

Module of Al-Quran Memorization According to Capability and Period

Sedek Ariffin⁺, Mustaffa Abdullah and Khadher Ahmad

Universiti of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

Abstract. This researcher have taken an initiative to make a study related to the module of Al-Quran memorization according to the capability and period based on a few Institute Tahfiz Quran in Malaysia. The study was conducted on 47 tahfiz students studying at the three Tahfiz institutes. To analyse the study, the researchers had committed observation, interviews and questionnaires as measuring instruments. The data obtained were processed using version 17.0 SPSS program (Statistical Package for Social Science) and analysed using descriptive statistics. The results of the finding showed that 1/3 of the memorization process is a suitable time to be used for the process of memorizing a new verse; while another 2/3 of the process is the time to repeat the memorization of old verses. With 30 minutes a day, someone who has a very good memory takes about five years to remember the whole Quran. Meanwhile, someone who has a very poor memory will require 23 years, 10 months and five days to remember the whole Quran.

Keywords: Memorization, al-Quran, Module, Methodology, Ability

1. Introduction

Many of Sahabah learnt al-Quran by memorization from Muhammad s.a.w until a huffaz group was born.¹ There were four steps of teaching the Quran in Muhammad time, namely, first, read the Quran properly. Muhammad s.a.w read the Quran through talaqqi with angel Jibril a.s. Second, explain the meaning. This is to understand what is behind the verses of the Quran. Third, memorize. Apart from the Quran verses which were written on the date fronds, skin and bones, there were also sahabah who memorized verses from the Quran. Fourth, practicing the teachings of the Quran based on the teachings understood from the verse memorized.²

2. Research Methodology

The study was conducted in three Institute Tahfiz al-Quran. First Tahfiz Quran Darul Tuba in Tangkak, second Tahfiz al-Quran Miftahul Ulum in Sri Petaling and Tahfiz al-Quran al-Husni, Kuala Selangor. Respondents in this study were 47. The selection of research sample is through a simple random sampling method. These features are consist of male and female respondents who have memorized the Quran and have sat for *Syahadah Hifz al-Quran*.

The development of this questionnaire instrument was adapted by researchers based on a study by Abu al-Fida Muhammad 'Izzat Muhammad' Arif,³ which studied *Kaifa Nahfaz al-Qur'an*. Apart from that as well, the study of the PHD thesis namely Sedek Ariffin⁴ who studied *Method of Memorizing the Qur'an in the Qur'an Tahfiz Institutions in Malaysia: A Comparative Study on the methods between Darul Quran, JAKIM*

⁺Tel.:+60192706510; fax:+60379676143; *E-mail address:* sedek2001@hotmail.com.

¹ Farah Ihyani Zakaria & Mohd Aderi Che Noh, "Pelaksanaan Kelas Kemahiran al-Quran di Malaysia: Satu Analisis", *Journal of Islamic and Arabic Education* 3, no 1 (2011), 48..

² *Ibid.*

³ Abu al-Fida Muhammad 'Izzat Muhammad 'Arif, *Kaifa Nahfaz al-Qur'an* (Kaherah: Dar al-Salam, 2006).

⁴ Sedek Ariffin, *Op.cit.*

and the al-Huffaz, and also Norhanan Abdul Rahman⁵ who studied the Turkey System Quran Memorization Method: The Study of Tahfiz Quran Darul Tuba has become reference for the researchers in constructing the questionnaires.

A pilot study was done at Darul Quran JAKIM, Kuala Kubu Bharu which consisted of 10 undergraduate students who have memorized the Quran, represented by male and female. According to Noraini Idris, the alpha index of 0.7 or above is good for the scale instrument with ten or more items. The alpha value of 0.5 is considered good for the scale instruments with less than ten items.⁶ A pilot study conducted by the researchers showed that the reliability of the entire student questionnaire is 0.72 to 0.89.

The data of this questionnaire is then analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 16.0. The data were analyzed using descriptive analysis. Descriptive analysis is used to obtain the frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation. Besides using the questionnaire method in the field research, the researchers also used the interview and observation techniques to obtain background information about the Tahfiz al-Quran and the methods used by the Centres of Tahfiz al-Quran in memorizing the Quran.

