

The Practice and Awareness of Reading Al-Quran Among New Students of Politeknik Kuala Terengganu

Wati Mohamad, Mazuki Salim

Department of General Studies
Politeknik Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

This research has been designed to determine the level of the practice and the awareness of reading Al-Quran among the new students of Politeknik Kuala Terengganu. The questionnaire method has been used by the examiners to 92 students from Politeknik Kuala Terengganu. The instrument of the study has been built by using four points Likert-scale. The collected data have been analyzed by using the descriptive methods which are mean, percentage and frequency. From the analysis that had been used, the result shows the awareness of reading Al-Quran is higher than the practice of reading Al-Quran. The result of the T-test shows that there are no difference between the variable of practice and the awareness based on the gender.

KEYWORDS: Practice, Awareness, Al-Quran.

INTRODUCTION

Al-Quran is the biggest miracle or gift from Allah to our prophet Muhammad (saw) to be imparted to all of people in the entire of the world. In Al-Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah verse 2 states that Al-Quran works as a rule for the people who takes it as a guide in their daily life. Our prophet Muhammad (saw) in his hadith had stated that he did not leave anything to us except for two things, which are Al-Quran and Hadith as a guide for our life.

A person who is practicing on reading Al-Quran continuously will feel the peacefulness. It will create *wujdan*, the feeling of missing the right path from the mighty and grandness of Allah. In [8] explains that Al-Quran is given from Allah to the prophet Muhammad (saw) which actually to moving on the persons from the darkness to the brighter side of life that is from the lost, stupidity and insolence to become better and move forward in politeness, faithfulness and the truth.

“Say, if the sea were ink for [writing] the words of my lord, the sea would be exhausted before the words of my lord were exhausted, even if we brought the of it as a supplement” (Surah Al-Kahfi: verse 109).

Saidatina Aishah (r.a) relates that our prophet Muhammad (saw) says:

Meaning: “a person who reads Al-Quran even though he can read it, then he will be the courier [the writers] from the honorable angles, and a person who stammer on reading Al-Quran, so two rewards will be given to them.”

From the other hadith, Abdullah Masud relates that our prophet Muhammad (saw) says:

Meaning: “whoever read one word from Al-Quran, one reward will be given to them, and the one reward will be multiplied to 10 times. I am not saying that Alif, Lam, Mim as one word but Alif as one word, Lam as one word, Mim as one word” (Hadith from Hasan).

Based on these hadiths and verse of Al-Quran, it has proved even the person who cannot read or who can read Al-Quran but not practicing it, it is the biggest loss for them (Muslims). Our prophet used to relate a person who is not reading Al-Quran as a decrepit (old and empty) house. All Muslims who believe in the faith pillars, we should spend some time from our daily life to read Al-Quran. It will be easier for us as a Muslim to see the greatness of his creation and to say the *Asma Ul-Husna* (the names of Allah) by reading Al-Quran frequently.

The practice of reading Al-Quran needs to be taught by parents to their children even before they were born. This practice should be continued by our own self individually no matter even we are children, teenagers, adults or in older aged. Based on [11] claims that Al-Quran teaches us to as a human to read. The reading will differentiate us as Muslims with the Jews and Christians (Surah Al-Baqarah verse 113), so we can be in the right faith (Surah Ali Imran verse 113) and can expect a great profit by reading Al-Quran (Surah Al-Fathir verse 29).

Via this research, we can realize the awareness level on reading Al-Quran of the students from Politeknik Kuala Terengganu. It will be to improve our self and our feeling, and the students will take it as their main source of knowledge which leads to the creations of positive impact for themselves, family, the society, the nation, etc. A person will be in the biggest loss if he or she could not able to memorize or read a single word from Al-Quran, and so does a person who is not practicing on reading on his daily life. On the contrary, every stage of Muslim generation has to be skillful in reading it where it automatically increases the interest and awareness to read it better from time to time. It is not only to obtain the reward from Allah (swt), but also to make it as a guide to our life in this globalization era which full of obstacles and challenges.

Problem Statements

The AA 101 course is a compulsory course offered by the Department of General Studies, Politeknik Kuala Terengganu for the first semester students. One of the assessments that will be graded in this course is the method of reading Al-Quran as in oral assessment. Based on the lecturers' experiences on marking this assessment for the first semester students, we can infer that most of the students are not being able to read it fluently, for example they cannot say it correctly and cannot read it perfectly (stammer).

