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THE ROLE OF TAHSIN IN PRESERVING THE AUTHENTICITY OF AL-QUR'AN MEMORIZATION

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ABSTRACT

The Qur'an is the holy book of Islam, believed by Muslims to be a guide for life and the primary source of Islamic teachings. Since its revelation to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), Allah SWT has preserved its purity and authenticity. One important means of preserving the Qur'an is the tradition of memorization, passed down from generation to generation. In this process, huffaz (Qur'an memorizers) play a significant role in safeguarding the exact wording and pronunciation of the verses. However, memorizing the Qur'an is not only a matter of strong memory. It must also be accompanied by correct recitation according to established rules. For this reason, tahsin is considered a fundamental element in maintaining the authenticity of Qur'anic memorization. Tahsin refers to the process of improving and standardizing recitation based on the principles of makharij al-huruf, the characteristics of letters, and the rules of tajwid. Its main purpose is to ensure accurate pronunciation and prevent errors that could change the meaning of the verses. In the context of memorization, tahsin serves as a strong foundation because memorization based on proper recitation is more accurate and reliable. Therefore, tahsin plays an essential role in preserving the authenticity of the Qur'an.

INTRODUCTION

Muslims regard the Qur'an as the primary guide in life and the most fundamental pillar of Islamic teachings. The authenticity and purity of this sacred scripture have remained perfectly preserved since it was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) until the present day. One of the most significant means of preserving the Qur'an is the tradition of memorization, which has been continuously passed down from one generation to the next.

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Through this practice, Muslims actively contribute to safeguarding the integrity of the Qur'anic text and ensuring that it remains faithful to the revelation sent by Allah SWT. However, memorizing the Qur'an involves more than simply remembering a sequence of verses. Those who preserve the Qur'an through memorization are required to pronounce every word correctly in accordance with the rules of tajwid, makharij al-huruf (points of articulation), and the characteristics of each letter. Even minor pronunciation errors or failure to follow the proper recitation rules can affect the quality of memorization and may potentially alter the intended meaning of the verses. Therefore, effective measures are needed to ensure accurate pronunciation while strengthening memorization. One of the most important efforts in this regard is tahsin. Tahsin is the process of improving and perfecting Qur'anic recitation so that it conforms to the correct rules. Through the study of tahsin, Qur'an memorizers can enhance the quality of their recitation, minimize errors, and preserve the authenticity of their memorization. For this reason, discussing the role of tahsin is important for understanding how recitation quality contributes to maintaining the purity and accuracy of Qur'anic memorization.

METHOD RESEARCH

This study uses a library research method with a qualitative descriptive approach. The main focus is to analyze how tahsin practices help maintain the originality and accuracy of Al-Qur'an memorization. Since this is a literature-based study, all data were gathered from secondary sources. The researcher collected relevant materials such as academic journals, reference books, and classical Islamic texts focusing on themes like tahsin, tajwid rules, tahfiz methods, and the history of Qur'an preservation. These materials were sourced from digital databases including Google Scholar and specialized Islamic studies portals. The collected literature was then analyzed using a qualitative content analysis method. First, the researcher selected and sorted the most relevant data regarding the definitions, theological rulings, and teaching methods of tahsin. Next, these concepts were compared and connected with the historical and spiritual aspects of Qur'anic preservation. To ensure the findings are reliable and objective, the researcher used source triangulation. This was done by cross-checking contemporary educational theories with classical Islamic viewpoints and authentic scriptural texts (verses and hadiths). Finally, the synthesized data were summarized to draw clear and logical conclusions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Tahsin as the Foundation of Accurate Qur'anic Memorization

Tahsin refers to the process of improving Qur'anic recitation in accordance with the rules of tajwid, including correct articulation points (makhārij al-ḥuruf) and the characteristics of Arabic letters. In Islamic education, tahsin is considered a fundamental stage before engaging in Qur'anic memorization (tahfiz), since the accuracy of memorization strongly depends on the correctness of recitation. Errors in pronunciation may lead not only to linguistic inaccuracy but also to changes in meaning, making proper recitation an essential requirement in Qur'anic learning (Hermanto et al., 2024). In practice, tahsin is not merely a technical skill of reading, but also a structured process that develops disciplined and correct Qur'anic recitation habits. Several studies indicate that tahsin-based learning methods significantly improve students' Qur'anic reading abilities, particularly in fluency, articulation accuracy, and proper application of tajwid rules. This improvement demonstrates that correct recitation forms the foundation for effective memorization, as accurate reading facilitates stronger retention of verses (Hariyati et al., 2024).

