Utility of the Smart App Creator Application as an Arabic Learning Media

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ABSTRACT

The difficulty of practical media makes educators not innovate in the learning process, especially in delivering subject matter. Even though the technology is beneficial for this, one of which is the Smart App Creator application. Smart App Creator is very easy to use by educators because this application is a user interface; easy to understand. This research was conducted to determine the benefits of a Smart App Creator software in making learning media. This research method was qualitative with a library model; analyzed national and international journals and interview models; interviewed three teachers and nine students at different Islamic junior high schools. The results of this study explained that learning media designed using Smart App Creator software can provide motivation and foster enthusiasm for learning of students because this software contains elements of text, audio, video, and animation that are combined in one media; what's interesting is that this application can be opened. On a laptop or computer without installing the main application and can also be installed on an Android smartphone and has the advantage of not being connected to the Internet.

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Keywords

Arabic Language, Learning Media, Smart App Creator Application,
INTRODUCTION

In the current era, the world is very advanced. The progress of the world today also impacts the world of education, one of which is education being a benchmark in all fields. Progress in education certainly involves various parties, two parties who play an active role, namely educators and students, and in education also cannot be separated from what is called learning. Learning is a process carried out by educators in transferring knowledge to students. Learning is also defined as the process of organizing, regulating students so that they want to participate in the teaching and learning process (Pane & Darwis Dasopang, 2017). Based on research conducted by Rohani (2019), it is stated that learning is an activity that involves a person gaining knowledge and skills by utilizing the resources that have been provided. This learning is done intentionally to change and guide students in studying the scientific environment to develop their abilities, be it cognitive, psychomotor, or affective abilities (Kirom, 2017). Based on the description presented, it can be understood that educators consciously carry out learning to develop students' cognitive, psychomotor, and affective abilities about science. With this learning, students' cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills can be better.

Language is the most important means of communication in all human interactions. Language has various styles and is adapted to the nation to make it easier to communicate (Hidayat, 2012). Only English was the center of attention in the past because English is an international language. But now, Arabic has become a language that has become the center of attention in various circles. When talking about Arabic, when it is associated with history, it cannot be separated from the spread of Islam in the past because Arabic is always carried wherever Islam is spread (Oensyar & Hifni, 2015). Arabic is a language that is synonymous with religion and a language that is considered necessary by various parties. Arabic also has a vital role in developing knowledge. Thus, we can recognize how important Arabic is in developing and maintaining expertise (Pulungan et al., 2019). Based on the previous explanation, we can conclude that Arabic is an essential religious language recognized by various parties. Based on research conducted by Aziz & Dinata (2019), it is stated that with the Arabic language, scholars can write a book in the fields of medicine, architecture, mathematics, and many other books. So Arabic is essential for scholars in writing the books they write.

Education is closely related to learning. The success of education depends on the ongoing learning process and the Arabic language. Education about the Arabic language will be determined how to learn Arabic itself. Learning Arabic is a process carried out by an educator to develop students' cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities in Arabic subjects. Everything must have its problems,
as well as in learning Arabic, one of the problems in learning Arabic is the seriousness of students in learning, as well as the seriousness of teachers in teaching, both students and teachers should not have an element of compulsion because it is very influential in the implementation process later (Fahrurrozi, 2014). Then, so that students' learning does not feel boring, teachers should develop educational/learning products such as materials, media, tools, and or learning strategies. In addition, many teachers have not yet fully utilized learning media in the form of electronic media as a tool in delivering material, even though the existing media already have attractive templates if appropriately used by educators.

Based on the problems in the world of education above, the school must immediately take corrective actions such as developing learning products. An educator can do this by conducting classroom action research and then conducting quasi-experimental research to build learning innovations. As we can see in the field, many students still find it difficult to learn Arabic. Therefore, improvements to learning styles are needed, and changes are required in how an educator teaches to achieve learning objectives.

Today's world of education is very demanding of learning using media; it is motivated by conditions that are not in a safe state to conduct face-to-face learning as usual (Nurseto, 2012). The role of the media today is prominent, especially in the world of education. Media is a mass communication tool that involves symbols and distributions to serve as a human tool. Based on research Mahnun (2012) states that the use of media in the learning process is a necessity that cannot be ignored because the learning process relies on adding insight, and the media is one tool that can help all of that. Then the media is also considered an instrument and a determinant of success in learning because the media provides dynamics for students in learning by Airtanah (Adiyanti et al., 2020).

