Designing and developing instructional recorded demonstration models for non-English speaking learners

Muhammad Fauzan Ansyari

Summary

This report used a design research approach that was aimed to redesign instructional videos for procedures. This project incorporated the minimalism theory, the four components model principles, multimedia learning principles, and recorded demonstration principles as the foundational frameworks.

There were three phases undertaken to achieve such purpose. In phase one, the existing Camtasia Studio 7 video series were analysed and relevant theoretical foundations for instructional videos were examined. Both were used to further guide the design or development of the prototypes. Design guidelines were then generated from the analyses and theories. In phase two, the initial prototype was constructed and tested with target users. In final phase, the effectiveness of the revised model is retested and formatively re-evaluated.

The results revealed that the above-mentioned theories, principles, and guidelines are vital in the design of an effective, efficient, and appealing instruction for users’ performance and support. In other words, an outright violation of those theories, guidelines, and principles can seriously jeopardize the effectiveness of a recorded instructional video for procedures.

1. Introduction

Some recorded instructional videos for procedures are not well designed for effective users’ learning and performance support. In the case of Camtasia getting started studio 7 series tutorials, for examples, raised some complaints from non-English speaking users. These complaints revolved around the question of effectiveness in promoting learning and performance support from those videos.

TechSmith’s getting started series for recording full screen with Camtasia studio has eight tutorial videos for beginners which provide them with the support necessary to enable them benefit from Camtasia studio 7. For detail, visit [http://www.techsmith.com/tutorial-camtasia-current.html](http://www.techsmith.com/tutorial-camtasia-current.html). Unfortunately, not all components of those videos support and promote better learning. As a result, users have reported challenges
and problems related to understanding those 8 videos. In other words, those instructional videos neither promote better learning nor meet the educational needs of novices.

Based on the analyses the negative aspects of the videos were classified and summarised into five broad categories namely: problems with the titles, confusion of goals and sub goals, redundancy, many jargons and the use of ambiguous or unclear terminologies. Some components within those videos are also inconsistent with design theories: minimalism, four-component models, multimedia learning, and recorded demonstration guidelines. In addition, other issues non-English speaking users raised about those tutorial videos further confirmed the ones identified by some other users, except that they added the following in summary:

1. There is need for a video that describes the general overview about Camtasia Studio 7 at the beginning. They also observed that 8 videos are too much, and should instead be reduced into 4 or 5 videos.
2. The sequencing of some videos was not good. In addition, there was no practical example about how to produce a video from the start until the end. Again, some information is repeated (redundant) and that the pace is too fast in some parts of those videos.
3. Those tutorial videos are too theoretical and that some terms used in them are too technical for novice users. They also cited the videos as having too much information and not goal-oriented. Finally, some videos were also branded as having poor signaling.

Therefore, the aim of this project was to explore the characteristics of effective recorded instructional video demonstrations for non-English speaking users. For this purpose, Camtasia Studio 7 tutorials were redesigned to help the users better understand the tutorials.
2. Design processes and guiding questions

Since this project is aimed at redesigning Camtasia Studio 7, this project adopted a developmental study approach which has a cyclic process of design, formative evaluation and revision (van den Akker, 1999). Therefore, this project has three phases: analysis, prototype development and testing, and prototype revision and retesting (Richey, Klein, & Nelson, 2004). In phase one, the existing Camtasia Studio 7 video series were analysed and relevant theoretical foundations for instructional videos were examined. Both were used to further guide the design or development of the first prototype. Design guidelines were then generated from the analyses and theories. In phase two, the initial video prototype was constructed and tested with novice users. In final phase, the revised prototype was tested and formatively evaluated. Below is a model that describes the design process in this project.

The main question guiding all these phases is “what are the characteristics of an instructional video that helps novice users learn effectively?” This question leads to the following sub-questions to investigate the main question explicitly:

1. How do novice users perceive the paper-based storyboard as a basis for the construction of the first video prototype?
2. How do novice users and an instructional video expert perceive the first prototype of the instructional video?
3. How effective is the instructional video for novice users?

