

***The Holy Quran service through smart phone applications,  
between the employment of technology and the danger of distortion  
-Analytical descriptive study-***

خدمة القرآن الكريم عبر تطبيقات الهواتف الذكية، بين توظيف التقنية وخطورة التحريف  
-دراسة وصفية تحليلية-

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**Abstract:**

The study aims to identify the content and shape of the Holy Quran applications through phones and smart devices, and the methods that you use to serve the Holy Quran, and languages The media that depends on it to facilitate this service, by analyzing a sample of applications available through the Google Play Store.

The study reached a set of results, the most prominent of which is that modern technologies provide a wide ground for spreading the Holy Quran and its sciences in the languages of the world, and that the applications of the Holy Qur'an help many individuals to memorize the Qur'an and read the verses and the fence according to the provisions of intonation, and in return the Qur'an may be exposed to distortion and error, because this Applications are programmed by non -Islamic individuals .

**Keywords:** *Digital applications, Internet, Smart phones, Technology , The Holy Quran.*

**الملخص**

تهدف الدراسة إلى التعرف على محتوى وشكل تطبيقات القرآن الكريم عبر الهواتف والأجهزة الذكية، والأساليب التي تستخدمها لخدمة القرآن الكريم، واللغات الوسائط التي تعتمد عليها لتسهيل هذه الخدمة، وذلك عن طريق تحليل عينة من التطبيقات المتوفرة عبر متجر قوقل بلاي.

وتوصلت الدراسة إلى مجموعة من النتائج أبرزها أن التقنيات الحديثة توفر أرضية واسعة لنشر القرآن الكريم وعلومه بلغات العالم، كما أن تطبيقات القرآن الكريم، تساعد الكثير من الأفراد على حفظ القرآن وقراءة الآيات والسور وفق أحكام التجويد، وفي المقابل قد يتعرض القرآن للتحريف والخطأ، لأن هذه التطبيقات ترمج من طرف أفراد أو هيئات غير إسلامية، في ظل غياب الرقابة.

**كلمات مفتاحية:** القرآن الكريم، التطبيقات الرقمية، الهواتف الذكية، التكنولوجيا، الانترنت.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The world today has become like a small village thanks to the great spread of the internet and modern technologies, as it has enabled its members to communicate and interact as quickly and with minimal effort, thereby revolutionizing in several political, economic, social and scientific fields, and human life has become linked to the existence of technology, which he employed in order to develop a way of His existence as an active individual in society.

Islamic religion is one of the fields that have benefited from technology and had a prominent impact on its service, especially the Holy Quran, which is the first source of legislation and a permanent reference for the provisions of Sharia, and this service is shown through memorizing its verses and teaching the provisions of its quality, and access to its various sciences, through applications provided by modern technology via phones and smart devices.

The applications of the Holy Quran through these devices have enabled many to read the Quran in its electronic form and anywhere (home, mosque, workplace, and even means of transportation), in addition to the possibility of reading the interpretation of the verses and the reason for their descent through the services accompanying these applications, it also allows the user to hear the Quran in the voice of famous And recitation.

The applications of the Holy Quran are varied over the internet, and the user can download them via smart devices such as mobile phone and electronic tablet, and we find the availability of these applications with different designations in Arabic and in foreign languages, in order to enable all individuals around the world to read and benefit from them, but there are some applications that have been warned Either intentionally or due to the ignorance of those in charge of the Holy Quran, due to the difference in religious reference, belief and the pursuit of profit at the expense of the Holy Quran, among these applications are those aimed at adults and even children that are designed according to the child's privacy and methods of education through these technologies Modern.

Proceeding from this, through this study, we are trying to research the content and form of these applications, answering the following question:

- What do mobile applications and smart devices offer to serve the Holy Quran, and how do we face the risk of misrepresenting it through these applications ?

Under the main question, several questions fall, namely:

- What is the content of the Holy Quran applications via phones and smart devices ?
- What form do you rely on in the service of the Holy Quran ?
- Are these applications interested in the different sciences of the Quran ?
- What is the danger that the Holy Quran can face through these applications ?

The importance of this study is highlighted in the fact that it highlights an important aspect of our true religion, which is the Holy Quran, the word of Allah at home, and how it can be served through modern technologies that have spread greatly and become available to everyone across the different countries of the world, which makes it imperative for us to exploit and employ it in the service of the Islamic religion in general, and Studying the content of the Holy Quran applications, in terms of the danger that modern technology may cause to the verses and surahs of the Holy Quran, especially distortion and change in them, and here the responsibility falls on everyone, because this will negatively reflect on the ways of memorizing the Quran, realizing its meanings and purposes and learning its provisions.

