

Antecedents of Brand Recall and Brand Attitude towards Purchase Intention in advergames.

Azaze-Azizi Abdul Adis^{1,2} and Kim Hyung Jun^{3*}

- 1. Phd student, Marketing, College of Business Administration and Economics, Chungnam National University, 220 Gung-dong, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon, 305-764, Republic of Korea.
- 2. Lecturer, Marketing, School of Business and Economics, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Locked bag 2073, 88999, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. E-mail: azizi azazea@hotmail.com/ azizi@ums.edu.my.
 - 3. Professor, Marketing, College of Business Administration and Economics, Chungnam National University, 220 Gung-dong, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon, 305-764, Republic of Korea. E-mail: bizguru@cnu.ac.kr.

 *Corresponding author

This work was done by Chungnam National University with sponsorship from Universiti Malaysia Sabah.

Abstract

Research on purchase intention had showed remarkable work in contributing to the theory of buyer behaviour. However, the impact of brand recall and brand attitude on purchase intention in advergames has not yet been well explored especially in a developing economic country such as Malaysia. Furthermore, the influences of self-brand congruity, entertainment and brand placement acceptance as antecedents to brand recall and brand attitude are expecting to put more "value added" to the brand recall, brand attitude and purchase intention relationships. This paper aims to investigate the impact of brand recall and brand attitude on purchase intention in advergames among Malaysian gamers. Also, the antecedents towards brand recall and brand attitude were examined to measure their influences on purchase intention. A total of 350 Malaysian gamers have been interviewed through an online survey for this study. The results showed that self-brand congruity, entertainment and brand placement acceptance were found to have significant relationship with brand attitude and purchase intention. Also, both entertainment and brand placement acceptance were found to have significant relationship with brand recall. As expected, brand recall and brand attitude have positive relationship with consumer purchase intention in advergames. Applications of the study are discussed.

Keywords: Self-congruity, Entertainment, Brand placement acceptance, Brand recall, Brand attitude, Purchase intention, Advergames.

1. Introduction

Advergames is a cross between advertising and computer games. It combines the word 'advertising' and 'video games' (Grossman, 2005). Advergames are a particular form of branded entertainment with insertion of a brand within an entertainment property. It embeds product related messages from companies in the form of game piece, hidden treasures and other parts of the games (Neuborne, 2001; Nelson, 2002). An 'advergaming' website can be a place to play and explore and most importantly, it is generally free of charge (Obringer, 2007). In recent years, advergames have been using persuasive media to promote companys' new and existing products to end users. In other words, aggressive marketers take advantage of placing their product or brand in programs such as games in order to build product awareness. In conjunction to that, there has been increasing interest in practicing using advergames to influence customer intention to purchase companys' brands exposed in the games.

Advergames is definitely a promising segment which is expanding very rapidly with an estimated five-fold increase by 2009 (Betrim, 2005). Many organisations are starting to use advergames as a part of their marketing strategy (Winker and Buckner, 2006) to improve branding, to boost product awareness and collect detailed data about existing and potential customers, clients and supporters (Afshar *et al.*, 2004;Buckner *et al.*, 2002; Van der Graaf and Nieborg, 2003). For example, the major advertising agencies such as Young & Rubicam and Starcom Media have set up their new videogame divisions to serve this emerging need.

Advergames are normally commissioned by the marketing department of an organisation to promote its own brand or product and the game can frequently be accessed via the organisation's corporate website (Winkler and Buckner, 2006). In-game advertising, on the other hand, is increasingly being coordinated through independent gaming organisations, such as Massive Incorporated (http://www.massiveincorporated.com/) (Winkler and Buckner, 2006).

Advergaming is a new marketing concept that has appeared due to the fact that the young generation are always connected to the Internet; using mobile services such as SMS and MMS, chatting with instant messenger services and spending too much time just playing in a stand-alone way or in a network game (Santos *et al.*, 2007). Due to this, marketers take advantage of this opportunity to provide new ways to advertise their product in the



game. This is due to a new revolutionary service, 'advergames' which is a game with advertisement capabilities (Santos *et al.*, 2007).

Research on purchase intention showed remarkable work in contributing to the theory of buyer behaviour. There are many studies focused on brand recall and attitude towards purchase intention (see Chi *et al.*, 2009; Balakrishnan *et al.*, 2012; Shah *et al.*, 2012). However, its impact in particular towards advergames have not yet been explored well especially in a developing economic country such as Malaysia. Previous domestic research has found that advertising position, games experience(Ing and Azizi, 2009), telepresence, product and interactive experience in advergaming (Hussein *et al.*, 2010), features of online advertising (Wei *et al.*, 2010) was significantly related to purchase intention. The study of the effect of self-brand congruity on game usage and purchase has been well researched by previous scholars (Davis and Lang, 2013; Davis *et al.*, 2013; Davis and Lang, 2012) and also the effect of self-efficacy on game usage and purchase behaviour (Davis and Lang, 2012). However, the effects of self-brand congruity on purchase behaviour, especially on advergames has not been well presented in academic research.

