

Content Customization for Micro Learning using Human Augmented AI Techniques

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Abstract

Visual content has been proven to be effective for micro-learning compared to other media. In this paper, we discuss leveraging this observation in our efforts to build audio-visual content for young learners' vocabulary learning. We attempt to tackle two major issues in the process of traditional visual curation tasks. Generic learning videos do not necessarily satisfy the unique context of a learner and/or an educator, and hence may not result in maximal learning outcomes. Also, manual video curation by educators is a highly labor-intensive process. To this end, we present a customizable micro-learning audio-visual content curation tool that is designed to reduce the human (educator) effort in creating just-in-time learning videos from a textual description (learning script). This provides educators with control of the content while preparing the learning scripts. As a use case, we automatically generate learning videos with British National Corpus' (BNC) frequently spoken vocabulary words and evaluate them with experts. They positively recommended the generated learning videos with an average rating of 4.25 on a Likert scale of 5 points. The inter-annotator agreement between the experts for the video quality was substantial (Fleiss Kappa=0.62) with an overall agreement of 81%.

1 Introduction

Various studies have shown that learning with audio-visual content leads to better retention and engagement than just reading text or listening to spoken content (Parkinson, 2012; Lankow et al., 2012). The flipped-classroom model (Bishop and Verleger, 2013) makes a case for increased use of videos in learning, where students can use audio-visual content to learn concepts at their own pace, freeing up the educator's time to prepare for other personalized one-on-one interactions with their

students. This approach is especially attractive for micro-learning that deals with relatively small learning units and short-term learning activities. As much as educators (including parents and caregivers) desire to use audio-visual content to make learning more engaging, customized content production is often difficult to scale and cost prohibitive. While instructors could create their own customized content, this is labor-intensive, given the wide variety of concepts and domain areas children need to be exposed to. Every educator may have a different learning-objective in mind. To teach a vocabulary word, instructors provide a definition of the word highlighting the important characteristics of it along with some contextual information (Beck et al., 2013). For instance, if a teacher wants to teach about "Elephant" focusing on its habitat she may want to show Elephant in Forests, and Grasslands. However, a generic video obtained from the web may emphasize on the different body parts of the Elephant. Moreover, the student's age is an important factor. If teaching a concept to a small child, educators would want to avoid violent or inappropriate images. Similarly, a slightly grown up learner may not resonate with cartoons being shown for learning. Hence, the educator should have an option to customize scripts to reflect their intended learning objective and be able to control the appropriateness of visuals. To this end, we explore a human-augmented approach that leverages AI techniques for creating customized content by a just-in-time combination of contextual image content mined from the Internet, along with appropriate voice-over. This human-machine semi-automated approach has high potential to address the instructional needs of young learners who are in the process of acquiring basic conceptual ideas across domains for the first time, particularly in areas that need identification and recall.

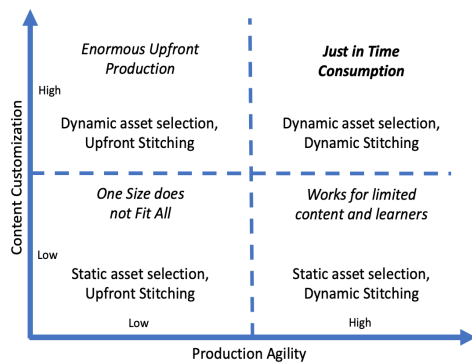


Figure 1: Framework for Content Creation

The trade-off between the agility of content production and content customization exposes a wide design space (as depicted in Figure 1). Most learner-oblivious content falls into the bottom left quadrant, which works well when the content does not require customization (like content including hard facts such as the place or year an event occurred, the name of an inventor etc.). Solutions in the bottom right quadrant enable flexible and efficient creation of content at run-time, allowing for more flexibility of content presentation, although it requires upfront planning of all the content. Solutions in the top left quadrant require content to be curated upfront for many possible customized scenarios (which could be prohibitively expensive), so that they can be just selected at run-time. For young learners, especially, high content customization is desirable, which often cannot be generated upfront since the context in which a learning moment occurs cannot be known a priori. Our ideal goal is to be able to operate in the top right quadrant to ensure maximal learning outcomes. To this end, we explore a solution that enables just-in-time production of audio-visual content for vocabulary learning when supplied with learning scripts. Our system processes a *learning script* in natural language (selected by the educator based on their learning requirements), along with an image library, to semi-automatically generate a multi-modal *learning video*: with voice-over and contextual images synchronized in a way that the video is coherent and easily comprehended by young children. A learning-script is the textual manuscript for the learning-video. The voice-over is generated using a text-to-speech engine and hence can be customized to different requirements of a friendly or familiar speech model (e.g. that of a favourite car-

