

Development of Al-Quran Android Application from Year 2013 To 2016: The Highlight

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Abstract

The global market has experienced a huge increase in the number of mobile apps since the number of smartphone users shows a good rapid. Along with that, it gives an opportunity for the development of Islamic apps which is able to compete with the other apps. Nowadays, Al-Quran can be access through digital and it is not limited to books only, this shows that it is equally competitive with other scientific fields. This article is to highlight the development of android application of Al-Quran in Malay, Arabic and English from 2013 to 2016. The aim is to identify the types of android applications of Al-Quran in the market and that can be a quick reference medium for Muslim today. The study focused on the aspects of content and design for every type of Al-Quran application. As a result, there are about more than 500 Al-Quran apps that are using android platform in the market. However, the existing Al-Quran application does not cover all the current needs of Muslims because most of the applications only focuses on the Al-Quran and its translation into multiple languages, audio readings of Al-Quran, the identification section Makiyah or Madaniyah, recitation, reduction of Al-Quran sentences (*asbab annuzul*) and the index of the Al-Quran. This study is expected to give an idea to the application designer to fill the gap in existing applications in the future.

Keywords: *Smartphone, content, design, al-quran application, android*

INTRODUCTION

Al-Quran is the word of Allah, revealed to Prophet Muhammad s.a.w aimed to guide people from darkness to the light. Revealed through angel Gabriel A.S in Arabic language, narrated by stages, and reading it is a worship. It is an excellent book and a complete guidance for people to manage all aspects of daily life in the world. (Al-Qattan, 1937). The rapid development of information and communication technology has enabled the information received faster by simply using the computer that has an Internet access. (Chuah, 2013). Today, the information also can be accepted quickly by simply using a smartphone and it is helpful for activities to disseminate information quickly and easily and is particularly useful in the context of preaching . (Nurkaliza et al., 2015). Next, mobile apps are software applications designed to run

on smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices. They are typically available through app stores which are operated by the owners of the mobile operating system. By 2020, mobile apps are forecast to generate around 189 billion U.S. dollars in revenues via app stores and in-app advertising. Some of the most popular operating system-native stores are Apple's App Store, Google Play, as well as Windows Phone Store and BlackBerry App World. As of March 2017, there are 2.8 million available apps at Google Play Store and 2.2 billion apps available in the Apples App Store, the two leading app stores in the world. ("Statistics and facts," 2017). Thus, the researchers took the initiative to highlight the types of Quran in Malay, English and Arabic in web market which can be access via smart phones and that can be used as a quick reference medium for Muslims today.

METHODOLOGY

This is a qualitative research and it is related to three (3) application with different languages starting from year 2013 to 2016. There are big difference on how adult spent their time on mobile apps between year 2012 (1.6 hours per day) and 2013 (2.3 hours per day), which led this research to be started from year 2013. The hours of smartphone usage represent the mobile apps usage. (Dave, 2015). The approximate upload year for the application is referred from <http://www.appbrain.com>. The aspect that has been highlighted from this research is the content and design of the application. From the perspective of contents, the aspect of analysis highlights on the features offered while for design, it is based on the user friendly, theme and its color.

OBJECTIVES

Objective that need to be achieved in this research is:

1. To make an identification on the type of Al-Quran application in Android Market.
2. To make a comments regarding the design and contents of Al-Quran application.

FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Researcher categorized the type of Al-Quran android application based on the language used which is Malay, Arabic and English and by year starting from 2013 to 2016.

Year 2013 Application

Application in year 2013 are Quran Bahasa Melayu, Quran- English Translation and Khatm Quran.

Quran Bahasa Melayu

This is Malay language apps provided by MartinVillar.com with their email info@martinvillar.com . Uploaded on 9 January 2013 and last updated on 30 September 2016 with 3.9.3 version of 10.1MB size. The content rating is suitable for everyone and until now, it reached by 1+ million installs. This app allowed users to access 30 Juz' of Al-Quran with translation in Bahasa Melayu. Besides, users can hear audio recitation by qari Abdullah Basfar. However, this application does not contain any interpretation of the Quran and their contents

are sorted according to a specific theme. In terms of design, it is user friendly with the verses of the Quran and its translations are structured by chapter. Meanwhile, the audio provided allows user to know the time frame of an audio installation. Next, the color theme used on the Al-Quran and its translation are same. It should be improved by making them different to avoid confusion.



