



## **IMPROVING STUDENTS' MASTERY ON AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM USING AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICAL MULTIMEDIA**

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### **Abstract**

This research was conducted to study the improvement of students' understanding of automotive electrical system by applying automotive electrical multimedia. The multimedia was developed and validated by automotive and multimedia experts before being applied in teaching and learning processes. The research design was a single group pretest-posttest design with three field testing. The results showed that in the preliminary field testing, the students' understanding increased by 32.55%; in the main field testing, the understanding was up to 64.89%; and in the operational field testing, the understanding became 77.36%. This indicates that automotive multimedia could increase the students' understanding of automotive electrical system significantly.

**Keywords:** *automotive electrical system, multimedia*

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## Introduction

The advanced development of automotive systems mainly occurs in electrical systems. Most of the systems in automotive field have been controlled electrically. That is why the students of automotive programming study program have to master automotive electrical systems. Unfortunately, based on the survey carried out on automotive teacher students of Semarang State University (SSU) and Yogyakarta State University (YSU), automotive electrical system is one of the subjects which are difficult to study. The main difficulty of mastering automotive electrical systems is to understand automotive electrical circuit and how the circuit works.

A research conducted by Widjanarko and Abdurrahman (2006) shows that students' ability in explaining and analyzing the operation of automotive electrical systems was disappointed for the mastery level was lower than 50%. Ideally, it minimally reaches 70%. Based on that problem, a big solution is urgently needed to improve the students' mastery of automotive electrical systems. An instructional media or multimedia has to be developed to facilitate the automotive electrical system learning.

Multimedia is the integration of more than one medium into some forms of communication or experience which is delivered by a computer. Most often, multimedia refers to the integration of media such as text, sound, graphics, animation, video, image, and spatial modeling into a computer system (Reeves, 1998, p.22). Multimedia is the use of several media to present information. The combination may include texts, graphics, animation, pictures, video, and sound (Ivers & Barron, 2002, p.2). Computer-assisted education has been used frequently in modern educational systems because of its benefits like providing persistence in learning in general, providing a learner-centered learning process, getting the event of learning out of four walls and making it independent from space and time, providing the possibility to practice frequently and providing a quick access to information (Kayri, Gencoglu, & Kayri, 2012, p.59).

The use of the computer as a medium for instruction provides many capabilities that cannot be readily duplicated within the traditional lecture format. Teachers could combine the Internet, projector, presentation software, and web resources into the teaching-learning scenarios. The contents of teaching become vivid with delightful visual icons, graphs, or appealing explanations, which may generate very different teaching situation in contrast to the traditional teaching (Lu & Cheng, 2012, p.1013). Multimedia can be defined as an integration of multiple media elements into one synergetic and symbiotic whole that results in more benefits for the end user than any one of the media element can provide individually (Reddi & Mishra, 2003, p.4) and enable learners study anytime and anywhere (Arkorful & Abaidoo, 2014, p.403)

'Multimedia' and 'interactive multimedia' are defined by four basic characteristics (Garrand, 2006, pp.4-5), namely: (1) combination of many media (video, text, audio, and still pictures into a single piece of work); (2) computer mediated, or computer which is used to mediate or make possible the interaction between the users and the material or media being manipulated; (3) media-altering interactivity, or user interactivity in multimedia which is best defined as 'the ability of the user to alter media he or she comes in contact with'; and (4) linking, or allowing links or connections to be made between different media elements.

Educational multimedia features used for instructional purposes cover (1) screen design (visual elements: color, text, graphics, and animation); (2) learner control and navigation; (3) use of feedback; (4) student interactivity; and (5) video and audio elements (Stemler, 1997, p.339). There are really only five basic types of media objects we will generally use (Simkins, Cole, Tavalin & Means, 2002, pp.13-14), among other things are (1) images, which come in many forms including graphs, maps, photographs, and drawings; (2) text, which includes everything from image captions to paragraphs of information; (3) sound, voice recordings, music, and sound effects that can be used alone or to

enhance another media element; (4) motion, which includes cartoon-type animation, video, and moving transitions between screens of media; and (5) interactivity, which means making buttons, hyperlinks, and the like.

To have a good multimedia, some systematic steps must be carried out. Frey and Sutton (2010, p.491) explain several steps to develop multimedia: (1) define the instructional goals, objectives, and audience; (2) review and investigate the existing options; (3) determine format, budget, and timeline; (4) determine the content, activities, and assessment strategies; (5) develop evaluation strategies, criteria, and instruments to determine the effectiveness of the project; (6) develop the flowchart, site map, and/or storyboard; (7) develop a prototype; (8) perform a formative evaluation; (9) complete the design; and (10) perform a summative evaluation of product and process.

