

WIDYA DHARMA

Majalah Ilmiah Kependidikan

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STUDI BIMBINGAN DAN KONSELING, UNIVERSITAS
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Majalah Ilmiah Kependidikan

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EDITORIAL

Mencermati laporan jurnalistik selalu menarik meskipun tidak akan selengkap dan serinci laporan ilmiah. Tahu sedikit-sedikit tentang banyak hal. Inilah substansi laporan jurnalistik.

Kompas (8 Maret 2008) menyajikan laporan jurnalistik tentang penyelenggaraan pendidikan di berbagai daerah di Indonesia; mungkin lebih tepat tentang potret realisasi dari persepsi pimpinan suatu daerah tentang pendidikan. Hanya dua laporan dikutip di sini.

Di sebuah provinsi di Kalimantan, Kutai Kartanegara merupakan kabupaten terkaya di Indonesia, dengan representasi fisik yang berupa berbagai gedung (pemerintah, swasta, rumah pejabat, dan tauke) yang megah, berarsitektur perpaduan modern dan lokal; dan masih dilengkapi Taman Wisata Pulau Kumala di tengah Sungai Mahakam.

Tetapi, apa yang terjadi tentang potret pendidikan di kabupaten terkaya itu. Sebuah SMP, negeri, urutan 1, yang terletak di jantung kota, bangunannya sudah rapuh dan bocor. Sebuah SD filial, di kabupaten itu juga, terpaksa memanfaatkan rumah warga.

Sebaliknya, di sebuah provinsi di Sumatera, Musi Banyuasin merupakan kabupaten yang tertinggal. Tetapi, apa yang diperbuat oleh bupatinya? Sejak tahun 2002, biaya sekolah (SD hingga SMA, negeri maupun swasta, dan madrasah) digratiskan; juga buku pelajarannya. Guru mendapat berbagai fasilitas: uang makan, seragam dinas, bantuan transportasi, pengangkatan guru honorer, dan peningkatan kemampuan melalui program wajib kuliah. Anggaran pendidikan dibuat melebihi ketentuan: tahun 2007 sebesar 22,79%, tahun 2008 menjadi 24,23%.

Sebagai bahan refleksi, mengapa terjadi keadaan yang bertolak belakang seperti ini: di daerah kaya, pendidikan “terabaikan”, di daerah miskin, pendidikan “terangkat”?

Ternyata, kepedulian pemimpinnyalah yang menjadi kuncinya. Indonesia membutuhkan orang-orang seperti itu; juga di pimpinan teras republik ini.

A.M. Slamet Soewandi

INSTRUCTIONAL ANIMATIONS IN ENGLISH PREPOSITION LEARNING: IS HIGH-TECH DELIVERY EFFECTIVE?

Y.G. Harto Pramono

ABSTRACT

This article explores the instructional effectiveness of "high-tech" and "low-tech" animations in supporting the learning of English prepositions by Indonesian primary school students. It reports on a study in which participants were presented with simple English sentences from each of which a motion preposition had been omitted. These sentences were accompanied by either "high-tech" or "low-tech" animations representing the dynamics of the missing preposition. Subjects were required to identify the target preposition from a list of four alternatives. The results indicated that the high-tech animations were not intrinsically superior to low-tech counterparts. These findings show that the technological level of animation alone does not determine its effectiveness in supporting learning. Rather, it appeared that the animation's design features (and not the sophistication of the presentation technology) was central to instructional effectiveness. In order to support learning, animations must be appropriately designed, irrespective of the technology used to present them. Implications for developing and using instructional animations are discussed.

Keywords: "low-tech" and "high-tech" animations, mental model building, animation design features, preposition learning

I. INTRODUCTION

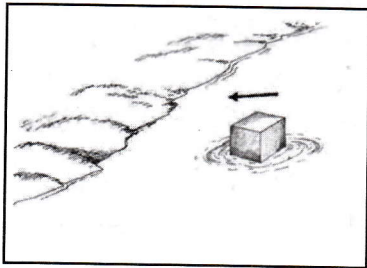


Figure 1. An example illustration accompanying an incomplete sentence.

Pictures are widely used to complement texts (written and verbal information) as part of second and foreign language teaching. The illustrations that accompany texts are intended to facilitate learners' acquisition of language components in several ways. This includes the application of a picture-text combination involving the presentation of a sentence, for example, "The box floats _____ the beach," in which the preposition is blanked out, with students being required to produce or choose the correct change-related (motion) preposition

(that is, *towards*) on the basis of information given in the illustration (see Figure 1). The sentence contains a target object (*the box*), that is, the object to be located, and

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the reference object (*the beach*), that is, the object in relation to which the target object is located. The referent situation represented via the sentence and its accompanying picture involves *dynamic* information, that is, the motion of the target object towards the reference object. The dynamic information can be presented via static or dynamic illustrations. Both static and dynamic illustrations are thought to contribute to learning through their role in constructing mental models, which are “situational representations that an individual constructs as the need arises. Once constructed, a mental model provides a basis for thinking about the represented situation” (Lowe, 1993: 226).