Learning media is a physical facility that is used for learning purposes. With the learning media, teachers will be helped in delivering teaching materials. Learning media is also defined as stimulating a person's thoughts, feelings, attention, and even skills so that the urge to carry out the learning process arises from within him (Luh & Ekayani, 2021). In their research, Hayes et al. (2017) and Hidayah et al. (2020) state that learning media in the teaching and learning process can increase students' stimulation, motivation, and interest in learning and will also affect the psychology of students. Now that technological advances have developed rapidly; many learning media have been created. Technological developments bring influence and rapid changes in people's lives. The birth of technology brings influences ranging from lifestyle, culture, and even education (Cahyono, 2016; Fiani Irma Nur, Ahsanuddin Mohammad, 2021). Based on research conducted by Widiastika et al. (2020), children who have entered the
school level have been given facilities such as smartphones; most of them only use them to play games. But at this time, smartphones have been used in the online learning process, and an educator is required to be creative in developing android-based applications to increase students’ learning motivation. Currently, an application has been created and can be accessed and installed on a computer or laptop and then can be saved for the android format; this application is Smart App Creator or often abbreviated as SAC. Making applications with SAC is very easy to do because, in its manufacture, it does not have to have special abilities in computer programming. With a network and a laptop alone, you can make products. Then it there are also templates such as videos, images, and audio, making it easier for teachers to enter material (Baridah, 2014). Behind the advantages of the SAC application, it also has a drawback. The application requires a large enough RAM if accessed via Android (Mudinillah, 2021); it will not be read if the Android RAM is small.

Learning Arabic begins with knowing some vocabulary; Khalil Ullah in S & Baroroh (2020) said that many students do not understand language. Many students experience deficiencies in reading Arabic text, speaking Arabic, and translating Arabic. In learning Arabic, the Smart App Creator application has never been used by teachers to create learning media, including disseminating material on vocabulary; this research is complete enough to motivate and assist teachers in utilizing teaching media. Hopefully, with this SAC application, this incident can be reduced. This study aimed to determine the use of learning applications in Arabic subjects, namely the Smart App Creator application. In the previous description, researchers have described the advantages and disadvantages of this application. Smart App Creator is a sophisticated and practical application in creating learning media because it has been designed to build interactive learning media. The appearance is also easy to understand. Hopefully, using the Smart App Creator application in the learning process helps Arabic teachers so that learning objectives are achieved as expected.

**METHOD**

This study used qualitative research with library methods and interview methods (Darmalaksana, 2020). The library method was used to collect various information and data (Sari & Asmendri, 2018) and different materials, including documents, magazine books, and scientific articles, both national and those published in international journals. Then, in-depth interviews were conducted with 3 Islamic junior high school Arabic teachers and 9 Islamic junior high school students who studied Arabic with different schools in the Tanah Datar district.
Then, the data obtained would be narrated in general about using the Smart App Creator application as a medium for learning Arabic.

Qualitative research describes the results in general, and the results of the study were obtained from testing experiences in the field (Prasetiyo et al., 2019) and explained as a whole about the application, use, and utilization of the Smart App Creator (SAC) application as a medium for learning Arabic in Indonesia. This technological age. A qualitative approach is put forward scientifically, and several appropriate ways are used to describe how this application can benefit learning media.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Educational technology has positively impacted education and learning (Phelps et al., 2021). It has become one of the changes in the world of education (Pienimäki et al., 2021) so that learning media using technology and information is very helpful for educators in the school world so that they can teach without the need to enter the classroom (Dewantara & Budimasyah, 2018). Then the developers have made applications that can be developed as learning media. The existence of this technology must be used to advance the world of education. Therefore educators must be able to master this, especially educators born before the digital era and must follow the trends of the times. Information technology is one of the drivers for educational reform (Burbules et al., 2020). Information and communication technology can provide information and knowledge in a different and more advanced way because it will directly affect the entire educational process, and this impact will inevitably appear in the education community (Bendridi, 2021). The integration of Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) in education refer to computer-based communication incorporated into the daily learning process; teachers are seen as critical holders in using technology in everyday classrooms (Ghavifekr & Rosdy, 2015). This is due to the ability of technology to provide a dynamic and proactive teaching-learning environment. Because the development of technology is increasing day by day and can change the pattern of education, all of this can be attributed to several general trends affecting education in the information age (Burbules et al., 2020).

The aim of understanding the components of language education is to acquire new knowledge in grammar, morphology, literature, and criticism and apply it in educational and cognitive processes (Merkoune, 2021). Because Arabic is a foreign language, it cannot be separated from vocabulary to complete it. Vocabulary is the initial foundation for understanding a language (Holidazia &
Rodliyah, 2020). Mastery of vocabulary is an integral part of language learning. Still, it has some significant challenges, especially when one is trying to learn a foreign language or a third language (Yusof et al., 2021); Arabic vocabulary is indeed not the goal of learning Arabic, for the understanding of rules and mastery of vocabulary are the most important and influential factors in Arabic language skills, both istima’, kalam, giroah, and kitabah (Suaibah & Rahman, 2020). Still, with increasing vocabulary, communication becomes more accessible. Many students in the madrasa environment do not understand vocabulary, especially in Arabic lessons, so often they cannot speak Arabic even though Arabic is one of the compulsory subjects in the madrasa environment. One of the reasons is that they do not want to study independently. Teachers only provide traditional approaches.