In addition, during the design and development process prototyping approach was adopted (Nieveen, 1999). With this approach, product quality in terms of validity, practicality and effectiveness were considered. The validity was maintained through the appraisals of an expert in instructional video. The practicality was indicated by novice users’ needs, suggestions, and difficulties they found in the design. Finally, the effectiveness of the design was measured through how well the novice users learned from the design which then helped them in the real application of the software.
3. Conceptual foundations

This section addresses the theoretical foundations that support the design and development of our recorded instructional video for a procedure. Those theories include: minimalism, the four components model, multimedia learning, and recorded demonstration.

3.1. Minimalism

Minimalism is heavily an action and leaner oriented theory of instruction. This theory is often simplified with the axiom ‘less is more’. According to Carroll and van der Meij (1987; 1995), minimalism takes the need learners have for meaningful activity and sense making as a primary requirement and resource for effective training and information. The two scholars also presented four major principles with corresponding specifications (heuristic) meant to guide designers in designing minimalist instruction for novice learners. It also addressed how users who are becoming acquainted with a new application or a tool such as programming language, word processor and so on can be instructed. In summary, Minimalist principles are: choosing an action oriented approach, anchoring the tool in the task domain, supporting error recognition and recovery and finally supporting reading to do, study and locate.

*Choose an action oriented approach*

According to Carol and van der Meij(1998), people trying to learn a skill are eager to act and are motivated to do something meaningful. Therefore, learning to do something may psychologically necessitate an action. But at the same time from the misconception and errors that users encounter, it is evident that they also need to learn so as to act (Carroll & Rosson, 1987). Therefore, in order to design a usable material, there is need to balance between the learner’s need to act and the learner’s need for knowledge.

In order to achieve an action oriented approach in a design, three guidelines or (heuristics) are provided for designers. These are:
• Provide the user with an immediate opportunity to act and to support their own actions
• Encourage and support user’s exploration and innovation
• Respect the user integrity and activities

Anchor the tool in the task domain

For most users, an application is a tool they want to use to reach certain objectives in the task domain for which that application has been designed (Carroll & van der Meij, 1998). The tool (application) thus is just a means and not an end in itself. Therefore, to anchor the tool in the task domain, two specifications are provided for designers as given below.

• Select and design instructional activities that are real tasks for users
• Ensure that the components of the instruction reflect the real task structure

Support error recognition and recovery

According to Carroll and van der Meij (1998), software users make numerous mistakes and correcting those mistakes can be time consuming and frustrating to them. The two thus emphasize the need to reduce errors and mistakes and streamline recovery, diagnosis and correction to reduce the frustrations and anxiety that may arise as a result of trying to use the software. Thus, they provide four specifications (heuristics) for designers as listed below.

• Prevent mistakes whenever possible
• Provide error-information when actions are error-prone or when correction is difficult
• Provide error information that supports detection, diagnosis and recovery
• Provide on the sport error information
Support reading to do, study and locate

According to Carroll and van der Meij (1998) user’s behavior during learning has been noted to be flexible. Sometimes they read to study and in some other occasions they only read to locate some information. However, in most instances they read to do. In other words, what they do a task accompanied by an action. From that understanding, Carrol and van der Meij (1998) suggest two specifications (heuristics) for designers as given below to guide their design.

- Be brief and do not spell out everything for users
- Provide closure for chapters

3.2. Four-component model

The four component model is based on systems theory and rhetoric (Van der Meij & Gelliev, 2004). The Systems theory documents the correct procedures that can guide people in performing a rounded-off task in technical documentation and manuals. On the other hand, rhetoric places the logical view of systems theory within a social context (that is, selling oneself, selling the domain and to engage and persuade the user). The Four Components model represents an effort to combine these two perspectives in order to support key design decisions. The four components in the model are Goals, Prerequisites, Unwanted States, and Actions & Reactions.