With the advent of new technologies, dynamic information is often presented via dynamic visuals such as animated pictures, instead of, or as an adjunct to, static visuals. Animations are dynamic depictions that can be used to make change processes *explicit* to the learner. Thus, by their nature, animated pictures convey the dynamic information of a situation *explicitly* or *directly* compared to static pictures which also convey the dynamic information but *indirectly*. Further, animated pictures can show information about two important visual attributes: *motion* and *trajectory*, where trajectory refers to the direction of the path of travel of an animated object (Rieber, 1994). Animations can provide information about an object’s motion (if it is moving) and how it is moving (its path, patterns, etc). They can also show information about which way the object is moving.

The dynamic information of a situation can be *directly* represented by either *low* technology or *high* technology animations. Low-tech animations refer to physical manipulations of images presented manually, rather than via computers. These low-tech animations provide a direct external representation of a situation’s dynamics by showing change in position without the need for computing equipment. The direct external representation of a situation’s dynamics, in high-tech animations, is presented as computer-based versions. However, because the goal of animations is simply to make the necessary dynamic information explicitly available, it is the dynamics that matter, not the sophistication of the technology used to present them *per se*. This of course assumes that low-tech and high-tech animations are able to present the dynamic information in ways that are equally effective.

However, as was the case with static illustrations, design features also influence the effectiveness of animations in supporting learning to the extent that they facilitate the construction of appropriate dynamic mental models (see Pramono, 2005). Because low-tech animations are restricted in the range of design features they can readily provide, it was also considered necessary, in this research, to explore the effectiveness of high-tech animations that offer more opportunities for manipulating design features. Thus, this paper compares the effectiveness of direct external representations of situational dynamics provided by “low-tech” animations with that provided by “high-tech” animations. The aim of this paper is to determine which design features of animations are most likely to foster students’ capacity to select change-related prepositions most

appropriate for use in ambiguous incomplete text expressions.

2. SUPPORT OF ANIMATED ILLUSTRATIONS FOR MENTAL MODEL BUILDING IN ENGLISH PREPOSITION LEARNING

Although animations have been commonly used in educational materials, the animations are often used to impress rather than to teach (Rieber, 1994). Few studies have been conducted on the use of animations to facilitate learning and their results are inconsistent (see Mayer and Anderson, 1991; Poohkay and Szabo, 1995; Rieber, Boyce, and Assad, 1990). It is possible that dynamic presentation is more effective than static presentation, as animated pictures convey both *structure* information and *process* information. Animations may enhance the construction of dynamic mental models, which can be “run” in mental simulations to represent the dynamics of the subject matter (Schnotz and Grzondziel, 1996). In some domains involving dynamic information (motion), animations can be better than static pictures because the phenomenon being explained is too complex to be mentally simulated. As dynamic illustrations offer a complete model for generating a mental representation of motion, and so reduce the level of abstraction of temporal ideas, they should support a deeper understanding than is the case with static pictures (Park and Hopkins, 1993). When static pictures are used, learners are forced to infer this model on their own. Therefore, it is expected that animations will be more helpful in fostering the learning process if motion is a relevant aspect of the learning material (Lewalter, 2002).

In a number of studies, however, animations resulted in lower performance than static pictures. A study conducted by Wolfgang Schnotz and Harriet Grzondziel (1996) comparing learning from static pictures and animated pictures of time zones of the earth found that learners who had access to the animated pictures did not perform better in questions requiring the use of mental simulations. Schnotz and Grzondziel conclude that the use of animated pictures can result in a more superficial processing of the subject matter compared with the use of static pictures. Dorothy Chun and Jan Plass (1996) found a similar effect for second language vocabulary acquisition, where students who used the text and picture annotations scored higher on the follow-up vocabulary test than students who used text and video annotations. Further, Richard Lowe’s (1999) research indicates that “in some circumstances, animations may not be instructionally superior to static depictions because the processing demands involved can have negative effects on learning” (p.225). It is possible that, in some conditions, static presentations will be more effective than animations, especially when learners have the knowledge necessary to mentally simulate processes from the static pictures. Moreover, there is a risk that providing people with external simulations can prevent them from developing their ability to mentally simulate complex events.