In addition, the influence of self-brand congruity, entertainment and brand placement as antecedents to brand recall and brand attitude in advergames are still lacking and need further examination on how these factors influence consumer's brand recall and brand attitude in the context of advergames. Therefore, self-brand congruity, entertainment and brand placement are expecting to put more "value added" in the brand recall, brand attitude and purchase intention relationships.

This study's objectives are twofold. Firstly, to investigate the impact of brand recall and brand attitude on purchase intention in advergames among Malaysian gamers. Secondly, to examine the influence of self-brand congruity, entertainment and brand placement acceptance towards brand recall and brand attitude, as well as their influences on purchase intention in advergames. It is expected that self-brand congruity, entertainment value and brand placement acceptance have effects on game players' behaviour in their physical activities.

2. Literature review and hypotheses development

This section synthesises relevant literature on self-brand congruity, entertainment and brand placement on brand recall and brand attitude. It describes how these variables influences consumer purchase intention.

2.1 Self-brand congruity

Self-congruity is important to hedonic consumption because the subjective experience of imagination is often led by the evaluation of the product/service image vs the consumer's self-concept (Sirgy, 1982). Self-brand congruity can be conceptualised as the match between a brand's value-expressive attributes (e.g., product/ user images) and the consumer or user's image of self (Sirgy, 1985). Liu *et al.*, (2012) describes brand self-congruity into three important concepts namely brand personality congruity, brand user imagery congruity and brand usage imagery congruity. They suggested that user and usage imagery congruity are stronger predictors for brand attitude and brand loyalty than brand personality congruity in the context of the luxury fashion brands (Liu *et al.*, 2012). According to Davis *et al.*, (2013), self-congruity is important in the context of game due to its impact on imagination and experience. Gamers always seek a significant gap in the congruity between their own actual perceived self-concept and the ideal self (Davis *et al.*, 2013). Gaming generates high levels of emotion and excitement (Fiore et al., 2005) which provide a platform for the experiential amplification of the internal-self (Childers *et al.*, 2001; Scarpi, 2012).

There were remarkable findings in discussing the relationship between self-congruity and purchase intention. For example Sirgy (1985) found that ideal congruity and self-congruity significantly influenced purchase motivation. Recent study by Taylor *et al.*, (2011) on SNS advertisement showed that internal self-congruity was found as important factor in facilitating greater attitudinal acceptance of advertisements designed to appear in the SNS context. They assumed that consumers frequently compare imagery that has been associated with a brand with images they hold about themselves. The greater the congruity, the more positive the consumer's attitude is toward the brand in question (Escalas and Bettman, 2005). Consistently, a study by Sirgy *et al.*, (2008) in extending self-image congruence research into corporate sponsorship suggested that self-congruity with a sponsorship event has a positive influence on brand loyalty. This is when customers are aware of the firm sponsoring the event and when they become involved with the event. These findings showed the importance of self-congruity in determining brand attitude.

Much research in consumer behaviour has demonstrated that actual self-congruity is positively related to consumer behaviour constructs. Examples of these are: brand attitude, brand preference, brand choice, purchase motivation, purchase intention, brand purchase, brand satisfaction, and brand loyalty (see Sirgy *et al.*, 2008; Sirgy, 1982, 1985; Sirgy *et al.*, 2000; Sirgy and Su, 2000). Liu et al., (2012) suggested that user and usage imagery congruity are stronger predictors for brand attitude and brand loyalty in the context of the luxury fashion brands. Also, self-congruity was positively related to game usage and purchase (Davis and Lang, 2013). Therefore, it is proposed:



H1a: Self-brand congruity positively influences brand recall in advergames.

H1b: Self-brand congruity positively influences brand attitude in advergames.

H1c: Self-brand congruity positively influences consumer purchase intention in advergames.

2.2 Entertainment

The entertainment aspect of advergames is an important source of value for gamers. It is expected to reflect advergames ability to enhance the experience of gamers to advergames. Uses and gratifications research indicates that the entertainment value of commercial exchange lies in its ability to fulfill the audience's needs for escapism, diversion, aesthetic enjoyment, or emotional release (Ducoffe, 1996). (Ducoffe, 1995; 1996) found a significant positive relationship between entertainment and advertising value in traditional media and in Web advertising. A study of SNS users' perceptions of SNS advertisements as being entertaining and positively would influence their attitudes toward advertising appearing on these SNSs (Taylor *et al.*, 2011). This also supported by Gao and Koufaris (2006) and Brackett and Carr (2001) which mention that perceived entertainment has been identified as one of the determinant influences on consumers' attitudes toward advertising in electronic commerce.