Realized on the problems, the researchers are called to create this research among the new Politeknik Kuala Terengganu's studentintake on June 2013. Based on the informal interviews with the Muslim students, we can infer that most of them cannot read Al-Quran perfectly. They are lack of encouragement from their parents, personal awareness and the importance of practicing it in their daily life.

Objective of Research

The objectives of the research are:

- i. To know the level of Politeknik Kuala Terengganu's students about practicing on reading Al-Quran.
- ii. To know the awareness level of Politeknik Kuala Terengganu's students on reading Al-Quran.
- iii. To know whether there is any significant differences between practicing and the awareness about reading Al-Quran based on the gender.

Questions of Research

These are the questions that will be answered via this research:

- i. Are the students practicing on reading Al-Quran on their daily life?
- ii. Are the students aware to practice on reading Al-Quran on their daily life?
- iii. Are there the significant differences between the practice and the awareness of reading Al-Quran based on gender?

Importance of research

The result of this research hopefully can give the benefit to the other Muslims commonly, and especially to the Muslim students of Politeknik Kuala Terengganu. The important of this research are:

- i. To know the level of the practicing in reading Al-Quran in daily life.
- ii. Aware of the importance of reading Al-Quran.
- iii. To give the benefits to Politeknik Kuala Terengganu especially to the Department of General Studies to make the short-term and long-term plans about the practicing and awareness on reading Al-Quran among the students of Politeknik Kuala Terengganu.

Scope of Research

The aspect of this research is divided into two main aspects, which are to know the level of practicing and the awareness on reading Al-Quran. The result of the study is not being generalized to all of the students from Politeknik Kuala Terengganu due to the reason which is only some of the students who are involved in this research as the subjects.

Definition of Term

Practicing

Practicing which based on student's dictionary second edition states that it is as a condition or situation of practice. Based on the student's dictionary fourth edition defines the word practicing as hardworking on doing something. So, we can infer that practicing is something that we should do it continuously with determination. From [1], the implementation of practicing should be done via habitual or exercises.

Awareness

Based on the student's dictionary fourth edition, the word awareness can be defined as the realization of something. The awareness from the intuition is the most important thing to embark the positive attitude towards us so do on practicing on reading Al-Quran.

Reading Al-Quran

Reading Al-Quran is an action by saying the verses and understanding the meaning of the context. Reading Al-Quran with the correct tajwid, the correct pronunciation and the letter is one of the asserts in Islam towards the readers.

METHODOLOGY

To make this research success, we have been taking 92 Muslims’ students from Politeknik Kuala Terengganu who had registered for the intake on June 2013 which are from the Department of Electrical Engineering (JKE) and Department of Information Technology and Communications (JTMK).

Design of Research

This research is the early observation in quantitative form in order to make sure the level of practicing and awareness of Muslim students from Politeknik Kuala Terengganu of reading Al-Quran. Based on [15], the method that has been used in this research (in quantitative form) is the one of the best methods to obtain the information from the respondents besides for observing their attitudes. In [9] claims that observing method is to measure the possible variables that have the relationship with the research or phenomena without even asking the possible variables.

Population and Sample of Research

Population can be defined as a group of people that have shared the same characteristic [5]. The sample is the pieces or parts representing their own population of the subject on a research. The researchers cannot afford to take all the populations as the subjects. So as a solution, the sample has been chosen among them and being the subject for some researchers [9].

The population for this research is the first semester Muslim students from Politeknik Kuala Terengganu and 92 of them who had registered on 17th June 2013 for the intake on June 2013 had been chosen. Actually, the researchers are choosing the first semester students based on some aspects such as to know about their practicing on reading Al-Quran continuously before they entered Politeknik Kuala Terengganu. The researchers also had chosen the first semester students, where it is compulsory for them to memorize a few selected surahs from Al-Quran for their oral test in AA 101 for the Islamic studies course.

Instruments of Research

The instrument of the research is the questionnaire form. The questionnaire is one of the instruments that can be used to determine and accomplish a research. Using this method, the researchers can collect the correct information, trustworthy, feeling, etc. [9].