Although the findings from research on animations in instructional material are mixed to some degree, animations still appear to have significant potential for use in computer-based instruction (Milheim, 1993). A previous study conducted by the author on the effectiveness of static illustrations used to present prepositions learning, revealed that well-designed static illustrations could improve learners' capacity to choose the change-related (motion) prepositions that were most appropriate for use in ambiguous incomplete text expressions (Pramono, 2005). The support given by these illustrations was attributed to their function in helping learners build effective mental models that appropriately represented the situational dynamics. Thus allowed learners to disambiguate an incomplete sentence sufficiently to identify the preposition required for its proper completion (see the model of text-picture comprehension proposed by Schnotz, Böckheler and Grzondziel, 1999). Static illustrations also support learning by constraining the possible interpretations of a situation represented in text in which more than one preposition can be utilised to complete the sentence (Ainsworth, 1999).

The author's previous research indicates that not all static illustrations were equally effective in providing the required disambiguation (Pramono, 2005). This lack of effectiveness may have its origins in the inability of static illustrations to represent situational dynamics *explicitly*. Accordingly, learners must correctly infer the changes involved in the depicted situation in order to build an appropriate dynamic mental model. The necessity for inference could be circumvented by using *animated* illustrations that can provide a *direct external* representation of a situation's dynamics. The use of animation for such a case was also recommended by Anthony Galton (2002) who suggests that the most appropriate illustrative scenarios to present to learners in investigation of change-related prepositions would be *animated* sequences. For the studies presented in this paper, the problematic static illustrations (from the previous study) were converted into appropriate animations (low- and high-tech animations), aimed to determine which design features of animations were most likely to foster students' capacity to select intended prepositions most appropriate for use in ambiguous incomplete text expressions. The first study utilised low-tech animations and the second study utilised high-tech animations that offer more opportunities for manipulating design features.

2. STUDY 1. EFFECTS OF LOW-TECH ANIMATION IN THE DIRECTION OF LEARNERS' CHOICE OF INTENDED PREPOSITIONS

2.1 Method

This first study explored the effects of direct external representation of situational dynamics provided by low-tech animations in directing learners' choice of prepositions. Sixty nine primary school students in Surabaya completed two separate tests: change-related (motion) prepositions and general proficiency in English prepositions, with a

one week interval between the two tests. Schools were selected on the basis of their students' good command of English (that is "average to above average"), especially prepositions, because the research was about the role of animations, and so required the language aspect to be a non-problematic variable. Moreover, these schools provided students from a mixed range of socio-economic groups.

The test of general proficiency in English prepositions assessed the subjects' mastery of the target (change-related) prepositions for the purpose of isolating the effect of design variables. The materials used for this purpose covered all the prepositions used in the test of change-related prepositions—both the target prepositions (dynamic) and the distractors (static and dynamic)—but the context for each item and types of options were different. The two tests had different purposes, which determined the use of different supporting media. The test of general proficiency in English prepositions utilised three-dimensional objects, rather than static illustrations, to represent the missing preposition in each expression. Under these conditions, students' inability to choose the intended prepositions would be more likely to be due to problems with the prepositions themselves.

The test of change-related prepositions was used to explore the effects of direct external representation of situational dynamics provided by low-tech animations on the direction of learners' choice of particular prepositions. This test consisted of six "less effective" static illustrations found in a previous study (see Pramono, 2005), that is, those that could not direct at least 80% of all participants to choose intended answers. These six items containing "less effective" static illustrations are presented in Table 1.

Table 1
The Six Items Containing "Less Effective" Static Illustrations

1.	The balloon goes (away from, towards, towards or away from, over) the tree.
2.	The boy on the scooter moves (forwards, backwards, forwards or backwards, along) in the circle.
3.	The lizard walks (behind, away from, towards, towards or away from) the grasshopper.
4.	The boy on the unicycle moves (backwards, forwards or backwards, forwards, along) in the circle.
5.	The box floats (towards, away from, near, towards or away from) the beach.
6.	The kangaroo jumps (out of, into, near, into or out of) the bush.

These items were converted into animations. This test was essentially the same as the test used in the static illustrations, that is, it was a multiple-choice test with a set of simple incomplete sentences in English from which the change-related preposition had been omitted. Each written incomplete sentence was accompanied by a brief animated illustration based closely upon the original *static* illustrations. While the static illustrations in the previous study had been presented close to each incomplete sentence

and alternative answers (printed on the same A4 paper), the animated illustrations used in this present study were presented as large cardboard cut-outs that could be manipulated by the investigator to show the situational dynamics as explicit behaviour of the subject matter. One example can be seen in Figure 2. The investigator presented the animations to participants in classroom settings on the white-board, item by item. Participants indicated their choices by marking them on a printed response form.

