AL-BASIRAH



Participation in Research and Innovation Exhibitions: E-Learning Applications in Arabic Language

Muhammad Sabri Sahrir¹

ABSTRACT

Arabic learning is in dire need for advance teaching and learning aids, especially with the integration of advanced multimedia application by using computer assisted applications, and learning courseware such as educational websites, digital or online language games, mobile learning applications, etc. In fact these applications have already been developed and explored by many researchers all over the world in various platforms such as web-based, CD-based, cloud based as well as mobile-based applications. The potential of designing and developing these applications is not limited to the benefits for teaching and learning Arabic language per se, but it is also has prospects to go into breakthrough of the innovation exhibition and competitions which are organized locally and internationally. These events are important for the researchers to generate and promote their innovative ideas to others and has the potential to transform their research into commercial products and winning the medal awards based on the evaluation criteria in the research and innovation exhibition and competition. The purpose of this paper is to discuss several research and innovation exhibition and competitions which are being organised locally and internationally and its relationship and potential with the development of multimedia applications in the field of teaching and learning Arabic language.

Keywords: Design and development, research and innovation, multimedia application, Arabic teaching and learning, computer assisted language learning (CALL)

INTRODUCTION

The emergence of research and innovation exhibitions and competitions is a current trend in this era of research world and has attracted the participation of researchers from various fields of knowledge regardless of their specialization either it is in the true science-based or social science-based field of knowledge. For the computer assisted language learning (CALL), it

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has high potential of relationship with this innovative research events as it is pertinent to the exploring and innovating new ideas and products in teaching and learning Arabic especially to the non-native speakers as effective instructional aids for the learners. The potential of utilizing these educational multimedia applications in teaching and learning Arabic should not be limited to enhance teaching and learning performance per se, but it is also may be complemented with the exploration of participation in the research and innovation exhibitions and competitions. These research events provides several benefits to the educational practitioners, learning institutions, teachers and learners by presenting new ideas, innovation new learning products, exchange of networking and linkages among researchers, promoting learning institutions to the industrial partners, as well as winning prestigious research and innovation medals locally and internationally which contribute to the university's ranking.

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN ARABIC LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Nowadays the use of computer and its applications have become an integral part of the modern societies" life. Changes within the different aspects of life happen in rapidly and it is the duty of every society to keep up with the information era, especially in embracing the computer and its applications which would then individuals as qualified and well-armed in bracing the rapid changes of this era². Learning through multimedia is becoming the focus of researchers in computer-assisted language learning in order to enhance the effectiveness of learning process. The term "multimedia learning" can be defined as the presentation of material using both words and pictures³.

In addition, Mayer and Moreno⁴ found that the learner's understanding while watching animated images of a certain phenomenon (the lightning phenomenon) accompanied with an auditory explanation is much better than the learner's understanding of the similar animated images while verbally reading an on screen text explanation. These technical developments are now synchronized within the stages of self-learning development. This involved the use of multi-medias and computer-assisted learning method which increasingly activated the role of computer in language learning as Based on Mohd Feham and Isarji⁵, Mohd Feham⁶, Ashinida, Afendi and Mohd Shabri⁷ and Zawawi⁸, there is still lack of use of computer-assisted technology in the Arabic language teaching and learning.

² Al-Harak, Hesham Muhammed. Internet in education - E-school project. Informatic network news. Retrieved July 17, 2003 from <u>http://www.annabaa.org/nbanews/24/096.htm</u>

³ Mayer, R.E. *Multimedia Learning* (9th edition). New York, United States: Cambridge University Press, 2001

⁴ Mayer, R. & Moreno, A. Split-attention effect in multimedia learning: evidence for dual processing systems in working memory. Journal of Educational Psychology. Vol. 90, 312-314, 1998

⁵ Mohd Feham Mohd Ghalib & Isarji Sarudin. On-line Arabic: Challenges, limitations and recommendations. Proceedings of National Conference on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Kedah 231-232, 2000

⁶ Mohd Feham Mohd Ghalib. *The design, development and testing on the efficacy of a pedagogical agent on the performance and program rating scores among students learning Arabic*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 2006

