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Adi in the Shape Town Learning Application Using Gamification Features

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Abstract: The conventional medium used in learning or teaching through book is less interactive. Thus, Adi in the Shape Town learning application is proposed to help children who aged six years old to learn about basic 2D shapes in an interactive way. The project aims to design the application by using educational gamification approach, to develop the application on Android platform, and to test the developed application to target users. The proposed application would have three game modules, and in each game module, there will be five levels provided. Also, Multimedia Mobile Content Development (MMCD) methodology is chosen as the methodology that helps in the whole process of finishing the project. The testing result has shown that 88% of the respondents have left positive feedback towards the proposed application. Thus, Adi in the Shape Town application will help users to learn basic 2D shapes through a variety of game approaches.

Keywords: 2D Shapes, Mobile Application, Educational Gamification

1. Introduction

Shapes can be classified into two-dimensional (2D) shapes and three-dimensional (3D) shapes. In which, based on the objects around us, a variety of shapes can be defined easily through their properties [1]. Hence, before children formally attend preschool or kindergarten, they have encountered a variety of shapes through the objects they have seen in their everyday lives. However, children may not know how to classify the shapes based on the objects they have encountered. Therefore, learning shapes as early education for young children is important to help them classify the different types of shape. Also, learning shapes could help them in other educational areas such, mathematic and art [1]. In which, based on the case study location, which is Tadika Ilmu Pintar Bistari, which placed in Pasir Gudang, Johor, has been teaching its students about shapes under the syllabus, 2D shapes of the subject mathematic. Thus, it can be defined that shape and mathematic are closely related [1]. However, the method used in teaching the subject is through the book, which is less interactive. Thus, an educational application can be proposed as an additional learning method as it is more engaging, interactive, and helpful, especially during self-learning [2].

However, the impact of the ongoing pandemic has brought a lot of changes in our lives, where education is not an exception. Hence, online learning is conducted remotely during this new norm, as the prevention against the spread of the coronavirus. However, online learning isn't always as effective as

compared to traditional learning, as not all children can keep up with the pace of learning online [3]. Thus, a strategic method of teaching and learning need to be proposed to protect early childhood education [4]. Therefore, learning application can be introduced as a method of learning where it can encourage children to learn at home even after school hours, where their learning progress can be monitored by parents.

Moreover, based on the case study location, it can be identified the methods used in learning and teaching during online learning are through books, Google Meet, WhatsApp, and YouTube, which are less interactive. Nevertheless, during traditional learning, it can be defined that the study location uses books as their teaching and learning method, which are less interactive too. Hence, an educational application can be proposed as additional learning and teaching medium to the children, whereby the multimedia element features that are often applied in the educational application are more interactive. Thus, this application could motivate the children to learn in a fun and interactive way.

In addition, there are a lot of educational applications of learning shapes in the market, even so, there are not a lot of applications that fully follow the actual syllabus that is taught in kindergarten. Based on an application called Smart Bunny [5], it uses a full gamification approach in the application. In which, the users of the Smart Bunny application follow the main character Bunny on his journey to meet his friend, wherein along the journey users have to complete the given tasks. Nevertheless, due to not following an actual syllabus, hence the content of learning basic 2D shapes is not quite suitable for young children. Moreover, another application similar to Smart Bunny is called Bimi Boo Baby shapes and colours for kids [6], where it uses a full gamification approach too. In which, unlike Smart Bunny, this application follows more than one character and there are several game modules given that users can play to learn about shapes and colors. However, there are shapes included in the application which does not quite suitable for young children to learn such as pentagon, hexagon, and more.

The objective of Adi in the Shape Town is to design the application by using educational gamification approach, to develop the application on Android platform, and to test the developed application to target users.

Hence, the target users of Adi in the Shape Town learning application are kindergarteners aged six years old, thus any related information is to be retrieved from the case study location. Thus, the content of the application will be based on the syllabus taught for kindergarten, which the syllabus is called 2D shapes of the subject mathematic.

