

ENHANCEMENT OF INTERACTION FOR ANATOMY VISUAL LEARNING INTERFACES IN AUGMENTED REALITY LEARNING

CHE NUR SHAFAREEN AFERA BINTI CHE ANUAR

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CHE NUR SHAFAREEN AFERA BINTI CHE ANUAR

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

February 2020

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DEDICATIONS

My respectable parents Che Anuar Ibrahim and Suriati Mohamad, who share their lives with me, who always give advice and encouragement My dear husband, Abdul Mubin, whose infinite support, incredible understanding and ultimate kindness are immeasurable To my supervisor Prof. Dr. Rahmita Wirza O.K. Rahmat and entire committee. And thanks to the Trans-disciplinary Research Grant Scheme (TRGS) which sponsors this research study financially.

And, to all whom I love.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

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February 2020

Chairperson: Rahmita Wirza O.K. Rahmat, PhD Faculty: Computer Science and Information Technology

Mobile applications using Augmented Reality (AR) technology have been widely used in many fields, including education, computer games, advertising, tourism and more. AR is considered an exciting technology for users as they interact with 3D virtual models in the real world. AR is also widely used in medical education, as it helps medical students to see and understand the structure of human/animal anatomy more closely and this helps them visualize the model because their textbooks show only 2D images. Some existing AR applications are not widely used and are less user-friendly. The guidelines used in these existing application applications make it less attractive for users to continue using AR applications for long periods.

The main purpose of this study is to encourage medical students to fully utilize AR applications to assist in their self-study after taking the relevant classes. The main contribution of this research is to identify the challenges in interacting with AR applications in medical education. To identify the proposed guidelines, the Mobile AR Application called the Brain Anatomy Revision Application (BARA) was developed. BARA is developed in stages and each level will be tested by the user for feedback before advancing to the next level. Get started with BARA following the existing guidelines in the current AR application. Subsequently, several preliminary experiments were conducted according to the BARA phase and version, as well as User Evaluation by medical students from UPM. The final Acceptance Test was performed for UiTM Sg Buloh medical students on three different versions of BARA namely printed markers, digital markers, and object target markers.

All three versions of BARA have been applied using ten new guidelines, and medical students will choose which version makes it easier for them to use this

learning application, including issues of contents, ease of use of apps, and experience using AR in these applications as they can look at the entire AR 3D model view. Future work is to increase the level of details of the 3D model as if it were real texture to make it more interesting and real. Next, 3D models can be an interaction where the user can separate each part of the brain by pulling the parts together.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan oleh Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

MENINGKATKAN INTERAKSI ANTARA MUKA UNTUK PEMBELAJARAN VISUAL DALAM PEMBELAJARAN ANATOMI MENGGUNAKAN REALITI IMBUHAN

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Aplikasi mudah alih yang menggunakan teknologi Augmented Reality (AR) telah banyak digunakan dalam banyak bidang, termasuk pendidikan, permainan komputer, periklanan, pelancongan dan banyak lagi. AR dianggap sebagai teknologi yang menarik bagi pengguna kerana mereka berinteraksi dengan model maya 3D di dunia nyata. AR juga digunakan secara meluas dalam pendidikan perubatan, kerana ia membantu pelajar perubatan untuk melihat dan memahami struktur anatomi manusia / haiwan dengan lebih dekat dan ini membantu mereka menggambarkan model kerana buku teks mereka hanya menunjukkan gambar 2D. Beberapa aplikasi AR yang sedia ada tidak digunakan dengan meluas dan kurang menarik minat pengguna. Guidelines yang digunakan dalam aplikasi aplikasi sedia ada ini menyebabkan ianya kurang menarik pengguna untuk terus mengguna AR aplikasi dalam jangka masa yang lama.

Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk mendorong pelajar perubatan menggunakan sepenuhnya aplikasi AR untuk membantu kajian mereka sendiri setelah mengikuti kelas yang berkaitan. Sumbangan utama penyelidikan ini adalah menentukan cabaran dalam berinteraksi dengan aplikasi AR dalam pembelajaran perubatan. Untuk mengenal pasti atribut yang berkaitan dengan garis panduan cadangan, Aplikasi Mobile AR yang dinamakan sebagai Brain Anatomy Revision Application (BARA) telah dibangunkan. BARA dibangunkan mengikut peringkat dan setiap peringkat akan diuji oleh pengguna untuk