3. Al-Quran Memorization Module from Turkey

Turkey system of memorization proposes memorization from the back sheets for every chapter. It starts from the first chapter, rather than 30th chapter as the Pakistan or Indian system. For example, for the first day, the students will start to memorize the first chapter, final page. While for the second day the students will memorize the second chapter of the final page. For the third day students will the third chapter of the final page. So onwards, this means the 30 chapter of the Quran will be memorized by the student for 30 days. This is all with the final sheets.⁷ After completing the 30 chapter, this means that the student has completed one round. For the next round, students will recommence memorization from the first chapter but starts on page 19 and read together with page 20. For the next day, it would be the second chapter of pages 19 and 20, the next day it would be pages 19 and 20 of the third chapter, and so on until the 30th chapter.⁸

After completing the 30th chapter, it is deemed to have completed the second round and will enter the third round. For the third round it starts from the first chapter of page 18 read together with the pages 19 and 20. This is then followed by second chapter of page 18 and read together with pages 19 and 20 and so onwards until the 30th chapter. Students will continue memorizing until they finish 20 rounds. After completing 20 rounds, then the students by themselves finish the 30 chapter of the Qur'an. This is because a Mushaf has 20 pages. According to the estimation, the students are able to complete the 30 chapter of the Quran in 600 days or approximately two years. This final page is named as page one in the Turkey system.⁹ Overall, this method of memorization from Turkey includes several techniques that are being practiced. *Ders* is turkish which is articulating repetition of the verses of the Quran. The students need to articulate repeated verses of the Quran in the morning from 6.30 am to 7.30 am. Next, the students will be having breakfast and perform the dhuha prayer, and then the second lesson will be continued at 8.30 am to 10.30 am.¹⁰

The next lesson is *Chi*, which is a term in the Turkish, which means memorization of new verses from the Quran.¹¹ It is conducted from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.¹² Next, *Zor Pismis* is memorization repetition of old Quran verses that are difficult in the chapter read on a particular day, namely the memorization repetition of memorized verses a month before in the said chapter. It is carried out from 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm. *Kolay pismis* on the other hand is the repetition of old memorization of simple Quran verses, which are

⁵ Norhanan Abdul Rahman, "Kaedah Hafazan al-Quran Sistem Turki : Kajian di Tahfiz al-Quran Darul Tuba" (academic training, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Johor, 2009).

⁶ Noraini Idris, *Penyelidikan Dalam Pendidikan* (Kuala Lumpur: McGraw- Hill (Malaysia) Sdn.Bhd, 2010), 172.

⁷ Mohd Arifi M.Husin &Kasmawati Mohd Said, "Sistem Turki Pengenalan & Aplikasi di Tahfiz al-Quran Darul Tuba" (paperwork, Tahfiz al-Quran Darul Tuba, Johor, t.t), 8.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 9.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 14.

¹¹ Sedek Ariffin, *Op.cit.*, 130.

¹² Kasmawati binti Mohd Said, *Op.cit.*

sentences in a particular chapter that has been memorized apart from *Zor Pismis*.¹³ *Kolay Pismis* is carried out from 3.30 pm to 5.15 pm. Next is an old repetition of the whole which includes *Zor Pismis* and *Kolay Pismis* to strengthen the memorization of the verse that has memorized before. It is implemented at 7:45 pm to 8:45 pm. The last lesson is *Tekrar Hepsi Seyfa* which is the repetition of memorization of all the pages in the chapter. It is implemented at 8.45 pm to 10.00 pm.¹⁴

Table 1: Distribution of the Student Activities of Memorizing Quran Verses in Tahfiz Quran Darul Tuba in a day.

| Time | 6.30 am – 7.30 am | 8.30 am – 10.30 am | 10.30 am – 12.00 pm | 2.45 pm – 3.30 pm | 3.30 pm – 5.15 pm | 7.45 pm – 8.45 pm | 8.45 pm – 10.00 pm |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Activities | <i>Ders 1</i> | <i>Ders 2</i> | <i>Chi</i> | <i>Zor Pismis</i> | <i>Kolay pismis</i> | <i>Tekrar</i> | <i>Tekrar Hepsi Seyfa</i> |

Based on Table 1, it shows the activities of students at Tahfiz al-Quran Darul Tuba in memorizing verses from the Quran in a day. Based on the schedule, the students take 9 hours and 25 minutes to memorize and repeat the verses of the Quran in a day. In the memorization of the new verses of the Quran (*Chi*), students take a minimum of 1 hour and 30 minutes, while 7 hours and 55 minutes is the time used by the students to repeat the old verses of the Quran only. Memorization method has produced students who can read 30 chapter of the Quran from Surah al-Fatihah until Surah An-Nas without looking at the Mushaf.

