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EXAMINING ATTENTION CUES FOR LEARNING 3D MODELLING SOFTWARE: AN EYE-TRACKING STUDY ON INSTRUCTIONAL SCREENCAST



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SHARMILA DEVI A/P PACHIYAPPAN

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TESIS DIKEMUKAKAN BAGI MEMENUHI SYARAT UNTUK MEMPEROLEH
IJAZAH SARJANA REKA BENTUK (INSTRUKSI MEDIA)
(MOD PENYELIDIKAN)

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Fakulti Sains Komputeran dan Industri Kreatif
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ABSTRACT

This study was aimed to develop and validate an instructional framework that can be used to produce effective and efficient screencast video for learning 3D modelling software. Four variations of instructional screencast video were designed and developed specifically for this study. At the beginning of this study, a series of semi-structured interviews were conducted with six undergraduate students of Sultan Idris Education University who took the MMG3083 Modelling course. These students believed that they learned better by watching instructional screencast video as opposed to static media. Most of them agreed that screencast video can help them in learning 3D modelling. Subsequently, two single-group post-test only quasi-experiments were carried out using Tobii Eye Tracker to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of different variations of instructional screencast videos. In the first quasi-experiment, screencast without caption was found statistically more efficient for research participants to learn 3D modelling software as compared to screencast with caption. The second study indicated that unedited screencast the most effective screencast video for learning 3D modelling. These findings were revealed based on the analysis of interest areas generated by individual participants when interacting with four variations of screencast videos. However, the findings of a series of follow-up semi-structured interview revealed that most participants believed screencast videos with caption and subtitle were suitable for learning 3D modelling software. In conclusion, all variations of screencast videos were effective for learning 3D modelling software. However, only unedited screencast video was the most efficient compared to screencast video with caption, screencast video with subtitle and screencast video with caption and subtitle. The key contribution of this study is the success of developing a set of guiding principles for instructional designers to prepare screencast video.





MENGKAJI ISYARAT PEMERHATIAN UNTUK PEMBELAJARAN PERISIAN PEMODELAN 3D: SATU KAJIAN PENJEJAKAN MATA PADA INSTRUKSI RAKAMAN SKRIN

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk membangunkan dan mengesahkan kerangka instruksi yang boleh digunakan untuk menghasilkan rakaman skrin video yang cekap dan berkesan untuk pembelajaran perisian pemodelan 3D. Empat variasi instruksi rakaman skrin video telah direka dan dibangunkan khusus untuk kajian ini. Pada awal kajian, satu siri temu bual separa berstruktur telah dijalankan bersama enam orang pelajar ijazah sarjana muda dari Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris yang mengambil kursus MMG3083 Pemodelan. Semua pelajar tersebut percaya bahawa mereka dapat belajar dengan lebih baik dengan menonton instruksi rakaman skrin video berbanding dengan pendedahan kepada media statik. Kebanyakan pelajar bersetuju bahawa rakaman skrin video boleh membantu mereka dalam pembelajaran pemodelan 3D. Selepas itu, dua ujian pasca eksperimen kuasi satu kumpulan telah dijalankan dengan menggunakan *Tobii Eye Tracker* untuk mengkaji keberkesanan dan kecekapan instruksi rakaman skrin video yang berbeza variasi. Dalam eksperimen kuasi yang pertama, rakaman skrin video tanpa kapsyen didapati lebih cekap secara statistik bagi peserta kajian untuk mempelajari perisian pemodelan 3D berbanding rakam skrin video dengan kapsyen. Kajian kedua menunjukkan bahawa rakaman skrin video tanpa disunting merupakan rakaman skrin video yang paling berkesan untuk mempelajari pemodelan 3D. Hasil dapatan ini telah didedahkan berdasarkan analisis kawasan berkepentingan yang dijana oleh peserta kajian semasa berinteraksi dengan empat variasi rakaman skrin video. Walau bagaimanapun, hasil temubual susulan separa berstruktur menunjukkan kebanyakan peserta percaya bahawa rakaman skrin video dengan kapsyen dan sari kata sesuai bagi pembelajaran perisian pemodelan 3D. Kesimpulannya, semua variasi rakaman skrin video adalah berkesan untuk pembelajaran perisian pemodelan 3D. Namun demikian, rakaman skrin video tanpa disunting adalah paling cekap berbanding dengan rakaman skrin video dengan kapsyen, rakaman skrin video dengan sari kata dan rakaman skrin video dengan kapsyen dan sari kata. Sumbangan utama kajian ini adalah kejayaan dalam membangunkan satu set prinsip panduan untuk pereka instruksi dalam penyediaan rakaman skrin video.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|----------|--|
| RAGS | Research Acculturation Grant Scheme |
| AOIs | Area of Interest |
| SOA | Stimulus-onset Asynchronies |
| IOR | Inhibition of Return |
| FLV | Flash Video |
| MP4 | Motion Picture Expert Group 4 |
| AVI | Audio Video Interleave |
| UPSI | Utopian Pedagogic School of Innovation |
| PMRPG | Physical Multiplayer Role Playing Game |
| IBM SPSS | International Business Machines Corporation Statistical Package for the Social Sciences |





