



**Design Quality in Building Behavioral Intention through
Affective and Cognitive Involvement for E-learning on
Smartphones**

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Abstract

Purpose

This study examines the effect of design quality (i.e., appearance, navigation, information, and interactivity) on cognitive and affective involvement leading to continued intention to use the online learning application.

Design/Methodology/Approach

We assume that design quality potentially contributes to enhance the individual's involvement and excitement. An experimental prototype is developed for collecting data used to verify and validate the proposed research model and hypotheses. A partial-least-squares approach is used to analyze the data collected from the participants ($n= 662$).

Findings

Communication, aesthetic, and information quality revealed to be strong determinants of both cognitive and affective involvement. However, font quality and user control positively influence cognitive involvement, while navigation quality and responsiveness were observed as significant indicators of affective involvement. Lastly, cognitive and affective involvement equally contribute to determining the continued intention to use.

Originality/Value

Prevalent research in the online context is focused primarily on cognitive and utilization behavior. However, these works overlook the implication of design quality on cognitive and affective involvement.

Implications

This study will draw the attention of designers and practitioners towards the perception of users for providing appropriate and engaging learning resources.

1. Introduction

Technologies enhance learning experiences by providing easy access to resources (Dominici and Palumbo, 2013). Several academic institutions have made substantial investments in developing

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3 digital resources to deliver useful learning content (Chin *et al.*, 2018; Wang *et al.*, 2018). Still, it
4 is a challenge to create an interactive environment that could engage individuals as to maintain
5 their involvement and interest (Guo *et al.*, 2015). On the other hand, design quality encourages
6 individuals to change their level of involvement (Cyr *et al.*, 2018) and plays a crucial role in
7 information deliverance by establishing effective communication between the system and the
8 users. It influences the individual's perceptions and final behavior (Ou and Sia, 2010; Floh and
9 Madlberger, 2013). Thus, a good quality website comprises all the cues used to design it and affect
10 the internal state of users (Hsu *et al.*, 2012). It involves the combination of appropriate information
11 aspects with a precise organization of contents. Besides organization, visual appearance also
12 contributes by initiating positive attitudes towards the system interface, which, in the end, leads to
13 heightened involvement (Greussing and Boomgaarden, 2019). Thus, improvements in design
14 quality foster the user's involvement, along with positive experiences (Guo *et al.*, 2015; Lin, 2007).
15 Such experiences create value for users; in consequence, they spend more time on a system, which
16 ultimately leads to a positive attitude (Kim *et al.*, 2007; Ou and Sia, 2010; Liu *et al.*, 2016) and
17 intention to use (Tarute *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, consistent efforts are required to enhance the
18 interactivity, engagement, and usability of these applications through design and appearance
19 quality (Abachi and Muhammad, 2013; Tarute *et al.*, 2017; Chin *et al.*, 2018). Likewise, Hasan
20 (2016) argues that the websites having relevant information, visually appealing and that are also
21 easy to use or navigate seem to heighten the individual's involvement with the site and lessen the
22 feelings of irritation. On the other hand, poor usability, imprecise design and interaction discourage
23 users (Hoehle *et al.*, 2016). Besides, poor usability design might cause anger and disorientation in
24 the users, as well as the feeling of losing control over their actions, thus the urge to leave the site
25 (Faisal *et al.*, 2018; Hasan, 2016).

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43 It is essential to retain users and to improve their level of involvement via substantial interaction
44 and engaging-design artifacts (Jiang *et al.*, 2010; Tarute *et al.*, 2017). Involvement is considered
45 as a vital concept for information and communication research (Perse, 1990; Celuch and Slama,
46 1998; Kang *et al.*, 2015; Reyhav and Wu, 2015; Cyr *et al.*, 2018) and is adopted in technological
47 studies to observe positive attitude, utilization, and intention (Jiang *et al.*, 2010; Kang *et al.*, 2015;
48 Reyhav and Wu, 2015; Cyr *et al.*, 2018). **Still, only few studies focus on this multidimensional**
49 **construct due to the difficulty of conceptualizing it (DeFranco, 2016).** Moreover, we found that
50 prior research primarily focused on fully functional desktop Web browsers usage to determine the
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3 design implications and their impact on involvement (Cyr *et al.*, 2018); there is a need to
4 understand the user's experience and to alter their usage behavior for smartphones as well. The
5 reason is that smartphones have relatively small screens, tiny input mechanisms, and diverse
6 design patterns as compared to the full-screen version of the website (Ribeiro, 2012; Hoehle *et al.*,
7 2016). Therefore, these devices display the same content in a reduced space, and are prone to
8 higher error rate compared to laptops (Lugtig and Toepoel, 2016). Besides the screen size, another
9 significant difference between the web sites browsed from desktop large screens compared to the
10 same sites explored in the relatively small mobile device screens is the way in which users interact
11 with them (Hoehle *et al.*, 2016; Shin *et al.*, 2016). For instance, websites using desktop
12 environments rely on mouse-driven interactions, while smartphones have touch interfaces, in
13 which there is a more direct manipulation of the screen elements. The human finger is a much
14 more imprecise pointer than a mouse (Ribeiro and Carvalhais, 2012; Hoehle *et al.*, 2016). Thus, it
15 is critical to determine additional usability problems for Mobile applications (Shin *et al.*, 2016;
16 Tarute *et al.*, 2017) These usability issues become important aspects considering the fulfillment of
17 individual needs and encouraging more intense engagement in the further usage of mobile
18 applications (Tarute *et al.*, 2017). Besides these issues, instant changes in consumer usage behavior
19 also force new challenges on companies seeking to influence behavior by making use of mobile
20 technologies (Tarute *et al.*, 2017). Thus, a careful design approach is needed, considering the
21 smartphone constraints that are bound to lessen the quality of interaction (Tsiaousis and Giaglis,
22 2014) and level of involvement (Sun and Xu, 2019). Likewise, Little (2013) emphasized that the
23 designer should project the learning content in a way that can quickly be delivered via small-screen
24 devices (e.g. Mobile phones).