⁷ Ashinida Aladdin, Afendi Hamat & Mohd. Shabri Yusof. Penggunaan PBBK(Pembelajaran bahasa berbantukan komputer) dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran bahasa Arab sebagai bahasa asing: Satu tinjauan awal. GEMA Online® Journal of Language Studies, 4(1), 9-17, 2004

⁸ Zawawi Ismail. Penilaian pelaksanaan kurikulum kemahiran bertutur bahasa Arab komunikasi di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Agama. – Evaluation of implemented curriculum of speaking skill in Arabic communicative subjects in religious secondary schools. Unpublished Ph.D Dissertation, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, 2008

Furthermore, Mohd Feham⁹ mentioned that there are few inventions and innovations available in the field of Arabic language learning, due to several reasons that pose a limit to the number of Arabic language educational software and courseware. The majority of Arabic language teachers are also found to be incompetent in using the computer and courseware in the teaching process due to poor computer literacy, especially among the senior generations¹⁰ and also lacking computer training¹¹. In addition, the technological production of machinery for Arabic language teaching and learning is also being dominated by the American-English language, be it in terms of software or hardware as pointed out by Ditter¹². The studies also have reiterated that multimedia applications have the ability in assisting the process of teaching in the classroom in enabling more flexibility and effectiveness¹³ as well as in providing better learning experience compared to the face-to-face environment¹⁴. A particular study in learning Arabic using multimedia found that the audio with images mode was an important aid to learning as compared to text with images mode¹⁵.

The importance of using multimedia and computer applications in teaching and learning Arabic nowadays has led to the design and development of various multimedia learning applications in order to enhance learner's performance and facilitate effective and enjoyable teaching aids in Arabic language. As mentioned earlier, this paper is sharing the idea of participation of this Arabic multimedia learning applications in research and innovation exhibitions and competitions in order to promote the potential of them in exploring various benefits as well as winning prestigious research and innovation medals locally and internationally. This achievements are significant to improve the researchers' performance, their research networks and linkages, which contribute to the better and higher university's ranking. Based on QS Stars university rating, innovation is one of the criteria assessed by the QS Stars university rating service for universities, by measuring rewards universities whose work goes beyond the confines of academia from three criteria of patent (20 points), spin-off companies (10 points) and industrial research (20 points)16.

⁹ Mohd Feham Mohd Ghalib. The design, development and testing on the efficacy of a pedagogical agent on the performance and program rating scores among students learning Arabic. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 2006

¹⁰ Zawawi Ismail. Penilaian pelaksanaan kurikulum kemahiran bertutur bahasa Arab komunikasi di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Agama. – Evaluation of implemented curriculum of speaking skill in Arabic communicative subjects in religious secondary schools. Unpublished Ph.D Dissertation, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, 2008

¹¹ Ashinida Aladdin, Afendi Hamat & Mohd. Shabri Yusof. Penggunaan PBBK (Pembelajaran bahasa berbantukan komputer) dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran bahasa Arab sebagai bahasa asing: Satu tinjauan awal. GEMA Online® Journal of Language Studies, 4(1), 9-17, 2004

¹² Ditter, E. *Technologies for Arabic language teaching and learning*. In K. M. Wahba, Z. A. Taha & L. England (Ed.). Handbook for Arabic language teaching professionals in the 21st century, pp. 239-252, 2006. New Jersey, USA: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.

¹³ Zamri, Mahamod & Nur Aisyah Mohamad Noor. Persepsi Guru Tentang Penggunaan Aplikasi Multimedia Dalam Pengajaran Komponen Sastera Bahasa Melayu. GEMA Online® Journal of Language Studies. Vol. 3 (11), 169-175, 2011

¹⁴ Vincent, Pang, Lee, Kean Wah, Tan Choon Keong & Syukery Mohamed. *E-learning initiatives in educating student teachers*. GEMA Online® Journal of Language Studies. Vol. 5(2), 22-24, 2005

¹⁵ Aldalalah, O, Fong, S.F. & Ababneh, W.Z. Effects of multimedia-based instructional designs for Arabic language learning among pupils of different achievement levels. International Journal of Human and Social Sciences. Vol. 5(5), 1080-1081, 2010.

