

Exploration of the Quran in the Digital Age: Descriptive Studies of the Qur'an Application by Kementerian Agama

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Abstract

The advancement of knowledge and technology can reduce interest in reading the Qur'an. In this increasingly modern era, the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs has created a powerful Qur'an application. This app is user-friendly and practical because it is built for Android devices. The research method used by the author is descriptive analysis. This study presents information related to the Qur'an application developed by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, covering its background, features, advantages, and shortcomings. The purpose of this investigation is to demonstrate that the Qur'an application is practical and easy to use, as well as to help users understand the Qur'an. The application is equipped with various features, including detailed descriptions of each verse and interpretations by Islamic scholars.

Keywords: Al-Qur'an, technology, applications

A. Introduction

This increasingly advanced development of science and technology (IPTEK) has an impact on the development of production, transportation and communication systems. Almost every sector of life today is connected with IPTEK. The influence of technological development can also affect the way of life of today's people. Technological development not only affects social and other life factors but also affects religious factors. The Qur'an is not in the field of interpretation. In the early years of its development around the 13th to the 19th century in Indonesia Al-Quran was still produced by handwriting. In the first century it was written on paper made of leaves of Lontar and daluwang.

One of the Al-Qur'an handwritten in the early days of the writing of Al- Qur'an was Mushaf written by a scholar al-Faqih al Ali Alifuddin Abdul Baqi bin Abdullah al-Adni in 1585 precisely on the 7th Zulqaidah 1005 H in Ternate, Northern Maluku. Until the first printing machine finally entered Indonesia. With the printing machine, many of the Qur'an is printed using a print machine. In addition to using printing machines, the Qur'an is now available in electronic media. With the evolution of the Koran, it has already been in the form of applications that can be obtained on the Internet, and can be accessed on mobile phones or computers. The Qur'an is a Scripture that follows the evolution of the times. The Qur'an does not change in its content but in its form. How can the

Qur'an follow the evolution of the times according to the needs of today's society?¹

Until the present generation the form of mushaf of the Qur'an is presented in various variations and also not only in printed form but also in digital form. It means that there are some kinds of Al-Qur'an presented among Muslims especially in Indonesia. This is to make the message contained in the Quran understandable to readers especially for those who do not understand Arabic. Because not all Muslims in Indonesia are good at speaking Arabic, therefore presented various forms of the Quran both in printed and digital forms.² In this research, the writer wants to describe the Koran in the Digital Age: Descriptive Studies of Koran's Applications.

B. Methods

This research method is a qualitative living al-Qur'an research, but the research method used is descriptive-analytical to explore and study data with the theory of social analysis to map and analyze the data and reality in it so that it can be seen a description picture of a tradition al- Qur'an in the digital age. This article starts at least from two substantial assumptions. The first assumption is that the advances in technology and the increasing number of applications have prompted the government to introduce the Qur'an to bring it closer to the public. Second, with the application of the Kemenag Qur'an, it is hoped that the people can consume information about the Quran properly and correctly in religion and the country. The data collection technique in this study uses documentation related to user reviews of the Kemenag Qur'an application.³

C. Results and Discussion

Those who have served in the creation of the Koran have been among the people of Koran with some figures in it such as Zarkasyi Afif as the head, while his members are Ali Akbar, Agus Nurul Saipuddin, Muhammad Faticuddin, Mohammed Zamroni Ahabab, and Ibnu Athoillah.⁴ The Ministry of Religion officially launched the Digital Al-Quran Application of the Ministry for Religion. The launch was conducted by Religion Minister Lukman Hakim Saifuddin in conjunction with the organization of the International Al-Qur'an Seminar in Jakarta, Tuesday (30/8).

¹ Tati Rahmayani, The Shift of Religious Authority in the Learning of the Qur'an, Maghza: Journal of Science of Al-Quran and Tafsir, vol.3, No.2, 2018, p.19

² Ummu Karomah dkk, Al-Qur'an and Electronization: Descriptive Studies on the Application of the Qur'an Indonesia and Al-Quran Ash-Shahib, Al Dhika: Journal of Studies of the Quran and Hadits, Vol., No.1,2023

³ Debi Ayu Puspitasari. 2021. Digital Koran Application Presentation Policy in Indonesia: A Study of the Application Development of "Al-Quran Ministry of Religion" and Its Problems, Journal of Islamic Religious Education, Vol.8, No.1

⁴ Agus Nurul Saipuddin, Ministry of Religion launches digital Al-Qur'an application,/? <https://lajnah.kemenag.go.id/berita/194-ministry-religion-launch-applications-al-Qur'an-digital>, on May 8, 2023

The launch of the Al-Quran Application is marked by the pressing of the Enter button of the Application by Menag witnessed by Kabalitabangdiklat Abdurrahman Masud and Dirjen BImas Islam Machasin.