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41 The objective of the current study is to explore the design background that arouses the emotions,
42 understanding, and indirectly influences the continued intention to use. It is crucial because
43 smartphones can be a viable alternative for information deliverance and are becoming more
44 popular due to its high accessibility and mobility. Hence, this study makes two essential
45 contributions. First, we examine the impact of design quality (i.e., font and aesthetic quality,
46 information quality, navigation quality, and interactivity) on involvement dimensions, including
47 cognitive and affective involvement, ultimately leading to continued intention to use; since limited
48 research has been conducted to assess the role of design quality for user involvement (Cyr *et al.*,
49 2018). Second, this study proposes the guidelines related to user interface design elements to

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3 promote the individual's involvement. These guidelines enable designers to have a clear
4 understanding of essential design features while developing learning resources for smartphones.
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6 The rest of the article is organized as follows: Section 2 presents related studies, including design,
7 involvement, research model, and hypotheses. Section 3 provides details about the adopted
8 methodology, experimentation, data gathering, and statistical analysis. Section 4 presents the
9 results, while section 5 is related to implications followed by the conclusion, limitations, and future
10 scope of the current research.
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17 **2. Literature and Research Model**

18 Various technologies, such as smartphones, tablets, computers, and internet access, have become
19 nearly ubiquitous in everyday life (Golonka *et al.*, 2014). Especially the smartphones, that have
20 become gradually sophisticated; they have a higher potential to heighten user engagement and
21 level of involvement, which, in turn, can result in excessive usage (Reychav and Wu, 2015; Tarute
22 *et al.*, 2017; Barnes *et al.*, 2019).
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27 However, due to emergent requirements and diversification in services and applications, the
28 interaction with smartphones has become highly complex (Choi and Lee, 2012), which may
29 negatively influence the continued intention to use. Use intention and positive attitude are
30 associated with design quality and level of involvement and engagement (Cyr *et al.*, 2018; Kang
31 *et al.*, 2015; Tarute *et al.*, 2017). Accordingly, several researchers also emphasized the need to
32 explore the role of interface design for intention to use (Joo *et al.*, 2014; Kang *et al.*, 2015; Nikou
33 and Economides, 2017; Tarute *et al.*, 2017). So, to retain the users and to continuously use a system
34 can only be made possible with substantial interaction and engaging-design artifacts (Tarute *et al.*,
35 2017).
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43 User interface refers to the degree to which an individual feels that a system or a website is well
44 designed, and it includes the appropriate features, i.e., navigation, information, visual appearance,
45 and functions to control the systems (Nikou and Economides, 2017). In similar studies, Hasan
46 (2016) and Fortin and Dholakia (2005) argue that visually appealing, informative, and convenient
47 to navigate interfaces seem to enhance website involvement. The design quality of an interface
48 affects the individual's perception of the website as it is the portal through which the activities are
49 conducted. Cyr and Head (2013) argue that the design quality of a website strongly influences the
50 user's adoption behavior. Pelet *et al.*, (2017) argue that design helps to arouse the individual's
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3 emotions, which leads to stimulating intention, revisit websites, and recommendation. Ahn *et al.*,
4 (2007) observed the positive impact of website quality on attitude and behavioral intention.
5 Furthermore, authors argue that usefulness plays a crucial role in enhancing the attitude and
6 behavioral intention to use a website. I-Fan *et al.*, (2010) argue that the quality of the design is
7 imperative for online applications because the user feels more comfortable with a user-friendly
8 interface. Salvador *et al.*, (2015) observed the strong impact of design on intention to use. The
9 authors argue that the use of drag and drop interaction and a good organization contribute to
10 decrease the cognitive complexity; consequently, individuals perceive the systems as more
11 efficient and reliable.

12 In several other studies (Nikou and Economides, 2017; Tarute *et al.*, 2017; Cyr *et al.*, 2018), the
13 researchers observed the positive impact of web design and its quality on attitude, behavioral
14 intention to use, engagement, and service quality. The authors emphasize the need for further
15 research because the effect of these elements may be different for smartphones. Smartphones have
16 a vast potential to deliver effective services (Keengwe and Bhargava, 2013); still, it is critical to
17 determine additional usability problems for such devices (Tarute *et al.*, 2017) to design an interface
18 that is easy to use with a simple and straightforward design, and visually appealing, and that
19 requires fewer actions before a goal is achieved. This is because user-controlled information, visual
20 aspects (e.g., shape, size, texture, color, labels), standardized layouts and symmetry help users to
21 be more attentive and influence the user's psychological processes as well (Moshagen and
22 Thielsch, 2010; Tuch *et al.*, 2010). The role of layout and symmetry for visual appearance has
23 been identified by the Gestalt laws of perceptual organization (Seckler *et al.*, 2015). It refers to
24 visual perception that focus on the organization rather than on beauty, and it attempts to explain
25 that people perceive objects as a whole instead of individual parts (Arnheim, 1974; Moshagen and
26 Thielsch, 2010). According to the theory, stimulus elements are perceived and organized into
27 groups that make sense to us. The grouping principles such as closure, proximity, and similarity
28 are used in design to arrange the information and to create the visual hierarchy (Hoehle *et al.*,
29 2016). In several studies (Bhandari *et al.*, 2017; Lavie and Tractinsky, 2004; Moshagen and
30 Thielsch, 2010), the impact of visual design is discussed in terms of understanding, sense-making,
31 involvement, and arousal.

32 Still, consensus prevails among the researchers on the design factors that constitute the user
33 interface. Kim and Lee (2002) categorized the design into two important aspects: process and
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3 information architecture. The process refers to transactions, while the architecture refers to web-
4 page elements. The architecture also relates to the rules and arrangement of items into a pleasing
5 design. However, the features are extensive; therefore, precise classification of these design
6 elements would be more helpful to understand and determine how these aspects influence the
7 continued intention to use. Accordingly, Palmer (2002) categorized these elements into
8 information, responsiveness, interactivity, navigation, and speed to assess website acceptance and
9 success. Cyr and Head (2013) discussed website interface design in terms of information quality,
10 navigation, and visual design to determine a positive attitude. Faisal *et al.*, (2017) considered
11 design characteristics including aesthetic, navigation, information, and interaction to improve the
12 quality of a website. Hoehle *et al.*, (2016) observed the direct relationship between design
13 guidelines (i.e., graphics, animation, color, entry point, fingertip-sized controls, text, gestalt
14 standards, order, and transition) and continued intention to use.