Another approach to make learning fun is developing a learning environment that fosters intrinsic motivation and engagement by triggering students' curiosity (Prasetiyo et al., 2019). Arabic language learning usually does not use supporting media, so students are often bored. Bored and even less interested in learning Arabic, this is because the Arabic teacher only uses the lecture method in delivering learning while the learning resources are only in the form of printed books and the learning media used are still traditional, so this technology can provide new things, new experience, as well as fun things in the teaching and learning process so that later it can increase students' motivation and enthusiasm for learning. There is no longer any reason for educators who cannot operate computers or laptops, educators who cannot use software for delivering learning material because, in this day and age, we do not need tutors who are required to come to our homes, nor do we need to add training. Information technology capabilities to training venues, a YouTube platform has been provided. Youtube is a website for sharing various videos that we can use for self-study, and we can also practice directly using the software we use.

The Smart App Creator (SAC) application is one software that can create various multimedia applications that can be published on android, laptop, or computer devices, and html5 (Sutejo & Yogi Ersan Fadrial, 2021). This application is straightforward to understand even as a novice user because this application has been designed to create learning multimedia. Users are not required to be proficient in programming applications because this application does not use coding (Zurweni and Haryanto, 2021). With this application, educators can ensure that each student can carry out learning activities simultaneously even though in different locations (Azizah, 2020). The Smart App Creator application supports JPG, PNG, video, audio, text, internet-connected links, which will make it easier for users to design the desired learning media.
The creation of the Smart Apps Creator application is to create the latest digital interactive media that builds multimedia content for mobile phones with the android and iOS categories accompanied by intuitive UI features, interactivity, design and can be published to the app store without taking a long time coupled with output extensions including HTML5 and .exe which makes the application compatible on all touch screen monitors and devices (u-Smart Technology Corporation Limited, 2016). Many researchers have tested this application, one of which is making e-books; CHEN et al. (2016) said that the Smart App Creator (SAC) application could help make modifications of an e-book to be interesting that it can create visual communication. Meanwhile, Rubianto (2020) said that his research showed that the published results of the Smart App Creator (SAC) application were reasonably practical for students to use in an independent study. From the explanations of previous researchers, we can conclude that this application can assist creating learning media that will increase students’ motivation because of its practicality used.

With the Smart Apps Creator application, educators who teach Arabic, especially at the junior high level, can develop this application to serve as an introduction to learning material, so they are required to come up with new ideas and have broad creativity that will be given to students. Students can also use the media provided by the teacher apart schedule of the lesson, means that students can study the material seriously.

Figure 1. Initial view of the Smart App Creator (SAC) application

**Figure 1** is the initial screen when opening the Smart App Creator application, that functions are as follows: 1) Quick buttons: including bright button, save button, undo button, and next button. A menu bar containing several command buttons with quick access. 2) Function tabs: including edit, insert, template, animation, interaction, page, and Real-Time Test; is the core menu in a Smart App Creator application in this section to design and tidy up the design that is being made. 3) Preview tab: includes preview and resource bank;
is a menu that will display the results of what we have designed, this is the same as a preview in an application. 4) Main area: including main area, close preview button, and close attribute button; is the main area in an application which used to set the layout of the media that we will be created. 5) Attribute tab: including attribute tab and layer tab; is a setting on the medium we are designing. Each of the menu windows uses a different function, which will combine images, text, audio, video, and animation and use other menus which function is to create button actions with the result creating a media application Arabic learning.

This Smart App Creator application is designed to create Arabic learning media at the seventh grade of Islamic junior high school in Tanah Datar Regency, the material that will be developed in this media is about الأدوات المدرسية (school equipments) which contents are about mufradat taken from published textbook by the Directorate of KSKK Madrasah, Directorate General of Islamic Education, Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia. This package book is usually used by all educators who teach at the same level, so all education can later use this media at the seventh grade of Islamic junior high school. This media will later be published in the form of .exe which can be opened via a computer or laptop without having to install the Smart App Creator application and will also be published in the Apk format that can be installed on Android smartphones belonging to educators and students without having to always be in contact with the Internet.