3.1. Al-Quran Memorization Module from Cirebon, Indonesia

Memorization of the Quran according to the Indonesian method will commence from the 30th chapter to up to the first chapter. This will facilitate the students as the verses in the final chapter are shorter and easier to memorize. Overall, this method from Indonesia adopts the following methods, namely *Hifz al-Jadid*, *Al-Hifz al-Usubu'iy* and *al-Hifz al-Qadim*.¹⁵ *Hifz al-Jadid* is the first technique in the Indonesia method of memorization. *Hifz al-Jadid* is the verses of the Quran new memorization.¹⁶ The time allocated for new memorization is at 7.00 am and 8.30 am.¹⁷ Next, *al-Hifz al-Usubu'iy* is weekly repetition or repetition of verses that have been memorized within the latest one week period. The time allocated to *al-Hifz al-Usubu'iy* is 2 hours 15 minutes starting from 9.30 am to 11.45 am.¹⁸ Meanwhile *al-Hifz al-Qadim* is a technique of memorization repetition of the Quran verses that have been long memorized. From the angle of implementation, the students will attend classes from 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm.¹⁹

Table 2: Distribution of the Student Activities of Memorizing Quran Verses in Tahfiz Quran al-Husni in a day.

| time | 7.00 am – 8.30 am | 9.30 am – 11.45 am | 2.30 pm – 5.00 pm |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Activities | <i>Hifz al-Jadid</i> | <i>Al-Hifz al-Usubu'iy</i> | <i>Al-Hifz al-Qadim</i> |

Table 2 shows the activities of memorizing verses from the Quran in Tahfiz al-Quran al-Husni. Based on the table, the students have spent the past 6 hours 15 minutes to memorize and repeat the verses of the Quran. In memorizing new verses from the Quran which is called *Hifz al-Jadid*, the students take 1 hour and 30 minutes, while 4 hours and 45 minutes is the time used by the students to repeat the old verses of the Quran only. This memorization method has produced students who can read 30 chapter of the Quran from Surah al-Fatihah to Surah An-Nas without looking at the Mushaf.

3.2. Al-Quran Memorization Module from India and Pakistan

The Quran memorization methods from India and Pakistan also expand in Malaysia; among them through Madrasah Tahfiz al-Quran Miftahul Ulum located in Sri Petaling. This madrasah falls into two, namely Madrasah Tahfiz al-Quran Miftahul Ulum Banin and Madrasah Tahfiz al-Quran Miftahul Ulum

¹³ Sedek Ariffin, *Op.cit.*

¹⁴ Kasmawati binti Mohd Said, *Op.cit.*

¹⁵ Sedek Ariffin, *Op.cit.*, 121.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 121.

¹⁷ Fatimah Achmad Fatoni, *Op.cit.*

¹⁸ Sedek Ariffin, *Op.cit.*, 123.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

Banat. This madrasah also has two types of studies, which are Islamic Studies and Arabic Language, and the Study of Tahfiz al-Quran.²⁰ Most of the madrasah students are students who are in the area in Sri Petaling because this madrasah does not provide hostel service. There are also students from other countries such as China, Thailand, Singapore, and so on.²¹ This madrasah uses Deobandy method in memorizing al-Quran. Sitting techniques in *halaqah* is practiced in this Deobandy memorization system. Each student is required to sit in a circle that has been determined, together with the Quran and the respective rehal. The students are not allowed to lean on the wall of the classroom. They are required to sit and distance themselves from the wall of the classroom. This is to avoid any student from falling asleep by leaning against the wall.²²