In this study, an entertainment factor is expected to influence brand recall and brand attitude as entertainment is an important element leading consumers' feeling of enjoyment and fun when playing games. If they feel entertained with the in-game advertising, they may recall the brand exposed and react positively towards the brand. This may lead consumers' to further behavioral decision of purchase intention.

Therefore, it is proposed:

H2a: Entertainment positively influences brand recall in advergames.

H2b: Entertainment positively influences brand attitude in advergames.

H2c: Entertainment positively influences consumer purchase intention in advergames.

2.3 Brand placement acceptance

Although the phenomenon of placing products into the entertainment media began in the very early days of silent movies that progressed into the medium of television in the 1950s, the online environment only prevailed in the 1990s (Vilafranco and Zeltzer, 2006). Brand placement refers to the practice of including a brand name product, package, signage, or other trademark merchandise within a communication medium (Hernandez et al 2004). Balasubramanian (1994) and Schneider (2005) defined product placement as 'a paid product message aimed at influencing movie (and television) audiences via the planned and unobtrusive entry of a branded product into a movie (or television programme)'. There are several limitations to this definition. It is bound to only specific media, movie or television programmes and is only when payment is taking place (Schneider, 2005). Karrh (1998) also argued whether product placement could always be viewed as 'obtrusive'.

In movies, the recent study by Balakrishnan *et al.*, (2012) suggests that brand placement was positively related to brand recall on advertisements in the movies. Since the study only focused on movies, different effects may exist in games. Some suggest that brand placement in games could destroy the fantasy world of games (Nelson, 2002; Nelson *et al.*, 2004) and those who are negative about product placement would also be negative about other types of advertisement (Hernandez *et al.*, 2004; Nelson *et al.*, 2004). Contrasting views were discussed by Molesworth (2005), in which most of the respondents were positive about brand placement, partly because it added realism and help finance the game developers. This was supported by Ho (2006) who concluded respondents' attitudes towards product placement in video games are more positive compared to placement in movies. This is due to the fact that video games are not as realistic as movies, and therefore the quality of video games is dependent on its level of realism.

In games specifically, brand recall was reported to amount to 30% (Nelson, 2002), and through the arousal and valence experienced by the game, brand attitudes were found to be positively influenced (Grigorovici and Constantin, 2004). The strength of placing a brand in an advergame does influence the advertising effects in terms of brand recall and brand attitude (Cauberghe and Pelsmacker, 2010). In terms of brand placement and brand memory, Yang *et al.*, (2006) looked at comparing college students' explicit and implicit memory for brand names. They found that college students had low levels of explicit memory (recognition test) for the brands, but they showed implicit memory (word-fragment test) for the brand names placed in the video games. This result leads to consumer intention to purchase the product after brand exposure. Ing and Azizi (2009) in their study on Malaysian consumers found that advertising position in advergaming had significant relationship on purchase intention

Therefore, it is proposed:

H3a: Brand placement acceptance positively influences brand recall in advergames.

H3b: Brand placement acceptance positively influences brand attitude in advergames.

H3c: Brand placement acceptance positively influences consumer purchase intention in advergames.

2.4 Brand recall

Many have argued that the use of advergaming as more persuasive than traditional advertising, especially among



young children (Pavlou and Stewart, 2000; Oanh Ha, 2004; Wade, 2004). This is due to engaging children with rich and animated imagery of a brand, and capturing their attention for extended periods of time (Edwards, 2003). This was further supported by Nelson (2002) study both on familiar brand and non-familiar brands placement in advergames. The findings stated that there was almost 30 percent brand recall of all respondents and 90 percent of the sample remembered at least one brand when asked immediately after the game. Advergaming is a cost effective way to deliver brand messages (Betrim, 2005). It costs less than USD2 per thousand users (Pereira, 2004) compared to television commercials which generally cost USD7 – 30 per thousand viewers.

Different people may experience different things forming different perceptions and attitudes. For example, in a research carried out for college students, compared to their woman counterpart, men were found significantly more likely to play video games two or more hours a week and which indicated that playing video games interfered with sleeping and with class preparation (Ogletree and Drake, 2007). In terms of brand placement and brand memory, Yang *et al.*, (2006) in comparing college students' explicit and implicit memory for brand names, they found that college students had low levels of explicit memory (recognition test) for the brands. However, they showed implicit memory (word-fragment test) for the brand names placed in the video games. This result leads to consumer intention to purchase the product after brand exposure.

The impact of brand recall towards consumer attitude can be different according to the factors involved in the relationship. It was confirmed that highly congruent games lead to superior memory for sponsoring brand in advergames (Gross, 2010). Lee and Faber (2007) in their study in on-line games found that the degree of congruity between the product category of brand and game content influences brand memory. They discovered that highly incongruent brands are better recalled than either moderately incongruent brands or highly congruent brands. Besides that, when the physiological arousal increased, cognitive performance (i.e., memory scores) also increased (Jeong and Biocca, 2012). Chi *et al.*, (2009) suggests that brand recall of brand awareness was positively related to purchase intention.

