

Evaluation of positive emotion in children mobile learning application

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents the evaluation of positive emotion in children's mobile learning applications. The mobile learning application is a teaching aid that can help students to self-study and increase the students' interest in learning especially children. This paper will discuss how mobile learning application affects the children interest in school. The evaluation method implemented to evaluate the rate of positive emotion elicited by the children using mobile learning applications was a mixed method of qualitative and quantitative methods. Since emotion can be either negative or positive, the identification of a proper method or perspective was required to prove that positive emotion was really elicited. Next, the data was collected through the children's assessment score, Electroencephalograms (EEG) device, Emotion identification using micro-expression (facial expression), Kort Scale and interview to confirm the positive emotion felt by the students. The result shows that all five perspectives or methods have shown that positive emotion is produced. It is found that the Mobile learning application can really trigger the children's positive emotions.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In study on human behaviour it has been suggested that creating positive associations in learning was more effective than the negative ones [1]. The positive emotion felt by the students are beneficial in encountering student's academic challenges. Moreover, the positive emotion can be implemented in mobile learning application to spark the emotional engagement among students [2]. Besides, there is a clear consensus in the psychological and educational fields that a variety of positive emotions play critical roles in fostering learning and mental growth in children [3-4]. Mobile technologies have become an integral part of people's daily life that showed a significant progress in its development within recent years [5]. Nowadays, the m-learning (Mobile Learning) has become the attention and focus of several scientists and work on its development and distribution from all over the world [6-8]. The mobile learning term denotes the use of mobile applications installed on a mobile device (tablet or smartphone) that used in the education process at school [9-10]. The implementation of this mobile learning is not a simple process when it is for young age students and children's learning. Textbook's author, children (students), parents and teachers

play an important role in the formation of the children character, interests and social behaviour through learnings' process [11]. Therefore, by applying the M-learning in children education, it's shown a significant contribution for children to build their character, behaviour and interest in learning. This could be done by developing an e-learning application that could run on an Android device platform.

According to Desmet (2007), it was possible to design products that target specific types of emotions by measuring emotional responses [12]. The products that excite user will be more successful than those that do not has been supported by consumers and researchers [13]. According to Ashby & Johnson (2013), exploration of other senses or emotional connection, associations and experience were important for the product to compete [14]. The link between attachment and emotional design was important for the user to use the product [15]. During the development of the product, the contrasting and categorization of emotions describes how the emotions are correlated to each other. According to Barrett (2006), humans experience emotion through evidence that influence action, thoughts and behaviour.

The research also suggested that emotion can be categorized into various affect related to the human current situation [16]. Next, the emotions can be categorized by identifying the most basic level of human emotion [17]. This was then supported by Robinson (2008), that identifying the basic emotion and its definition was required to the classification of emotion into positive and negative emotion [18]. This method was already used in researches such as [19-20]. Unfortunately, classifying the emotions into positive and negative emotion was not easy if the basic level of human emotion was not identified. Therefore, before the emotion can be evaluated, researcher need to understand what kind of emotion that can be considered positive and negative.

Students that prone to positive emotions may experience high levels of achievement partly because such emotions are associated with high-quality peer and teacher relationships [21]. By adapting the positive emotion in learning, this process may improve student learning, achievement, and self-efficacy [22]. This prove that the positive emotion is directly proportional to the student achievement score. Other than that, micro-expressions (facial expression) contain a significant and effective amount of information regarding the true emotions which useful in practical applications such as security and interrogations [23]. This micro-expression (facial expression) was used to identify the children true emotion whether positive or negative emotion. The basic set of emotions is largely discussed but is not defined completely. (Kort *et al.*, 2002) constructed a scale of emotions related to learning ranging from negative to positive states (from -1 to +1) that was used in this research to scale the emotion felt by the children [24]. In addition, Electroencephalograms (EEG) record the electric activity of a human's brain through electrodes that are attached to the scalp. According to (Ramirez, 2012) this device could detect and classify the emotion signal from brain wave with high accuracy [25]. Now, there are plenty of EEG device already available in market to detect the human emotion.

