

The Animation of Emoticons and its Application in Primary School Teaching Courseware

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Abstract: With the advent of information age, PPT multimedia teaching courseware is used more and more in primary school science class, which plays a vital role in teachers' teaching. Therefore, teachers should pay more attention to how to make high quality PPT multimedia teaching courseware. As a new form of communication, the use of emoticons has become normalized. In the process of education and teaching, teachers can use emoticons to convey teaching knowledge other than words. By comparing several software that can produce animation, this study found that Adobe After Effects software can better produce exquisite emoticons. In addition, some teachers are technically deficient in the production of emoticons. The purpose of this study is to provide some teachers with simple technical guidance for making emoticon animations. What's more, this study also carries on the feasibility analysis of the application of the teaching courseware containing emoticons in actual teaching.

Keywords: Emoticon; Powerpoint; Adobe after Effects.

1. Introduction

With the rapidity of the Internet. Multimedia devices have become common in primary and secondary school classrooms. Primary school teachers have generally started to use multimedia to support teaching. Although multimedia electronic devices are very common in primary and secondary schools, many primary and secondary school teachers have not carried out the study of PPT multimedia software system (Dong et al, 2024). They do not understand many of the functions of the software. This leads to many parts of the courseware expression is not comprehensive and many knowledge of students feel very difficult to understand. As a result, the teaching effect in the classroom does not meet the teacher's expectations.

Nowadays, the expression of knowledge is not limited to the most common words and pictures. Emoticons play an increasingly important role in people's daily expression of emotions. The use of emoticons in the classroom may change the teaching situation to a certain extent. This is because emoticons in PPT can better express the teacher's emotions and promote good interaction between teachers and students. In addition, emoticons are characterized by humor and vivid images which can inspire the enthusiasm of primary school students (Cherbonnier, Brown and Michinov, 2024). This study will demonstrate the process of emoticons animation and explore the feasibility of using emoticons in scientific PPT teaching.

2. The Concept of Emoticons

The term "emoticon" refers to the use of pictures to express feelings. Emoticons are a popular culture that developed after the activation of social software (Saramandi et al, 2024). In the era of mobile Internet, people use popular celebrities, quotes, anime, movie and TV screenshots as materials. And the material with a series of matching text to express specific emotions. Emoticons are not only in the form of pictures, but also in the form of a combination of pictures and text. Nowadays, the application of emoticons in social software

such as WeChat and QQ is very extensive. Many people often use emoticons to express their emotions (Saramandi et al, 2024). This has made the communication between the two sides of each other interesting.

3. The Characteristics and Comparison of Emoticon Making Software

3.1. Characteristics of Software Commonly Used to Make Emoticons

Nowadays, the number of software that can be used to create emoticons is increasing. For different groups of people, you can choose different software to make emoticons. Teachers should combine their own technical level and teaching content when choosing the software for making emoticons. Popular software for creating emoticons today include Adobe After Effects, PowerPoint, and Flash. This part will discuss these three common emoticon-making software to provide a reference for primary and secondary school teachers.

3.1.1. The "Expert" in Making Emoticons: Adobe After Effects

Adobe After Effects, referred to as "AE", is a professional image and video processing software (Fridsma and Gyncild, 2024). AE software is widely used in animation production companies, TV stations and large multimedia companies. This software has many editing functions for images and sounds. It can easily combine text, image and sound. As a result, AE software can make subtle adjustments to the animation of emoticons to create high-quality "dynamic emoticons." In addition, searching for information about After Effects software on websites such as Mooc and Bilibili will reveal a large number of free course resources related to it. In this way, it is very convenient to carry out AE software learning for most teachers.

3.1.2. The "Weapon" in Making Emoticons : PowerPoint

With the development of the Internet, computers, projectors and other multimedia hardware equipment began to be widely used in school education and teaching.