APPENDIX LIST

- A Screenshot of Seven Types of Screencast Video in Explorative Preliminary Study
- B Screenshot of Four Types of Screencast Video in Comparative Study
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- D Video Script for Four Variations of screencast videos in Comparative Study
- E Information Sheet for Explorative Preliminary Study
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- G Prior Knowledge Test and Post-test Task in Explorative Preliminary Study
- H Information Sheet for Comparative Study
- I Consent Form for Comparative Study
- J Questionnaire Form for Follow-up Semi-structured Interview
- K Transcription and Themes for Explorative Preliminary Study (Semi-Structured Interview) and Explanatory Study (Follow-Up Semi-Structured Interview)





CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION



This research focuses on generating a set of guiding principles for learning 3D modelling software through instructional screencast video. The proposed guiding principles would be a result of an eye-tracking study on the above mentioned instructional screencast video. In particular, the study examined the attention cues of participants when watching the visual contents of instructional screencast video. Based on the provisional guiding principles, the research aims to develop and validate an instructional framework for multimedia designers to produce efficient screencast video for learning 3D modelling software. This dissertation is prepared to outline the structure of the research, present the literature review, research methodology, findings and conclusion of this Master's study.





1.2 Background of the Research

This research is partially funded by Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education through Research Acculturation Grant Scheme (RAGS). The RAGS project titled “Examining modality principles of instructional screencast video for learning 3D modelling software”, was a two-year empirical study, which was completed in January 2016. As a subset of the RAGS project, this research focuses on issues related to attention cues, while the RAGS project covered a more generic scope of modality principles used for learning 3D modelling software.

1.3 Research Problem and Hypothetical Propositions



Video is a great tool used in education to contribute the learning outcome of video-based learning (Yousef, Chatti & Schroeder, 2014). YouTube is one of the popular platforms that contain video-sharing recourses as additional material to enhance learning ability of learner (Sherer & Shea, 2011). Likewise, screencast video is promptly becoming a popular resource of learning by which learners are able to learn by observing demonstrations on screen (Martin & Martin, 2015). Gormley and McDermott (2011) stated that an educator or developer needs to select the right screencasting software before starting to create a screencast video. Screencasting software was used as video capturing tool by recording the activities that was held on a computer screen (Oud, 2011).





With the advancement of video capturing and video sharing platforms, the use of instructional screencast video for teaching and learning computer software and applications has become a norm among university and college lecturers (Brown-Sica, Sobel & Pan, 2009). As to diversify ways of teaching and learning, teachers were tend to use video as a reference learning material for presenting the learning content to students (Helft, 2009).

Even though technological advancement has afforded lecturers to capture screens, there is a lack of guiding principles in designing and developing instructional screencast videos, particularly for teaching and learning software that requires complex steps and procedures, such as 3D modelling software. The use of multimedia elements in development of video has shaped the presentation approaches of video contents. Generally, video contents can be included with audio elements like narration and text elements like subtitle and caption (Smaldino, Lowther & Russell, 2008). Therefore, Mayer (2001) proposed a multimedia presentation that combines visual and verbal information as an effective learning approach which may cause both memory channels i.e. short-term memory and long-term memory to be used.