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16 In the prior research (Ali 2016; Éthier *et al.*, 2008; Hsu *et al.*, 2012; Tarute *et al.*, 2017), several
17 researchers adopted stimulus-organism-response (SOR) to explain the design implications. In
18 these studies, the design attributes and website quality are regarded as stimuli. The SOR
19 framework proposes that stimuli on behavior are mediated through an organism (Albert and
20 Russell, 1974). The theory suggests that environmental cue can impact an individual's internal
21 states (i.e., cognitive and affective reactions), which in turn produce either avoidance or approach
22 behaviors (Liu *et al.*, 2016). In the online context, the stimulus refers to the website quality that
23 affects the internal state of the users (Ali 2016; Hsu *et al.*, 2012; Liu *et al.*, 2016) In several other
24 studies, the design features –including navigation (Éthier *et al.*, 2008; Floh and Madlberger, 2013;
25 Rodríguez-Torrigo *et al.*, 2019), perceived visual appearance (Bhandari *et al.*, 2017; Éthier *et al.*,
26 2008; Koo and Ju, 2010; Liu *et al.*, 2016; Liu *et al.*, 2013; Peng *et al.*, 2017; Rodríguez-torrigo *et*
27 *al.*, 2019; Shu-Hao *et al.*, 2014), information quality (Carlson *et al.*, 2018; Eroglu *et al.*, 2001;
28 Éthier *et al.*, 2008; Floh and Madlberger, 2013; Hsu *et al.*, 2012; Tarute *et al.*, 2017), and
29 interactivity including user control, responsiveness, and communication (Jiang *et al.*, 2010; Hsu *et*
30 *al.*, 2012; Carlson *et al.*, 2018; Rodríguez-Torrigo *et al.*, 2019)– were employed as stimuli or
31 environmental cues to determine the individual's perception (see Table 1), because they play an
32 important role in promoting positive attitude and use intentions (Hausman and Siekpe, 2009; Koo
33 and Ju, 2010). However, majority of these studies were conducted in the context of the website,
34 only few among them discussed the design consideration for mobile but in different usage contexts.

Jiang *et al.*, (2010) adopted design interactivity as environmental stimuli to determine the intention via involvement, where involvement arouses from a wide variety of stimuli: quality of design including navigation, content, visual appearance, interactivity, download speed, friendliness, multimedia capability, and presentation style (Santosa *et al.*, 2005). Thus, design quality is an essential aspect that increases the individual's involvement (Cyr *et al.*, 2018). In the current study, where S-O-R is applied, we argue that design features are environment cues, which are likely to affect the individual's continued intention to use via cognitive and affective involvement.

Table 1 Several related studies based on S-O-R theory

| Authors | Stimulus | Organism | Response |
|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Eroglu <i>et al.</i> (2001) | High and low task-relevant information | Affect and cognition | Approach and avoidance |
| Mummalaneni (2005) | Ambience and design factor | Pleasure and arousal | Satisfaction and loyalty |
| Éthier <i>et al.</i> (2008) | Information, navigation, text, and visual aspects | Cognitive processes | Behaviors |
| Manganari <i>et al.</i> (2009) | Virtual layout and design | Affective and cognition | Approach and avoidance |
| Deng and Poole (2010) | Order and visual complexity | Pleasure and arousal | Approach and avoidance |
| Jiang <i>et al.</i> (2010) | Interactivity (control and communication) | Affective and Cognitive | Purchase intention |
| Koo and Ju (2010) | Graphics, colors, links, and menus | Pleasure and arousal | Intention |
| Lee <i>et al.</i> (2010) | Interactivity | Enjoyment and risk | Attitude |
| Hsu <i>et al.</i> (2012) | Information, system, and service quality | Perceived flow and perceived playfulness | Satisfaction and purchase intention |
| Floh and Madlberger (2013) | content, design, and navigation | Shopping enjoyment and impulsiveness | Impulse buying behavior |
| Liu <i>et al.</i> (2013) | Visual appeal | Impulsiveness and instant gratification | Urge to buy impulsively |
| Gao and Bai (2014) | Informativeness, effectiveness, and entertainment | Flow | Purchase intention and satisfaction |
| Loureiro and Roschk (2014) | Graphic design and information design | Positive emotions | Intentions to re-visit\ re-use |
| Shu-Hao <i>et al.</i> (2014) | Web aesthetics | Control and pleasure | Purchase behavior |
| Ali (2016) | Usability and functionality | Perceived flow | Satisfaction and purchase intention |
| Liu <i>et al.</i> (2016) | Aesthetic appeal | Pleasure and ease of use | Satisfaction |
| Bhandari <i>et al.</i> (2017) | Aesthetics | Emotion | Quality perception |
| Fang <i>et al.</i> (2017) | App design and performance | Utilitarian, hedonic, and social benefits | Behavioral engagement intention |
| Peng <i>et al.</i> (2017) | Aesthetic and design | Flow and usefulness | Affective and cognitive attitude |
| Tarute <i>et al.</i> (2017) | Functionality, design, information quality, and interaction | Engagement | Continued intention to use |
| Carlson <i>et al.</i> (2018) | Content quality, interactivity, and contact quality | Customer-perceived value | Customer engagement behaviors |
| Rodríguez <i>et al.</i> (2019) | Visual appeal, interactivity, and Personalization | Satisfaction, trust | Purchase intention |

2.1 Involvement

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3 Involvement is “based on inherent needs, values, and interests that motivate one toward the object”
4 (Zaichkowsky, 1985). Previously, it was discussed in terms of engagement (Lee and Kozar, 2009;
5 Henrie *et al.*, 2015; Kim and Baek, 2017; Parihar *et al.*, 2019), playfulness (Lavie and Tractinsky,
6 2004), as a strong determinant of satisfaction (Jiménez-Zarco *et al.*, 2014), attitude (Cyr *et al.*,
7 2018), loyalty (Din *et al.*, 2016), intention (Kang *et al.*, 2015; Yang *et al.*, 2019), and perceived
8 usability (Sun *et al.*, 2015) via positive experiences (Guo *et al.*, 2015). Positive perception or
9 experiences increase the sense of involvement, which ultimately leads toward intention to use
10 (DeFranco, 2016). Thus, it is essential to create an engaging environment to promote users’
11 involvement and active participation in online activities (Lin, 2007; Guo *et al.*, 2015; Reyachav and
12 Wu, 2015). The design with mass hedonic aspects heightens individuals’ emotional response
13 (Zhou *et al.*, 2014) and intention (Kim *et al.*, 2007). An individual's level of involvement with
14 stimulus artifacts, e.g., objects, situations, or activities, is assessed by the extent to which the user
15 perceives that object or concept to be appropriate and relevant. In this study, involvement refers to
16 the degree to which a user feels that the interaction with the contents during information-seeking
17 activity is both necessary and appropriate. It is discussed as a need-based cognition, or goal-
18 directed stimulation, controlled by cognitive and affective motives and considered as a critical
19 construct in communication and information research. It is a central framework to understand the
20 user’s final behavior (Chakravarti *et al.*, 2003). This is because, while feeling more involved, the
21 users are more motivated to explore the contents and likely to utilize the interactive features to
22 facilitate the process of exploration. This process of exploration drives the user’s motivation and
23 leads toward final behavior. Users’ information processing is influenced by the state of
24 involvement (Wu and Hsiao, 2017). This implies that the level of absorption and pleasure of the
25 user, associated with the website design, may be considered as emotional reaction. Digital media,
26 with a more engaging environment, have a positive impact on user involvement with the website
27 contents (Hausman and Siekpe, 2009). Kim *et al.*, (2007) argue that involvement in design is
28 important to determine behavioral intention. Moreover, the authors (Perse, 1990; Jiang *et al.*, 2010;
29 Kang *et al.*, 2015; Reyachav and Wu, 2015), suggest that involvement should be studied by
30 separating them into cognitive and affective components as both have a discrete influence on user
31 behavior.