mendapatkan feedback sebelum dibaiki ke peringkat seterusnya. Bermula dengan BARA yang mengikut guideline sedia ada dalam aplikasi AR yang ada sekarang. Seterusnya beberapa preliminary experiment dilaksanakan mengikut fasa dan versi BARA, serta User Evaluation oleh pelajar medikal dari UPM. Final Acceptance Test dilaksanakan kepada pelajar medikal UiTM Sg Buloh ke atas tiga versi BARA yang berbeza iaitu printed marker, digital marker, dan object target marker. Ketiga-tiga versi BARA ini telah diaplikasi menggunakan sepuluh guideline yang baharu, dan pelajar medikal akan memilih versi yang mana paling memudahkan mereka untuk mengguna aplikasi pembelajaran ini termasuk menitikberatkan isu segi kandungan apps, kesenangan penggunaan apps, dan pengalaman menggunakan AR dalam aplikasi ini kerana boleh melihat keseluruhan pandangan AR 3D model. Cadangan kerja masa depan ialah meningkatkan level details of 3D model seakan akan real tekstur untuk lebih menjadikan ianya menarik dan real. Seterusnya, model 3D boleh menjadi interaksi di ma<mark>na pengguna dapat mem</mark>isahkan setiap bahagian otak dengan menarik bahagian-bahagian tersebut.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

			Page
APPRODECLA LIST O LIST O	RAK DWLED DVAL ARATIO F TABL F FIGU	.ES	i ii iv v vi vii
CHAP1	ΓER		
1		DUCTION	1
	1.1	Research Background	1
		1.1.1 Augmented Reality	2
		1.1.2 Human Anatomy Learning Method to Medical	
		Students	4
		1.1.2.1 Real Human Cadavers	5
		1.1.2.2 Sy <mark>nth</mark> etic Human Cadavers	5
		1.1.2.3 3D Virtual Dissection Tables	6
		1.1.3 Augmented Reality in Medical Education	7
		1.1.3.1 Guidelines in AR Medical Mobile Apps	9
	1.2	Motivation and Importance of Study	11
	1.3	Problem Statements	12
	1.4	Research Objectives	13
	1.5	Research Scope	13
	1.6	Outline of the Thesis Structure	14
2	LITER	ATURE REVIEW	15
	2.1	Introduction	15
	2.2	AR with Virtual Button Interaction	15
	2.3	Importance of AR Application	16
	2.4	AR in Medical Education	16
	2.5	Human Brain Mobile AR Application	17
	2.6	Design Guidelines for Mobile AR	19
		2.6.1 Design Guideline for MAR	19
		2.6.2 Development of Usability Guideline	19
	2.7	Summary	21
3	RESE	ARCH METHODOLOGY	22
•	3.1	Introduction	22
	3.2	Research Framework	22
	3.3	Research Steps	24
	= =	3.3.1 Data Gathering and Prototype Development	25
		3.3.2 Virtual Button Interaction with VR Box	25
		3.3.3 AR Interaction Guidelines	28
		3.3.4 3D Model Rendering Features Towards	
		Performance	29
	3.4	Implementation	30
		3.4.1 Platform Development Process	31

	3.5	Experi	ment Setup	31
		3.5.1	Preliminary Experiment 1: Data	
		0.5.0	Gathering	32
		3.5.2	Preliminary Experiment 2: Data	00
		2.5.2	Gathering and Preliminary Prototype	32
		3.5.3	Preliminary Experiment 3: Virtual	()22
		3.5.4	Button Interaction by Using AR (VR Box	()32
		3.3.4	User Evaluation: Combining Virtual Button and Augmented Reality	
			Interaction without Using VR Box	33
		3.5.5	Final Acceptance Test (FAT): BARA	33
		0.0.0	Apps with Three Different of Marker	
			Types	33
			3.5.5.1 Printed Image Target Marker	33
			3.5.5.2 Digital Image Target Marker	33
			3.5.5.3 Object Target Marker	33
		3.5.6	Usability Test: Features of 3D Model &	
			Performance	34
	3.6	Syster	n Requirement	34
		3.6.1	Software Requirements	34
	3.7	Summ	ary	34
4	IMPOR	TANCE FEATU	JRES OF EACH ATTRIBUTES THAT	
-			HE PROPOSED GUIDELINES	35
	4.1	Introduction		35
	4.2	Proposed Meth	nod	35
		4.2.1 Virtual B	utton Interaction with Wearable AR	
		Device		36
			action and Virtual Button without VR Box	37
	4.3	Implementation		38
			ntation of Virtual Button Interaction with	
			e AR Device	39
			ntation of AR Interaction and Virtual	40
			ithout VR Box	40
	4.4		el Used in BARA	46
	4.4	Experiment Se	ะเ Op :hering Experiment (Preliminary	46
		Experime		47
		•	Set Up Preliminary Exp 1: Data	71
			Sathering	47
			Set Up Preliminary Exp 2: Data	
			Sathering	48
			utton Interaction Exp (Preliminary Exp 3)	49
			Set Up Preliminary Exp3:	
			Virtual Button Interaction	49
			aluation: Virtual Button and	-
			action Experiment	50
			Set Up (UAT)	50
			ceptance Test: AR Interaction with Three	
			ns of BARA Experiment	52