Goals: A goal is a state that the user tries to realize. It includes a description explaining what the goal is and why the user should pursue it (“selling the domain”). However, when there are many methods to achieve the same goal, the designer must decide whether to present the alternative methods or not to do so. All in all when two or more alternatives are presented users should be given information about the proper conditions for selecting one over the other.

Prerequisites: Prerequisites are conditions that must be satisfied before the user can achieve a task. Generally, there are three main types of prerequisites, namely system states, user skills and user knowledge. For example, novice users can execute some tasks only when they already know how to perform other more fundamental ones. Fading support is
also a technique to scaffold this learning process and the user’s prior knowledge should always be a key consideration in design.

**Unwanted States: Warnings & Problem Solving Information:** Users are prone to make mistakes when working with the system hence the term “Unwanted states” in this theory. Van der Meij (2004) splits this unwanted state into two distinct types: warnings and problem-solving information. Warnings are given to prevent certain actions of the user or to alert users about the presence of a more or less serious risk. Since problems can have a considerable impact on user motivation and acceptance, designers are advised to consider presenting problem-solving information to help decrease the amount of time spent by users in attempting to solve problems from their design.

**Actions & Reactions:** Constructivist models of instruction aim to improve learning by creating situations in which people actively construct their own understanding. In other words, a balance should be made between user support and ‘let go’. According to Van der Meij (2004), users benefit from guided practice. They need direct instructions to act as well as guidance to support their explorations. An equally important principle for the design of the component is Action & Reaction. This is the interaction between user input or action and the feedback they receive after the action.

### 3.3. Multimedia learning

In general, Mayer (2001, 2003) argues that multimedia learning is in line with how people learn and students learn more deeply from well-designed multimedia presentations than from those presented in only-verbal presentations. As a result, Mayer emphasizes four multimedia instructional design principles. First is the multimedia effect which refers to the finding that students learn more deeply from a multimedia explanation presented in words and pictures than in words alone. Secondly, is coherence effect that refers to the finding that students learn more deeply from a multimedia explanation when extraneous material is excluded rather than included. Thirdly is the spatial contiguity effect which states that students learn more from multimedia explanations when corresponding words and pictures are presented near
each other rather than far from each other on the same page or screen
and lastly, the \textit{personalization effect} which refers to the fact that
students learn more deeply from a multimedia explanation when the
words are presented in a natural conversational style rather than in
formal style.

Mayer (2001) also mentions seven principles for multimedia design.
First, \textit{students learn better when an explanation is given in words and
pictures than solely in words}. This is referred to as the \textit{Multimedia
principle}. When words and pictures are presented, students have an
opportunity to construct verbal and pictorial mental models and to build
connections between them. But, when words only are presented,
students have an opportunity to build a verbal mental model but are less
likely to build a pictorial mental model and make connections between
the verbal and pictorial mental models. In other words, on screen
animation, slide shows, and narratives should involve both written and
spoken text and still or moving pictures. Simple blocks of text or
auditory links alone are less effective than when the text or narration is
coupled with visual images.

Second is spatial contiguity principle which states that \textit{students learn
better when corresponding words and pictures are presented near
rather than far from each other on the same page or screen}. When
corresponding words and pictures are near to each other, learners do not
have to use cognitive resources to visually search the page or screen and
learners are more likely to be able to hold them both in working
memory at the same time.

The third is temporal contiguity principle which states that \textit{students learn
better when corresponding words and pictures are presented simultaneously rather than successively, especially when long passages
are involved}. When corresponding portions of narration and animation
are presented at the same time, the learner is more likely to be able to
hold mental representations of both in working memory at the same
time, and thus the learner is more likely to be able to build mental
connections between verbal and visual representations. In this case,
when presenting a combination of text and images, they should be
presented simultaneously, and when animation and narration are both used, they should coincide meaningfully.

Fourth is coherence principle. It states that students learn better when extraneous material is excluded rather than included. Extraneous material here is the material that competes for cognitive resources in working memory. It also can divert attention from the important material and disrupt the process of organizing the material. In addition, it can prime the learner to organize the material around an inappropriate theme. Therefore, designers should exclude interesting but irrelevant or unnecessary words, sounds, music and pictures in a presentation.

