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Use of Media in Hijaiyyah Letter Recognition in Early Childhood

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# Abstract

Al-Qur'an Education Park is able to provide basic skills for learning and understanding the Al- Qur'an. The introduction of the Qur'an to children can already be done when the child is still in the womb. But formally, the introduction of the Qur'an is carried out when the child is 4 years old. When children enter early childhood education school, children begin to be taught the introduction of hijaiyyah letters. The introduction of hijaiyyah letters for early childhood requires the right strategy. So that the goal of introducing hijaiyyah letters to children is achieved. Media are all kinds of components or materials that exist in the student environment that can stimulate students to learn. The purpose of this study is to determine the role of media and what media are used by teachers in introducing hijaiyyah letters to early childhood. This research uses literature study techniques. The results showed that the media that can be used by teachers in the introduction of hijaiyyah letters and have proven to be able to improve children's ability to recognize hijaiyyah letters include dice, letter cards, flannel boards, Arabic Alphabet for Kids, and educational game applications. The literature study shows that the media has an important role in the introduction of hijaiyyah letters in early childhood, including: the media gives an impression and pays attention to the learning process; learning activities become active and fun; the message conveyed by the teacher becomes conveyed; learning is more effective and not monotonous; and it provides convenience and knowledge of new information received by children.

**Keyword:** learning media; hijaiyyah letters; al-qur'an; early childhood

# Introduction

To be able to read and write the Qur'an, an education system is needed that can accommodate it. The education in question is Qur'anic education. Qur'anic education is able to provide basic skills for learning and understanding the Qur'an. Qur'an education can also guide children to always be guided by their book, namely the Qur'an, and practice it in everyday life. One of the Qur'anic educational institutions whose existence is often found in the surrounding environment is TK, TPA, or TPQ. TPA/TPQ is a non-formal Islamic religious institution that teaches reading and writing the Qur'an from an early age and understands the basics of Islamic teachings in early childhood, elementary school, madrassa, or even higher (Aliwar, 2016).

Formal recognition of the Qur'an can be done when the child is 4 years old, but informally, the introduction of the Qur'an can be done when the child is still in the womb. This is based on several studies conducted by scientists in the field of prenatal care, showing that while in the womb, children can learn, feel, and know the difference between dark and light. The ability of children in the womb develops well enough when the womb is five months old so that the process of education and learning can begin, so it is not surprising that Islam says that education has begun since the baby is still in the womb (Kusrinah, 2013). Teaching the Qur'an to children in reading, writing, and understanding the Qur'an can be done gradually. Because in early childhood, learning the Qur'an is not an easy matter. The basis for learning the Qur'an is to recognize the hijaiyyah letters. Therefore, the first thing to be taught in early childhood is to introduce hijaiyyah letters.

Introducing hijaiyyah letters is the same as introducing alphabet letters to children. Early childhood has the characteristic "the child's world is play." For early childhood, learning new knowledge is done through fun activities, such as playing with real objects. Learning through play activities makes children's concentration longer, as according to Hurlock, early childhood only has a short concentration power of about 10–15 minutes. In carrying out learning activities, early childhood requires intermediaries, commonly referred to as learning media. This learning media can distract children so they don't get bored quickly (Ulfa, 2017).

In the above connection, the researcher will present a literature review on the use of media in the recognition of hijaiyyah letters in early childhood. This study aims to determine the role of media and what media are used by teachers in introducing hijaiyyah letters to early childhood.

# Literature Review

* 1. **Theory**

Hijaiyyah letters are letters of the Qur'an written in Arabic. Hijaiyyah letters are Arabic letters or called letters al hija (iyah) and letters al tahajji means spelling letters (Sari et al., 2019). Hijaiyah letters consist of two forms, mufrad (single) and muzdawij (series), which are written and read from right to left. The shape of the hijaiyyah letters is different; the difference is the location of the dot; some are above, below, and inside. Some have one, two, or three dots. The Qur'an was revealed as a guide for people who want to achieve happiness in the world and the hereafter; therefore, it is obligatory for Muslims to learn it. Thalib (Permatasari, Inten, & Mulyani, 2017) emphasized that children, as part of the Muslim community, are naturally obliged to be taught to read the Qur'an, or at least recognize letters and how to read them. Qur'anic literacy in children is introduced early through learning that is closely related to the

child's world and in accordance with his development. A comfortable learning atmosphere will have an impact on children's interest in learning without burden or pressure. The ultimate goal of learning the Qur'an is to form the next generation of the nation with a Muslim personality, namely a generation that always loves the Qur'an, not only making the Qur'an a reading but also making the Qur'an a guideline and a view of daily life (Permana & Syafrida, 2019). This was supported by the government with the birth of the Qur'an-based early childhood education program. Qur'an-based early childhood education is a program of the Ministry of Education and Culture under the auspices of the Directorate of Early Childhood Education. Qur'an-based early childhood education is religious-based early childhood education, so it is intended for children of the same religion.

