

Review of: "Understanding Theosemiotic: Concept and its Position"

John Hopkins

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

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Understanding Theosemiotic: [the] Concept and its Position

Muhammad Taqiyuddin

short review, J A F Hopkins (PhD)

The relation between religion and semiotics is indeed a fascinating topic, in which C S Peirce himself is interested, as Mr. Taqiyuddin points out. But he neglects to discuss the details of how Peirce applies his triadic model of signification to Christianity's holy Trinity. Perhaps the author neglects this application because it would not easily be applicable to Islam?

Rather than a discussion of what theosemiotics actually is, the article gives us ample comparisons of Islamic modes of thought with Christian modes – generally to the advantage of the former. This approach is unfortunately rather typical of comparisons of Islam and Christianity by Islamic writers.

The author does point out, from his experience in Indonesia, some interesting differences between approaches to religion in Western societies and those of Islamic societies. Here are some examples:

1. the Qur'ân is memorised, but not the Bible;
2. in Muslim societies, religious studies are often pursued by using readily available "Western theories, study materials, and research funding"; this is no doubt not an ideal situation.

The writing itself is excellent in many places, but prone to logical, grammatical, and orthographic errors in many others. E.g.:

1. in paragraph 6, it is unclear who 'Lambert' is; it's the same with 'Alister' a bit lower down;
2. Peirce's full name is twice spelt without the final 's' in Sanders;
3. the key term 'theosemiotics' is spelt without the 'h' more than once;
4. there are formatting errors, particularly in the Footnotes.

To summarise, I could not recommend this article for publication without extensive revision, concentrating on the points mentioned above.

