



THE EFFECT OF MASTERY OF THE ARABIC LANGUAGE ON THE QUALITY OF TADABUR AL-QUR'AN IN (CASE STUDY AT MA'HAD ALY UIN MALANG)

Arief Maulana Ikhsan¹ & Nasrulloh²

^{1,2}Postgraduate in Education of Arabic Language, UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang

Correspondence Email: ariefikhsan90@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the improvement in the quality of Al-Qur'an tadabur obtained through mastery of Arabic language knowledge. The type of research used is descriptive qualitative in the form of a case study at Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly at UIN Malang. The scope of this research is 1) the concept of tadabur Al-Qur'an. 2) the concept of Arabic in understanding the Qur'an. 3) Implementation of activities at Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly UIN Malang. 4) Results of interviews and observations at Ma'had Aly UIN Malang. The data collection was carried out by observing and interviewing UIN Malang students who resided at Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly. The data results are then analysed for reduction and presented in the form of words based on the findings in the field. From the research, it was found that the mastery of Arabic language acquired by students had a positive impact in improving the quality of Al-Qur'an tadabur. Al-Qur'an tadabur activities that focus the heart and mind on the holy verses of the Qur'an can be enhanced by having a deep understanding of Arabic language science, evidenced by an increase in student competency by 60% after conducting research in the field.

Keywords: Arabic language; tadabur; al-Qur'an

1. INTRODUCTION

Tadabur of the Qur'an is to deeply ponder the meanings contained in the holy verses of the Qur'an. This is as explained by the Mufassirin about the meaning of *tadabur* (Al-Maidani, 1980). However, the practice of tadabur itself is still very little in

Islamic society, because there is a misunderstanding in interpreting tadabur and mostly equating between the meaning of tadabur and tafsir. These problems arise due to people's ignorance of the true meaning of tadabur and their lack of ability to recite the Qur'an. In fact, most people who cannot recite the Qur'an due to their lack of mastery know Arabic. Of course, this is not empty talk because, indeed, the Qur'an itself Allah revealed to humankind using Arabic, so to be able to understand the Qur'an requires expertise in the language.

With qualified Arabic language skills, a person can better know the meaning implied in the holy verses of the Qur'an. As for tadabur, which is understanding the Qur'an through deep contemplation, it will be greatly helped by the excellent quality of mastery of Arabic. This can explain that the quality of tadabur is best when supported by excellent analytical skills in Arabic. Just like in learning Arabic, now adults and children lack their attention in reading the Qur'an. Of course, this makes there is very little interest in studying the Qur'an and only some people who want to study the Qur'an. In fact, the main key that can make understanding the Qur'an good if you have a strong desire to do the tadabur of the Qur'an and understand its meaning.

According to a survey conducted by the Indonesian Council of Mosques on the ability to read the Qur'an for the Indonesian Muslim community, The results show that of Indonesia's 223 million Muslim population, only 35 percent can read the Qur'an and as many as 65 percent are unable to read the Qur'an. In addition, of the total 35 percent of Indonesian Muslims who can read the Qur'an, only 20 percent can read the Qur'an with correct tajweed. Although the ability to read the Qur'an of the Indonesian Muslim community continues to increase every year, the increase that occurs only ranges from 2-3 percent every year. Of course, this result is still far from expected, considering that the population of Indonesian Muslims is increasing every year, but the illiteracy rate of the Qur'an is still very high in this country.

These two main things, namely the ability to read the Qur'an and good mastery of Arabic language knowledge are the main keys in improving the ability to tadabur the Qur'an. Therefore, this study was conducted to see how far the influence of Arabic language in improving the quality of the Qur'an tadabur in this case we made the object of our research in Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly at UIN Malang. The object we studied was UIN Malang students who lived in Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly UIN Malang. This is based on the fact that the author got in the field, that every student who lives in Ma'had every day learns Arabic and regularly reads the holy verses of the Qur'an. Of course, with optimal learning in the Ma'had environment, each student can apply their Arabic and improve their ability to read and tadabur the Qur'an. Hopefully this research is useful and provides good results for the community. So that the main purpose of this research is to ground the Qur'an for all Indonesian Muslims can be carried out properly.

