

“Kalam Suruhan Surah Al-Baqarah (KALAM)” Android Application: 21st Century M-Learning Medium in Islamic Sciences

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Abstract— The rapid development of information and communication technology (ICT) today has led to changes in the teaching and learning patterns in the education sector. Mobile learning (m-learning) which is self-learning education that is based on mobile technology as an educational tool is gaining momentum among teachers and students. An app that is accessible through mobile technology are booming with the advent of a variety of apps including Islamic science apps. This study is to introduce an android app named Kalam Suruhan Surah Al-Baqarah (KALAM). This app is about Al-Qur’an interpretation of commandment verses in Chapter Al-Baqarah related to six chapters, namely Faith (*Akidah*), Worship (*Ibadah*), Property (*Harta*), Honor (*Munakahat*), Manners and Food (*Adab dan Makanan*) and Jihad and Crime (*Jihad dan Jenayah*). It aims to provide exposure on its function and usefulness as the 21st century m-learning medium in Islamic sciences, especially in the field of Al-Qur’an interpretation. The study of this app is also expected to give benefit and ideas to the other researchers in developing more Islamic science apps in order to ensure the Islamic knowledge is on the rise as well as the other field.

Keywords—ICT, education, m-learning, app.

I. INTRODUCTION

THE development of information and communication technology (ICT) has give an impact to the educational sector (Norliza, 2013). The impact of ICT development can be seen in three stages, namely the replacement phase, transition phase and phase of change. The replacement phase is the phase where teacher used ICT as the teaching aids without changing the teaching method. ICT is used as a tool that can stimulate changes to new teaching methods in a transition phase. While, in the phase of change, the use of ICT involves a fundamental change in the role of students and teachers in teaching and learning (Willems, Stakenborg, & Veugelers, 2000).

Today's technological advancement makes knowledge accessible and every information can be achieved easily without time and place constraints. Then, a new teaching and learning method, namely e-learning (*Electronic Learning*) was established. E-learning is an online learning process through internet such as forums, blogs and websites (Aliff & Mohd, 2013). Then, the education system has undergone another evolution in educational technology when m-learning (*Mobile Learning*) was introduced to improve the level of teaching and learning (Norliza, 2013). M-Learning is a self-learning tool that uses mobile technology such as smartphones, personal digital assistants (PDA), Palm Talk, tablets and others (Wagner, 2005). Thus, the learning process is no longer in the classroom setting, but it is more *just-in-time*, *just-in-case*, *on-move* and *on-demand* (Traxler, 2007).

An app that is accessible through mobile technology is increases hand in hand with the advent of mobile app designers in creating diverse forms of apps like entertainment, games and social networking app. This progress has also contributed to the change in the way Islamic knowledge is delivered. *Surat Yusuf with Tafsir* (2015), *Juz Amma + Translation* (2016), and *The Holy Quran Full 60 Hizb MP3* (2016) became a platform for Islamic knowledge development in the field of the Al-Qur’an.

The android app Kalam Suruhan Surah Al-Baqarah (KALAM) is an Al-Qur’an interpretation app in Malay language that can be accessed through a smartphone that uses the Android platform. This app contains selected commandment verses in Chapter Al-Baqarah and it is categorized into six chapters, namely faith (*Akidah*), worship (*Ibadah*), property (*Harta*), honor (*Munakahat*), manners and food (*Adab dan Makanan*) and jihad and crime (*Jihad dan Jenayah*). There are related topics in each chapter and it contains audio reading from Misyary Rashid Al-Afasy and

Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais, verse translation from Tafsir Pimpinan Ar-Rahman kepada Pengertian Al-Qur'an, and the interpretation of verses from two categories of Al-Qur'an interpretation which is Tafsir Ibnu Kathir and Tafsir Al-Thabari from *Tafsir Bi Al-Ma'thur* category, and Tafsir Al-Maraghi from *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'yi* category (Yuni, 2014).

Besides, Tafsir Al-Maraghi was is also used in the Vocabulary Section. In order to meet the *attractive and interactive* concepts in this app, vocabulary-related quizzes are created to refresh the user's understanding of the Arabic vocabulary. This app is an offline mode, which does not require an internet connection. This type of feature helps users to access it at any time without any hassle.