Fifth is modality principle which states that students learn better from animation and narration than from animation and on-screen text. Multimedia presentations involving both words and pictures should be created using auditory or spoken words, rather than written text to accompany the pictures. When pictures and words are both presented visually (i.e., as animation and text), the visual/pictorial channel can become overloaded while the auditory/verbal channel remains unused. On the other hand, when words are presented auditory, they can be processed in the auditory/verbal channel, thereby leaving the visual channel to process only the pictures.

Sixth is redundancy principle. This states that students learn better from animation and narration than from animation, narration, and on-screen text. Multimedia presentations involving both words and pictures should present text either in written form, or in auditory form, but not in both. Adding on-screen text to a multimedia presentation is not a good idea when that text matches the narration exactly. Thus, designer should not put redundant text into the learner’s visual channel. The reason underlying this principle is that when pictures and words are both presented visually (i.e., as animation and text), the visual channel can become overloaded. A learner's visual channel can be overloaded when visuals and on-screen text compete for limited processing capacity. In this case, High-knowledge learners are able to use their prior knowledge to compensate for lack of guidance in the presentation – such as by forming appropriate mental images from words, but low-knowledge learners are less able to engage in useful cognitive processing when the
presentation lacks guidance. Also, high-spatial learners possess the
cognitive capacity to mentally integrate visual and verbal
representations from effective multimedia presentations while low-
spatial learners must devote so much cognitive capacity to holding the
presented images in memory that they are less likely to have sufficient
capacity left over to mentally integrate visual and verbal presentations.

Seventh is individual differences principle which states that design
effects are stronger for low-knowledge learners than for high-
knowledge learners and for high spatial learners rather than for low
spatial learners. The aforementioned strategies are most effective for
novices (e.g., low-knowledge learners) and visual learners (e.g., high-
spatial learners). Thus, designers should create well-structured
multimedia presentations, as they are most likely to help.

3.4. Recorded demonstration

Plaisant and Shneiderman (2005) offer a set of ten guidelines for what
they call the design of visually appealing and cognitively effective
recorded demonstration. These guidelines include providing procedural
instruction rather than conceptual information, keeping segments short,
ensuring that tasks are clear and simple, coordinating demonstrations
with textual documentation and using spoken narration. Others are,
being faithful to the actual user interface, using highlighting to guide
attention, ensuring user control, keeping file sizes small, and striving for
universal usability.

4. Design guidelines

On the basis of the analyses and the design theories: Minimalism, the
four-component model, multimedia learning, and recorded
demonstration, the following are the design guidelines which guide us
in redesigning Camtasia Getting Started Series Videos:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1.</td>
<td>The titles should represent the contents of the videos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.</td>
<td>The titles should be made in gerund forms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.</td>
<td>The videos should use comprehensible terms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.</td>
<td>The tasks should be action-oriented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.</td>
<td>Each video should give an overview of what is presented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.6. The videos should give clear and real examples.
1.7. The videos should be well-sequenced.
1.8. The videos should only give necessary information and exclude unnecessary information.
1.9. The videos should be around 4 in total.
1.10. The videos should be in slow paces.

2.1. The videos should have action-oriented tasks.
2.2. The videos should present real tasks and examples.
2.3. The videos should provide warning when actions would probably go wrong.
2.4. The videos should be simple, brief, and clear.

3.1. The videos should provide sub-goals with no more than five actions for each.
3.2. The videos should inform the condition/s that must be fulfilled before actions (prerequisite).
3.3. The videos should provide states to be avoided in certain conditions.
3.4. The videos should present actions in a consecutive order.

4.1. The videos should only give relevant information.
4.2. The videos should be presented in conversational style.
4.3. The narration and visual should be presented simultaneously.
4.4. The videos should be presented in learner-controlled segments rather than as continuous units.
4.5. The videos should use signals to focus users’ attention.
4.6. The words in the videos should be presented as narration rather than narration and on-screen text.