"I hope the first steps of the launch of this application can continue to be developed in terms of technical and content, thus helping the general public to read and learn the Quran," said Menag. Menag said, efforts to preserve the validity of the Quran are not only in the form of mushaf texts, but also in its meaning. In a digital age of openness, says Menag, any information is readily accepted by the public, no exception to religious understanding.

According to him, the information is not always loaded with positive, but also can be propaganda of hatred and violence spread through social media, this reality is difficult to hide, Therefore, said Menag, the government continues to struggle to balance the intensity of extreme religious understanding by providing a variety of literature containing understanding and interpretation of the Quran that is moderate, tolerant and appreciating diversity, through various media, both printed and electronic. This Kemenag Al-Quran application can be downloaded at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.quran.kemenag>.



Picture 1

Pencarian aplikasi qur'an kemenag di playstore



Picture 2

Aplikasi qur'an kemenag



Picture 3. Home Screen Display of the Qur'an Application of the Ministry of Religion

This app can be downloaded for free on various Android and IOS (iPhone operational system) gadgets. Android gadgets can be loaded on the Google Play Store and for gadgets that use IOS can be uploaded in the App Store. The application was first released on August 25, 2016 and was last updated on May 14, 2019 with version 1.3.4.4. This Kemenag Qur'an application has incredible fans with a total of as much as a hundred thousand more download uses. The high download usage of the application is due to its easy-to-use and free-of-charge factors.

Meanwhile, Pgs. Chief Lajnah Pentashian Mushaf Al-Quran Balitbang and Diklat Ministry of Religion, Muchlis Hanafi explained, smartphone users can download the application Al-Qur'an in Google Play Store (smartphones based on Android) and soon later can also in AppStore and Windows Phone Store.⁵

Application Functions Al Qur'an

Muchlis said, this first-generation app presents the complete Quran text 30 juz, this app also comes with translations. In addition, it is also supplemented with two variants: Tahlili (30 juz) or a concise interpretation.

The other feature available in this app is the sound of the Qur'an by Sheikh Mahmud Khalil al-Hushary. And the writing of the Qur'an used in this application, the light of Muchlis, comes from Mushaf Attin who followed the Mushaf Al-Quran Standard Indonesia.

"The Indonesian Standard Quran Mushaf is the way of writing the Quran in accordance with the results achieved by the Musyawarah Work (Muker) Ulama Ahli Al-Qur'an that lasted as much as nine times from 1974 s.d. 1983, and was the guideline for the mushaf al-Quran printed and published in Indonesia according to the decree of the Minister of Religion," Muchlis explains.

The Quran is a translation of the Qur'an and its translation by a team formed by the Ministry of Religion. The Tahlili Tafsir in this application is a source of the Quran and its Tafsir published by the Department of Religious Affairs. In the meantime, for the features of the Simplified Tafsir Al-Karim is a book based on the study of the tafsir. Currently, this interpretation only presents one jilid consisting of juz 1 - 15. And the second jillid containing juz 16-30.⁶

⁵ <https://kemenag.go.id/national/ministry-religion-launch-applications-al-coran-digital-no1pj1> on May 8, 2023

⁶ <https://kemenag.go.id/national/ministry-religion-launch-applications-al-coran-digital-no1pj1> on May 8, 2023

"This application will continue to be developed and added later there will be thematic interpretations, scientific interpretations and so on. There will also be features of Asbabun Nuzul that are present in this application originating from the book *Asbun Nuzuul: Chronology and Causes of Revelation of the Qur'an* published by Lajnah Pentashihan Mushaf Al-Qur'an Ministry of Religion in 2015," said Muchlis who hopes for the development of this application, advice and input from the community via email lpmajkt@kemenag.go.id. (dm/dm).

Feature is one of the very important parts of the application. The Qur'an of Victory has many features that can be used. There are two main parts in the Qur'an which are as follows:

a. Menu Features

The menu feature is the main feature that includes other features. Each application always has a menu feature as a selection and presentation of the operational system that the gadget user wants to run. In the Qur'an Kemenag application, the menu features are located in the upper left corner. In the menu there are five rows of buttons, which are the juz, tafsir, asbabun nuzul, last reading and prayer khotmil Qur'an. These five features can be accessed by clicking, then can be used on gadget browsing.

