

# Limitations of Correlation Analysis in Analyzing The Relationship of God's Close with His Servant

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## Abstract

Human relationship with God can be described by human weakness and desire to serve the greater one. Weak humans need a protector and a place to complain about all problems. Not infrequently the problems of crushing life, despair, loss of hope and so on cannot be resolved alone. A place to complain about all the problems of life, without Him humans may lose their direction and purpose in life. It has become human nature created by Allah SWT, for the purpose of worshipping God. The human relationship with God is as a servant, so humans are obliged to worship Allah throughout their lives, because everything that humans do will be accounted for in the future. Correlation analysis is a statistical tool that can be used to determine the degree of linear relationship between a variable and another variable. Correlation can be positive or negative. Correlation analysis can only explain one correlation value, when the  $r$  value is positive then the relationship is positive or when the  $r$  value is negative then the relationship is negative, the  $r$  value cannot be both. Where as in Islam, the relationship between Allah and His servants can be positive or negative.

**Keywords:** Correlation Analysis, God, Human, Limitations, Proximity.

## Introduction

Humans and their creator, namely Allah SWT. very interesting to be the subject of discussion. Humans are the creation of Allah SWT. the most unique, have different personalities and tendencies of each. Islam is a perfect religion brought by the Prophet Muhammad SAW. on the orders of Allah SWT. where in Islam is set about the pillars of faith. The pillars of faith are six pillars of faith in Islam that every Muslim must possess, namely faith in Allah, faith in angels, faith in Allah's books, faith in the Apostles, faith in the Day of Judgment, and faith in qadha' and qadar. God. What is meant by faith in Allah is to believe in all the names and attributes of Allah which Allah has assigned to Himself and which His prophet has assigned to Allah, and to stay away from demeaning, questioning, and imitating Him. In other words, one must believe that there is a God, a God who has created and perfected humans, a God who oversees every human activity, which means that God is close to His servants. Allah's closeness to His servants is also stated in the word of Allah QS. Qaf verse 16:

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ وَنَعْلَمُ مَا تُوَسْوِسُ بِهِ نَفْسُهُ وَنَحْنُ  
أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ حَبْلِ الْوَرِيدِ

"Man is indeed Allah who created and Allah knows what his heart and Allah is also very close to His servant and even closer than the jugular vein of His servant"

Based on the word Allah, it is very clear how close Allah is to His believing servants even though humans cannot see Allah's presence, but Allah promises that the closest to the human heart is your creator, namely Allah SWT.

In mathematics, more precisely in statistics, there is material that discusses how strong the relationship or closeness of two variables is without regard to the position of the variable, namely correlation analysis. In other words, correlation is a value that indicates the strength and direction of a linear relationship between two random variables. Therefore, in this study, we will discuss the limitations of this correlation analysis in analyzing the close relationship of Allah SWT. with His servants. The purpose of writing this research is to find out the arguments that show Allah's closeness to His servants and also to know the limitations of correlation analysis in analyzing the relationship between Allah and His servants.

## Materials and Methods

In this study the author uses a type of literature study, which means the author will study various written sources regarding the problems discussed, namely

correlation analysis. In this case, the reference sources used in this study are written reference sources such as books, theses, journals, proceedings, articles, internet, and other research results that can support the running of this research.

The research method used is an epistemological approach to correlation analysis and then connected with Islamic literature. Epistemology is one of the methods of extracting knowledge in the philosophy of science. Epistemology is the science of the nature of something in terms of how something is built. In other words, epistemology is a discussion of the nature of something based on its methodological side. The study of the epistemology of correlation analysis is then associated with the principles and values contained in Islamic literature.

## Results and Discussion

God is the origin of everything, everything comes from God and later everything will return to Him. Man comes from the One then becomes many and returns to the One. Mathematically shows that no matter how much a number must come from the number 1. Isn't the number 2 derived from the number  $1 + 1$ , isn't 1,000 a multiple of 1,000 from the number 1, and so on. Indeed, the number 1 is not the same as 2, 1,000, and so on, but aren't those numbers still a set of numbers 1. So, it's meaningless to talk about any number without talking about the number 1.