PowerPoint as a simple operation, rich expression ability of multimedia software began to be frequently used. The majority of primary school teachers are more familiar with the use of PowerPoint software and have some animation effects, background music and text effects in PowerPoint. Therefore, the majority of primary and secondary school teachers can use it to make some simple emoticons.

3.1.3. The "New Star" in Making Emoticons : Flash

Flash is an interactive animation design tool mainly used to process vector animation files. It is very fast and convenient for the production and processing of images. It has many functions such as mask and tween animation. The structure is simple and easy to master after special learning. However, this software is very unfamiliar to most teachers who are not IT teachers. Learning the functions needed to design graphics in software may be difficult for the majority of primary school teachers.

Overall, it is often easier for the majority of primary school teachers to make emoticons using PPT. However, this may lead to the phenomenon that the production effect of emoticons is not good and the quality of teaching courseware is reduced. AE and Flash emoticon-making software are more comprehensive but are often difficult for most elementary school teachers to use. In addition, AE software is more professional in making emoticons than other software, and more online learning resources can assist primary school teachers to learn the use of AE software. Therefore, the majority of primary school teachers are often more suitable for using AE software to make emoticons.

3.1.4. Design and Production of the "Smiling Tongue" Emoticon Animation

Based on the above discussion, this study will explore how to use AE software to make emoticon animation. This may provide some technical support and reference for the majority of primary school teachers. This section will show the three steps of animating a emoticon.

Firstly, select the CC Bendit effect in the effect and preset to set the motion effect of the swaying left and right of the tongue. Secondly, add a solid color layer and make all the animations establish a parent -level contact. After that, add key frames to the rotation transformation of this solid color layer, so that the entire expression can also swing left and right. The effects of the two animations are consistent.

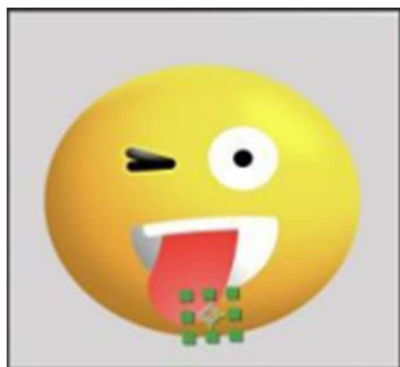


Figure 1. The production of animation

Secondly, select shadows in effects and presets, adjust the direction, distance and other related parameters. This will cause a certain 3D three -dimensional sense.

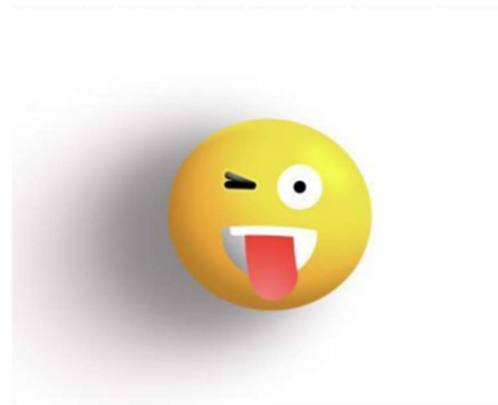


Figure 2. The production of animation

Thirdly, select to add to the rendering queue and render the animation expressions in the synthetic tab.

