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Utilizing the Modern Technological Means in Facing Christianization

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ABSTRACT

The appearance of modern technology had a clear effect on how people communicate as well as on publishing information. As, it enabled millions of people around the world to communicate and exchange ideas and opinions. Now it is possible for anyone around the world to communicate with people far away from him geographically. In addition, it also allowed publishing huge amounts of information in various aspects of life and made obtaining it easy and affordable. In spite of that, the most important disadvantage of these means is the lack of legal accountability which allowed many users to freely publish their ideas, even if it affects the freedom and beliefs of others. Moreover, these means have helped in publishing undocumented news, as there are no restrictions on publishing through it. Non-Muslims have sought to harness these means to spread their religion and preaching it to various parts of the world and make Muslims question their religion and try to distract them away from it. At the top of these campaigns, is the Christianization campaigns that strive to divert the largest possible number of Muslims from their religion. Therefore, Muslims must pay more attention and do more efforts to repel these attacks and refute their claims. This research comes to reveal some of the attempts and efforts that are done to Christianize the Muslim (convert them to Christianity) and to divert

them from their religion. The research also deals with how Muslims can utilize modern technological means in facing these efforts and revealing their falsehood, nullity and its malicious intent and warning Muslims from following them. The research also includes the definition of the concept of modern technological means and their importance. It also includes models of modern technological means and how to benefit from them in facing the Christian thought and clarify the most important characteristics which those who are responsible for facing Christianization campaigns through modern technological means, must have.

I. The definition of modern technological means and stating their importance

The term “technological means” consists of two words and by defining these two words; we will have a precise definition of it.

First: The linguistic and idiomatic definition of ‘The mean’;

‘The mean’ in linguistic is; what is used to reach and get closer to something and the plural is ‘means’. It is said: And ask him a mean and beg, as the prophet’s, peace be upon him, words “Give Muhammad the mean and the virtue” (Bukhari, 1422 AH, 1/126). The ‘mean’ here is, the proximity to God Almighty and it was said that it will be intercession on the Day of Resurrection, and it was also said that it is one of the places of Paradise, (Ibn Al-Atheer, Ibn Faris, Dictionary of Language Standards 1979,6/110, Al-Azhari, The End in Gharib al-Hadith and Impact, 1979, 5/204).

‘The mean’ as an idiom; ‘The mean’ has been defined idiomatically with multiple definitions depending on the approaches of those who are interested in this term. Perhaps the best, most accurate and closest of these definitions and which is related to the subject of our study is the one which defines it as: ‘the printed, audio, and visual media through which the Da`wah is conveyed to the people’. Ibrahim Ali, (Approaches and methods of Da`wah, p. 9). Therefore, everything that is used to reach something is called a ‘Mean’.

Based on that, everything that is printed such as newspapers, magazines, books, or audio such as radio, or visual such as television, and the Internet in all its various forms and types, are called ‘means’.

Second: The linguistic and idiomatic definition of ‘Technology’:

Technology in linguistic is; ‘A foreign word of Arabic origin and its meanings include; technic and the information revolution that means the great progress in information and communication technology which gave a superior ability to exchange information globally overcoming all the barriers of nationalities’. Omar, (Dictionary of Contemporary Arabic Language, 2008, 1/296, 336).

Technology as an idiom:

Technology is a word that means the science of performance or the science of application. It comes originally from the Greeks and it is made up of two parts, the first is: ‘Techno’ that means the skill or the way in getting something, while ‘LOGIA’ means the way of expressing something. Technology also means a way of acquiring things or the way to employ resources and information to obtain a certain value. In the present time, technology has become the basis for many arts, skills and industries. Therefore, more tools and devices are needed

to develop these fields for the better. Basma Hassan, <https://www.almrsal.com/post/540120>,

Based on the foregoing, we can define modern technological means as: the audio, print and visual tools in all their forms and type which have great ability to move information on the global level beyond geographical borders. (The Free Encyclopedia (Technology), Damrawi, Technology Definition, 2020).

Third: The importance of modern technological means:

The importance of modern technological means lies in several things, including:

- 1-They are characterized by limitless as It has no time, place, gender or national boundaries, so it crosses all barriers.
- 2- Ease of use and being as a normal thing which is not difficult to communicate and deal with.
- 3- It has different types and forms including, audio, visual, video, messages, etc.
- 4- The ability to reach millions of people all over the world, which enables the caller to God Almighty to reach people easily and without specific restrictions. Hindi, New Technologies in the service Dawaa,2016.

II. Models of modern technology means and ways of investing them

There are many kinds of the means of modern technology nowadays, some of them are common among countries with each other and some are known in a country and are unknown in another, some of them work by sound and picture and some do not.