### The closeness of God with His servants

In Hadith Qudsi, Allah SWT says, "I think of My servant, and I will always be with him, when he remembers Me. Then "when he remembers Me in himself, I remember him in Myself, and "if he remembers Me in one people, I will remember him" in more people than that people. If he draws near to Me an inch, I will approach him a cubit. If he approaches Me one cubit, I will approach him one cubit. And if he comes to Me on foot, I will come to him in a jog." (HR. Bukhari and Muslim)

Besides that, Allah also says in the Qur'an Surat Al-Baqarah verse 186:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

"And when My servants ask (O Muhammad) concerning Me, then surely I am near. I grant the supplication of the one who prays when he prays to Me. Let them fulfill My (command) and believe in Me so that they may obtain the truth."

In the verse it has been explained that Allah is always close to his servants, wherever the position of his servant, and under any circumstances. Some of the Tafseer Books explain AsbabunNuzul of this verse,

among others, as mentioned in the Tafseer al-Muyassar, namely: An Arab Bedouin came to the Prophet and said, Is our Lord near so that we do not call him loudly? The Prophet was silent, so Allah revealed verse 186 of Surah Al-Baqarah. Prof. Dr. Hamka in the Book of Tafseer al-Azhar explains that:

1. This verse explains that Allah is near. From the closeness of the Lord to us, there is no need for us to use various interpretations. Because the Almighty Essence covers the entire universe. And how things really are not strong enough for us to talk about.
2. All requests from His servant who beg will receive full attention from Him. Not a single wish is like water falling on the sand. Lost in vain because they are not heard or ignored.
3. In order for the request to get divine attention, the servant who is asking should also accept the guidance and instructions that Allah has given him first.
4. And very important, that is to believe really. Truly believe in Allah.
5. By responding to Allah's call and fully trusting Allah, the servant will be given intelligence. The servant will be given instructions which way to take so that he does not get lost and does not give up.

Dr. Hamka added in the Book of Tafseer al-Azhar that if the word "near" was expanded again, it could be understood that Allah is near and we are obliged to draw closer to Him. If His call is not answered and trust in Him is not full, no matter how much we seek Him, He will remain far away. It is not He who is far away but we ourselves have been far away. Therefore, those who do not respond to Allah's call and who do not build their faith in Allah, those who disobey or associate Him with others, are getting farther and farther away from Allah even though Allah is still close to him. Because of that it is difficult for his request to be granted. Responding to Allah's call and faith in Him is the only way to draw closer to Allah. When a servant is near (to Him) then Allah promises to give instructions so that they become wise and wise people.

In addition, the closeness of Allah SWT to His servants is also listed in the word of Allah in the QS. Qaf verse 16:

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ وَنَعَلْمَا مَا تُوَسَّوَسُ بِهِ نَفْسُهُ وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ حَبْلِ الْوَرِيدِ

"Man is indeed Allah who created, and Allah knows what is his heart, and Allah is also very close to His servants, and even closer than the veins. neck of his servant."

Based on Jalalain's interpretation and the interpretation of QuraishShihab, Surah Qaf verse 16 discusses that it is Allah Who created humans, male and female, what they hide and what their hearts

whisper and He is closer to humans than their jugular veins. with the height of His Essence. This requires humans to always feel the supervision of Allah who knows their hearts and minds, so that they feel ashamed if they commit disobedience because He is always seen by Him. Likewise, they should know that the recording angels are with him on his left and right, so that they respect him and be careful not to do or say words that are not pleasing to Allah. And Allah informs His servants so that His servants believe and let them always be in the truth. And Allah chooses His servants for Himself, and His servants do not worry, because Allah is with His servants as He says in QS. Thaha verse 46:

قَالَ لَا تَخَافُ إِنِّي مَعَكُمْ أَسْمَعُ وَأَرَى

"Do not worry, both of you, indeed I am with you both, I hear and see"

Allah SWT gives trials to His servants who are far from Him, namely as contained in the hadith from Anas bin Malik ra that The Prophet SAW said which means: "Indeed, the greatness of the reward is accompanied by the greatness of the trial. Verily, when Allah loves a people, He will test it. Whoever is pleased, He will be pleased, and whoever is angry, He will also be angry." (HR. Abu Dawud).

