam Negeri Islam Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta 2017.

¹² Priyono, (Sidoarjo: Zifatama Publishing, 2014), p. 55

¹³ Sabirin, "Menakar Eksistensi Teologi Pembebasan Terhadap Prosentase Zakat Mal Maliki-Yat I-Zor". , (Vol VIII No 2 Juli - Desember 2015), p. 376

word liberation literally means the process, action, or effort to liberate.¹⁴ In this term freedom is defined as freedom for everyone from all legal practices, social norms, and economics that curb their potential to develop into fully and fully living human beings.

As a whole the theology of liberation can be interpreted as a praxis effort namely human thought which creates a change of concept, and will change the way of thinking again, and so on,¹⁵ for comprehensive justice with theological reflection that arises from it. While Islamic teachings require Muslims to have that is strong in matters of divinity, because it includes the main problems in the system of Islamic teachings that should not be ignored. The Qur'an, which is a religious and moral source for Islam, has basic teachings aimed at forming a society consisting of pious individuals, with high religious awareness and having true and pure about God.¹⁶ The Qur'an provides guidance to humans on how to relate, between humans and God, humans and humans, and humans and nature. With that the concept of liberation theology according to Christianity is different from Islam. Likewise the differences in the basic teachings of each religion. Finally, researchers try to explore basic things that contain similarities and differences between them in aspects of ideology or thought.

Based on all these things the writer will use the Philosophical Approach. Literally, the word philosophy comes from which means the mind to truth, knowledge, and wisdom.¹⁷ In addition, philosophy can also be interpreted as seeking the nature of something that seeks to connect cause and effect and try to interpret human experiences. In general, Philosophy means deep thinking which means total thinking¹⁸ to the extent that the mind is no longer able to reach out, systematic which means doing these

¹⁴ p. 377

¹⁵ Fr. Wahono Nitiprawira, (Yogyakarta: LKIS, 2000, Cet. Ke. 1), p. 3

¹⁶ Haerul Anwar, "Teologi Islam Perspektif Fazlur Rahman," (Vol 2, No 2, Juli 2014), p. 125

¹⁷ Abuddin Nata, , (Jakarta: Rajawali Press, 2016), p. 42.

¹⁸ p. 43.

activities regularly by using certain thinking methods, radicals that are thinking to touch the roots of the object under study, and universal means thinking without limits for certain groups but for the whole. these four modes of thinking are done in order to find a truth, wisdom or essence about everything that exists. Using this approach, researchers will find differences and similarities between the idea of the thought leaders of Christianity and Islam associated with meaning, influence and attitudes of the theologians in liberation theology in their respective religions.

G. Research Method

This research method refers to the process of research activities. The series of activities that the writer will carry out include activities for determining the research approach, determining the type of research, determining data sources, collecting data, and analyzing data. As a process, a series of several activities must be carried out sequentially (nothing is reversed).

1. The Type Of Research

Based on the research objectives, this type of research is categorized as a type of literature research. According to Moh. Nazir, Ph.d, literature study is a study by conducting surveys of existing data, researcher tasked with exploring theories that have developed in the field of interest, looking for methods and research techniques, both in collecting data or in analyzing data that has been used by previous researchers; obtain a broader orientation in the problems chosen, and avoid the occurrence of unwanted duplications.¹⁹ So with this literature research researchers will look for the data studied and find the results of the observations studied so that there is an update in this study.

¹⁹ Moh. Nazir, . (Aceh: Ghalia Indonesia, 1983), p. 93

2. Source Of Data

The data source in this research is divided into two parts as follows:

a. Primery Sources

The main sources in this study are books related to the Theology of Liberation according to Christianity and Islam as follows:

1. **A Theology of Liberation**, written by Gustavo Gutierrez, translated by Sister Caridad and John Eagleson and published by Orbis Maryknoll books in New York in 1973. This is a book explaining reflection efforts based on the gospel and experiences of men and women who committed to the process of liberation on oppressed and exploited land in Latin America.
2. **Jesus The Liberator**, written by Jon Sobrino, which was translated from Spanish by Paul Burn and Francis McDonagh and published by Orbis Maryknoll books in New York in 1993. This book seeks to establish Jesus Christ of Nazareth and is called Jesus the liberator.
3. **Liberation Theology at The Crossroads Decomracy or Revolution**, written by Sigmund, and published by Oxford University Press in New York in 1990. This book focuses on the attitude of liberation theology, the flow of new theology originating in Latin America in the late 1960s.
4. **Liberation Theology**, ed by Ronald H. Nash, and published by Mott Media 1984. The theology of liberation in this book is a movement between Latin American Catholics and Protestants who tried radically to change in the region's political and economic institutions along the lines Marxists.
5. **The Qur'an of The Oppressed Liberation Theology And Gender Justice**, written by Shadaab Rahemtulla, and

published by Oxford University Press 2017. This book attempts comprehensively and analyzes for four Muslim intellectuals who have made us the Holy Qur'an as release text in dealing with a problem.

6. **Getting the Poor Down from the Christology of Liberation**, written by Jose Maria Vigil, and published by the Ecumenia International Theological Commission Association of the third world theologian EATWOT ASETT 2007. This book also describes contemplating their faith in Christ in the context of people who crucified.
7. **History of Liberation Theology**, Method, Praxis and its contents, written by Fr. Wahono Nitiprawiro, published by PT Masa Merdeka in Jakarta 1987. This book helps the writer to expose history, methods, practices and contents.

b. Secondary Sources

The writer takes secondary sources from works written by other competent writers concerned with works of Christianity and Islam, especially doctrines related to Liberation Theology.

3. Technique Of Collecting Data

The researcher will use documentation techniques that contain sets of files to find data on things in the form of notes, books, newspapers, magazines and so on.²⁰ As for the steps in this method that the researcher tracked reciting, then read and record the Library material in question to get the information needed.²¹

4. The Method Of Data Analyzing

The method used in this study uses a method comparative descriptive. Descriptive is a research based on comparison of data, presents data, analyzes and interprets comparative and correlative data, with the aim of solving problems by comparing and

²⁰ Universitas Darussalam Gontor, , (Ponorogo: UNIDA Gontor Press, 2017), p. 26

²¹ Moh. Nazir, Metode penelitian..., p. 103

examining the level of dependence in the relationship of variables using correlation.²² In this method, religion in general doctrines or religion can be compared between one another. This will apply when researchers lay the foundations in related views for the theology of liberation concepts in Christianity and Islam, so researchers will compare their concepts by looking for similarities and differences.

H. Systematics of Study

To compile this study, researcher want to divide this research into four chapters;

Chapter one as an introduction. Based on the background of this research, the researcher presents the problems found that are trying to be described in this study. However, the ability of researchers is limited and mastery of Liberation Theology According to Christianity and Islam is weak, so it is not possible for researchers to begin this research without referring to the academic literature written to explain theology. Here, the researcher reviews some of the academic literature mentioned above.

Focusing his studies as library research, researchers sought to describe their research based on the theoretical framework chosen to achieve the objectives of this study. Meet the requirements of the University Darussalam Gontor bachelor's degree. then, the researchers summarized the research methods as mentioned above, including this study system as a brief overview to understand the importance of this research.

Chapter Two, Variables of liberation theology, Islamic theology and Christian theology. in this chapter the writer makes two parts namely the first theology of liberation, explaining the notions of liberation theology, history and figures. Both Islamic and Christian theologies, explain theology as Islam and Christianity, theological teachings, tauhid and trinity as the essence of liberation..

Chapter Three, Study of liberation theology according to Christianity

²² Andra Tersiana, , (Yogyakarta: Start up 2018), p. 124

and Islam. Referring to the rules in thesis writing, this chapter will be the most important part of this thesis. As explained in the research background. So the researcher will try to explain the meaning of liberation theology in the view of Christianity and Islam. The writer will also explain the impact of liberation in each religion and explain the efforts of theologians in anticipation of liberation theology. After collecting some data from liberation theology from each religion. finally, researchers draw conclusions about the differences and similarities between liberation theology according to Christianity and Islam

Chapter Four, Closing; Here the researcher will conclude the results of his studies in several basic paragraphs that are easy to understand. Then, the researcher will recommend readers to do something in order to explore and develop this research for the better in the future. In the end, this suggestion is not just the end of this chapter, but for the entire contents of the thesis.