¹⁶ QS Top Universities. Rating Universities on Innovation: QS Stars. Retrieved on 21th of March 2014 from <u>http://www.topuniversities.com/qs-stars/rating-universities-innovation-qs-stars</u>

PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXHIBITION AND COMPETITIONS LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

The researchers have several options in participating in the research and innovation exhibition and competitions which are being organised locally and internationally. These events can be divided into categories such as the followings:

i) Faculty Level among Staff and Students

Some of the research and innovation exhibitions and competitions are organised at the faculty members among students and staff. By organising this research events, the faculty has the opportunity to generate new ideas among staff and students, and selecting the best presentations and products to the higher level of exhibitions and competitions. The examples of these research events are as indicated below:

a) Kulliyyah Postgraduate Exhibition, Research and Innovation (KERIE), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

Kulliyyah of Engineering Home > Browse IIUM > Kulliyyah of Engineering > About Us Kulliyyah Postgraduate Exhibition, Research and Innovation 2013 Dean's Foreword (KERIE 2013) Mission, Vision, PEOs and PO « Back al Cl Start Date: 13 Jun 2013 13 Jun 2013 es and Courses End Date: 9:00 am Time: ate Progra Location: Main Hall. CAC Programmes Offered Organized by: Kulliyyah of Engineering Figure 1: KERIE, IIUM

B) Research, Invention, Innovation and Design, MARA University of Technology, Melaka (RIID).



Figure 2: RIID, UiTM Melaka

ii) University Level.

Some of the research and innovation exhibitions and competitions are organised at the university level as well among staff members and students. By organising this research events, the university has the opportunity to generate new ideas among staff and students, and selecting the best presentations and products to the higher level of exhibitions and competitions. The examples of these research events are as indicated below:

a) International Research, Invention and Innovation Exhibition (IRIIE), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)



Figure 3: International Research, Invention and Innovation Exhibition (IRIIE), <u>http://www.iium.edu.my/irie/16/</u>

b) Invention, Innovation and Design Exposition (IIDEX), MARA University of Technology (UiTM), Shah Alam, Selangor.



Figure 4: Invention, Innovation and Design Exposition (IIDEX), *UiTM*. <u>http://www.iidex.com.my/</u>

iii) National Level.

Some of the research and innovation exhibitions and competitions are organised at the national level. By this research events, the country has the opportunity to generate new ideas among staff and students in the universities, schools and colleges by selecting best presentations and products to the higher level of exhibitions and competitions internationally. The examples of these research events are as indicated below:

a) International Conference and Exposition on Inventions by Institutions of Higher Learning (PECIPTA)



Figure 4: PECIPTA,

http://pecipta.upsi.edu.my/index.php/component/content/featured?id=featured

b) ITEX Malaysia



Figure 5: ITEX, Malaysia, http://www.itex.com.my/

c) The Exposition on Islamic Innovation (i-Inova), Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) and Ministry of Education Malaysia (MoE).



Figure 6: The Exposition on Islamic Innovation (i-Inova), USIM and MoE, <u>http://i-inova2016.usim.edu.my/</u>

d) National Innovation and Invention Competition Through Exhibition (i-COMPEX), Politeknik Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah (POLIMAS) and Ministry of Education Malaysia (MoE).



Figure 7: National Innovation and Invention Competition Through Exhibition (i-COMPEX), <u>http://app.polimas.edu.my/icompex/</u>

e) <u>International Syariah Compliant Idea, Invention, Innovation & Design (Isciiid)</u>, Mara University of Technology (UiTM), Shah Alam, Selangor and Ministry of Education Malaysia (MoE).

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Tahniah diucapkan kepada semua peserta dan pemenang ISCIIIID 2014!						
Kepada para pemenang yang berminat untuk menempah tambahan sijil dan medal ISCIIID 2014, sila muat turun <u>borang tempahan</u> berikut dan hantarkannya kepada alamat yang tertera, terima kasih. Untuk maklumat lanjut, sila hubungi : Dr Azhar 019-3771652						

Figure 8: International Syariah Compliant Idea, Invention, Innovation & Design (ISCIIID), UiTM and MoE. http://sciiid.uitm.edu.my/

f) International University Carnival on E-Learning (LUCEL) Organised by National Council on E-Learning (Meipta) and Ministry of Education Malaysia (MoE). The Exhibition is Formerly Known as National University Carnival On E-Learning - NUCEL.