Thus, it is proposed:

H4: Brand recall positively influences purchase intention in advergames.

2.5 Brand attitude

Most scholarly interest in attitudes toward the advertisement, results from its theorised relationship with attitude toward the brand (Muehling and McCann, 1993). Brand attitude is a necessary communication effect if brand purchase is to occur (Percy and Rossiter, 1992). It is a consumer attitude in an undimensional sense as the sum of the products of beliefs times evaluations, it may be fruitful to examine attitudes as multidimensional constructs consisting of networks of interconnected beliefs and evaluations (Bagozzi and Recall, 1983).

The change in brand attitude attributable to game enjoyment has a stronger relevance to advergames than for product-irrelevant advergames (Wise *et al.*, 2008). Attitudes toward the brand found, leads to purchase intention that is recipients' affective reactions toward the advertised brand (Lutz *et al.*, 1983). Brand attitude strategy is seen as reflecting an interaction between a potential consumer's involvement with the purchase decision and the underlying motivation to purchase (Percy and Rossiter, 1992). Studies have suggested that brand attitude has positive impact on the purchasing intention of customers (Shah *et al.*, 2012; Teng, 2007; Shwu-Lng and Chen-Lien, 2009).

Therefore, it is proposed:

H5: Brand attitude positively influences purchase intention in advergames.

2.6 Purchase intention

The probability that a consumer plans to buy a certain brand or product during a certain period of time is higher, after the consumers simplified the tasks by storing relevant information to establish the purchase decision (Howard and Sheth, 1971; Mathieson, 1991).

Research on purchase intention showed remarkable work in contributing to the theory of buyer behaviour. Although there are many studies focused on brand recall and brand attitude towards purchase intention (see Chi et al., 2009; Balakrishnan et al., 2012; Shah et al., 2012), Chi et al., (2009) suggested that brand recall of brand awareness was positively related to purchase intention. Furthermore, brand attitude strategy is seen as reflecting an interaction between a potential consumer's involvement with the purchase decision and the underlying motivation to purchase (Percy and Rossiter, 1992). These indicate that brand is one of the important factors that determine consumer's purchase decision in consumer buying behaviour process.

Whilst researchers found weak correlation between attitudes towards advertising and purchase behaviour (Nelson *et al.*, 2004), favorable attitudes towards advertising had a positive effect on the individuals' consumption behaviour. Researchers also claimed that attitudes towards advertising in general influenced attitudes towards advertising in games. In a recent study by Ho and Wu (2012), it was found that when game type was considered as a moderating variable, intent to purchase virtual goods was affected.

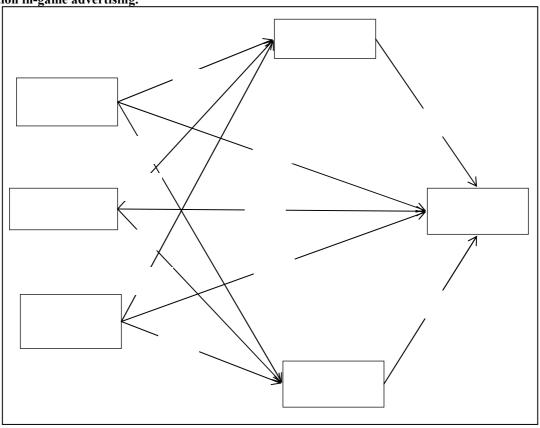
Several studies on advergames were also conducted in Malaysia. Previous domestic research found that advertising position, games experience(Ing and Azizi, 2009), telepresence, product experience and interactice



experience in advergaming (Hussein et al., 2010), features of online advertising (Wei et al., 2010) were significantly related to purchase intention.

Figure 1 shows the theoretical framework of the effects of brand recall, brand attitude and their antecedents towards purchase intention in-game advertising among Malaysian gamers.

Figure 1: The theoretical framework of antecedents of brand recall and brand attitude on purchase intention in-game advertising.



3. Methodology

The sample of this study was collected through an online survey of gamers in Malaysia. The respondents were contacted and invited via facebook social network services and they were asked whether they were playing video, mobile, or SNS games. After that, they were guided to a link where the online questionnaires were placed. If they were not gamers, a request was made to introduce their friends who were game players to participate in this study. The reason for using an online survey is to reduce time consumption in answering questions. This can be proven in this study where the respondents managed to answer the questionnaires below the expected time duration. In addition, online survey can reach respondents in many locations.