	4.5	4.4.4.1 Set Up (FAT) 4.4.5 Features of Rendering 3D Model and Time Performance 4.4.5.1 Usability Test Set Up Discussion and Conclusion	52 54 54 57
5	INTER	JATION FOR AUGMENTED REALITY USER FACES GUIDELINES SPECIALLY DESIGN FOR CAL LEARNING Introduction Proposed Method 5.2.1 AR Interaction with Variety of Marker Target Types 5.2.2 Features of Rendering 3D Model and Time Performance	58 58 58 58
		5.2.3 BARA Version 1: Printed Note Marker 5.2.4 BARA Version 2: Digital Note Marker 5.2.5 BARA Version 3: Object Target Marker 5.2.6 Implementation of Features of Rendering 3D Model and Time Performance	60 60 62 64
	5.3	Result of Experiment 5.3.1 Result of P.E 1: Data Gathering 5.3.2 Result of P.E 2: Data Gathering 5.3.3 Result of P.E 3: Virtual Button Interaction with VR Box 5.3.4 Result of User Evaluation: Virtual Button and AR Interaction 5.3.5 Result of Final Acceptance Test (FAT): AR Interaction with Three Version BARA 5.3.6 Result of Usability Test 5.3.6.1 Orientation Angle of 3D Model 5.3.6.2 Level of Details 3D Model 5.3.6.3 Rendering 3D Model Colours 5.3.6.4 Surfaces of 3D Model 5.3.6.5 Object Target Position Discussion and Conclusion	65 65 66 68 70 73 75 76 77 79 80 82 83
6	6.1 6.2	LUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK Discussion and Conclusions Suggestions for Future Works	84 84 85
	IDICES		87 90 96 97

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	List of Design Guidelines for Mobile	
	Augmented Reality	19
2.2	Development of Usability Guidelines for	
	Mobile Health Application	20
4.1	Extended Guideline in BARA Specially Design	
	For Medical Learning Applications	55
5.1	Result of Orientation Angle of 3D Model	75
5.2	Result of Level of Details 3D Model	77
5.3	Result of Rendering 3D Model Colours	79
5.4	Result of Surfaces of 3D Model	80
5.5	Result of Object Target Position	82

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.1	Example of Augmented Reality application using flash card as a marker	4
1.2	Example of Augmented Reality application using marker-less	4
1.3	Real Human Cadavers Lab Session	5
1.4	Synthetic Human Cadavers Lab Session	6
1.5	3D Virtual Disecction Cadavers Lab Session	7
1.6	Gray's Anatomy: Mobile Apps of Human Anatomy in 2D Version	8
1.7	Brain Anatomy Pro: Mobile Apps of Human Anatomy in 3D Version	8
1.8	Human Brain Augmented Reality: Mobile Apps of	0
1.0	Human Anatomy with Augmented Reality	9
1.9	List of Guidelines in Medical Mobile Apps	14
3.1	(a) Research Framework for this research	23
3.1	(b) Guidelines for each version of BARA	24
3.2	Research steps for data gathering and prototype	
	development of medical application with augmented	25
3.3	reality Research steps conducting preliminary experiment for	25
0.0	virtual button interaction with VR Box	26
3.4	Research steps for combination virtual button and	
	augmented reality interaction in medical learning application	27
3.5	Research steps for designing user interface	
0.0	guidelines of AR interaction in medical educations	28
3.6	Research steps for rendering features towards performances	29
3.7	Phases of Usability Testing Process	30
3.8	Flow diagram of platform development process	31
4.1	VR Box	36
4.2	Frameworks of Using Virtual Buttons Interaction with	
	VR Box	37
4.3	Framework of Using AR Interaction and Virtual	20
4.4	Button without VR Box Arrangement of Virtual Button in Unity Development	38 39
4.5	Screenshot View of Prototype Virtual Button with AR	40
4.6	Storyboard Design of Subtopics Introduction of Brain	10
	Anatomy Apps	41
4.7	Storyboard Design of Subtopics Cerebellum of Brain	
	Anatomy Apps	42
4.8	Storyboard Design of Subtopics Cerebrum of Brain	40
4.9	Anatomy Apps Storyboard Design of Subtopics Brainstem of Brain	43
+.⊎	Anatomy Apps	44
4.10	Storyboard Design of Subtopics Full Brain with Virtual	

