The Positive Impact of Memorizing the Qur’an on Cognitive Intelligence of Children
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ABSTRACT
This research is a literature review, aimed to find out the positive impacts of memorizing the Qur’an on the cognitive intelligence of children. Among Muslim parents, making their children become memorizers of the Qur’an is one of the noble steps to achieve glory and happiness in this world and the hereafter. There are many virtues for Hafiz Qur’an (Qur’an Memorizer) that have been listed in the Qur’an and Hadith. Besides, based on several results of the research showed that the ability to memorize the Qur’an has positive impacts on children’s learning achievement or academic mastery of subject matters. Those positive impacts on children’s cognitive intelligence are (1) to sharpen the ability of children’s memorization, (2) to stimulate the children’s critical thinking, (3) memorizing the Quran as a first step and provision to mastery other knowledge, and (4) Qur’anic memorization can support students’ learning achievement. Parents or instructors might teach their children as interesting as possible and make memorization activity with pleasure and without coercion.

Keywords: Memorizing, Qur’an, children, cognitive, intelligence.

1. INTRODUCTION
Lately, the interest of the Muslim community is highly large to make their children a Hafiz Quran. It can be seen from the increasing number of Quran memorizers in Indonesia and even the world. Indonesia as one of the countries with the most Muslims has some number of memorizers of the Qur’an, around 30 thousand from a total of 210 million Muslim population [1], [2], [3]. Globally, the memorizers of the Qur’an increase year by year, especially in Muslim majority countries. One of them is Pakistan which has produced one million memorizers of the Qur’an in the last three decades [4].

Many Muslim parents want their children to become Hafiz Qur’an because of the various glories in memorizing Qur’an as stated in the Qur’an and Hadith [5]. Some of the glories of memorizing Qur’an that will be given to them are: (1) the reward flowing in every reciting verse, (2) deserve the honour and high position, (3) the crown and glory of clothing for them in the hereafter, (4) interceded for his family, and (5) avoided from hellfire [6], [7], [8]. There were some scholars as role models in Islamic history who became Hafiz although they were still children such as Sufyan bin Uyainah, Ibu Jarir ath-Thabari, Ibn Sina, Al-Kindi, Ibn Katsir, Imam Ash-Shafi’i, etc. [9].

Besides, the activity of the Qur’an memorization is very closely related to various aspects of children’s development. The process can develop all individual intelligence simultaneously [10]. There are positive impacts on memorizing the Qur’an for the development of children that may motivate the Muslim parents to teach their children the Qur’an. One of the main aspects which are quite influential is the cognitive intelligence of children. So, this study tried to describe the positive impacts of memorizing the Qur’an on the cognitive intelligence of children based on the literature review.

2. MEANING AND RELEVANCE OF MEMORIZING THE QUR’AN AND COGNITIVE INTELLIGENCE

Hafiz Qur’an is derived from the Arabic language that means memorizer of the Qur’an [11]. Hafiz Qur’an is a person who has memorized well after the process of memorizing verse by verse of the Qur’an intentionally [12]. The meaning of memorizing itself is interpreted as the ability to move reading material or objects into memory (encoding), store in memory (storage), and re-express the subject in memory (retrieval) [13], [14]. So, the Hafiz Qur’an can recite verses of the Qur’an without seeing those verses and should always keep his memorization from being forgotten. Indeed, the Qur’an is easy to memorize as stated in one of the verses of the
children can absorb ideas and knowledge stronger than an early age, and the children’s brain growth rate is very high before the age of 7 years. This means that children’s golden period is at the age of 8 years, as much as 80% at the age of 4 years, as much as 50% at the age of 0-4 years, as much as 80% at the age of 8 years, and then further development after the age of 8 years. This means that children’s golden period is at an early age, and the children’s brain growth rate is very high before the age of 7 years. At this period, the children can absorb ideas and knowledge stronger than an adult [21], [22]. Parents may optimize their children’s golden years by stimulating their children’s cognitive intelligence functions. Teaching the Qur’an to the children is one of the effective ways to stimulate the children’s cognitive development. Several positive impacts of memorizing the Qur’an on children’s cognitive intelligence based on various literature are:

3.1. To Sharpen the Ability of Children’s Memorization

Sensory memory is the initial process of memorization. Sensory memory or sensory storage will record information or stimulus that is entered and captured by the five senses such as visualization through eyes, auditory through ears, touch through the skins, smell through the nose, and taste through the tongue. The information can be detected through one of the five senses or a combination of the five senses [23]. If recording information does not get any attention, the information will be decayed or lost, but if it gets attention, the information will be processed into short-term memory [24]. Then, if it is repeated continuously, it will be stored in long-term memory [25].

