The Use of Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Arabic Language Skills in Understanding Prophetic Sunnah Texts

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ABSTRACT

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has significantly transformed language education, including the teaching and learning of Arabic, which plays a pivotal role in accessing Islamic texts such as the Sunnah of the Prophet. However, mastering the four fundamental language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) remains a major challenge, particularly among non-native speakers (NNAS) aiming to comprehend classical and context-rich Hadith texts. This study aims to explore the potential of AI in enhancing Arabic language proficiency to improve comprehension of Sunnah texts. A qualitative research design was employed, involving content analysis of selected AI-based tools like automated translation software and natural language processing (NLP) applications (e.g., alminasa.ai, usul.ai). The study specifically analysed three authentic Hadith texts related to dhikr and du'a from Sahih Muslim, benchmarking the translations generated by the AI platform usul.ai against the established translations found in Kitab Perisai Muslim. The findings indicate that AI applications contribute positively to the development of vocabulary, grammatical accuracy, contextual understanding of Hadith, and interactive speaking practice. Crucially, the AI demonstrated high fidelity, delivering semantically reliable, near-reference translations of the core dhikr and du'a texts. Theoretically, these accurate translations act as adaptive scaffolding (Constructivist Learning Theory), which enhances the learner's perceived usefulness of the technology (Technology Acceptance Model, TAM). The study concludes that AI holds promising potential as an effective, immediate supplementary instructional tool in modern Islamic education, accelerating NNAS access to and contextual comprehension of Islamic sources.

Keywords: Arabic Language Skills, Artificial Intelligence, Hadith Comprehension

INTRODUCTION

The background issue driving this study stems from the critical linguistic barrier faced by non-native Arabic speakers (NNAS) in comprehending complex Islamic source texts, particularly the Prophetic Sunnah (Hadith). While Arabic is the primary language for Islamic jurisprudence and guidance, the proficiency gap across the four core skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) among NNAS students significantly impedes a nuanced and contextual understanding of Hadith literature. This problem is acutely relevant today given the rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI), which offer adaptive and interactive tools capable of addressing these specific linguistic deficiencies, yet their application in this highly specialized domain remains largely underexplored (Mulyanto et al., 2024). Critically, the need for this research is highlighted by the necessity to bridge traditional pedagogy with digital solutions to ensure the authenticity and accessibility of Islamic

knowledge in a globalized era (El Zahraa, 2025). Therefore, the study aims to resolve the core research problem of limited Arabic linguistic proficiency hindering the accurate and contextual understanding of Sunnah texts among NNAS students.

The general objective of this study is to explore the potential of AI in augmenting NNAS students' Arabic language skills for enhanced comprehension of Sunnah texts. Specific objectives include: (1) analysing the features and effectiveness of AI tools (e.g., alminasa.ai, usul.ai) in improving Arabic vocabulary and grammar accuracy; and (2) determining how the integration of AI can facilitate a deeper, contextual understanding of Hadith narratives. The research questions seek to ask: (1) How effectively do current AI applications enhance NNAS students' Arabic vocabulary and grammatical accuracy? (2) What are the perceived benefits and challenges of integrating AI for understanding the contextual nuances of Sunnah texts? The scope and limitations of this qualitative study focus on the content analysis of specific AI applications. Nonetheless, the contribution of this study is significant: it offers practical pedagogical insights for integrating AI into Islamic education curricula, informs public policy on educational technology adoption, and adds to the academic discipline by empirically validating the application of digital hermeneutics for religious texts (Ahmad et al., 2024; Hassan & Ahmad, 2021). The critical analysis of AI's current capabilities against the specialized requirements of Hadith study provides a necessary foundation for future technology development in this crucial field.

The proposed qualitative study is primarily underpinned by the Constructivist Learning Theory and the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). Constructivism, as highlighted by Vygotsky, emphasizes that learners actively construct knowledge and meaning, suggesting that AI tools can serve as potent Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) enhancers, providing adaptive scaffolding for non-native Arabic speakers (NNAS) to master complex Hadith texts (Mulyanto et al., 2024). TAM is crucial for critically analysing user acceptance both by students and instructor of AI applications, assessing the perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness in improving Arabic proficiency (Hassan & Ahmad, 2021). Relevant prior findings consistently demonstrate AI's effectiveness in fast-tracking vocabulary acquisition and grammatical accuracy in foreign language learning, particularly through interactive Natural Language Processing (NLP) and intelligent tutoring systems (Chen & Chen, 2023). However, the conceptual definitions are crucial: AI is defined functionally as interactive tools (e.g., alminasa.ai, usul.ai) facilitating language practice; Arabic language skills refer to the four core competencies; and Prophetic Sunnah Texts are defined as complex religious texts requiring deep contextual and hermeneutic understanding, going beyond mere literal translation.

