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CRITERIA AND DESIGN ELEMENTS OF PRODUCT LABEL

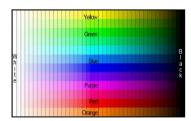
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Graphical abstract



Abstract

Products selection approach is subjective to each consumer and this issue becomes a problem to product manufacturers, particularly package label designer to determine the best design model for their product labels. Usability is identified as among the main criteria that determine the effectiveness of a product label design to the consumer. Other criteria such as awareness and trust may contribute to accurate and correct decisions by the consumers based on informative label design. This study proposed a conceptual framework for the criteria of usability, awareness and trust on product label design that may affect the purchase decision by consumers. A survey adapted from previous study, was conducted on experts to determine the criteria of design elements for product label design specifically to assist in product purchase. Our study found that, a total number of 18 characteristics were included in high category of the three design element criteria with 76% means score. These types of characteristics may enhance customer confidence during purchasing process.

Keywords: Usability, trust, awareness, product label design, purchase decision

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Usability has been accepted as an established field of activity in any product's development, particularly in application development [34, 85]. Currently, it is increasina importance in consumer product design including in product label design in assisting marketing commercial products. In the intensive competition for any product sales, many business owners do not realize the importance the package design of their product plays important roles in product marketing and merchandising. While the main package label design to make the product packaging more attractive, it is truly a combination several multimedia elements that all play into product's marketability. The package design labels combine important information with graphic or multimedia design elements. These elements are all combined to enable the consumer to make their preference selection from the available competing products available. Usability evaluation on these multimedia elements will be adapted to suit the marketing environment. The study discusses the usability criteria in the design of the product label that may contribute to the product purchase by the consumer. This paper proposes a conceptual framework of usability criteria, as well as awareness and trust criteria to identify and evaluate the design elements of text, colour and image on the product label design for the possibility of product purchase decision by consumer.

2.0 USABILITY CRITERIA ON PRODUCT MARKETING

Usability is defined as a design that is created by taking into account the effectiveness, efficiency and user satisfaction in achieving the objectives [30]. Effectiveness focuses on successfully achieving the task objective. It is the application of time and costs for the purpose of achieving a goal. Meanwhile,

satisfaction is consumers feeling satisfied with the design without any problems or complaints [64].

Studies have confirmed that the usability aspect can influence awareness and trust [19]. It is based on the relationship between the consumer, environment, task and technology elements which contribute to the effects of usability, trust and awareness criteria [12]. Trust and awareness belong to the category of consumer psychology, which are subjective and should be measured through the consumer views [69].

Consumer trust is very important in the marketing environment. Without trust, the interaction between the consumer and the vendor is limited [53]. Sales will benefit from a product that could affect consumer trust. Trust in product marketing can be defined as consumer confidence on sales of products featured during purchased decision making. Trust is difficult to determine because it conveys a lot of meanings. Research has shown that trust is the key to success in marketing products. However, the question of how to gain and maintain the trust of the users of the products that are marketed has not been answered in detail and focus. This is because there is no clear definition of trust and as its common definition is often associated with confidence, belief and reliance [61].

Trust is the confidence felt by the individual, and it can be determined by looking at behaviour in certain environments [36]. In the marketing environment, trust is what producers expect about consumer motivation and behaviour [71, 72]. Trust can help in marketing products as it reduces difficulties in the interaction between consumers and products through positive consumer's response to a product. This is because consumers' uncertainty of a product that has never been purchased can create a lot of questions in their minds about it that will consequently confuse them in making purchase decisions. Reference [47] has concluded that trust influences individual behaviours. Trust also plays an important role for consumers in making purchase decisions [2, 60]. Studies have shown that trust can enhance business relationships and determine the quality of the interaction between the consumers and sellers [48].

3.0 PURCHASE DECISION BY CONSUMER

Product purchased decision-making has been a difficult process to be carried out accurately. There is a wide range of product choice in the market, which consists of local and foreign manufacturers. Each product has its own advantages and disadvantages that make it difficult for consumers to make a proper selection of purchase. Furthermore, the dissemination of product information through advertisements in print and electronic media influences consumers in making purchase decisions. In addition, the increase in retail stores and supermarkets in many locations might also choices the consumer has to make before evaluating purchase feasibility. Therefore, the need

for improvement in product marketing is often pointed out from time to time according to strategies applied in terms of technological developments in producing a product that meets the needs and desires of the consumer.