The research has been done via questionnaire method to make the collection of data easier and low on cost to make it. In [10] states that the usage of the questionnaire form for the quantitative observation is easier and more effective where it has the characteristics of objectivity, authenticity and trustworthy. Meanwhile, based on [4] claims that the collected data via questionnaire is usually being used by many researchers.

The researcher had distributed a set of questionnaire to all of the respondents contains three main sections (shown in Table 1) which are:

Section A: Background information which contains the item of gender, department, school stream, parent educational level, early learning of Al-Quran and the completion of Al-Quran.

Section B: Questionnaire (practicing on reading Al-Quran) which contains 5 items focussing on the practicing on reading Al-Quran.

Section C: Questionnaire (the awareness of practicing on reading Al-Quran) which contains 7 items to know the level of the awareness of practicing on reading Al-Quran like which has been shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Research’s items

Section	Research’s Aspects	Number of Items
A	Background information	6
	Gender	
	Department	
	School stream	
	Parents educational level	
	Early learning on Al-Quran	
	The completion of Al-Quran	
B	Practicing on reading Al-Quran	5
C	The awareness of practicing Al-Quran	7

Pre-Research

Pre-research had been done by the researchers among 10 students at Politeknik Kuala Terengganu. One of the reasons for doing this pre-research is to make sure that the instrument of the research has the authenticity and trustworthy. The pre-research needs to be done to make sure the items created by the researchers are suitable and understandable by the respondents from the language that will be used in the real research.

Cronbach's alpha coefficient is used to test the trustworthy of the questionnaire to show the suitability of the items as one set of questionnaire. In [7] explains that the acceptance of the instrument can be measured by the act of the respondents which answering the question or statement that had been given to them with consistency. The guideline on the value of Cronbach's alpha to explain the strength of the related variables as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Cronbach's alpha coefficient (common rule)

Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient Range	Strength of Related Variables
Below than 0.6	Weak
0.6 < 0.7	Moderate
0.7 < 0.8	Good
0.8 < 0.9	Better
More than 0.9	The best

There are two variables that will be examined in this research which are the students practicing on reading Al-Quran and their awareness of practicing on reading Al-Quran. The result from Cronbach's alpha on these two variables is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Result of trustworthy test

Variables	Value of Cronbach's Alpha
The practicing on reading Al-Quran	0.6624
Students' awareness of practicing on reading Al-Quran	0.9301

Based on Table 3, the trustworthy on these two variables show both of the variables can be trusted. The variable of the awareness on practicing reading Al-Quran is exceeding the best level. Meanwhile, the variable of the practicing on reading Al-Quran is only exceeded on the moderate level.

Analysis of Data

This research is applying the data based on the quantitative value. The collected data from the questionnaire form will be analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 11.5 which use many techniques such as frequency analysis and descriptive. Frequency analysis has been done to collect the data of respondents' background such as the gender, department, school stream, parents' educational level, early learning about Al-Quran and the completion of Al-Quran. The mean and standard deviation technique are used in the descriptive analysis.

The level of low, moderate and high can determine the value of mean which based on the range of mean score like what had been used by [12]. The range of mean score is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Range of mean score

Range of Mean Score	Interpretation of Range of Mean Score
1.00-2.32	Low
2.33-3.65	Moderate
3.66 and above	High

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of Frequency

The demographic data (respondent's background) have been analyzed by using the frequency statistic method. The demographic data include the gender, department, school stream, parent educational level, early learning of Al-Quran and the completion of Al-Quran. The result of the analysis following the types of demography data has been discussed based in Table 5-10.

Table 5: The analysis of demographic data based on students' gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	46	50.0
Female	46	50.0
Total	92	100.0

The analysis of demographic data following the gender is based on Table 5. It shows that the number of male students and female student are the same which is 46 students from each gender.

Table 6: The analysis of demographic data based on student's department

Gender	Department		Total
	JKE	JTMK	
Male	27	19	46
Female	21	25	46
Total	48	44	92

Table 6 shows the analysis of demographic data based on the student's department and gender. The students from JKE are 27 male students and 21 female students with the total of 48 students, and 19 male students and 25 female students with the total of 44 students from JTMK.