For a data collection approach, respondents were contacted via email and social networks such as Facebook to participate in this study. Besides personal invitations by email, authors also invited participants by placing the link of the online survey about this study in the social network Facebook. We asked the respondents whether they were game players before inviting them to participate in the study. For this study, a structured online survey questionnaire was designed. There are several reasons for using an online survey in this study. Firstly, to save the cost of printing questions. Secondly, the online survey was specifically designed to encourage respondent to answer all the questions covered. For example, if the respondent did not finish answering the first question, they would not be able to move on to the next question and so on. Thirdly, to save time in answering the questions. For example, a test was conducted to compare the time spent between online surveys and offline surveys. The results showed that online surveys saved almost half of the respondent's time in completing the questionnaires than offline surveys. A total of 350 participated in this study and managed to complete an online survey. Table 1 shows the sample profile in terms of number of respondents by gender, their age, their time spent per week in playing games, their preferred game mode, their preferred game and type of game played they referred to when this survey was conducted.

The measurements used in this study were adopted from previous studies and modified to suit with the context of this study. Self-brand congruity measurement was adapted from Sirgy et al., (1997), entertainment constructs



was adapted from Ducoffe, 1996, brand placement acceptance, brand recall and purchase intention from Morton and Friedman (2002), and brand attitude from Batra and Stayman (1990). All measurements were measured by 5-point likert scales of "1 = strongly disagree" to "5 = strongly agree". The Cronbach's alpha of all constructs were above 0.6 therefore being above accepted level (Nunnally, 1978). The Cronbach alpha estimated for self-brand congruity was 0.856, entertainment was 0.946, brand placement was 0.839, brand recall was 0.862, brand attitude was 0.874 and purchase intention was 0.828. As the Cronbach's alpha in this study were all much higher than 0.6, the constructs were therefore deemed to have adequate reliability.

Table 1: Malaysia gamers respondent sample profile

Table 1: Malaysia gamers respondent sample prome						
Pr	N=350					
Gender	Male	167				
	Female	183				
Age	19-20 years	47				
_	21-25 years	156				
	26-30 years	95				
	>30 years	52				
Time spend	< 1 hour	16				
(hours in a week)	1-8 Hours	259				
,	>8 hours	75				
Game mode	Single player	250				
	Multiple player	100				
Preferred game	Free game	333				
C	Paid game	17				
Type of game	Video game	114				
J1	Mobile game	126				
	SNS game	110				

4. The Findings

Table 2 presents the results of a multiple regression analysis used to evaluate the strength of the proposed relationship. In model 1, revealed that H2a and H3a were found to be significant in the prediction model, which provides support for those hypotheses that is, the relationship between entertainment (t=2.753; p<0.05), and brand placement on brand recall (t=9.755; p<0.001). However, H1a that is self-brand congruity was found to have no significant relationship with brand recall (t=3.455; p>0.05). In model 2, H1b, H2b and H3b were found to be significant in the prediction model, which provide support for hypotheses H1b, H2b and H3b that is, the relationship between self-brand congruity (t=1.838; p<0.10), entertainment (t=4.701; p<0.001), and brand placement and brand attitude (t=5.007; p<0.001). In model 3 which purchase intention was considered as a dependent variable, all dependent variables were found to be significant in the prediction model, which provided support for hypotheses H1c the relationship between self-brand congruity and brand attitude (t=3.016; p<0.05), H2c, the relationship between entertainment and brand attitude (t=2.722; p<0.05), and H3c the relationship between brand placement and brand attitude (t=6.427; p<0.001).

Table 3 presents the results of a multiple regression analysis used to examine the relationship between brand recall, brand attitude and purchase intention. The model revealed that brand recall and brand attitude were found to be significant in the prediction model, that is, the relationship between brand recall (t=9.032; p<0.001), and brand attitude on purchase intention (t=7.864; p<0.001). Thus, H4 and H5 were supported.



Table 2: The relationship between self-brand congruity, entertainment, brand placement, brand recall, brand attitude and purchase intention.

Dependent variables	Me	odel 1	Mo	del 2	Mo	del 3	
_	(Bran	(Brand recall)		(Brand attitude)		(Purchase intention)	
	t	P-value	t	P-value	t	P-value	
(Constant)	3.455	0.001***	3.101	0.002**	4.858	0.000***	
Self-brand congruity	1.179	0.239	1.838	0.067*	3.016	0.003**	
Entertainment	2.753	0.006**	4.701	0.000***	2.722	0.007**	
Brand placement	9.755	0.000***	5.007	0.000***	6.427	0.000***	
R Square	0.409		0.294		0.302		
Adjusted R Square	0.404		0.287		0.296		
F-Statistics	79.742		47.926		49.901		
Sig.	0.00		0.000		0.000		

^{*}p<0.10, **p<0.05, *** p<0.001

Table 3: The relationship between brand recall, brand attitude and purchase intention.