Figure 1: Quran Bahasa Melayu

Quran-English Translation

This apps is in English. Offered by ImranQureshi with their email android@contactimran.com. Uploaded on 9 April 2013 with size 1.61MB and 2.2 version. Last updated on 16 April 2013. The content rating is for everyone and this apps reached 100+- thousand installs. It works perfectly on android 2.2 version and above. For the content, this apps has 114 chapters separated with Makiyah and Madaniyah based on the time that chapters revealed to Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. It was translated in English by Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din al-Hilali and Muhammad Muhsin Khan. Then, in terms of application design, it is user-friendly because the available search button allow users go to the desired chapters straightaway without having to scroll it down. In addition, the text size can be set up according to the user requirements. However, the translation seems to make user confuse when it is put together with the Al-Quran verse.

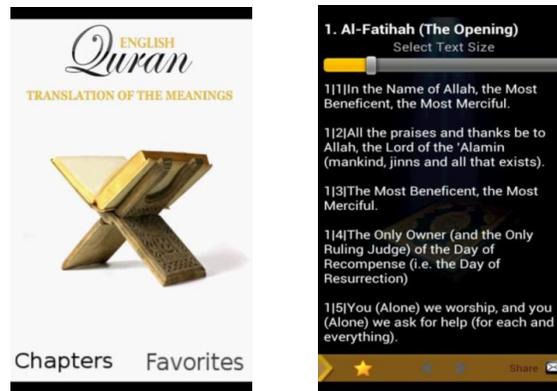


Figure 2: Quran –English Translation

Khatm Quran

This is an Arabic apps offered by Simppro. Their email is android@simppro.com and this apps was uploaded to users on 9 July 2013 with 2.3 version. The size is 31.9MB and it was last updated on 22 September 2015. It reached 1+ million installs and the content rating is for everyone. It works perfectly on android 2.3 version and above. This app has 30 juz' of completed Al-Quran verses . It also provides a complete duration to end the Al-Quran reading (khatam Al-Quran), verses need to be read every day, page reading now and the balance of page that need to be read before completion of reading the whole Al-Quran. Besides, users also can bookmark the page with red for reading now, yellow for must read, and green for should read of Al-Quran. For the design, the soft color theme make the letters clear and embossed. The composition of Al-Quran is very clear and bright as it allows user to read it like reading a printed Al-Quran version. However, the image section display is not in HD (High Definition) so improvements need to be made to sharpen the image.

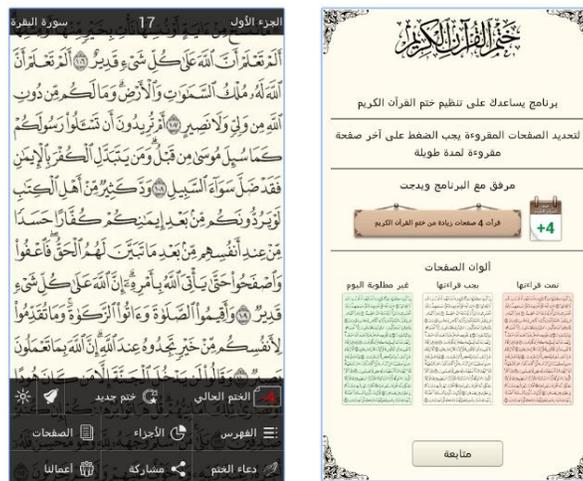


Figure 3: Khatm Quran

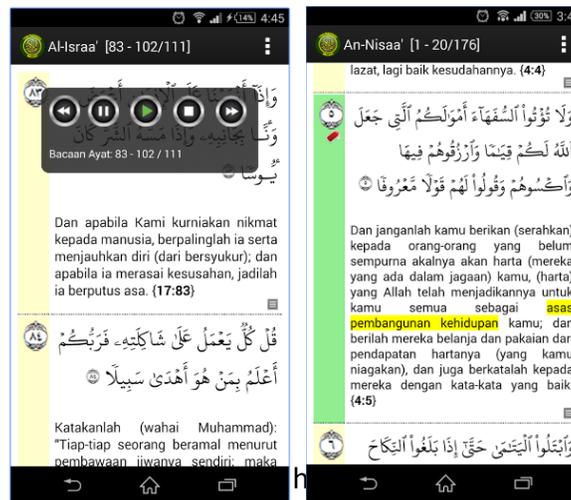
Year 2014 Application

Al-Quran android application on 2014 are Terjemahan Quran Melayu, Al-Quran with English Translation and FeZilal Al-Quran.