The person whom Allah tried with a calamity because of his sin and he was patient and grateful. Then Allah will forgive his sins, elevate him in rank in heaven and be filled with rewards for those who are patient and those who hope for a reward. In the sense that when His servant is far from Allah, Allah will always take care of him like giving a trial and seeing how far His servant is patient and grateful so that this will indirectly increase the closeness of His servant. In a hadith it is stated:

إِنَّمُؤْمِنُ سَلِيمٍ عَبْدٌ عَوْذٌ فَلْيَسْفِيهَا إِنَّمَوْ لَا قَطْبِعَتَّرَ حِمَالًا أَعْطَاهَا لَلَّ هُيْهَا إِحْدَبَتَلَا إِنَّمَا أَنْتَعَجَّلَا هَدَّ عَوْتُهُوَ إِمَّا أَنْ يَدَّخِرَ هَا «لَهُفِيهَا لَآخِرٌ قَوْ إِمَّا أَنْ يُصِرَّ فَعَنْهُمْ نَالَسُوْءِ مِثْلَهَا أَلَا لَهَا كَثْرُ. أَلَا إِذْ أَنْكَرُ

"It is not a Muslim who prays to Allah as long as it does not contain any sin and breaks the relationship (between relatives, pen) but Allah will give him three things: Allah will immediately answer his prayer, Allah will save it for him in the hereafter, and Allah will keep him from evil. something like". The friends then said, "Then we will pray more". The Prophet sallallaahu 'alaihiwasallam then said, "Allah will multiply to answer your prayers" (HR. Ahmad)

Allah is so close to those who pray and worship Him. As mentioned in the hadith also that the closest place between a servant and Allah is when he prostrates (Majmu'ah Al Fatawa, 15:17). Anyone who prays to Allah by presenting his heart when praying,

using prayers that are ma'tsur (guided), staying away from things that can hinder the fulfillment of prayers (such as eating unlawful food), then surely Allah will grant his prayer. Especially if he performs the reasons for the answered prayer by submitting to Allah's commands and prohibitions with words and deeds, also accompanied by faith in it (Tafseer As-Sa'di, p. 77).

The human relationship with Allah includes believing in Allah, worshiping Him, being grateful for His favors, being patient in accepting Allah's trials, and asking forgiveness for all sins and repenting to no longer commit crimes.

**Simple Linear Correlation Analysis Correlation**

Analysis is a statistical tool that can be used to determine the degree of linear relationship between a variable and another variable (Algifari, 2009). Correlation analysis aims to determine whether or not there is a relationship between variables and the close relationship. Correlation is a number that can indicate the direction and strength of the relationship between the variables studied. The direction of the relationship between variables can be positive and negative, and has a value of 0 (zero) if there is no relationship at all. The strength of the relationship between variables can be expressed by the value of the correlation coefficient on a linear function.

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Two X variables and Y can be said to have a positive relationship, if the increase in the variable X followed by an increase in the variable Y and a decrease in the variable X is also followed by a decrease in the variable Y. Meanwhile, the variables X and Y can be said to have a negative relationship if for every increase in the variable it is X followed by a decrease in the variable Y, and vice versa. The following is a graph to show the direction of the correlation coefficient sign.

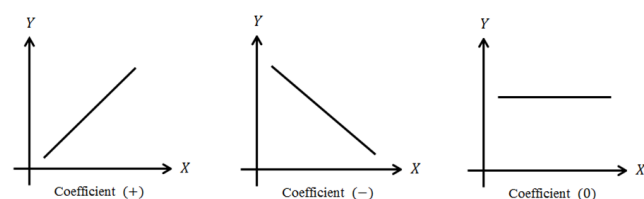


Figure 1. Correlation Analysis Relationship Direction Chart.