Therefore, the evaluation of positive emotion in children mobile learning application help researchers to understand whether there are positives emotion triggered while the children using the application or not. The method used to evaluate such uncertainty was mix method of qualitative and quantitative method. The result of the evaluation helps the researchers and teachers to distinguish a successful learning application that can be used among the children.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

A mobile learning application (Sains Awal PraSekolah) that already been developed was used in this research and an appropriate questionnaire was created. The mobile learning application was evaluated using three (5) different method that can express the participant's real positive emotion after the participant used the application. In order to achieve that all aspects need to be considered like the effectiveness of the mobile learning application in giving the participant's information such as the participant's assessment score, the participant facial expression and their emotions. Moreover, the evaluation continued using electroencephalogram (EEG) device, evaluation using universal facial expression and evaluation using Kort's Scale and interview on participant emotion after using the mobile learning application. After the data have been collected it then being analyzed. The data collection flow of this study was as follow see Figure 1.

Figure 1 show the research method on how the evaluation of the positive emotion have been conducted. Firstly, a Mobile learning application must be selected that act as an object that being tested whether it can produce a positive or negative emotion to the participant. Next, a questionnaire prepared that according to the evaluation test in the data collection. Finally, the data that have been collected are analyzed according to its frequency and mean. The result of the data analysis shown in the next section.

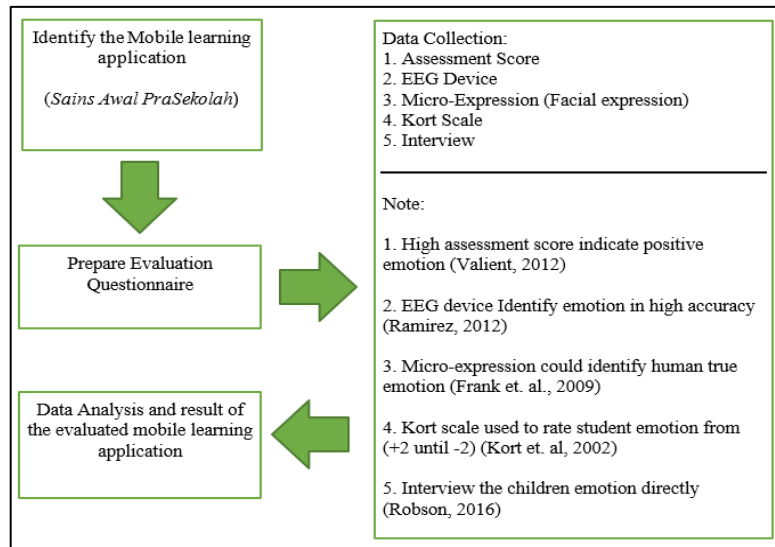


Figure 1. Methodology of the positive emotion evaluation

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The evaluation of the mobile learning application was conducted in three different locations based on its sociology and economy. This to confirm whether that the mobile learning application could be used in a different level of technology exposure or not. The evaluation was conducted at a different location in Sabah that includes rural school (Tadika Advent Goshen Kota Marudu), suburban school (Pacos Trus Penampang) and urban school (Pusat Minda Lestari UMS Kota Kinabalu). There is a total of 104 participants that involve in the evaluation that consists of 98 children Table 1 and six teachers Table 2.

Table 1. The demography of data collected for children

Question	Range	Frequency			Total	Percentage
		Rural	Suburban	Urban		
Gender	Male	25	12	15	52	53.1
	Female	22	10	14	46	46.9
	Total	47	22	29	98	100

Table 2. The demography of data collected for teacher

Question	Range	Frequency			Total	Percentage
		Rural	Suburban	Urban		
Gender	Female	2	2	2	6	100
	Total	2	2	2	6	100

3.1. Assessment score

The assessment score is the quiz mark answered by the children in the e-learning application. The quiz aim is to test the children understanding the topic taught and the score is in percentage value. Three of the highest score in the quiz is recorded according to location and gender as shown in Table 3, Table 4 and Table 5.