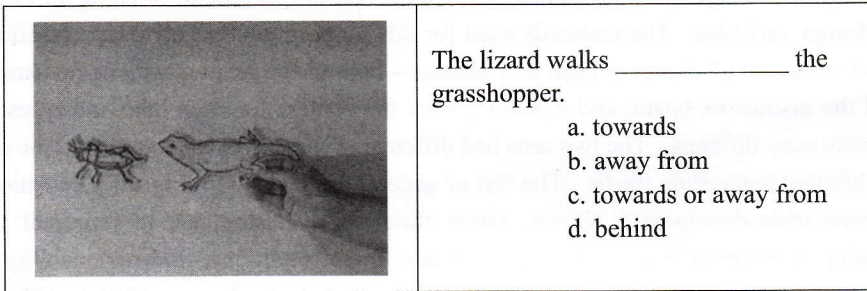


Figure 2. An Example Item of The Test of Change-Related Prepositions.

To determine the effect of the direct external representation of the situational dynamics presented via low-tech animation, data from the six problematic static illustrations (previous study) were compared with those from the corresponding items of the animated versions (present study). The effectiveness of the animated versions was measured by the proportion of students choosing the intended prepositions. Only data from the students who passed a test of general proficiency in English prepositions (N=58 out of 79) were included in the analysis.

2.1 Results

The overall rate at which intended responses were chosen for problematic static items was lower than that for the corresponding animated items (69.2% static; 78.6% animated). Figure 3 presents more detailed analysis of the data. The results show that there was considerable variation in the difference between animated and static versions. For example, there was a marked difference in the choice frequency between static and animated versions of the “kangaroo” item. By contrast, for the “balloon” item the choice rate for the animated version was lower than for the static version. The difference for other items was only marginal.

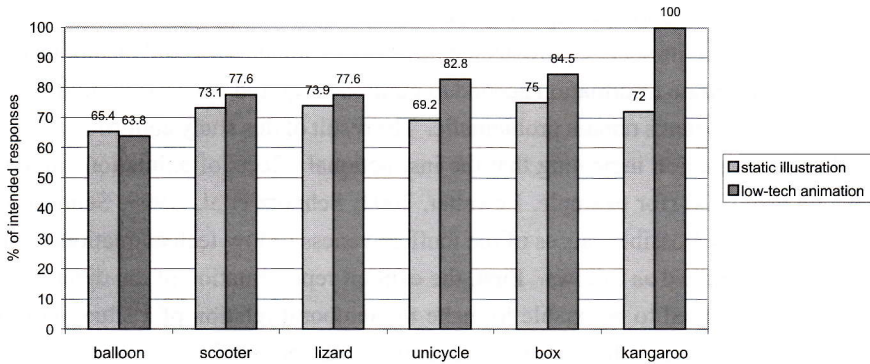


Figure 3. Rate of Intended Responses for Static Illustrations Vs. Low-Tech Animations.

Although the *overall* rate at which intended responses were chosen was higher for the animated versions than for the corresponding static versions, this general superiority was not reflected for all individual items. Some were still problematic. Low-tech animations for which the choice rate was less than 80% were considered less effective. Figure 3 shows that the kangaroo, box, and unicycle items were effective, whereas the balloon, scooter, and lizard items were less effective.

2.1.3 Discussion

The results of the study show that direct external representation of a situation's dynamics provided by low-tech animations was, to some extent, able to circumvent the problematic items that were not accounted for by the dynamic cues provided by static illustrations. Compared with static illustrations, it appears that animation is more likely to represent the situational dynamics needed to build the required dynamic mental model that produces the intended choice of change-related prepositions. This result can be related to the literature on whether or not there are advantages of animations over static presentations (for example, Rieber et al., 1990).

Possible reasons for the success of low-tech animations over static illustrations under the specific condition of the present study can be suggested as follows. First, with animation the motion of the target object becomes explicit and salient. This, to some extent, can affect the spatial relation of the referent situation to be less dominant over the temporal relation. Motion provided by animation appeared to be able to overcome the problems that occurred with "unicycle," "box," and "kangaroo" items in static illustrations in which a "locational" preposition was the main chosen distractor; this locational preposition was powerful in static illustrations but became less powerful when the dynamics of the referent situation was explicitly represented in low-tech animations. Second, besides motion, a trajectory of a target object can also be made explicit by animation. Sometimes the presence of motion alone may not help, but when motion is incorporated with an accurate trajectory, together they can be synergistic to effectively

make the temporal relation perceptually more salient than the spatial relation.

