

A Self Directed E-Learning Tool for Learning Al-Quran Based on the Nazam Al-Quran Concept

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Abstract. God declared Al-Quran as the ultimate life guide for human being especially Muslim. Al-Quran is revealed to all human being in general as the target group although it specified the *Muttaqin* as the group, which will benefit from it (Al-Quran 2:2). Understanding Al-Quran to render it as a practical life guide has however posed a challenging task for the general audience of which the Al-Quran is intended for. This paper describe a proposal for a conducive learning tool for the general Muslim public for learning and understanding Al-Quran based on the model for learning Al-Quran utilizing the Nazam Al-Quran model originally proposed by Hamiduddin Farahi (1863 - 1930). The model specified a top down view of Al-Quran utilizing a different levels of abstraction consisting of group of surahs, pair of surahs, a surah, blocks in surah, and verses down to words in a verse. The design of the e-learning tool enable a drill down functionality, which help learners to undergo a self-directed exploration of Al-Quran besides taking advantage of a learning community environment provided by the e-learning platform it runs on.

INTRODUCTION

God declared Al-Quran as the ultimate life guide for human being especially Muslim. Al-Quran is revealed to all human being in general as the target group although it specified the *Muttaqin* as the group, which will benefit from it as mention in Al-Quran (Al-Baqarah,2):

ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٢﴾

This Book, there is no doubt in it, is a guide to those who guard (against evil).

Understanding Al-Quran to render it as a practical life guide has however posed a challenging task for the general audience of which the Al-Quran is intended for. It required appropriate knowledge and teachers, which is sometime difficult to be accessed at all times. However, by using computer technology with an appropriate software and hardware, the learners can learn and understand the Al-Quran with computer assistant, especially through web and mobile-based applications (Atweel et al., 2010; Ta'a, et al., 2015).

The use of object learning for developing learning material has gained a lot of attention especially in the self-directed, active learning job training program design. Utilizing a top down model for an Al-Quran self-directed learning model, we propose a flexible architecture for a learning object structure to support the self-directed, active learning model for Al-Quran learning. The learning object support for a top down structure enabling a drilled down functionality in the learning tool. This architecture will provide for a flexible and conducive learning environment allowing learner to adjust their level according to the stages of learning in focus. The structure further enable for a flexible support for the implementation of different active learning approaches like error based training and adjustable self-assessment.

This paper present a research progress for developing a conducive tool for the general Muslim public to learn and understand the Al-Quran based on the model for learning Al-Quran utilizing the Nazam Al-Quran learning model originally proposed by Hamiduddin Farahi (1863 - 1930). The model specified a top down view of Al-Quran utilizing a different levels of abstraction consisting of group of surahs, pair of surahs, a surah, blocks in the surah, and verses down to words in a verse. The design of the e-learning tool enable a drill down functionality, which will help learners to undergo a self-directed exploration of Al-Quran besides taking advantage of a learning community environment provided by the e-learning platform it runs on.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research adopts the design science approach, which describes the process used to identify, develop and evaluate the self-directed Al-Quran learning model (Kuechler and Vaishnavi, 2008). The main purpose of design science research is

to achieve knowledge and understanding the problem domain by building a model and application. This research focuses on building and evaluating the new self-directed Al-Quran learning model for encouraging learners to learn Al-Quran by their own. The methodology possessed of three phases as shown in Figure 1:

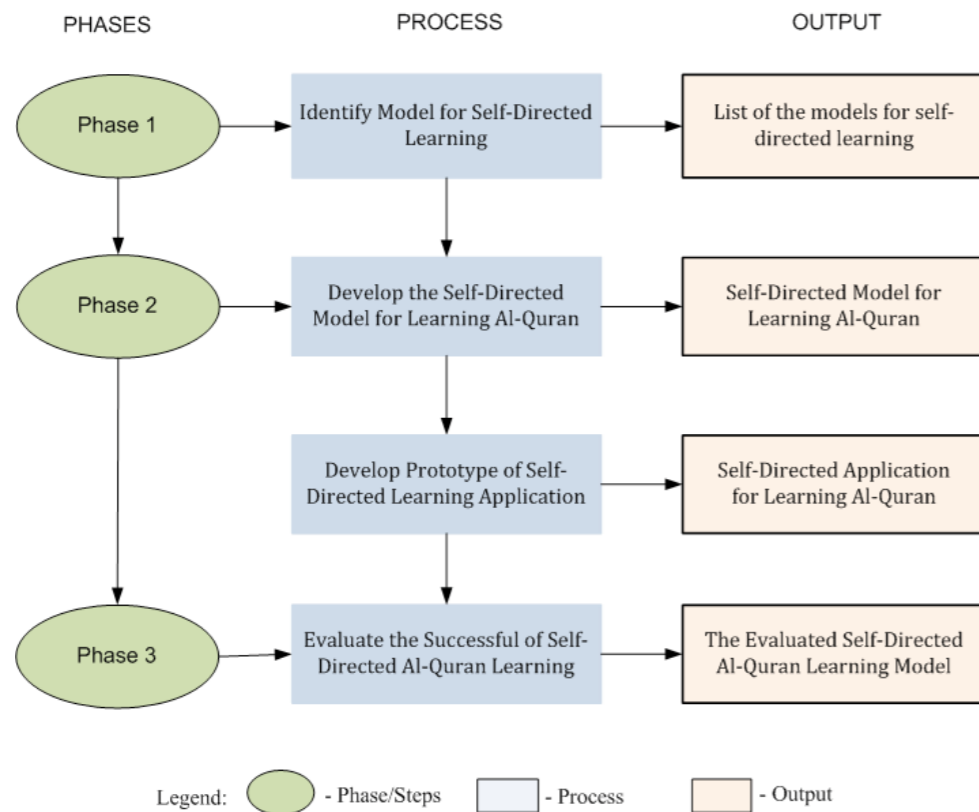


Fig 1: The Research Methodology

The research activities drive the achievement of the research that comprises of the objectives for each of the phases explained as follows:

Phase 1: Identify Model for Self-Directed Learning. There are several models for self-directed learning have been introduced by the researchers, which focused on the cognitive aspect of learning approach. These approaches which considered traditional methods will be explored in order to produce new model for self-directed learning that support the learning process of Al-Quran contents. Then, the success of objective to identify the self-directed learning model in phase 1 will be achieved.

Phase 2: Develop the Self-Directed Model for Learning Al-Quran. The selected self-directed model identify from the phase 1 will be used to design and develop self-directed Al-Quran learning model. The elements defined for self-directed learning model will be used and adapted to suit the purpose of Al-Quran learning, which really concern on the correctness of the meaning of the Al-Quran. Based on the defined model, an application (a prototype) for self-directed learning tool is developed. The learners will be given to test the learning tool and give a feedback about their “self-directed” experiences.

Phase 3: Evaluate the Successful of Self-Directed Al-Quran Learning. The evaluation of the successes of the self-directed model will be performed. Two approaches will be conducted, first by using expert review, which is getting feedbacks from the expert domain (Well-known scholars in Al-Quran) to verify the model. Second, the prototype application of self-directed learning tool will be evaluated through user experiences. These evaluations will determine the success of the proposed self-directed learning model.

THE NAZAM AL-QURAN LEARNING MODEL

Currently, the development of the self-directed learning of AL-Quran model has completed. The model is based on the Nazam Al-Quran concept initiated by Hamiduddin Farahi (1863 - 1930), and later on completed by his mentee Amin Ahsan Islahi (1904 - 1997), (Mir, 1986), (Islahi, 2007) besides utilizing theories and models in the self-directed learning research area. The proposed general Quranic Learning model is a part of a five stages framework for learning alQuran consisting of:

1. Pre requisites
2. Al-Quran walk through
3. Analysis of Understanding Al-Quran content (Tadabbur)
4. Further Al-Quran exploration

In view of the four stages, the formalized Nazam al-Quran model fits well for the second and the third stages. Tools to be developed from the formalized Nazam al-Quran model will support for self-directed learning of Al-Quran exploration. The formalized model is basically a top down formalization of the nazam Al-Quran concept realized in the form of the complete tafsir volumes titled *Tadabbur Al-Quran* by Islahi. The model is depicted in the Figure 2.