	Button Interaction of Brain Anatomy Apps	45
4.11	Lecture notes are printed as notebooks and have markers	
	of AR in it	45
4.12	One of the 3D models used in Brain Anatomy, Sulci and	
	Gyrus 3D model with labelled on it	46
4.13	Top View Preliminary Experiment 1 Set Up	47
4.14	Top View Preliminary Experiment 2 Set Up	49
4.15	Top View Preliminary Experiment 3 Set Up	50
4.16	Top View User Evaluation: Set Up	51
4.17	Top View of conducting Final Acceptance Test (FAT)	53
4.18	Arrangement of Device During Conducting BARA	
	Version According to the Version	53
4.19	Top view of conducting experiment set up conducting usability	
	test for rendering 3D model features and its	
	time performance.	54
5.1	Framework of Using AR Interactions with Various	
	Types of Marker	59
5.2	Framework of Performance 3D Model	59
5.3	Flow of User Interface BARA Version 1	60
5.4	Flow of User Interface BARA Version 2	61
5.5	Interface of Website as a digital marker for BARA	00
- 0	Version 2	62
5.6	Flow of User Interface BARA Version 3	63
5.7	Eraser as Object Target Marker for BARA Version 3	63
5.8	Vuforia Scanner to Track Features of Object Target Marker	62
5.9		63
5.9	Different texture types of 3D Model. Coloured texture (right image) and real texture (left image)	65
5.10	Marker Design Option	67
5.10	Bar Chart of Questionnaire Result of	01
5.11	Conducting User Evaluation	70
5.12	Result Conducting Final Acceptance Test (FAT)	73
5.14	Version of Marker Target Selected for	70
5.14	Medical Learning Tools	74
5.15	3D model orientation toward the image target	, ,
0.10	in Unity	75
5.16	Difference the 3D model level details, low	, 0
0.10	level of details (left image) and high level of details	
	(right image)	76
5.17	Difference the 3D model with different number	. •
	of colours applied on it, no colours (left image), 1 to	
	10 colours (middle image), and more than 10 colours	
	(left image)	78
5.18	Difference the 3D model surfaces types, flat	
	surface (left image) and smooth surface (right image)	80
5.19	Difference the 3D model of brain and object	
-	target position, 0.1 to 0.3 in distance (image on the	
	left), 0.4 to 0.6 in distance (image in the middle), and	
	0.7 to 1.0 in distance (image on the right).	81

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

2D Two Dimensional 3D Three Dimensional AR Augmented Reality

BARA Brain Anatomy Revision Application

VR Box Virtual Reality Box
Al Artificial Intelligence
MAR Mobile Augmented Reality

Ai Adobe Illustrator
FI Adobe Flash
Ps Adobe Photoshop

UPM Universiti Putra Malaysia

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is the starting point for the entire thesis, which provides a general introduction to usage of Augmented Reality (AR) in anatomy medical learnings and AR user interfaces design guidelines. Next is brief explanation the background of this research, motivation to do this research and importance of this study. Moreover, this chapter clarifies the problem statements, objectives, and scope of the research.

1.1 Research Background

This section presents a brief of meaning and usage of Augmented Reality (AR). Then, some of the methods used by medical students in their study of human anatomy whether in lectures or self-study will also be discussed in this chapter. The guideline that used in current AR mobile apps for medical learning also will be discussed, hence the new guidelines were applied on Brain Anatomy Revision Apps (BARA) will be explained. Next, the use of AR in medical education will be explained in detail. The use of AR technologies in mobile applications, especially in anatomy medical learning and some examples of existing applications and the methods used in this application will be described in this chapter as well.