toon character) for a child to maximize engagement. Using an audio-visual format, the same concept can be presented in a multitude of ways customized to each child’s unique learning trajectory, context, and interests. Educators are familiar with a child’s learning trajectory and areas of interest, and hence our solution allows customizing a default textual script or write a new script. The system takes this customized textual script, uses NLP techniques to extract relevant features and their representative images, uses human assistance to *verify* images, and finally creates a video. Since this content is created for children, human verification process is critical to ensure that no inappropriate image content has inadvertently crept in as the system automatically pulls relevant images from the image repository based on textual features of the script. As automatic safe image search becomes more readily feasible, human assistance could be reduced further. More importantly, this approach achieves our main goal of reducing the content creation load for educators because it is much easier to *verify* created content than to *create* new content from scratch.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. We review the related work in Section 2. In Section 3, we explain our proposed system and all the system components. In Section 4, we describe the experiment and evaluation results of our model. In Section 5, we present the future work and finally, we conclude in Section 6.

2 Related Work

Our goal is to create just-in-time learning-videos using textual input and an image library mined from the Internet. In this section, we discuss prior work related to these different aspects.

Word Concreteness: Using NLP techniques with word-concreteness we derive meaningful search phrases from textual scripts which help curate visuals for aptly representing the script. Many previous studies have shown the importance of word-concreteness as a measure and come up with ways to compute this score (Hessel et al., 2018; Kiela et al., 2018). Also, some work has been done in assisting and evaluating creative writing (Roemmele and Gordon, 2018; Somasundaran et al., 2018).

Personalized Learning: Prior work has explored various dimensions of dynamic personalized learning. Jovanovic et al.(2006) demonstrate

how semantic-web based learning objectives can be decomposed into content units, which on re-assembly produce content-sequence personalized to the needs of each student. This serves as a valuable complimentary effort to scale our approach based on the semantic web and learner models. Our focus remains on generating learning-videos by combining various available media, when provided with scripts.

Automated Visual Generation: There have been some efforts aimed at creating slideshows given a script, like My Simple Slideshow¹. This tool identifies keywords from the text corresponding to which they have images. These image cut-outs are brought together on the screen to create a visual description similar to the text. However, the combination of different individual images may not convey the overall intended meaning of the sentence. Hence, it is important to contextualize the images based on the sentence context or bring in images which represent multiple connected keywords. Scene construction has also been considered in a project ‘Imagine This’(Gupta et al., 2018). The authors have identified various entities and actions present in a script, and then used those to create a scene by combining image segments. This is based on first training over a database consisting of the constituent scene objects and actions from a densely annotated video dataset. Since we focus on building slideshows, and not complete motion videos we circumvent the problem of generating continuous frames. Rather than creating or combining images and scenes, we construct search terms to get the most relevant images.

3 Solution Overview

We explore human-assisted just-in-time curation of learning content for micro-learning. Our solution enables educators to generate learning videos for vocabulary words very easily: First, we automatically create sample scripts for a vocabulary word based on definitions and usage sentences from Simple English Wiktionary² and allow educators to edit them. Alternatively, they can also write their own scripts if they are not satisfied with the generated script. Once a script is chosen, the system uses a set of natural language processing (NLP) techniques to derive a list of relevant search terms or concepts. The search terms are then used