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53 Cognitive involvement **explains** the rational thinking derived from utilitarian, pragmatic, or
54 cognitive motives (Jiang *et al.*, 2010). It is considered an essential aspect of information processing
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3 and shown in mental processes such as recognition, elaboration, and attention (Perse, 1990).
4 Recognition compares the available information with known patterns in long-term memory and
5 classifies it as either familiar or unfamiliar (Perse, 1990). Elaboration relates the incoming
6 information or observation to existing knowledge, images, and embeds connotative and associative
7 meanings (Perse, 1990). Attention is the selectivity of response that requires effort or allocation of
8 cognitive capacity (Perse, 1990). In this study, cognitive involvement is considered an individual's
9 concern with the design and arrangement of contents to support information processing.

15 Affective involvement is related to hedonism and emotions, which are induced by value-expressive
16 or affective motives (Perse, 1990; Celuch and Slama, 1998; Jiang *et al.*, 2010). It refers to the
17 emotional investment a user makes to be involved in an environment (Perse, 1990; Celuch and
18 Slama, 1998; Jiang *et al.*, 2010) via communication. It is shown in emotional reactions (Perse,
19 1990; Celuch and Slama, 1998; Jiang *et al.*, 2010) and related to internal feelings or responses to
20 the information contents (Celuch and Slama, 1998). In this study, affective involvement refers to
21 the individual's perceptions or concerns with emotional and value-expressive content. Thus, it is
22 a kind of feeling associated with a system and how users emotionally feel while interacting with
23 it.

31 Both cognitive and affective involvement were observed as influencing aspects in the information
32 and communication research (Perse, 1990; Celuch and Slama, 1998; Novak *et al.*, 2000; Jiang *et*
33 *al.*, 2010; Kang *et al.*, 2015; Reyhav and Wu, 2015; Matthes and Beyer, 2017). Novak *et al.*,
34 (2000) observed the impact of website characteristics (e.g., interactivity and speed) on
35 involvement, reaction, and emotive states of the customer while shopping. Éthier *et al.*, (2008)
36 argue that website artifacts are critical elements of the cognitive processes that trigger emotions.
37 This may be due to the richness of features that created the vivid experiences that sustains the
38 individual's interest in a website. In the context of social promotion sites, both cognitive and
39 affective motives have shown to increase users' purchase intent. This increase in purchase intent
40 may be due to the recommendations found in social networks (See-Pui Ng, 2013). For instance,
41 Eroglu *et al.*, (2001) found that online atmospheric cues including colors, graphics, layout, and
42 design can produce various affective reactions on the site visitors, including a positive attitude.

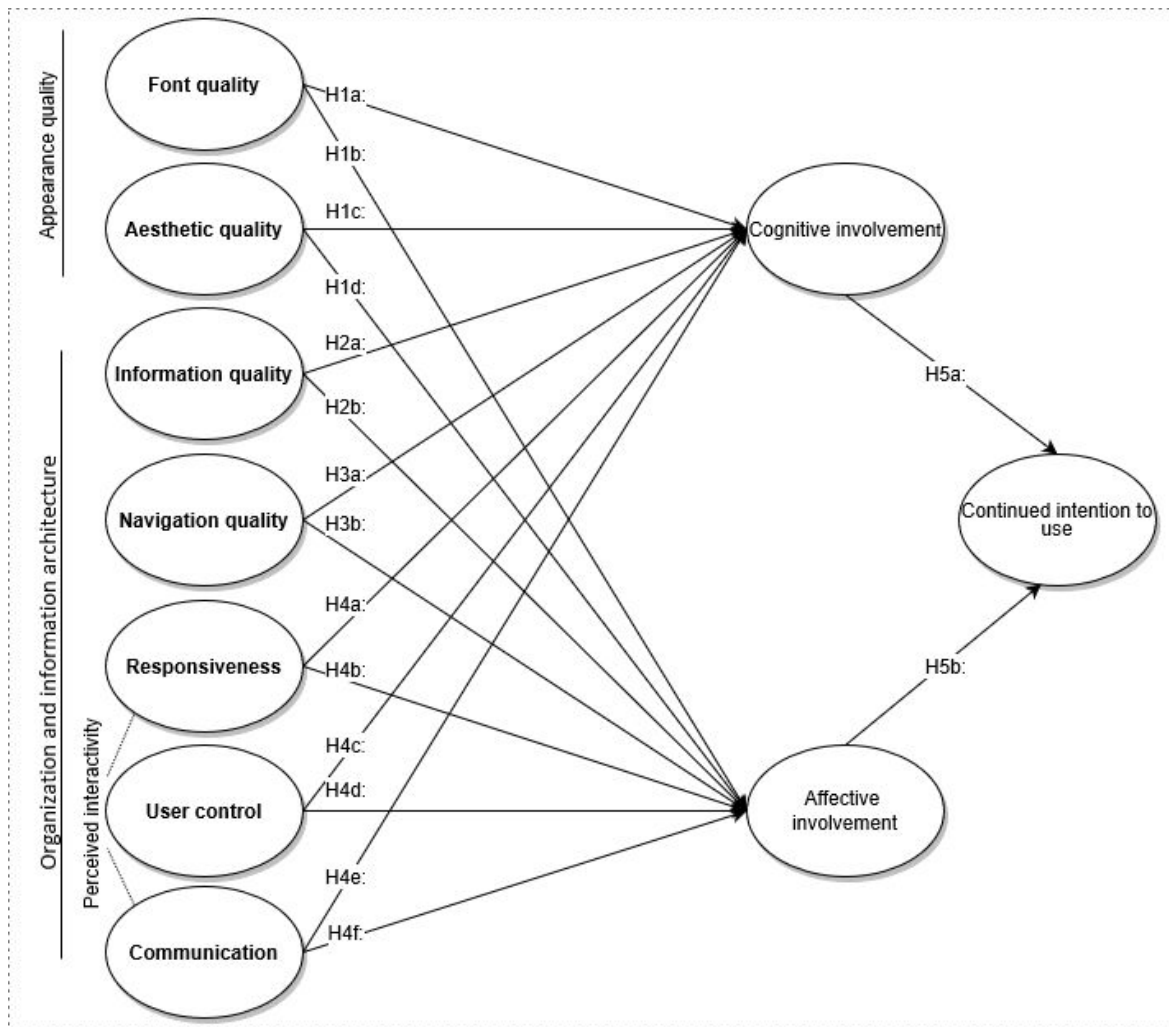


Figure 1 Research Model and hypotheses

2.2 Research Model

Based on previous research, we hypothesized a model that is presented in Figure 1. The objective is to examine the influential role of design quality, including appearance quality and organization and information architecture (Faisal *et al.*, 2017) in determining the continued intention. The purpose is to assess the role of design quality for multidimensional construct involvement and also to determine which design aspects heighten the cognitive and affective involvement along with better experience, which ultimately leads to continued intention to use the smartphones while learning using MOOC (Massive Open Online Course). The appearance quality refers to the look, feel, and beauty of a system such as fonts, color, multimedia, and attraction (Al-Qeisi *et al.*, 2014). The design features related to organization and information architecture (i.e., information, navigation, and interactivity) are complementary aspects and deal with the appearance of

