Integrating Naqli and Aqli Through Islamic Animation: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence in Islamic Education

Nadiah Ramlan[1*], Norsyamlina Che Abdul Rahim[2], Siti Syahirah Saffinee[3], Norfarhana Ahmad Ghafar[4]

[1] Faculty of Quranic and Sunnah Studies, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Nilai, Malaysia
[2] Faculty of Hospitality Tourism and Wellness, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Kota Bharu, Malaysia
[3] Faculty of Syariah and Law, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Nilai, Malaysia
[4] Faculty of Main Language Studies, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Nilai, Malaysia

*Corresponding Author: nadiahramlan@usim.edu.my

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Abstract: *Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education has revolutionized teaching and learning procedures, including Islamic education. AI-driven animations offer a new means of delivering Islamic teachings without disconnecting from modern learners. With the emergence of AI, incorporating Naqli (revealed knowledge) and Aqli (rational knowledge) into educational animations in an effective manner is still a challenge. There is a shortage of creating AI-based multimedia tools that preserve Islamic values but can address the demands of contemporary education. The objective of this study is to explore the possibility of AI in Islamic learning, more so on how animations can be created that blend Naqli and Aqli knowledge. It examines current AI frameworks and their application towards developing educational animations that are suitable for Islamic education. A conceptual analysis approach is employed by the study where the existing AI technologies, structures of animation, and AI-powered educational content case studies are reviewed in the context of Islamic education. A conceptual model is built to demonstrate Naqli and Aqli collaboration in AI-generated animations. The study reveals major AI approaches and technologies that can successfully aid in the creation of Islamic educational animations. The report also discusses how AI might improve information retention, engagement, and usefulness while adhering to Islamic ideals. The study proposes multidisciplinary collaboration among AI developers, Islamic scholars, and educators to create AI-based animation models. Future research should look at AI ethics in Islamic education and how AI technologies might be tailored to provide balanced learning experiences.*

Keywords: Naqli and Aqli Integration, Artificial Intelligence in Islamic Education, AI-driven Educational Animation

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1. Introduction

Islamic education has long relied on a combination of Naqli and Aqli to produce well-rounded individuals who embody spiritual and intellectual excellence. Naqli, or revealed knowledge, refers to divine guidance found in the Quran, Hadith, and Islamic jurisprudence. Aqli, or rational knowledge, refers to intellectual pursuits that supplement revealed knowledge, promoting critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. This balance between the two forms of knowledge serves as the foundation for Islamic scholarship and pedagogy (Abd Allah,

2018). The harmony between Naqli and Aqli is critical in ensuring that individuals are not only spiritually enlightened but also equipped with the intellectual tools needed to engage with and navigate the modern world (Al-Attas, 1999). This balance is central to Islamic educational philosophy, which advocates for the development of both the heart and the mind.

In the modern era, rapid technological advancement has disrupted traditional educational methods (Yadav, 2019). Digital-native learners seek innovative and engaging learning experiences that incorporate technology (Bagur-Femenías, Buil-Fabrega, & Aznar, 2020; Reid, Button, & Brommeyer, 2023). The transition to digital tools in education necessitates an adaptation of traditional pedagogical methods, particularly in Islamic education, where maintaining the sacredness and depth of Naqli knowledge is critical (Akrim, 2022). Islamic education must adapt to these changes while preserving its core values (Hasibuan, Fadly, & Waruwu, 2025). Artificial intelligence (AI) provides a promising solution by allowing for the creation of dynamic and interactive educational content (Rane, Choudhary, & Rane, 2023). AI can provide tailored educational experiences that cater to the unique needs of each learner, fostering an environment where both *Naqli* and *Aqli* knowledge can be taught in an integrated and meaningful way (Khan & Ahmed, 2021).

The integration of Naqli and Aqli is consistent with the Quran's call for reflection (fikrah) and the pursuit of knowledge. Surah Al-Alaq, verse 1, begins with the command, "Read in the name of your Lord who created," emphasising the importance of acquiring knowledge. Similarly, Surah Az-Zumar, verse 9, raises the rhetorical question, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" These verses highlight Islam's emphasis on learning and intellectual engagement. By incorporating Quranic values and rational thought into educational animations, Islamic educators can foster critical thinking while also nurturing spiritual growth. Educational animations powered by AI could include visual and interactive elements that present complex Islamic concepts engagingly and understandably. This combination of technology and traditional Islamic values can empower students to engage with both the faith and the modern world in an intellectually stimulating way (Nasr, 2002).