This study aims to identify the content and form of the Holy Quran applications via smart phones and smart devices, the methods they use to serve the Holy Quran, and the media languages that rely on them to facilitate this service, and in turn, we learn about the danger facing the Holy Quran from distortion and change in verses, especially since these applications are created from non-specialized people, and Non-Islamic companies, as well as it can be distorted through special software that can be used by those who want to mislead Muslims and attack the sanctity of the Koran, which requires monitoring these applications and assigning them to specialized companies to avoid any distortion.

This study is based on a set of concepts, namely : the Internet - modern technology – smart phone applications.

**- Internet**

It is a global communication network that allows the exchange of information between other networks through which computers communicate across the world, operating according to specific systems, as the word internet refers to the sum of information circulating over the network and also the infrastructure that transmits information across continents.(Al-Dulaimi, 2015).<sup>1</sup>

The web can be used to access all the information provided by the internet, its use is easy, and anyone can take advantage of the resources of this network in a short time.(Al-mazahera, 2014)<sup>2</sup>.

**- New technology**

It is the means generated as a result of the communications revolution, which can be used to design and implement certain processes in various areas of life based on specific goals, and the term technical is reduced to three meanings, namely:

-Technology as a process, means the cultural application or any systematic knowledge, for scientific missions and purposes.

-Technology as products, means tools, devices and materials resulting from the application of scientific knowledge.

-Technology as processes and products, and we use this meaning to refer to processes and their products together, such as computer technologies, which is an integrated system of hardware, software and processes that achieve the desired goals effectively and efficiently. (Al-Nimi and Ahmad, 1431)<sup>3</sup>

In this study, we will adopt the third meaning contained in the definition of technology, and here we mean smart devices and the applications they provide.

**- Smart phone applications**

It is a type of software designed to work on smart and mobile devices, it aims to help the user to see the information that it provides or helps him in the learning process <sup>4</sup>, and in this study we mean special applications The Holy Quran is downloaded via the internet.

**2. Smart phones and devices (features and advantages)**

**2.1. The importance of phones and smart devices**

The development of mobile phone technology and smart devices and their use of modern technologies have enabled them to occupy an important place among individuals, and they

cannot do without them in various areas of life, as mobile phones are changing rapidly Day by day thanks to technological development, and they have become " endowed with technologies including Bluetooth, high-resolution camera, microphones, internet connectivity, wireless communications, cards Memory, as well as the development of communication systems via these mobile phones" (Scott, 2011)<sup>5</sup>, smart phones are not limited to just conquering the computer world, but they are reinventing it by providing more voice and non-voice services, as well as the emergence of applications, which are programs loaded on devices and can interact with data services on the internet, and these applications have a role in meeting the needs of individuals and developing them in line with the developments of the Times.

Smart phones have become opportunities for employment, education and entertainment, and to keep abreast of the latest local and global news, developments and events.(Kelly and Menges, 2012).<sup>6</sup>

## **2.2. Advantages and characteristics of smart phones and smart devices**

The use of user-friendly and affordable ICT applications linked to the reality of users, facilitates access to digital content, and the mobile phone has the following advantages: (Elsayed, 2011)<sup>7</sup>

- Make digital content available anytime, anywhere.
- Based on a technology that is more widespread among people and does not need a cost.
- Small size and light weight, compared to other e-book readers.
- Single tool and multiple uses.
- Expand the scope and distribution of digital content.

Mobile communication devices and applications are designed primarily to increase efficiency and productivity, they meet users ' social needs, where mobile device users feel involved with each other whether in the social, economic or cultural field, providing unprecedented opportunities to enable social impact and technical activity. (El Grisi, 2015)<sup>8</sup>

## **2.3-Types and services of mobile and smart devices**

They are those wireless devices that carry with the learner and accompany him to any place, through which it is possible to send and receive phone calls, electronic text messages or multimedia messages, through their access to the internet or any other network, and they can also exchange data and files containing electronic data, or attachments in the form of static images, Or audio, or videos.

These devices can be identified as follows(Al-Omari, 2014)<sup>9</sup>

- Use PC tablet computer :is a type of computer, its size is approximately equal to the size of the palm of the hand, it can be carried and roamed with it, and it is used to store and review text data and multimedia, and it can be used as a desktop computer with all its applications.
- Is a type of computer, its size is slightly larger than a tablet computer and has almost the same features, except that the storage capacity may be larger than in a tablet computer.
- Digital Assistants are portable computer devices, used for storing and organizing data, organizing personal appointments, preparing lists of personal tasks, writing notes, the possibility of running text formatting programs, calculation tables, games, reading e-books, connecting to the internet, sending and reviewing e-mails.