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3 information, navigational orientation, and the nature of the interaction (Faisal *et al.*, 2017). These
4 design artifacts are essential to develop the learning resources and help to establish effective
5 communication between a user and a system.
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8 The appearance quality refers to the look and beauty of a system to capture the user's attention. It
9 includes features related to appearance, such as font, color, multimedia, and appeal (Al-Qeisi *et*
10 *al.*, 2014). These features play a critical role in the processes of involvement, recognition, and
11 understanding by improving visibility and facilitate directing the individual's attention towards
12 critical information (Faisal *et al.*, 2017; Lavie and Tractinsky, 2004). These elements constitute
13 the interface in such a way to provide better interactivity experiences via sophistication and
14 creativity in design (Moshagen and Thielsch, 2010). In several studies (Bonnardel *et al.*, 2011;
15 Shaouf *et al.*, 2016), appearance aspects of websites were discussed concerning user preferences
16 and recognition.
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19 Additionally, appearance and presentation with appropriate visual elements improve information
20 processing, communication, and level of engagement (Faisal *et al.*, 2017; Tarute *et al.*, 2017). In
21 addition, the arrangement and presentation of similar artifacts grouping them together also
22 improves the user experience through simplicity (Moshagen and Thielsch, 2010). That is why
23 Gestalt theory emphasizes the precise organization of stimulus elements into groups (Arnheim,
24 1974). The author further argues that information should be structured and presented logically with
25 clear text (Arnheim, 1974). The visual appearance has become an integral part of interactive
26 systems design (Lavie and Tractinsky, 2004) that stimulate emotions (Koo and Ju, 2010; Shu-Hao
27 *et al.*, 2014; Tarute *et al.*, 2017). In the current study, the appearance quality narrows down to font
28 and aesthetic quality. Font quality refers to layout, appearance, and the arrangement of text to
29 improve the legibility and information processing (Faisal *et al.*, 2017). Aesthetic quality refers to
30 the features of the stimulus, appeal, and attractiveness of an interface expressed through graphics,
31 color, and animation (Moshagen and Thielsch, 2010; Hoehle *et al.*, 2016; Faisal *et al.*, 2017). As
32 compared to websites explored in computers, smartphones have numerous constraints i.e., small
33 screen, direct manipulation, and inconvenient input. Due to the small screen, the value of visual
34 aspects increases, especially in the case of font, because it requires excessive mental resources and
35 focuses on reading and exploring the required information. Establishing the theoretical ground and
36 relationship, we believe font and aesthetic quality contribute equally to promote the user's affective
37 and cognitive involvement with e-learning on smartphones.
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3 *H1a: Font quality influences the cognitive involvement of online learning on smartphones.*
4 *H1b: Font quality influences the affective involvement of online learning on smartphones.*
5 *H1c: Aesthetic quality influences the cognitive involvement of online learning on smartphones.*
6 *H1d: Aesthetic quality influences the affective involvement of online learning on smartphones.*
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9 Information quality refers to relevance, timeliness, accuracy, format, and usefulness of information
10 (Cyr *et al.*, 2018; Faisal *et al.*, 2017). The availability of relevant and updated information is vital
11 for decision-making and is considered as a critical design construct in the user's evaluation
12 research. Thus, the completeness and suitability of the information support the user's needs
13 (Peikari *et al.*, 2014). The ultimate goal of a system should be to deliver clear, useful, and relevant
14 information to develop favorable attitudes and usage intentions. It not only affects the perceptions
15 of users (Balapour and Sabherwal, 2017) but also stimulates their engagement, involvement, and
16 how the contents are perceived (Hsu *et al.*, 2012; Tarute *et al.*, 2017; Cyr *et al.*, 2018). Otherwise,
17 poor structure, incomplete or inconsistent information may lead to usability (Johnson *et al.*, 2005)
18 and understanding problems for the target audience. In a study, McKinney *et al.*, (2002) remark
19 that incorrect information contents dissatisfied the user; resultantly, they left the site without
20 proceeding. Therefore, the design of information should be arranged appropriately to meet the
21 individual's immediate needs (Lee and Koubek 2010; Lee and Kozar 2012; Zhang *et al.*, 2011). In
22 a study, Cyr *et al.*, (2018) discussed information quality in terms of argument quality and
23 considered it as a central route to persuade individuals' positive behavior via involvement for
24 commercial websites. Continued intention to use and adaptation can be increased by presenting
25 the correct information (Tarute *et al.*, 2017). Likewise, Eighmey and McCord (1998) argue that a
26 higher level of web visitor involvement comes from placing the information in a more idea-driven
27 context; as the users who are extremely involved with a website are eager to explore more
28 information on the site (Kim *et al.*, 2007). Establishing the theoretical ground and relationship, the
29 authors believe that information quality is an important aspect that equally contributes to
30 promoting cognitive and affective involvement.
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- 47 *H2a: Information quality influences the cognitive involvement of online learning on smartphones.*
48 *H2b: Information quality influences the affective involvement of online learning on smartphones.*
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50 Navigation quality refers to the structure and arrangement scheme that helps to explore the
51 information resources (Cyr *et al.*, 2018). In prior studies, it was discussed in terms of ease of use
52 or as a process that facilitates browsing contents conveniently (Cyr *et al.*, 2018). It is a crucial
53 design factor that assists and retains web users. In case of unstructured or confusing navigation
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3 users get irritated, so they will find it challenging to explore the information, therefore, lose interest
4 and leave the application (Hasan, 2016). Hence, convenience to navigate reduces the user's
5 cognitive complexity and time spent and increases the involvement with the system. It also
6 facilitates alternative ways to access the required information quickly (Lee and Kozar, 2012) so
7 users can move freely in and around a website (Grigoroudis *et al.*, 2008). Cyr *et al.*, (2018) and
8 Tarute *et al.*, (2017) observed an indirect impact of search and browsing convenience on intention.
9 However, navigation is still a challenge for smartphones due to the small screen, and most of the
10 mobile navigational patterns have various usability issues. In a study, Cyr and Head (2013)
11 emphasized the use of appropriate navigation structure to develop the individual's positive attitude.
12 Establishing the theoretical ground and relationship, the authors believe that navigation quality is
13 related to ease of browsing and contribute to promoting both cognitive and affective involvement.
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22 *H3a: Navigation quality influences the cognitive involvement of online learning on smartphones.*