All AR applications use printed markers as AR markers, including flash cards, logo images, and printed image images. AR markers can be diversified not only using printed markers but also object targets have just been introduced. Objectives in this AR are still limited to a few areas, and this study will use this technique to ensure their suitability in education, in particular, in the medical field.

1.1.1.1 Augmented Reality

Augmented Reality is a technology that allows the physical real-world environment to be enriched with computer-generated information. AR can be divided into two which are marker detection and marker less detection also known as natural feature tracking. Marker can be physically held or a piece of paper that has been printed with a picture or icon on it. When the mobile phone pointed onto the paper, AR 3D model and environment will be displayed. The marker helps the camera to detect the position of the AR object. Figure 1.1 shows the AR application that was used a flash card as a marker from link (https://endinv.wordpress.com/2019/03/19/augmented-reality-dalam-dunia-pembelajaran/). The advantage of markers is to help users to go to the visual world more easily. On the other hand, a marker-less AR application recognizes things that were not directly provided to the application beforehand. This

scenario is much more difficult to implement because the recognition algorithm running in your AR application has to identify patterns, colours or some other features that may exist in camera frames. Figure 1.2 shows the example of AR application for interior designer that used marker-less from link website (https://www.marxentlabs.com/news/furniture-today-marxent-takes-huge-steptoward-future-markerless-augmented-reality/).

Augmented Reality is widely used in many fields, including education, health, games, securities, robotics, tourism, advertisement and more. Examples of use of AR in education have been used from children like AR with flash cards, where they use Apps AR and scans on the cards and display 3D models that are very attractive to them. The flash card for this child has been categories into several categories such as fruits, food, vehicles, and animals for the purpose of introducing basic objects. The next level are primary and secondary school, where AR apps are used only by scanning on textbooks and display 3D AR models to help them understand better by visualizing this visual AR, for example in the subjects of Science and Biology which are among the subjects that hard to understand by just reading.

Additionally, AR is also widely used in the world of gaming as the most popular example is Pokemon Go, where players will be able to see this Pokemon model in the real world. While in tourism it is usually the traditional way to use brochures to tourists to deliver interesting place info somewhere, but with this AR technology, travellers can scan this brochure and can see more about interesting places with audio, music, videos about the place. As an example of AR Art Book apps to promote traditional gameplay in Malaysian country, where only one piece of paper they can learn about the game with details include how to play and the tools used.

In the field of health, AR helps medical professionals in their work, for example they can see AR models that can help them during surgery for patients. Additionally, there are also medical doctors who use AR to describe the symptoms of the disease that their patients have and will make it easier for patients to better understand their illness. There are also Apps AR that are used by patients as an awareness of the patients they have and how to control the pain they experienced. With the use of AR that can display not only 3D models, but also audio, video, and animation as well as explanations in text form can help those in need in this field.



Figure 1.1: Example of Augmented Reality application using flash card as a marker



Figure 1.2: Example of Augmented Reality application using marker-less

1.1.2 Human Anatomy Learning Method to Medical Students

According to Tobias Blum et al. [1] Anatomy education is traditionally performed by the dissection of cadavers. This field is difficult to learnt because normally students learnt by memorizing through reading a textbook. According to him knowledge about human anatomy is an important part of education especially for medical professionals. Teaching anatomy is difficult, as there is a need an expended large amount of effort. Shahrul Badariah et al. [2] suggested Augmented Reality can be used in many other fields, such as physic and chemistry which are hard science subjects and required student's imagination to understand in depth.

1.1.2.1 Real Human Cadavers

The traditional way of medical students during the practical session is to dissect the real human body. The human body is used for learning is the corpse delivered by the hospital after not being claimed by family members for a certain period. This human anatomy specimen can last for a long time and can reach up to ten years if through a perfect curing process. If the human anatomy specimen is damaged or unusable, the remainder of this part will be planted for six months and will be excavated to be cleaned and drained into bone specimens. Medical students will undergo this anatomy learning process by holding each organ out of the body to see all the structure of each human body organ. Nevertheless, there will be several layers that may be damaged during the curing process. Figure 1.3 show how student learns human anatomy by using real cadaver.