A technological approach which includes multimedia application has become increasingly important for students in schools. The use of the multimedia opportunities makes the instruction readily available, more affordable, and limitless accessible, and easily comprehensible. The role of technology in every step of the instructional systems is the requirement of today's world (Eristi, 2008, p.832). Multimedia can be used in instruction by utilizing computer in teaching and learning activities. This learning is termed computer-based learning (CBL). Nazimuddin (2014, p.185) states that computer in education is a diverse and rapidly expanding spectrum of computer technologies that assist the instructional process. The application of computer in instruction includes guided drill and practice exercises, computer visualization of complex objects, and computer-facilitated communication between the students and teachers.

Basic features in which CBL environments outwit other forms of learning environments can be summarized as follows (Sidhu, 2010, p.53): (1) the speed in which the computer can respond to individual learner's need; (2) the way that the computer can offer, and respond to, a wide range of learner interaction; (3) the potential to represent information in a wide scope of formats from text

to video; and (4) the opportunity to provide unlimited choice of learning paths. Concerning the difficulty of mastering automotive electrical systems, this research was conducted to develop a multimedia program able to help students in learning all automotive electrical materials. This multimedia is intended to make automotive electrical systems easy to learn. This article will discuss the improvement of students' mastery on automotive electrical systems during preliminary field testing, main field testing, and operational field testing.

## Method

The automotive electrical multimedia was developed following the 10 steps of developing educational product (Borg & Gall, 1989): (1) research and information collecting, (2) planning, (3) developing preliminary form of product, (4) preliminary field testing, (5) main product revision, (6) main field testing, (7) operational product revision, (8) operational field testing, (9) final product revision, and (10) dissemination and implementation.

The multimedia was developed based on the need assessment from research and information collecting, planning, and developing preliminary form of product. Before the product was field tested, it was validated by automotive electrical and multimedia experts. The research was conducted from March 20th to October 25th, 2012 at the Automotive Engineering Education Study Program, Yogyakarta State University and Semarang State University – Indonesia. The research subjects in the preliminary and main field testing were 80 students who had passed the automotive electrical subject. In the preliminary field testing, six randomly determined students were involved. In the main field of testing, 42 randomly determined students participated. For the operational field testing, 100 students who are programming automotive electrical subject were involved. The one-group pretest-posttest design was used in the experiment.

A multiple choice test was utilized to measure the automotive electrical system mastery before and after the application of the multimedia. The t-test was used to analyze

the difference of the average scores. The descriptive statistic (%) was also used to describe the level of improvements.

### Findings and Discussion

The automotive electrical multimedia developed in this research can facilitate all automotive electrical systems needed by the students of programming automotive electrical subject. The multimedia contains basic electricity, basic electronics, engine electrical system (covering starting system, charging system, and ignition system), and body electrical system (lighting system, wiper system, power window system, and power mirror system). Each system presented covers fundamentals, components and their functions, circuits, operation of each component, system operation in animation forms, exercises, and evaluations. The multimedia CD contains 31 folders, 128 power point files with a total of 2007 slides, 31 PDF files, 348 GIF animation files, 1120 WAV sound files, and CD capacity of 618 MB.

The developed automotive electrical multimedia must fulfill valid criteria either from substantial view or multimedia point of view, so the multimedia has to be validated. The validation of the multimedia was carried out by four automotive electrical experts was intended to make sure that the content is valid, correct, and appropriate with the automotive electrical competencies, so the multimedia can be utilized in automotive electrical subjects. The content validation of the multimedia referred to the substantial validation instrument that had been prepared in this research. The summary of automotive electrical expert validation is listed in Table 1.

The validity determination of the automotive electrical multimedia refers to the value classification to be level having evaluative meaning (i.e. good-bad, high-low, valid-invalid, etc.) according to Azwar (2003, p.157). Based on the classifying calculation, criteria were found as follows: the multimedia is invalid if  $Mpb \leq 3.79$ ; less valid if  $3.79 < Mpb \leq 4.23$ ; valid if  $4.23 < Mpb \leq 4.68$ ; and very valid if  $4.68 < Mpb \leq 5.12$ . The data in Table 1 indicate that the multimedia has Mpb

of 4.45 and it lies at valid criteria. Therefore, the multimedia is substantially valid.