The strength of the relationship between the variables X and Y is measured by the correlation coefficient. The value of the correlation coefficient is in the range of -1 to 1 or can be written as. When the correlation coefficient has a value of -1 or 1, it can be said that the relationship between variables is perfect where the occurrence of variable Y can be explained by variable X without an error (error). The smaller the value of the correlation coefficient, the error the greater in predicting. In this case, it can be interpreted that changes in the value of the variable Y can not only be explained or predicted by the variable X, but there are other variables that cause it (Kurniawan and Yuniarto, 2016).

The magnitude of the correlation coefficient can be known based on the distribution of the coordinates of the variables X and Y. If the distribution of the points is on a perfectly straight line, it can be said that the value of the correlation coefficient is 1 or -1 (positive and negative values depending on the direction of the distribution of the points). If it forms a circle, then the value of the correlation coefficient is zero. Kurniawan and Yuniarto (2016) stated that if the distribution of points has a tendency to follow a certain pattern (positive or negative pattern), then the variables X and Y can be said to have a relationship but not perfect.

**Table 1.** Interpretation of Correlation Coefficient.

No.	Correlation Coefficient	Level Relation
1.	$ r  = 1$	Perfect
2.	$0,75 \leq  r  < 1$	Very Strong
3.	$0,5 \leq  r  < 0,75$	Strong
4.	$0,25 \leq  r  < 0,5$	Weak
5.	$0 <  r  < 0,25$	Very Weak
6.	$ r  = 0$	None

Source: Qudratullah (2013)

Based on its application, there are several correlation measures, 3 (three) of which are often used, namely the Pearson correlation coefficient product moment (used in parametric statistics, commonly used for interval and ratio data), Spearman rank correlation and Kendall Tau correlation (used in nonparametric statistics, commonly used for nominal and ordinal data) (Qudratullah, 2013).

Correlation is a statistical term that expresses the degree of linear relationship between two or more variables, which was put forward by Karl Pearson in the early 1900s. Therefore, it is known as the Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPM). Correlation is one of the most widely used statistical analysis techniques by researchers. The relationship between two variables in the correlation technique is not in the sense of cause and effect (reciprocity), but is only a one-way relationship. Cause and effect relationships, for example: stupid people can make themselves poor, otherwise poor people can make themselves stupid.

So it is not clear which is the cause and which is the effect. In correlation, only unidirectional relationships are known (not reciprocal), for example: height causes weight gain, but increasing weight does not necessarily cause height to increase as well. As a result, in correlation are known causes and effects. Data that causes or affects are called independent variables. And the effect or affected data is called the dependent variable. The term free is also called independent, which is usually symbolized by the letter  $X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n$  (depending on the number of independent variables). While the term is bound is also called dependent (dependent), which is usually denoted by the letter Y.

The correlation analysis that includes two variables X and Y is called analysis the linear correlation (simple linear correlation), while covering more than two variables is called analysis multiple linear correlation (multiple linear correlation). The form of the relationship between the variables X and Y can be in the form of:

1. Positive or negative  
The relationship between the two variables X and Y is said to be positive if changes that occur in variable X will result in changes in variable Y in the same direction. For example, if a person's income increases, the number of goods purchased will also increase. Conversely, when income decreases, the number of goods purchased also decreases. The relationship between the two variables X and Y is said to be negative if changes that occur in the X variable will result in a change in the Y variable in the opposite direction. For example, the more people use kerosene for fuel, the cheaper the price of firewood will be.
2. Linear or non-linear (curvi-linear)  
The relationship between X and Y is said to be linear if the relationship is a straight line, while the relationship is said to be non-linear if the relationship is concave or convex.