Figure 1.3: Real Human Cadavers Lab Session (https://humananatomy.uonbi.ac.ke/index.php?q=node/958)

1.1.2.2 Synthetic Human Cadavers

Apart from using real human cadaver in medical student learning, there are also other alternatives used such as synthetic cadaver or called SynDaver made of water, salt and other substances to produce such as human body tissues and other organs. Bones are made from 3D printed. The company that produces this synthetic cadaver has produced a cadaver that breathes, bleeds and employs hundreds to replace arteries, veins, bones, and muscles. The method of using this synthetic cadaver is to replace the old-fashioned way of using real human

cadaver, where this model will reduce costs over the old method, and most importantly this synthetic model can be used many times and the parts can be replaced. Figure 1.4 show the synthetic human cadavers used in anatomy lab session.



Figure 1.4: Synthetic Human Cadavers Lab Session (https://syndaver.com/syndaver-news/)

1.1.2.3 3D Virtual Dissection Tables

Alternative approach from real physical dissection, there is a 3D Virtual Dissection Table, where the whole human anatomy will be displayed using a tool called 'Anatomage Table' as shown in Figure 1.5. Users can see the entire visual anatomy like real human cadavers. The table allows for exploration and learning of human anatomy beyond what cadaver could offer. This system allows students to focus on specific regions of body by rotating or zooming in and out. They believe this kind of technology is a good alternative compare to using an actual human cadaver. By simply interacting with this system, students can cut the part of the cadaver by slices to see the internal organ structure and can undo if incorrect cuts are done by simply pressing the undo button on the system, and this is an advantage compared to cutting true cadaver.



Figure 1.5: 3D Virtual Disecction Cadavers Lab Session (https://steemit.com/steemhunt/@ememovic/anatomage-table-world-s-most-advanced-virtual-anatomy-visualization-system)

1.1.3 Augmented Reality in Medical Education

There are several mobile apps for learning anatomy that have been provided within Google Play or Apps Store. Some of these apps only use 3D models, and some also use AR technology. Furthermore, there are also applications that only display 2D images for the subject of human anatomy. However, there are still some shortcomings in this app application such as labels, misspellings, unrealistic 3D models, difficult interactions with applications, and so simple that they are not suitable for learning. Figure 1.6 shows the example of applications named Gray's Anatomy, which is used for medical learning using 2D images, and it can be downloaded from Play Store. Figure 1.7 shows Brain Anatomy Pro applications which used 3D model for medical learning mobile applications. Figure 1.8 was a medical learning apps using AR, this application is Human Brain Augmented Reality and can be downloaded with its marker through the Play Store.

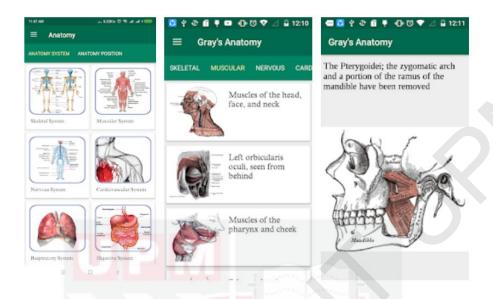


Figure 1.6: Gray's Anatomy: Mobile Apps of Human Anatomy in 2D Version

(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.lyric.grays anatomy)

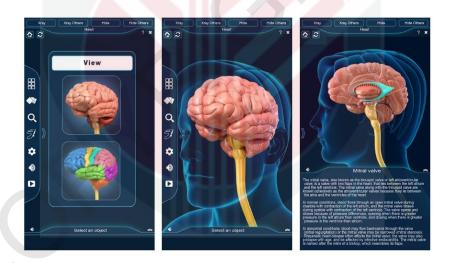


Figure 1.7: Brain Anatomy Pro: Mobile Apps of Human Anatomy in 3D Version

(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.visual3dscience.brainpro)



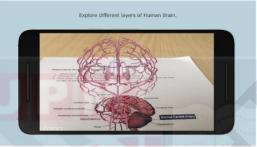


Figure 1.8: Human Brain Augmented Reality: Mobile Apps of Human
Anatomy with Augmented Reality

(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.magicsw.humanbrainar)

1.1.3.1 Guidelines in AR Medical Mobile Apps

Some of the following guideline lists are applicable to some AR Apps on the Play Store. For applications for medical subject learning also use between the list of guidelines. This study used this guideline early on to determine how well this guideline can be used in education especially in the medical field. And after being identified through several experiments, ten new guidelines have been added to develop BARA apps.