Thus, the means of modern technology are many and varied and each country uses what it thinks appropriate for itself and its people. We will mention here some of the most famous of these means and how they could be invested in facing Christianization campaigns:

First: Facebook; A website that is considered the most famous social media, and it could be defined as a large social network and it is managed by the "Facebook" company (a joint stock company). As the Facebook users can join the networks that are organized by the city, workplace, school, or region, in order to communicate with others and interact with them. Also, users can add friends to their friends' list and send them messages, as well as updating their personal files and introducing themselves to new friends, and the site currently has more than one billion users worldwide. (Facebook, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

This application can be invested in facing Christianization through the following steps:

- 1- Establishing groups to face Christianization in all its forms, each according to its scientific ability.
- 2- These groups monitor new suspicions and allegations raised by the Christianized from time to time and refuting them as Muslims has been warned against them. For God Almighty says: 'Take your precautions'. An-Nisa, 71.
- 3- Communicating with non-Muslims in different parts of the world to explain Islam to them and clarify its tolerant side through correcting the false image that Islam's enemies established in the minds of many people.

4- Designing and creating computer programs about Christianization and its danger. These programs should be easy, clear, and depending on the right Sharia approach which based on the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah, in addition to the dissemination of these programs in the field of computers through international computer networks.

5- Propose video clips of the debates that took place in the past and now between Muslim scholars and priests and which rely on mental evidence more than transferred evidences and this is to state the most famous suspicions raised by the Christianized against Islam and how to respond to them.

6- Boycotting any ads which are displayed on Facebook and are related to Christianization or based on a Christianized idea, such as toys, household items, or clothes, as well as computer programs, educational tapes, and materials, and tightening control over them. (Al-Awda, Practical Steps to face Christianization, Hindi, Means of modern technology in the Service of Da`wah).

Second: Twitter: It is a contemporary technological website that aims at social communication between different peoples at the local and the global level, as people can communicate through it with short tweets which a person sends to all his followers. These tweets are restricted to a certain number of letters and are not absolute because the application of Twitter does not allow long tweets to be published. In 2012, Twitter became available in the Arabic language due to the great Arab demand for it. (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

As for ways to invest this application to face Christianization, it can be utilized through the following steps:

1- Writing short Islamic phrases tweets and in all available languages, which explain the reality of Islam and responding to the suspicions that are raised by Christianizes.

2- Paying attention to the doctrinal structure of the Muslim individual and the community through the monitored tweets in all available languages on Twitter, and this is through an easy presentation away from complexity and terminology that is difficult to understand now, in line with the reality in which we live.

3- It is the duty of Islamic governments to face the wave of Christianization that is going on among their peoples by blocking tweets that offend the divine self or Islam, or the Prophet of Islam because such tweets have a great negative impact, especially on the youth community.

4- Displaying short video clips of the debates that take place from time to time between Muslim scholars and Christian priests that show and explain the power of Islam in facing the fabrications of the Christianizes, with clear rational arguments and proofs that cannot be disputed by the rational person.

5- The scholars of the Islamic Ummah attention to the tweets and exciting questions that are transmitted by young Muslims and non-Muslims that are subject to discussion on Twitter and responding to them with a scientific response that is appropriate to their contemporary minds and culture.

Third: YouTube: It is a website that allows its users to upload videos for free and watch them via live broadcasts, share them, comment on them, and so on. It was established in 2005. The content of the site varies between movies,

television, and music, as well as video produced by amateurs, and others, and this great diversity in the content of YouTube videos is one of the reasons that made this site so popular in use. (The Free Encyclopedia, Wikipedia, Razan Salah, YouTube Search 2020).

As for the methods of investing this application to face Christianization, it could be invested through the following steps:

1- Explaining some heritage books and translating them into other languages, especially with what relates to the Islamic doctrine, through visual files, and uploading them on the YouTube's application to reach the largest possible number of viewers around the world.

2- Conducting interviews with Christians from whom God Almighty has guided them to Islam, to talk about the reasons for their conversion to Islam, with some differences between Islam and Christianity from their point of view and uploading these interviews on YouTube.

3- Adopting the issues of Muslim minorities and working on highlighting their case and showing their suffering and the religious persecution they are subjected to by broadcasting audio and visual materials, through this application, that document the torture and persecution which they are exposed to divert them from their religion.