## **3.Modern technologies and the service of the Holy Quran and its Sciences**

### 3.1 The importance of modern technologies in the service of the Holy Quran

The Holy Quran is the eternal message that shows the eminence of our religion to the world, so Muslims all over the world are united on the need to memorize, learn and study the Quran, and perhaps the most prominent thing that comes to the minds of most of us when setting this goal is the image of that student who reads what he memorized to his teacher inside the classroom, but this traditional method needs to be developed and improved, but with The huge development in the field of e-learning, it has become easy to overcome these barriers. These environments facilitated the process of communication between the Quran learner and his teacher through the use of the latest technologies of the second generation of the web, through computer programs, and programs that can be used even with those walking on their feet through mobile devices. (Al-Nami and Ahmad, 1431)<sup>10</sup> .

The internet is one of the most prominent modern technologies that provides a huge amount of information, and it can be used in a simple and easy way, and in a short time, the internet has become a method of knowledge exchange, and has been able to make radical changes in various areas of life. (Al-mazahera, 2014)<sup>11</sup>

Thanks to this technology, many forums, websites and smart applications have appeared that aim to memorize, teach and disseminate the Holy Quran in the world in all languages.

### 3.2 Characteristics and advantages of modern technology in teaching the Quran

Among the advantages of using techniques in teaching the Holy Quran are the following: (Al-Dawish, 2011)<sup>12</sup>

- This that modern technologies have become part of people's reality, such as television, video, radio, and computers, there is hardly a house without it, and therefore taking care of educational programs that employ such devices is an investment of available energy, and it also directs people to use them well.
- However modern technologies provide learning opportunities that are not provided by the traditional system, they allow the student to learn at home, which reduces some of the burden on the effort of the class teacher or the loop.
- Radio and television broadcasts, or self-learning programs, it is possible to spread the teaching of the Holy Quran and reach categories that cannot be covered through seminars and direct education.
- Technologies enhance the learner's self-learning and increase his level of mastery of what he has learned.
- Most technologies allow dealing with more than one of the learner's senses.
- All techniques contain an element of suspense and excitement for the learner, which increases his motivation.
- The of modern technologies increases the learner's sense of the importance of learning the Holy Quran.

## II. Methods and Materials:

The study is based on the descriptive analytical approach, as it is the most appropriate to study the characteristics and specifications of the studied phenomenon, and emphasis was placed on qualitative analysis, for a sample of the applications of the Holy Quran.

The sample we selected in this study consists of a group of Holy Quran applications that can be downloaded via smart phones and smart devices, and were selected from applications that updated permanently, and have a large follow-up rate, which was defined by the number

that represents the download of these applications, which exceeds one million, of which the sample of the study was as follows:

- Ayat Al Qur'an .
- IQuran lite.
- Bayan Quran .
- Golden Quran .

### III. Results and discussion :

After reviewing the study sample of the four Holy Quran applications, which can be downloaded via phones and smart devices, we will describe their content, analyze their dimensions and mention their shortcomings in this item.

#### 1. Application of Ayat Al Qur'an verses



The Ayat program is considered one of the best programs of the Holy Quran, as it contains the most famous recites of the Quran in addition to many advantages, it also contains the recitation of the Quran and the interpretation of verses, and this application includes several services, including reciting the Quran as if it were a real Quran with the same writing, and artistic output to it in digital form.

The advantages of this application can be mentioned in the following points:

- Listening to the Holy Quran with the voices of the most famous recites.
- Mark the page where the reader stopped.
- Possibility of copying verses or Quranic surahs.
- Provides the possibility of searching in surahs, verses and pages.
- Letters can be formed before they are read.
- This application provides explanations and meanings of words and translate them into several languages ( English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Turkish, Bosnian, Italian, German, Urdu, Kurdish, Persian).
- Allows the possibility of reciting and memorizing the Holy Quran, where the user can recite the Quran, repeat it and test it, a service that helps a lot to memorize the Holy Quran, without committing to dhikr episodes or memorization courses.
- Application needs to download some pages of the Quran, so that it can be listened to by The Voice of one of the reciters.
- Provides the interpretation of the Holy Quran from several scholars including Ibn Kathir, al-Qurtubi, al-Tabari, and there are interpretations translated into Indonesian and Russian.
- Possibility of evaluating the application and sending a message to the entity that oversees its management and development.