Terjemahan Quran Melayu

This apps is in Malay language provided by DZoul, uploaded on 15 September 2014 with 6.32MB size. Their email is dzoul.it@gmail.com. The version of this application is currently 2.24 and it last updated on 28 November 2016. The content rating is suitable for everyone and now it reaches 100+ thousand install. This application works perfectly on android 4.4 version. This apps is completed with 30 juz' Al-Quran with Malay translation by Syeikh Abdullah Muhammad Basmeih. Al-Quran text in Rasm Uthmaniyy and the audio recitation by Syeikh Misyary Rashid Al-Afasy. The color theme built is in user friendly mode with the use of clear and soft color interval with each other to differentiate the chapters. Besides, copy and paste function also available to copy Al-Quran and translation text to another software and application for example Microsoft

Word. Here, it is proven that this application is very user friendly and easy to use with variety of different functions.



Al-Quran with English Audio

This is English language apps offered by Imagination to Innovation and their email is imaginationtoinnovation@gmail.com. It was uploaded on 9 December 2014 and last update was made on 26 June 2015 with 1.1 version and 2.81MB size. The content rating for this application is for everyone and the user need an android of 2.3 and above to open this application. Until now, this apps has reached 10+- thousand installs. This apps complete with 30 juz' Al-Quran with English translation and its validity recognized by Saheeh International. Transliteration also has been provided in this apps. Next, audio recitation by Saad Ghamidi, Abdullah Basfar dan Abdul Basit Abdul Samad has been provided by the developer. In order to play this audio, user need to download it first by click on the audio button. The color theme built is in user friendly mode with the used of clear and soft color interval with each other to differentiate the verses. Color and size of the text can be changed by user and audio button provided is parallel to the recital of Al-Quran verse. Bookmark function is available for user to bookmark the work needed.

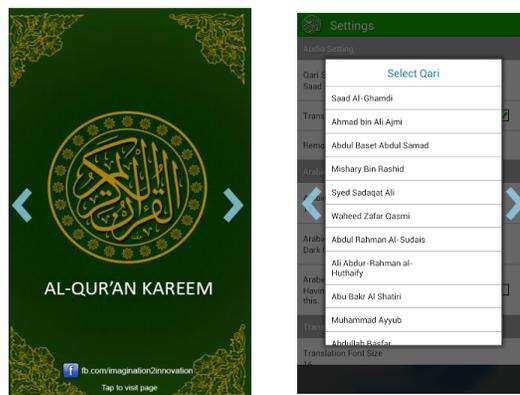


Figure 5: Al-Quran With English Audio

FeZilal AlQuran (في ظلال القرآن)

This is an Arabic application provided by Arabia for Information and Technology and their email are zeenapss@gmail.com. Uploaded on 11 January 2014 and last updated on 14 January 2014 with 1 version and 14 MB size. The content rating is for everyone and required android of 4.0 to run this application. Until now, this application has reached 50+- thousand installs. The content of this application is commentary book Fi Zilalil Quran by Sayyid Qutb. It allows user to surf a book in an interactive way and make faster and easy access to the certain commentary of the verses. User can choose any chapters and also can search any verses and its commentary. Bookmark feature also available in this application to allow user bookmark the verses as a reference. For the design, the combination of dark and light color make user easy to access this application. It is user friendly with variety of features like search keyword which is located at the above section. However, using a fades image as a background is not appropriate and it needs to be changed into plain color image.



Figure 6: FeZilal AlQuran

Year 2015 Application

Al-Quran Bahasa Melayu MP3, Holy Quran – 100+ Reciters and Surat Yusuf with Tafsir are Al-Quran android applications in 2015.