In contrast, the study conducted by Veronikas and Maushak (2005) revealed that there were no significant differences between students who use screencast with both text and narration, screencast that only containing text or (and) screencast that only containing narration. A study conducted by Ahmad, Khairulanuar, Mohamad and Salman (2011) revealed that screencast video with narration is effective and efficient





to enhance students' learning attainment. In addition, a study conducted by Tisdell and Loch (2017) have indicated that most of the students agreed that the captions are useful for the purpose of learning in order to clarify the explanations that are difficult to hear in a recording.

The inconsistency of findings may occur due to the failure of developers in paying attention against cognitive overloading issues. When too much information are displayed, elements of narration and text appear concurrently while image appears too fast (Bell & Bull, 2010; Mayer, 2002). Therefore this research was carried out to resolve the above-mentioned issue by examining the feasibility of four types of instructional screencast video for learning 3D modelling software.



Two exploratory studies were carried out to understand issues associated with the use of instructional screencast videos in learning 3D modelling software (refer section 4.1). The findings of the studies were meant to generate hypothetical propositions, which were tested in an eye-tracking study. Four types of instructional screencast video were developed for the eye-tracking study.

Herewith the six hypothetical propositions which were tested in the eye-tracking study:





1. When learning 3D modelling software through screencast video, there is no significant difference in terms of attention cues between unedited screencast video and screencast video with caption.
2. When learning 3D modelling software through screencast video, there is no significant difference in terms of attention cues between unedited screencast video and screencast video with subtitle.
3. When learning 3D modelling software through screencast video, there is no significant difference in terms of attention cues between unedited screencast video and screencast video with caption and subtitle.
4. When learning 3D modelling software through screencast video, there is no significant difference in terms of attention cues between screencast video with caption and screencast video with subtitle.
5. When learning 3D modelling software through screencast video, there is no significant difference in terms of attention cues between screencast video with caption and screencast video with caption and subtitle.
6. When learning 3D modelling software through screencast video, there is no significant difference in terms of attention cues between screencast video with subtitle and screencast video with caption and subtitle.





1.4 Research Objectives

The aim of this research is to compare participants' attention cues on four different types of instructional screencast video when learning 3D modelling software. To achieve this aim, the following research objectives were set in this study:

- To design and develop instructional screencast videos for learning 3D modelling.
- To compare the efficiency of seven types of screencast video.
- To investigate the attention cues of participants when watching four types of screencast video.
- To examine the reasons behind the attention cue findings.

The outcomes of this research were used to prepare a set of guiding principles for teachers, lecturers or software instructors to design instructional screencast video for efficient learning of 3D modelling software.





1.5 Research Question

The key research question for this study was “what are the differences between four variations of instructional screencast video in term of participants’ attention cues when learning 3D modelling software?”

1.6 Methodology

This research is divided into three phases—exploratory, comparative and explanatory phases, involving mixed methods in data collection and analysis. It began in the year 2014 with a semi-structured interview to explore participants’ perception on the use of website and screencast video as instructional media, and then followed by an explorative preliminary study to gauge an initial understanding and the feasibility upon the use of instructional screencast video in a modelling course. The findings of these two exploratory studies were used to construct six hypothetical propositions, which were tested in a comparative study.

The comparative study was carried out through a single-group post-test-only quasi-experiment, in which a post-test were administered on participants’ attention cues when learning 3D modelling software through instructional screencast videos. Tobii eye-tracking system was used, in which the oculomotor fixation and saccadic behaviours were recorded and analysed using Tobii Studio and IBM SPSS Statistics





(International Business Machines Corporation Statistical Package for the Social Sciences).

The findings drawn from the comparative study were followed-up with an explanatory study, where specific participants of the comparative study were interviewed to examine the reasons behind the attention cue findings.

