

Level of Quranic Tajwid Knowledge among Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Students

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Abstract

The Quran is a miracle and a source of guidance for every Muslim, and therefore, the knowledge of the Quran must be taken seriously, starting with the recitation according to Tajweed. This study examines the level of knowledge regarding Quranic Tajweed among students of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). The main issue highlighted is the students' weakness in reciting the Quran in a proper and tajweed-compliant manner, which can have a negative impact on their commitment to reciting it and affect individual moral development as well as social aspects. The objective of this study is to identify the level of Quranic Tajweed knowledge among UTM students. The methodology used in this study is quantitative, utilizing a questionnaire distributed to 122 fourth-year students from the School of Education at UTM. Data were analyzed using SPSS software. The results of the study indicate that the level of Tajweed knowledge among students is still low, with only 15.2% of respondents able to recite the Quran well. The main factors identified include a lack of interest, a shortage of teachers, weak foundational Tajweed knowledge before entering university, and a lack of Quranic classes and time allocation to learn it. Suggestions for further research include a deeper investigation into the factors affecting Quranic knowledge and more effective approaches to improve Tajweed mastery among students.

Keywords: Knowledge, Quranic Tajweed, Students

Introduction

The Quran is a book that serves as a guide and reference for every individual who is a Muslim. The revelation of Quranic verses has emphasized several aspects, including the recitation of the Quran itself. This is evident in the first revelation in Surah Al-'Alaq (verses 1-5), which mentions *Iqra'* (the command to read) (Hasani, 2023). It can be understood from this verse that reciting the Quran is highly encouraged in Islam because the Quran is the word of Allah SWT, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad SAW to be recited, studied, understood, and practiced according to the commands contained within it.

The greatness of the Quran is truly unparalleled by any other book. According to Ashraf (2018), the Quran is considered a miraculous and magnificent book because no being is capable of producing a book similar to or even close to the Quran, even if there were cooperation between all of humanity and the jinn. This is because the words of created beings can never match the words of the Creator, which are incomparable.

Furthermore, the recitation of the Quran is an important aspect of a Muslim's life, and mastering the knowledge of Tajweed is necessary to ensure correct and accurate recitation. Tajweed is the knowledge that teaches the rules related to the pronunciation of Quranic letters and how to articulate each word correctly. As the primary guide, the rules of reading the Quran with Tajweed provide the foundation and necessity for Muslims to read and understand the beauty of the Quran in the most perfect manner (Natasya Hamid, et al., 2022).

Therefore, it would be a great loss if the miracle of the Quran, which is meant to be a guide and reference for Muslims, especially university students, is not appreciated or practiced in daily life. What is most concerning is the possibility of Muslim students themselves being unable to recite the Quran properly and with Tajweed. Hence, this study was conducted to assess the level of knowledge among university students regarding Quranic knowledge.

Methodology

Scope and Study Design

The researcher conducted a quantitative survey. Quantitative research is a method of research related to the structured collection and analysis of data. Its primary goal is to create accurate and reliable measurements through statistical analysis. Quantitative research gathers information from potential respondents using various methods, such as online surveys, questionnaires, and others. This method was chosen because the questionnaire instrument can effectively assess the knowledge level of respondents, namely the students of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

Research Instrument

In this study, the instrument used was a questionnaire administered by the researcher. The instrument consists of 17 items measured using a 5-point Likert scale. The items used in this questionnaire were adapted from Hasani Ghazali (2023), Norwardatun (2021), and Ahmad Fitri (2010). Section B contains seven questions related to the level of Quranic knowledge among students, while Section E contains 10 questions about the level of Tajweed knowledge among students. The data and information obtained from respondents through this questionnaire were analyzed quantitatively.

Study Location

This study was conducted at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK), consisting of fourth-year students from the School of Education (SOE) at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). The study focused on Muslim students only to generate quality data to address the research question on the level of Quranic knowledge among UTM students.

Data Analysis

The questionnaire responses were analyzed using IBM Statistical Package software. This data analysis involved descriptive statistics to assess the level of Tajweed knowledge among students of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). The researcher focused on descriptive analysis methods to answer the research questions and objectives.

Research Findings

Descriptive Analysis

This section aims to answer the research question, which is the level of knowledge of Quranic tajwid among students at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). The analysis report of the results is presented in the form of mean and standard deviation, along with the interpretation of the mean scores.

Table 1

Mean Score Interpretation

Average Score	Interpretation
1.00-1.89	Very Low
1.90-2.69	Low
2.70-3.49	Moderate
3.50-4.29	High
4.30-5.00	Very High

Source: *Bahagian Perancangan dan Penyelidikan Dasar Pendidikan (BPPDP) (2006) Pelan Induk Pembangunan Pendidikan (PIPP). Kuala Lumpur*

Table 2

Mean Score Interpretation

Average Score	Interpretation
0.90 – 1.00	Very High
0.70 – 0.89	High
0.30 – 0.69	Moderate
0.00 – 0.30	Low

Source: Ong (2020)

Level of Quranic Tajwid Knowledge Among Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Students

The descriptive analysis for 17 items assessing the level of Quranic tajwid knowledge among UTM students shows that item B1, which evaluates the ability to identify hijaiyyah letters, received the highest mean score of 4.76, with 83.2% of respondents strongly agreeing that they can correctly identify Quranic letters. In contrast, item E3 (knowledge about *Idgham maal Ghunnah*) and item E4 (knowledge about *Izhar Halqi*) also obtained the highest mean score of 0.82, with 82.5% of respondents indicating they are familiar with the recitation rules of *Idgham maal Ghunnah* and *Izhar Halqi*.