Therefore, this application is to be developed using Unity software in a 2D environment, where its proposed mobile interactive application is Android mobile. Also, the language to be used in this application is the English language. Next, the concept of this application is scenario-based where users will follow the main character, Adi on an adventure around Shape Town and the objects in the game scenes will be based on everyday objects that users may often encounter. Thus, the concept arts of the game will be a cartoon-like style which is more approachable for young children. Thus, this application will be having three game modules, where it represents the locations in Shape Town and each game module will consist of five-game scenes. In which, users need to perform the task according to the instruction given by Adi. The arrangement of the four-game scenes is through the basic shapes that target users need to be learned, where the basic shapes include triangle, square, rectangle, and circle. Also, the last or the fifth game scene will test users' full understanding of the basic shapes, where all basic shapes will be provided in the game scene and users need to sort accordingly. Thus, the game approaches that will be applied include, puzzle and sorting for Adi's house game module, maze and sorting for Shape Town Supermarket game module, and match card and sorting for Adi's kindergarten game module.

2. Related Work

2.1 Educational gamification

Gamification in education has been progressively increasing along with the advancement of technology, wherein educational gamification could produce enhancing and engaging learning

experiences for students [7]. Therefore, developing a game-based learning application required more than one individual, for such, developers, subject matter experts, and students, which to ensure the success of delivering the content to the target users [8]. Consequently, game-based learning could help students to develop problem solving skills and expand their knowledge, which could help their academic performance [9]. Moreover, the availability of game-based learning regardless of time and place, students could utilize the full use of educational gamification application for self-learning at home [9][10].

2.2 Learning model

The learning model is used to determine the possible approach that can be applied to students with different traits or personalities, wherein a person can be derived into five-principle, human nature, dispositional traits, characteristic adaptations, self-defining life narratives, and cultural or social contexts [11].

Hence, a learning model introduced by Fleming [12], which is the VARK model, is a learning based on the sensory model which includes, Visual (V), Aural (A), Read or Write (R), and Kinesthetic (K). In which, through VARK learning styles, visual learners would prefer to visualize while learning, thus colors and pictures are preferable. While aural learners would prefer the use of audio or voice while learning. Also, read or write learners prefer to read which is effective for them while learning. Lastly, kinesthetic learners would prefer having hands-on experiences which help them understand better from the trial and error they have experienced. Therefore, the VARK learning model can be applied to mobile learning where the use of multimedia elements in mobile learning are aligned with the VARK learning styles. In which, multimedia elements include, text, audio, animation, video, and animation, wherein these elements could help students to learn effectively.

In addition, according to Piaget's theory [13], a child's cognitive development stages are divided into four stages include, sensorimotor, preoperational, concrete operational, and formal operational. In which, preoperational stage include child who aged from two to seven years old, where at this stage they are keen to perceive objects in the world symbolically. Thus, they enjoy pretend play, where they get to imagine to play roles that symbolize real life roles such as, doctor, policeman, teacher, and more. Thus, Piaget's theory can be applied to mobile learning where scenario-based game approach may attract their attention to engage in the pretend play, and to learn efficiently.

2.3 Comparison of similar existing applications

The three existing applications that will be discussed in this section include, Smart Bunny [5], Bimi Boo Baby Shapes and Color for Kids [6], and Shapes Puzzle for Kids [14]. In which, these applications have similar learning content, which to help children to learn about shapes through gamification features. Thus, Table 1 shows the comparison of the three applications with the proposed application.