4.0 DEFINITION OF DESIGN

Label design can be categorised into two main designs, namely visual and verbal designs. The visual label design is the type of design that can be conceived by the consumers such as images, texts and colours, while the verbal type is product information that is to be presented to the consumer, such as weight, content, manufacturer and expiry date of a product [73, 74]. Based on the study by [73, 74], the visual design category can affect consumers in making purchased decisions. In addition, the visual design serves as a presenter tool of products information such as shape [6, 68], pictures [79], and colours [26, 27] to the consumer.

To achieve goals of a design on a product label, there are some standard features of design elements that need to be adapted to meet the requirements. Therefore, the need to design a product label that meets the usability criteria is dependent on the relationship between human and the computer. Determining a design does not only involve assessment in terms of beauty, but it also needs to focus on consumers that will employ the design in various perspectives [83] A design must ensure that the four principles of components are met in order to assure success in achieving the objectives; users, tasks, tools and environment [15, 69].

5.0 DESIGN FOR PRODUCT LABEL

At present, the role of the label is very important and is increasing to be one of the key elements in marketing [7, 13]. The label serves as a stimulus to the consumer attention in order to influence consumers in product evaluation phase before they make a purchase [38].

The differences of product label design from each other which involve the use of colours, images and texts in a unique condition will give advantages to the consumer to find the product they wish to purchase. Using the elements of product label design in consistent manner for a particular product demonstrates a sign of brand and class identities [38, 80]. In addition, product label design can also be represented as a value of product quality [21, 22]. For example, the blue colour reflects a 'high quality' product [33].

In addition, design elements can be used to appeal to a certain target groups of consumers. For instance, the colour for sweets will be a favourite for a certain consumer category such as children [58, 84]. The criteria principles related to the size and shape also become necessary for the human factor study in measuring the usability criteria for product label design [69]. The adaption between the design elements and products types need to be ensured in order to achieve an effective delivery of information in order to attract consumers' attention.

6.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study is to find the criteria of design elements that may affect the consumer decisions in product purchasing. The criteria consist of usability, awareness and trust. The main design elements that are generally obtained and used in design are texts, colour and images [1]. As a result of design elements criteria, a conceptual framework is designed. This framework helps develop a research method called Criteria-Design Elements Relationship (C-DER) as illustrated in Figure 1.

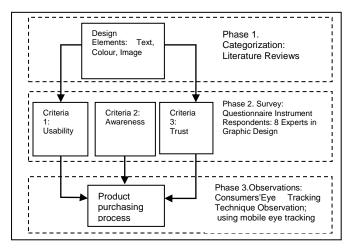


Figure 1 Criteria–Design Element Relationship (C-DER) Research Method

Figure 1 shows that the research method is divided into three phases; i. Categorization, ii. Survey and iii. Observation. Categorization is a phase that contains processes to determine the number of design elements characteristics. These processes are adapted from [1]. Customizing the characteristics of the three main design elements of text, colour and image is one of the main processes that need to be mentioned. The number of characteristics of each design elements obtained from processes of phase one, can be seen in the following figure 2, The characteristics of text elements contain 2 slopes, 2 Weights, 2 widths, 2 sizes and 3 types of family.

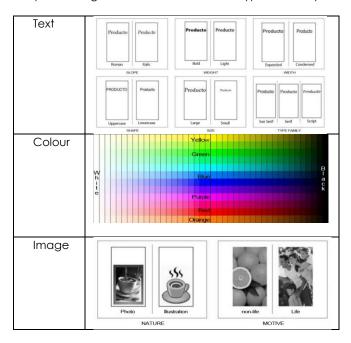


Figure 2 The characteristics of text, colour and image elements

In the second phase, views on the design elements that are used on label package were sought from eight respondents. They were experts in the field of graphic design with five years minimum experience [81]. These respondents were selected randomly from universities. The number of experts involved was based on the studies conducted by [63, 82]. A structured questionnaire was used as an instrument for this on-line survey. The instrument was adopted from studies conducted by [1, 19, 64]. In the third phase, the respondents involved would be the real consumers. They were given tasks in product selection for purchasing process. The study will be conducted in supermarket. Consumers' eye movement would be tracked and analysed using mobile eye tracker. However, the third phase will be the future research to be discussed focuses on eye tracking study.