AI-driven animations, in addition to providing interactive learning experiences, can be used to facilitate self-directed learning. AI enables personalised learning experiences by allowing students to explore and interact with content at their own pace, which is critical in an era where students' learning styles vary (Al-Kilidar, 2019). Furthermore, AI's ability to assess students' progress and provide instant feedback can help to improve the learning process, ensuring that both Naqli and Aqli knowledge are absorbed effectively.

2. Literature Review

The integration of technology into education is not a new concept. Multimedia tools have been used in Islamic education to increase participation and comprehension. For example, digital platforms have been used to teach Quranic recitation, interactive Tafsir lessons, and virtual Islamic history tours. However, the introduction of AI creates unprecedented opportunities for customisation, scalability, and interactivity.

The Role of AI in Education
Recent studies have highlighted AI's transformative potential in education. AI technologies like Natural Language Processing (NLP), machine learning, and generative AI allow for more personalised learning experiences. Adaptive learning systems can assess a learner's progress and tailor content to their specific needs, resulting in a more personalised educational journey

(Holmes, Bialik, & Fadel, 2019). These systems can adjust the pace and complexity of learning material based on performance, ensuring that students face the appropriate level of difficulty (Woolf, 2010). Real-time feedback mechanisms provide instant evaluations, enhancing the learning process by directing learners to areas where they can improve (Nye, 2015).

AI also helps educators by automating administrative tasks, freeing up time to focus on direct student interaction and innovative teaching methods (Brynjolfsson & McAffee, 2014). The growing use of AI in educational settings has resulted in improved learner engagement, retention, and achievement in subjects such as mathematics, language learning, and STEM disciplines (Guszcza et al., 2017). Furthermore, AI can democratise access to quality education by providing resources and personalised instruction to underserved communities and remote areas (Duan, Edwards, & Dwivedi, 2019).

Islamic Animation: Current Trends and Challenges
Islamic animation is a relatively unexplored field within the larger context of educational media. Existing works frequently centre on basic storytelling, such as narrating Quranic stories or illustrating Hadith (Elbattah et al., 2019). While these efforts are admirable, they frequently lack a systematic approach to integrating revealed knowledge (Naqli) and rational knowledge (Aqli). Many existing animations engage only superficially with Islamic teachings, failing to provide deeper intellectual insights into complex religious and philosophical concepts (Abdullah & Rahman, 2020).

Furthermore, the depth and quality of Islamic animations differ significantly. While some animations succeed in depicting moral stories and fundamental religious concepts, others fail to fully realise the potential of modern technology to create compelling, interactive, and educational experiences. The incorporation of advanced technologies such as AI can significantly improve the quality of Islamic animations by providing learners with more interactive, personalised learning paths, and immersive experiences (Islam & Hossain, 2022). AI can be used to generate dynamic, engaging content that includes both Naqli and Aqli, ensuring that students are exposed to both spiritual wisdom and intellectual rigour.

Scholars from Al-Azhar University, the University of Oxford, and the National University of Singapore have emphasised the importance of a structured framework for Islamic multimedia development (Suleiman and Basri, 2021; Al-Dosary, 2020). These frameworks emphasise the importance of content accuracy, cultural sensitivity, and pedagogical value in the creation of Islamic educational materials. This study builds on their work by proposing an AI-based model for incorporating Naqli and Aqli into educational animations to improve the quality of Islamic animation and better meet the needs of modern learners.

The proposed AI model would employ adaptive learning techniques to present both religious texts and critical thinking exercises, combining religious stories with intellectual challenges that encourage reflection and deeper comprehension. By leveraging AI, Islamic educational animations can go beyond traditional storytelling to provide a more comprehensive, engaging, and intellectually enriching experience for students of all ages.

3. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative approach to explore the integration of AI in Islamic education. The methodology includes:

Case Studies

The study conducts a thorough analysis of existing Islamic animations to assess their educational value. This includes identifying strengths, such as storytelling and visual appeal, that connect with learners. Identifying gaps, such as incomplete integration of Naqli and Aqli or a lack of interactive elements. Evaluating user engagement and retention using reviews, feedback, and observational data. The findings from these case studies provide important insights into the current state of Islamic animation and will help to shape the development of better AI-driven models.