The validation of multimedia based on its performance was also done. The validation was carried out by two multimedia experts to ensure that all aspects that have to be in a multimedia have been fulfilled, so the multimedia could be used in the teaching and learning processes of automotive electrical subjects. The summary of multimedia expert validation is tabulated in Table 2.

Based on the classified calculation, the following criteria were found: the multimedia is invalid if  $Mpb \leq 3.53$ ; less valid if  $3.53 < Mpb \leq 4.05$ ; valid if  $4.05 < Mpb \leq 4.58$ ; and very valid if  $4.58 < Mpb \leq 5.10$ . The data from Table 2 indicate that the multimedia has Mpb of 4.45 and it lies at valid criteria. Therefore, the performance of the multimedia is valid.

The automotive electrical multimedia was applied in teaching and learning processes to improve students' competency. The data of mastery improvement were collected through experiment using one-group pretest-posttest design. Pretest and posttest were administered when the field testing was carried out. In the preliminary field testing, the pretest was administered before the multimedia teaching and learning process and posttest was administered after the multimedia teaching and learning process. The summary of the pretest and posttest data in the preliminary field testing is tabulated in Table 3.

Table 1. Automotive electrical expert validation data

	Val.1	Val.2	Val.3	Val.4	Mean
Mean	4.69	4.78	4.18	4.16	4.45

Table 2. Multimedia expert validation data

	Skor Val. 1	Skor Val. 2	Mean
Mean	4.53	4.11	4.32

Table 3. Pretest and posttest data in preliminary field testing

Average		Improvement	
Pretest	Posttest	Points	%
58.34	76.14	17.80	32.55

Based on the data in Table 3, it can be seen that the students' mastery of automotive electrical systems before and after the application of the multimedia increases. The pretest average score is 58.34 and the posttest average score is 76.14, so the improvement of the average score is 17.80 points, or it creates an increase up to 32.55%. The *t* test analysis shows that the calculated *t* is 1.979 and tabulated *t* is 3.169 (at 1% significance level) and 2.228 (at 5% significance level). This means that the calculated *t* value is less than the tabulated *t* value. There is no significant difference between the pretest average score and posttest average score. Although there is a mastery improvement of automotive electrical systems, the improvement is not significant yet. Thus, the automotive electrical multimedia was not effective yet in increasing students' mastery of automotive electrical systems. Based on the multimedia evaluation conducted during the preliminary field testing, the multimedia was revised to accommodate students' suggestions in order to gain the ease of operating the multimedia.

After the revision of the multimedia, the main field testing was conducted. Pretest and posttest were also done in the main field testing. The tests were held in order to see the effectiveness of the multimedia during the main field testing. The summary of the pretest and posttest data in the main field testing is tabulated in Table 4.

The mastery of the automotive electrical system before and after the application of the multimedia in the main field testing increased with the improved average score of 24.38 points or up to 64.89%. The *t* test analysis shows that the calculated *t* is 7.614 and tabulated *t* is 2.637 (at 1% significance level) and 1.989 (at 5% significance level). It means that the calculated *t* value is higher than the tabulated *t* value. There is a significant difference between the pretest average score and the posttest average score. Therefore, there is also students' significant mastery improvement in the automotive electrical system in the main field testing. It seems that the automotive electrical multimedia is effective in increasing students' mastery of automotive electrical systems. Based on the multi-

media evaluation which has been conducted during the main field testing, the multimedia was also revised to accommodate students' suggestions.

The last pretest and posttest were done in the operational field testing. The tests were held to see the effectiveness of the multimedia during the operational field testing. The summary of the pretest and posttest data in the operational field testing is tabulated in Table 5.

The students' mastery of automotive electrical systems before and after the application of the multimedia in the operational field testing increases with the average score improvement of 26.50 points or up to 77.36%. The *t* test analysis shows that the calculated *t* is 12.482 and the tabulated *t* is 2.576 (at 1% significance level) and 1.196 (at 5% significance level). This means that the calculated *t* value is higher than the tabulated *t* value. There is a significant difference between the pretest average score and posttest average score. Thus, there is also a significant mastery improvement of automotive electrical systems in the operational field testing. It seems that the automotive electrical multimedia is effective in increasing students' mastery of automotive electrical systems, and the learning objectives could be achieved.

After the application of the automotive electrical multimedia in the field testing, there is a significant difference in the students' mastery of automotive electrical systems before and after they use the multimedia. This means that the multimedia could effectively increase students' mastery of automotive electrical systems.