Memory plays an important and vital role in human life. Many parents are aware of memory function, especially for their children, so they desire to improve their children’s memory capability early [26]. One of the efforts of parents to improve their children’s memory is to guide them to memorize the Qur’an. Some previous studies revealed that there was a positive impact on memorizing the Qur’an in improving or sharpening children’s memory [27], [28]. Then, another study revealed that there was an increase in brain waves in experimental subjects who interacted with the Qur’an [29].

3.2. To stimulate the Children’s Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is reasonable reflective thinking focused on deciding what to believe or do an activity such as solving problems, making decisions, persuading, and analysing assumptions [30]. Critical thinking enables students to solve problems systematically, face millions of challenges in an organized way, formulate innovative questions, and design original solutions [31]. Basically, humans already have the tendency and ability to think critically since childhood. This tendency can be found in a child who looks at various objects around him/her curiously [32].

A study conducted at tahfiz school showed that the students’ critical thinking ability was good. However, more attention should be given to analytical and logical skills [33]. The integrative learning system which is incorporated into the tahfiz learning curriculum emphasizes a set of values forming the foundation of
critical thinking [34]. Moreover, Qur’an contains various kinds of knowledge, not only about faith, worship, morals, but also scientific knowledge [35], [36].

3.3. Memorizing the Quran as a First Step and Provision to Mastery another Knowledge

Learning or seeking knowledge is a must for both Muslim and Muslimah as narrated by Ibn Majah [37], it is important for human life in this world. Everyone had better start learning any science by memorizing Qur’an firstly, because the Qur’an is the noblest and the most proper knowledge [38]. By memorizing and understanding its meaning, someone will be more established and very helpful in exploring other sciences [39]. Even great Muslims Scholars, before they mastered certain fields, they memorized and understood the entire Qur’an firstly, like Ibn Sina as a medical Muslim Scholar, Imam Asy-Syafi’i as a fiqh/jurisprudence Scholar, and Al-Kindi as a Muslim Scholar of philosopher, mathematician, polymath, physician, and musician [40].

Some research concluded that there was a positive and significant contribution of Qur’anic memorization toward students’ subject-matter mastery [41]. Memorizing the Qur’an also is a good predictor for the success of certain lesson achievements [42]. Besides, a study revealed that playing classical music to the mother’s womb can educate her fetus’ brain [43]. Actually, ancient Muslim Scholars had practiced earlier to sound off chanting verses of the Qur’an to the fetus in order to educate the fetus’ brain [44].

3.4. Qur’an Memorization Can Support Students’ Learning Achievement

Several scholars argue that Qur’an memorization has good effects on developing children’s basic skills and increasing academic achievement [45], [46]. Abdullah Subaibah [47] emphasized that memorizing the Qur’an can help concentrate and receive knowledge. Children who are accustomed to memorizing the Qur’an, they will be trained with high concentration, as the learning process requires concentration. According to him, brain cells must function constantly, so students who are used to memorizing, their brain cells are active and become stronger.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the study above, the author tried to make several important conclusion and recommendation related to the topic, as follows:

Many Muslim parents want their children to become Hafiz Qur’an not only because of the various glories in memorizing the Qur’an as stated in the Qur’an and Hadith, but also the positive impacts on individual intelligence, including cognitive intelligence. Those positive impacts on children’s cognitive intelligence are (1) to sharpen the ability of children’s memorization, (2) to stimulate the children’s critical thinking, (3) memorizing the Quran as a first step and provision to mastery other knowledge, and (4) Qur’anic memorization can support students’ learning achievement.

Parents or instructors might teach their children as interesting as possible, such as voice intonation, body movements, and use of supported media that make the children interested and memorization activity with pleasure and without coercion [48]. When the children memorize the Qur’an with the feeling of pleasure, they will enjoy memorizing it. Conversely, if the children memorize anything in a depressed state or prolonged stress, it will be difficult, even cognitive intelligence development may be disrupted [49].

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