# Theory 2

Media can facilitate and help children learn hijaiyyah letters. Gagne stated that all kinds of components or materials that exist in the student's environment that can stimulate students to learn are referred to as media (Indriana, 2011). The availability of media in schools supports learning activities. In general, the benefits of the media include clarifying messages so that they are not too verbal, creating a spirit of learning, overcoming limitations in space, time, energy, and sensory power, giving the same effect, equalizing experiences and creating the same views, and allowing children to learn independently according to their talents and abilities in learning styles (Ekayani, 2017). For this reason, there are several characteristics of the media that can be given to children, including: game tools that are not harmful to children; contain educational elements; various game tools; have a level of difficulty that is in accordance with children's abilities; and use simple game tools that are easily found in the environment around children. However, the results of observations made by researchers regarding the use of media in the introduction of hijaiyyah letters are still rarely found. (Filaty, 2017) In her research at Muslimat Falakhiyah Kindergarten and Muslimat Bahrul Ulum Kindergarten in Glagah District, Lamongan Regency, the introduction of hijaiyyah letters was carried out using dice. The dice are creatively designed so that they are easy to play, like the letter dice game. The activity was conducted by comparing the control group and the experimental group. The results show that by using letter dice media, the learning process has a more significant effect on children's mastery of hijaiyyah letter recognition than learning without letter dice media. This is influenced by the presence of a curved line on the dice and colorful letters that allow children to pay more attention and make an impression during the learning process. So that children will more easily remember what is seen and said. Then, (Herlina, Fatimah, & Fahmi, 2018) in their research, the introduction of hijaiyyah letters is carried out using letter cards. According to him, letter cards are one of the playing methods that are effective enough to develop children's ability to recognize hijaiyyah letters. By using letter cards, children get a new way of reading hijaiyyah letters, and the learning atmosphere will feel like playing. The results showed that with the letter card media, children participated in activities enthusiastically and actively so that learning became more fun, children tried more than one activity, and children could express themselves and get new information in their minds. The same thing is also found in the use of flannel board media, which has a role in improving the introduction of hijaiyyah letters in early childhood. Flannel board is an effective graphic media to explain certain messages to children (Sholihat,

2020). This flannel-covered board is made with pictures that can attract children's attention. That way, the message conveyed by the teacher will be conveyed. Meanwhile, teacher creativity in developing media is also very much needed, such as in the in the media development carried out by (Maula, Saripudin, & Jazariyah, 2021), namely Arabic Alphabet for Kids, which is a media for introducing hijaiyyah letters in the form of colored books in which there are pictures and hijaiyyah letters. This media is able to improve the recognition of hijaiyyah letters in early childhood. Arabic Alphabet for Kids Media makes children more active in learning with the introduction of hijaiyah letters, and learning becomes more effective and not monotonous. Not only that, but the development of media to introduce hijaiyyah letters was also carried out by (Sayidah & et al, 2021). In contrast to Arabic Alphabet for Kids, this media development was made using Android. The use of this educational game application, if used regularly, can provide convenience and knowledge to children about the introduction of hijaiyyah letters. However, because this media uses Android applications, it is necessary to have adult supervision when using it.

# Material and Method

This research uses a literature study method to examine more than 15 pieces of literature related to hijaiyyah letters and learning media. The research method of a literature review or literature study is the search for the results of previous studies that are relevant or have the proximity of the object of research to the research to be carried out by the researcher. In general, a literature review contains two main components, namely the search for previous studies and the theoretical basis (Rahmadi, 2011). The data collection technique carried out is documentation, which is a document in the form of literature related to the research topic. The purpose of using the literature study method in this research is as a first step in planning research by utilizing literature to obtain data in the field without the need to be directly involved.