To begin memorization, the students will begin to memorize from the 30th chapter, then chapter 29, 28, 27 and 26, after that the students will begin the memorization from the front, the first chapter until the 25th. This will make it easier for students to remember the Quran verses because the last five chapter are short sentences, simple sentences, and mostly are already common sentences.²³ Overall, the method used by the Madrasah is using techniques such as the following, i.e. *sabaq*, *5 sabaq*, *para sabaq*, *amokhtah* and *sabaq nazirah*. *Sabaq* is a term used in this method, which means memorizing verses from the Quran that are new. This is carried out beginning from 7.45 am to 8.30 am. After the students read a *sabaq*, they are required to read five *sabaq* which are five times of the new memorization or five days of the previous memorization. For example, the students memorize the first chapter of page 10; therefore five *sabaq* is page nine, eight, seven, six and five. Five *sabaq* is done at 8.30 am to 9.15 am. Next, *para sabaq* are termed as weekly memorization repetition of a chapter of the Quran verse that was memorized behind the new verse memorization. *Para sabaq* starts from 9.15 am to 9.35 am. Then the class of *para sabaq* continues from 9.55 am to 11.00 am. Besides that, *amokhtah* is a Quran verse that has long been memorized, and more than one chapter behind the latest memorization. The students are given time from 11.45 am to 1.15 pm. Meanwhile, reading *sabaq Nazirah* is the final lesson which is reading new memorization by looking at the mushaf. It is implemented from 1.15 pm to 1:40 pm.²⁴ Overall, the students spend 6 hours a day to memorize and repeat the verses of the Quran.

Table 3: Distribution of Student Activities of Madrasah Tahfiz al-Quran Miftahul Ulum of Memorizing Quran Verses in a Day.

| Time | 7.45 a.m- 8.30 a.m | 8.30 a.m - 9.15 a.m | 9.15 a.m - 9.35 a.m | 9.55 a.m - 11.00 a.m | 11.45 a.m - 1.15 p.m | 1.15 p.m - 1.40 p.m |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Activity | <i>Sabaq</i> | <i>5 Sabaq</i> | <i>Para Sabaq</i> | <i>Para Sabaq</i> | <i>Amukhtah</i> | <i>Sabaq Nazirah</i> |

Table 4: Distribution of Student Activities of Madrasah Tahfiz al-Quran Miftahul Ulum of Memorizing Quran Verses In A Day At Home

| Time | 1 hour | 20 minutes | 20 minutes | 2 hours | 1 hour |
|----------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Activity | <i>Sabaq</i> | <i>5 Sabaq</i> | <i>Para Sabaq</i> | <i>Amukhtah</i> | <i>Manzil</i> |

Tables 3 and 4 show the activity of Quran verse memorization in Madrasah Tahfiz Miftahul Ulum. The students in this Madrasah are students of a daily school and the Madrasah does not provide hostel. Based on the schedule, the students take 9 hours and 40 minutes to memorize and repeat the verses of the Quran. In the memorization of the new verses of the Quran (*sabaq*), the students take about 1 hour and 45 minutes, while 7 hours and 55 minutes is the time used by the students to repeat the old verse of the Quran only. This memorization method has produced students who can read 30 chapter of the Quran from Surah al-Fatihah to Surah An-Nas without looking at the Mushaf.

²⁰ Institute Tahfiz al-Quran Miftahul Ulum, "access on 11 May 2014, <http://mtmu.edu.my/academics/>.

²¹ Khadijah Mahmood (Teacher, Madrasah Tahfiz al-Quran Miftahul Ulum Banat) in an interview with the teacher, 30th April 2014.

²² Sedek Ariffin, *Op.cit.*, 93.

²³ *Ibid.*, 95.

²⁴ Khadijah Mahmood, *Op.cit.*

4. Analysis of the Capabilities and the Period of Memorization of the New Verses of the Quran and Repetition of the Old Verses of the Quran.

