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RESEARCH ARTICLE

LEARNING TAFSEER OF AL-QURAN DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: STUDENTS' SATISFACTION TOWARDS LECTURERS' INTERACTION

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Abstract

The implementation of Movement Control Order (MCO) in Malaysia during COVID-19 pandemic that disallowed usual face-to-face lectures has affected both public and private higher education institutions. The best alternative to ensure that learning sessions are continuously uninterrupted is by online learning which is the implementation of teaching and learning sessions through technology systems. Lecturers' interaction in online learning method is very important in providing understanding to students. Therefore, the aim of this study is to know the students' satisfaction towards lecturers' interaction in online learning of Tafsir al-Quran course. Method used in this research is quantitative design whereas a semi-structured questionnaire distributed among 2nd year students of Quran and Multimedia Studies Program, Faculty of Quran and Sunnah Studies, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia. This questionnaire has to be answered via Microsoft Forms and the data obtained then were analyzed descriptively through computer software namely Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25. The results of the study found that the level of students' satisfaction towards lecturers' interaction in online learning of Tafsir al-Quran course were at a high level. In this regard, the interaction of lecturers is very important in providing understanding among students, as well as systematic and easy-to-understand of teaching methods.

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Introduction:-

Tafsir al-Quran is the interpretation of the Quran and part of Qur'anic knowledge whereas human especially Muslim can understand more about Islam. Abdul Ghani Azmi stated that the combination of understanding, knowledge and appreciation are the important aspects to enable al-Quran as a guidance of human life. (1) Therefore, understanding Quran is not merely able to read it well but ability to understand and explore more the contents and issues contained in each verses. (2)

The interpretation of al-Quran begun since Prophet Muhammad SAW has interpreted several verses of al-Quran himself known as tafsir bil-manqul, which later a discipline of knowledge compiled by the scholars for the interpretation of al-Quran known as ulum al-tafsir. (3) In Malaysia, Tafsir al-Quran has been studied traditionally in mosques since 1945 then began as a syllabus in Islamic primary and secondary schools as well as higher education

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institutions in 1959. (4) Teaching Tafsir al-Quran subject in schools especially at higher education institutions involved face to face learning between teacher and student. However, during COVID-19 pandemic, learning session at all education institutions were implemented through online learning classes.

Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new virus suspected from the wildlife sales market in Wuhan, China after the country recorded a high case of mysterious pneumonia in January 2020. (5-6) The virus then spreads very quickly to other country such as Japan, Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Europe, America, Africa, Australia and also Malaysia. (6) World Health Organization (WHO) reported the first case in Malaysia on January 24 (7) and the total cases as 1st October 2020 are 11,484 with 136 total of death. (8) As a measure to control the spread of this pandemic, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has announced the implementation of Movement Control Order (MCO) starting March 18 which is extended under the implementation phase of Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) after the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) has implemented. (9-10)

Therefore, learning sessions at all higher education institutions are postponed for two weeks, and then online learning classes were implemented starting April 2020. (11) Online learning was first designed for part-time students that unable to receive formal learning as full-time students has developed to involve all types of students including full-time and distance learners in higher education institutions. (12) According to Nor Aniza Ahmad and Lay Nee Chua, online learning or electronic learning (e-learning) is implemented when there is a separation of distance or time between students and teachers who are connected in learning process through technology systems such as internet, television, radio and many more. (13)

The compliance of Movement Control Order that disallowed usual face-to-face lectures for sure bring certain challenges in teaching and learning process of online learning especially for both first-timers teachers and students. (11) During this pandemic of COVID-19, many articles have focused the implementation of online learning such as teaching and learning method, students' experiences, students' readiness, teachers' perceptions, and the effectiveness of online learning. However there is a little research focuses on lecturers' interaction in teaching process through online learning method. Therefore, the aim of this study is to know the level of students' satisfaction towards lecturers' interaction in online learning of Tafsir al-Quran course.

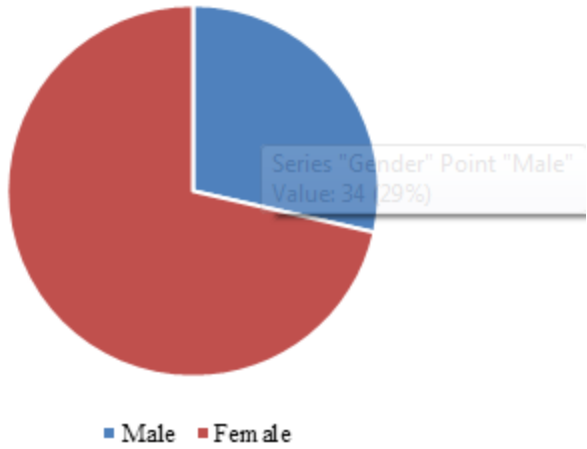
Method:-

This study used quantitative method that involved 109 respondents from 2nd year students of Quran and Multimedia Studies Program, Faculty of Quran and Sunnah Studies, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia. A set of semi-structured questionnaire were given to study participants through Microsoft Forms. There are two types of questions provided which are Likert scale questions and open-ended questions that give a freedom to respondents in expressing their opinions and provide further explanations in relation to the questions posed. In the form of Likert scale questions, researcher has prepared five levels of scale namely Weak (W), Poor Satisfactory (PS), Medium (M), Good (G), and Excellent (E).