7.0 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings of design elements criteria in usability, awareness and trust are divided into three categories; High, Moderate and Low as shown in Table 1. For

example, Text elements in row 1 have two (2) characteristics that are in High category of usability criteria with the total mean score of 73.8%. Text elements in row 1 as seven (7) characteristics that are in Moderate category of usability criteria with the total mean score 52.4%. Text elements in row 1 have four (4) characteristics that are in Low category of usability criteria with the total mean score 21.6%.

Table 1 Research finding of design elements based on percentage of usability, awareness and trust criteria

No	Design elemen ts	Criteria	No. of design elements characterist ics	Categ ory	Mea n scor e (%)
1.	Text	Usability	2	Н	73.8
			7	М	52.4
			4	L	21.6
		Awarene	5	Н	71.9
		SS	2	М	46.9
			6	L	23.5
		Trust	5	Н	78.2
			1	М	65.8
			7	L	21.9
2.	Colour	Usability	1	Н	82.5
			1	М	66.3
			12	L	4.4
		Awarene	2	Н	70.4
		SS	0	М	0
			12	L	5.0
		Trust	2	Н	82.9
			0	М	0
			12	L	2.9
3.	Image	Usability	0	H	0
			4	M	50.0
		_	0	L	0
		Awarene	1	H	72.0
		SS	2	M	50.0
		Two	1	L	28.3
		Trust	0	H	0
			4	M	51.7
			0	L	0

In Table 2, it shows that Section 1-i. Large and Roman are identified as characteristics of text elements that have High category of usability criteria. 1-ii. Large, Roman, San Serif, Expanded and Bold are identified as five characteristics of text elements that High category of awareness criteria, 1-iii. Large, Expanded, Bold, Roman and Uppercase are identified as five characteristics of text elements that have High category of trust criteria. While in section 2-i. White is the only characteristic of colour elements that has High category of usability criteria. 2-ii. White and Black are identified as characteristics of colour elements that have High category of awareness criteria. 2-iii. White and Black are identified as characteristics of colour elements that have High category of trust criteria. As for section 3 related to image element, it shows that there is no characteristics found to have high category in usability or trust criteria. However, illustration is identified as a type of characteristics of image element that has High category of awareness criteria.

Table 2 Concludes the characteristics of design elements that have high category of each criteria, usability, awareness and trust

N o	Design elemen ts	Criteri a	No. of design elements characteris tics	Highest category of design elements characte ristics	Me an scor e (%)
	Text	Usability	2	Large Roman	73.8
		Awarenes s Trust	5	Large Roman San Serif Expande d Bold Large Expande d Bold Varge Expande D Roman Uppercas e	71.9
	Colour	Usability	1	White	82.5
		Awarenes s	2	White Black	70.4
		Trust	2	White Black	82.9
	Image	Awarenes s	1	Illustratio n	72.0
	TOTAL	7	18	18	75.9 6

8.0 CONCLUSION

The design elements criteria; usability, awareness and trust has been sought in the process of categorization of C-DER research method. This study produced a numbers of specified characteristics of each design elements and they were translated into a structured questionnaire [1, 63]. This instrument then was distributed to eight selected respondents who had at least five years experience in graphic design. The study has found that the total number of 18 characteristics that have high category in three criteria, usability, awareness and trust and the total average mean score is 75.96%. These types of characteristics may enhance customer confidence in purchasing process. These results showed that, two of text design elements and one of colour design elements are identified to be highly Usable: five of text design elements, two of colour design elements and one of image design elements are high in awareness; and five of text design elements and two of colour design elements are trustable among the customers. However, these results will be compared in the next paper with the results obtained from eye tracking techniques conducted in the third phase of research method, which will be conducted on the real consumers.

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