Table 7: The analysis of demographic data based on the school stream

School Stream	Frequency	Percentage
SMKT	9	9.8
SMK	76	82.6
SMA	7	7.6
Total	92	100.0

The demographic data have been analyzed from Table 7 which based on the school stream before they registered at Politeknik Kuala Terengganu with 76 students from SMK (Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan), 9 students from SMT (sekolah menengah teknik) or vocational and 7 students from SMA (Sekolah Menengah Agama).

Table 8: The analysis of demographic data based on parents' educational level

Educational Level	Frequency	Percentage
SPM	61	66.3
STPM	5	5.4
Certificate	1	1.1
Diploma	5	5.4
Degree	5	5.4
Others	15	16.3
Total	92	100.0

Table 8 shows the educational level of the students' parents. Based on the result, about 61 parents are from SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia) level, 5 parents are from STPM (Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia) level, 1 parent from certificate level, 5 parents from Diploma level, 5 parents from Degree level and 15 parents for the others.

Table 9: The analysis of demographic on early learning about Al-Quran

Early learning	Frequency	Percentage
Parents	68	73.9
School	5	5.4
Religious teacher	15	16.3
Tuition center	2	2.2
Others	2	2.2
Total	92	100.0

Table 9 shows the demographic data based on the early learning of Al-Quran. The result from the analysis shows that 68 students had started their early learning of Al-Quran from their parents, 15 from the religious teacher and another 2 students from the tuition center and other institutions.

Table 10: The analysis of the demographic data for the completion of Al-Quran

The Completion	Frequency	Percentage
Completed	51	55.4
Not Completed	41	44.6
Total	92	100.0

Table 10 shows the analysis of the demographic data based on the completion of Al-Quran. The result has shown that 51 students have completed Al-Quran, meanwhile 41 students have not completed on reading Al-Quran yet.

The Descriptive Analysis

The descriptive analysis has been made to the variable of practicing on reading Al-Quran in section B and the awareness of practicing on reading Al-Quran in section C. The descriptive statistic method has been used the mean value.

Table 11: The descriptive analysis of the students' practicing on reading Al-Quran

Item	Mean	Standard Deviation
I read Al-Quran everyday	2.54	0.670
I read Al-Quran only after performing my prayer	2.70	0.588
I love reading Al-Quran because I know the meaning	2.42	0.715
I read Al-Quran even I am not really good in tajwid	3.17	0.705
I will read Al-Quran even I am busy	2.78	0.693
N	2.71	0.425

Based on Table 11, it shows the data analysis and the result for the practicing on reading Al-Quran. The overall mean value for this variable is 2.71, where it is low. From the 5 items in the variables, the highest mean value is "I read Al-Quran even I am not really good in tajwid" with the mean value is 3.17. The mean value shows that they agree with the statements that had been given to them. Meanwhile, the lowest is 2.42 for the item "I love reading Al-Quran because I know the meaning".

Table 12 shows the analysis and the result in the students' awareness level to the practicing on reading Al-Quran. The overall mean value for the construct is 3.69, and it is on the higher level. The item "I realized that reading Al-Quran is one of the ways to increase my piousness" shows the highest mean value which is 3.76. It shows that all students are agreeing to this statement. The item "I realized the importance of reading Al-Quran in our daily life" shows the mean value of 3.42.

Table 12: The descriptive analysis based on the awareness of practicing on reading Al-Quran

Item	Mean	Standard Deviation
I realized the importance on reading Al-Quran in our daily life	3.62	0.571
I can feel the calmness when I am reading Al-Quran	3.65	0.563
I realized that reading Al-Quran is the way to be closed to Allah	3.74	0.511
I realized that reading Al-Quran is the way to increase my piousness	3.76	0.521
I realized that reading Al-Quran is a good practice	3.73	0.516
I realized that reading Al-Quran can build a good behavior	3.72	0.520
I realized that improving the tajwid and reading is a need	3.64	0.505
N	3.69	0.445

T-test

T-test has been done to those two variable items based on the gender which are the variable of practicing on reading Al-Quran and the awareness of practicing on reading Al-Quran. The analyzed data show based on Table 13.

Table 13: The comparison of mean value, standard deviation and t-test

Variable	Gender	Mean	Standard Deviation	T-Value	Significant Level (p)
Practicing	Male	2.64	0.43	-1.55	0.13
	Female	2.78	0.42		
Awareness	Male	3.71	0.34	0.43	0.66
	Female	3.67	0.53		

Based on Table 13, the variable on the awareness has the highest mean value to the male students is 3.71 and female students is 3.67 as the mean value. Based on that mean value, it can infer that male students have more awareness of practicing on reading Al-Quran than the female students.