The study participants had lecture of Tafsir al-Quran course through online learning during Movement Control Order (MCO) that disallowed usual face-to-face lectures. Thus, the aim of this study is to identify the level of students' satisfaction towards lecturers' interaction in online learning of Tafsir al-Quran course. The data obtained then were analyzed through computer software namely Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 descriptively to obtain the values of frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation to answer the research question. This descriptive statistics only report the data obtained in various forms without making any conclusions or predictions. (14)

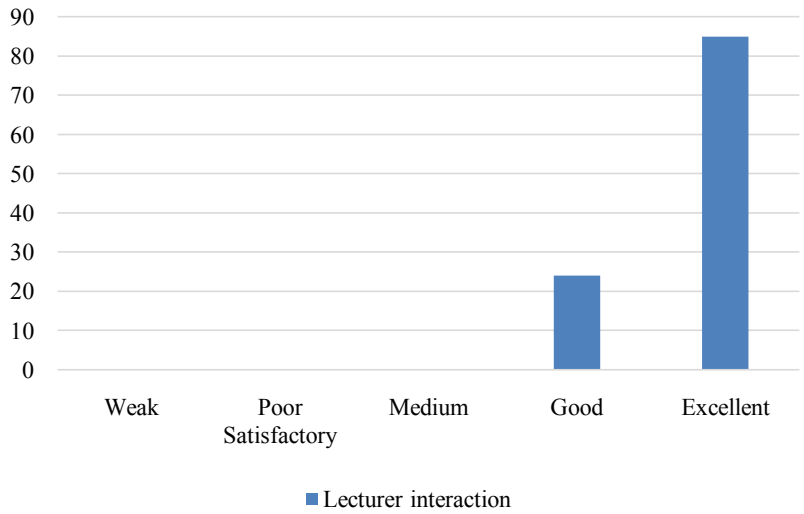
Results:-

109 responses were obtained from 2nd year students of Quran and Multimedia Studies Program, Faculty of Quran and Sunnah Studies, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia that involved 34 male and 75 female students.



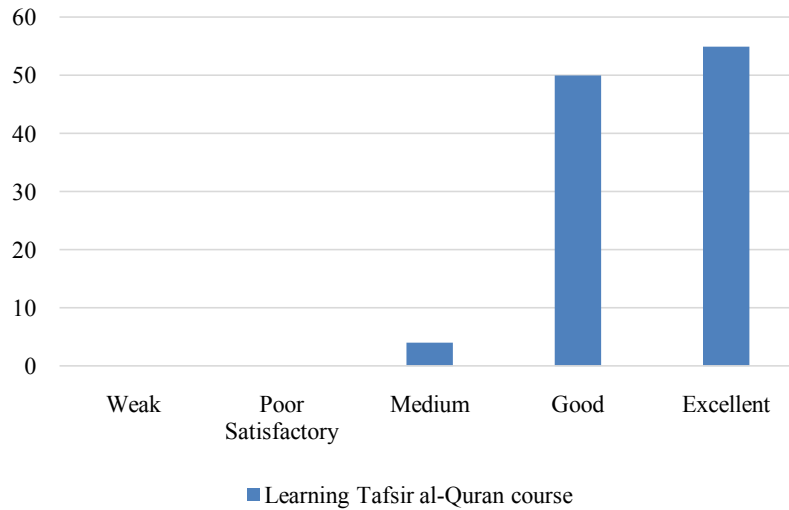
Graph 1:- Division of students according to gender.

After the results were analyzed, the researcher found the level of students’ satisfaction towards lecturers’ interaction in online learning of Tafsir al-Quran course is shown as below:



Graph 2:- Level of satisfaction towards lecturers’ interaction.

Graph 2 shows the subcontract of students’ satisfaction towards the interaction of lecturers in learning Tafsir al-Quran course is at a high level. In terms of frequency and percentage shows, a total of 24 people (22%) students expressed satisfaction towards the interaction of lecturers at a good level while the remaining 85 people (77.9%) agreed to state it at an excellent level with mean and standard deviation for this item is (mean = 4.78; SP = 0.416). While the frequency and percentage of students’ satisfaction level in learning Tafsir al-Quran course shown in graph 3. The total of 4 people (3.6%) are at a medium level of satisfaction, 50 people (45.8%) are at a good level and the remaining 55 people (50.4%) are at a level of excellent satisfaction. The mean and standard deviation for this item are (mean = 4.47; SP = 0.570). Mean is measured as a result of the average total score while the standard deviation is the range of the resulting score distribution, whether the data is far or near the average. (14)



Graph 3:- Level of satisfaction in learning Tafsir al-Quran course.