Table 1: Comparison of three existing applications with the proposed application

Elements	Smart Bunny [5]	Bimi Boo Baby Shapes and Colors for Kids [6]	Shapes Puzzle for Kids [14]	Adi in the Shape Town
Platform	Android and iOS	Android and iOS	Android	Android
Game style	Sort and match cards	Puzzle and sort	Puzzle and sort	Sort, puzzle, maze and match cards

Table 1: (continued)

Elements	Smart Bunny [5]	Bimi Boo Baby Shapes and Colors for Kids [6]	Shapes Puzzle for Kids [14]	Adi in the Shape Town
Restriction	Good, users cannot move to the next task, if they have not completed the current task	move to the next task, if they have not completed the	Poor, users can move to the next task, even if they have not completed the current task	current task to move
Exit control	*	Poor, there is no exit button to exit application	Good, there is exit button to exit application	
Consistency	All background interfaces are the same	Each game module has different background interface	Each game module has different background interface	•

Based on the comparison of Table 1, all the applications do have their strengths and drawbacks as well. Therefore, Adi in the Shape Town is to be developed to provide with more interactive game style and to provide with more suitable content which based on a syllabus taught for kindergarten.

3. Methodology

In this section, the methodology used will be discussed. Thus, Multimedia Mobile Content Development (MMCD) methodology will be used in developing Adi in the Shape Town, wherein MMCD methodology helps to speed up the development process [15]. Figure 1 shows the MMCD methodology model.

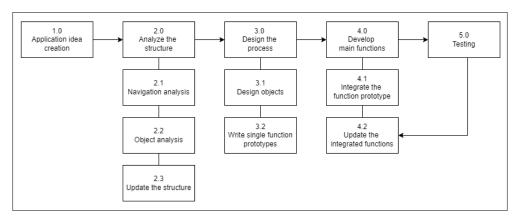


Figure 1: Multimedia Mobile Content Development (MMCD) [15]

3.1 Application Idea Creation Stage

The first stage of MMCD methodology is application idea creation stage. In which, in this stage there are two tasks that are required to complete which include, identifying user requirements, and application requirements. Thus, Table 2 shows the application idea creation checklist, which presented the information about the application. While Table 3 shows the system analysis requirement checklist,

which tabulated data based on the result from the questionnaire distributed to the Subject Matter Expert and target users. Also, the sample of the questionnaires will be presented in Appendix A.

Table 2: Application idea creation checklist

Item	Note
Type of application	Mobile Learning
Target device	Smartphones that run Android operating system
Target users	Kindergarteners who aged six years old
GUI	Main page, game module selection, game scene selection
Images	 Icons, background images, game objects
Video	• None
Animation	Game character
Audio	Narration, background music, and sound effects
Application synopsis	 Adi in the Shape Town learning application is a mobile learning application, where it emphasizes on learning basic 2D shapes for kindergarteners. In which, this application applies gamification features to engage users' attention while learning.

Table 3: System analysis requirement checklist

Stakeholder Category	Role in product	Design implications	Actions Needed
Subject Matter Expert	Content consultant	Based on questionnaire, user interface design	 Apply bright colours for example, primary colours. Apply multimedia elements, for such text, audio, animation, and graphic.
		Reliable content	• Content must be based on the syllabus for kindergarten.
Target users	End-user of the application	Based on questionnaire survey, attractive gamification features	 Apply gamification features for such, drag-and-drop, puzzle, match cards, and maze.
		User interface design	 Apply simple button designs that represent its function. Apply attractive animation and audio.

3.2 Structure Analysis Stage

The second stage of MMCD methodology is structure analysis. In which, in this stage there are two tasks that need to be completed which include, navigation analysis and object analysis. Thus, Figure 2 shows the navigational structure of Adi in the Shape Town, and Table 4 shows the content structure checklist.

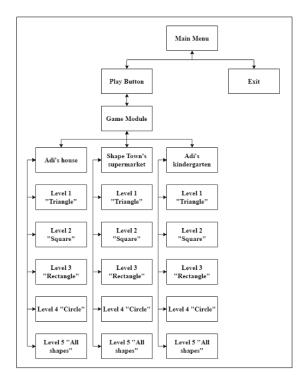


Figure 2: Navigational structure of Adi in the Shape Town

Table 4: Content structure checklist

Item	Note	
Menu and Navigation	Home button	
	 Back button 	
	 Next button 	
	Replay button	
	Exit button	
Number of main GUI	Application logo	
Sub GUI	None	
Images	 Background images 	
	 Icon and buttons 	
Placing audio	 Narrator voice 	
	 Sound effects in button clicking 	
	 Sound effects in correct and wrong answer 	
	Background music	
Placing video	None	
Placing animation	Game characters	