The five buttons on the home or home application of the Kemenag Qur'an have their respective functions and uses. First, the button of Judah contains parts of every Judah in its entirety, which is 30 Judah and 114 letters. Second, the key of interpretation contains the explanation of the existing verses, including the brief interpretation of Kemenag, the interpretation. Three-button asbabun nuzul contains the background of the socio-historical context of the descent of a sentence based on the history of the hadith. Fourth, the last reading button that contains the last limit when reading the Qur'an. Fifth, the Quran's khatmil button contains prayer after reading the Qur'an 30 juz or khatam prayer.

b. Search Features

Not everyone is able to find the sentence or readings they want. It is difficult for many people to open the Qur'an in a printed version, not to mention finding a verse or reading it in a digital application. In view of this, the Kemenag Qur'an app developer has provided a search feature.

The main purpose of the search feature is to facilitate the search for a sentence, or a desired reading. This search feature is symbolized by a magnifier, which corresponds to its function to find sentences quickly. The search features provided are very varied, i.e. can be done by writing Indonesian translations, letters and sentences code, as well as letters names. When the Quran is found, it is clear that the Qur'an is written in a triangle, and that it is in the name of the Quran.

This app is supplemented with features that can share a sentence that has been read to social media by clicking on the button icon in the shape of the triangle line of the parallel branch that is below the left, after the click will appear a variety of

interesting background as the decorative background of the sentence, and once it feels suitable then just click on the share button at the bottom right. It indicates that the application of the Kemenag Qur'an was designed by the Ministry of Religion rather than as a demand of the age but was also released as a field or medium of prophecy by the millennial generation.

c. Tafsir and Asbestos Nucleus Features

The Qur'an and the Quran are written in the Scriptures. The Bible is the Bible of the Scriptures, and it is the Qur'an of the prophets. The transcripts provided from the Kemenag Qur'an application are the results of the Ministry of Religion team. The interpretation search can be done in a practical way, that is, open the menu feature, click the interpret button, and start selecting the desired interpretation letter and listing the searched sentence.

The main purpose of the existence of the interpretation is to build comprehensive, substantial understanding of the father – Dr. Ahsin Sakho Muhammad, M.A – in relation to this, he gave a description that the Koran has been completed with the meaning of the contents of each verse, reasonable (relationship) between one verse with another verse, nor other letters, as well as not forgetting the verse *kauniyyah* that the Institute of Sciences of Indonesia (LIPI). The Qur'an is the only Quran in the world, and the Quran is the most comprehensive of all the Quranic verses.

Besides, the Kemenag Qur'an app also provides the feature of sharing translations to social media by clicking the share or share button in the upper corner, as a message.

The model of asbestos nucleus explanation in this application is described systematically. The explanatory appearance of *asbābun nuzūl* is packed with a parsing of a sentence. Then the Qur'an is revealed. In order to strengthen the argument then below it is given a false history of the authentic hadith that relates to *asbābun nuzūl*. Once the original text is displayed, then below it is mentioned also the translation, complete with *takhrij al-ḥadi*, as well as the number of hadiths so that the reader does not have difficulty in referring to references, arguments, or merely insights.

In this case, the author is amazed by the validity of the data displayed, because making the data *asbābun nuzūl* is not an easy thing, but in the application of the Koran Kemenag has provided it easily, practically, and free.

The Kemenag Qur'an application is equipped with *asbestos nuzul*. The chronology and reason for the descent of a revelation of the Qur'an is compiled by *Lajnah pentashihan Mushaf al-Qur'an*. The purpose of the Qur'an is to be a form of public awareness that the understanding of the Quran should be balanced between textual and contextual, not to understand the Quran by seeing the aspect of the language or the text.

Understanding the Quran must be accompanied by historical social conditions, because the Quran does not come in an empty space, when the Quran comes down

there is a dialectical relationship with certain phenomena, and sociocultural society. The Bible is the Bible of the Qur'an and the Quran of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). There is a clear understanding of the Qur'an. One of the models of studying al-Qur'an in the gadget era was by accessing sites that had been offered by the ministry of religion, it leaves dilematic problems, on one side in the ideal learning al- Qur'an should be required there is a concept of talaqqi or liqa' muṣafaḥah baina al-talāmiḥ wa al-asātiḥ (meeting between pupils and teachers) and it cannot be represented by the gadget. But on the other hand, the demands of an evolving era make applications now begin to shift a tradition.