	Item	Description	
I.	Clear Textual Information	Make sure the text presented is clear. Type of font also should be readable.	
II.	Contrast	Text and background should be contrast colour and sufficient. Need to know the environment of AR, so can decide the colour of text and background to be visible and readable.	
III.	Grouping	When presenting the overlay of information, it is important to organize the information in grouping.	
IV.	Placement	Important that the information presented should not obscured the item of interest.	
V.	Alert/Attention Sensitivity	Alert when needed information is called, and the information presented should be able to identify the areas which are important and need immediate attention.	
VI.	Interaction Methods	User will use many interactions and will switch the interaction anytime.	
VII.	Distinct Icons	In augmented reality environment, the icons display should be known and recognize by user easily, or the labelling should be clear to be read.	
VIII.	Visibility and Distance	In augmented information, especially in outdoor scene, it is important can to provide filter based on visibility and distance,	

Guidelines	Definition
U1 Visual Design	Apps should follow standards of visual design that promote legibility, clarity of content, and user engagement without introducing unnecessary distraction. Apps that leverage user expectations in their design strategy shorten the learning curve and decrease user frustration
U2 Readability	Text used within the app must be readable, understandable, and adjustable to accommodate ease of operation for a variety of devices, users and use environments. Text size adjustments should not alter the screen layout in a manner that could confuse users or prohibit ease of use
U3 App Navigation	Users should be able to navigate quickly and easily between screens to complete tasks. Navigation should feel natural and familiar, and should not dominate the interface or draw focus away from content
U4 Onboarding	Apps should facilitate an intuitive process for launching, registering, entering personal information (if applicable), and preparing for first-time use. As the users' first introduction to the app, a simple and intuitive onboarding process is critical in instilling user confidence that the app will provide a satisfying overall user experience
U5 App Fe <mark>e</mark> db <mark>ack</mark>	Apps should provide sufficient feedback to inform the user of the results of their actions and promote understanding of what is going on in the system. Feedback includes app reactions to user input, including providing messages to the user. Efficient and informative feedback ensures that users will be able to understand and perceive app actions without frustration. Guidelines associated with feedback related to notifications, alarms, and alerts can be found within Guideline U6
U6 Notifications, Alerts and Alarms	Notifications (general reminders or updates to the user), alerts (non-urgent indicators intended to capture user attention), and alarms (urgent indicators that may be safety-critical) must consider both safety and usability to inform users when attention is required
U7 Help Resources and Troubleshooting	Apps must incorporate help and troubleshooting features to guide the user when needed. Unavailable or unclear help features may lead to user confusion, frustration, and ultimately app abandonment
U8 Historical Data	Apps used to gather data should store historical data in a manner that is easy for users to access and understand
U9 Accessibility	Apps should be designed and built to accommodate a wide variety of users, including those with disabilities such as perceptual impairment (visual or auditory), cognitive impairment and learning disabilities, and motor impairment. Designs that are made to be adaptable will facilitate ease of use for all users, not just those with disabilities. Additionally, app design should aim to accommodate use with common assistive technologies (e.g., screen readers)
U10 Ongoing App Evaluation	Throughout the entire development lifecycle, apps should undergo robust, iterative evaluations that follow a user-centred design process. Understanding the user perspective and evaluating technology to test assumptions is critical in developing safe and usable products, and apps that do not meet user expectations or are cumbersome to use are unlikely to be adopted. Apps requiring review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should undergo testing evaluation that follows the FDA's guidelines for applying human factors and usability engineering to medical device design

1.2 Motivation and Importance of Study

The motivation for this thesis arises from the following scenarios. It is nearly impossible for medical students to investigate in depth the layered anatomy structures and explore the complex structures from different angles. The text and visual representations of the anatomy in several manuscripts are inadequate to convey the complexity and the volume of the information related to the complex

region. Studying AR (Augmented Reality) in medical education could provide benefits for medical education and provide students a more personalized and exploration learning experience. We intend to propose a guideline for Augmented Reality user interfaces guidelines specially design for teaching and learning.

Anatomy education is traditionally performed by the dissection of cadavers. According to Carolien Kamphuis et al. [3], augmented reality (AR) technology could offer an additional teaching method for anatomy education, depending on how it is implemented. Augmented reality is a technology that adds virtual contents to the physical real world, thereby augmenting the perception of reality. The aim of this research is to develop an interactive visual learning of human brain anatomy using proper guidelines of Augmented Reality learning mobile application for medical students. Expected output of this research is constructing a guideline for AR user interfaces guidelines for anatomy visual learning for medical students with human brain anatomy as a case study. Ultimately there will be one best way and can help medical students use their own self-study AR Apps to review the lessons.