Apart from its success, low-tech animation, in some cases, still cannot provide complete and accurate information needed to build the required dynamic mental model. Accordingly, some items remain problematic. The result of this study confirms a number of studies on animation indicating that the instructional effects of animations may not always be beneficial (for example, Lewalter, 2002; Schnotz et al., 1999; Schnotz and Grzondziel, 1996). Possible causes of the ineffectiveness of low-tech animations in this study can be explained as follows. First, the explicit representation of the dynamics of a target object seemed to be unable to make the temporal relation of a situation more salient than the spatial relation. Consequently, both temporal and spatial relations seemed to appear equally compelling. This allows students to create two possible mental models: one is a mental model of a situation representing a temporal relation and the other a model representing a spatial relation. As a result, choosing the intended preposition was problematic. Second, problems with the dominance of spatial relations over temporal relations cannot always be overcome by low-tech animation. Particular items remain problematic: "balloon," "scooter," and "lizard" items. For these items, the locational preposition appeared to be a powerful distractor. It can be concluded that low-tech animations are limited in their ability to provide an accurate trajectory of target objects in relation to the reference object.

With regard to items that remained problematic, it was decided to investigate whether they could be improved if the accompanying animated illustrations were redesigned via high-tech animation. This issue was dealt with in the subsequent study presented below.

3. STUDY 2. EFFECTS OF HIGH-TECH ANIMATION IN THE DIRECTION OF LEARNERS' CHOICE OF INTENDED PREPOSITIONS

The previous study indicated that animation (via low-tech animations) can further disambiguate the dynamics of referent situations and so help direct student choice towards particular change-related prepositions. However, in some cases, the animations used still did not provide sufficient disambiguation. One possible reason for this relative lack of effectiveness is that particular designs of the animations used were deficient. To investigate this possibility, these animations were redesigned and presented as computer-based versions (referred to here as high-tech animations). A key reason for changing to computer-based animation was that it allows for a wider range of design possibilities to be explored than does the low-tech animation used for the previous study. For example, to illustrate the textual information, *The boy on the scooter moves forwards in the circle*, it is possible to give the animated target object ("the boy on the scooter") a wider range of trajectories in relation to the reference object ("the circle") and provide a clearer distinction between them by using computer-based animation. It is also more accurate to implement certain types of design features

via high-tech animation. For example, to show the trajectory of the animated target object ("the balloon") in *The balloon goes away from the tree* via low-tech animation, the balloon should be moved in the direction away from the tree by hand, but the hand movement may cause distraction or interference on the accuracy of the trajectory intended. As a result, it can distract learners' construction of an intended mental model of the referent situation. This possible distraction may be avoided when the animation is presented via computer. The study explored effects of the redesigned animations in directing learners' choice of intended change-related prepositions.

3.1 Method

Fifty nine primary school students in Surabaya (aged 9-10 years) completed a test of change-related prepositions. A week after completing this test, they completed a test of general proficiency in English prepositions as an instrument to isolate the effect of design variables. The test of general proficiency in English prepositions was identical to that used in Study 1. The test of change-related prepositions covered all "low-tech" animation items used in Study 1. These items were converted to high-tech forms. Items that were found to be effective in Study 1 (that is, 80% or more of participants chose the intended answers) were converted without being redesigned; this conversion simply involved reproducing the items in a computer-based rather than a paper-based format. However, those that had proven to be relatively ineffective in the paper-based format (that is, fewer than 80% of all participants chose the intended answers) were redesigned. The redesigned animations included 3 items: lizard, balloon and scooter items; whereas the equivalent designs included 3 items: unicycle, box and kangaroo items. Being equivalent, these three items had the same animation design in both low-tech and high-tech formats.

The bases upon which the new (redesigned) animations were made were an analysis of the illustration itself and interviews with the subjects. There appeared to be two main reasons why the original designs (in low-tech animations) could cause animations to be less effective.

Visuospatial aspects of the original animation's design. The first reason why the original low-tech animations were less effective was that the visuospatial aspects of the original animation's design likely were more influential than its dynamic aspects. Although the dynamic information was present in the less effective low-tech animations, it might not be acquired by students because the dynamics were perceptually *less* salient than the visuospatial aspects. The lack of perceptual salience of task-relevant dynamic information could be due to the particular visuospatial arrangements used in the original animation's design that resulted in attention being directed to the visuospatial rather than the dynamic aspect. These included the following three factors.

