

ABSTRACT

Firmansyah, Yusnindar Riza. 2013. **The Moslem and Christian Elites' Perspectives on Interfaith Marriages (Studies in Batu)**. Thesis. Department of Al-Ahwal Al-Syakhsyiah. Faculty of Sharia. Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Malang. Advisor: Dr. Hj. Umi Sumbulah, M.Ag.

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The arrangement of marital problem in the world does not show any uniformity. The difference is not only between one religion and another religion, an indigenous community and another indigenous community, one country and another country. Even within a single religion a difference in the marital arrangements may occur because of different ways of thinking. This difference is due to the variety of schools of thought or stream.

This study has two purposes. First, to determine the opinion of elites from Muslim and Christian religions about interfaith marriage, as well as the legal basis used. Second, to determine the religious elites' attitudes toward interfaith marriage. From the results of this research, the researcher is able to determine interfaith marriage according to religious elites whether there are similarities or differences in addressing this problem.

This research is a empirical or sociological research. It focuses on the issue concerning the opinion of the religious elites on the interfaith marriage and legal basis used, as well as how the attitude of religious elites in addressing the problems of interfaith marriage. It employs a qualitative approach in which the sources are the primary data and secondary data based on interviews and documentation. Data analysis uses the methods of data reduction, data display, and conclusion.

Outcomes of the research that had been conducted by the researcher found three different opinions. The first absolutely prohibits interfaith marriage, the second allows the interfaith marriage, the third prohibits it but gives dispensation to those who want to do interfaith marriage. The first opinion prohibit it because the basic law used is not suitable with informants' law basis. The second opinion has two different reasons, the first informant explained that interfaith marriage occurs because of love and religion missionary. While the third opinion prohibits it but still gives the dispensation to interfaith marriage.