¹<https://www.mysimpleshow.com/>

²<https://simple.wiktionary.org>

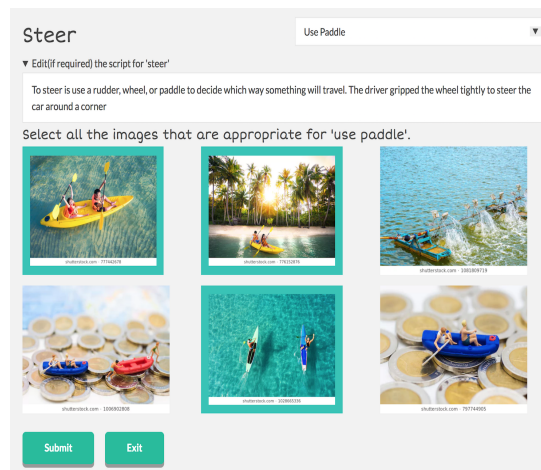


Figure 2: Sample screen for Script and Image Verification. The green boxes represent selected images.

to fetch images from an image repository (such as Shutterstock³) and display them to the educator for validation. During the validation phase, the educator selects the images they prefer for each search term. With time, the educator preferences are learned and the images presented for validation are ranked in a personalized manner.

A sample screen for script and image verification is shown in Figure 2 for the word ‘steer’. The available script, can be edited, and the corresponding search terms drop down (top right) gets populated accordingly. The screen shows Image Verification for the search term ‘use paddle’ extracted from the script. The educators can simply tap on the images which look appropriate. Once the image validation phase is completed, the system aligns and stitches selected images along with the speech synthesized script. The output is a learning video personalized to the given script. Notably, the tasks of mining and ranking relevant visual content (which is heavy-weight for humans) are relatively easily done by the machine, and the tasks of verifying the appropriateness of the content (which is often heavy-weight for machines) is done by humans.

3.1 Terminology

- A *learning-script* is the manuscript for the *learning-video*. It can be a textual/contextual description or definition of a vocabulary word/concept. We often refer to a learning-script as *script*, and to the learning-video as *video*.

³<https://www.shutterstock.com>

- A *vocabulary-word* is the word/concept for which given a script, the system generates a learning-video.
- Image *labels* are the words or phrases assigned to images to describe them. Image repositories often assign multiple labels/keywords for every image.
- A *slice* is a part of the learning-script that maps to a search term. A learning-script can have multiple slices.
- *Concreteness* refers to how palpable a word is or how much is it perceptible through senses. The *concreteness score* of a word measures its concreteness, the higher the value the more concrete a word is.
- A *concrete word* is a word that has a concreteness score exceeding a given threshold. We use concreteness scores from (Brybaert et al., 2014)
- *Grammar templates* are templates derived from Dependency Parsing and Part of Speech (POS). We construct grammar templates to extract terms related to concrete words.
- A *search tree* consists of search terms. Each child node in the tree is a substring of the parent search term.
- The *prioritized search terms* are the Level Order Traversal of the Search Tree.

Word Concreteness: Word concreteness is an established term in the field of psychology (Paivio et al., 1968; Kounios and Holcomb, 1994). Some studies have relied on crowd-sourcing to compute average concreteness scores for a majority of the commonly used words in the English language (Brybaert et al., 2014). Multi-modal machine learning techniques also utilize concreteness scores for improving performance (Young et al., 2014).

3.2 System Architecture

An educator selects a vocabulary-word to be taught. The available scripts are displayed. The educator selects a script and optionally edits it. The script is then passed to the NLP Layer. Figure 3 shows the system architecture and layer-wise components, with a face indicating the components requiring human intervention.