The first of these factors relates to the inappropriate trajectory of the animated

target object. An item having an inappropriate trajectory of the animated target object is *The balloon goes _____ the tree*. In the original design of this item, the trajectory of the animated target object (“the balloon”) ran *vertically* above the reference object (“the tree”) as indicated by arrow “a” in Figure 4. The alternative answers for this item were

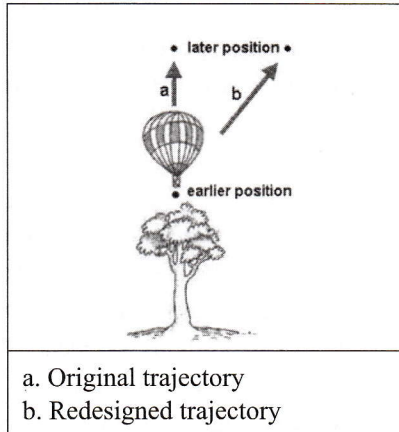


Figure 4. An Example of Redesigned Animation with Respect to A Change in Trajectory.

“away from,” “towards,” “towards or away from,” and “over.” The intended answer was “away from” and the main chosen distractor was “over.” For students who chose “over” instead of “away from,” the visuospatial aspect of the original design could appear more salient than its dynamic aspect as the position of the balloon was directly over the tree. Consequently, the design could allow these students to build a mental model of the referent situation representing a spatial rather than temporal relation between the target and reference objects. This model then could produce the choice of the inappropriate preposition “over” instead of the intended one “away from.” In order for the animation to support the construction of the intended dynamic mental model, the original design with

respect to the visuospatial arrangement had to be changed to enable the dynamic aspect to appear more salient than the visuospatial aspect. One possible way to do this was that the trajectory of the animated balloon was changed from *vertically* to *diagonally* above the tree as indicated by arrow “b” in Figure 4. The new trajectory was assumed to help support the construction of a relevant *dynamic* mental model that could produce the choice of the intended change-related preposition “away from.”

The second visuospatial factor concerns the inappropriate positioning of target objects in relation to reference objects, with respect to proximity. In the original design of the item *The boy on the scooter moves _____ in the circle*, the trajectory of the animated target object (“the boy on the scooter”) was *close to* the boundary of the reference object (“the circle”) as indicated by arrow “a” in Figure 5. The alternative answers were “forwards,” “backwards,” “forwards or backwards,” and “along.” The intended answer was “forwards” and the main chosen distractor was “along.” For students who chose “along” instead of “forwards,” the closeness of the target object to the reference object’s boundary could direct their attention to the visuospatial aspect rather than the intended dynamic aspect of the reference situation. Consequently, this arrangement allowed them to build a mental model of the referent situation representing a spatial rather than temporal relation between the target and reference objects. The model then could produce the choice of the unintended preposition “along” rather

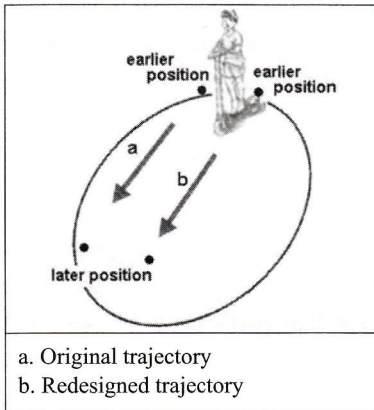


Figure 5. An Example of Proximity Design.

than the intended change-related preposition “forwards.” In order for the design to provide more support for the construction of the intended dynamic mental model that could produce the choice of the intended preposition “forwards,” the visuospatial arrangement had to be changed in a way that could enable the dynamic aspect to appear more salient over the visuospatial aspect of the animation. One possible way to do this was to change the trajectory of the animated target object, which was originally *close to* the reference object’s boundary (see arrow “a” in Figure 5) to *far* from it, as indicated by arrow “b” in Figure 5.

Reference objects used within the depiction. The second reason why the original low-tech animations were less effective was that the reference objects used within the depiction introduced an additional source of ambiguity with respect to the situational dynamics. An item having an ambiguous reference object in terms of the situational dynamics is *The lizard walks _____ the grasshopper*. In the original design of the item, the reference object was “the grasshopper” (asymmetrical) and its head position was in a parallel direction with the target object “the lizard.” In addition, the later position of the trajectory of the animated lizard was *close to* the grasshopper as indicated by “a” in Figure 6. The item required the intended preposition “towards.” The distractors were “away from,” “towards or away from,” and “behind;” the most chosen distractor was “behind.” For students who chose “behind” instead of “towards,” the *closeness* (in position) between lizard and grasshopper could result in the students’ attention being directed to the visuospatial aspect rather than the dynamic aspect of the situation. This could allow students to build a