Based on the interviews carried out by the researchers with the teaching staff at the three Institute Tahfiz Quran, the students whose memorization of Quran verse are very strong can *khatm* (complete reading) the Quran in a period of one year and it took six months for the repetition period and sit for the Syahadah Hafiz's examination. Meanwhile, the students whose memorization is very weak can *khatm* the Quran and sit for the Syahadah Hafiz's examination within seven years. Based on the daily schedule of the memorization method from Turkey, it shows that the students have taken a period of nine hours and 25 minutes to memorize the verses from the Quran that are new and repeat the verses from the Quran that are old. Based on the table one, it shows that one fifth of the total time is the time to memorize the verses from the Quran and the remaining four fifths is the time to repeat the verses of the Quran that are old.

Meanwhile, the method of memorization from Cirebon, Indonesia, shows that students spend six hours and 15 minutes to memorize verses from the Quran that are new and repeat the verses from the Quran that are old. Based on table two, it shows that 6/25 of the whole time is the time to memorize the new verses of the Quran, whereas 19/25 is the time for the repetition of old verses of the Quran.

For the method of memorization from India and Pakistan, it shows that the students were using nine hours and 40 minutes to memorize verses from the Quran that are new and repeat the verses from the Quran that are old. Based on Table 3, it shows that two fifths of the total time is for memorizing verses from the Quran that are new and the balance of 3/5 is for repetition of the Quran verses that are old. Based on table 1, 2 and 3, the researchers have analyzed and concluded that one third of the time indicated is the most suitable time to memorize Quran verses that are new. Meanwhile the other two thirds is used to repeat the verses of the Quran that are old. This is considered based on the daily schedule of the three modules of memorization. This quotation can be seen as follows:

Table 5: Distribution of Time Allocation Ratio of Memorization of al-Quran Verses that are New

| Item | Quran memorization method from Turkey | Quran memorization method from Indonesia | Quran memorization method from India and Pakistan | Researchers Summary |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------|
| Time ratio of new memorization | 1/5: 15/75 | 6/25: 18/75 | 2/5: 30/75 | 1/3: 25/75 |

Table 5 shows the ratio of time spent on memorizing verses from the Quran that are new. After doing the calculation of the three methods, the accumulated amount is 15/75 for the method of memorization of the Quran from Turkey, while for the method of memorization of the Quran from Indonesia, the amount is 18/75. For the method of memorization of the Quran from India and Pakistan, the amount is 30/75. The 25/75 is the intermediate value of between 15/75 and 30/75. All these three mean are equal to the time ratio of memorization that is new, namely the method of memorization of the Quran from Turkey, which is one fifth, while the methods from Indonesia is 6/25. And for the method of memorization of India and Pakistan, the ratio is 2/5. The ratio of one third is the intermediate value between one fifth and 2/5.

4.1. Calculation of the Ability and the Period of Memorizing the Quran Verses That Are New and Remembering the Quran Verses That Are Old, Based On the Time Given

Formula:

$$[(x) \div (1/3 \times (y))] \times (z/15)$$

The calculation formula of the ability and period of memorizing the verses from the Quran that are new as well as remembering verses from the Quran that are old for one chapter based on the given time period is $[(x) \div (1/3 \times (y))] \times (z/15)$. Based on this formula, there are three letters which are x, y and z. the letter x is for the number of lines in a chapter, while the letter y is the amount of time allocated to memorize, and the letter z is for the scale of the level of ability.

4.2. Analysis of the Ability Module and Period of Memorizing Al-Quran Verses that are New and Remembering Quran verses that are Old Based on 30 Minutes Time a Day (1/2 hours per day).

Table 6: Distribution of the Analysis of the Module of Ability and the Period of Memorizing The Quran Verses that are New And Remembering Quran Verses that are Old Based on 30 Minutes Time a Day (1/2 hours per day).

| Chapter | Very Weak Memorization | Weak Memorization | Moderate Memorization | Strong Memorization | Very Strong Memorization |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 300 days | 240 days | 180 days | 120 days | 60 days |
| 30 | 8 700 days | 7 200 days | 5 400 days | 3 600 days | 1 800 days |

Table 6 shows the distribution of analysis of the ability and the period of memorizing verses from the Quran that are new and remembering verses from the Quran that are old based on a 30 minutes time per day (1/2 hours a day). If a person is on a scale of five, which possesses a very strong memorization, then the time required is 60 days (two months) to memorize one chapter of the Quran. Meanwhile, to memorize the whole Quran of 30 chapter, the time required is 1800 days (five years).