5.1. The videos should provide procedural or instructional information.
5.2. The videos should be kept in short segments.
5.3. The videos should provide clear and simple tasks.
5.4. The videos should use spoken narration.
5.5. The videos should maintain the actual user interface.
5.6. The videos should use highlighting to guide attention.
5.7. The videos should have user control over the contents.
5.8. The videos should coordinate demonstrations with textual documentation.
5.9. The videos should be kept in small sizes.
5.10. The videos should strive for universal usability.

5. Prototype development and testing

The first video prototype was developed from which the second storyboard was chosen. In this video, a non-native English speaker was used for the narration. Afterward, this first video prototype was tested again with some target users. The question that guided us for this testing was “How do novice users and an instructional video expert perceive
the first prototype of the instructional video?" This question mainly addressed the practicality of the designed video.

The design guidelines from the foundational theories, minimalism, four components model, multimedia learning, and recorded demonstration, were taken into account. The screenshots below were few examples to demonstrate the design principles used while designing the first video prototype.

The testing involved 4 non-English speaking users. The four participants were each given an opportunity to watch the video. Afterwards, they practised the instruction using Camtasia Studio 7 program to see if it worked in the real practice. At the same time, observations were done by the designers. After doing such activities, they were given a usability questionnaire to complete. The questionnaire was a modified version from IBM Computer Satisfaction Usability Questionnaire (CSUQ) (Lewis, 1995). In addition to filling in the questionnaire, the participants were also interviewed to elaborate more on the positive, the negative aspects of the prototyped video. They were also asked suggestions to further improve the video.
The results from the questionnaire generally revealed that the participants were satisfied with the ease of video, its simplicity, efficiency, and clarity of the instruction. The effectiveness here was determined by the capability of the participants to practice the instruction using the software, and all of them were able to use it with ease. In short, all participants were satisfied with the overall instructional video.

Through the questionnaires and interviews, users also gave the positive, negative and suggestions that informed the revision of the video. Regarding the positive aspects, the entire users reported that the video was brief, clear and that the instruction is well sequenced. They stated that the signaling used and the speed of narration is good and that the language used is also simple and easy to understand. The negative aspects mentioned, on the other hand, are three. First, the signaling used is not consistent; for instance the use of circles. Second, the reason why users need to link or de-link the video and audio track is not well explained and lastly, the zoom used in one scene is big which can make the user loose the context of the interface.

Quite a number of suggestions were put forward by users, such as the need to include text instructional steps to help users follow and remember. Secondly, the type of signaling should be consistent in the entire video and lastly, to inform users that basic computer skill is needed to use the video. In addition, an instructional video expert was involved for appraisal. The instructional video expert was positively impressed with the design. However, two key points and some technical issues were found and required for further improvement. The first main issue concerned about the goals and how to sell them better, and the second was mainly related to the actual tasks presented to the users. The technical issues included the language, the pace or pacing, and some conceptual and procedural information.

From the results of the first video prototype testing, it was crystal clear that still some design guidelines of minimalism, multimedia learning, four component model and the recorded demonstration theories were
violated. Those violations are detailed in the table below and were used to inform further revisions of the second final video prototype.

**Table 1: Summary of violated design guidelines from the first video prototype**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem identified</th>
<th>Problem description</th>
<th>Theory violated</th>
<th>The violated design guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacing</td>
<td>The video is too fast in some areas, e.g., the statement “if you want to link or de-link…” is fast.</td>
<td>CIMA analysis</td>
<td>The video should have slow pacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenting real task examples</td>
<td>Lack of real task examples in some parts of the video, e.g., failure to type the title when showing how to add a title clip.</td>
<td>Minimalism</td>
<td>The videos should present real task examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-requisite</td>
<td>No information on what is required from the users to use the video, e.g., they are not informed about basic computer skill</td>
<td>Four component model</td>
<td>The video should inform on the conditions that must be fulfilled before actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signaling</td>
<td>Use of different and inconsistent signaling, e.g., the use of circles and squares in some parts of the video</td>
<td>Multimedia learning &amp; Recorded demonstrations</td>
<td>The video should use appropriate signals to focus user’s attention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **Prototype revision and retesting**