II. OBJECTIVE

This article aims to explain the function of Kalam Suruhan Al-Baqarah (KALAM) app as an alternative medium of learning of the Islamic sciences in the 21st century.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

The presentation of the Al-Qur'an knowledge is evolving according to time. With the rapid development of ICT, information can be received more quickly by using computers with internet access (Chuah, 2013). Now, information can also be obtained quickly only by using mobile technology such as smartphones (Nurkaliza, Hailruddin, & Rafiza, 2015).

Various smartphone apps are specially designed to make it is easy for users to connect with their friends, surf the internet, create file management, organize schedules, create simple documents and entertainment programs (Aliff, Mohd, & Surina, 2014). There are more than 500 types of Al-Qur'an android apps comprising multiple languages, types, functions and designs. The apps that available in the market in the year 2013 are *Quran Bahasa Melayu*, *Quran-English Translation*, and *Khatm Quran*. In year 2014, the Al-Qur'an apps is *Terjemahan Quran Melayu*, *Al-Qur'an with English Translation* and *FeZilal Al-Qur'an*. Then, on year 2015 the Al-Qur'an apps that were uploaded to the market is *MP3 Bahasa Melayu*, *Holy Quran - 100+ Reciters* and *Surat Yusuf with Tafsir. Juz Amma + Translation, The Holy Quran Full 60 Hizb MP3* and *Colored Mushaf Tajweed with Reading Style Warsh* are the apps that was uploaded in the year 2016. These Al Quran apps are the interpretation app that uses Malay, English and Arabic language (Nuril, Sharifah, & Syadiah, 2017).

IV. DESCRIPTION OF "KALAM SURUHAN SURAH AL-BAQARAH (KALAM)" APP

Kalam Suruhan Surah Al-Baqarah (KALAM) is Al-Qur'an interpretation app of commandment verses in Chapter Al-Baqarah. This app is an easy and quick reference to users to learn selected commandment verses in an interactive and attractive way. It is invented in Malay language aimed for users who understand Malay language.

In addition, this app is an offline app (offline mode) for an easy access to all the users even without having the internet connection. The use of this app is not only limited to students only, but to individuals who want to explore the Al-Qur'an interpretation in the form of commandment verses.

a. Design of Main Page

Fig. 1 is the front page for the Kalam Suruhan Surah Al-Baqarah (KALAM) app.



Fig. 1: Main Page

The color used for background is a combination of dark green and light green to give a cool view when the user uses it. A line is added to the background make it not too blank. The "KALAM SURUHAN" is in Jawi script using FS Diwany font type. While, "KALAM SURAH AL-BAQARAH" text use Times New Romans font type. The button used is the default fixed button provided in Intel XDK. Text "MASUK" is using Arial font type with size of 12 and bolded.

b. Design of Chapter and Topic

Fig. 2 shows the color used for background is a combination of dark green and light green and it is added with a lens flare graphic effect to make the background color bright and shine. Islamic art is also added at the bottom of the background. The logo is placed on the top of the background and is minimized.



Fig. 2: Chapter and Topic

The button used is the default fixed button provided in Intel XDK. All text in the button is use Arial font type with the size of 12 and bolded. Button in the Topic Section is added to “well” which default wall is provided by the Intel XDK software to align the button position because of its long text. “UTAMA” icons are also added to allow this Topic Section to return to Main Page.

c. Contents and Quiz

The logo used in Fig. 3 are the same as in the Fig. 2. Background color is green and was added mosaic graphic effect .All text are using a font type Arial with the size of 16 and bolded for the title. The text is inserted into the “well” to provide neat and compelling impacts. All images are in .jpeg format.

This app is included with .mp3 audio format. The designed audio allow users to play, pause or stop, jump and mute according to their needs. To play, pause and stop, the user just needs to press the triangle icon. Whereas for jump, the user can draw a round icon on the audio timeline and then press the triangle icon. To mute, users only need to press the speaker icon. Back button “KEMBALI” is also provided to make it easier for the user to return back to the Topic menu from the Content menu.



Fig. 3: Contents



Fig. 4 Quiz

For design in Fig. 4, it is same with the Fig. 3. The quiz questions are placed on the center of “well” while the answer options are set to justify. The send button “HANTAR” is red in color as a sign for users to press the button when all the questions have been answered. In this section, the answer will be calculated and score. If there are wrong answers, the actual answer will be shown.