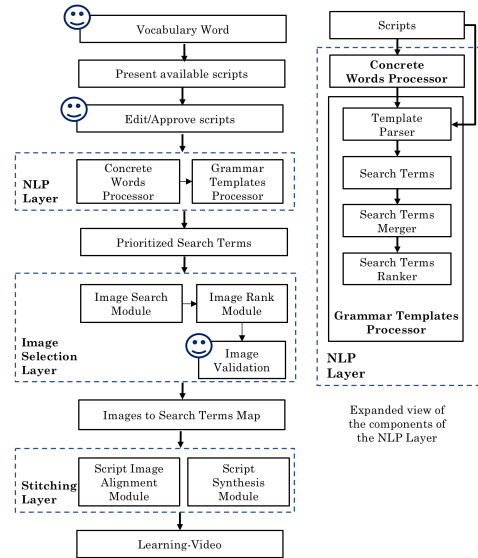


Figure 3: System Architecture

3.2.1 NLP Layer

The NLP layer processes the learning-script to provide prioritized search terms on a sentence level. First, sentence tokenization is performed. Next, each sentence is examined, using the *Concrete Words Processor*, to identify any concrete words present. Concrete words imply a higher likelihood of finding appropriate images in an image repository. However, the concrete words by themselves might not adhere to script usage context and therefore make for poor search terms. For example consider the script “*Many people prefer to commute to work via public transport as it is cheaper than having a car*”. The concrete words obtained from the Concrete Words Processor are shown in Figure 5. If a concrete word like ‘work’ was solely used, it will produce images that are not contextually appropriate to the sentence. However, if ‘commute work’ is used, it could yield more contextual results. Therefore, to construct contextually appropriate search terms, it is important that some context from the script is used to support the concrete words. To this end, we construct grammar templates, such as Noun Templates and Prepositional Templates. The expanded view of the NLP layer components is shown in the Figure 3.

Grammar Templates Processor: The dependency relations and POS are determined for the words in the script and then the script is passed to the *Template Parser* along with the Concrete Words. Every template match is extracted and

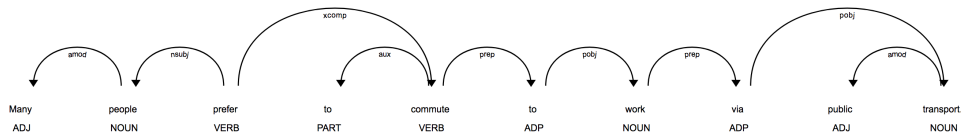


Figure 4: Dependency relations for a part of the script snippet for ‘commute’.

Verified Script Snippet		
Many people prefer to commute to work via public transport as it is cheaper than having a car.		
Concrete Words		
['people', 'commute', 'work', 'transport', 'car']		
Noun Search Terms		
['people', 'car', 'people prefer', 'work', 'public transport']	Prep Search Terms	
	['commute work', 'work transport', 'commute work transport']	
Merged Search Terms		
['people', 'car', 'people prefer', 'work', 'public transport', 'commute work', 'work transport', 'commute work transport', 'commute work public transport', 'work public transport']		
Ranked Search Terms		
Search Tree		
L1 'commute work public transport'	L1 'people prefer'	
L2 'commute work transport'	L2 'people'	
L3 'commute work'	L1 'car'	
L4 'work'		
L3 'work transport'	Prioritized Search Terms	
L4 'work'		
L2 'work public transport'		
L3 'public transport'		['commute work public transport', 'people prefer', 'car', 'commute work transport', 'work public transport', 'people', 'commute work', 'work transport', 'public transport', 'work']
L4 'work transport'		
L4 'work'		

Figure 5: Script snippet processing for ‘commute’

added to the Search Terms. Each match must include one or more of the identified Concrete Words. Stop-words are omitted from all the Search Terms. Figure 5 shows a detailed example of the script for the word ‘commute’ as it is processed through the NLP Layer.

Grammatical Relationships: We use a 3-tuple representation of the form (*arrow tail POS, dependency relation, arrow head POS*) for expressing the grammatical relationship between two words (represented by arcs in Figure 4). For instance consider the two words ‘public’ (arrow head of the relation arc) and ‘transport’ (arrow tail of the relation arc) from Figure 4. In this case the 3-tuple relationship is represented as (*Noun, amod, Adj*). A three word relationship is considered a combination of two two-word relationships. Therefore we extend the notation to represent a three word relationship using a 5-tuple representation in the form (*POS, Dependency Relation, POS, Dependency Relation, POS*). In this case the middle POS is the head of the first dependency relation and the tail of the second. Consider the example of ‘commute to work’ from the Figure 4. The corresponding representation becomes (*Verb, prep, Adp, pobj, Noun*).

