

INFOGRAPHIC

Avoiding Monotony in Presenting Teaching Materials

Erny Wahyuni^{1*)}, Thohiriyah²⁾
Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2, Semarang
Indonesia
[*erny.wahyuni78@gmail.com](mailto:erny.wahyuni78@gmail.com)

Abstract

Monotony fashion in presenting teaching materials implies the reliance on utilizing one medium to serve the teaching materials. Teachers need to be creative in serving their teaching materials to avoid boredom and monotonousness. Infographic is a versatile tool which can be employed to serve any purposes. In addition, it makes complex information eye-catching. Through its graphic color and animated picture, infographic strengthens the purpose of the lesson taught. Many publishers in 21st-century era reinvent infographic tools to design the infographic. This paper, however, is aimed at reviewing Canva as the infographic tool. Canva provides various themes and professional layouts for creating the compelling infographic to present the teaching materials. In addition, it is a simple tool which is extremely easy to use.

Keywords: monotony, teaching materials, infographic, Canva

Introduction

Teachers are demanded to deliver the teaching materials in a creative and interactive way in order to give the students interesting learning experience. Digital technology helps ease the teachers to design their own teaching materials in more attractive style using various technological products both hardware and software. The invention of internet technology supplies the teachers with humongous sources of learning materials. In addition, it provides a bulk of free online software to design the learning materials.

Although the invention of digital and internet technology is possibly giving many alternatives to design the learning materials, some old-fashioned teachers still depend on the textbook. Brigs (2014) aptly asserts that teacher “speaks in a monotone voice and reads aloud from the textbook”. Nowadays, educators focus on raising students’ achievement by integrating technology as a tool (Costley, K.C., 2015; Christen, 2009). Technology, moreover, not only helps escalate the achievement but it also “promotes students’ autonomy” (Condrat, 2014).

As there are various technological products for presenting teaching materials, it can be challenging to select the perfect and suitable technological tools. Infographic can be one of the alternatives to serve the purpose of presenting teaching materials in a concise, yet attractive design as it has powerful visualization. Tong and Bakhan, as cited by Baglama, et al (2017), emphasize that Visualization makes the materials more “accessible, understandable, improvable and

manageable”. The visualization includes real objects, printed materials, graphics, movie and animation. As learners often face difficulty in learning a concept, visualization facilitates the learners to understand the “conceptual knowledge (Balagma, et al., 2017).

Teachers or instructors can create the infographic using the CANVA application. One of the best things about Canva is that it allows the users to take visual learning to a new level: Students and teachers can become “design thinkers,” meaning that they can become skilled at imagining and creating solutions to problems rather than identifying existing ones.

Learning and teaching happen as people envision, create, share, and revise. All the things needed are the right tools for the job. Teachers can transform their idea into its infographic (Brigs: 2014). In designing the infographic, creativity is strongly needed as Canva allows the designers to custom their own design.

Methodology

This study is based on a literature review which aims to provide a perspective on the role of the infographic for the educational needs. In addition to the aim, the study is qualitatively reviewed. The review includes the examination of the infographic maker features and students’ perspective on the infographic, in this case, is the perspective of the students of MAN 2 Semarang. The students’ perspectives are interpreted qualitatively.

Discussion

1. Teachers' perspective on Canva

Infographic is an application in summarizing information in an eye-catching way. Canva Its application is very useful for students to get main points of the material sharing. Canva provides humongous beautiful graphic pictures to ease the teachers illustrate their concept. Canva allows the teachers to organize all the resources students need for a class.

Canva is considered as the user-friendly application due to the fact that it has simple navigations.

a. Simple Log-in system

Teachers can access the application using the computer. The users will have to click the application website: www.canva.com and simply log-in bu using Google or Facebook accounts. Users, however, can sign-up to create their own account if they do not yet have the Canva account. The interface of the log-in system is shown by the following figure 1.

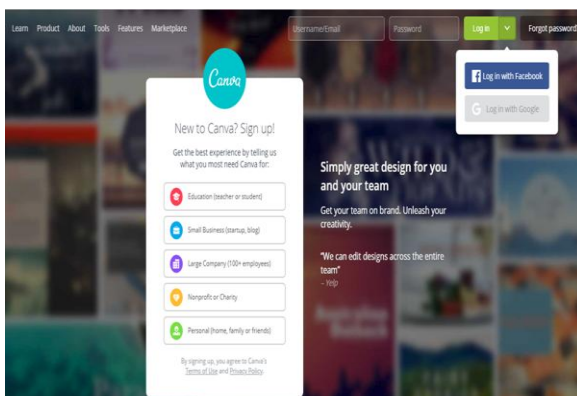


Figure 1. Canva Log-in system

b. Attractive features to create design

Canvas offers varied features to create a wide-ranging design from poster to infographic. There are many layout templates for free (Figure 2). Infographic should be chosen once the users would like to design the infographic.