This final video prototype was developed from the results of the first video prototype testing. The design guidelines reconsidered for this final prototype construction were related to slow pacing, presenting real task examples, informing on the conditions that must be fulfilled before actions, and using appropriate signals to focus user’s attention. Furthermore, this final video prototype was narrated by a native English speaker. It was then tested again with some target users. The question that guided this testing was “How effective is the instructional video for
novice users?” This question mainly addressed the practical effectiveness of the designed video. In other words, it was aimed at assessing whether users could practice the instruction given in real video editing.

This testing involved the previous 4 users from the first video prototype testing. The four users were again each given the second prototype video to watch. Afterwards, they were then each given a video file sample for editing using Camtasia Studio 7 software to establish whether the instructional recorded video was effective in terms of providing learning and performance support for novice users. The effectiveness was assessed through the accomplishment of the tasks that were related to the sub-goals of the video 2. The results showed that all the four participants were satisfied with the improvement of the video compared to the first video prototype. They were all able to edit the sample video file with ease. For instance, they were able to cut put of a clip, link and delink video and audio track, split a clip, remove a clip from the time line, add a title clip, format a title clip, add a transition, and finally remove a transition. In short, the final revised video prototype was effective in helping the novice users to effectively edit a video file within Camtasia Studio 7 software.

An example of the screenshot of this second final prototype video can be seen below.
2.1: Cutting Unwanted Video and Audio on the Timeline

If you feel there is unnecessary section in your recording, you can remove it from the timeline.

For example, if you want to remove the first three seconds from your recording, just click and drag the red outpoint of the play head here to make a selection.

Then, click this icon.

3.1. The videos should provide sub-goals with no more than five actions for each.
3.2. The videos should inform the condition/s that must be fulfilled before actions (prerequisite).
3.3. The videos should have action-oriented tasks.
3.4. The videos should present actions in a consecutive order.
3.5. The videos should use signals to focus users' attention.
3.6. The videos should provide sub-goals with no more than five actions for each.
3.7. The videos should inform the condition/s that must be fulfilled before actions (prerequisite).
3.8. The videos should have action-oriented tasks.
3.9. The videos should present actions in a consecutive order.
3.10. The videos should use signals to focus users' attention.

4.1. The videos should only give relevant information.
4.2. The videos should be presented in conversational style.
4.3. The narration and visual should be presented simultaneously.
4.4. The videos should be presented in learner-controlled segments rather than as continuous units.
4.5. The words in the videos should be presented as narration rather narration and on-screen text.
4.6. The videos should provide procedural or instructional information.
4.7. The videos should be kept in short segments.
4.8. The videos should provide clear and simple tasks.
4.9. The videos should have user control over the contents.
4.10. The videos should coordinate demonstrations with textual documentation.
5.1. The videos should maintain the actual user interface.
5.2. The videos should use highlighting to guide attention.
5.3. The videos should be kept in small sizes. (5.67 MB for web uploading)
5.4. The videos should strive for universal usability.

Figure 2: Snapshot of design guidelines in final prototype
7. Discussion and conclusion

The aim of this design project was to translate relevant theories into practice through the design and development of a recorded instructional video for a procedure. It incorporated the theories of minimalism, four components model, multimedia learning, and recorded demonstration.