2. METHODS

This study used qualitative descriptive method, where the author collected data based on observations, interviews and documentation. The object of this research is UIN Malang students who live in Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly. Then, the author analyzes these data to then be reduced and presented in words based on the findings in the field. And in the end, the author presents the conclusions obtained after the data verification process.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The concept of Tadabur of the Qur'an

The word tadabbur comes from Arabic, meaning "At-tafakkur" which means to ponder. While in terminology, the word tadabbur means "to reflect widely and deeply on the holy verses of the Qur'an through reading or contemplation of the words mentioned in these holy verses. Allah Azza Wa Jalla says in Surah An-Nisa verse 82, which reads:

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا

"Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an? If it had been from [any] other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction."

This verse comes down as an opposition to hypocrites who show Islam, but they keep unbeliever in their hearts. It is as if this verse wants to explain that if they really believe in Allah, then it will appear to the hypocrites (*munafik*) the truth of the Qur'an and the help of Allah Azza Wa Jalla. However, adhering to the Qur'an requires a solemn heart and deep understanding. Therefore, scholars devised several methods in administering the Qur'an, including:

1. Link verse to verse or surah to surah. For those who want to obey the Qur'an, then he should be able to understand the meaning contained in the verses and Suras. This can be obtained by linking verses of the Qur'an or its surah.
2. Know the theme contained in each surah. By knowing the main themes discussed in a surah, it can be easier to interpret the Qur'an. However, not all Suras have a specific theme, it could be that one letter contains various themes, but usually the themes contained in a letter have a relationship between one theme and another.
3. Know the intentions contained in the verse. The method that can be used to recite the Qur'an is to know the purposes of the verses mentioned in the Qur'an. Such as

the verse in the form of painful threats and torture for unbelievers, the promises of Allah Almighty to believers, and the enjoyment they will get in the Hereafter.

Arabic concepts in understanding the Qur'an

Arabic is the language that Allah *Azza Wa Jalla* glorified with the revelation of the Qur'an using that language, and from the Arabs also the Prophet (saw) was sent by Allah *Azza Wa Jalla* to be the last Prophet and Apostle. Enough with these 2 glories makes Arabic language very much needed by the world Muslim community. In a study shows that Arabic has been known since thousands of years ago, until now Arabic is still used as it is since its emergence. This shows that, the existence of Arabic language on earth is very calculated and becomes one of the oldest legacies that exist today. So, it is very natural for Arabs to glorify and maintain their language, because of the influence that the Arabic language has.

In understanding the Qur'an also requires some important knowledge, with which a Qur'an reviewer can understand the Qur'an and its meaning and content well. These include Arabic and Ushul Fiqh. Arabic is divided into several parts: lexicology, linguistics, phonology, etc. In general, the greater a person's mastery of Arabic and its derivatives can make him quickly understand the Qur'an and its meanings. On the other hand, his very low level of mastery of Arabic will make him weak in understanding the Qur'an. Here are some parts of Arabic language and its benefits in understanding the Qur'an:

Arabic Linguistics (Syntaxes and Morphologies)

Arabic linguistics includes several kinds of sciences, such as Nahwu, Sharf, and Balaghah. All of these sciences discuss the correct rules in practicing Arabic, both orally and in writing. The main task of these sciences is to prevent errors in the use of Arabic and make it easier for non-Arabic to understand the meaning of Arabic. The main function of linguistics in studying the Qur'an is as a tool to find out the meaning of the verses of the Qur'an. For example, a sentence in the Qur'an consists of *mubtada'* and *khobar*, so its job is to explain which is the *mubtada'* and which is the *khobar*, as well as the link between the two.

Arabic Lexicology

After mastering Arabic linguistics, a Qur'anic researcher is also required to study lexicology. This science discusses in detail the meaning in depth of every word in the Qur'an. For example, the word "Al-Qur'u/القرء", there are several meanings of the word, among which are pure and menstruation. So, for a researcher must be able to distinguish the meaning of the word when passing the verse related to the desired word. The benefits obtained by studying this science can make a researcher more careful

when dealing with words that have many meanings in their mention. In addition, this science also has an attachment to the science of ushul fiqh, which examines the postulates to be issued into a standard law.

