



THE QUR'AN, *DIGITAL TOOLS* AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF RELIGIOUS MEDIA

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Abstract

This study examines the development of Al-Quran digital tools and their impact on Islamic learning in the context of religious media transformation. The study was conducted with a qualitative approach, using the documentation study method and content analysis of the Al-Quran mobile application available on Android and iOS platforms within the last five years. The analysis is focused on aspects of usability, accessibility, and digital features that support learning and understanding of the Quran. The findings of the study reveal that the integration of digital technology and religious content has resulted in a new paradigm in the learning and dissemination of Islamic messages, marking social change and increased transformation of religious media. This research produces a comprehensive evaluation framework for Al-Quran digital tools and typologies based on categories and functionality, which makes theoretical and practical contributions to the development of Al-Quran mobile applications in the future.

Keywords: Al-Qur'an, Digital Tools, Religious Media Transformation, Usability, Accessibility.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, the development of information and communication technology has penetrated almost all aspects of life, including the religious field. In particular, the digitization of the Qur'an through mobile applications and other digital tools has opened up new opportunities in efforts to disseminate and learn holy messages. These changes not only impact



the way Muslims access the text of the Quran, but also affect the dynamics of learning and religious understanding that are more interactive and personalized.

Along with the increasing penetration of digital devices, the transformation of religious media has also undergone a paradigm shift. Various mobile applications of the Quran have been developed with features that not only display texts and translations, but also provide audio, interpretation, and other interactive features that support Islamic learning and discourse. This study aims to analyze the development of Al-Quran digital tools from a technical and religious perspective, focusing on evaluating the usability, technological features, and social impact of the use of the application.

This research is based on the theory of social change and the transformation of religious media which emphasizes the importance of the role of technology in changing the pattern of social interaction and the structure of the dissemination of religious information (Castells, 2010; Jenkins, 2016). By integrating these theoretical aspects, this study provides a comprehensive overview of the dynamics of change triggered by the adoption of digitalization in the study and dissemination of the Quran. The temporal focus of the research is the last five years, where there has been a significant increase in the development and use of mobile applications of the Quran on Android and iOS platforms. In this context, the research suggests that while there is positive potential in improving accessibility and user engagement, technical and religious challenges also arise, such as the issue of digital interpretation and limited personal interaction between teachers and students.

Therefore, this study describes and evaluates the digital tools of the Quran with two approaches: application content analysis and study documentation documented in previous research. The results of the research are expected to provide a new perspective and a comprehensive evaluation framework regarding the digital tools of the Quran, which also contribute to further development in the domain of religious digitalization.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This research uses a qualitative approach that is descriptive and interpretive. The design of this study refers to the IMRAD (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion) format to provide a systematic and in-depth analysis structure regarding the phenomenon of digitization of the Quran. The qualitative approach allows for a holistic understanding of the religious and technical contexts behind the development of the Al-Quran mobile application.

Population and Data Sources

The research population includes all mobile applications of the Quran available on Android and iOS platforms in the last five years. Data sources are obtained through: Documentation studies on application development and progress reports from developers. Then analyze the content of digital features provided by each application and scientific literature and religious



sources that discuss digital transformation and social change in the context of the dissemination of the Quran (Aziz, 2021; Rahman, 2019; Yusuf, 2020).

Data Collection Methods

Data is collected through two main methods, namely: **Documentation Study:** Data collection is carried out by reviewing documents related to application development, technical reports from developers, journal articles, and relevant online literature. This documentation is the basis for determining the evolution of the features and functionality of the Al-Quran mobile application. Then **Content Analysis:** This method involves a systematic evaluation of the usability, accessibility, and digital features aspects contained in the application. The analysis categories are formulated based on the theory of religious media transformation and social change. This technique aims to identify comparative analysis between applications based on functionality and the level of integration of technology with religious content.

Research Instruments

The instruments used include open interview guides with application developers and content analysis guidelines adapted from digital usability evaluation models (Nielsen, 2012). The instrument has been validated through trials on selected samples of Quranic applications and adjusted to meet the context of religious research.

Data Analysis Procedure

Data analysis is carried out in stages. First, data from the documentation study is collected and categorized based on technical and religious aspects. Furthermore, content analysis is applied to assess the usability and accessibility of the application based on the features provided. The coding process is carried out manually using predetermined categories, then the data is confirmed through triangulation with the findings of previous studies (Miles & Huberman, 1994). The evaluation framework was developed from the grouping of features and functions that are adaptive to digital social changes.