Table 4. Pretest and posttest data in main field testing

Average		Improvement	
Pretest	Posttest	Points	%
46.30	70.68	24.38	64.89

Table 5. Pretest and posttest data in operational field testing

Average		Improvement	
Pretest	Posttest	Points	%
43.78	70.28	26.50	77.36

The improvement can be resulted from their habit by being more active in learning, exercising, and evaluating personally facilitated by the multimedia. Afolabi, Abidoye, and Afolabi (2012, p.6) state that effective utilization of appropriate instructional media is highly essential to improve teaching and learning of social studies in secondary schools. Improvement and better academic achievement can also be guaranteed through the use of instructional media. In addition, if the standard of education has to be raised, instructional media should be used for the teaching and learning of social studies and other school subjects. The utilization way of computers in learning environments shows positive contributions of computer-based learning environments to student learning (Deniz & Cakir, 2006, p.2) so the students' academic achievement can rise. The combination of computer-assisted instruction and collaborative work improves learning without a significant effect on attitude (Ragasa, 2008, p.8). The combination of computer-assisted instruction and collaborative work improves learning without a significant effect on attitude (Ragasa, 2008, p.8).

The improvement of achievement after the application of computer-based learning can be caused by the increase of learning motivation. Reeves (1998, p.2) states that computers as tutors have positive effects on learning as measured by standardized achievement tests, are more motivating for students, and are accepted by more teachers than other technologies. Students could reach learning objectives in shorter time compared with conventional learning. The developed multimedia was interesting and able to help students master automotive electrical systems. This is based on students' responses in the main field testing, stating that the developed multimedia could improve students' motivation. In the operational field testing, the multimedia also made their motivation to learn increase.

A research conducted by Rosa and Preethi (2012, p.9) shows that students who are taught through multimedia instructional package can perform better than those who are taught through a common method of

teaching. Multimedia enables learning through exploration, discovery, and experience. That role belong to the learning needs of students with multimedia, and the process of learning can become more goal-oriented, more participatory, flexible in time and space, unaffected by distances, and tailored to individual learning styles. Multimedia enables learning to become fun and friendly, without fear of inadequacies or failure. In their research, they also found that there was a significant difference of achievement between the experimental group taught with multimedia and the control group without multimedia. The conclusion is that students learning with multimedia package got better result compared to those learning without multimedia package. Leow and Neo (2014, p.99) also find that an interactive multimedia learning bring significant improvement of students' achievement and students' activity and motivation in the learning processes.

Some advantages of computer-based learning are that the students can choose their own way and speed, the program can be stoped at any time, the program can be repeated as often as the user wishes, the computer is not judgmental, the students can learn from their mistakes without embarrassment, it saves the teacher's time, the students are more activated, and weak students are favoured (Schitteck, Mattheos, Lyon, & Attström, 2001, p.99). In addition, Computer-Aided Learning (CAL) can provide innovative and interactive ways of presenting material and therefore should be used as an adjunct to conventional teaching or as a means of self-instruction. CAL can elicit positive responses from students and consequently motivate students to learn. A CAL program that is at least as effective as other methods of learning has several potential added value advantages (depending on how the program is designed and the students' ease of access to the CAL modules): Students can learn at their own pace, CAL lessons can be reviewed several times, and computer-based modules can be used at convenient times when the student is free of distractions, alert, and ready to learn (Rosenberg, Grad, & Matear, 2003, p.531).

Computer-Aided Instruction (CAI) is an application of computer in implementing instructions. It is an integration of software and hardware. Computer-based learning is especially effective for training people to use computer applications because the program can be integrated with the applications so that students can practice using the application as they learn (AlSultan, Lim, MatJafri, & Abdullah, 2006, p.29). Based on the aforementioned explanation, it can be concluded that utilizing computer technology in education brings many advantages especially for students. The learning objectives can be achieved through activating students in learning processes. The learning process can be carried out in the classroom and also out of the classroom personally whenever and wherever. Thus, computer in education now becomes a basic need to facilitate teaching and learning processes for teachers and students.

## Conclusion

The validation which is conducted by automotive electrical and multimedia experts shows that the developed automotive electrical multimedia is valid, so it fulfills the requirements as an education multimedia. The application of multimedia in teaching and learning processes has significantly improved students' mastery of automotive electrical systems. The improvement reached 32.55% in the preliminary field testing, 64.89% in the main field testing, and 77.36% in the operational field testing. This indicates that automotive multimedia could increase the students' understanding of automotive electrical systems significantly. Therefore, based on the research findings, the developed automotive electrical multimedia can be used as an instructional multimedia for teachers and as a learning tool for students to learn automotive electrical system easily.

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