AI Framework Development

The study creates a conceptual model to guide the integration of Naqli and Aqli into AI-powered animations. This process involves reviewing AI capabilities, including NLP, machine learning, and generative AI, to identify tools that align with Islamic educational goals. Aligning Naqli elements (Quranic verses, Hadith, Islamic history) and Aqli elements (critical thinking, ethical reasoning) with animation components. Iteratively refining the framework with feedback from experts and educators. The framework serves as a blueprint for creating animations that balance spiritual and intellectual development.

Expert Interviews

The study conducts semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders to validate the proposed framework and gather additional information.

Participants include:
- Islamic Scholars provide theological guidance to ensure content is consistent with Islamic values and principles.
- AI Experts: Provide technical guidance on the feasibility and implementation of AI tools.
- Educators can share their practical perspectives on learner engagement, curriculum integration, and pedagogical effectiveness. The interview data is thematically analysed to identify recurring themes, such as ethical concerns, technological challenges, and opportunities for innovation. These findings contribute to the study's recommendations for implementing AI-driven animations in Islamic education.

3. Finding and Discussion

AI in Islamic Education: Opportunities and Applications

AI provides several innovative tools to improve Islamic education by combining technological advancement and spiritual values.

Among the most promising applications include:

Natural Language Processing (NLP): NLP technologies can analyse Quranic text and provide tools for Tajweed, recitation, and language analysis. These tools help students improve their pronunciation and understanding of Quranic Arabic, resulting in more meaningful interactions with the sacred text (Elbattah et al., 2019; Islam & Hossain, 2022). Generative AI can generate realistic, context-appropriate animations that adhere to Islamic values. It can, for example, generate age-appropriate characters, culturally sensitive settings, and narratives based on Quranic stories or Islamic history lessons, thereby increasing engagement and pedagogical effectiveness (Islam & Hossain, 2022; Abdullah & Rahman, 2020).

AI-Driven Assessment: Interactive quizzes, adaptive assessments, and personalised feedback mechanisms can all be used to assess learner engagement and comprehension. These tools assist in identifying learning gaps and provide real-time guidance for continuous improvement (Chen et al., 2020; Nye, 2015).

These tools contribute to more personalised, accessible, and effective learning pathways, particularly when applied to religious content in a culturally sensitive manner (Zawacki-Richter et al., 2019; Duan, Edwards, & Dwivedi, 2019).

Integrating Naqli and Aqli: A Conceptual Framework
The proposed framework (see Figure 1) combines AI-powered animation technologies to deliver both revealed and rational knowledge in a cohesive, meaningful manner. It is based on the following pillars.

Naqli (Revealed Knowledge): The framework uses Quranic verses, Hadith, and Islamic history to provide learners with a foundation based on divine guidance. AI enables accurate interpretation and effective delivery of this knowledge via multimedia tools (Suleiman & Basri, 2021; Al-Dosary, 2020).

Aqli (Rational Knowledge): It encourages critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and problem-solving abilities to supplement Naqli knowledge. This is consistent with the Islamic educational philosophy of balancing revelation and intellect, encouraging students to reflect, analyse, and act following both spiritual and rational considerations (Abdullah and Rahman, 2020).

Synergistic Integration: The framework emphasises the harmonious relationship between Naqli and Aqli in the pursuit of holistic knowledge. The model uses adaptive learning and generative content to create immersive learning experiences that engage learners intellectually and spiritually (Islam & Hossain, 2022; Holmes, Bialik, & Fadel, 2019).

This integration not only improves learners' understanding of Islamic content, but it also prepares them to apply religious principles in real-world contexts, thereby meeting the educational goals of faith and function.
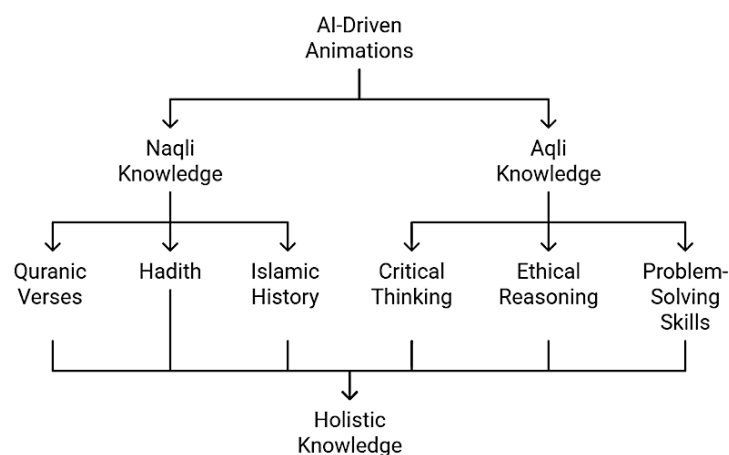