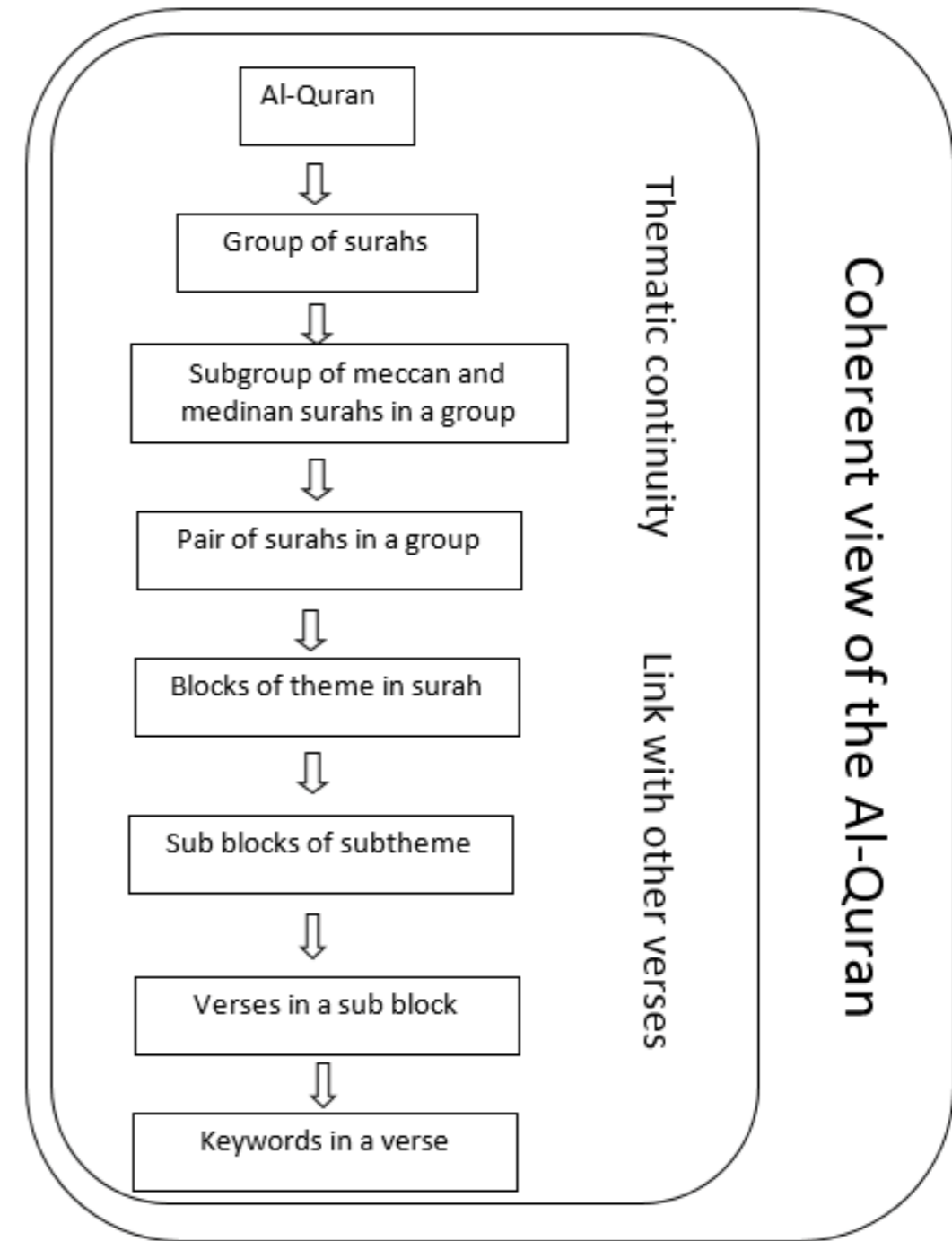


Fig 2. The Nazam Al-Quran Learning Model

In terms of the self-directed learning model, this research adapted the Boekaerts Dual Processing Model (Boekaerts, 2011, p 408 - 425). The model formalized nazam alQuran model enhance the implementation of the self-directed learning model as proposed by Fischer and Sugimoto (2006). The tools was developed based on this model very suitable supportive tool for enhancing self-directed exploration of Al-Quran for the walkthrough and tadabbur stages.

THE RESULTS

The on-going self-directed learning tools development for AL-Quran is based on the top down characteristics of the model translated into a drill down enable capability. Learners will be supplied with needed information to embark on a smooth experience of self-directed exploration of the Al-Quran. The tool is also flexible enough to be used by a learner of different levels of background. The self-directed learning tool was developed using PhP web programming language with MySQL database. Several screen shoot examples of the tool are shown in Figure 3.