On the other hand, there are a number of shortcomings that have been recorded on this application, which may pose problems in the source of interpretation or writing verses and surahs, among which we mention:

- Needs to be connected to the internet so that the preferred reciter can be selected, as well as when reviewing the interpretation of verses, because the interpretation file is not available, and therefore it must be downloaded or read from it directly from the internet.

- Translation of the meanings of the Quran included in the application, was listed from the <url> download site, and has not been reviewed and audited, and here the problem arises of the extent of the truthfulness and accuracy of these meanings, especially since they are translated into several languages, and those who read them are individuals from around the world, and here the user may read It affects the good perception of the meanings of words and verses in the Holy Quran.

- Interpretation of the verses is done through the internet, that is, this application refers the user to other sites that are interested in this, and here it is necessary to ensure the correctness of these sites and the accuracy of their information, especially that the interpretation of the Quran is an important science, because the individual understands the meanings of the Quran through interpretation, if translated The meanings of jihad, monotheism and others.



## 2. Iquran lite application

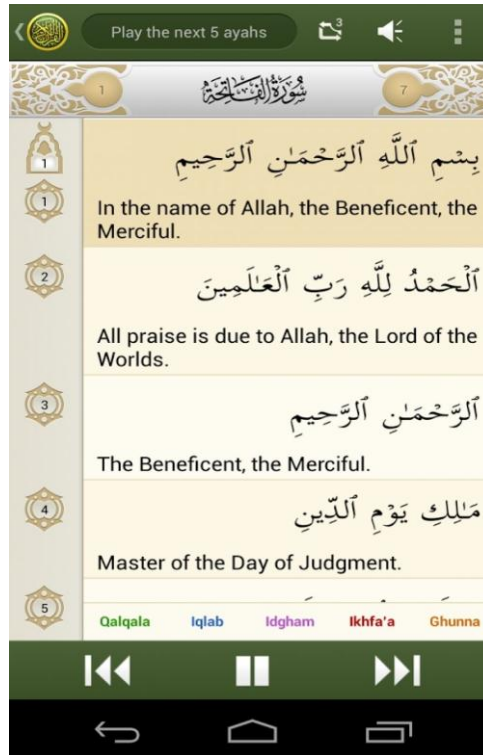


This application consists of an interface that includes the following icons: search - full Quran –agenda – other additions, and the user can browse and read the Quran, with the availability of instant translation for each verse, and the application includes services including listening to the rules of Tajweed, teaching ethics and the pillars of Islam and other principles of the Islamic religion.

This application is characterized by several characteristics and advantages, namely:

- Ability to choose the Surah that the user wants to read.
- Possibility of listening to the Quran in the voice of a number of famous reciters.
- Easy transition from one part to another and from one party to another.
- Application provides translation of verses and surahs into several languages (English – German - Persian - Malay - Urdu - Indonesian).
- Possibility of identifying surahs that urge morality and religious values, such as verses of faith, patience, monotheism, verses of memorization and Ruqayyah, and others.
- This application is aimed largely at non-Arabic speakers, as we noticed that the names of the surahs and Tajweed rulings are written in Latin letters, as well as the morals, commands and prohibitions that the Quran came in are written in English, in addition to translation into several languages, which facilitates the publication of the Holy Quran and facilitates reading it, whatever the user's native language.
- On the other hand, there are some things that are tired on this application, we mention some of them:
- Rules of Tajweed have been included in the last of the Quran in (part of AMM), that is, the surahs that consist of it only, and here we find a failure to include them at the level of each Surah, and this can be explained that the application is directed to teach Tajweed rules for beginners in memorizing the Quran.





### 3. Application of Bayan Quran



It is a leading interactive Quranic application that includes the meanings of words, the teacher of the Quran, many recitations and translations and is characterized by simulating the movement of natural paper when flipping sheets.

Among other features, for this application we mention the following:

- It presents verses divided into four types: word syllables, one word, two consecutive words are connected, and the whole verse is within the page.
- Choose the sections you want to read and specify the repetitions, the sections that are read will be shaded within the page to identify the words and how to read them and this feature is very useful for children and educated adults as well.
- Long clicking on any word in the Quran leads to direct access to its meaning, translation, root, composition and expression.
- Choose the field of verses you want to hear and choose the number of repetitions of this field and the repetition of each verse separately, and you can choose from 23 continuous recitations for different readers to read live online or download.
- Share any content within the app.

- Notes and reading marks.
- Easy browsing style.



