

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to examine the perspectives of non-*hijabi* Muslim women towards the phenomenon of *hijab* in Indonesia. It includes the issue of women body and covering, the interpretation of sacred text about the rule of wearing *hijab* and the meaning of *aurat*. Using the Life history method, the analysis of this research is based on a deep interview with 16 Muslim women in Yogyakarta who are not wearing *hijab*. The informants are students and formal students who are coming from different parts of Indonesia and have moved to Yogyakarta to either to pursue their studies life or carrier.

This research is aiming to answer the three main questions about the understanding of non-*hijabi* Muslim woman on *hijab* phenomenon in Indonesia, their perception on their own Islam and piety, and about their struggle against stereotype given to them. The result taken from this research is the finding that behind the decision of Muslim women not to cover there are many reasons follow. Through the narrative of the informants it is found that there is different perspective among Muslim women who are not wearing *hijab* on seeing the meaning of covering, *aurat* and piety in Islam. The second finding is Muslim women who are not covering or the non-*hijabi* Muslim women experienced circumstances related to women sexuality that includes woman's body and stereotype as the effect of their decision to take off the head cover. The circumstances that the non-*hijabi* Muslim women face come both from family and society.

This research contributes to both gender and religious studies since the focus is on the discourse of women. The discussions in this research strongly relate to religious issue such as the interpretation of sacred text related to women dress in Islam. The discourse of Muslim woman dress that usually rose with the issue of *hijab* over this time focuses the research only on the perspective of the *hijabi*, very little focus on the perspective of non-*hijabi* Muslim especially in the context of Indonesia. This research becomes a critical media for scholars who study woman in Islam, it demands an expand focuses that includes many perspectives of Muslim women in order to bring people to respect difference.

Key words: *hijab*, non-*hijabi* Muslim, women, *aurat*, piety, and sexuality.