Furthermore, tahsin plays an important role in minimizing repeated recitation errors among learners. Educational research shows that students who have not undergone systematic tahsin training tend to repeat pronunciation mistakes during memorization, which negatively affects the stability of their memorization quality.

Conversely, structured tahsin instruction helps correct these errors at an early stage, resulting in more accurate and consistent memorization outcomes (Kholil & Subando, 2024). Moreover, tahsin fosters disciplined repetition of Qur'anic recitation in accordance with proper rules, which strengthens long-term memory retention. Repeated reading with correct pronunciation enhances cognitive reinforcement, making memorization more stable and less prone to forgetting. Therefore, tahsin can be understood as the foundational element in developing accurate, stable, and high-quality Qur'anic memorization (Yahya & Risman, 2022).

In addition, tahsin also plays a significant role in building cognitive accuracy during the memorization process. When learners consistently apply correct tajwid rules and proper pronunciation, their auditory and visual memory becomes more synchronized. This alignment helps reduce confusion between similar verses and improves the ability to recall Qur'anic passages accurately. Studies in Qur'anic education suggest that learners who prioritize tahsin before memorization demonstrate higher levels of precision and long-term retention compared to those who directly engage in memorization without proper recitation training (Aisyah & Fikri, 2023). Furthermore, the integration of tahsin into Qur'anic learning environments contributes to the development of a more systematic and structured memorization process. Teachers who emphasize tahsin first tend to produce learners with stronger foundational reading skills, which in turn supports more efficient memorization progress. This approach reflects a holistic model of Qur'anic education in which recitation accuracy and memorization quality are developed simultaneously, ensuring that students do not merely memorize text, but also preserve its correct recitation form (Hidayah et al., 2024).

2. The Relationship Between Tahsin and the Preservation of Qur'anic Authenticity

The preservation of the Qur'an's authenticity (hifz al-Qur'an) is maintained not only through its written form but also through a continuous oral transmission (riwayah) that has been preserved since the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. In this context, tahsin plays a crucial role in ensuring that Qur'anic recitation remains faithful to its original pronunciation. By training learners to articulate each letter correctly according to makhārij al-ḥurūf and tajwīd rules, tahsin helps prevent deviations in pronunciation that could potentially alter meanings and compromise the integrity of the Qur'anic text (Hermanto et al., 2024). From a pedagogical perspective, tahsin functions as a structured approach to maintaining phonetic accuracy in Qur'anic recitation. Studies in Islamic education indicate that the application of tajwid principles through tahsin learning is closely connected to the traditional methods of transmission, namely talaqqi and musyāfahah, where students learn directly from qualified teachers. This direct learning process is essential because Qur'anic pronunciation cannot be fully mastered through written texts alone, but requires oral correction and demonstration (Syifa et al., 2024).

Furthermore, tahsin-based instruction contributes significantly to the standardization of Qur'anic recitation across generations. Through consistent application of correct pronunciation rules, learners are able to preserve the authenticity of recitation as it has been transmitted from earlier generations of scholars. This continuity ensures that the Qur'an is preserved not only in its written form but also in its oral performance, which is a distinctive aspect of its divine preservation and transmission (Yahya & Risman, 2022). In addition, tahsin also develops learners' awareness of the sacred responsibility involved in preserving the accuracy of Qur'anic recitation. Research shows that students who undergo systematic tahsin training tend to demonstrate greater discipline and caution when reciting the Qur'an. This awareness strengthens the broader objective of Islamic education, which is not only focused on memorization, but also on ensuring accuracy, authenticity, and respect in the transmission of the Qur'anic text (Faoz & Setiawan, 2025).