Arabic Phonology

Arabic phonology is what discusses sounds and sounds in Arabic. This science has a very close relationship with the science of tajweed and similar to it. The aim is to help researchers to be able to feel and reflect on the Qur'an through the sound approach evoked by a reciter when reading verses of the Qur'an. In phonology there are several benefits, such as the sound release of some words in the Qur'an. If there are words of threat and reproach, then a Qari' should read the verse loudly. However, if words contain praise and enjoyment, then a Qari' should read with a gentle and pleasant intonation.

Implementation of Activities in Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly UIN Malang

Based on the results of surveys and field studies, we found several findings related to implementing Arabic along with Qur'an study activities in the Ma'had environment.

Table 1. Student Activities in Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly UIN Malang

Day	Activity Time	Event
Monday	After isya – 09.00 PM	<i>Ta'lim Afkar</i> (Fiqh and Morals)
Tuesday	After isya – 21.00 PM	<i>Ta'lim Al-Qur'an</i> (Tajweed and reading the Qur'an)
Wednesday	After isya – 21.00 PM	<i>Ta'lim Afkar</i> (Fiqh and Morals)
Thursday	After isya – 21.00 PM	<i>Muhadharah</i> (Islamic Speech)
Friday	After isya – 21.00 PM	<i>Ta'lim Al-Qur'an</i> (Tajweed and reading the Qur'an)

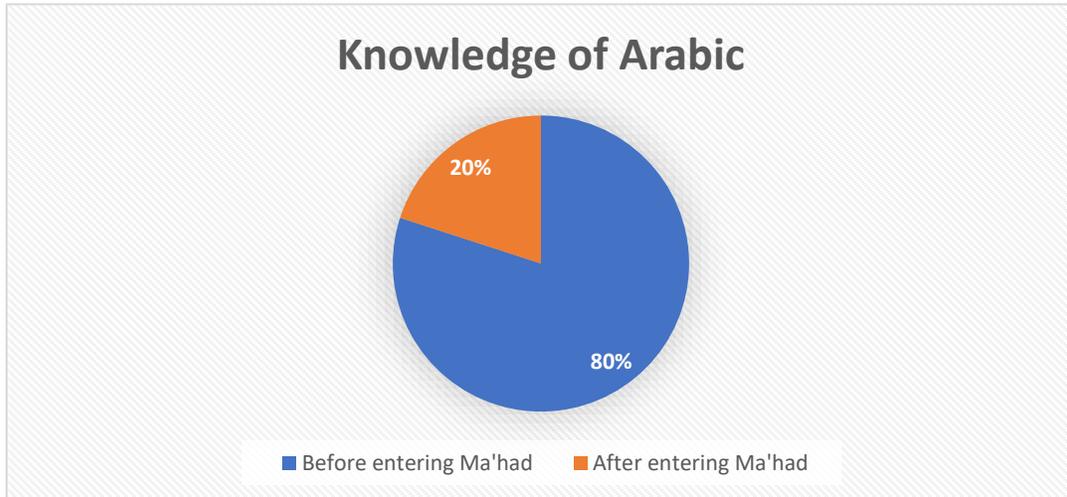
The table above shows students' daily activities in the Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly dormitory at UIN Malang. It can be seen that students get very adequate Arabic language learning, accompanied by learning the Qur'an in the form of tajweed and reading practice. This *Ta'lim Al-Qur'an* activity is very important to apply on Ma'had campus, considering that many students do not have a pesantren background. In addition, many students spend their time not on the right things, such as playing online games, hanging out etc., which are considered less beneficial. So, this kind of activity answers parents' concerns about their children in the region.