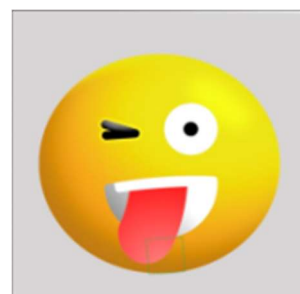


Figure 3. Rendering of Emoticon Package

4. Feasibility Analysis of Adding Emoticons in Science PPT Teaching Courseware in Primary School

4.1. Present Situation of Science PPT Teaching Courseware in Primary School

The current use of PowerPoint software in primary school science class is already very extensive. PowerPoint software in the classroom can play the teaching content composed of text, images, sounds, and more elements. This can help students understand the content of teaching to improve their academic performance to a certain extent. So as to achieve better teaching results. Nowadays, the majority of demonstration experiments are used to learn theoretical knowledge in primary school science classes. Many teachers use the teaching process of practicing first after demonstration. In the initial stage of the course, teachers led the teaching goals and displayed with PowerPoint software. This is because the teaching of primary school science is mainly experiments, the teaching content contains many experimental operation processes. However, some experimental steps are cumbersome. Some teachers will insert experimental demonstration videos and many pictures with a long period of time when making PPT teaching courseware. This may lead to the accumulation of text pictures in PPT teaching courseware. This phenomenon will increase the difficulty of students 'understanding of the content of the lecture to a certain extent, reduce students' interest in scientific learning, and leads to the inability to complete teaching tasks.

4.2. The Advantages of Emoticons in Classroom Teaching

Many people are now in contact with emoticons. This

special expression is also accepted by more and more people. Images have played a great role in PPT teaching courseware. The colorful and funny images can attract students' attention during teaching. Therefore, the use of reasonable emoticons in teaching courseware can help students understand and remember the teaching content in the courseware. The use of emoticons in the actual situation should follow the actual situation of teaching activities. Before making emoticons, teachers should better understand the students' ideological situation and behavior awareness. When designing PPT teaching courseware, it is necessary to make rational use of emoticons to make it promote the teaching efficiency to achieve better teaching purpose.

4.2.1. Reminder the Content of Key Difficulties

Emoticons have the effect of transmitting information. When using PPT teaching courseware in teaching, emoticons can better express teaching content as a visual symbol. This is because specific arrangements for emoticons and text will bring a certain degree of visual impact on students. This visual impact will give students a interest in the knowledge points around the emoticon. In addition, today's emoticon design is closer to people's lives. This makes people very familiar with these emoticons. Therefore, students can quickly understand a certain number of teaching content after receiving visual impact and interested. In summary, it is necessary to put the emoticon around the key knowledge.

4.2.2. Increase the Fun of the Teaching Process

Students' interest in learning plays a vital role in grasping the key and difficult knowledge of students. Students have limited energy and scientific lessons are often in lessons in the afternoon. Therefore, students are often sleepy. Emoticon has a very important role in stimulating students' learning interests to improve classroom concentration. Insert an interesting "dynamic emoticon " in the initial position of the PPT teaching courseware not only to increase the fun of the classroom, but also to lead the theme of this lesson. For example, before class, you can use emoticons to pack a theme related riddles of this lesson. This process allows students to actively participate in the classroom and perceive the teaching theme of this lesson. To a certain extent, students' interest in learning can be stimulated. The use of emoticons in the process of teaching can enhance the flexibility of teachers in teaching. This is because the fun of the emoticon can reduce the psychological pressure of students in class and form a good classroom atmosphere. Therefore, when teaching, teachers cannot focus on teaching discipline knowledge, but also pay attention to the psychological factors of students in the classroom. This reduces students' psychological burden and cultivates their ability to actively learn.

4.2.3. Enhance the Exchange between Students and Teachers

As the number of online communication software increases, online communication has become one of the important ways of communication. The current elementary school students are often curious about new things and are fast to accept new things. They often have a certain curiosity about the emergence of new things on the Internet. Based on these factors, teachers often get closer to the feelings with students when using PPT teaching courseware containing emoticons. The increase in communication between teachers and students is conducive to discovering problems in the learning process. This can help teachers to modify teaching content and strategies in time. So as to achieve better teaching results.

4.3. The Role of Emoticons on Students' Learning

4.3.1. Arouse Students' Attention and Strengthen Students' Memory

In the process of learning, students often neglect to learn some important content. Using some funny emoticons to highlight the point may solve this problem. This is because some teaching knowledge only use text expression is often more boring. Using words with images to show some teaching knowledge can often produce a pleasant emotional atmosphere. In this kind of teaching environment, students are more likely to have interest in knowledge and pay attention to it. Therefore, students often have a profound influence on the learning of these knowledge.