The above-mentioned theories are rich foundational bases for recorded demonstration instruction. Minimalism or “less is more” theory as it is commonly referred to, enabled the designers to design an action and leaner-oriented instruction using few and simple words without losing the instructional goals (Hans van der Meij & Carroll, 1995). Moreover, the four component model for a procedure guided the designers in redesigning procedures for the instructional videos (H. van der Meij & Gellevij, 2004). This theory also guided the revision of the goals and sub-goals, stating the conditions that must be satisfied before an action, telling unintended conditions, and the results that come from the actions carried out by users. Furthermore, multimedia learning design principles helped redesign the user interface, narrating in a conversational style to engage users, visual, signaling effect, learner control segments, providing only the most necessary information, and synchronized audio and video presentation (Richard E. Mayer, 2001, 2003; R. E. Mayer & Moreno, 2003). Finally, recorded demonstration guidelines contributed to providing clear and simple tasks, maintaining the actual user interface, providing user control over the content, and keeping the video file size small (Plaisant & Shneiderman, 2005).

The experiences learned by the designers from the prototype (testing) during this design process revealed that the above theories, principles, and guidelines are vital in the design of an effective, efficient, and appealing instruction for users’ performance and support. In other words, an outright violation of those theories, guidelines, and principles can seriously jeopardize the effectiveness of a recorded instructional video for procedures. Below are the learning points for the designers based on this design process.

A violation of the four components model principles resulted into a state of confusion from the users. First, when the goal is not sold well
users always tend to question why the action is necessary for them. A
good example was when the goal to link or delink the video and audio
track was not sold in the video prototype one; the users asked why they
needed to link or unlink the two tracks. Also, failure to sell the title clip
prompted users to ask why they had to use it. Secondly, when the
outcome from the users’ action is not well explained, the users get
stuck. A good example was when users added a title clip; they were
confused about what was going to happen if the reaction on what to do
next was not told or given.

Violating minimalism theory also proved catastrophic to the users. For
instance, the designers found out that users always wanted simple and
clear instruction. When redundant information was presented, it
destructed users’ learning due to increased cognitive load. The use of
difficult and ambiguous terms also left users more confused and de-
motivated to continue learning from the instructional video. Again,
when real tasks or examples were not presented, users asked for a
demonstration of doing the tasks. This was evident in the first video
prototype when the title clip was presented without any texts typed for
the users to see how it worked. As a result, they asked for a real
demonstration of how it worked. Another lesson learned was that when
errors were prone due to an action, the users expected information to
guide them to recover from the errors. This was seen when title clip tab
was missing in the interface of Camtasia studio 7 studio software, yet it
was presented in the instructional video. As a result, users were stuck
and asked where to get it back from.

Multimedia learning principles, such as providing learner control and
signaling, were also crucial in the design. For example, when users
were given a sample video to edit, they always referred back to the
demonstration video and controlled it just to get the information they
needed to perform a particular task at that moment. On signaling, the
users advised consistent signaling format be used. This is a clear
indication that the signaling itself drew their attention to where the
action was in the video.

Recorded demonstration guidelines especially maintaining the user
interface in the demonstration video and the use of clear narration also
emerged crucial factors. For example, it was noticed in the prototype testing that the demonstration in the video had a title clip tab and the same tab was missing in the users’ interface (Camtasia Studio 7 software), then the users got stuck in the completion of the tasks. In other words, they asked where the title clip tab was because they saw it in the demonstration video interface, but could not find it at the same position in their Camtasia interface. With regard to narration, the first video prototype was narrated by a non-native English speaker users found some shortcomings in terms of clarity. However, when the second prototype was produced using a native English speaker, the users acknowledged clarity. This indicates that the clarity of the spoken narration in a recorded demonstration is vital in promoting learning and performance support.

Last, but not least, the design theories, principles, and guidelines may serve as the foundational frameworks for other designers or developers in the construction of recorded instructional videos for procedures. In the case of this project, those theories, principles, and guidelines were used to redesign storyboards of the Camtasia studio 7 getting started video series tutorials from eight to four instructional videos. Each of the four storyboards produced were tested and only the second storyboard was used to produce a sample of an instructional video for novices. This was chosen because most software users are often interested in video editing and it is also a selling point from Camtasia software. In conclusion, the designers’ advice is that this project should not stop here, but should be carried forward to produce the remaining three videos and other instructional videos for procedures taking into account the mentioned theories, principles, and guidelines.
References