V. THE IMPORTANT OF APP “KALAM SURUHAN SURAH AL-BAQARAH (KALAM)” TO EDUCATION

Kalam Suruhan Surah Al-Baqarah (KALAM) is an app of Al-Qur’an interpretation developed through research and reasoning from four interpretation books namely Tafsir Pimpinan Ar-Rahman Kepada Pengertian Al-Qur’an, Tafsir Ibnu Kathir, Tafsir Al-Thabari, and Tafsir Al-Maraghi. The translation of the Quran is referred to Tafsir Pimpinan Ar-Rahman Kepada Pengertian Al-Qur’an because the interpretation is light and easy to understand and it is suitable as a translation. In the interpretation section, three interpretation books were used, namely Tafsir Ibnu Kathir, Tafsir Al-Thabari and Tafsir Al-Maraghi. Tafsir Ibn Kathir and Tafsir Al-Thabari are the interpretation that has been categorized as *tafsir bi al-ma'thur*, while Tafsir Al-Maraghi is under the category of *tafsir bi al-ra'yi*.

Tafsir bi al-ma'thur is the method of interpreting the verses of the Al-Qur’an with Al-Qur’an, the Al-Qur’an verses with the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad S.A.W, and the Al-Qur’an verses with the opinion of the companions (*sahabah*) and even *tabi'in* opinion according to some of the scholars (*ulama'*) (Anwar, 2001). While *tafsir bi al-ra'yi* is the method of interpreting the Al-Qur’an verses based on reasoning and human thought. According to Muhammad Quraish Shihab, there are six famous *tafsir bi al-ra'yi* patterns today, which are literary pattern, philosophical and theological patterns, scientific patterns, *fiqh* patterns, *tasawuf* patterns, and social-cultural patterns (Zaini, 2012).

The purpose of using the two types of Al-Qur’an interpretation method in this app is to give a user an exposure to the patterns and diversity of the Al-Qur’an interpretation methodology that is available today. The commandment verses in this app are based on verbal expressions of *fi'il amr*, *fi'il mudhari'* with preceded *lam al-amr*, *isim fi'il amr*, *masdar* substitute of *fi'il*, the news word bearing the meaning of command or request, and the word containing the words *amar*, *fardhu*, *kutiba*, *'ala* which means command. This verses also includes the category of verses which indicates obligatory (*wajib*), circumcision (*sunat*), must (*harus*), educate (*taadib*), and threat (*tahdid*).

Visual in education is an approach that can train the ability of a student to understand a new concept of learning with ease or even increase their level of understanding. The visuals in multimedia elements that has been applied in teaching aids are believed to be able to retain student’s memory longer than teaching aids which only has a static element (Seri, 2015). Therefore, this app comes with reciters audio, quiz, and multiple designs so users are keen to use iyt as self-directed

learning that can be accessed anytime and anywhere. The Audio included will enable user to learn how to read the Al-Qur'an texts, thus add a knowledge about how the difference in reading style of Al-Qur'an by that two reciters.

VI. THE ADVANTAGE OF “KALAM SURUHAN SURAH AL-BAQARAH (KALAM)” APP TOWARDS EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

This part is based on a survey conducted to test apps usability levels in the education field and community. The result shows that the majority of the users agreed that this app gives an advantages to them as shown in the table below:

TABLE I:
 THE APP ADVANTAGE TOWARDS EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

No.	Item	Mean	Result
1.	This app can be used in teaching and learning process.	6.25	Very agree
2.	This app meets the current demands of education by offering independent teaching and learning access.	5.96	Agree
3.	This app is suitable for the general public who understands the Malay language because the entire contents of the app in Malay language .	6.13	Very agree
4.	The app is organized according to user-friendly index.	6.25	Very agree
5.	This app makes it easy for users to find the desired interpretation.	6.13	Very agree

The Table I shows the mean of the app advantage towards education and community. The item measurement is based on

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Likert Scale 7, which have totally not agree, very not agree, not agree, not really agree, agree, very agree and totally very agree. The mean range is between 6.25 and 5.96. It is shown that this app can be used in teaching and learning process, organized according to user-friendly index, suitable for users who understand Malay language and easier for users to find the desired interpretation. Users also agreed that this app meets the current demands of education by offering independent teaching and learning access. In a nutshell, based on the survey conducted, this app is accepted as a self-learning tool by the community.

VII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there are various apps of Islamic knowledge in the market that can be used as a m-learning. The Kalam Suruhan Surah Al-Baqarah (KALAM) app is one of the Al-Qur'an interpretation app that can be used as the 21st century m-learning for users who understand Malay language. Its existence as an alternative m-learning enables users to understand the Islamic knowledge easily and quickly.

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