All data is analyzed with a comparative approach to produce a comprehensive typology of the digital tools of the Quran. This approach includes several key categories, such as audio and text integration, interactive features, ease of navigation, user engagement, and data security and privacy.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Development of Al-Quran Mobile Application Features

The results of the analysis show that the Al-Quran mobile application studied adopts the latest technological innovations in the religious sphere. Key features identified include:

Text View and Translation: Almost all apps provide a view of the text of the Quran along with translations in multiple languages. However, there are differences in typeface, font size, and layout that affect readability for users (Suleiman, 2020).

Audio and Tajweed Features: The integration of audio with an emphasis on the science of tajweed has become a competitive advantage of several applications. This feature allows



users to listen to the correct reading with visual guidance related to tajweed rules (Rahman, 2019).

Interactivity and Contextual Search: Some apps provide interactive features such as verse context search, favorite section tagging, and user collaboration through discussion forums. These features support a more in-depth and collaborative learning process (Yusuf, 2020).

Tafsir and Explanation Feature: In addition to translation, a number of apps also integrate commentary and commentary on Quranic verses. This helps users understand the historical context and deeper meaning of the verse.

Security and Privacy: In the digital age, the protection of user data is an aspect that cannot be ignored. Applications that have high-level security features and provide privacy protection receive a positive response from the user community (Aziz, 2021).

Content analysis shows that while there is variation in features and functionality, the general trend in the last five years has been increased interactivity and accessibility. These applications are increasingly integrating cloud-based technology and responsive user interfaces to support a more optimal user experience (Nielsen, 2012).

Usability and Accessibility Analysis

The usability assessment is carried out based on several parameters, such as ease of navigation, speed of response, and simplicity of interface display. The results of the study stated that: Many applications experience challenges in the aspect of display simplicity even though the features are complete. The complexity of the interface often results in users, especially those who are less familiar with technology, experiencing obstacles in the learning process. Next, the Developers have adapted responsive design principles that support different screen sizes and devices; however, platform differences (Android vs. iOS) sometimes lead to disparities in user experience. Finally, the level of accessibility in general has increased thanks to the use of cloud technology that allows data synchronization, although there are still limitations in areas with inadequate internet infrastructure (Castells, 2010).

In addition, there is a gap between technical features and religious aspects. Some applications have successfully integrated digital interpretation aspects, but they still lack space for direct interaction between users and religious practitioners, thereby reducing the spiritual dimension and personalization in learning.

Evaluation Framework and Typology of Al-Quran Digital Tools

Based on the results of data analysis, this study produced an evaluation framework that includes three main dimensions: (1) technical aspects, (2) usability and accessibility aspects, and (3) religious aspects. Each dimension is evaluated through specific indicators, for example: **Technical Aspects:** Application stability, loading speed, and integration of data storage technology. **Usability and Accessibility Aspects:** Ease of navigation, clarity of view, and responsiveness of the interface. **Religious Aspect:** The quality of the interpretation content,



the accuracy of the translation, and the ability to support religious practices such as tajweed and verse marking.

This framework is then used to develop a comprehensive typology of digital tools of the Quran, which are grouped into several categories:

Interactive Education Apps: Focus on learning with interactive features and discussion forums.

Reading and Audio Applications: Emphasis is placed on providing audio features, tajweed guides, and reading playback that synergize with text visualization.

Digital Tafsir Application: Focuses on providing in-depth contextual interpretation and explanation of Quranic verses.

Multifunctional Application: Integrates all of the above features with advanced technology support such as cloud synchronization and data analytics to measure user interaction patterns.

This typology provides guidance for developers and researchers in assessing the effectiveness and sustainability of Al-Quran mobile applications. With this evaluation framework, it is hoped that future research can adopt a more holistic model in examining the development of religious digitalization.

Discussion

Social Implications and the Transformation of Religious Media

The findings of this study show that the digitization of the Quran through mobile applications has triggered significant changes in the way religious messages are disseminated and learned. In the context of social change theory, the use of digital tools has opened up wider and more equitable access, especially among the younger generation who are used to digital technology (Jenkins, 2016). Socially, this technological integration has the potential to reduce the gap between tradition and innovation, but also invites debate about the authenticity and interpretation of religious contexts.