Interviews and Observations

This study used interview data and observations related to the relationship between Arabic language in improving the quality of tadabur of the Qur'an. In this case,

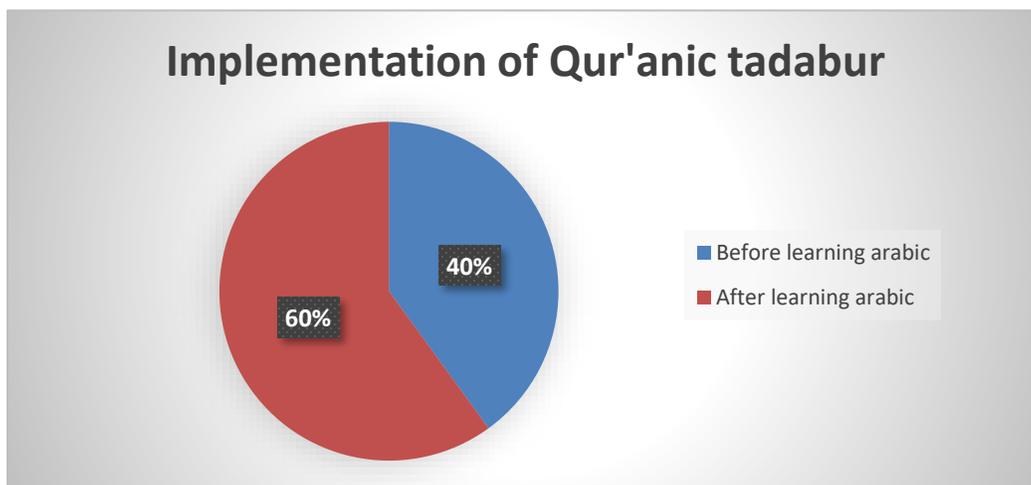
the author interviewed 20 Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly students to obtain concrete data. Here are the interview results along with the diagram:

Diagram 1. Arabic language learning before or after entering Ma'had



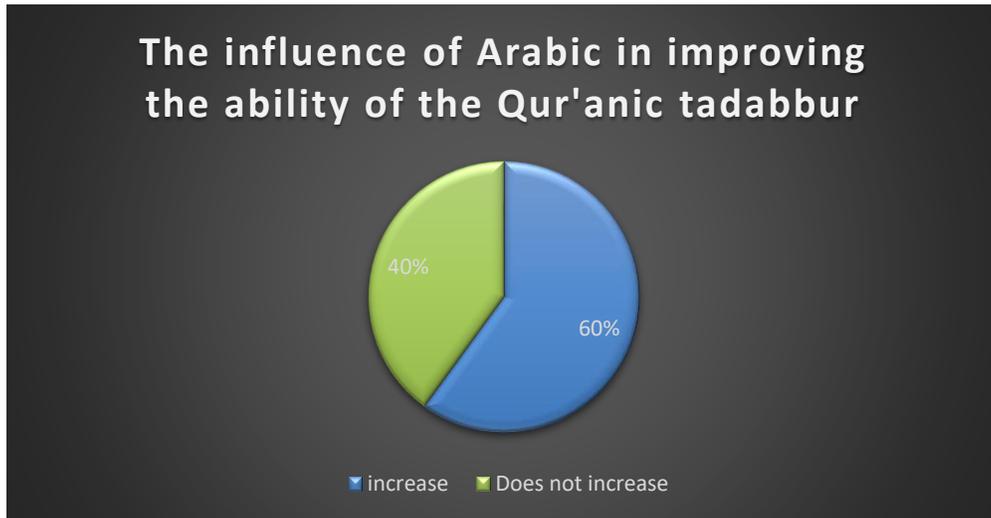
Of the 20 students, 16 studied Arabic before entering Ma'had UIN Malang. While the other four students only got Arabic language learning after entering Ma'had.

Diagram 2. Implementation of Qur'anic tadabur before or after learning Arabic



The data above found that as many as 12 students began to study the Qur'an after learning Arabic, while eight other students before learning Arabic.

Diagram 3. The influence of Arabic in improving the ability of the Qur'anic tadabbur



From the data shown explains that as many as 12 students felt a great influence from mastering Arabic in improving the ability of Qur'an tadabbur. While the other 8 students revealed that they did not feel a significant difference in the quality of the Qur'an based on the presence or absence of one's Arabic language skills.