23 *H3b: Navigation quality influences the affective involvement of online learning on smartphones.*

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26 Perceived interactivity refers to communication and the extent to which a website supports the
27 exchange of information or interpersonal messages between senders and receivers (Yadav and
28 Varadarajan, 2005). Steuer (1992) describes interactivity as “the extent to which users can
29 participate in modifying the form and content of a mediated environment in real-time.” Xu and
30 Sundar (2016) define “interactivity as the ability of the interface to allow consumers to access
31 content through a variety of different interactive features.” It allows the users to manage the
32 information on a website and it is considered as a technological characteristic used to determine
33 how the information presented on a system is processed by the users (Jensen *et al.*, 2014). Thus, it
34 is a perception-related design aspect, together with the user's experience (Palmer 2002; Rafaeli
35 and Ariel, 2002; Teo *et al.*, 2003; Zhao and Lu, 2012). Previously, it was used to determine web
36 involvement and positive attitude (Cyr *et al.*, 2018). In the current study, the authors adopted
37 interactivity in terms of responsiveness, user control, and communication (Fan *et al.*, 2017).
38 *Responsiveness* is a mutual discourse, the relatedness of reply to earlier messages, or the extent to
39 which responses in communication are perceived to be appropriate and relevant (Johnson *et al.*,
40 2006; Fan *et al.*, 2017). Accordingly, it is the ability to respond to user queries and the user sense
41 of how efficient a website behaves providing his/her desired content (Fan *et al.*, 2017). Previously,
42 it was also defined as the immediacy of feedback against the user's queries. *User control* refers to
43 the individual's ability to manipulate and control the information and contents available (Fan *et*
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3 *al.*, 2017). It is the capacity to manage time and sequence of communication to minimize the efforts
4 associated with the tasks to perform (Fan *et al.*, 2017). Features such as content searching,
5 language selection, assessment, and progress tracking enables the user to control his/her interaction
6 with applications. *Communication* refers to an individual's feeling of being connected to others via
7 two-way communication (Fan *et al.*, 2017) to share their experiences using discussion portals, chat
8 rooms, and hyperlinks-based features. It may also refer to social cues and facilitation of
9 interpersonal communication. Various researchers discussed the positive impact of interactivity
10 on revisiting (Dholakia *et al.*, 2001), utilization (Fan *et al.*, 2017), trust (Faisal *et al.*, 2017),
11 involvement (Fortin and Dholakia, 2005; Jiang *et al.*, 2010; Kang *et al.*, 2015; Cyr *et al.*, 2018),
12 engagement (Fan *et al.*, 2017), satisfaction (Faisal *et al.*, 2017), and continued intention (Shin *et*
13 *al.*, 2016; Zhao and Lu, 2012). Based on previous studies, we define perceived interactivity as the
14 degree to which an individual involved in working on smartphones, perceives his/her interaction
15 to be under control, instantly responsive, and the degree to which the user feels being connected
16 via two-way communication. We assume that interactive features are likely to be perceived as
17 more favorable and result in a higher level of affective and cognitive involvement. Establishing
18 the theoretical ground and relationship, we hypothesize the following:
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31 *H4a: Responsiveness influences the cognitive involvement of online learning on smartphones.*

32 *H4b: Responsiveness influences the affective involvement of online learning on smartphones.*

33 *H4c: User control influences the cognitive involvement of online learning on smartphones.*

34 *H4d: User control influences the affective involvement of online learning on smartphones.*

35 *H4e: Communication influences the cognitive involvement of online learning on smartphones.*

36 *H4f: Communication influences the affective involvement of online learning on smartphones.*

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40 Continued intention to use refers to the individual's conscious plans to adopt a particular behavior
41 (Ajzen, 1991). An individual intends to continuously and consistently use the service currently
42 being used (Dehghani, 2018). It also explains the first-time behavioral adoption intention of a user
43 who did not use the system before. Therefore, it is related to the user's instant experience and
44 considered a critical concept for maintaining the user-product relationship (Tarute *et al.*, 2017; Lee
45 and Kang, 2018). Both cognitive and affective involvement are regarded as essential aspects to
46 determine the holistic experiences and behavioral intention (Jiang *et al.*, 2010). Thus, individuals
47 wish to find an application as a useful tool to improve their understanding, attention and
48 productivity. Besides understanding, users also need to find online interaction free from cognitive
49 efforts to get pleasurable experiences. In this study, the proposed model describes the relationship
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3 between the continued intention to use, cognitive and affective involvement. We assume that
4 involvement dimensions equally and positively influence the continued intention to use as the
5 profound involvement with contents and interactive procedure keep users in control, which leads
6 to continued intention to use. Establishing the theoretical ground and relationship between
7 involvement (i.e., cognitive and affective) and continued intention to use, we hypothesize the
8 following:
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13 *H5a: Cognitive involvement influences the continued intention to use online learning on*
14 *smartphones.*

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16 *H5b: Affective involvement influences the continued intention to use online learning on*
17 *smartphones.*
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19 20 **3. Methodology and Data Analysis**