Table 3. Mean score of assessment for children at "Tadika Advent Goshen"

Participants	Questions	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Rural Children	Mark 1 (%)	47	25.00	100.00	93.94	14.07
	Mark 2 (%)	47	50.00	100.00	93.79	13.04
	Mark 3 (%)	47	75.00	100.00	97.36	7.07
Total Mean			50.00	100.00	95.03	11.39

The mean scores of assessments for rural children are presented in Table 3. The result showed that the mark of three questions was recorded in percentage. This to ensure that the data collected was accurate

since it's involving the children assessment score. The average minimum mark scored for all the question was 50.0% and the highest was 100.0%. This indicated that there were still a few children that do not perform well even though using the mobile application because the minimum mark scored was as low as 25.0%. In addition, the total average mean scored by the rural children was 95.0% with the standard deviation of 11.39. This shown that, most of the children still can perform well with such standard deviation.

The mean scores of assessments for suburban children are shown as Table 4. The result showed that the average minimum mark scored for all the question was 60.0% and the highest was 100.0%. This indicated that the children level of understanding was moderate and some of them can perform well using the mobile application. In addition, the total average mean scored by the suburban children was 95.4% with the standard deviation of 11.54. This result shown that, the suburban children can perform almost the same with the rural children despite the children level of technology exposure.

Table 4. Mean score of assessment for children at "Pacos Trust"

Participants	Questions	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Suburban Children	Mark 1 (%)	22	50.00	100.00	95.91	11.82
	Mark 2 (%)	22	80.00	100.00	96.50	7.62
	Mark 3 (%)	22	50.00	100.00	93.77	15.17
Total Mean			60.00	100.00	95.39	11.54

The mean scores of assessments for urban area children are presented in Table 5. The results showed that the average minimum mark scored for all the question was 71.7% and the highest was 100.0%. This indicated that the children level of understanding was almost excellent and can perform well using the mobile application. In addition, the total average mean scored by the urban children was 97.2% with the standard deviation of 7.48. This result shown that, the urban children can perform very well using the application. This prove that the children familiarity with the current technology enable the children to perform very well with the assessment score evaluation. The assessment score shows that the average of children can score 95.0% in rural area, 95.4% for the suburban area and 97.2% in urban area. This shows that the urban children can score more than the children in rural and in suburban area. Moreover, the average of those 3 areas can score about 95.9% with 10.14 standard deviations. This proves that the children can understand the learning materials given and can perform well with the quiz. This also prove that the mobile application can produce a positive experience to children almost 95.0%.

Table 5. Mean score of assessment for children at "PML UMS"

Participants	Questions	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Urban Children	Mark 1 (%)	29	75.00	100.00	95.28	9.53
	Mark 2 (%)	29	60.00	100.00	97.07	9.21
	Mark 3 (%)	29	80.00	100.00	99.31	3.71
Total Mean			71.67	100.00	97.22	7.48

3.2. Electroencephalograms device

The Electroencephalogram (EEG) device capable of recording the brain activity in real time and shows the learning effectiveness. According to [26], the positive emotion felt by the student is directly proportional to the level of learning effectiveness. Therefore, the EEG device could be used as an evaluation method to identify the level of positive emotion felt by the children. According to Gasah (2018), children focus, and attention are only between three to five minutes [27]. Since the average of children attention only between three to five minutes, the data between that period only, will be considered for evaluation because children were in their full attention during that period. Table 6, Table 7 and Table 8 shows the result of the EEG. The percentage value represents the positive and negative emotion felt by the children less than fifty per cent (<50%) means negative emotion and more than fifty per cent (>50%) means positive emotion.

Table 6 shows the EEG device score for rural children. The score of the EEG device for less than 3 minutes indicate that almost 51.5% of effectiveness in children from 7 children only. The mean increases to 53.2% when the period was less than 5 minutes taken from 25 children. This result contradicts from the expected result because the effectiveness of learning should be decreased when the time increases.