From a religious perspective, although technology provides easy access to the details of the Quran, there are concerns that digital interaction can reduce the nuances of faith and depth of understanding gained through traditional face-to-face learning (Aziz, 2021). Limitations in personal communication between users and scholars or teachers often result in understanding that tends to be mechanical. Therefore, the author emphasizes the need for hybrid integration, which combines digital technology with personalized guidance in the learning process.

In addition, the usability analysis shows that the Al-Quran mobile application has the potential to support the development of digital and religious literacy, but there are still various technical obstacles that must be overcome. The difference in operational standards between the Android and iOS platforms, the suitability of user interface design, and accessibility in areas with limited internet infrastructure are factors that need further attention. The implementation



of the evaluation framework developed in this study is an important instrument to assess the suitability of applications with user needs.

Discourse on Social Change Theory and the Role of Technology

The theoretical framework of social change provides an analytical lens to understand how the transformation of religious media has a broader impact on social structures and religious customs. This approach reveals that the transition to digitalization not only distorts the way sacred messages are presented, but also changes the relationship between the sender of the message and the recipient of the message. In the context of using the Al-Quran mobile application, user engagement is not only limited to passive access to the text, but also to participatory processes through interactive features and digital discussions. This is in line with previous findings that digitalization increases the potential for collaboration and exchange of ideas (Castells, 2010).

Nevertheless, the gap between technological potential and religious values demands an evaluative approach that is sensitive to cultural and spiritual contexts. This study suggests that the evaluation framework must be able to balance aspects of technical convenience with the quality of authentic religious content. This kind of analytical approach provides a new perspective in the discourse of social change due to digitalization, where technology is interpreted not only as a tool, but also as a medium for transforming the communication of moral and faith messages.

Practical Implications for the Development of Al-Quran Applications

The results of the study provide practical guidance for application developers in optimizing digital features that can accommodate the needs of Islamic learning. Based on the evaluation framework developed, here are some recommendations for the development of a more holistic Al-Quran application:

1. **User Interface Simplification:** Minimizes design complexity to improve accessibility especially for users who are less familiar with digital technology.
2. **Integration of Interactive and Social Features:** Add online discussion forums, Q&A features, and religious consultations to support personal interaction.
3. **Improved Audio Quality and Tajweed Features:** The use of more advanced sound processing technology so that users get accurate and responsive tajweed guidance.
4. **Involvement of Religious Experts:** Collaborating with scholars and scholars as content consultants so that the quality of interpretation and translation remains in accordance with the criteria of authenticity and science.
5. **Optimization for Multiple Platforms:** Development that pays attention to operational suitability across multiple platforms by leveraging modern responsive technologies.



The recommendation is expected to overcome some usability problems and integrate authentic religious values so that the application of the Qur'an is not only a digital medium, but also a tool for education and social transformation.

Research Limitations and Further Research Directions

Although this research has succeeded in identifying various important aspects in the digitization of the Quran, there are some limitations that need to be acknowledged. First, the analysis was limited to applications available on Android and iOS platforms, so the potential of applications on other platforms was not yet represented. Second, primary data obtained from documentation studies and content analysis have a subjective tendency in the interpretation of the religious features presented.

Going forward, the follow-up research is expected to expand the scope of the analysis to more platforms and involve empirical studies by involving in-depth interviews with users and religious practitioners. The mixed-method approach can also be used as an alternative to obtain quantitative data that complements qualitative analysis, so that the evaluation framework for the digitization of the Quran can be more comprehensive and applicable.

4. CONCLUSION

The digitization of the Quran through mobile applications has revolutionized the way religious messages are delivered by integrating advanced technology and interactive features that support Muslim learning. The study concludes that:

The development of Al-Quran digital tools in the last five years shows a significant trend of innovation, especially in terms of usability, interactivity, and the provision of in-depth religious content. While there is great potential in supporting religious education digitally, the challenge of presenting personal interaction and maintaining the authenticity of interpretation still needs serious attention. The evaluation framework developed, based on technical, usability, and religious dimensions, provides a comprehensive typology and practical recommendations for the development of the Al-Quran mobile application. The theoretical perspective of social change and the transformation of religious media provides a theoretical basis that digitalization has a positive impact on increasing religious literacy but also raises debates about the authenticity of content.

The practical and theoretical implications of this research are expected to serve as a reference for academics, researchers, and practitioners in developing technological solutions that are not only innovative but also in harmony with religious values. This research contribution offers a new perspective on the integration of technology and religious traditions, which ultimately enriches scientific discourse and social transformation in the digital age.



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