**Simple Linear Correlation Coefficient and Its Interpretation**

This correlation analysis measures the correlation of two variables, namely the independent variable (X) and the dependent variable (Y). Measurements are generally carried out in 2 forms, namely the Coefficient of Determination and Coefficient of Correlation. The correlation coefficient is a measure that can be used to measure the degree of density of the relationship between the two variables X and Y. The correlation coefficient formula is as follows. With the correlation coefficient, it will be known whether there is a relationship between the two variables or not. A relationship is said to be perfect, if the correlation coefficient is, meaning that the relationship is perfectly positive or negative. Conversely, a relationship is said to be imperfect, if the correlation coefficient is, meaning

that the relationship is not perfectly positive or imperfectly negative. Correlations have characteristics such as:

- 1) Correlation Range: Range correlation ranging from 0 to 1. The correlation can be positive and negative anyway.
- 2) Correlation Equal to Zero: Correlation equal to 0 means that there is no relationship between two variables.
- 3) Correlation Equal to One: Correlation equal to + 1 means that the two variables have a perfect linear relationship (form a straight line) positive.
- 4) Perfect correlation like this means that if the value of X increases, then Y also increases.
- 5) The correlation is equal to minus one: meaning that the two variables have a negative perfect linear relationship (forming a straight line). This perfect correlation means that if the value of X increases, then Y decreases and vice versa.

### Limitations of Correlation Analysis in Analyzing God's Relationship with His Servants

Correlation is used to measure how strong the relationship between two variables is regardless of the position of the variables. In this case, there are two variables, namely Allah SWT and His servants (Muslim humans). Where God is the independent variable (variable X) because the independent variable is a variable that affects the dependent variable, namely humans (variable Y). In other words, if Allah is near, Muslim humans will approach because Allah affects human closeness by way of Allah approaching as in the word of Allah, whereas when humans move away Allah effects humans by means of Allah staying close and Allah gives trials or calamities so that Muslim humans will return close.

So that the closeness of Muslim humans to Allah if numbered as in the correlation analysis where the value of  $r$  is large, which means that when the value of  $r$  between  $[0,1]$  has a positive direction, or when Allah approaches, Muslim humans are close. Meanwhile, when the value of  $r$  has a negative relationship or when Muslim humans move away, Allah will remain close. In addition, when viewed from the value of the correlation between Allah's closeness to His servants. That the correlation value will be closer to 1 or will be stronger if a servant has more faith in Allah and gets closer to Allah. Correlation analysis can only explain one correlation value, when the  $r$  value is positive then the relationship is positive or when the  $r$  value is negative then the relationship is negative, the  $r$  value cannot be both. Where as in Islam, the relationship between Allah and His servants can be positive or negative. The relationship is said to be positive when His servant is close then Allah is close, then the relationship is said to be negative when His servant is away then Allah will approach. So it can be seen that correlation analysis

has limitations in understanding God's closeness to His servants.

It can be shown based on the following simulation data. Allah's relationship with His servant in the context of remembering Allah and good deeds.

1. When eating, humans always remember the Essence who has given the food
2. When leaving for work, humans intend it as a means of worship
3. When you go to work, people only intend to make money
4. While on the way humans are busy dhikr and contemplating the verses of Allah
5. Humans take the property of orphans in a vanity way. Eating the property that belongs to orphans in a vanity way is an evil act, and it is a very big sin. This is as the following words of Allah SWT in QS. An Nisa verse 10 that:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ أَمْوَالَ الْيَتَامَىٰ ظُلْمًا إِنَّمَا يَأْكُلُونَ فِي بُطُونِهِمْ نَارًا ۖ وَسَيَصْلُونَ سَعِيرًا

"Indeed, those who eat the property of orphans unjustly, actually they swallow fire in their bellies and they will enter a blazing fire (hell)."

6. Those who kill people on purpose. A person who takes another person's life, especially a believer intentionally, then Allah threatens him with Hell. In the QS. An-Nisa verse 93 it is explained that:

وَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمِّدًا فَجَزَاؤُهُ جَهَنَّمُ خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَغَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَلَعْنَهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُ عَذَابًا عَظِيمًا

"Whoever kills a believer on purpose, his recompense is evil. He abides in it, Allah is angry with him, curses him, and prepares a great punishment for him."