Table 1:- Mean and standard deviation.

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Lecturers' interaction	109	4	5	4.78	.416
Tafsir al-Quran course	109	3	5	4.47	.570
Valid N (listwise)	109				

Discussion:-

The objective of this study is to identify the level of students' satisfaction towards interaction of lecturers in online learning of Tafsir al-Quran course. The findings of the study show that the students of Tafsir al-Quran course involving 2nd year students of Quran and Multimedia Studies Program, Faculty of Quran and Sunnah Studies, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia are satisfied with the online learning session of this course as shown in graph 2 and 3. Besides, open-ended questions also were provided by the researcher that focus on the respondents' comments or suggestions on the lecturers' interaction of Tafsir al-Quran course and their opinions on the course in general.

The results of the questionnaire found that almost all (95%) gave a positive responses to the interaction of lecturers in this course. Statements such as "responsive", "understanding", "responsible", "clear explanation" and "easy-to-understand" show that the interaction between lecturers and students of this Tafsir al-Quran course is at an excellent level. Meanwhile, respondents' opinions on this Tafsir al-Quran course in general found that (83%) expressed an excellent level of satisfaction in this course without giving any suggestions or improvements. Statements such as "fun to learn", "easy to understand", "receive the knowledge of al-Quran", "suitable to the level of understanding" and "course that need to be maintained" show that students are well received the teaching and learning of this Tafsir al-Quran course although it was implemented via online. (17%) the rest gave suggestions for improvement so that this course continues to be at a satisfactory level.

However, there are a few students preferred learning face to face with the lecturers, which is lecture sessions to increase the level of understanding and implementing two ways interaction more effective. Consistent with the results of past study, the level of students' readiness for online learning is at a moderate level and the need for improvement in terms of the concept of online learning knowledge as well as the advantages and disadvantages of this learning method. (15) In online learning method, students have to more discipline as well as lecturers have to know students' socio-economic status and their ability level of learning. (16) This shows that the university needs to increase the level of readiness of students in online learning such as the use and availability of technology, computers and internet effectiveness, and self-learning. (12)

In addition, the suggestions and comments obtained from the findings of the study indicate the need of improvement in terms of the implementation of online learning, focuses on learning Tafsir al-Quran course. First, the method of explaining a topic is not only focused on teaching materials such as Microsoft Power Point presentation slides or videos, but can be focused on video recordings of explanations from the lecturers themselves, so that the presentation is more effective and understood. This suggestion supported by the statement from Afandi Ahmad whereas the effectiveness of this learning method is still influenced by elements of voice and face in strengthening the interaction between students and lecturers. (16) Next, the presentation assignments among students are not implemented in the WhatsApp application, but can be implemented through a simpler and more systematic platform which is Microsoft Teams. Thus, these suggestions from the respondents are need to be noted in order to provide a good teaching and learning method of Tafsir al-Quran course in the future.

Thus, the interaction of lecturers in online learning method is very important in providing understanding to students as proven in this research. The role of lecturers as a moderators, mentors, filtering teaching materials, motivating active interactions and implementing assessment is very important in creating a structured online learning environment. (17) According to Swan, interaction is dissemination of ideas, thoughts, emotions, knowledge or processes involving at least two people, which is student and lecturer interacts with each other. (18) Both students and lecturers must be able to see each other to strengthen the interaction between them. (16) Besides, interaction in online learning connected three roles involving lecturers, students and syllabus (17) to well implemented of this learning method.

Conclusion:-

The implementation of Movement Control Order (MCO) in Malaysia during COVID-19 pandemic that disallowed usual face-to-face lectures has affected all higher education institutions including both public and private university. Thus, online learning method is the best alternative to ensure that teaching and learning sessions are continuously uninterrupted. Online learning or e-learning is teaching and learning method when there are a separation of distance or time between students and teachers and connected through technology systems such as internet, television, radio and many more. The results of this research focuses on lecturers' interaction and learning Tafsir al-Quran course show that the implementation of this learning method during COVID-19 pandemic had well received from both students and lecturers.

However, the implementation of this learning method needs to be reviewed more, especially in the context of lecturers' interaction and learning Tafsir al-Quran course in order to achieve a level of satisfaction among students. The results of this study found that the interaction of lecturers is very important in providing understanding to students as well as systematic and easy-to-understand teaching methods. The variety of efficient and creative teaching methods will also more attract students into a topic to be learnt. In conclusion, the current COVID-19 pandemic is not an obstacle for students to continue receive a knowledge as well as lecturers responsibility to impart the knowledge, in addition of having the existing technological developments.

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