The t-test "independent samples test" shows there is no significant difference between the variables of practicing and awareness based on the gender. It is proven that the significance for practicing is 0.13, and awareness is 0.66 ($p=0.05$).

Practicing on Reading Al-Quran

The overall mean value of the variable is 2.71, and it is low. It shows that the practicing on reading Al-Quran among the students is very low. The item "I read Al-Quran even I am not really good in tajwid" obtains the highest mean value to 3.17. The result from t-test shows male and female students from the practicing Al-Quran aspect is low, and both genders do not show any different about the practice. The result from this research explains that a low level of practicing on reading Al-Quran for Politeknik Kuala Terengganu is one of the challenges of the lecturers to make sure the level of students' achievement for their oral test increased and can

be carried out smoothly. It is also helped the lecturers to plan or improvise in order to increase the students' interest to read Al-Quran as their daily activity. In [13] explains that female students (43.3%) are more often and consistent in reading Al-Quran on Fridays' night than the percentage of male students (26.91%), except for Friday's night and even during Ramadhan. The result of the practicing in reading Al-Quran is not yet a culture to them in their daily life or even for Ramadhan.

In [14] describes about the reading of Al-Quran among the Malay students at UiTM Shah Alam. It shows that 72% of students can read Al-Quran moderately, 21% smoothly and 7% not smooth. Besides, about 93% of them can feel the calmness when they read Al-Quran, almost 2% do not feel anything and 5% are not sure. It is an obligation for all Muslims to be able to read Al-Quran and also understanding and practicing it. On the other hand, it is not only the contents can be taken as our guide but reading it also can bring the calmness and it is the worship. It is well shown in a hadith:

“Will not assemble a group of people in the mosque reading and learning the verses of Al-Quran except will be given to them the peacefulness with the blessing from Allah and he will always say their names” [2]

Awareness of Practicing in Reading Al-Quran

Overall mean value for the awareness of practicing on reading Al-Quran is collected from this research is 3.69 at the high level. It shows that the students' awareness on the practicing on reading is positive. The result in the item “I realized that reading Al-Quran is one of the ways to increase our piousness” is higher which is 3.76. The analyzed result from t-test shows that male and female students have the awareness of practicing on Al-Quran. Both genders do not show any different in that aspect. With that, it will help the lecturer to sketch the programs to nourish and improve the students' interest to make the reading of Al-Quran as a practice and give a positive impact to the students.

In [1] states that, the implementation of practicing on something is to make used to and as an exercise to achieve something. In the context of practicing on reading Al-Quran, exercises need to be done by the students for them to learn reading it. The processes of making it into the wholehearted needed to be performed with the discipline, orderly and consistent. To implant the element of practicing to the students, it depends on a few factors which are environments, parents, friends and institution [6]. In [3] states the benefits of reading and memorizing Al-Quran from towards children. It will strength the tongue to read the letter correctly and say it with the correct makhraj.

CONCLUSION

Al-Quran is a holy book of Allah (swt) as a guide in life now and hereafter to all Muslims without looking at the race, place and time. To make it as a guide, we need to dive into via reading, memorizing, understanding and practicing it.

The result shows the level of practicing on reading Al-Quran among the new students of Politeknik Kuala Terengganu is still low. However, from the overall aspect of the importance of practicing on reading Al-Quran is high. It will give a picture to the Politeknik Kuala Terengganu especially to the Islamic studies' lecturers on what is the plan of the activities in order to increase students' interest in reading Al-Quran in their daily life.

Based on this result, a few suggestions on the activities that can be done by the lecturers at Politeknik Kuala Terengganu to achieve the objective of practicing on reading Al-Quran:

- i. Organizing a cured class on reading Al-Quran to the students who are cannot read it well.
- ii. Organizing the competitions on reading Al-Quran to the students from each department or even class.
- iii. Organizing a workshop of Tahsin Al-Quran to correcting the reading and increasing the knowledge about the tajwid, makhraj and tarannum among the students.

In conclusion, this research will help the Islamic studies' lecturers and will continue the effort to make sure the practicing on reading Al-Quran will be continued.

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