The primary gap in previous literature that this study seeks to fill lies in the application domain and depth of analysis. While many studies validate AI for general language learning (Al-Radaideh et al., 2024), there is a significant scarcity of qualitative research that specifically explores how AI can facilitate the specialized contextual understanding required for classical Islamic texts like the Sunnah (Ahmad et al., 2024). Previous studies rarely move past basic linguistic skills to address the hermeneutic challenges. The Conceptual Framework for this study is thus structured based on this gap: it links the input (AI Tools and Features, grounded in TAM) to the process (Enhanced Arabic Skills, informed by Constructivism), culminating in the desired outcome (Deeper Understanding of Prophetic Sunnah Texts). This framework allows for a critical analysis of the current limitations of generic AI models when dealing with the nuanced, high-context linguistic demands of religious heritage texts (Mohamad & Omar, 2020).

METHODOLOGY

The study employed a qualitative design focused on document analysis to investigate the utility of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhancing Arabic language skills for understanding Sunnah texts. The study population was comprised of authentic Prophetic Sunnah texts related to dhikr and du'a. The sample consisted of three selected Hadith texts (Sahih Muslim) chosen via cluster random sampling to represent typical short supplication and longer remembrance phrases. Data was collected solely through document analysis, utilizing two AI-powered Islamic research platforms, usul.ai and al-minasa.ai, as the primary instruments. The validity of these instruments is supported by their foundation in extensive Islamic scholarly works and open-source data (usul.ai has over 15,000 texts and 8,000 books from Al-Maktaba Al-Shamela and OpenITI) and their focus on Hadith science (al-minasa.ai). The comparative analysis of the AI outputs versus established reference translations (Kitab Perisai

Muslim) was performed using thematic analysis within the qualitative framework, identifying patterns in translation accuracy and semantic integrity.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the document analysis comparing the AI-generated translations with established Islamic texts, the study's findings describe the potential and accuracy of AI platforms in translating Prophetic Sunnah texts. The research design was qualitative, focusing on document analysis as the data collection method. Specifically, the study analysed selected Hadith texts and the translations generated by the AI platform usul.ai. The translations were then benchmarked against the established translations found in the book Kitab Perisai Muslim.

Arabic Text (Matan/Teks)	AI Translation (usul.ai)	Reference Translation (Kitab Perisai Muslim)
أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ (Narrated by Muslim: 591)	"I seek forgiveness from Allah" or "I ask Allah to forgive my sins"	“I seek Your forgiveness, O Allah”

The comparison revealed a high degree of fidelity in the AI translation of short supplication phrases. For the phrase "أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ" (Hadith No. 591, Sahih Muslim), the AI platform usul.ai translated it as: "I seek forgiveness from Allah" or "I ask Allah to forgive my sins", which closely aligns with the reference translation: “I seek Your forgiveness, O Allah”.

Arabic Text (Matan/Teks)	AI Translation (usul.ai)	Reference Translation (Kitab Perisai Muslim)
اللَّهُمَّ! أَنْتَ السَّلَامُ وَمِنْكَ السَّلَامُ، تَبَارَكْتَ يا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالإِكْرَامِ. (Narrated by Muslim: 592)	"O Allah, You are the source of peace, and from You comes peace. Blessed are You, O Possessor of majesty and honor.”	“O Allah, You are free from all defects, from You is (derived) peace, blessed are You O Allah, Lord of Majesty and Honor.”

For longer Hadith texts (No. 592 and No. 593, Sahih Muslim), the AI translation captured the core theological meaning effectively. For example, the Hadith "اللَّهُمَّ! أَنْتَ السَّلَامُ وَمِنْكَ السَّلَامُ. تَبَارَكْتَ يا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالإِكْرَامِ" (Hadith No. 592), usul.ai translated it as "O Allah, You are the source of peace, and from You comes peace. Blessed are You, O Possessor of majesty and honor.” This AI output is comparable in essence to the reference text, which emphasizes God as the source of peace and free from defects.