Table 7 shows the EEG device score for suburban children. The score of the EEG device for less than 3 minutes indicate that almost 82.2% of effectiveness in children from seven children. This then shows a significantly decreasing to 74.4% when the period is less than 5 minutes were taken from 10 children. This result followed the prediction of the result in phase one where the effectiveness in learning will be

decreasing to time. Even though, the level of high level of effectiveness that reaches more than 82.0% show that the mobile learning application in this area could build a positive emotion to children.

Table 6. EEG device score at “Tadika Advent Goshen”

		Rural Kids (Kota Marudu)				
Minute		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
<3 Mins	Time (mm:ss)	7	1:38	2:55	2:22	0.02
	Percentage (%)	7	24.2	67.2	51.357	16.52
	Valid N (listwise)	7				
<5 Mins	Time (mm:ss)	25	1:38	4:47	3:24	0.03
	Percentage (%)	25	24.2	95	53.208	19.68
	Valid N (listwise)	25				

Table 7. EEG device score at “Pacos Trust”

		Suburban Kids (Penampang)				
Minute		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
<3 Mins	Time (mm:ss)	7	0:36	2:51	1:53	0.04
	Percentage (%)	7	68.3	100	82.186	11.18
	Valid N (listwise)	7				
<5 Mins	Time (mm:ss)	10	0:36	4:35	2:35	0.06
	Percentage (%)	10	39.8	100	74.41	18.13
	Valid N (listwise)	10				

Table 8 shows the EEG device score for suburban children. The score of the EEG device for less than 3 minutes indicate that almost 78.7% of effectiveness in children were taken from three children only. This then shows a significantly decreasing to 61.752% when the period is less than 5 minutes were taken from 21 children. This result followed the prediction of the result in phase one where the effectiveness in learning will be decreasing to time. Even though, the level of high level of effectiveness that reaches more than 78.0% show that the mobile learning application in this area could build a positive emotion to children. The EEG device score shows that the average percentage of children having positive emotion in less than three-minute study for rural children (51.4%), suburban children (82.2%) and urban children (78.7%). This show that the e-learning application is more effective in creating a positive emotion in suburban children compared to urban children and rural children. Next, the study duration that more than three minute and less than five minutes show an increment for rural children (53.2%) and decrement to suburban children (74.4%) and urban children (61.8%) respectively. This proves the findings in phase 1 that the children learning efficiency will decrease within time because of two out of three schools shown the effectiveness decrement. Finally, the average of the 3 areas could EEG score for less than three minutes is 70.7% with standard deviation of 13.087 and less than five minute is 63.1% with standard deviation of 19.444. The result of the EEG score also shown that the application could create more positive emotion than the negative emotion.

Table 8. EEG device score at “PML UMS”

		Urban Kids (Kota Kinabalu)				
Minute		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
<3 Mins	Time (mm:ss)	3	2:06	2:59	2:27	0.02
	Percentage (%)	3	71.4	92	78.667	11.56
	Valid N (listwise)	3				
<5 Mins	Time (mm:ss)	21	2:06	4:56	3:59	0.03
	Percentage (%)	21	29.9	94	61.752	20.52
	Valid N (listwise)	21				

3.3. Micro-expression

The facial expression is also known as the micro expression. According to Ekman (2004) it is difficult to fake a micro expression because it is an involuntary facial expression that appears on a person's face according to the emotions being experienced [28]. There is consist of 7 universal micro-expression: sadness, anger, fear, disgust, contempt, surprise and happy. Therefore, by identifying the facial expression of the children, their emotion could be identified. Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4 show the result of the facial expression and its emotion. The result sorted based on gender and the presence of a facial expression that shows emotion. Figure 2 shows the facial expression result of rural children. The result of the micro-

expression (facial expression) graph indicated that most of the rural children leading towards happiness (19 children) and surprise (18 children). This facial expression proved that the children produce more positive emotion in facial expression compared to negative emotion.