III. The specifications of those who are responsible for facing Christianization through modern technological means

There is no doubt that debating Christianizes, facing them and stating their falsehood, is a matter that not everyone can master. Therefore, those who face this matter must master the legal science and must have established themselves in it and become confident of their ability to debate and defeat them as well as they must be aware of the interests and corruption. Whereas, debating and discussing with them is only permissible to the citizen to whom the interest is more useful than the corruption, or to the citizen who argues in a good manner, not harshly. (Al-Shawkani, 1/401, 1414 A.H).

They must also be committed by the morals of argument that God Almighty has commanded us to do as God says: 'And argue with not the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), unless it is be in (a Way) that is better (With good words and in good manner, inviting them to Islamic monotheism with His verses), except with such of them as do wrong; and say (to them) "We believe in that which has been revealed you; our Ilah (God) and your Ilah (God) is one (i.e. Allah) and Him we have submitted (as Muslims)". (Holy Quran, Al-Ankabut, 46).

Sheikh Ibn Saadi, may God have mercy on him, said in his interpretation 'God Almighty forbids arguing with Scriptures (Jews and Christians) If the disputant doesn't have a vision, or without a satisfactory basis, and that they shouldn't argue except in a gentle way and in a good manner, kindness and in soft speech, and call to the truth and its improvement, and repel falsehood and hybridize it through the closest way achieving that. In addition, the purpose of this argument mustn't be merely argument and conquest and the love of superiority, but it should be clarifying the truth and guide creation. (Al-Saadi: pp. 632, 1420 AH).

In the following lines, I will present two of the most important elements that those who face the Christianization's attempts must be characterized with.

The first component is: discussion.

Discussion is an important and essential component of the Islamic da'wa as the basis of the Islamic da'wa is based on talking to the violators and convincing them through argument and proof.

The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, used to issue his messages in which he invites scriptures (Jews and Christians) to Islam as God Almighty says: Say (O Muhammed) " O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) ! Come to a word that is just between us and you – that we worship none but Allah (Alone), and that we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords beside Allah, Then". (Holy Quran, Al-Imran, 46).

Unless this noble verse is the basis and the pillar of a solid religion and its original origin, then God would not make it the basis of the da'wa to Islam. (Rashid Reda, Muhammad Rashid bin Ali 3: 270, 1990 AD).

The discussion element could be activated through modern technology means by creating Islamic chat rooms on the modern communication sites to make discussions with specialists from Christianizes who advocate Christianization.

Ibn Hazem Al-Zahiri says: "Nothing irritates the unbelievers and the idolaters more than refuting their statements by the authenticity of the argument, and that the great soldiers may be defeated but the correct argument never prevails because it calls for the truth and supports the religion more than the complaining weapon and the large numbers. In addition to that, the honorable companions who have no parallel, embraced Islam depending on the proofs that proof the validity of Muhammad's prophet hood, so they were better than those who embraced Islam by conquest without disagreement from any of the Muslims, and the first thing that God Almighty has commanded His Prophet Muhammad is, to call people for Him by strong evidence. (Ibn Hazm Al Dhaheri (Ibn Hazm, Al-Ahkam fi Usul Al-Ahkam 1/25).

Some channels have followed this trend. Among the most famous of these channels is "Al-Hiwar Channel" which is an Arab media service channel that seeks to contribute to building a better tomorrow for the Arab societies. It is the voice for Arabs, a bridge for communication between Arabs and other peoples and cultures, and a stage to support the values of tolerance, democracy and the respect of freedoms and human rights. In addition, it is an Arabic channel that broadcasts most of its programs in Arabic, but there are programs in the main European languages in order to achieve communication with the young Arab generations in Europe.

<https://twitter:https://www.facebook.com/Alhiwar.TV>

This trend has also been adopted in the present age by many callers to Islam, and they had remarkable efforts that resulted in the entry of many Christianizes to Islam.

Among them is Sheikh Ahmed Deedat whose discussions were published on YouTube, as well as his student Zakir Naik, whose debates and discussions with non-Muslims were spread on the social media sites to invite them to Islam

and respond to their suspicions against it, and many others who use and invest contemporary technological means to face Christianization.

The second component: Mastering the opponent's language.

One of the characteristics of whoever undertakes the mission of defending religion and repelling Christianization's attacks is his well-known knowledge of the opponent's language. Also, God Almighty supported His Prophet, peace be upon him, as He inspired him to address the Arabs delegations with what they had of the strange languages and situations, that Quraish did not know about it or understand its meanings. Then, God taught him about them despite the differences in their peoples and tribes. As Ali, may God please him, said to the prophet when he heard his conversation with Bani Nahd: "O Prophet of God, we are the sons of one father, and we have grown up in the same country, but you speak to the Arabs in a language which we do not understand, so, he replied: 'God Almighty has taught me, so he taught well and I was brought up among the sons of Saad bin Bakr'" (Al-Suyuti: 17/375, 1426 AH).

