



Interest: Factors for Increasing and Decreasing Memorization of The Qur`an

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to find an increase in students' interest in memorizing the Qur`an at SMP IT Amsar. This study used a qualitative approach written descriptively, the methods used for data collection were observations, interviews and documentation. Data analysis and interpretation with Tringulation. The results of the research show that there has been an increase in graduates that occurred before, in 2021 there are 25 students memorizing 1 Juz, 3 students 2 Juz and 1 student 5 Juz. In 2022 it will increase to 1 juz with 36 students, 2 juz with 5 students and 5 juz with 5 students. Increased interest in memorizing the Qur`an due to changes in school principals and changes to the tahfidz al-Quran curriculum. The change in the tahfid curriculum which was previously a regular program became a takhusus program. With the takhusus program, students can focus more on memorizing the Qur`an, so that students become more active in memorizing the Quran.

INTRODUCTION

Al-Quran is the holy book of Muslims which was sent down by Allah through the angel Gabriel, then conveyed to the Prophet Muhammad gradually. Al-Qur`an is not a human composition that comes from human thoughts, experiences and the results of human discussions. The Quran is an eternal divine revelation. Every word contains meaning and guidance for mankind. the instructions contained in the Qur`an are solutions to every problem that is happening (Tanoto, 2022) .

Tahfidz-based schools today are excellent programs that can be used as the main curriculum. Many parents want to send their children to tahfidz-based schools (Syahid, 2019) . The enthusiasm of the people who send their children to school is a sign that the progress of Islam is starting to progress. The more schools that apply the tahfid al-Quran curriculum, the more schools will produce generations of memorizers of the Qur`an. Schools use different strategies to achieve a generation of memorizing the Qur`an, so that it becomes the choice of parents when sending their children to school (Harahap, Samosir, Munawarah, Liyana, & Layli, 2022).

When the prophet Muhammad received his revelations, some Arabs still could not read and write. In the past, the Arabs did not have writing media such as paper, so that every verse of the Qur`an that was revealed would be immediately memorized by their companions (Heni Hermaningsih SM Imam Tabroni, n.d.). Apart from memorizing directly, because there was no paper to write on, Rasulullah ordered to write revelations using palm fronds, animal skins, stones and other objects that could be written at that time. Maintenance by memorizing the Qur`an continues to this day in institutions based on tahfid al-Quran. Every time there is memorization, there are those who just memorize, there are also those who understand the meaning, even *asbabunnuzul* every verse (Rippin, 2013). In the Al-Quran sura al- *Qomar*: 22 is the reason someone memorizes and understands the Qur`an. One of them is the ease of memorizing the Qur`an, the Qur`an as a warning so that when someone goes wrong in life, they will not get lost as long as someone understands the Qur`an. The glory of someone memorizing the Qur`an is also a commendable job and is recommended by Allah, even that person will be guarded by angels who obey Allah. The method of memorizing the Qur`an is the method used by Allah in revealing the Qur`an to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel (Tanoto, 2022) .

Interest is a person's tendency to carry out a job in accordance with what is of interest. When doing a job, a person will focus on doing work with pleasure, so that by doing work according to their interests it will produce satisfaction in the heart. In addition to work, interest can also increase a person's ability to learn something so that when they understand an object, a person will be more curious about the object being studied. (Mukarromah & Pujiastutitik, 2021) .

At present, many children and adults want to memorize the Qur`an. Memorizing the Qur`an is a very difficult but noble task, because when someone memorizes the Qur`an, they will face many challenges such as boredom, fatigue, being unable to manage their time and reducing interest when memorizing the Qur`an. Memorizing the Qur`an is easiest at an early age, because at an early age

children will find it easier to memorize, practice and understand until adulthood. It would be better if the parents taught to instill love for the Qur`an for the first time, so that when they enter a school or Islamic boarding school, it will be easier for the teacher to guide children in memorizing the Qur`an. The existence of educational institutions makes the task of parents teaching the Qur`an lighter, because many institutions provide services for memorizing the Qur`an with academic material, so that children get education to memorize the Qur`an but still get general education (Fadllurrohman, Pratama, & Azizah, 2022) .

SMP IT Amanah Alkautsar (Amsar) is a *boarding school* based on 50% general knowledge and 50% Islamic religious knowledge. Students are educated in a semi-cottage system with a vacation once a month. SMP IT Amsar has only been established for 4 years and many problems have occurred in its development. The tahfidz education system only started in year 4. After 1 year of setting up the tahfidz system, the principal of SMP IT Amsar underwent a replacement because the principal who had previously continued his education had to leave school. The change of school principals with a different tahfidz system shows a different impact. In the previous school principal there was only 1 student's interest in memorizing up to 5 juz, but with the new principal he could increase student interest before the tahfidz test up to 5 students who memorized 5 juz.