Al-Quran Bahasa Melayu MP3

This application is in Malay language provided by Quran Reading. Their email is cyberdesignz12@gmail.com. It is uploaded on 24 December 2015 and last updated on 1 December 2016. It is 1.6 version with 2.8MB size. The content rating is for everyone and it needs an android version of 2.3 and above to run this application. Until now, it has reached 500+ thousand install. This application help users to read Al-Quran with correct pronunciation (tajweed) using MP3 audio recitation and transliteration. Al-Quran audio recitation can be downloaded at once or separated along with juz' needed. Besides, this Al-Quran application also provides translation in English, Spain and Urdu. In terms of design, it allows user to change the color theme, size and type of font. It also allows user to bookmark the verses. Here, there is an interaction between user and the system itself that is call as user friendly.

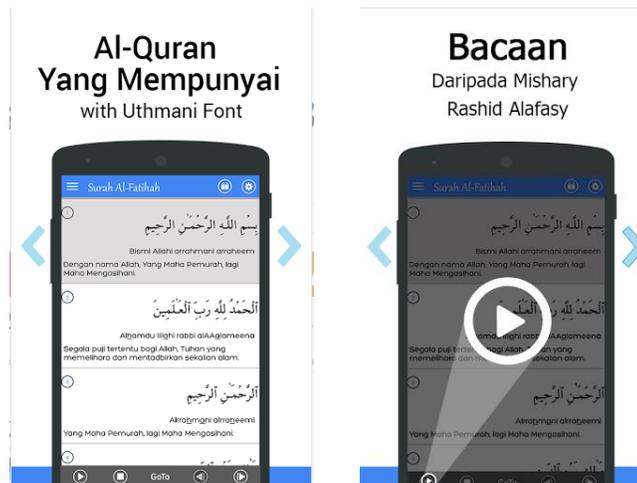


Figure 7 Al-Quran Bahasa Melayu MP3

Holy Quran- 100+ Reciters

This apps is in English language, offered by Mobile Sagnatore and their email is elhachadi.buisness@gmail.com. It is uploaded on 19 June 2015 and 2.0 version with 12.9 MB size. The last update for this application is on 3 August 2016. Until now, the content rating is for everyone and it has reached 100+ thousand install. For running this apps, it requires an android with 2.3.3 version and above. In this apps, it has more than 100 audio recitation from the best reciter all around the world. For example, Abdul Basit Abdul Samad, Naseer Al-Qatami and Saad Al-Ghamidi. It also provides Al-Quran text in PDF file. The audio recitation can be played either online or offline. For offline audio, user need to download it first. However, frequently read chapter like Yaasin, Al-Mulk and Al-Baqarah was installed by default in this apps. For design, images appeared to introduce the reciters make this apps is user friendly because not all the user know the reciters. Next, PDF Al-Quran can make user read Al-Quran as a printed version. However, background theme and color of text used are dark and appear to be same so this apps need to make some improvement in terms of color.

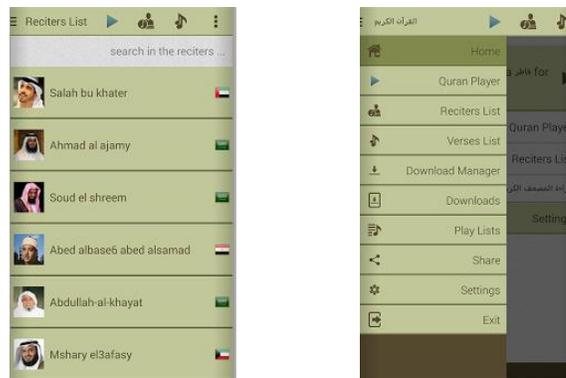


Figure 8: Holy Quran- 100+ Reciters

Surat Yusuf with Tafsir

This is an Arabic language application offered by Quran For Muslims and their email is quranformuslim15@gmail.com. It is uploaded on 2 November 2015 and updated on 6 March 2016 with the latest version of 2.0 and 3.73MB size. The content rating is for everyone and has reached 5+ thousand installs until now. To run this application, it needs 2.3 android version and above. This apps has a recitation of chapter Yusuf by Arabic reciter. It allows user to hear and download chapter Yusuf with commentary in MP3 format. The commentary was from Syeikh Aid Al-Qami. The features offered in this application included repetition of verses and auto connect from one track to another track of verses. It is because the audio was separated to certain part along with the commentary which is verses 1 to 6, verses 7 to 15, verses 16 to 22 and end of verses in the chapter. In terms of design, the use of brown color makes this application looks elegant and luxurious. Buttons are also available in contrasting color and it is easy to use without worrying it will be confused with another button.