4.3.2. Improve Students' Learning Motivation

Students sometimes encounter difficulties in learning new knowledge or doing practical activities. This will make students feel frustrated to some extent. In this case, teachers can use emoticons to motivate students, which often has a positive effect. This is because students are more likely to reduce negative emotions and generate positive emotions in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. In addition, when students answer questions or complete tasks, teachers can also reasonably use emoticons to evaluate. This kind of pleasant evaluation can fully express teachers' recognition of students' learning and enhance students' enthusiasm for learning.

4.3.3. Focus Students' Attention

In the primary school curriculum, a lesson lasts about 40 minutes. However, the attention span of elementary school students is usually only about 25 minutes. In the second half of the lesson, pupils may wander, yawn or even doze off, unable to concentrate on the lesson. In this case, the teacher will usually give a verbal reminder or make a criticism. This will lead to pupils' fear of teachers and increase their psychological burden. It is easier to aggravate the inattention of primary school students. If the teaching PPT teaching courseware to add emoticons and use it to prompt may be a good solution. This method can not only make students feel the teacher's attention, but also reduce the psychological burden of students. This encourages pupils to focus their attention on the classroom.

4.4. The Impact of Emoticons on Students' Learning

4.4.1. Learning Interests

The use of PPT teaching courseware containing emoticons will have a certain impact on students' learning interest. Teachers are not only the designers of emoticons, but also the users of emoticons. When teaching, teachers use self-related emoticons to show students new learning content, which may make students more likely to perceive their own emotions and perceive new knowledge content. This can help teachers to promote primary school students' curiosity for new knowledge to a certain extent. The emoticons inserted in the PPT courseware should be close to the key and difficult points of the teaching content. This can make the teaching content not only be displayed in the form of text, but also make the content of PPT teaching courseware more colorful and distinctive. Due to the lively and active character of primary school students, they are often keen to do some naughty actions in class. Funny emoticons for teaching are often in line with the interests of primary school students. Therefore, the application of emoticons in PPT teaching courseware

often has a positive effect on the learning interest of primary school students.

4.4.2. Academic Performance

The use of PPT teaching courseware containing emoticons will have a certain impact on students' academic performance. In the two-channel hypothesis of media learning, Meyer mentioned that people process visual information and auditory information in the cognitive process and the two will interact with each other (2014). When students pay attention to the emoticons related to the teaching content and hear the sound, they will use the visual system and the auditory system to initially understand and remember the information. This process can improve students' ability of information discrimination and strengthen students' understanding of key and difficult content. Therefore, teachers should focus on understanding the personality characteristics of students and design the emoticons that meet the characteristics of students according to the personality characteristics of students. This is more conducive to stimulate students' learning initiative, help students consolidate and understand the teaching content, and improve students' academic performance.

Overall, it is feasible to insert emoticons into PPT teaching courseware and apply them in actual teaching process. This is because the application of emoticons in the teaching process has some positive advantages, functions and influences on the learning performance of primary school students. Therefore, primary school teachers can consider using PPT teaching courseware containing emoticons for actual teaching to change students' learning performance in the future.

5. Conclusion

This research raises the practical problem that traditional

courseware teaching is not effective in primary school classrooms in China. To solve this problem, this study attempts to insert emoticons into PPT teaching courseware. This study is divided into three parts. Firstly, the study compared three popular emoticon-making apps. The results show that AE software is more suitable for primary school teachers in China. Secondly, this study shows how to use AE software to make emoticon animation. This can provide some technical guidance for the majority of primary school teachers. Finally, this study focuses on the feasibility of inserting emoticons into primary school courseware. The results show that in most cases, the use of PPT teaching courseware containing emoticons usually has a positive effect on students' learning performance.

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