The purpose of this study was to find the reasons for the increased interest in memorizing the Qur`an in SMP IT Amsar which is useful for tahfidz al-Quran based schools, in increasing students' interest in memorizing the Qur`an. So by knowing the reasons for the increase in interest, it is hoped that the results of this study can be applied in other schools.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Development Interest

Interest is a very influential factor in improving student learning. Students will study seriously if they have interests and goals to achieve. Therefore, the teacher must be able to provide learning to students, so that students have a high interest in learning so that they can achieve the desired goals. (Malli, 2022) .

One's success in teaching is strongly influenced by the interests of students (Nurilhaq & Tabroni, 2022). If students have an interest in a subject, students will pay more attention to the teacher who teaches the material, conversely if students are not interested in a subject, students will tend to be sleepy or not pay attention to the teacher when teaching (Tabroni, 2019). Interest in learning and great motivation will increase learning outcomes, because students like the subject being taught. Conversely, if students do not grow interest in learning, then even though students have talent but there is no interest, then learning outcomes will not be optimal. (Ester, Br, Sihombing, & Siagian, 2023).

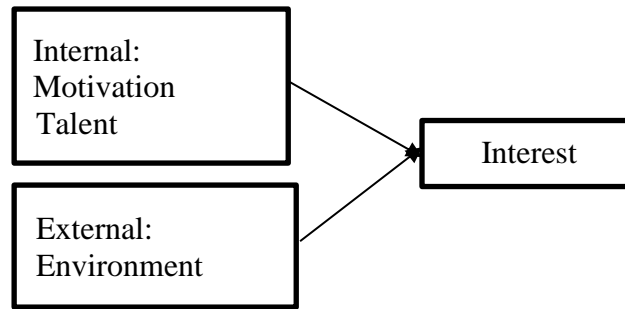


Image 1. A Person's Interest Factor

From the picture above shows the factors that generate a person's interest in achieving goals. Factors that influence a person's interest come from internal and external factors. One of the internal influences is self-motivation, with self-motivation someone will have an interest in doing something so that they can achieve a goal to be achieved. Motivation can grow because it is instilled early on by oneself so that motivation will continue to increase with the maturity of one's mind. Besides motivation, there is also self-confidence. With self-confidence, one will understand what one's potential is within and deficiencies that must be corrected.

External factors are factors that will foster one's interest. External factors come from the environment, both the family environment and the environment of friends or society. The family environment influences because the child will see the activities carried out by the parents on a daily basis, so that the child will easily instill the habits of the parents to become his interest. When parents get used to reading the Qur'an, children will appear interested in reading the Qur'an, that is an interest that comes from the family environment. External factors from the environment of friends or society usually also affect one's interests. If someone interacts with the trading environment, children will tend to be interested in trading, the business environment, educators and other environments play a very important role in one's interest (Ni Made Rustini, 2019)

The factor of interest in memorizing the Qur'an on external factors is building collaboration between academics and *Mudabbir* (teachers) specifically for memorizing the Qur'an. The process carried out by educational institutions seems to have increased when the institutional environment where students learn works together to build students' interest in memorizing the Qur'an (Thontawi et al., 2022).

Tahfid Al-Qur'an

Tahfidz comes from the word تَحْفِيزًا which means "memorizing" or also "keeping", tahfidz al-Quran can be interpreted as the process of memorizing or keeping the recitation of the Qur'an so that the authenticity of the Qur'an is maintained until the Day of Judgment. Memorization is an activity carried out in order to store material in memory. This goal is so that every memory that is stored will be recalled according to the needs that are needed in the future, one of which is memorizing the Qur'an (Getteng, Malli, & Muchtar, 2022).

Someone who memorizes the Qur`an will benefit a lot for him. The benefits obtained are the rewards of goodness obtained by each letter. Memorizing the Qur`an is *fardu kifayah*, meaning that if an area already has a memorizer of the Qur`an, it is not obligatory for those who are unable to memorize it . A person who memorizes the Qur`an is a chosen person chosen by Allah so that the revelations revealed by Allah are kept pure and their memorization will be passed on to the next generation. In addition to the virtue of memorizing, one can benefit from the knowledge contained in every verse of the Qur`an so that one will not be confused when faced with life's problems, because those who memorize the Qur`an will always get answers to the verses of the Qur`an they have memorized.