Although the hadith is not authentic, and is very weak; however, its meaning is correct. (Al-Sakhawi, 1/245, 1418A.H).

The Prophet, peace be upon him, sat the foundation for this principle and made it an integral part of his approach in inviting and discussing the non-Muslims, as he commanded Zaid bin Thabit, may God please him, to learn the language of the Jews, therefore he mastered it in seventeen days until he wrote the prophet's, peace be upon him, messages to them and read him what they wrote to him.

On the authority of Zaid bin Thabit: The Prophet, peace be upon him, commanded him "to learn the language of the Jews" until I wrote the prophet's, peace be upon him, messages to them and read him what they wrote if they wrote to him." (Bukhari, 9/76, 1422 AH).

The Prophet, peace be upon him, explained the reason behind the need to learn the language of the other, On the authority of Zayd ibn Thabit, said: The Prophet, peace be upon him, said to me: I am writing to a people, and I am afraid that they will increase or decrease on my writings, So you must learn Syriac, so I learned it in seventeen days" (Abd bin Hamid, Almutakheeb from Musnad of Abd bin Hamid, 1/215, 1408 AH).

This is the approach which the honorable companions followed, as Ibn Abbas, may God please him, used Abu Jamrah as his translator to translate the language of the delegations that do not speak Arabic, and Perhaps he simplified Ibn Abbas' words and made them easy for those who could not understand it. Imam Al-Bukhari categorized this by saying: "A chapter on the translation of the rulers is it permissible for one translator" (Al-Bukhari 9/76, 1422 AH).

Hence, it becomes clear that mastering the language of the opponent is an important element in understanding the methods, the means, and the manners of Christianizes which are made to distract Muslims from their religion, and it's also important to face these campaigns and confront them.

Mastering the opponent's language was and still one of the reasons for the success in facing the Christians, the skeptics, and others.

Sheikh Ahmed Deedat is of Indian origin however, he searched for the most languages in which Muslims use to attack and knew that it is the English language, so he learned it and used it in his debates, and he wrote more than twenty-four books.

Deedat, may God have mercy on him, says: “The colonialists began sending their missionaries to India like frogs in the rainy season and they began to master our language to debate Muslims, but Muslims opposed this idea ; ‘They are our rulers now, and if we debate them, we will expose ourselves to imprisonment and exile on a remote island, but since they learned our mother language in a clear challenge to us, Muslims are compelled to accept the challenge” (Al-Arab newspaper, 2017).

Thus, Deedat understood the importance of mastering the language of the opponent, which is what we must work on and proclaim so that we would have generations are capable of confronting and repelling aggression.

On the way of Sheikh Deedat, his student Dr. Zakir Abdul Karim Naik, who is Indian, followed him. He established an Islamic research organization to explain Islam and train preachers. He also established the Peace TV Network, which broadcasts its advocacy programs around the clock in English, Urdu, Bengali and Chinese and is followed by tens of millions of viewers around the world (an article on the Al-Jazeera website entitled. (The Terrorist Zakir Naik” 2017).

Hence, Dr. Nike's and his students’ learning of English, Urdu, Bengali, Chinese, and other languages, is a clear evidence of the importance of learning and mastering the language of others, otherwise how can we understand their language, read their books, and teach their culture. So, his channel has found acceptance, taking the advantage of all the available technological means he had, and his personal skills that God Almighty has blessed him with among which mastering the opponent's language is the most important. By this he could be a barricade that prevents Christianization and Christians by repelling their suspicions and refuting their fabrications about Islam, the Holy Quran, and the Prophet of Islam.

IV Conclusion:

After we have finished this research, we must mention its most important results:

First; Modern technological means are many and unlimited, and are subject to development. Also, the Islamic nation must invest and harness them for the benefit of Islam and Muslims, as it has become one of the necessities of contemporary reality today.

Second: The Christianizes and preachers are sparing no effort to invest all the modern means that are available to them to spread their religion and preach it around the world, taking advantage of the weakness of Muslims and their failure to keep up with civilization, so they work to destabilize and question the Muslims’ faith in their religion.

Third: Investing youth energies in the Islamic countries in what is beneficial to the Islamic religion, especially what is related the sciences of technological means and how to benefit from it in the service of Islam and Muslims.

Fourth: The necessity for Islamic countries to establish modern technological means that are able to compete with current means, and to face the systematic campaigns of Christianization and skepticism that are adopted and promoted by the current technological means, and to spread the true religion of Islam to block the way of anyone who is tempted to challenge this religion.

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