Figure 3 shows the facial expression result of suburban children. The result of the micro-expression (facial expression) graph indicated that most of the suburban children was happy (13 children) and surprise (11 children). This proves that the suburban children were mostly happy and surprise that indicated positive emotion when using the mobile application.

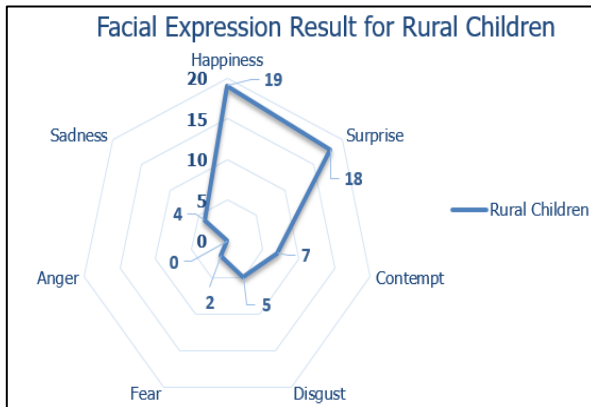


Figure 2. The facial expression result of rural children

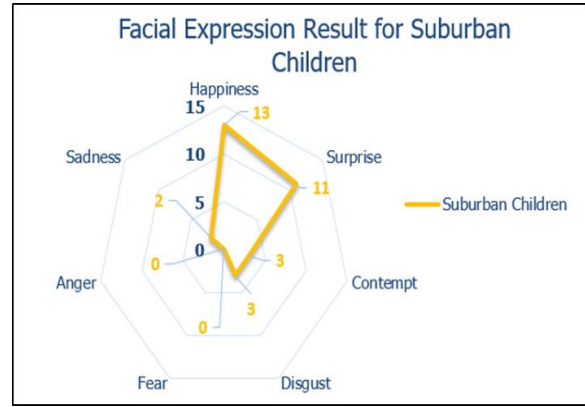


Figure 3. The facial expression result of suburban children

Figure 4 shows the facial expression result of urban children. The result of the micro-expression (facial expression) graph indicated that most of the urban children leading towards happiness (14 children) and surprise (12 children). This facial expression proved that the urban children produce more positive emotion in facial expression compared to negative emotion. The graph for all of the area shows a significantly high frequency towards the positive emotion (Happiness and Surprise) for all of the children compared to the negative emotion (Sadness, Anger, Disgust, Fear, and Contempt). The result from the micro-expression (facial expression) shows that 72.9% of the participant show positive emotion feedback when using the mobile application and only 27.1% of the participants show negative emotion feedback. This proves that the mobile application can give positive emotion to participants almost 73.0%.

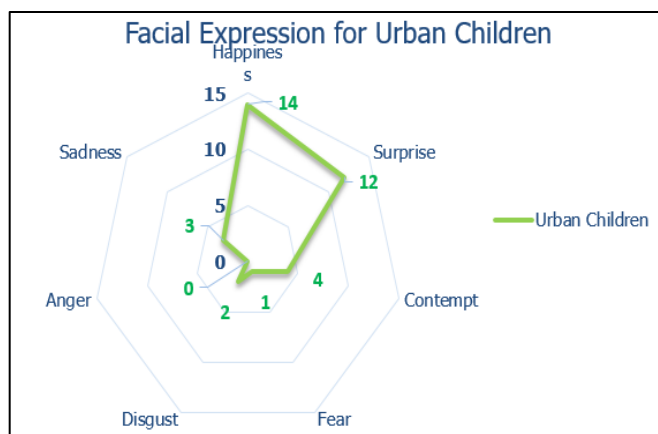


Figure 4. The facial expression results urban children

3.4. Kort scale

The Kort scale evaluation aims to identify the user experience whether the participant like it or not. The scale range is from (+2, +1, 0, -1, -2) where +2 means very likely, and -2 not likely. The evaluation includes the content, educational, appearances and organization of the e-learning application. Figure 5 shows

the result from the Kort scale rating where most of the participants rate +2 for content, educational, appearances and organization of the mobile application whereby having the percentage of 66.4%, 70.2%, 80.8% and 71.2% respectively.