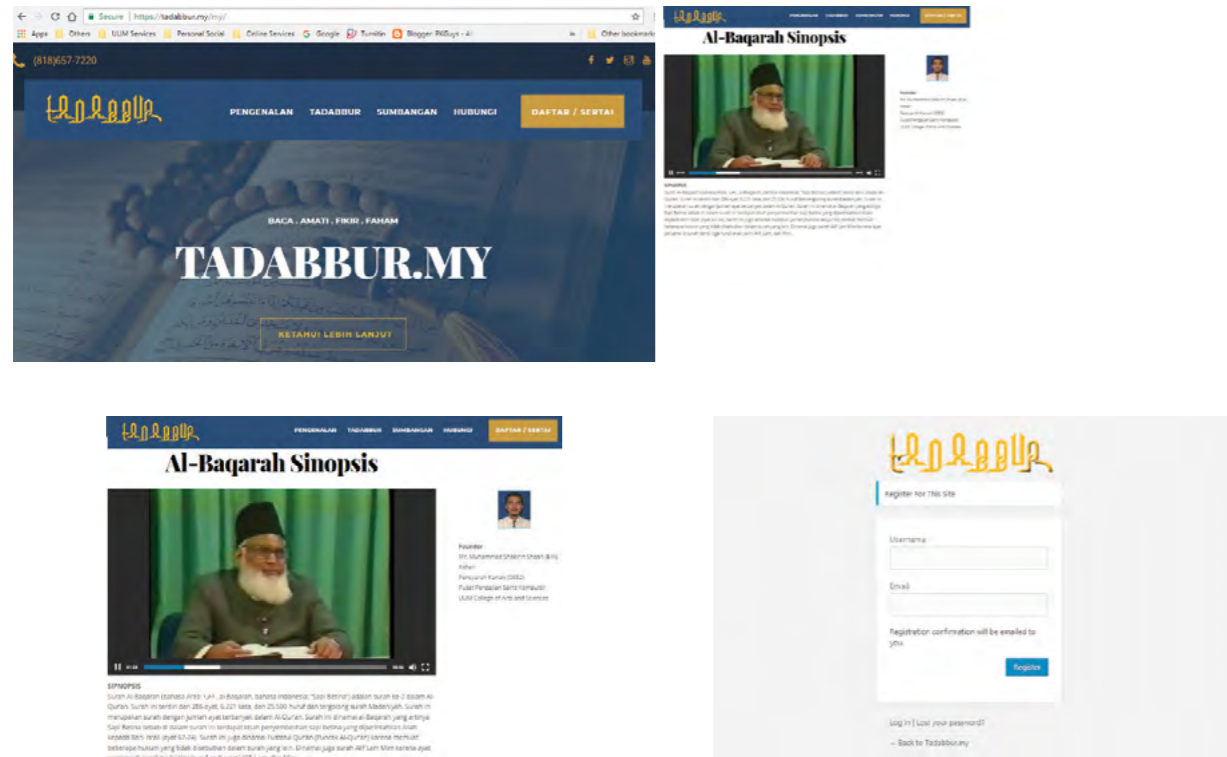


Fig 3. Screen Shots for Self-Directed Learning Tool

In walkthrough stage tool, the user can avoid drilling too deep to the word or terminologies level to avoid them falling into confusions of linguistics and arguments from different scholar opinions. The deeper level of the contents basically provides for arguments of why certain opinions is better than the others besides proofs or *nusus* backing certain interpretation. The kind of detail level provided by the deeper level is useful and needed for those who are in the *tadabbur* (analysis of understanding) level.

CONCLUSION

The coherent view of Al-Quran is important aspects and ideal framework for enhancing self-directed exploration of Al-Quran learning. It guides learners from being lost in the exploration in the midst of the mixed and random themes introduction of the contents of Al-Quran as held by the non-coherent proponent of Al-Quran. The top down model also facilitates for a tool enabling drilled down capabilities of the content of Al-Quran. Implementing the model further with the use of technology helps further the accessibility and provides for conducive cognitive experience for Al-Quran learners, which will result in a better understanding of Al-Quran and furthermore increase the adaptation of Al-Quran as the ultimate guidance in life. The undergoing implementation of the tool based on the model utilize the learning object approach in order to provide for a more flexible maintenance of the contents as the work related to the Al-Quran exegesis or *tafsir* in general and Nazam Al-Quran in particular advances.

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