3.3 Process Design Stage

The third stage of MMCD methodology is process design stage, where there are two tasks that need to be completed which include, designing game objects and single function prototype. Thus, a few tools that need to be used during designing processes. In which, Adobe Illustrator is used to design assets for such, UI buttons, sprites, and background images. Also, Unity is used to integrate assets and develop the application, and Microsoft Visual Studio is used to write script for the functions of the application. Figure 3 shows the flow chart of Adi in the Shape Town application. In which, the application contains three game modules, and there are five levels in each game module.

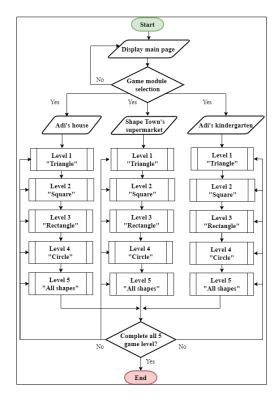


Figure 3: Flow chart of Adi in the Shape Town

Therefore, Table 5 shows the user interface designs with its description. In which, the interfaces include, the main menu page, exit page, introduction page, game module selection page, game scene in Adi's house, Shape Town's supermarket, and Adi's kindergarten game modules respectively.

Table 5: List of user interface designs

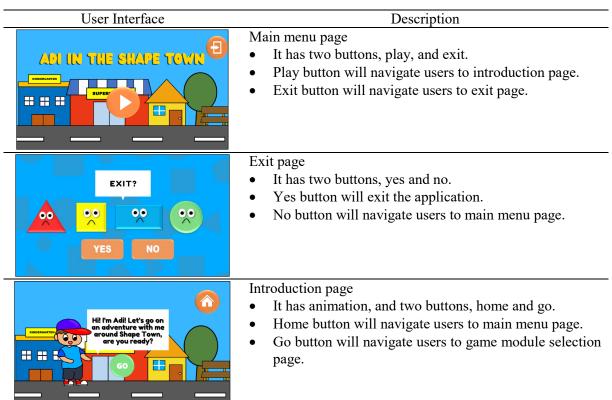


Table 5: (continued)

User Interface CHOOSE ONE

Description

Game module selection page

- It has four buttons, home, Adi's house, Shape Town's supermarket, and Adi's kindergarten.
- Adi's house button will navigate users to Adi's house game module.
- Shape Town's supermarket button will navigate users to Shape Town's supermarket game module.
- Adi's kindergarten button will navigate users to Adi's kindergarten game module.



Adi's house game scene

- It has a back button, and four draggable game objects.
- Back button will navigate users to Adi's house game module.
- Only the correct game objects placed in the box will pop-up the reward panel.



Shape Town's supermarket game scene

- It has a back button, and a draggable game object.
- Back button will navigate users to Adi's house game module.
- Dragging the game object to its target placeholder and the reward panel will pop-up.



Adi's kindergarten game scene

• It has a back button, and six pairs of card game objects that can be flipped.

Tap to flip the card game object to find all its match, and the reward panel will pop-up



Reward page

- It has three buttons, list, replay, and next.
- List button will navigate users to list of game level.
- Replay button will navigate users back to game scene. Next button will navigate users to next game scene.

3.4 Main Function Development Stage

In this stage, the development of the game assets and integration of the game assets in Unity using scripting are done. Thus, Table 6 shows the list of developed assets of Adi in the Shape Town.

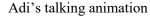
Table 6: List of game assets development

Assets

Description

Game characters design

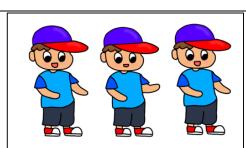
- The characters are designed by using Adobe Illustrator. In which, the main character Adi is created digitally by tracing the initial design that is drawn manually. The other characters are designed by using the basic 2D shapes, triangle, square, rectangle, and circle.
- Moreover, primary colours such as, red, yellow, blue, and green, are applied to the characters.