Template Parser: In this paper, we discuss two grammar templates that we implemented, however, others can be constructed and utilized by our framework. We construct templates in the 3-tuple and 5-tuple format defined above. In the tuple we

fix a few elements and put ‘*’ in the rest of them to represent an any element match. This indicates that any value in position of ‘*’ is acceptable.

Our generic *Noun Templates* are (*Noun, *, **) and (**, *, Noun*). If a concrete word is a noun, then the Noun Template checks if it is part of a Noun Phrase. If so, the Noun Phrase is added to the Search Terms. Further, the Dependency Parser is used to check the relations of the Noun or Noun Phrase. A sample dependency relation is shown in Figure 4. This was obtained using an online visualization tool Displacy⁴.

The related terms are added along with the Noun or Noun Phrase to the Search Terms. For example in Figure 4, for the noun term ‘people’, a search term constructed is ‘people prefer’. The relation (*Noun, nsubj, Verb*) matches the template (*Noun, *, **). *nsubj* refers to the nominal subject relationship. Similarly for the noun term ‘transport’ the search term ‘public transport’ is added. This acts as a noun phrase and (*Noun, amod, Adj*) also matches the template (*Noun, *, **). Here *amod* refers to the adjectival modifier relationship. The Search Terms coming from the Noun Templates have been shown in Figure 5 as Noun Search Terms.

Prep refers to the prepositional modifier dependency. For *Prep Templates* the adjectives, verbs and nouns having the prep relations are considered along with their corresponding object relationships. If these contain a concrete word then they are added to the Search Terms. We define the prep templates in the 5-tuple format (**, prep, *, obj, **) and (**, obj, *, prep, **). Words are added to the search terms for any relations that match these templates. For example, in the Figure 4 the relation ‘commute to work’ has the form (*Verb, prep, Adp, pobj, Noun*), which passes the first prep template. Please note that *pobj* (object of preposition), belongs to the *obj* (object) relationship. Removing ‘to’ which is a stop word, we add ‘commute work’ to the Search Terms. The Search Terms contributed by the Prep Templates

⁴<https://explosion.ai/demos/displacy>

are shown in Figure 5 as Prep Search Terms.

In *Search Terms Merger* (Figure 3), the Search Terms are checked for overlap. The merged terms are added to the Merged Search Terms. For example, for search terms ‘commute work transport’ and ‘public transport’. In this case these would be merged into ‘commute work public transport’ (Figure 5). Further, all the remaining concrete words which were not part of any templates are individually added as search terms. For example, in the commute example, ‘car’ does not have any matching templates and is added as such to the Merged Search Terms. We believe that chains of contextually related words represent the intent of a given sentence much better than individual words. The merged chains shape the Prioritized Search Terms.

In *Search Terms Ranker* (Figure 3) the Merged Search Terms are used to create a Search Tree, where each child search term in the tree is a substring of the parent search term. A Level Order Traversal (or Breadth First Traversal) of this tree would yield the Prioritized Search Terms. The search terms which are substrings of other search terms are given less priority (lower level in the tree). These Prioritized Search Terms are provided as the output of the NLP Layer. For example in the Search Tree shown in Figure 5 the search terms at L1 (Level-1) are the Search Terms which do not have any other larger encapsulating Search Terms. The L2 (Level-2) search terms are put after L1 search terms in the Prioritized Search List, and similarly the later levels follow.

3.2.2 Image Selection Layer

This layer takes the Prioritized Search Terms as its input. The search terms are used to retrieve images from the image repository. The images for every search term are ranked in an order personalized to the validator’s preferences. These ranked images are then rendered on the tool for validation. The Image Rank Module is implemented using a Random Forest binary classifier (classes: accept, reject), which is trained on image labels and whether they were approved or rejected by a validator (human). After enough training samples are received (for our case approx 100-200 images across 20 vocabulary words), the recall probability is used to rank future image search results for each search term in descending order. The classifier learns over time and thereby improves its ranking. With the aforementioned training set we

were able to repeatedly achieve a recall accuracy of 0.86 or higher in identifying images which are likely to be selected by the validator. The validator looks through the images and selects the ones which he/she thinks is appropriate considering the script and search term (Figure 2). A search term without valid images is considered irrelevant and is ignored. Once the validation is completed, the verification step concludes. The output of this layer is a mapping between the Prioritized Search Terms and the verified images. An example mapping for ‘steer’ is shown in Figure 6.