Model 4 (Dependent variable: Purchase Intention)	t	P-value
(Constant)	6.360	0.000***
Brand recall	9.032	0.000***
Brand attitude	7.864	0.000***
R Square	0.444	
Adjusted R Square	0.441	
F-Statistics	138.660	
Sig.	0.000	

^{***} p<0.001

5. Discussion and Conclusion

This study aims to examine the impact of brand recall and brand attitude on purchase intention in advergames among Malaysian gamers. In addition, the antecedents towards brand recall and brand attitude were examined to measure their influences on purchase intention. The results showed that except direct effects between self-brand congruity and brand recall and brand attitude, all hypotheses were supported to the Malaysian consumer.

It was found that self-brand congruity has significant relationship on brand attitude and purchase intention. When users see the brands which match with them, they tend to act positively toward the brand exposed in the game. This is consistent with Escalas and Bettman (2005) who suggested the greater the congruity, the more positive the consumer's attitude toward the brand in question. It also leads to the use of game usage and purchase (Davis and Lang, 2013).

In the advergaming context, the entertainment value is very important to determine the level of enjoyment and pleasure experiencing by the gamers when playing the game. Therefore, the more entertaining the ads, the more it will be retained with positive behaviour of the consumer towards advergames which ultimately will stimulate the intention to purchasing the brand.

This study showed the effect of brand placement acceptance on brand recall, brand attitude and purchase intention. Brand placements might not work in games due to the interactivity involved in actually playing the game as it could distract people from noticing the brand placements (Yang et al., 2006). However, with the highest effect of brand placements acceptance found in this study, it may provide major promise for advertisers. Game players may or may not explicitly remember the brands they see in the games, but these accepted placements may influence their brand recall and brand attitude and could therefore influence later decisions (Yang et al., 2006). In addition, this study suggests user acceptance of brand placements while they playing games.

In this study, it was found that self-brand congruity was not significantly related with brand recall. The reason for this insignificant relationship is due to the highly interactive nature of games. This enforces the gamers to focus on the game play rather than advertisements. This means that the ability to recognise the exposed brands is low. In addition, it contributes to the "miss match" of themselves with the brand exposed in the games.

Nevertheless, this study contributes to the better understanding of the antecedents of brand recall and brand attitude on purchase intention in advergames among Malaysian consumers. Academically, the brand recall and brand attitude relationship is quite well known in advergaming research but their impacts on purchase intention is still lacking. Besides that, the studies of the influence of self-brand congruity on brand recall and brand attitude and also consumer intention to purchase has not been investigated in advergames. This study contributes to fill those gaps in the advergames literature. Methodologically, this study provides an understanding on the



survey research approach which is different from most of advertising research that emphasised on experimental design. Thus, with the survey approach, the results can be generalised into other topics for future research.

For practitioners, this study could suggest the use of illustrative or demonstrative placements for new products to help customers remember new brands and use associative placements for existing products to increase consumers' purchase intention (Ho *et al.*, 2011). Also, this study may give some fruitful insights to advertisers to improve their advertising strategies in the games by considering game players' congruity, entertainment value and brand placements factors. As this study considered three types of game played by the respondents namely video, mobile and SNS games, it may provide generalisation for future study of the effects of brand recall and brand attitude and their antecedents on purchase intention in advergames.

This study is subject to several limitations. Firstly, the respondents were drawn from the researcher's list of friends' social networks. This was due to time constraints that the researchers faced while conducting this study. Secondly, since this study was conducted through surveys, it does not provide a specific type of game genre to test the effects of brand recall and brand attitude their antecedents on purchase intention.

References

Afshar, R., C. Jones, and D. Banerjee (2004). *Advergaming Developer's Guide*. Hingham, Massachusetts: Charles River Media.

Bertrim, B. (2005). It's How You Play the Games. Marketing Magazine. 110 (16):18.

Balakrishnan, B.KPD., Shuaib, A.S.M, Dousin, O. and Permarupan, P.Y. (2012). The impact of brand placement and brand recall in movies: empirical evidence from Malaysia, *International Journal of Management and Marketing Research*, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 39-52.

Balasubramanian, S. K. (1994). Beyond advertising and publicity: hybrid messages and public policy issues. *Journal of Advertising*. 23 (4). Pp 29–46.

Batra, R. and Stayman, D.M. (1990). The role of mood in advertising effectiveness, *Journal of Consumer Research*, 17, pp. 203-214.

Bertrim, B. (2005). It's How You Play the Games. Marketing Magazine. 110 (16):18.

Brackett, L. and Carr, B.N. (2001). Cyberspace advertising vs. other media: consumer vs. mature student attitudes, *Journal of Advertising Research*, pp. 23-32.

Buckner, K., H. Fang, and S. Qiao (2002). Advergaming: A New Genre in Internet Advertising. http://www.dcs.napier.ac.uk/~mm/socbytes/feb2002_i/9.html (accessed on 9/05/2006).