From the results of interviews and observations above, it was obtained that mastery of Arabic language knowledge has a major influence in improving the quality of the Qur'anic tadabbur. This is obtained by the magnitude of positive results obtained by correspondents on the quality of their Qur'anic tadabbur. In addition, there is a strong motivation from Qur'an scholars to obey their holy books, so that it becomes an impetus to be more enthusiastic and encouraged in studying the holy verses of the Qur'an. For example, FQ who is one of the correspondents stated that, "the direction and motivation from the teacher made me eager to recite the Qur'an." This is one form of motivation instilled by a teacher to his students to always study and obey the Qur'an.

In addition, there were some correspondents who initially obeyed the Qur'an because it was a compulsory subject in his school, until finally he was lured to continue to observe the Qur'an. As KU puts it, "it was originally a compulsory lesson in the cottage, but over time it became a habit." Then, does Arabic also have a strong attraction for someone to obey the Qur'an? The answer is of course there, because the Qur'an was revealed using Arabic, then learning the language can spur someone to study the Qur'an more. KU said "So more enthusiasm because there is already a lot of vocabulary that we can understand ourselves." Mastering Arabic makes him more enthusiastic about adhering to Al-Qur'an.

Related to improving the quality of the Qur'an, the interview results showed that 60% of students found it helpful in reciting the Qur'an after they learned Arabic. As FQ explains, "Yes, because the Qur'an came down in Arabic. So, indirectly when we want to understand or explore the meaning of the verses of the Qur'an, we must deepen our knowledge in the study of Arabic. And when one knows or understands the meaning of a verse, it is one step closer to the Qur'an." Then he added, "Even though I don't understand Arabic 100% yet. But I became more familiar with some of the discussions in Arabic. Many conveniences are obtained, one of which is that it is easier to know the meaning of verses or vocabulary because you already know and memorize the meaning."

In addition, other facts show that most non-Arabs do not want to study the Qur'an, due to their lack of knowledge of the Arabic language. As explained by KU, "because most people are lazy to study the Qur'an, because they do not know the meaning of the Arabic vocabulary of the Qur'an." This is the biggest challenge faced by the majority of the world's Muslim population, namely their lack of attention to the science of Arabic.

Based on the author's observations in the Ma'had Aly environment of UIN Malang, that most students who succeed in Arabic are those who come from Islamic majors. As for students who come from non-Islamic majors such as science department etc., the level of mastery of Arabic is very lacking. This is evidenced by the results of interviews with several students from non-Islamic majors, generally they lack attention to learning Arabic to make them difficult in adhering to the Qur'an.

It can be concluded, the tadabur of the Qur'an which includes deep contemplation requires clarity of heart and breadth of mind makes a reviewer able to explore the meanings contained in the Qur'an. In addition, it requires deep skills related to certain sciences, as well as Arabic language which is closely related to the Qur'an and other tool sciences. The existence of strong motivation and encouragement also makes a reviewer more eager to explore and interpret the Qur'an.

CONCLUSION

Based on the previous discussion, the author concludes that the use of Arabic greatly influences the quality of the Qur'an. This is evidenced by interviews and direct observations of the intended object, Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly at UIN Malang. There is strong evidence that improving Arabic language skills can also improve the ability to recite the Qur'an. Tadabur of the Qur'an is to meditate deeply on the holy verses of the Qur'an through clarity of heart and breadth of mind. As stated in His words in Surah An-Nisa verse 82, those who can obey the Qur'an are only those who have clarity of heart

and mind. Thus, hypocrites cannot obey the Qur'an, because their hearts have been covered by such hypocrisy.

In adhering to the Qur'an, some knowledge is also needed to understand the verses and their meaning and content. Arabic is one of the sciences that has a significant role in improving the ability to tadabur Al-Qur'an, because the Qur'an was revealed using the language. The greater the level of mastery of a person to the knowledge of Arabic, the more the quality of the tadabur. Finally, Arabic and tadabur are two inseparable things. Evidence of one's love for the Qur'an can arise from a love for the Arabic language. In addition, multiplying the recitation of the Qur'an is also one of the keys in adhering to the Qur'an. So, the result is that learning Arabic and then implementing it in our daily Qur'an readings can improve the quality of the Qur'anic tadabur.

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