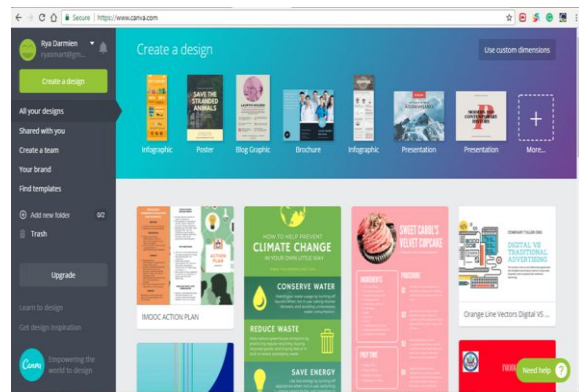


Figure 2. Canva Features

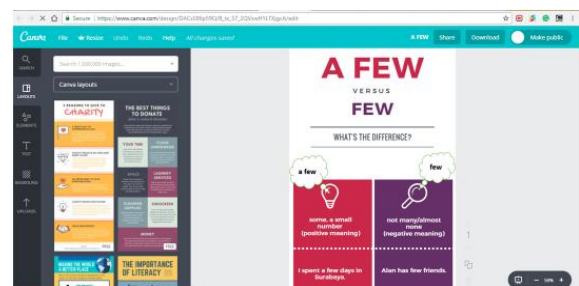


Figure 3. Sample of chosen template

The teachers can choose the template and personalize the template to serve their purposes (see figure 3). Besides, the application supplies the bulk of animated pictures to illustrate the design. The users also allow using their own animated pictures from their own storage by uploading the pictures to the application. Once the users finish the design, the infographic can be downloaded into various extension formats such as portable document format (pdf) or image format (png, jpg).

c. Infographic for presenting Teaching Materials

Figure 4 elucidates the infographic which is designed by using Canva application. The infographic was used to teach English to the first graders of senior high school (MAN 2 Semarang). The students have elementary to the medium-intermediate level of English. They joined English class as it is a compulsory subject.



Figure 4. Infographic for teaching English

The material on the infographic deals with present tense. For illustrating the concept knowledge, the infographic is added some animated pictures which are available on Canva for free. However, not all pictures can be used freely as some Canva also locks some paid pictures. To overcome this matter, teachers can use their own pictures from their own storage.

The infographic visualizes the concept of “present tense” which actually improves the students’ reception and understanding towards the concept of knowledge. Furthermore,

infographic helps students understand the materials a bit quicker as the students do not need to read a sophisticated concept of present tense and its implementation like the textbook does.

In other respect, infographic helps teacher summarizes and elaborates the materials in a non-monotonous way. Infographic has powerful visual texts which can be personalized to serve the teaching purpose. Unlike the other teaching media, infographic carried concise description for explaining the concept knowledge to the students.

2. Students’ Commentary on the Infographic



Figure 5. Students’ discussion

The students’ commentary on the infographic can be summarized as follows:

- “I love the picture”
- “It’s easy to follow the plot”
- “Infographic is interesting. I like the pictures”
- “I like the color”
- “I can open the picture in my HP”
- “I can follow the story using present tense”
- “The background is interesting”

The above excerpts summarize the students’ personal testimony on the infographic. Most of the students love the infographic as it helps them understand the material better. The plot explains the daily routines well using the present tense. In addition, the pictures give powerful illustration over the plot so that the students easily visualize and understand the “concept knowledge”. Besides, the infographic can be saved in different digital extension formats such as PDF and PNG so that it allows the students to open the infographic via their own mobiles. In this way, the students can simply reopen and

read the file of the infographic anywhere anytime.

Conclusion

Infographic is a free application which can be used as the alternative to present teaching materials in a captivating way as it has vivid pictures. In addition, it helps the students understand the “concept knowledge” being taught by the teachers, for it has powerful visual text to visualize the concept. The students experience fun learning atmosphere as they can discuss the infographic with the peers and more importantly they do not need to read a long textbook to understand the concept.

Although the application is considered as a free application, the teachers should anticipate for the paid illustration pictures. The cost, however, can be averted by avoiding download paid pictures. Alternatively, the teacher can upload their own pictures from their own storage to Canva. In addition to the anticipation, internet reliability is the paramount thing should have been made sure before accessing Canva as it requires an internet connection to access this web-based application.

References

- Balagma, et al. (2017). Can Infographics Facilitate the Learning of Individuals with Mathematical Learning Difficulties? *IJCRSEE*, 5(2).
- Brigs, S. (2014). 20 Things Educators Need to Know about Digital Literacy Skills. InformED, Open Colleges, Australia. Accessed on April 10, 2018 at <http://www.opencolleges.edu.au/informed/features/digital-literacy-skills/>
- Christen, A. (2009). Transforming the classroom for collaborative learning in the 21st century. *Techniques: Connecting Education and Careers*, 84(1), 28-31.
- Costley, K.C. (2015). The Positive Effects of Technology on Teaching and Student Learning. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED554557.pdf>.
- Condrat, V. (2014). The Use of Technology to Promote Learner Autonomy. *Creativitatea lingvala: de la semn la text*, Iasi, Editura PIM.