Cauberghe, V. and Pelsmacker, P.D. (2010). The impact of brand prominence and game repetition on brand response, *Journal of Advertising*, Vol. 39, no. 1, pp. 5-18.

Childers, T.L., Carr, C.L., Peck, J. and Carson, S. (2001). Hedonic and utilitarian motivations for online shopping behavior, *Journal of Retailing*, Vol. 77, No. 4, pp. 246-61.

Chi, H.K., Yeh, H.R. and Yang, Y.T. (2009). The impact of brand awareness on consumer purchase intention: the mediating effect of perceived quality and brand quality, *The Journal of International Management Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 1, pp. 135-144.

Davis, R. and Lang, B. (2013). Does game self-congruity increase usage and purchase? *Young Consumers*, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 52-66.

Davis, R., Lang, B. and Gautam, N. (2013). Modeling utilitarian-hedonic dual mediation (UHDM) in the purchase and use of games, *Internet Research*, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 229-256.

Davis, R. and Lang, B. (2012). Modelling the effect of self-efficacy on game usage and purchase behavior, *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*, 19, pp. 67-77.

Davis, R. and Lang, B. (2012). Modelling game usage, purchase behavior and ease of use, *Entertainment Computing*, 3, pp. 27-36.

Ducoffe, R.H. (1995). How consumers assess the value of advertising, *Journal of Current Issues and Research in Advertising*, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 1-18.

Ducoffe, R.H. (1996). Advertising value and advertising on the web, *Journal of Advertising Research*, Vol. 36, No. 5, pp. 21-34.

Escalas, J.E. and Bettman, J.R. (2005). Self-construal, reference groups, and brand meaning, *Journal of Consumer Research*, Vol. 32, pp. 378-389.

Farrar, Kristie M., Marina Krcmar, and Kristine L. Nowak (2006). Contextual features of violent video games, mental models and aggression, *Journal of Communication*, 56 (2), 387-405.

Fiore, A., Jin, H. and Kim, J. (2005). For fun and profit: hedonic value from image interactivity and responses toward an online store, *Psychology and Marketing*, Vol. 22, No. 8, pp. 669-94.

Gao, Y. and Koufaris, M. (2006). Perceptual antecedents of user attitude in electronic commerce, *The DATA BASE for Advances in Information Systems*, Vol. 37, No. 2&3, pp. 42-50.



Grigorovici, D.M., Constantin, C.D. (2004). Experiencing Interactive Advertising beyond Rich Media: Impact of Ad Type and Presence on Brand Effectiveness in 3D Gaming Immersive Virtual Environment. *Journal of Interactive Media*. 5(1):31-53.

Gross, M.L. (2010). Advergames and the effects of game-product congruity, *Computers in Human Behavior*, 26, pp. 1259-1265.

Grossman, S. (2005). Grand Theft Oreo: The Constitutionality of Advergame Regulation. *Yale Law Journal*. 115 (October):227-237.

Ho, R., (April 2006). Videogames that sell. Creativity. 14 (4). Pp. 21.

Ho, S.-H., Lin, Y.-L., and Yang, Y.-T. (2011). In-game advertising: consumers' attitude and the effect of product placements on memory, *African Journal of Business Management*, Vol. 5(24), pp. 10117-10127.

Ho, C.-H. and Wu, T.-Y. (2012). Factors affecting intent to purchase virtual goods in online games, *International Journal of Electronic Business Management*, Vol. 10, No. 3, pp. 204-212.

Hussein, Z., Wahid, N.A. and Saad, N. (2010). Evaluating telepresence experience and game players' intention to purchase product advertised in advergame, *World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology*, 42, pp. 1611-1616.

Ing, P. and Azizi A.A. (2009). The impact of advertising position and games experience on purchase intention in advergaming, *Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business*, Vol. 1, No. 4, pp. 40-51.

Jeong, E.J. and Biocca, F.A. (2012). Are there optimal levels of arousal to memory? Effects of arousal, centrality, and familiarity on brand memory in video games, *Computers in Human Behavior*, 28, pp. 285-291.

Karrh, J. A. (Fall 1998). Brand placement: A review. *Journal of Current Issues and Research in Advertising*, 20 (2). Pp 31–49.

Lee, M. and Faber, R.J. (2007). Effects of product placement in on-line games on brand memory, *Journal of Advertising*, Vol. 36, No. 4, pp. 75-90.

Lui, F., Li, J., Mizerski, D. and Soh, H. (2012). Self-congruity, brand attitude, and brand loyalty: a study on luxury brands, *European Journal of Marketing*, Vol. 46, No. 7/8, pp. 922-937.