The calculation of the scale of the very strong memorization for a chapter is $[(300) \div (1/3 \times 30)] \times (30/15) = 60$ days. For the scale of very strong memorization for 30 chapter, the calculation is $[(9\ 000) \div (1/3 \times 30)] \times (30/15) = 1800$ days. If a person is on the scale of four which is having strong memorization, the time required is 120 days (four months) to memorize a chapter of the al-Quran. Meanwhile, to memorize the whole Quran of 30 chapter, the time required is 3600 days (10 years). The calculation of the scale of strong memorization for a chapter is $[(300) \div (1/3 \times 30)] \times (60/15) = 120$ days. For the calculation of the scale of strong memorization for 30 chapter is $[(9\ 000) \div (1/3 \times 30)] \times (60/15) = 3600$ days. The calculation of the scale of the moderate memorization for a chapter is $[(300) \div (1/3 \times 30)] \times (90/15) = 180$ days. For the scale of moderate memorization for 30 chapter, the calculation is $[(9000) \div (1/3 \times 30)] \times (90/15) = 5400$ days. If a person is on the scale of two, which is poor memorization, the time required is 240 days (eight months) to memorize one chapter of the Quran. Meanwhile, to memorize the whole Quran of 30 chapter, the time required is 7200 days (20 years). If a person is on the scale of one which is very poor memorization, the time required is 300 days (10 months) to memorize a chapter of the al-Quran. Meanwhile, to memorize the whole Quran of 30 chapter, the time required is 8700 days (23 years, 10 months and five days).

5. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researchers were able to conclude that all three al-Quran memorization modules which are module from Turkey, the module of the Quran memorization from Cirebon, Indonesia and the module of the Quran memorization from India and Pakistan, can produce students who can read the Quran of 30 chapter from surah al-Fatihah to surah an-Nas without looking at the Mushaf. The level of one's ability and the period is very closely related in producing one who can memorize 30 chapter of the Quran. Based on the analysis, if one's memorization is very strong, the time required to memorize and remember the verses of the Quran is one year to six months. Whereas for a person whose memorization is very weak, then the person need seven years to memorize and remember verses from the Quran.

Based on the analysis, there are five levels of one's ability in memorizing new verses of the Quran based on the given time period. The first level, which is of very strong memorization, one can memorize one page in less than 30 minutes (half hour). The second level of strong memorization, one can memorize one page in less than 60 minutes (one hour). Next, the third level which is moderate memorization, one is able to memorize one page in less than 90 minutes (1 hour and 30 minutes). Meanwhile, the fourth level which is weak memorization, one can memorize one page in less than 120 minutes (2 hours). The fifth and final level which is very weak memorization, one is able to memorize one page in less than 150 minutes (2 hours and 30 minutes).

Based on the findings, it is suggesting that the one third of the time is the most suitable time to memorize Quran verses that are new. Meanwhile, two thirds of the time is used to repeat the verses of the Quran that are old. This is considered based on the daily schedule of all the three memorization modules. Based on the analysis as well, there are five levels of one's ability to memorize verses from the Quran that are new and

remembering verses of the Quran that are old, based on the time period given. The first level is of very strong memorization. If a person is at a level of very strong memorization, then the time required to memorize a line is two minutes. The second level is of strong memorization. If a person is at a level of strong memorization, then the time required to memorize a line is four minutes. Next, the third level is of moderate memorization. If a person is at level of moderate memorization, then the time required to memorize a line is six minutes. The fourth level is of weak memorization. If a person is at a level of weak memorization, then the time required to memorize a line is eight minutes. The fifth and final level is of very weak memorization. If a person is in a very weak level of memorization, then the time required to memorize a line is 10 minutes.

The finding also shows that age factor does not become a measurement or obstacle for someone to memorize the Quran. But the ability, period, exertion and interest in a person that becomes the very important factors in the process of memorizing the Quran. From the analysis carried out, the researchers propose that this study be made a source of reference or benchmark for those who want to make a memorization method or module, and also for the public who is interested to memorize the Quran. The parties responsible must also emphasize on this memorization module so that it becomes an example or guide for the next generation in drafting the system to memorize the Quran.

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