UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

DEVELOPMENT A PROTOTYPE OF AN INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA APPLICATION FOR THE ARABIC LANGUAGE YEAR ONE

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ABSTRACT

The Arabic language is taught in primary schools as one of the additional subjects. It is hoped that this basic exposure will arouse the children's interest in learning the language and help them to be competent in using the language later on. However, research shows that students' level of competency is still very low. This is due to several reasons such as the exam oriented educational system, teaching pedagogical approaches which do not focus on language competency and lack of using the appropriate teaching aids and gadgets. Consequently, this research aims at using the interactive multimedia applications specifically focusing on the listening and speaking skills. The process is based on Hanafin & Peck (1988) model as a guideline with some modifications to its flow charts. Its finding reveals a prototype interactive multimedia application in a form of Compact Disk for year one learners. This research finding is based on application process which uses both the qualitative as well as quantitative research. A structured interview is used in the qualitative research and all data which are taken from four Arabic pedagogical experts will be analysed manually. The quantitative research uses questionnaires as its instrument. Data are collected and analysed using SPSS 21.0 from thirty respondents who are teachers of Arabic language. The reseach finding shows that the Arabic Language interactive multimedia prototype applications for year one needs to be upgraded to improve year one learners' both listening and speaking skills.

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CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In Malaysia, Arabic studies has taken root since the 16th century indicating that the Arabic civilization in Malaysia has reached nearly 500 years (Muhammad Fauzi, 2010). In the context of language teaching today, the Arabic language is usually introduced in primary schools. It is seen as a foreign language or a third language and has primarily been prescribed as an additional subject to all Muslim students as of 2003 (Curriculum Development, 2009). Exposure to the Arabic language in early education has been deemed important in instilling a sense of fun and interest in learning the basics of the Arabic language while enabling students to master basic skills in Arabic and allowing them to communicate using simple sentences.

Language skills include listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. All four of which are important to master Arabic. Therefore, it is applied in Curriculum Standard Arabic to achieve Arabic Primary School Standard Curriculum (SSR), namely language skills. Language skills can be taught through an edutainment approach using the technique of singing, acting and language games. Accordingly, the application of multimedia in teaching is the best medium for presenting elements of edutainment which is in tandem with today's technology. Therefore, the these language skills are integrated into the Standard Arabic curriculum to achieve the Arabic Primary school Standard. Results of this kind of application is expected to help students learn Arabic with ease and in a fun environment thus enhancing the students' language skills.

1.2 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

In a world of globalization, international competition is growing. With the government being aware of this fact, initiative has been taken to introduce the Government Transformation Programme in 2010 with a focus on six National Key Result Areas, better known as the