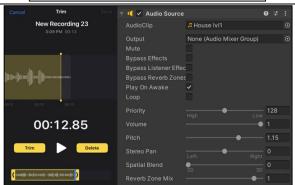


- The process of animation is started by designing each sprite of desired movement. In which, the animation is completed by applying spritechanging animation in Unity.
- The talking animation include, the mouth and hands movements.

Audio development

• The process of recording voice is done by using a recording application. In which, the recorded voices are edited through Unity by adding pitch to the audio to imitate the child-like voice.





Moreover, the navigate feature, drag-and-drop function, and match card function will be further discussed in Table 7.

Table 7: List of main function development

Main function	Description
□using System.Collections; using System.Collections.Generic; using UnityEngine; using UnityEngine.SceneManagement; □public class change_scene : MonoBehaviour { public string SceneName; public void ChangeToScene() { SceneManager.LoadScene(SceneName); } }	Navigate feature scripting The important function applied is ChangeToScene(), and SceneManager.LoadScene(). The script is applied to all buttons to allow navigation between interfaces.

Table 7: (continued)

Main function

```
public void pizzaDrag()
{
    if(Drop1 == false) {
        pizza.transform.position = Input.mousePosition;
}
}
public void pizzaDrop()
{
    float Distance = Vector3.Distance(pizza.transform.position, bowl.transform.position);
    if (Distance < 100)
    {
        pizza.transform.position = bowl.transform.position;
        Drop1 = true;
        audioSrc.clip = correct;
        audioSrc.Play();
        Checkl();
}
else
{
        pizza.transform.position = itemPos1;
        audioSrc.clip = wrong;
        audioSrc.clip = wrong;
        audioSrc.Play();
}

public void watermelonDrop()
{
    float Distance3 = Vector3.Distance(watermelon.transform.position, bowl.transform.position);
    if (Distance3 < 100)
{
        watermelon.transform.position = bowl.transform.position;
        Drop2 = true;
        audioSrc.clip = correct;
        audioSrc.clip = correct;
        audioSrc.clip = wrong;
        audioSrc.clip = wron
```

Description

Drag-and-drop function scripting

- The important functions include, pizzaDrag(), pizzaDrop(), watermelonDrag(), and watermelonDrop().
- The input is the mouse position input, where the game objects would follow the mouse position.
- Correct sound effect will be played if correct game object is placed at the placeholder.
- Wrong sound effect will be played if wrong game object is placed at the placeholder.

```
private int[] ShuffleArray(int[] numbers)
                  int[] newArray = numbers.Clone() as int[];
                  for (int i = 0; i < newArray.Length; i++)
                     int tmp = newArray[i];
int r = Random.Range(i,
                                               newArray.Length);
 61
                     newArray[i] = newArray[r];
newArray[r] = tmp;
 63
              public void CardRevealed(MainCard card)
80
81
 82
                  if (_firstRevealed == null)
83
                      _firstRevealed = card;
85
                  else
87
                        secondRevealed = card;
88
89
                      StartCoroutine(CheckMatch());
                      scorePanel();
92
             public IEnumerator CheckMatch()
109
110
                  if (_firstRevealed.id == _secondRevealed.id)
112
113
                      scoreLabel.text = "Score: " + _score;
114
                      audioSrc.clip = correct;
audioSrc.Play();
115
118
                  else
                      yield return new WaitForSeconds(0.8f);
120
121
                      _firstRevealed.Unreveal():
122
123
                      _secondRevealed.Unreveal();
                      audioSrc.clip = wrong;
124
125
                      audioSrc.Play();
126
127
128
                  firstRevealed = null;
                  _secondRevealed = null;
129
130
```

Match card function scripting

- The important functions include, ShuffleArray(), CardRevealed(), and CheckMatch().
- The function ShuffleArray() allow the cards to be placed randomly.
- CardRevealed() allow the card to transform if clicked.
- CheckMatch() function is to verify the answer, where correct match will produce correct sound effect and conversely for wrong match.