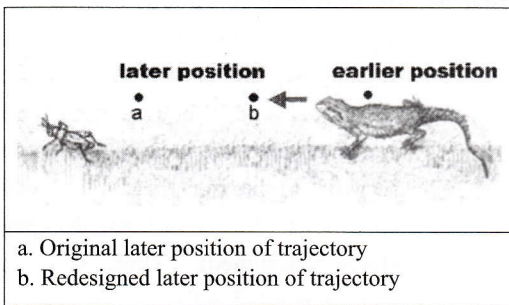


Figure 6. An example of Redesigned Animation with Respect to Reference Object Ambiguity.

mental model of the referent situation representing a spatial relation (rather than a temporal relation) that could produce the choice of the unintended preposition “behind.” In order that students’ attention was more directed to the dynamic aspect than the visuospatial aspect, the later position of the trajectory of the animated lizard was changed from “*close to*” to relatively “*far*” from the grasshopper as indicated by “b” in Figure 6. In this new design, the relatively *far* distance between the lizard and the grasshopper was assumed to make the visuospatial aspect appear less

perceptually compelling than the dynamic aspect. Consequently, the design was more likely to help the construction of the intended dynamic mental model of the referent situation that could produce the choice of the intended change-related preposition “towards” rather than “behind.”

3.2 Procedure and Data Analysis

Prior to the test, participants were given an introduction to the purpose of the study and how they had to work with animations using the computer. The procedure was essentially the same as used in Study 1, except that participants worked with the animations individually on the computer, and each incomplete sentence and its accompanying animation were displayed on the monitor. As before, students indicated their choices by marking a printed response form.

To determine the effectiveness of the redesigned animations, results from non-problematic and problematic low-tech animation items (in Study 1) were compared with those from the corresponding items in high-tech animations (in Study 2). Only data from participants who passed the test of general proficiency in English prepositions were included in the analysis (N=46 out of 59).

3.3 Results

Figure 7 compares results from the low-tech animations with those from high-tech animations for items that were not problematic versus problematic in low-tech animations. For non-problematic items the designs used in high-tech animations were equivalent with those used in low-tech animations, whereas for problematic items the designs used were different, that is, while low-tech animations used original designs, these original designs were redesigned and used in high-tech animations. The results overall showed that for equivalent designs (that is, for non-problematic items), the rate at which intended responses were chosen for low-tech animations was comparable

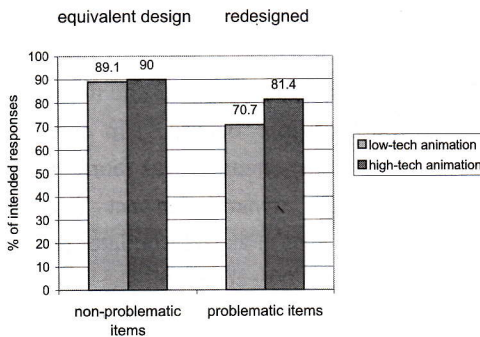


Figure 7. Overall Rate of Intended Responses for Non-problematic vs. Problematic Items Presented Via Equivalent Designs vs. Redesigned Animations.

with that for high-tech animations. In contrast, the choice rate for the redesigned high-tech animations (that is, for problematic items) was more than 10% higher than that for low-tech animations (70.7% original designs; 81.4% redesigned). Thus, although not compared directly via experiment, simply putting animation into high-tech form does not seem to change choice rate over low-tech form.

Closer examination of the

data shows that, for non-problematic items, the choice rates for equivalent designs in low-tech and high-tech animations were comparable. These non-problematic items included “kangaroo,” “box,” and “unicycle.” Concerning problematic items, the results presented in Figure 8 show that not all the intended response rates for the redesigned animations were higher than for the original designs. For most items, the choice rates

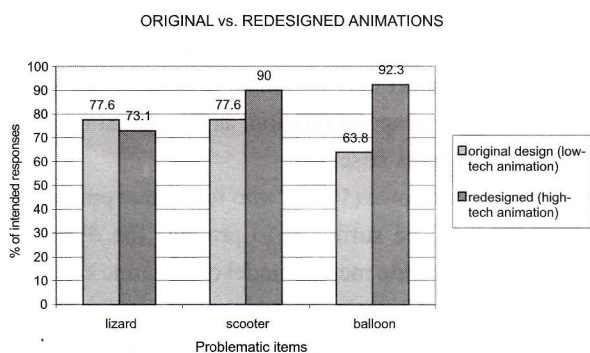


Figure 8. Rate of intended responses for problematic items presented via original designs vs. redesigned animations.

were higher for the redesigned animations than for the original designs, that is: “scooter” and “balloon.” But for “lizard,” the choice rate was lower than for the original designs. Thus, the redesigned animations for “lizard” item still remained problematic.