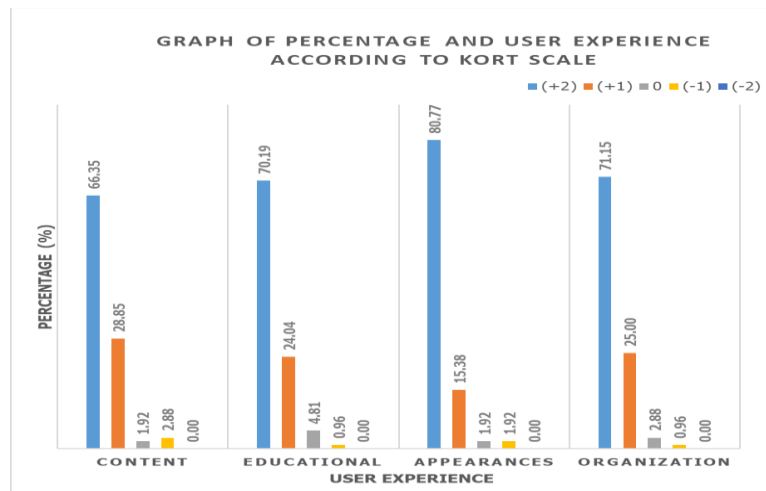


Figure 5. Graph of percentage and user experience according to kort scale rating

3.5. Interview

The expected outcomes in this research before its evaluation is to have user or children feel positive emotion toward learning and school. This positive emotion will give the children positive experience in learning that could increase the interest to go to school among children. The evaluation of the mobile learning application was executed using 4 method where it is highly reliable and have been used by a lot of researchers. Table 9 shows that the result of all of the evaluation method shown that the mobile learning application could create a positive experience to user that leads to the production of positive emotion more than 70.0% and prove that the mobile learning application was successful in creating the children interest in learning. Other than that, in order to confirm whether the e-learning application really could solve the problem in this research, which is to make the children interested in school, three extra interview question was asked to the participants.

Table 9. Summary of the mobile learning application evaluation result

Type of Evaluation	Result	
	Negative Emotion	Positive Emotion (%)
EEG Device	29	71
Kort Scale	28	72
Assessment score	5	95
Facial Expression	27	73

Table 10 show that the result of the three interviews. The result from the interview shows that 90.4% of the participants feel positive after using the application. Next, 97.1% of the participants like to go to school when the application is implemented in their school. Lastly, 80.4% of the participants would like to recommend the application to their friends.

Table 10. Result of interview question based on their experience

Interview Question	Response	N	Percentage
Interview 1	Yes	94	90.38
(Feel a positive emotion after use the application)	No	10	9.62
Interview 2:	Yes	101	97.12
(Interested in school after use the application)	No	3	2.88
Interview 3	Yes	93	89.42
(Recommend the application to friends)	No	11	10.58

Thus, all of the evaluation and interview show a positive result where it verifies the reliability of the research method created. This proves that the approaches used in the research method is capable in creating a positive emotion through mobile learning application to the user. By applying the research method and implement it in the development of mobile learning application in the future, it is possible to put make children more interested to school for learning.

4. CONCLUSION

The result of the evaluation of the positive emotion in children Mobile Learning Application from five method used prove that the mobile learning application (sains awal prasekolah) can trigger the positive emotion and positive experience in learning. The result of the evaluation were assessment score (95.7% with 9.545 standard deviations), EEG device (less than three minute is 70.7% with standard deviation of 13.087), facial expression (positive emotion to participants almost 73.0%), Kort scale (+2 for content, educational, appearances and organization with a total average of 72%) and interview (90.4% of the participants feel positive after using the application). Therefore, the *Sains Awal PraSekolah* mobile learning can be considered as the successful in projecting the positive emotion to children since all the result was above 70% for all of its evaluation. Meanwhile, this also proven that the method of the positive emotion was reliable and can be conducted with such significant result.

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