Based on Table 2 and Table 3, the overall mean score for identifying the level of Quranic tajwid knowledge among UTM students is 4.01, while the specific aspect of identifying tajwid knowledge among UTM students shows a mean score of 0.70. Both mean scores are categorized as high. Tables 3 and 4 detail the analysis of the mean, standard deviation, and corresponding mean levels.

Table 3

Identifying the Level of Quranic Knowledge Among Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Students

Item	Details	Mean	Standard Deviation	Level
B1	I can identify hijaiyyah letters (Quranic letters) in the Quran (e.g., ا ب ت).	4.76	0.61	Very High
B2	I am familiar with all the reading marks in the Quran (e.g., َ ُ ّ). (contoh: َ ُ ّ).	4.32	0.91	Very High
B3	I have knowledge of tajwid rules for Nun Sakinah and Mim Sakinah (letters, rules, & reading).	4.19	0.98	High
B4	I recite the Quran with tajwid.	3.99	0.99	High
B5	I recite the Quran under the guidance of a teacher.	3.77	1.24	High
B6	I recite the Quran with tartil (fluent).	3.77	1.06	High
B7	I can pronounce the hijaiyyah letters according to the correct makhraj (point of articulation).	3.82	1.04	High
Average Mean and Standard Deviation		4.01	0.98	

Table 4

Identifying the Level of Quranic Knowledge Among Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Students (TAJWID)

Item	Details	Mean	Standard Deviation	Level
E1	I know that when <i>nun sakinah</i> or <i>tanwin</i> meets one of the six halqi letters, it should be pronounced clearly.	0.76	0.43	High
E2	I can identify all the idgham bila ghunnah letters.	0.80	0.41	High
E3	I know that when <i>nun sakinah</i> or <i>tanwin</i> meets one of the <i>Idgham maal Ghunnah</i> letters, it should be nasalized.	0.82	0.38	Very High
E4	I know that <i>Izhar Halqi</i> should be pronounced clearly and explicitly	0.82	0.38	Very High
E5	I know all the <i>Idgham Maal Ghunnah</i> letters.	0.79	0.41	High
E6	I know that <i>Iqlab</i> involves changing the sound of <i>nun sakinah</i> to <i>mim sakinah</i> and nasalizing it for two beats.	0.77	0.43	High
E7	I can identify all 15 <i>Ikhfa Haqiqi</i> letters.	0.72	0.45	High
E8	I know that if <i>mim sakinah</i> meets any hijaiyyah letter other than <i>mim</i> (م) dan <i>ba</i> (ب), it should be pronounced clearly.	0.77	0.43	High
E9	I know that if <i>mim sakinah</i> meets a baris-ed <i>mim</i> , it should be nasalized for two beats.	0.81	0.39	Very High
E10	I know that if <i>mim sakinah</i> meets a baris-ed <i>mim</i> (م), it must be nasalized for two beats.	0.78	0.42	High
Average Mean and Standard Deviation		0.70	0.41	

Discussion and Implications

Level of Tajweed Knowledge among Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Students

The findings of this study indicate that the level of Quranic knowledge among students at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia is relatively high, with a mean score of 4.01. However, these

results slightly differ from the findings of Fatihah (2022), which showed that the level of Quran mastery among second-year students in the Arabic Language course at Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, using a mixed-methodology approach, was low. Similarly, Norwardatun (2021) explained that Quranic mastery among students was at a low level, based on a study conducted in several secondary schools in Perak. The findings showed that students had poor proficiency in reading the Quran with *Tartil* and Tajweed.

The lack of a solid foundation in Quranic knowledge before entering university has a significant impact on the level of Quranic knowledge during university years. Students who do not have a strong foundation tend to struggle in mastering Tajweed and the practice of reading the Quran under guidance. This situation shows that while the level of Quranic knowledge among UTM students is good in basic aspects, such as recognizing the Arabic letters (*Hijaiyyah*), there are weaknesses in their deeper understanding of Tajweed. A lack of foundational Quranic knowledge before entering university is one of the main factors contributing to this weakness.

This is consistent with a study conducted by Norwardatun (2021), which found that secondary school students were unable to read the Quran proficiently. The study, conducted among fourth-year students at selected secondary schools in Terengganu, showed that 192 out of 320 students were illiterate in Quranic reading. This issue is concerning, as the weak level of Quranic knowledge developed in secondary school is carried into university, and if not improved during university years, this weakness will persist, ultimately hindering Muslim students from making Quranic reading a regular part of their daily lives. This is especially regrettable, as the miracle of the Quran brings many blessings and benefits to Muslim students.

In the researcher's view, knowledge and mastery are two different concepts. While knowledge involves understanding concepts and definitions, Quranic mastery is more specific to the application, implementation, and accurate use of Tajweed. This study focuses on Quranic knowledge among students, particularly their ability to understand definitions, recognize Quranic letters, and identify the rules of Tajweed. Thus, the data obtained from this study emphasizes the students' basic knowledge of Tajweed.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings of this study successfully addressed all the research objectives, specifically identifying the level of Quranic Tajweed knowledge among Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) students. With an improvement in Quranic knowledge at the university level, the benefits will be felt by students, the university, the School of Education (SOE), and the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE). The results obtained are expected to contribute significantly to the understanding and application of the teachings of the Quran in the daily lives of students. These benefits are not limited to religious aspects alone. With deeper knowledge of the Quran, students will be able to integrate Islamic values into all areas of their lives, including their learning, social interactions, and personal development.

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