Figure 1: The Integration AI Driven Animations in Education

Case Studies

Case Study 1: Quranic Stories

An AI-driven animation tells the story of Prophet Yusuf (AS) by combining textual analysis of Surah Yusuf with visually appealing, age-appropriate content. The animation emphasises important moral lessons like patience, forgiveness, and reliance on Allah. The AI tool ensures the inclusion of accurate Quranic verses and cross-references Tafsir to provide a more contextual understanding. In addition, the animation uses relatable, modern-day scenarios to help students connect Quranic principles to their own lives. By encouraging emotional engagement, the animation serves as both an educational and spiritual tool, bridging the gap between ancient stories and modern applications.

Case Study 2: Ethical Dilemmas

AI-generated scenarios challenge students to solve ethical quandaries using Islamic principles. For example, one scenario could involve a workplace conflict over resource allocation. The animation prompts students to consider values like honesty, fairness, and justice, as guided by Quranic teachings and Hadith. Learners interact with the animation by selecting from a variety of solutions, each accompanied by feedback explaining how their choice aligns with Islamic ethics. The AI evaluates learner responses to adapt to future scenarios, ensuring that ethical reasoning and critical thinking skills develop gradually. This approach improves the integration of Naqli and Aqli by connecting revealed knowledge to real-world decision-making.

4. Challenges and Recommendations

Challenges

Addressing ethical concerns is a significant challenge in integrating AI into Islamic education. It is critical to ensure that AI-generated content reflects Islamic values and avoids any form of misrepresentation. To ensure the integrity and authenticity of the produced material, careful oversight and collaboration with Islamic scholars are required.

Many educators and institutions, particularly in developing countries, face significant technological barriers. Limited access to advanced AI tools and expertise impedes the successful implementation of such technologies. This digital divide not only limits opportunities for innovation but also widens the disparity between educational systems across regions.

Furthermore, educators frequently resist implementing new methods, owing to a lack of familiarity with AI technologies. Many educators are unprepared or lack the skills required to incorporate AI tools into their teaching practices, which can lead to hesitation or outright rejection of these innovations.

Recommendations

Collaboration is essential for overcoming these challenges. Collaboration among Islamic scholars, AI experts, and educators is critical to ensuring that AI-driven content is authentic and technically feasible. Collaborations like these can help to bridge the gap between traditional Islamic knowledge and cutting-edge technology.

Capacity building is another critical step. Investing in AI training programs for educators can help them improve their skills and confidence when using AI tools. Providing educators with the necessary knowledge and resources will allow them to successfully incorporate these technologies into their curricula. Open-source Islamic AI tools should also be developed to

increase access and foster innovation. Open-source platforms can offer low-cost solutions for institutions and individuals, allowing a larger audience to benefit from AI-powered educational content.

Finally, community engagement is critical to the success and acceptance of AI-powered innovations. Involving parents, students, and community leaders in the development process can help produce content that is both relevant and widely accepted. This inclusive approach ensures that all stakeholders' needs and concerns are addressed, resulting in smoother implementation and greater impact.

5. Conclusion

The incorporation of AI into Islamic education, particularly through animation, provides a valuable opportunity to bridge the gap between Naqli (revealed knowledge) and Aqli (rational knowledge). By leveraging these technologies, Islamic educational content can become more engaging and accessible, allowing students to interact with the material in novel ways. Animation can simplify complex concepts, making them more understandable while preserving the depth and authenticity of Islamic teachings. This approach promotes a holistic learning experience that encourages both spiritual and intellectual development. By incorporating AI and animation into the educational process, Islamic education can meet the needs and preferences of modern learners. These technologies not only improve knowledge delivery but they also keep Islamic education relevant and impactful in today's world. As AI evolves, its ability to provide personalised and dynamic learning experiences will strengthen the link between traditional Islamic values and modern educational practices.

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