4.4 Year 2016 Application

Juz Amma + Terjemahan, The Holy Quran Full 60 Hizb MP3 and مصحف التجويد الملون برواية ورش (Coloured Mushaf Tajweed with Reading Style Warsh) are Al-Quran android applications in 2016.

Juz Amma + Terjemahan

This is an Al-Quran apps in Malay language developed by Seven Goal. Their email is sarmingekloiu@gmail.com. It was uploaded at apps market on 11 February 2016 and it is last updated on 15 Februari 2016. This apps is 1.0 version and the file size is 4.37MB. The content rating are for everyone and until now, it reached 500+ installs. This apps contains Al-Quran from Juz 30. Juz 30 is the most commonly memorized because there are most of the chapters are short. This apps content starts from Chapter 78 (An-Naba) to Chapter 114 (An-Nas). It

provides a translation in Malay language along with the verses in Arabic. In term of design, it was helpful and very user friendly because of the arrangement of apps is nice and easy to user to read and understand the verses clearly. For the theme, it using a soft color so it produces a calm setting to read Al-Quran. However, in chapter section, it need an improvement on the background theme.

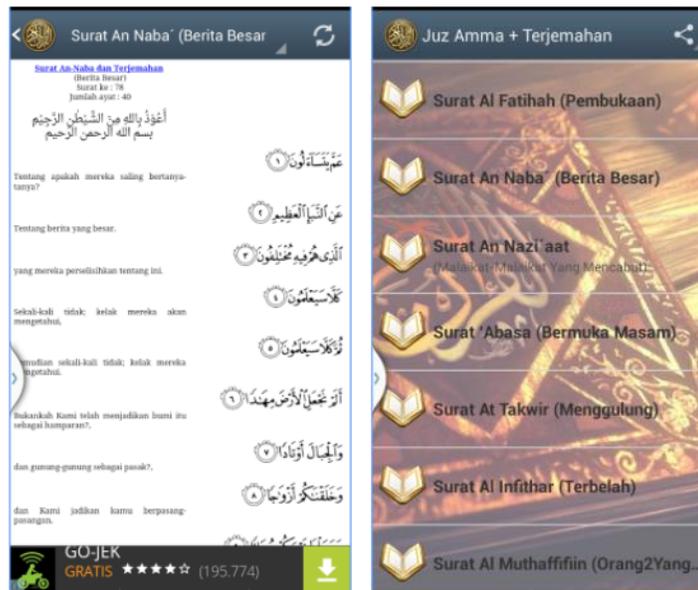


Figure 10: Juz Amma + Terjemahan

The Holy Quran Full 60 Hizb MP3

This is an Al-Quran apps in English language offered by Professional Learning and their email learning.empire@gmail.com. It was uploaded at apps market on 16 October 2016 and there is no update until now. This apps version is 1.0 and the file size is 13.1MB. The content rating is for everyone and until now, it reached 10+ thousand installs. It works perfectly on android 3.0 version and above. This apps is the easiest application for streaming High Quality MP3 Al-Quran which user can listen to the chapters and also read verses at the same time. This features help us to know the correct pronunciation of Al-Quran by hearing the verses and help user to memorize the full text of Al-Quran. This apps have more than fifty Arab famous reciters like Mishary Rashid Al-Afasy and Abdul Rahman al-Sudais. User can listen to the audio either from reading style Hafsh (حفص) or Warsh (ورش). User can also listen to the MP3 audio without internet connection. Next, in terms of design, this apps was built with easy use and friendly use theme. Using soft color, it produces a calm setting to read Al-Quran. List of reciters also listed professionally and it is easier to user to choose the reciter they like.