# Design Study

The data collected comes from primary data and secondary data; primary data are published research results such as accredited scientific journals, research reports, and scientific papers, while secondary data is in the form of reading books or textbooks.The use of media in hijaiyyah letter recognition activities in early childhood has been proven to affect children's learning outcomes. The use of media has a great influence on the message to be conveyed. This is in line with the benefits of using learning media, namely media that clarify learning content and messages. The media used by teachers in introducing hijaiyyah letters in early childhood is still relatively small. Teachers usually use iqro books when introducing hijaiyyah letters to children. However, IQRO reading activities are considered quite saturated for early childhood because there are no pictures and no color. Teachers need to pay attention to children's needs in teaching and learning activities.

Dice media, letter cards, flannel boards, Arabic alphabet for kids, and educational game applications are hijaiyyah letter recognition media that have been researched and can influence children's ability to recognize hijaiyyah letters. The media used is interesting and creative, so it can divert children's focus from learning activities. The child is attracted to the colors and images that are in the media. So as to cause curiosity about the material to be given.

# Data Analysis

Data analysis in this study is content analysis and uses Miles and Huberman data analysis techniques, namely data reduction, data presentation, and data verification. The results of these literature studies will be used to identify the use of media in the introduction of hijaiyyah letters in early childhood. The stages of research carried out using literature research steps from M.Zed are as follows:

Prepare the necessary equipment

Set up a working bibliography (working bibliography)

Organize time

Activities to read and record research materials

**Figure 1.** Literature Research Steps

# Result

**Table 1.** Use of Hijaiyyah Letter Recognition Media

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Media** | **Location Research** | **The Role of Media** | **Results** |
| 1. | Dice Letters | Glagah District, Lamongan | With a curved line on the dice and colorful letters, it allows children to pay more attention and create an impression during the learning process. So that children will more easily remember what is  seen and said. | There is an influence on learning outcomes using dice media. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2. | Letter Cards | Serang, Banten | Letter card media makes children  follow activities enthusiastically and actively so that learning becomes more fun; children try more than one activity; children can express themselves and get new information in their minds with letter  card media. | Can improve children's ability to recognize hijaiyyah letters |
| 3. | Flannel Board | Bekasi | Attract the attention of the child and the message conveyed by the teacher  becomes conveyed | Can improve the ability to read hijaiyyah |
| 4. | *Arabic Alphabet for Kids* | Cirebon | Arabic Alphabet for Kids media makes children more active in learning hijaiyah letter recognition and learning becomes more effective and  less monotonous | Suitable for  hijaiyyah letter recognition |
| 5. | Educational Game Apps | Sukabumi | Provide convenience and knowledge to children about the introduction of  hijaiyyah letters. | It is very feasible and makes it easier for children to learn hijaiyyah |

From the table above, it can be seen that the media has an important role in learning activities in children, including: the media gives an impression and pays attention to the learning process; learning activities become active and fun; the message conveyed by the teacher becomes conveyed; learning is more effective and not monotonous; and it provides convenience and knowledge of the information just received by children.

# Discussion

The importance of learning hijaiyyah letters is because this is an Arabic letter used in writing the Qur'an. As Muslims, it is mandatory to study and read the Qur'an. The Qur'an is the holy book of Muslims, in which there are instructions for life for humans. However, in early childhood, learning hijaiyyah letters is not easy. Children need intermediaries and media to make it easier to learn new things. This can be adapted to the characteristics of children, that is, “the child's world is play” In early childhood, learning new knowledge is done through fun activities, such as playing with real objects. Learning through play activities makes children's concentration last longer.

# Conclusion, Implication, and Recommendation

Hijaiyyah letter recognition for early childhood needs to be done. Because the hijaiyyah letters are a series of letters arranged to form a constituent word of the Qur'an, The Qur'an is a guide for Muslims, who become the basis or foundation of life in the world. In addition to allowing children to read the Qur'an properly and correctly, the purpose of introducing hijaiyyah letters to children is so that the next generation of the nation grows into a generation with noble morals. Of course, the introduction of hijaiyyah letters in early childhood requires media as an intermediary during the learning process. Media is able to create a learning atmosphere that is active and effective. Media that can be used by teachers in recognizing hijaiyyah letters and have proven to be able to improve children's ability to recognize hijaiyyah letters include dice media, letter cards, flannel boards, Arabic Alphabet for Kids, and educational game applications. However, the media for the recognition of hijaiyyah letters still has to be improved, so that it is more numerous and varied and provides opportunities for teachers to be creative in accordance with their creativity in making learning media.

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