Model of the Presentation of the Qur'an and Its Translation

The model of the writing of the Qur'an in the application of the Kemenag Quran has its own peculiarities. If analysed further, the Quran contained in the Kemenag Qur'an application is very close to the Muṣḥaf al-Tin compiled by President Soeharto to worship his wife.⁷The Muṣḥaf is written in a font that is larger than the usual Umanian font. The Qur'an is the first translation of the Quran, and then a short translation is presented, which contains an easy-to-understand interpretation, then a complete interpretation.

In this case, the author compares the interpretation in the application of the Kemenag Qur'an with the al-Misbah interpretation of Quraisy Shihab. After a comparative study of both interpretations, it turns out there is a similarity of interpretation. Although in the explanation of the introduction of his creation, it is said that the application of the Kemenag Qur'an is an interpretation compiled by the Ministry of Religion team in 1972-2003, but in its interpretation especially aspects of language and history, when it comes to arguments, reasonable verses that have harmony with the interpretation of al-Misbah. The author in this regard appreciates the creation team of the Kemenag Qur'an application, because they have behaved open minded by avoiding truth claims, besides this interpretation also has treasures of Islam and Indoneisa who indirectly can minimize ideology and radical action.

Advantages and Disadvantages

The application of the Kemenag Qur'an is a glorious achievement in the order of the Ministry of Religion. In such an application the author sees at least four advantages in the application of Kamenag Qur'an. First, the application is made seriously and taken into account with maturity so that it has a maximum appearance and results. Second, there are many applications that have been released by various programmers in the Android world, but very few have released complete applications with translation, interpretation, and also aspects of the Qur'an. Besides, there is also a murattal that can be learned as a guide to a good way of reading and aesthetically valuable. Third, the app can be downloaded

⁷ Agus Nurul Saipuddin, Ministry of Religion launches digital Al-Qur'an application,/? [https://lajnah.kemenag.go.id/berita/194-ministry-religion-launch-applications-al- Qur'an-digital](https://lajnah.kemenag.go.id/berita/194-ministry-religion-launch-applications-al-Qur'an-digital), on May 8, 2023

for free from the Play Store, and the App Store for free, so people don't have to bother accessing it. Fourth, in addition to the competence in terms of application creation, this application is equipped with links related to the Ministry of Religion, LPMQ, Tashih Online, Lajnah library, and BQMI that is provided for researchers and academics, besides that there is also activity from Lajnah in developing the study of the Quran.

Some of the above advantages are superior when compared to other applications of the Qur'an. However, an application must have its shortcomings, in which case the author finds two shortfalls. First, in the interpretation of the Kemenag Qur'an application does not include the quotation of taking reference either in detail or globally, although in the description of the application already displayed such interpretation compiled by the Team Lajnah Pentashihan al-Qur'an, but sometimes readers still wonder whether the application is purely reinterpreted, or is a reflection of the existing book of interpretation but presented again. Second, in the application of the Kemenag Qur'an there is no complete Tajwid knowledge, only supplemented with muratal only, it then becomes a consideration to be given before the load of the Qur'an, or recommendation of the spirit of learning to read the Quran in a smooth, good and true.

D. Conclusion

The Ministry of Religion officially launched the Digital Al-Quran Application of the Ministry for Religion. The launch was conducted by Religion Minister Lukman Hakim Saifuddin in conjunction with the organization of the International Al-Qur'an Seminar in Jakarta, Tuesday (30/8). The launch of the Al-Quran Application is marked by the pressing of the Enter button of the Application by Menag witnessed by Kabalitabangdiklat Abdurrahman Masud and Dirjen BImas Islam Machasin. First, the application of the Qur'an is made seriously and taken into account with maturity so that it has a maximum appearance and results. Second, there are many applications of the Quran that have been released by various programmers in the Android world, but very few have released a complete application with translation, interpretation, and also aspects of the nozul. Besides, there is also a murattal that can be learned as a good way of reading and aesthetically valuable. Third, the app can be downloaded for free from the Play Store, and the App Store for free, so people don't have to bother accessing it. Fourth, in addition to the competence in terms of application creation, this application is equipped with links related to the Ministry of Religion, LPMQ, Tashih Online, Lajnah library, and BQMI that is provided for researchers and academics, besides that there is also activity from Lajnah in developing the study of the Quran.

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