#### 4. Golden Quran application



The Golden Quran application allows verses and surahs of the Holy Quran on smart phones with high technology, with the availability of all the information about each verse of the Quran such as interpretation, the reason for the descent, parsing, meanings and explanation, and also allows hearing the verses of the Quran from the most famous reciters, and the advantages it features include the following:

- View all the information about each of the verses of the Holy Quran.
- Easy search through Quran verses, topic of verses or lexicon.
- Translation of the Quran into approximately 16 international languages.
- Hear the Quran in the voice of more than 40 global readers.
- Possibility of downloading the application in Arabic or English.
- Is an application that includes all the religious things that Muslims are looking for in the world, such as daily dhikr, hadiths, rules of Tajweed and the expression of the verses of the Koran.
- Possibility of interpreting verses, from the list of World Tafsir, such as Tafsir Ibn Kathir, and about 90 Tafsir for free without the internet after downloading it to the phone.
- Download any Surah to hear it again without internet and in the voice of a favorite reader.

#### 4.5 Distorted applications of the Holy Quran

The internet is one of the modern technologies that has a huge potential in communication and information transfer, and because of its speed of time and low cost, and with its wide spread, it has become used positively and negatively, especially with regard to internet applications, some of which are useful and some of which have been subjected to distortion and error, intentionally or unintentionally, as And those who seek to offend him even more.

Many media outlets published reports about distorted applications of the Holy Quran, and a report by the MBC channel under the title "distorted electronic Quran applications, a long list to be careful of!"<sup>13</sup>, that the "Triangle of "right Teams" are the most famous distorted Qurans, which have been downloaded thousands of times on mobile phones, and it was also necessary to warn against applications bearing the names Qur al Quran the Holy, The Holy Qur'an for iPhone the seal of the Koran, numbers from the Holy Qur'an, duas The Holy Quran.

The world authority for the memorization of the Holy Quran also warned of distorted Quranic applications that are available for download on smart devices, and explained that "I have already noticed that the distorted Quranic applications on smart devices in the store of marketing sites have been distorted in terms of a lack of a letter or a word or in some verses, rendering, delay or change in movements. This leads to changes in meaning, expression or even technical errors resulting in the deletion of some pages intentionally or unintentionally".

She pointed out that the distortions in this application included dropping letters from words in some verses or dropping some verses, including dropping letters from a word in verse No. 14 of Surah "Taha", dropping verses from 27 and even part of verse 31 of the same Surah.

The authority provided a second form of distortion in an application called "QURAN 360", which included many errors in the movements of the Quranic word, the connection of its letters, etc., and a third form of application entitled "The Holy Quran", which included the fall of some verses.<sup>14</sup>

#### **IV. Conclusion:**

Modern technologies contribute to serving the Holy Quran through the applications available on smart phones, and have become an important tool to serve the Holy Quran through learning the rules of Tajweed, listening to it and seeing its interpretation, but these technologies may affect it in terms of the possibility of misrepresentation, as the technology is made by the West, and they have the possibility of misrepresentation Intentionally or unintentionally, and in this regard, the study reached the following results:

- Modern technologies provide a wide ground for the dissemination of the Holy Quran and its Sciences in the languages of the world.
- Quran applications, help many individuals to memorize the Quran and read verses and surahs according to the rules of Tajweed.
- Applications of the Holy Quran shorten the place and time, in order to read and listen to the Quran or see its interpretation, and translate its meanings.
- Smart phone applications have managed to overcome the language barrier in reading the Holy Quran for non-Arabic speakers, thanks to translation into various languages of the world.
- Quran has benefited from the characteristics of modern technology represented in the interactive and asynchronous, where the Holy Quran can be read everywhere, and share the application with users of social networking sites.
- Quran may be subject to distortion and error, because these applications are programmed by non-Islamic individuals or bodies, in the absence of censorship, and considering that technology is the monopoly of the West, it is he who controls it and its contents.
- Distortion of the Quran through these applications may be done according to software developed by individuals or entities seeking to offend Islam and Muslims.
- Misrepresentation of the Quran in smart phone applications is difficult to detect by non-specialists, those who do not memorize the Quran, or New Muslims, which may affect the perception of its meanings and memorization correctly.

Finally, the following proposals can be submitted:

- Impose censorship on the applications of the Holy Quran and establish a special body to oversee it.
  - Investing the internet and the media to raise awareness of the danger of distorted applications and face the fierce attack of insulting the Islamic religion.
  - Consolidating the principles and foundations of media education, in order to realize the disadvantages of modern technologies and make good use of them in the service of the Holy Quran.
  - Finding suitable alternatives for smart devices such as software and applications that respond to the requirements of the Holy Quran service.
  - Coordination between the official authorities and those responsible for the affairs of the Islamic nation, to confront the distortion of the Koran through modern technologies.
  - Awareness raising and sensitization through various community institutions, such as mosques, schools, educational institutions, media and others.
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