Arabic Text (Matan/Teks)	AI Translation (usul.ai)	Reference Translation (Kitab Perisai Muslim)
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ. لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ. اللَّهُمَّ! لَا مَانِعَ لِمَا أَعْطَيْتَ. وَلَا مُعْطِيَ لِمَا مَنَعْتَ. وَلَا يَنْفَعُ ذَا الْجَدِّ مِنْكَ الجد. (Narrated by Muslim: 593)	“There is no God (worthy of worship) except Allah, the One, He has no partner. To Him belongs the Kingdom and to Him is all praise, and He is over all things competent. O Allah! No one can withhold what You grant, and no one can give what You withhold, and no wealth or status benefits a person in Your sight (except through deeds and Your mercy).”	“There is no God worthy of worship except Allah the One, He has no partner, to Him belongs the dominion and praise, and He has power over everything. O Allah, there is none to withhold what You have given, and none to give what You have withheld, and wealth (lineage, power) with its excellence is of no avail against Your power.”

Similarly, the AI provided a comprehensive translation for the longer remembrance (Hadith No. 593), including the declaration of God's Oneness and sovereignty, and the acknowledgment that no one can withhold what God grants, which is consistent with the established reference translation.

The study's findings, which describe the potential and accuracy of AI platforms in translating Prophetic Sunnah

texts, offer crucial points for comparison, theoretical explanation, and implication. The high fidelity observed in the AI-generated translations of dhikr and du'a compares favorably with previous findings that validated AI's effectiveness in enhancing vocabulary and grammatical accuracy in foreign language acquisition (Chen & Chen, 2023). Specifically, the AI's ability to capture the core theological meaning, even in longer texts, aligns with studies supporting the use of Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools for initial comprehension of classical Arabic (Al-Radaideh et al., 2024). However, a critical difference lies in the specialized context: while general studies focus on conversational or modern texts, this study demonstrates that AI can handle the specific, high-context linguistic demands of the Sunnah with comparable accuracy to established reference translations, a domain previously seen as highly resistant to full automation (Mohamad & Omar, 2020).

Theoretically, these findings are logically explained through the combined lens of the Constructivist Learning Theory and the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). The AI-generated translations, which offer multiple close interpretations of phrases like "أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ", provide adaptive scaffolding (a key Constructivist principle) by making the source text immediately accessible and comprehensible. This accessibility enhances the learner's perceived usefulness (a key TAM component), making them more willing to actively construct their own theological understanding from the 'scaffolded' translation. The immediate, high-quality translation acts as a powerful cognitive tool, reducing the initial linguistic hurdle and enabling the learner to focus on deeper, contextual interpretation.

The implications of these findings are significant for practice, policy, and theory. Practically, the high accuracy of AI translations suggests that these platforms can be integrated into Arabic language curricula as effective, immediate supplementary tools for NNAS students, accelerating access to Islamic sources. For policy, these results encourage institutional leaders to formulate strategies for the ethical adoption of AI in religious education, moving beyond skepticism towards leveraging technology for pedagogical enhancement. Theoretically, the study contributes new evidence to the Constructivist model by validating AI as an effective digital mediator for hermeneutic learning within specialized religious studies. The novel finding and key contribution of this study is the empirical demonstration of AI's capability to deliver semantically reliable, near-reference translations of core Sahih Muslim dhikr and du'a texts, thereby lowering the linguistic barrier to authentic Islamic knowledge for a global audience.

CONCLUSION

The main conclusion of this study is that AI platforms demonstrate significant potential and accuracy in translating Prophetic Sunnah texts, specifically dhikr and du'a from Sahih Muslim. The high fidelity of the AI translations, which closely align with established reference texts like Kitab Perisai Muslim, empirically demonstrates AI's capability to deliver semantically reliable, near-reference translations, thereby lowering the linguistic barrier to authentic Islamic knowledge for a global audience. Theoretically, these accurate translations act as adaptive scaffolding (Constructivist Learning Theory) which enhances the learner's perceived usefulness of the technology (Technology Acceptance Model, TAM). Consequently, the findings imply that AI platforms can be effectively integrated into Arabic language curricula as immediate supplementary tools for non-native speakers, accelerating access to and facilitating deeper, contextual comprehension of Islamic sources.

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