7. Perform congregational prayers at the mosque. Allah Ta'ala commands bowing 'with those who bow', that is by joining in bowing' then this is an order to establish congregational prayers.
8. The act of associating partners with Allah with idols or His creatures (shirk). Shirk is classified as a very big sin, and Allah will not forgive this sin. It is explained in QS. An-Nisa' verse 48:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ ۚ وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ افْتَرَىٰ إِثْمًا عَظِيمًا

9. Commit adultery. Adultery is a heinous act with a great sin. Allah says in QS. Al Furqon verse 68 that:

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ وَلَا يَقْتُلُونَ النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا يَزْنُونَ ۖ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ يَلْقَ أَثَمًا

“And those who do not associate partners with Allah with other gods and do not kill those whom Allah has forbidden except with the right (reason) and do not commit adultery; And whoever does this, he will be severely punished.”

10. The act of drinking alcohol and gambling. Drinking alcohol and gambling is a major sin in the teachings of Islam. Allah SWT forbids his believing servants to take action to drink khamr and gamble. In the QS. Al Maidah verse 90 it is explained that:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ  
وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ  
تُفْلِحُونَ

"O you who believe, verily (drinking) alcohol, gambling, (sacrificing for) idols, drawing your fate with arrows, are among the actions of the devil. So stay away from these actions so that you will get good luck."

In the data below, if the act done by humans is a good thing then it is worth 1 and if what is done is a bad deed it is worth 0. Then if a human commits a major sin and cannot be forgiven by Allah, then it is assumed to be worth 0. However, if Allah forgives the sin it is assumed to be worth 1. While if humans do good deeds and draw closer to Allah, then it can be declared worth 2.

Table 2. Simulation Data.

No.	Muslim Humans	Allah
1.	1	2
2.	1	2
3.	0	1
4.	1	2
5.	0	0
6.	0	0
7.	1	2
8.	0	0
9.	0	0
10.	0	0

Based on the simulation data and after analyzing the correlation data between Allah and His servant, the following results were obtained.

Table 3. Correlation Data Analysis Results.

		Muslim Humans	Allah
Muslim Humans	Pearson Correlation	1	,952(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,000
	N	10	10
Allah	Pearson Correlation	,952(**)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000	
	N	10	10

\*\*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Based on the results of the Pearson correlation analysis that has been carried out, the results show that there is a significant correlation or relationship between Allah and His servants as evidenced by the correlation coefficient value obtained at 0,952. Based on the value of the Pearson correlation coefficient, the R<sup>2</sup> value is 0,9063, which means that humans are related to their god by 90,63%. It can be seen that the direction of the relationship is positive.

**Conclusion**

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In this study there are several arguments that show that Allah SWT is close to His servant, namely QS. al-Baqarah verse 186, QS. Qaf verse 16, and QS. Taha verse 46, where in the arguments above it is explained that Allah SWT is always close to his servants. Correlation is a statistical term that expresses the degree of linear relationship between two or more variables, which was put forward by Karl Pearson in the early 1900s. The range of correlations starts from 0 to 1. Correlation can be positive or negative. Correlation analysis can only explain one correlation value, when the r value is positive then the relationship is positive or when the r value is negative then the relationship is negative, the r value cannot be both. Where as in Islam, the relationship between Allah and His servants can be positive or negative. The relationship is said to be positive when His servant is close then Allah is close, then the relationship is said to be negative when His servant is away then Allah will approach. So it can be seen that correlation analysis has limitations in understanding God's closeness to His servants.

**Suggestions**

At this writing, because there are limitations in correlation analysis to explain the relationship between Allah and His servants, it is necessary to conduct further studies to be able to develop theories regarding correlation analysis where in this follow-up study can explain the relationship between Allah and His servants which are positively and negatively related.

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