As a parent, you definitely want your child be a pious and pious child (Fitri Chairunisa, Masykur H Mansyur, 2022), memorizing the Qur`an is a measure of child piety. A memorizer of the Qur`an has privileges as in the Qur`an letter *Fatir* verse 33 Allah explains that memorizers of the Qur`an will be given beautiful jewelry in heaven. In the hadith narrated by *Tirmidhi* , the memorizers of the Qur`an will be asked to go up to Heaven and then will be ordered to show their memorization so that each reading that is read will make their rank higher in heaven, then the Qur`an will say "O Allah, decorate them with crowns and gold, to distinguish them from your servants who do not memorize the Qur`an" then Allah gave him a crown of honor and Allah called his parents who were still believers to be crowned by their children to their parents directly (Rokhmatul Hikmat, 2022) . In addition, the priority in the world is the maintenance of the morals of memorizing the Qur`an because every behavior originates from a verse that is understood by the memorizer of the Qur`an (Deta Muntaha, Agus Salim Chamidi, 2022).

Memorizing the Qur`an is a characteristic of a Muslim. The number of memorizers of the Qur`an is very large. The number of memorizers of the Qur`an in several countries such as Pakistan has 134 million people, there are 7 million memorizers of the Qur`an, the Gaza Strip and Palestine are around 60,000 people, Libya has 7 million people, 1 million people, Saudi Arabia has around 6,000 people and Indonesia has 250 million people. 30 thousand memorizers of the Qur`an. Memorization of the Qur`an in Indonesia is still relatively low, only around 0.01%. Regions that contribute to this number include the Wonosobo area. The number of memorizers of the Qur`an is found more in Islamic boarding schools than in homes. Memorization methods include hearing directly from the teacher. By listening to the reading from the teacher it will increase the sensitivity of students' hearing which is useful for students to hear the lessons conveyed by the teacher. In addition to auditory sensitivity, memorizing the Qur`an also uses orally when reading the Qur`an so that students will always move their tongues so that it has an effect on speaking skills so that students will find it easy if they are guided to become speakers at official or unofficial events (Pamungkas Stiyamulyani & Sri Jumini, 2018).

Concentration is because students can easily understand lessons, one of which is by memorizing the Qur`an (Deta Muntaha, Agus Salim Chamidi, 2022). When students memorize a lot of verses of the Qur`an, the harder the child will

try to remember the verses of the Qur'an that have been memorized, then this is an indicator that the students' concentration will be higher (Pamungkas (Pamungkas Stiyamulyani & Sri Jumini, 2018).

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative approach. Data on interest in memorizing the Qur'an is related to behavior. This behavior is a value that cannot be disclosed at a glance, but is understood through direct communication and involvement during the process of memorizing the Qur'an.

The research informants were students of SMP IT Amsar who passed the tahfidz exam for all levels and students who memorized 5 chapters of the Qur'an. This research was conducted for three weeks, the first week the researchers observed SMP IT Amsar by looking at how the learning process was, especially how tahfiz learning was carried out. The second week the researchers focused on analysis with interviews with several tahfiz teachers who taught students so that students could complete their memorization . The interviews focused on analyzing the interest of previous principals and new principals in memorizing the Qur'an at SMP IT Amsar. In the third week, the researchers interviewed students who had memorized 5 juz and had been tested in 5 juz *tasmi in* one sitting, what were the impressions of memorizing the Al-Quran during the periods of two different principals.

Data analysis by classifying data from observations, interviews, and documentation. Determining the memorization interest of the students so that there are differences and the level of memorization. Analysis using data triangulation techniques of observation, interviews, and documentation. Interpretation is done logically about the ideas of the literature and the resulting data.

RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The curriculum at Amsar IT Middle School is very complete, because the education curriculum at Amsar IT Middle School is organized in education from waking up to sleeping at night. Researchers interviewed the headmaster of the IT Amsar Middle School, the results of the interview with the principal said that he had only served as school principal for only two years, but in previous years there were two school principals. During the first school principal of SMP IT Amsar was Mr. Bagus Pribadi, he was a person with an economic education background, so he only focused on school promotion. While he was leading, indeed many parents enrolled their children at SMP IT Amsar. The weakness of this principal lies in not being focused on his tahfiz education so that there are not many students who memorize the Qur'an.