3.2.3 Stitching Layer

This layer is responsible for the final production of the learning-video (Figure 3). First, the Script Image Alignment Module aligns the images to the script based on the Search Terms’ script ordinal positions. Second, the Script Synthesis Module prepares a Text-to-Speech (TTS) audio for all the Script Slices. An example of Script Slices is shown in Figure 6. Finally, this layer combines the synthesized audio with the image ordering, producing a Learning Video.

Script Image Alignment Module: The sentences from the script are further sliced based on the Image-to-Search Terms Map received from the Image Selection Layer. If a sentence has multiple slices, i.e. multiple search terms mapped to it, this module combines the images derived from these slices into an ordered grid (Figure 6). This is important because when a sentence contains multiple keywords, the narrative needs to move from image to image promptly and sequentially. In this scenario, maximum relevant images are rendered/grouped together in a grid for maximum concept comprehension. In case there are two search terms, and thereby two slices in a sentence, two images are shown for each slice in a 2x2 grid. For example, in Figure 6, two images are shown each for the search terms ‘use rudder wheel’ and ‘use paddle’. If a sentence has three or more search terms, then one image per slice is shown in a grid. For each search term, the first word of the search term which has not been covered by any of the preceding search terms is used as the point to insert images (mapped to that search term). For the first search term ‘use rudder wheel’, the corresponding image appears on utterance of the word ‘use’ (or the start of the sentence if it is the first search term in a sentence). While, for the second search term ‘use paddle’ the image ap-

pears on utterance of the word ‘paddle’. However, it should be noted that the exact slicing rules and grid formation could easily be changed keeping the overall flow intact.

Timestamps are assigned for the appearance of each image in the grid based on the timestamps obtained from the corresponding audio of the slices. The stitching layer combines all the images based on the timestamps. The audio obtained using TTS is added to the video. Background music is also added to make the experience more engaging. The output of the stitching layer is a learning-video for the given script.

4 Experiment and Evaluation

In this section, we first present the setup of the experiment we conducted for evaluating our approach. The result & discussion follows in the further subsections.

4.1 Experimental Setup

We selected ten vocabulary words from the British National Corpus (BNC) frequently spoken list. The words were: *Barrier, Clinic, Commute, Customer, Facility, Pedestrian, Serve, Steer, Stir, and Weave*. We obtained the definitions and usage sentences from Simple English Wiktionary. These were combined to form sample scripts. For Example, the script for *Steer* derived was: “*To steer is use a rudder, wheel, or paddle to decide which way something will travel. The driver gripped the wheel tightly to steer the car around a corner.*”

As described in the Approach Section, we derived the Prioritized Search Terms from the NLP Layer. These Search Terms were then used to search for images from Shutterstock. These images were sent for human verification using our authoring tool (Figure 2). The verified images constituted the verified image library. These were then combined using our approach to generate learning videos for all ten words. The layer-wise outputs for *Steer* is shown in Figure 6.

4.2 Experiment Design

In our experiment, we sent out Google Forms to participants, asking them to rate the generated videos and provide comments. The participants were proficient in using the English language and included native and non-native English speakers. The study included diverse professionals; including educators, college students, engineers, doc-

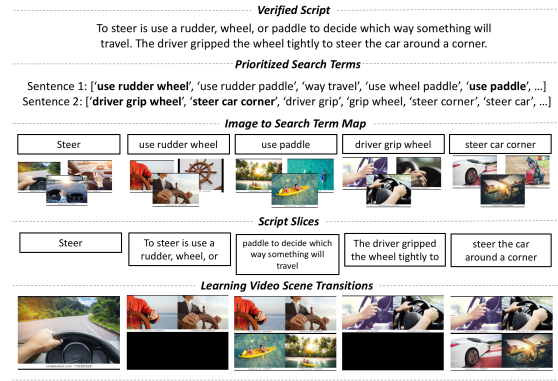


Figure 6: Creation of learning video for ‘steer’

tors and information technology researchers. Each form took feedback on one of the ten generated videos. The participants were allowed to provide feedback on as many words as they liked. We posed the same question for every word. For example, for the word ‘steer’ we asked ‘Would you recommend this video to someone who does not know “steer”?’ The responses were taken on a Likert scale of five points, where five indicated strong affirmation, and one indicated strong reluctance.