1.7 Operational Definitions of Key Concepts

1.7.1 Learning

Learning is “the acquisition of knowledge or skills through study, experience, or being taught” (learning, 2015). In the contexts of psychology, learning means “the alteration of behaviour as a result of individual experience” (learning, 2015), especially when a human can perceive and change its behaviour. In terms of origin, the concept of learning was formed from Old English “leornung”. The root words for learning are “learn” and “-ing”.

The word “learn” means “gain or acquire knowledge of or skill in (something) by study, experience, or being taught” (learn, 2015). From a human biological perspective, the concept of modality is connected to sense perception. The word “-





ing” can be defined as a “denoting material used for or associated with a process” in which to denote something that involved an action or a process (learning, 2015).

1.7.2 Attention Cue

The word attention is referred to “notice taken by someone or something; the regarding of someone or something as interesting or important” (attention, 2015). Other than that, attention also can be defined as “the action of dealing with or taking special care of someone or something” (attention, 2015). In terms of psychology, attention has been defined as “the concentration of awareness on some phenomenon to the exclusive of other stimuli” (attention, 2015).



needs to stand very straight with arms straight down the sides and the feet together of the body. In terms of origin, the concept of attention was formed in the 19th century from Latin from the word “attendere” and “attentio” (attention, 2015).

While the word cue stands for “A thing said or done that serves as a signal to an actor or other performers to enter or to begin their speech or performance” (cue, 2015) which can be described as a signal for action, a piece of information or circumstance which aids the memory in retrieving details not recalled spontaneously and an indication or hint about how to behave in particular circumstances.





The concept of cue was formed in the 19th century and its origin is unknowable. In psychology perspective, it means a feature of something perceived that is used in the brain's interpretation of the perception. The combination of the word "attention" and "cue" means focus of a visual attention to an area by using a cue.

1.7.3 3D Modelling

The term "3D" refers to "the quality of being three-dimensional" (3D, 2015) which appearing to have or having depth, length and breadth. In the context of literary or dramatic work, 3D means is "sufficiently full in characterization and representation of events to be believable" (three-dimensional, 2015).



Modelling in the context of computing means "the activity of making three-dimensional models" (modelling, 2015) e.g. clay modelling and life drawing. In learning perspective, modelling can be defined as "the devising or use of abstract or mathematical models" (modelling, 2015) e.g. policy analysis and macroeconomic modelling. The term "modelling" can also be defined as "shape" which to form or plan after a pattern.

The combination of these two concepts means a process to develop a mathematical representation of a three-dimensional surface of an object using specialized software.





1.7.4 3D Modelling Software

Software is a “programs and other operating information used by a computer” (software, 2015) i.e., the physical components of a computer system. Software also refers to “something used or associated with and usually contrast with hardware” (software, 2015) e.g. a set of program, procedures and related documentation concomitant with system, especially a computer system.

In the context of computing, software is an instruction that directs a computer what to do next and there are two types of software which are application software and system software (software, 2015). System software controls a computer’s internal functioning and application software directs the computer to execute commands given



The combination of the three words “3D modelling software” means a class of 3D modelling or 3D computer graphic software used to produce 3D models. Individual programs of this class are called applications of modelling.

1.7.5 Eye-Tracking

The word eye is referred to “each of a pair of globular organs of sight in the head of humans and vertebrate animals” (eye-tracking, 2015) which used to track the direction of someone’s gaze and someone’s power of vision. Eye has been defined as “a





specialized light-sensitive sensory structure of animals that in nearly all vertebrates, most arthropods, and some molluscs is the image-forming organ of sight” (eye, 2015). The origin of the word eye is from Germanic in which related to Dutch “oog” and German “Auge”.

Tracking is known as “the maintenance of a constant difference in frequency between two or more connected circuits or components” (tracking, 2015). The root words of tracking are “track” and “-ing”. Track is defined as “detectable evidence” (track, 2015).

The combination of the word eye-tracking means “a technology that monitors eye movements as a means of detecting abnormalities or of studying how people interact with text or online documents” (eye-tracking, 2015).