![Figure 2. Learning media using SAC](image)

The Arabic language learning media design using the Smart App Creator application shown in Figure 2, it is taken from the Arabic language package book class VII of Islamic junior high school. There still no sound and video are provided in the package book. The voice in this learning media is to recognize the letters that the learners will follow. In contrast, the video in this media as a complement
that contains Arabic songs about الادوات المدرسية (school equipments) which is helpful to increase the enthusiasm and motivation of learners in doing independent learning. Kamlin & Keong (2020) stated that video in education could improve the memory and inspiration of learners, and learners directly watch the sound and images at once, which is called the audiovisual learning method.

Computer applications are like living beings; they also have advantages and disadvantages. Of the many benefits of the Smart App Creator application, there are certain disadvantages of this application; among the disadvantages are the following: a) requires a computer device or laptop, b) users must be proficient in operating the computer, c) getting errors when it is used, d) when published to the apk it produces a size large enough to fill the RAM on the Mobile, e) not all Video formats support to be imported into the Smart App Creator application.

Figure 3. The results of the publication of learning media using SAC

Figure 3 is the result of media that has been published using the Smart App Creator (SAC) application and is ready for use by the user and can be used on any computer.

The interview was conducted with Musliadi, an Arabic teacher at the Islamic Junior High School, who said that the Smart App Creator application is straightforward to use even if the person is unfamiliar with technology because this application provides a drag and drop menu so that novice users can adjust according to their wishes in designing learning media. The menus on the function tab are not much different from the menus in Microsoft Office. When creating learning media, the learning media designer is not rigid and almost easy to understand the purpose and use of the menus. Meanwhile, Zulkifli explained that this application is straightforward to operate. It does not have problems installed on an Android smartphone because it is also relatively small and does not use much mobile memory; the application display is also fast. Still, to be used by students, it needs an initial introduction to understand the menus. They are
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contained in the media that has been designed using the Smart App Creator application.

The feasibility test of the application in the field was also carried out on students, one of which was mercy; he said that the Arabic language learning media designed was beautiful and easy to use and not too slow used via an android phone with a RAM capacity of 2GB. Then Ahmad also commented that this application is beneficial to increase vocabulary. There are also supporting videos that do not need to be directly connected to the Internet, so this application makes us as students enthusiastic in studying because our teachers are very creative; what's more, in Arabic lessons, we don't like the average class. But with this application, makes us love to learn Arabic even more.

From the results of the interview, it can be seen that the Smart App Creator application provides benefits for educators; if you want to take advantage of the application because the edges of the application are many, then what is conveyed by students also motivates educators to be able to create and design applications. -new applications to be used and developed so that students like Arabic lessons. All educators can use this application provided when they have a computer or laptop device and basic computer skills.

Suryaningtyas et al (2019) explained in their research that the Smart App Creator application can be useful as a learning medium and can help teachers deliver and present learning materials, especially materials that are abstract and difficult to explain, such as in conveying material about makhrijul letters. Of course, there must be a clear and correct voice in the pronunciation of the letters.

The Covid-19 virus is one of the reasons for the decline of students in adding knowledge, teaching, and learning activities are constrained so that student learning outcomes are low. In this case Khoirudin et al (2021) conducted classroom action research at one of the Junior High Schools (SMP) in Surakarta using the Smart App Creator (SAC) application, the result of which was that the average value of students increased and students understood what they were doing. delivered by the teacher, of course by using the SAC application.

Suhartati (2021) also conducted research using the Android-based Smart Apps Creator (SAC) application and was used in the flipped classroom thematic interactive learning model where the results were able to increase students' motivation in learning, raise students' creativity in conducting class discussion activities, show activities that were quite maximal in conveying the materials that have been passed, and the learning outcomes of students are quite good when working on questions and quizzes. So, this is a benchmark for the use of this SAC application.

The opinion of previous researchers has explained that the Smart Apps Creator (SAC) application is quite beneficial to be used as a learning media, it can
motivate students so that students are enthusiastic and serious in learning. And most importantly, this application is very easy to use, and the tools in this application are easy to understand so that user ideas appear in designing learning media.

CONCLUSIONS

Advances in communication and information technology bring essential changes in education. The utilization of technology as a learning medium can be easily used by educators and students, especially in learning Arabic, where learning Arabic is often considered a reasonably dull lesson in education. This article has become a reference to add other software used for teaching media, which will be used offline by users.

It can be concluded that the Smart App Creator application provides the results of combining images, text, audio, video, and animation as Arabic learning media application in the form of exe and Apk by providing convenience: a) learning activities do not tie to the classroom; b) can be used by educators who teach in the same subjects and materials; c) provide some engaging animations and videos so that they can increase the enthusiasm of students in learning Arabic; d) can be used offline without having to be connected to the Internet; e) students directly interact with the media that has been designed without the need for special training. This article is expected to contribute to future researchers as a basis for developing learning media both in general and in particular for learning Arabic. Furthermore, this article can also be used as a literature comparison by researchers with the same research objectives.

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