

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**THE ART OF  
TARANNUM IN QURAN RECITATION  
CASE STUDY: SURAH AD-DHUHA**

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## **Declaration of Authorship**

"I declare that this thesis is the result of my own work with the exception of the ideas and summaries which I have clarified their sources. This thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted as candidature for any degree"

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## ABSTRACT

With the advancement of technology in communication as well as development of music from years to years, people especially Muslims are lack of knowledge in Islamic sounds art or also known as *handasah al-sawt*. Majority of them are only listened to the popular music, and not many have interested into Islamic wonderful sounds of art. Sadly, only a part group of audiences have interest to listen and to appreciate this sounds art including *tarannum*, a technique to recite Quran in melodious way using Arabic modes called *maqam*, is considered alien to many people even Muslims. *Tarannum*, is one of the most significant techniques to recite *surah* in Quran. In order to give information and to recognize the musicality texture in Quran recitation, I have conducted this research study through extensive readings on *tarannum* and also the art of sounds in Islam. In addition, I also make an analysis of *tarannum* techniques using musicality terms and characteristics through transcriptions of one of the *surah* in Quran. For my case study, I had focused on a *Surah AD-Dhuha*. The findings of this research showed the basic elements in *tarannum* and the techniques in Quran recitation. Although there are elements of music found in the analysis, the Quran recitation strictly cannot be called music.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

The Quran is certainly the greatest literary work in classical Arabic and for all Muslims stands as the definitive word of Allah S.W.T. spoken to the Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. by Jibrail. Quran is organized into separate chapters called *surah*. The order of the *surah*, however, does not reflect the chronological order of the Quranic verses, nor does the *surah* structure reflect the nature of the original Quranic revelation.<sup>1</sup>

In dealing with the subject related to music in Islam, a Muslim cannot avoid from the arguments about the Islamic views on music. From past years until nowadays, the arguments about music have been widely debated between scholars and *ulama*'. In Islam, Quran recitation is not music. Quran recitation is one of the Islamic sounds arts where we called it "*Handasah al-sawt*" or "*The Art of Sound*".

In reference to Lamiya Al-Faruqi; she said that at the peak of importance and acceptability in the Muslim hierarchy of *handasah al-sawt* expression is the pitched recitation of the Holy Quran. In addition, she also said that *qiraah* has never been considered by Muslims to be form as music and every Muslims agreed that Quran recitation is the most sublime example of *handasah al-sawt*.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hooker, Richar. *The Quran*(1999) <http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/ISLAM/QURAN.HTM>

<sup>2</sup>Al-Faruqi, Lois Lamiya. *The Shariah on Music and Musicians*.  
[http://epistemology.net/attachments/498\\_Chapter%204%20The%20Shariah%20on%20Music%20an%20Musicians\\_.pdf](http://epistemology.net/attachments/498_Chapter%204%20The%20Shariah%20on%20Music%20an%20Musicians_.pdf)