Moreover, tahsin also serves as a means of strengthening intergenerational continuity in Qur'anic recitation. Through structured learning, students are trained to maintain uniformity in pronunciation standards that have been preserved through chains of transmission (sanad). This ensures that Qur'anic

recitation remains consistent across different regions and educational contexts, despite linguistic diversity among Muslim communities. Such consistency is essential in preserving the Qur'an as a universally unified oral tradition (Yusuf & Aisyah, 2023). In addition, the role of tahsin extends to reinforcing the spiritual and ethical dimension of Qur'anic learning. By emphasizing precision in recitation, tahsin instills a sense of responsibility and reverence toward the Qur'an as the *كلام الله* (Word of God). This ethical awareness not only improves technical recitation skills but also nurtures humility and discipline among learners, which are essential values in Islamic education (Ahmad Zainuri et al, 2024)

3. The Contribution of Tahsin to Strengthening Memorization Quality

The implementation of tahsin plays a foundational and indispensable role in enhancing the retention and quality of Al-Qur'an memorization (tahfizh). Linguistically defined as refinement or beautification, tahsin in this context denotes the precise structural alignment of vocalization with the rules of tajwid and articulation points (makharijul huruf). Academic literature consistently highlights that many instructional institutions heavily emphasize the quantity of daily verse submission while inadvertently neglecting phonetic accuracy. When a student rushes into memorization without correct recitation, they inadvertently solidify visual and vocal errors into their long-term neural frameworks (Rabbani, 2020). Consequently, correcting these deeply rooted mistakes later becomes far more difficult than establishing an accurate acoustic foundation from the absolute beginning. Thus, early integration of tahsin serves as a protective structural layer that determines the long-term precision and durability of a student's cognitive retention (Agustin, 2023).

From a cognitive standpoint, practicing accurate tahsin greatly optimizes the brain's internal consolidation mechanisms during the multi-sensory process of memorization. When a learner systematically articulates each Arabic letter according to its inherent phonological characteristics and correct point of origin, they create a natural linguistic rhythm (tartil) that links visual, auditory, and motor pathways. This rhythmic consistency, combined with an organized visual engagement with the mushaf text, allows the human brain to process, structure, and move textual information into long-term memory systems with significantly less cognitive strain (Syahidah, 2024). On the other hand, an inaccurate, unstructured, or broken recitation forces the brain to divide its limited processing capacity between recalling the contextual order of verses and fixing technical delivery mistakes. This cognitive fragmentation rapidly increases mental fatigue, decreases learning motivation, and causes severe memory instability over time (Hakim, 2023).

Beyond the fundamental mechanics of phonetic delivery, tahsin provides a massive contribution to memorization quality by reinforcing semantic understanding and contextual awareness. The comprehensive framework of tahsin goes far beyond basic pronunciation; it inherently governs the structural rules of vowel lengthening (mad) and the precise boundaries for pausing and restarting recitation (waqf and ibtida'). In Arabic phonology, making an inappropriate pause or altering vowel durations can inadvertently and drastically change the underlying theological or legal meaning of a verse (Rahila, 2022). By mastering these rules, a student develops an organic, intuitive awareness of the structural flow and semantic divisions within the sacred text. This ensures they memorize verses with full contextual comprehension rather than mechanically repeating abstract visual sequences without deep understanding (Rafli, 2022)

Ultimately, the practical effectiveness of tahsin in maintaining long-term memorization becomes highly visible during the continuous process of independent and structured revision (muraja'ah). A scriptural memory built upon a flawless phonetic foundation is inherently more resilient against text ambiguities and accidental confusion between highly similar verses (ayat mutashabihat). When a qualified instructor implements rigorous vocal correction and guided repetition during the initial stages of learning, future evaluation sessions become vastly more streamlined. Teachers can focus on

monitoring recall speed and structural connection rather than spending valuable class time correcting basic phonetic errors (Khotimah et al., 2024). In this manner, mastery of tahsin acts as an essential academic and spiritual safeguard, preserving the linguistic integrity of the text within the student's mind while ensuring the recitation remains clear, authentic, and accurate throughout their life (Karim, 2023).