1.7.6 Screencast

In general, screencast is a recording of the visual data on a computer screen with audio narration (Brown, 2007). Ruffini (2012) defined screencast as “a digital video and audio recording of what occurs on a presenter’s computer screen, which can be used to create sophisticated, information-rich multimedia presentations”. According to Udell (2005), screencast has been defined as “digitally recorded playback of computer screen output which often contains audio narration” which to visually demonstrate information to students.





Screencast is also defined as digital recordings which record all of the necessary mouse clicks done by the instructor on a computer screen, and always known as “streaming desktop video captures” and “screen captures” (Betty, 2008). The captured video paired with audio to create which clearly explained the action, thoughts, and supporting details of the instructor by using multimedia presentation (Peterson, 2007). Commonly, screencast is always used to teach learners about a topic by demonstrating specific actions related to the particular content area.

1.7.7 Instructional Screencast Video

Instruction is referred to “a direction or order” (instruction, 2015). In the contexts of computing, instruction means “a code in a program which defines and carries out an operation” (instruction, 2015). Instruction also can be defined as “detailed information about how something should be done or operated” (instruction, 2015). In terms of origin, the concept of instruction was formed in the early third century from Late Latin “instructio” and “instruere” (instruction, 2015).

The root word of instruction is “instruct” (instruction, 2015) which means “tell or order someone to do something” (instruction, 2015), especially teach someone a subject or skills in an official and formal way. Instruction also can be defined as e.g.

1. A direction calling for compliance i.e. “precept” (instruction, 2015).





2. An outline or manual of technical procedure i.e. “order” (instruction, 2015).
3. A code that tells a computer to perform a particular operation i.e. “directions” (instruction, 2015).

Instructional screencast video is a screencast video which comprises of instruction through information given in simple steps with each of that requiring a correct response by the learner before going on to the next step. In educational contexts, screencast video is the substance which could be used to deliver learning content. Screencast application can be used in many fields e.g.

1. Teaching

Lesson on a particular topic by showing the step-by-step process by a demonstrator, in which students able to learn the material at their own pace or catch up on missed sessions.

2. Training

For example orientations to new products and learning new software.

3. YouTube and Blogging

Communicate facts, ideas, opinions, and so on.

4. Selling

To sell a product.





Generally, instructional screencast video is more suitable to be used by the educators for the purpose of learning of the students. Students need to follow the instruction given by the instructor in the screencast video to enhance the learning performance. The instructional screencast video has been developed for the purpose to teach a variety of topics like mathematical modelling (Ellington & Hardin, 2008), object-oriented programming (Lee, Pradhan & Dalgamo, 2008), Dewey Decimal Classification System (Peterson, 2007), nursing (Phillips & Billings, 2007) and so on.

1.8 Delimitations of Scope and Key Assumptions

1.8.1 Scope



1. Users

The users of the developed screencast video were divided into three groups. The first group of users is the respondents in the stage of formative evaluation. These respondents provided some comments by viewing the developed screencast video. The second group is the users who can access the OpenLearning Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris site to view the developed screencast videos. The third group is the studying participants who learned the seven variations of screencast videos in an explorative preliminary study and four types of screencast videos in the comparative study.





The users in the comparative study were then involved in the explanatory study in which they were required to give their opinions and suggestions based on their experience when using screencast videos in learning 3D modelling and creating an animation for “A” model using 3ds Max software.

2. Application

In the explorative preliminary study, seven variations of screencast videos which contain basic modules on creating a hedra polygon model in 3ds Max software and set-up of three-point lighting for the hedra polygon model were developed. While in the comparative study, four variations of screencast videos that explained on the creation of “A” model using 3ds Max software were developed.



There are several limitations involved in this study:

1. This study developed four types of screencast video which are unedited screencast video, screencast video with caption, screencast video with subtitle and screencast video with caption and subtitle.
2. This study focused on a screencast video explaining the provision of basic modelling using 3D modelling software.





3. Participants of this study consist of fifth semester students in the Bachelor of Design in Animation with Honours programme, from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris.