4.3 Results and Discussion

We received a total of 210 responses from a total of 28 unique participants. The distribution of the scores received are in Table 1

Word	Likert rating counts					Total Responses
	1	2	3	4	5	
Weave	1	4	2	6	9	22
Facility	0	3	2	8	8	21
Clinic	1	1	5	5	11	23
Customer	0	2	3	5	10	20
Stir	0	0	3	9	9	21
Barrier	0	0	2	10	10	22
Serve	0	0	2	8	10	20
Commute	0	1	1	8	12	22
Pedestrian	0	1	1	4	14	20
Steer	0	0	1	6	12	19
Total	2	12	22	69	105	210

Table 1: Likert Score distribution for learning videos

Since our survey asked participants if they are likely to recommend a given learning-video, we chose to use Net Promoter Score (NPS) to measure participant satisfaction with the generated learning-videos. NPS (Reichheld, 2003) is an aggregate-level measure derived from scores on likely to recommend a utility/service. NPS is widely used in the service industries.

We consider ratings of 4 and 5 as *promoters*. The promoter ratings amount to 82.8% of the total responses. The ratings of 1 and 2 we consider as *detractors* and these amount to 6.7%. The 3 rating is considered as *neutral*. Neutral rating is given by 10.4% of total responses.

$$NPS = \%promoters - \%detractors \quad (1)$$

Using the Net Promoter Score (NPS) formula above, our NPS is 76%. Per video summarized measures have been reported in Table 2. Also, the overall average Likert rating was 4.25 out of 5 when combined across all videos.

Word	Avg. Score (Likert)	#Responses	SD	#Images	#Search Terms
Weave	3.82	22	1.30	6	3
Facility	4.00	21	1.05	3	2
Clinic	4.04	23	1.15	3	2
Customer	4.15	20	1.04	3	2
Stir	4.29	21	0.72	3	2
Barrier	4.36	22	0.66	3	2
Serve	4.40	20	0.68	6	3
Commute	4.41	22	0.80	6	3
Pedestrian	4.55	20	0.83	3	2
Steer	4.58	19	0.61	9	4
Averages	4.25	21	0.93	4.50	2.50

Table 2: Feedback on learning videos

17 unique participants gave feedback on all words, contributing 10 responses each. For the 17 people who provided feedback on all 10 videos, we computed the inter-annotator agreement using Fleiss Kappa (Fleiss et al., 2013). Since the rating on the Likert scale of 5 can be subjective and a rating of 4 may be the same as a rating of 5 for someone else, we classify the responses into two classes ‘yes’ and ‘no’. The class ‘yes’ indicates that the reviewers would indeed recommend the video for learning a vocabulary word, and the class ‘no’ indicates otherwise. We consider the rating of 4, and, 5 in the ‘yes’ class and 1, and, 2 in the ‘no’ class. The responses with rating of 3 were equally distributed at random between the two classes. The free-marginal Kappa value came out to be 0.62, with an overall percentage agreement of 81%.

An observation we make from Table 2, besides the word *weave*, there is a correlation between the number of images and the average rating; the higher the number of images the higher the average score. The number of images is correlated to the number of search terms identified in the script. We plan to take this under advisement for future work in this domain. The participants raised some concerns about the videos. The following is a summary of their comments regarding the scripts

and the images.

Script Related Comments: For our experiment, we used the scripts as obtained from Simple English Wiktionary i.e. the combination of the definition and usage sentence. Hence, a common observation was that at times the usage sentence did not coherently follow the definition sentence. This could be addressed in one of two ways, a careful refinement of scripts by educators or video content presentation changes. An example of the content presentation changes could be to divide the video into two logical sections: ‘Definition’ and ‘Sample usage sentence’. Before the definition is presented the video would explicitly say ‘Definition’ and ‘Example sentence’ for sample usage sentence(s).