21 The objective of this research is to understand how the design quality and interactive features affect
22 the continued intention to use via cognitive and affective involvement. The research methodology
23 adopted for this study is primarily based on data collection through a survey from five higher
24 education institutions. The population in the current study are both undergraduate and postgraduate
25 students. An experimental prototype of Coursera (MOOC platform) was developed to be tested by
26 the participants. Thus, the employed design features (e.g., visual appearance, information,
27 navigation quality, and interactivity) of the experimental prototype was quite similar to Coursera
28 and used to enroll in a Human-computer interaction course (see Figure 2). The color scheme (i.e.,
29 blue-white, grey-black and blue) was used in the design of links, search buttons, and alerts. The
30 font features used on the experimental prototype include sans-serif typeface with a size ranging
31 from 14 to 22 px. The colors employed for the text were the black (one of the most frequent) as
32 well blue and white (less frequent). The navigation was supported through links, buttons, and list
33 views along with a structured path. To enhance the level of interactivity, a search bar, messaging
34 service, discussion portal, progress bar, help, language change, and other supportive features were
35 also incorporated in the experimental prototype. The developed experimental prototype contains
36 lectures, notes and, other course-related activities. The participants can download the videos and
37 lecture notes and discuss the learning topics with other participants and teachers on a chat and a
38 discussion portal.
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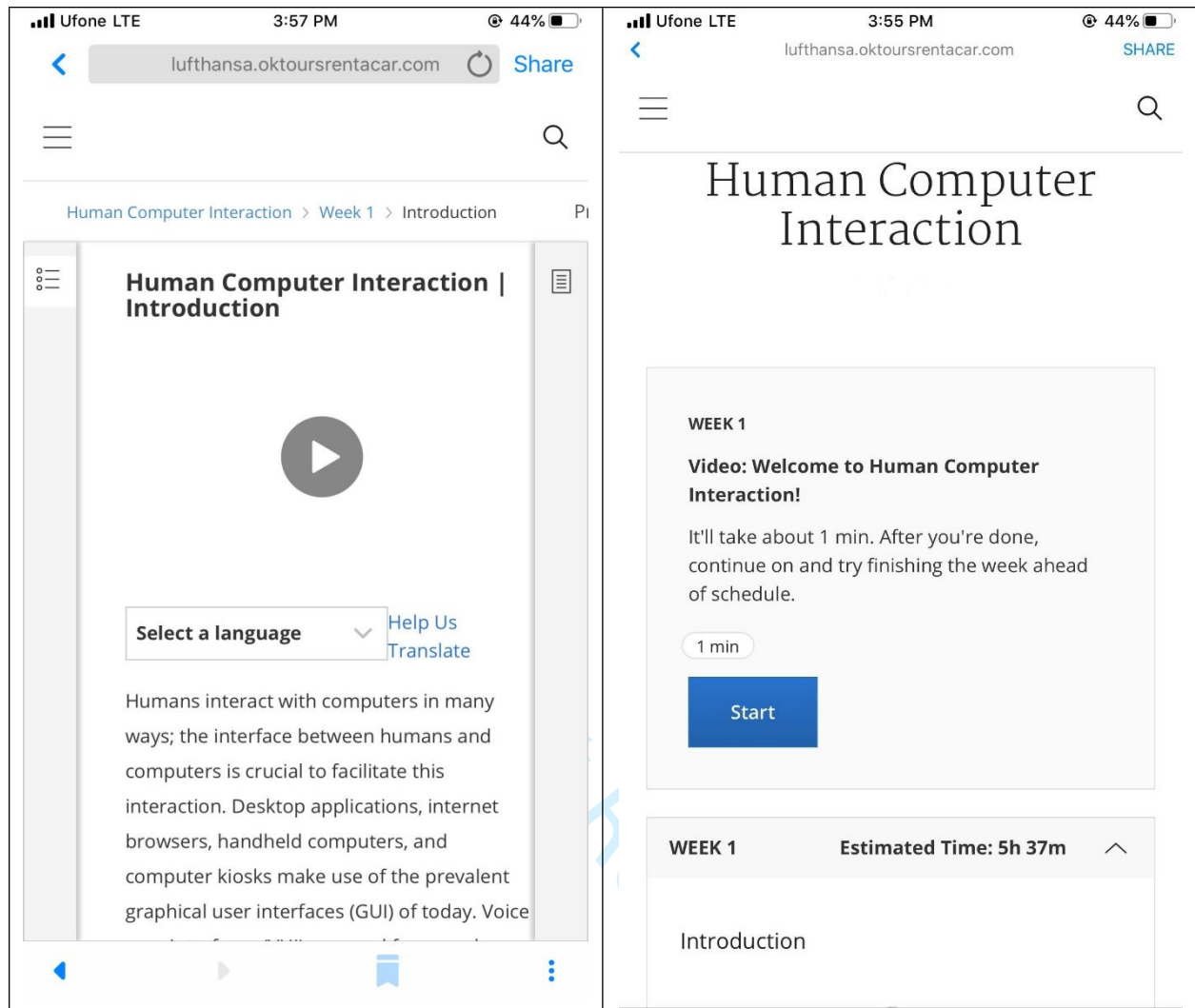


Figure 2 Experimental prototype

3.1 Survey Instrument

A survey tool was designed to validate the proposed hypotheses, and it was categorized into two main sections. The first section aimed at obtaining the participant's demographic information, while the second section was used to assess the proposed research model and hypotheses for the experimental prototype. The measures of current work are adopted from prior studies. This section includes 32 quantitative items based on a seven-point Likert-scale (1 = strongly disagree and 7 = strongly agree) used to assess each observed item. The scale focuses on the individual's response relating to (1) font quality, (2) aesthetic quality, (3) information quality, (4) navigation quality, (5) responsiveness, (6) user control, (7) communication, (8) cognitive involvement, (9) affective involvement, and (10) continued intention to use. It was assumed that a higher score against the

adopted items indicates more positive and favorable perceptions. The measures of this study are shown in the Appendix. Survey reliability and validation are discussed in the data analysis section.

Table 2 Demographic description of the participants

| Profile category | | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| Gender | Male | 423 | 63.9 |
| | Female | 239 | 36.1 |
| Age | Less than 25 | 196 | 29.6 |
| | Between 25 and 30 | 413 | 62.4 |
| | Above 30 | 53 | 8.0 |
| Qualification | Graduate level | 500 | 75.5 |
| | Postgraduate level | 162 | 24.5 |
| Online learning experience | Beginners | 235 | 35.5 |
| | Intermediate | 299 | 45.2 |
| | Advance | 128 | 19.3 |
| Total | | 662 | 100.0 |

3.2 Participants and Data Collection

The developed prototype was introduced to the students at the start of the semester with the help of university teachers. The students were asked to use the application designed for course-related activities on their smartphone. They were provided with the guidelines related to the usage of the experimental prototype in the different class sessions by the instructors. These guidelines incorporated the specific tasks and activities that the student had to perform using the experimental prototype (e.g., searching, enrollment, and downloading lectures). Besides learning, they were also instructed to use the prototype for other academic activities such as quizzes, assignments submission and group discussions. At the end of the semester, the students were requested to share their perception by completing the questionnaire that covered all the measures of the constructs. There were about 2,100 students initially involved; however, only 662 participants actively completed the survey. The demographic description of the participants is given in Table 2.

3.3 Data Analysis

In this analysis section, the authors present the descriptive statistics of the indicators. Table 3 outlines the computed values for mean and standard deviation. All means are above midpoint 5.0. Further, the proposed hypotheses were tested using partial-least-squares, structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM). It is a complete multivariate-analysis method that can concurrently evaluate the relationships among all the indicators in the conceptual model, i.e., measurement and structural components to develop the theories (Chin, 1998; Joseph *et al.*, 2011; Kock, 2014). PLS-SEM also provides stable weights with no inflated measurement (Kock, 2014). It provides a flexible way to

determine the key constructs and helps to execute the complex structured model. Initially, the communalities show the variance explained by the items. It is recommended that the items with communalities under 0.70 should be eliminated to obtain the suggested convergent validity (Chin, 1998; Joseph *et al.*, 2011; Kock, 2014).