The second principal is Mr. Arifin Ilham. He graduated from the Gontor Islamic boarding school so that the curriculum at school began to adopt from the Gontor Islamic boarding school. During led by the second principal, there are lots of activities carried out by teachers and students, from school activities to general activities. The advantage of being led by the second school principal is that there are lots of activities held but tahfidz activities are still around activities like normal routines, not yet a superior curriculum so there are still a few students

who memorize the Al-Al-Quran, but there are still students who memorize the Al-Quran.

After telling how the previous school principal was, then Mr. Rasuludin said that under his leadership there were several rules that were improved, one of which was by giving students the choice whether to focus on memorizing the Qur`an or not. With students choosing their interests, it is hoped that students will love memorizing the Qur`an wholeheartedly, not by force.

After the researcher interviewed the school principal, the researcher then interviewed one of the tahfidz coordinators at SMP IT Amsar. He is Ustad Aris who is a teacher Graduated tahfidz boarding school Bandung. He said that the difference in leadership makes students more active by choosing their interests and talents. One of them is by choosing *takhosus* tahfidz. *Takhosus* tahfidz is an Al-Quran program for students who want to further improve their memorization. In selecting students who are interested in memorizing the Qur`an, students must first pass tests such as *makhorijul letters* and recommendations from their tahfidza teachers. After getting a recommendation, then students can join this special program.

With this program students can be given some leeway in learning activities other than morning lessons. Students who take part in this program do not participate in the activities of their friends, are not required to sleep day and night. This leeway is so that students can focus more on memorizing the Qur`an. With this special program there has been an increase, last year there were 25 students who memorized Juz 30, 3 students for Juz 2, while 1 student for Juz 5 became 36 students for Juz 30, 5 students for 2 juz and 5 students for 5 juz. With this data it is proven that this program has succeeded in increasing students' interest in memorizing the Qur`an.

In addition to interviewing school principals and tahfiz teachers, the researchers also interviewed students who had completed their 5 juz memorization. According to Reyfan, the year program led by Mr. Rasuludin is very helpful, because with this program, he doesn't have to worry about being left behind by his friends' activities, because by participating in this program, he can focus on increasing his memorization. Previously, with the regular system, students found it hard to memorize, because all activities were required to participate without exception and would get penalized if you don't take part in the activity.

Apart from the *Takhosus program*, there are also teachers who specifically guide and listen to students' readings so that students want to memorize the Al-Quran at their own will. According to him, with a special teacher, every student who has memorized it can directly deposit it with the person in charge, so students don't need to have their memorization time cut short because there are other activities. The results of the study show that the interest of students who can memorize 5 juz appears due to internal and external influences. The internal influence of students is that they want to get the priority of reward for a memorizer of the Qur`an in the form of putting on a crown for their parents. In addition to wearing crowns for their parents, students have an interest in memorizing because of the kindness they get when they read one letter in the

Qur`an. The external influence that influences student interest is the school environment. One of the school environment is the principal. The influence of the school principal who provided a different curriculum policy from the previous principal had a significant impact on students' interest in memorizing the Qur`an, the real evidence is that 5 students were able to memorize 5 juz where previously only 1 student.

The basis of the literature review and the results of the research show the relevance the same, so that between theory and factual the results are in accordance with existing theories. Research at SMP IT Amsar shows that internal and external influences are factors in increasing students' interest in memorizing the Qur`an.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the research show that students have increased their interest in memorizing the Qur`an due to curriculum changes made by the school principal. By changing the curriculum, students can focus more on memorizing. There was an increase in graduates that occurred before, last year there were 25 students who memorized Juz 30, 3 students for Juz 2, while 1 student for Juz 5 became 36 students for Juz 30, 5 students for 2 juz and 5 students for 5 juz.

This study has limitations such as research time and samples taken by researchers. This research can be developed by further researchers by examining the *takhosus method* as a method of memorizing the Qur`an. To calculate the effectiveness of interest is to use quantitative research. Qualitative methods are used by researchers because researchers want to focus on the causes of an increase in interest in memorizing the Qur`an with the result of an increase in the level of graduates, while to find out the effectiveness of memorizing the Qur`an with specialization, future researchers can implement it with other schools so that this specialization method *is* indeed effective as a way of developing student interest.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

In writing this article the researcher realizes that there are still many shortcomings in terms of language, writing, and form of presentation considering the limited knowledge and abilities of the researchers themselves. Therefore, for the perfection of the article, the researcher expects constructive criticism and suggestions from various parties.

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