3.5 Testing Stage

In this stage, the alpha testing will be further discussed. In which, this testing is constantly conducted along the development process of the application. Whereas, the functionality of the application can be ensured to function well until the completion of the project. Thus, the testing is done based on the functionality of the buttons, and Table 8 shows the result obtained. Apart from alpha testing, beta testing has been conducted to determine user acceptance towards the developed application, where the questionnaire is designed based on Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). Thus, beta testing will be further discussed in the next section.

Table 8: List of main function development

Test	Expected Result	Actual Result	Actions Taken
Play Button	Navigate to game	Not playing the next	Applying change
	modules page, and to next	game scene.	scene script to the
	game scene.		button.
Exit Button	Navigate to confirmation	Works well as	Not taken.
	exit page.	planned.	
Home Button	Navigate to main page.	Works well as	Not taken.
		planned.	
Back Button	Navigate to previous	Works well as	Not taken.
	page.	planned.	
Go Button	To start game scene.	Works well as	Not taken.
	-	planned.	
Replay Button	Navigate back to the	Works well as	Not taken.
	game scene.	planned.	
List Button	Navigate to the list of	Works well as	Not taken.
	level of respective game	planned.	
	module.		
Yes Button	Exit application	Works well as	Not taken.
		planned.	
No Button	Navigate back to main	Works well as	Not taken.
	page.	planned.	
Button Sound	To produce sound effect	Background music	Reduce the volume
Effect		overlaps the sound	of the background
		effect.	music.

4. Results and Discussion

In this section, the result obtained from the beta testing that has been conducted to target users will be discussed. Based on Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), the questionnaire is designed based on Perceived of Usefulness (PU), Perceived of Ease of Use (PEOU), and User Satisfaction (US). Thus, the prepared questionnaire has 3 sections include, learning outcome acquisition, user acceptance level, and functionality. Hence, a total of 10 kindergarteners aged 6 years are picked to undergo the testing process, and Figure 4 shows the result of the first section of the questionnaire.

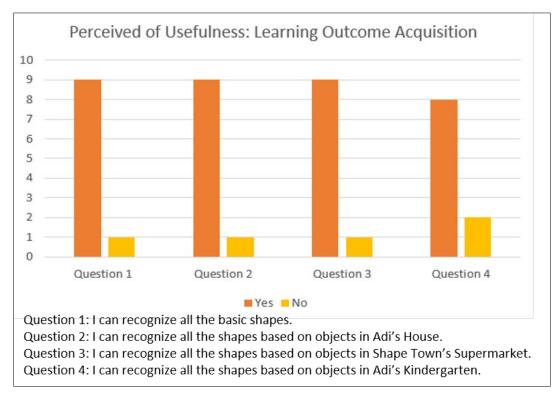


Figure 4: Result on learning outcome acquisition section

In addition, Figure 5 shows the result of the second section of the questionnaire, which to determine the user acceptance level among respondents.

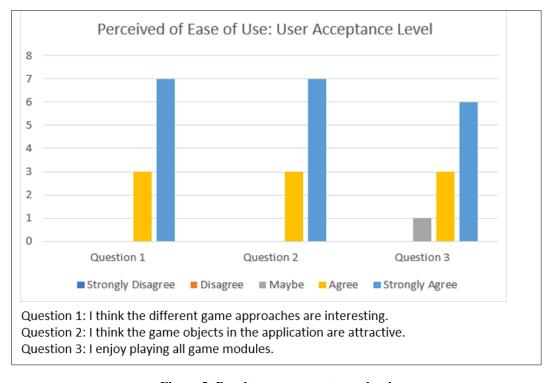


Figure 5: Result on user acceptance level

Furthermore, Figure 6 shows the result of the last section of the questionnaire, which to determine respondents' opinion on the functionality of the application.