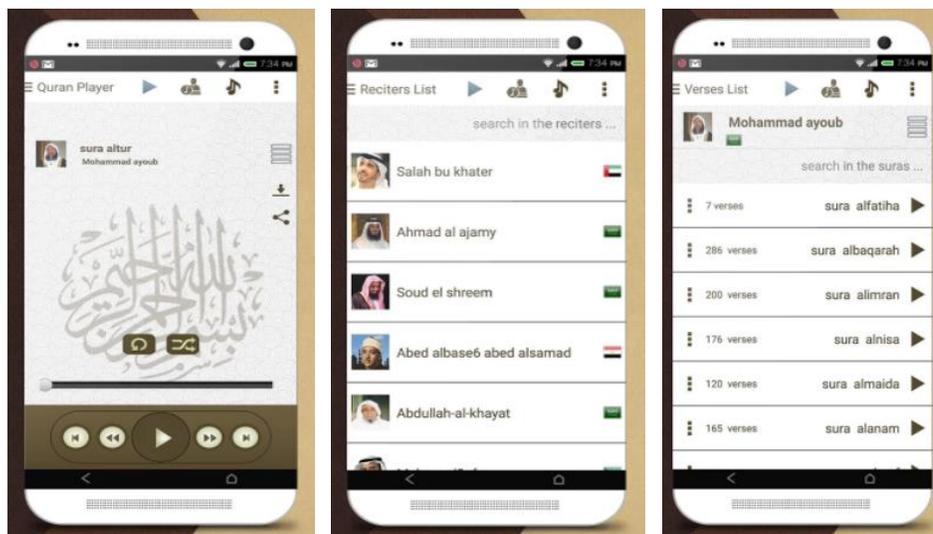


Figure 11: The Holy Quran Full 60 Hizb MP3

4.4.3 *ورش* (Coloured Mushaf Tajweed with Reading Style Warsh)

This is an Al-Quran apps in Arabic language offered by Quran Karim 2016 and their email mariacervel726@gmail.com. It was uploaded at apps market on 16 July 2016 and last update was made on 21 November 2016. This apps is 1.0 version and the file size is 2.88MB. The content rating is for everyone and until now, it reached 50+ thousand installs. This apps is the best application for listen MP3 audio Al-Quran with reading style Warsh AN-Nafi' which user can listen to the chapters freely. This features help us to know the correct reading style pronunciation of Al-Quran from Warsh An-Nafi' by hearing the verses on the chapters. This apps have multiple famous reciters like Umar Al-Kazabri, Uyun Al-Kusyi, and Khalid Al-Jalil. User can also listen to the MP3 audio without internet connection. Next, in terms of design, this apps was built with easy use and friendly use theme. Every reciter have their own background theme. So, user are not confuse with the reciters audio. The list of chapters also arranged based on Al-Quran chapter numbering format.

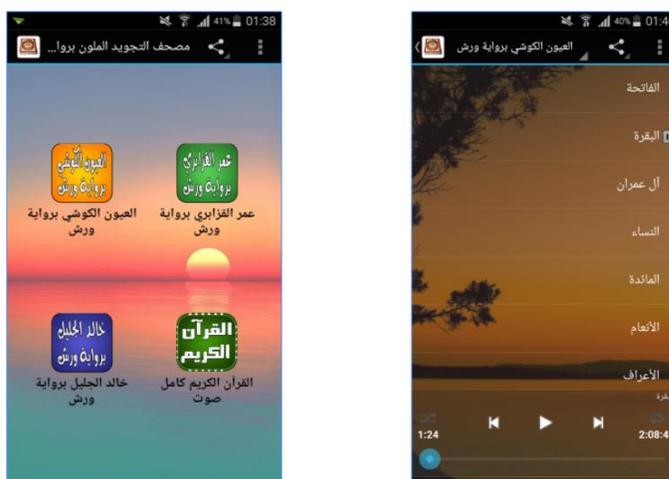


Figure 12: مصحف التجويد الملون برواية ورش (Coloured Mushaf Tajweed with Reading Style Warsh)

CONCLUSION

The Al-Quran android application in the android market have a variety of type, features and languages. Until 2016, there are so many user-friendly and new features like *search*, *focus* and user-changeable feature in applications was developed. Thus, the content of applications also fulfills the need of Muslims as an easy and fast reference. Moreover, it was updated from time to time to improving features offered. Hence, it is very important to the application to be keep on track and up to date by developer so it can meet the expectation of users and give them new and great experience when using that application.

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