Visual Related Comments: The scripts we used for words like ‘weave’ happen to describe a process. Processes are not easily represented by showing a sequence of images, and rather necessitate the need to have small video clips. We plan to incorporate this suggestion, and discuss it further in Section 5. The number of images that people preferred for a given script were also variable. This again, would be addressed when the educators use our tool and perform the Image Verification task themselves. They would then simply pick the images for the search terms they find most suitable for their learning environment. Accordingly the number of images would change based on the search terms.

5 Future Work

We believe that the problem of reducing human effort in learning content creation, and hence fostering dynamic contextual content creation, is applicable in multiple domains. To explore this broad applicability, our future work will be focused on several topics:

Personalized script recommendation: In our current approach, we receive a learning-script as an input from either the educator or the Simple English Wiktionary. As a continuation of this work, we would like to use a learner model and concept-graph to generate a personalized script targeted at teaching a concept or a neighborhood of concepts (e.g., neighborhood of conceptual words are words related to and/or supporting a given word in a semantic sense). The script can explore the relationships with related words such as examples of a higher level category (e.g. mites, spiders, and

scorpions are relevant in teaching the concept of arachnid). If a curriculum of vocabulary words to be taught, is available, a recommendation system could be leveraged for selection of the next best video for a learner (Mbipom et al., 2018).

Visual curation: Harvesting images from the open Web, or even a curated image repository, has drawbacks, especially for learning and age appropriateness. Unless a human inspects each image, it could be deemed inappropriate for learning or for a particular learner age group. Utilizing work from image scene identification (Vailaya et al., 2001; Bosch et al., 2006) and image understanding (Eakins, 2002), could help reduce the human effort for flagging inappropriate images. Further image scene identification could pair image concepts with learning-script concepts or vocabulary word supporting concepts (for example, Amphibian and Frog).

Once labeled images are retrieved, personalizing the selection of images based on learner likes and dislikes is an area of interest. As humans, we individually gravitate towards certain things, which can have an impact on learning. For example, a student that has arachnophobia might benefit from images of plush toy Arachnids rather than real Arachnids (or a balance between real versus illustrated).

Further, knowing words a learner mastered versus words struggling with, based on learner model, can be powerful in selecting images that link multiple concepts for the learner. For example, the learner mastered the word *spider*, but is struggling with the word *arachnid*. Purposefully choosing *spider* image(s) as a way to explain *arachnids* can help accelerate mastery. Using reading complexity tests, such as Flesch-Kincaid⁵, script reading complexity scores can be exposed in our tool (Figure 2) to allow the educator to select/craft age-appropriate scripts.

Script understanding: A better understanding of the script (by the system) can help to improve the search and curation for visuals. Hill and Anna have looked at concreteness as a dimension of lexical meaning (2014) and have used multi-modal models for concrete and abstract concept meanings (Hill et al., 2014). Recent advances have tried to come up with adaptive algorithms to quantify visual concreteness of words and topics in these

multi-modal datasets (Hessel et al., 2018). Adaptive concreteness scores for words, in context with the scripts can help refine search terms generated by our system. This in turn, would reduce the human effort in the validation step.

Audio: Attributes of a voice can be captivating or repulsive to the human ear. Identifying the right voice and tone to synthesize the learning-script with can play a significant role in learning. Achieving this will rely on collecting learner behavioral data or external input sources, such as teacher selection.

Interactive Learning: Learning videos do not have to be a one-way street; rather they can also be used to assess the learner's knowledge and/or engagement. Injecting assessment/engagement questions can help drive a point to the learner as well as assess the learner's connections with the generated content. Feedback collected can shape creation of the next learning video. The key here is inserting such content at the opportune moment of the learning script.

6 Conclusion

Creating customized and just-in-time learning content in an agile manner completely shifts the paradigm of micro-learning. Our solution approach is generic enough to be used in any content creation scenario where it is possible to have scripted text, and there is a repository of images (or open Internet) to choose from. The key direction of this research is to provide the right system in the hands of learning designers so that they can be more efficient and agile with their essential role of making learning effective, engaging, and fun.

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⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flesch-Kincaid_readability_tests

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