4. Implications for Qur'anic Education

The structural shift toward integrating phonetic precision, semantic comprehension, and cognitive stability carries profound implications for the contemporary administration of Qur'anic education. Historically, traditional instructional frameworks have leaned heavily toward quantitative production, evaluating a student's academic progress primarily by the sheer velocity and volume of verses memorized within a strict timeframe. However, insights from modern literature indicate that an overemphasis on speed at the expense of phonetic accuracy often leads to systemic failures in longterm retention. Educational leaders must restructure introductory curricula to prioritize a foundational mastery of phonology before students are permitted to advance to rigorous memorization tracts (Fathah, 2021). By making correct phonetic delivery an absolute prerequisite for advanced study, academic institutions can prevent the solidification of structural errors, ensuring that the initial learning phase actively protects rather than compromises the student's academic progression.

From a pedagogical perspective, these findings necessitate a comprehensive overhaul of teacher training programs and instructional methodologies within Qur'anic institutions. Instructors can no longer act merely as passive evaluators who record daily verse submissions; instead, they must be trained as active facilitators of cognitive and sensory learning. Implementing systematic, multisensory teaching methods such as guided auditory repetitions, visual mapping of texts, and interactive articulation drills demands a highly specialized skillset from educators (Damis & Galib, 2020). Consequently, institutions must invest in continuous professional development that bridges traditional pedagogical heritage with modern cognitive insights (Imamuddin, 2022). When teachers are equipped to detect and correct subtle articulation errors immediately, the efficiency of classroom instruction increases dramatically, significantly reducing the administrative and mental burdens associated with remediating deeply ingrained reading flaws later in the curriculum.

Beyond modifying teaching behavior, the integration of semantic comprehension into the memorization process reshapes the design of modern instructional materials and textbooks. Traditional educational materials that present text without structural context or semantic markers limit the student's ability to engage in contextual learning. To counter this, curriculum developers should produce integrated textbooks that visually align phonetic markers with contextual breakdowns, including clear indicators for precise pauses and semantic transitions. Teaching verses alongside their structural and contextual meanings transforms memorization from a mechanical exercise of rote visual recall into an intellectually engaging process (Sahid et al., 2023). This holistic curriculum design ensures that students develop an intuitive, analytical relationship with the text, which ultimately fosters more stable long-term cognitive connections and prevents text ambiguities during independent review.

Ultimately, the long-term sustainability of Qur'an education systems relies on a transition toward hybrid evaluation frameworks that balance both quantitative output and qualitative excellence. Assessment metrics within schools and boarding systems must be recalibrated so that a student's academic standing is determined equally by recall velocity and phonetic precision (Kurniawan, 2025). Such structural changes naturally cultivate an institutional culture where students value accuracy over haste, directly reducing the psychological anxiety and mental fatigue associated with unstable memorization. On a broader scale, establishing high qualitative standards ensures that the preservation of textual integrity remains uncompromised across generations. By building institutional frameworks

upon these balanced pedagogical principles, contemporary education systems can consistently produce graduates who demonstrate exceptional accuracy, profound textual fluency, and sustainable lifelong retention.

CONCLUSION

Based on the literature analysis conducted in this study, tahsin plays a crucial role in preserving the authenticity of Al-Qur'an memorization. The findings indicate that tahsin serves as the fundamental basis for accurate memorization by ensuring correct pronunciation according to the principles of makharij al-huruf and tajwid. Proper tahsin training helps minimize recitation errors, strengthens cognitive accuracy, and improves long-term retention of memorized verses. The study also reveals that tahsin contributes significantly to maintaining the authenticity of the Qur'an through accurate oral transmission across generations. By preserving proper recitation standards, tahsin supports the continuity of Qur'anic preservation both in written and oral forms. Furthermore, tahsin enhances the overall quality of memorization by promoting phonetic precision, contextual understanding, and stable memory retention. In addition, the findings highlight important implications for Qur'anic education. Educational institutions should prioritize tahsin as a foundational stage before memorization, integrate phonetic accuracy with comprehension-based learning, and develop balanced assessment systems that emphasize both memorization quantity and recitation quality. Therefore, tahsin can be regarded as an essential educational and spiritual instrument in safeguarding the authenticity, accuracy, and sustainability of Al-Qur'an memorization.

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