Figure 9: International University Carnival on E-Learning (IUCEL), by MEIPTA, UiTM and MoE, <u>http://ctl.utm.my/iucel/</u>

iv) International Level.

Among the research and innovation exhibitions and competitions are organised at the international level are as the following:

a) International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland.



http://www.carnifest.com/events/switzerland/geneve/982/international-exhibition-ofinventions-of-geneva-2015.aspx

b) Brussels Innova, the International Exhibition of Invention, Research and New Technologies, Belgium.



Figure 10: Brussels Innova, http://www.brussels-innova.com/



C) Korea Seoul International Invention Fair (SIIF)

Figure 11: SIIF 2016: http://www.siif.org/eng/

SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATIONS IN THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXHIBITION AND COMPETITIONS

a) Online Arabic Vocabulary Games Learning Website, IIUM



Figure 11: Online Arabic Vocabulary Games Learning Website, <u>http://www.arabic-games-iium.net/</u>

1- Inventor : Assoc Prof. Dr Muhammad Sabri Sahrir (IIUM)

2- Achievements : Silver medal, IID-SE 2010, UiTM Shah Alam Silver medal, IRIIE 2011, IIUM Bronze medal, i-INOVA 2011, USIM and MoE Bronze medal, IRIIE 2012, IIUM Silver medal, NUCEL 2014, MEIPTA, UITM and MoHe. Gold Medal, PECIPTA 2015, UPSI and MoHe.

Bronze Medal 2016, Malaysia Technology Expo – MTE 2016

3- Sample of poster presentation:



EZ-Arabic - Virtual Learning Platform for Malaysian Primary Schools. b)



Figure 11: EZ-Arabic, http://ezarabic.net/v1/en/

: Mohd Firdaus Yahaya & Mohd Shahrizal Nasir (Universiti Sultan 1- Inventor Zainal Abidin, UniSZA, Terengganu) and Dr Muhammad Sabri Sahrir (IIUM) 2- Achievements : Silver medal, IRIIE 2012, IIUM Silver medal, UniSZA 2014 Gold medal, i-COMPEX 2014 Silver medal, ISCIIID2014, UiTM and MoE Bronze medal, i-INOVA 2014, USIM and MoE Silver medal, Brussels Inova 2014, Belgium. Special award (Prize of the Idea Monopoly), Brussels Inova 2014 Gold Medal, IUCEL 2016 (EZ-Arabic 2.0).

3- Sample of poster presentation in PECIPTA 2015 organised by Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia:



IGI

Scopus

- SISN 18770428
 Sex 1abro428
 Catalogued in the National Grassroot Innovation Databank of Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia (ONLINE DATABASE).
 SULVER : Invention, Innovation and Design Special Edition (IID-SE 2010), UTM Shah Alam.
 SILVER : INVENTION Research, Invention and Innovation Exhibition (IRIE) 2011. International Islamic University Malaysia (IUM).
 SILVER : IUM Research, Invention and Innovation Exhibition (IRIE) 2011. International Islamic University Malaysia (IUM).
 BROXEZ : Islamic Innovation Exp 2011 (-Inova' 2011), Indoor Nilai Stadium, organised by USIM and MoHE.
 SILVER : IUM Research, Invention and Innovation Exhibition (IRIE) 2011. International Islamic University Malaysia (IUM).
 SILVER : National University Carnival of E-Learning (NUCEL 2014), organised by UiTM, MEIPTA and MoE.

CONCLUSION

This paper provides the ideas of exploring the potential of integration of multimedia learning applications in the participation of research and innovation exhibitions and competitions locally and internationally. Such efforts should be initiated by the researchers and faculty members as well in order to generate new innovative research ideas and products especially in the teaching and learning Arabic language to make it at the same par and level with other fields of specialization and knowledge. The teaching and learning Arabic language should make significant transformation and contributions to portray better prospects and future to the researchers, teacher and learners in this field in addition to the traditional method of teaching and learning in Arabic.

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