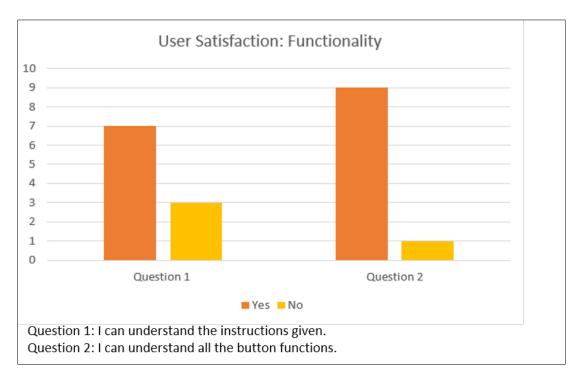


Figure 6: Result on functionality

Therefore, based on Figure 4, the positive feedbacks received is 88%. Whereas, based on Figure 5, the positive feedbacks received is 97%, while based on Figure 6, the positive feedbacks received is 80%. Hence, it can be summarized from the testing that this application has received 88% of positive feedbacks from the respondents.

In addition, according to the Subject Matter Expert (SME), Ms Nurdini Dania binti Hishammuddin, which is a kindergarten teacher at Tadika Ilmu Pintar Bistari, she agreed that the application has attractive design and reliable content. She also agreed that this application is suitable to be used for children especially during self-learning at home with the guide of their parents. She has also suggested a few improvements that can be implemented to the application for future enhancement, firstly, she suggested to add additional guide in the game scene to ensure that users fully understand the given instructions. Also, she suggested to add timer to record the time taken for users to perform each task, which would help in tracking users' performance. Thus, it can be concluded that Adi in the Shape Town application has received positive feedbacks from both target users and SME.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, based on the beta testing that has been conducted, it can be determined the objectives of this project are achieved as the application has been successfully developed to meet users' needs. Also, it can be concluded that Adi in the Shape Town application is suitable to be implemented as an additional learning medium to learn about basic 2D shapes. Moreover, there are a few advantages and limitations that have been discovered during the process of development and testing. In terms of advantages, the application is viewed as attractive to users as it has high multimedia interactivities such as, graphical buttons, textual instruction, voice instruction, sound effects, background music and animation. Apart from the multimedia interactivities, the application also consists of variety of game approach which are attractive to users. However, there are a few limitations, where limited game scene provided in each game level, limited movements of the animation and less competence and challenge for users. Therefore, as for future work, there will be more game scenes provided for each game level. Also, there will be more additional movements added to the animation to make it more attractive. In addition, score and timer will be implemented to assist in collecting users' achievements and to track

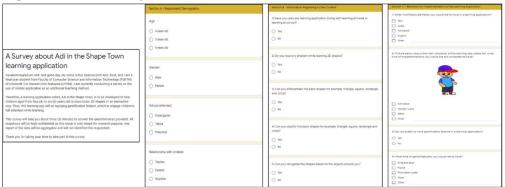
their learning progress. Hence, it is hoped that Adi in the Shape Town application will continue help kids aged 6 years old to learn basic 2D shapes in an interactive way.

Acknowledgment

The authors would like to thank the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia for its support.

Appendix A

1) A set of questionnaires for target users.



2) A set of questionnaires for Subject Matter Expert.



3) A set of questionnaires for target users, during beta testing.



Beta testing on Adi in the Shape Town application

Assilammuslatium wit, and good day, my name is Nur Sabrina biriti Add. Rouf, and I am a final year student from Facility of Computer Science and Information Extending (FishTM) of Universit III have been found being better lesing to classed, Ad in the Shape Town, is to help children aged six (6) years olds to fem basic 20 shapes in an interactive way. Thus, this form is to identify the acceptance of Ad in the Shape Town applications while learning.

Thus, this form is to identify the acceptance of Ad in the Shape Town applications was additional learning medium for kinderget reviews in Neuroland as this study is only meant for research purposes.

The application would help in learning in an interactive way. Thus, the form purposes in the strain of the st

4) A set of questionnaires for Subject Matter Expert (SME), during beta testing.

5) Beta testing.



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