3.4 Discussion and conclusion

The overall findings from these studies are consistent with the verbal-visual processing model proposed by Schnotz, Böckheler and Grzondziel (1999), that is, illustrations in texts facilitate the construction of mental models. An appropriate illustration can support the construction of a mental model and an ambiguous illustration may hamper the construction of an appropriate mental model. The results of the studies show that simply putting animation into high-tech forms does not seem to enhance its effectiveness over low-tech forms in helping learners construct an appropriate dynamic mental model and so directing learners towards the intended choice of change-related preposition for sentence completion. The results indicated that the high-tech animations were not intrinsically superior to low-tech counterparts. These findings suggest that the technological level of animation alone does not determine its effectiveness in supporting learning. Rather, it appeared that the animation’s design features (and not the sophistication of the presentation technology) was central to instructional effectiveness.

Effective animation design features are those that are able to make the intrinsic perceptual characteristics of spatial relations less dominant over those of the temporal relations depicted. Some redesigned high-tech animations, however, still cannot make the intrinsic characteristics of the spatial relations appear to be less dominant over those of the temporal relations; consequently, they cannot disambiguate the dynamics of the referent situation, such as a problem with lizard item. For the lizard item, changing the later position of the trajectory of the animated lizard from “close to” to “far” from the grasshopper still appeared to be unable to minimise the salience of the visuospatial

aspect over the dynamic aspect. The grasshopper's asymmetricality still appeared to be perceptually salient so that learners' attention was directed to the visuospatial aspect rather than the dynamic aspect; as a result they tended to choose the preposition *behind*. As manipulating the trajectory of the animated target object was not an effective solution, other possible redesigns need to be explored for further research, such as replacing the asymmetrical reference object with a symmetrical one (such as "stone"), or changing the trajectory of the target object from horizontal to diagonal, similar to the case of the "balloon." By doing so, the visuospatial aspect may no longer raise the possibility that the spatial relation is more salient than the temporal relation, as the spatial relation showing the *behind* prepositional relation becomes false.

The findings of the two studies support Lowe (1993), who found that providing animation in the depiction, may not, of itself, be sufficient to produce the dynamic information required for learners to build an accurate mental model of dynamic content. The findings suggest that effective animations in learning material need careful design and that an instructional designer may need to consider all features in the depiction, in addition to the animation itself. These features include all the entities (the target object itself and the reference object), their visuospatial arrangement, and the visual context as a whole. These should be arranged to support the effectiveness of animation because, as these studies indicate, animation alone, without the support of other features, can be ineffective.

Because the relative superiority of high-tech animations over low-tech animations is due to their capability in providing more informative designs, the findings of the studies imply that the use of animated illustrations to facilitate the construction of an intended dynamic mental model of a referent situation is not merely a matter of providing visually explicit information. Design features can be of central importance to the effectiveness of animated illustrations and in order to support learning, animations must give emphasis to the salient features of the dynamic information presented.

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Contoh:

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Lerner, R.M. dan G.B. Spanier. 1980. *Adolescent Development: A Life-Span Perspective*. New York: McGraw Hill.

5. Kata asing, atau kata daerah yang belum menjadi kata serapan dicetak dengan huruf miring tanpa tanda petik.
6. Catatan referensi dituliskan di dalam teks sebagai *body-notes*, ditulis dengan empat kemungkinan: (1) nama, tahun, dan halaman semuanya di dalam kurung, (2) hanya tahun dan halamannya di dalam kurung, sedangkan nama di luar kurung, (3) nama di luar kurung, dan tahun di dalam kurung, (4) nama dan tahun di dalam kurung. Referensi yang berupa kutipan langsung, atau ringkasannya dituliskan halamannya. Contoh catatan referensi:
(Winkel, 1997: 97-98); Winkel (1997: 97-98); Winkel (1997); (Winkel, 1997).
7. Catatan yang berupa tambahan informasi diberi nomor urut dengan angka Arab ditulis dengan sedikit diangkat, dan dituliskan pada akhir naskah (pada bagian CATATAN), sebelum daftar pustaka.
8. Kutipan lebih dari empat baris diketik dengan spasi tunggal, di baris baru, dan di-*indent*, tanpa tanda petik (tanda kutip). Kutipan kurang dari lima baris dituliskan sebagai sambungan kalimat teks, dengan diantara tanda kutip rangkap ("...").