The significances for this research is to produce an interactive learning method for human brain anatomy visual learning using Augmented Reality. Next is implementing the appropriate for Augmented Reality user interfaces guidelines specially teaching and learning in medical educations. This study has highlighted the issue of using target image and object target in AR. The target object is new and has not been widely used in learning. There are several factors that can make this technique use object target markers beneficial to the user.

1.3 Problem Statements

The use of AR technology in learning has been highlighted several years ago, but still is not widely used among students, especially medical students. No doubt there are still a handful of people who do not know what AR is and the advantages of using AR in today's mobile app. The traditional way a medical student learns about this human anatomy by using human cadavers, Tobias Blum et al. [1], such as medical students from UPM. The cadavers of human beings sometimes have several layers that have been decayed and damaged, which at the same time give them little trouble during learning. With the help of AR technology, it can help them in this problem where 3D models will be built in detail by the actual human anatomy system.

Issues of AR usage techniques in this application also play an important role for users whether they like to use it or vice versa. The first issue for this study was that users did not use AR mobile apps even though there were several apps on Google Play or the Apps Store. This existing application could not help medical students as an additional reference material for several reasons. The guidelines used for these apps are all about the content and interface of those apps. There

are still students who are unfamiliar with the interface including the icons used in this application. AR 3D models are also not used in their learning. As we know, learning medical subjects especially about anatomy requires a virtual model as it is real because at the end of their lesson they will also work with real organs. There is no doubt that some students today do not know about AR and are very excited to see or use this app for the first time. Their fascination with these AR applications makes them want to interact with the AR model themselves, but these existing applications has a limit the interaction, such as not being able to turn or scale the 3D model to see it from another perspective. These are the existing AR limitation apps on the Play Store. Thus, the thesis study determines the difficulties and challenges of medical students using this AR application for their reference material in this subject, further developing a new guideline in prototype apps known as BARA gradually to be used by medical students.

The second problem is that the new guidelines applied in BARA are divided into different versions to ensure that the version method will enable them to continue using this kind of apps for a long time and to benefit them. By turning this BARA application into three versions: printed markers, digital markers, and object targets, which students choose the most to facilitate their use? Experiments will be conducted for each student using all versions of BARA and they will know the differences between each version.

1.4 Research Objectives

The main objective of this research is to establish a smooth interaction in Augmented Reality application in Education. To achieve the objectives of this research, this research must fulfil these objectives:

- 1) To determine the challenges in interacting with AR applications in medical learning.
- 2) To propose a guideline for the interaction with AR applications in medical learning.

1.5 Research Scope

In order to deliver successful of this research study, the scope is focusing on managing a few tasks as listed below:

- I. This proposed study only focuses on the interface of human brain anatomy visual learning for medical students of Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, UPM to enhance their study method about this topic.
- II. It will include a guideline of Augmented Reality user interfaces especially design for teaching and learning in Central Nervous System (Human Brain) topic.
- III. This study will focus on design of interface guidelines of in Augmented Reality (AR) environments.

1.6 Outline of the Thesis Structure

The thesis is organized into six chapters. The first chapter is an introduction of this thesis, which provides a general introduction to use of Augmented Reality (AR) in anatomy medical learnings and AR user interfaces design guidelines. Next is brief explanation the background of this research, motivation to do this research and importance of this study. Moreover, this chapter clarifies the problem statements, objectives and scope of the research. Chapter two is a literature review of previous methods of medical learning application with AR. Some of these papers relate to method of using and not using AR in existence medical learning applications and interaction in mobile apps with AR. The current challenges in each of these issues are also described. Chapter three presents overall research methodology and discusses in detail each step that must be taken into consideration for development purposes. All the experiments set up in this research which is start with a few preliminary an experiment, User Acceptances Test (UAT) and Final Acceptances Test (FAT) will be discusses details in this chapter. Chapter four shows the first contribution of this research which is quideline for AR user interfaces guidelines specially designed for teaching and learning in medical education. Chapter five will discuss details the second contribution of this research which is evaluate the AR user guidelines. Chapter six contains conclusion of this research and summaries the research findings and suggest a potential of future works.

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LIST OF PUBLICATION

Shafareen Afera, C. N., Wirza, R., Kamaruddin, A., Hod, R., & Adam, S. K. (2018). Virtual Buttons Interaction for Medical Learning Interfaces. *Journal of Advance Computer Science and Technology Research*, 8(3).

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