Lutz, R.J., MacKenzie, S.B. and Belch, G.E. (1983). Attitude toward the as a mediator of advertising effectiveness: determinants and consequences, In R.P. Bagozzi and A.M. Tybout, A. Abor (eds), *Advances in consumer research*, 10, pp. 532-539, UT: Association for Consumer Research.

Molesworth, M. (2005). Real brands in imaginary worlds: Investigating players' experiences of brand placement in digital games. Version 348 revised Jan 2005, Bournemouth University, Media School.

Nelson, Michelle R. (2002). Recall of brand placements in computer/video games, *Journal of Advertising Research*, 42(2), 80-92.

Nelson, M. R., Keum, H., & Yaros, R. A. (2004). Advertainment or adcreep? Game players' attitudes toward advertising and product placements in computer games. *Journal of Interactive Advertising*, 5(1). pp 3-30.

Neuborne, E. (2001). For Kids on the Web, It's an Ad, Ad, Ad, Ad World. *Business Week*. 3475, August 13. pp108–109.

Obringer, L.A. (March 13, 2007). "How Advergaming Worls". Howstuffworks.com.online.http://www.Howstuffworks.com/advergaming.html.

Ogletree and Drake. (2007). College Students' Video Game Participation and Perception: Gender Differences and Implications. *Sex Roles*. 56:537-542.

Percy, L. and Rossiter, J.R. (1992). A model of brand awareness and brand attitude advertising strategies, *Psychology & Marketing*, Vol. 9(4): 263-274.

Santos, E., Gonzalo, R. and Gisbert, F. (2007). Advergames: overview. International *Journal Information Technologies and Knowledge*, 1, pp. 203-208.

Scarpi, D. (2012). Work and fun on the internet: the effects of utilitarianism and hedonism online, *Journal of Interactive Marketing*, Vol. 26, No. 1, pp. 53-67.

Schneider, L., B. Cornwall (2005). Cashing in on crashes via brand placement in computer games: the effects of experience and flow. *International Journal of Advertising*, 24(3), pp 321-343.

Shah, S.S.H., Aziz, J., Jaffari, A.R., Waris, S., Ejaz, W., Fatima, M. and Sherazi, S.K. (2012). The impact of brands on consumer purchase intentions. *Asian Journal of Business Management*, 4(2), pp. 105-110.

Sirgy, M.J. (1982). Self-concept in consumer behavior: a critical review, *Journal of Consumer Research*, Vol. 9, No. 3, pp. 287-300.

Sirgy, M.J., Lee, D.-J., Johar, J.S. and Tidwell, J. (2008). Effect of self-congruity with sponsorship on brand loyalty, *Journal of Business Research*, 61, pp. 1091-1097.

Van der Graff, S. and D. B. Nieborg (2003). Together We Brand: America's Army. In Level Up: Digital Games Research Conference. M. Copier and J. Raessens, eds., Utrecht University http://www.digra.org/dl/db/05163.34543 (accessed on 10/05/2007).



Villafranco, J. E. and A. N. Zeltzer (2006). Product Placement and Brand Integration Strategies: Managing the Risks of Regulatory Uncertainty. *Consumer Protection Update*, 13 (1) http://www.colliershannon.com/documents/CPU_JEV2.pdf (accessed on 10/05/2007).

Wei, K.K., Jerome, T. and Shan, L.W. (2010). Online advertising: a study of Malaysian consumers, *International Journal of Business and Information*, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 111-134.

Winkler, T., and Buckner, K. (2006). Receptiveness of gamers to embedded brand messages in advergames: attitude toward product placement, *Journal of Interactive Advertising*, 7(1), 37-46.

Yang, Moonhee, David R. Roskos-Ewoldsen, Lucian Dinu, and Laura M. Arpen (2006). The effectiveness of 'In-Game' advertising: comparing college students' explicit and implicit memory for brand names, *Journal of Advertising*, 35 (4), 143-152.

This academic article was published by The International Institute for Science, Technology and Education (IISTE). The IISTE is a pioneer in the Open Access Publishing service based in the U.S. and Europe. The aim of the institute is Accelerating Global Knowledge Sharing.

More information about the publisher can be found in the IISTE's homepage: http://www.iiste.org

CALL FOR PAPERS

The IISTE is currently hosting more than 30 peer-reviewed academic journals and collaborating with academic institutions around the world. There's no deadline for submission. **Prospective authors of IISTE journals can find the submission instruction on the following page:** http://www.iiste.org/Journals/

The IISTE editorial team promises to the review and publish all the qualified submissions in a **fast** manner. All the journals articles are available online to the readers all over the world without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. Printed version of the journals is also available upon request of readers and authors.

IISTE Knowledge Sharing Partners

EBSCO, Index Copernicus, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, JournalTOCS, PKP Open Archives Harvester, Bielefeld Academic Search Engine, Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek EZB, Open J-Gate, OCLC WorldCat, Universe Digtial Library, NewJour, Google Scholar

