Table 3: Construct reliability, validity, and Unidimensionality

| Constructs | Factor loadings | Mean | SD | α | CR | AVE | rho A | Unidimensionality | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------|------|----------|------|-------|-------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | | | | Eigenvalues | | Variance explained | |
| | | | | | | | | 1 st Comp | 2 nd Comp | 1 st (%) | 2 nd (%) |
| Font quality | | | | 0.77 | 0.87 | 0.689 | 0.79 | 2.066 | .565 | 68.857 | 18.839 |
| FQ1 | 0.857 | 4.79 | 1.66 | | | | | | | | |
| FQ2 | 0.856 | 4.81 | 1.69 | | | | | | | | |
| FQ3 | 0.774 | 5.13 | 1.66 | | | | | | | | |
| Aesthetic quality | | | | 0.86 | 0.91 | 0.780 | 0.86 | 2.339 | .453 | 77.954 | 15.113 |
| AQ1 | 0.828 | 5.33 | 1.60 | | | | | | | | |
| AQ2 | 0.924 | 5.40 | 1.60 | | | | | | | | |
| AQ3 | 0.894 | 5.28 | 1.58 | | | | | | | | |
| Information quality | | | | 0.79 | 0.88 | 0.710 | 0.80 | 2.129 | .517 | 70.967 | 17.227 |
| IQ1 | 0.867 | 5.13 | 1.66 | | | | | | | | |
| IQ2 | 0.860 | 5.41 | 1.64 | | | | | | | | |
| IQ3 | 0.799 | 5.28 | 1.55 | | | | | | | | |
| Navigation quality | | | | 0.74 | 0.85 | 0.662 | 0.75 | 1.987 | .593 | 66.234 | 19.765 |
| NQ1 | 0.849 | 5.03 | 1.64 | | | | | | | | |
| NQ2 | 0.824 | 5.17 | 1.53 | | | | | | | | |
| NQ3 | 0.766 | 5.32 | 1.79 | | | | | | | | |
| Responsiveness | | | | 0.80 | 0.88 | 0.712 | 0.80 | 2.135 | .536 | 71.168 | 17.871 |
| RS1 | 0.852 | 4.86 | 1.65 | | | | | | | | |
| RS2 | 0.883 | 4.98 | 1.59 | | | | | | | | |
| RS3 | 0.793 | 5.25 | 1.69 | | | | | | | | |
| User control | | | | 0.80 | 0.88 | 0.720 | 0.81 | 2.155 | .500 | 71.842 | 16.666 |
| UC1 | 0.876 | 4.93 | 1.60 | | | | | | | | |
| UC2 | 0.855 | 5.19 | 1.63 | | | | | | | | |
| UC3 | 0.810 | 5.21 | 1.62 | | | | | | | | |
| Communication | | | | 0.80 | 0.88 | 0.713 | 0.80 | 2.138 | .581 | 71.257 | 19.372 |
| CC1 | 0.867 | 5.14 | 1.57 | | | | | | | | |
| CC2 | 0.896 | 5.23 | 1.56 | | | | | | | | |
| CC3 | 0.763 | 5.24 | 1.78 | | | | | | | | |
| Cognitive involvement | | | | 0.86 | 0.92 | 0.785 | 0.86 | 2.354 | .361 | 78.470 | 12.036 |
| CI1 | 0.883 | 5.32 | 1.63 | | | | | | | | |
| CI2 | 0.901 | 5.30 | 1.59 | | | | | | | | |
| CI3 | 0.873 | 5.30 | 1.59 | | | | | | | | |
| Affective involvement | | | | 0.88 | 0.92 | 0.733 | 0.88 | 2.932 | .409 | 73.296 | 10.236 |
| AI1 | 0.832 | 5.26 | 1.57 | | | | | | | | |
| AI2 | 0.871 | 5.50 | 1.60 | | | | | | | | |
| AI3 | 0.877 | 5.45 | 1.61 | | | | | | | | |
| AI4 | 0.843 | 5.31 | 1.61 | | | | | | | | |
| Continued intention to use | | | | 0.86 | 0.91 | 0.709 | 0.86 | 2.835 | .581 | 70.887 | 14.517 |
| CIU1 | 0.876 | 4.82 | 1.89 | | | | | | | | |
| CIU2 | 0.885 | 4.94 | 1.72 | | | | | | | | |
| CIU3 | 0.868 | 4.93 | 1.79 | | | | | | | | |
| CIU4 | 0.730 | 4.94 | 1.81 | | | | | | | | |

Note: SD = Standard deviation; α = Cronbach's alpha; CR = Composite reliability; AVE = Average variance extracted; 1st Comp = first Component; 1st (%) = % of Variance.

Reliability in this study was computed according to the criteria suggested by Fornell and Larcker (1981), Chin (1998), and Hair *et al.*, (2015) which consists in determining the outer-loadings pattern of the adopted items (Fornell and Larcker, 1981). The value of loadings in this study

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3 exceeded 0.7 and ranged from 0.730 to 0.901 (see Tables 3 and 4) with significance levels (≤ 0.05)
4 along with t values (≥ 1.96). The internal consistency is also important to examine the reliability
5 of the employed factors through Cronbach's alpha (α), which is based on the average inter-
6 correlation of items (Joseph *et al.*, 2011). The appropriate value of Cronbach's alpha α depends on
7 the nature of the study. There are no standardized criteria for the value of Cronbach's α . However,
8 the minimum value of α is generally agreed at about 0.70 (Joseph *et al.*, 2011). If the research is
9 not exploratory, then the lowest accepted value should be 0.80, where a rule-of-thumb for α value
10 refers to “ $\alpha \geq 0.9$ = excellent, $\alpha \geq 0.8$ = good, $\alpha \geq 0.7$ = acceptable, $\alpha \geq 0.6$ = questionable, $\alpha \geq 0.5$
11 = poor, and $\alpha \geq 0.4$ = unacceptable” respectively (George and Mallery, 2003). The range of
12 Cronbach's α in this study is observed from 0.74 to 0.88 (see Table 3). The aggregate value of α is
13 equal to 0.81, which shows that the current survey tool could be considered as a reliable tool with
14 good internal consistency. The other type of internal consistency is composite reliability (CR). It
15 is also similar to Cronbach's α but computed differently as α assumes that all the observed items
16 weigh equally. On the other hand, CR weighs each item depending on the weights of the single
17 items. However, “CR is considered a more accurate approach to assessing reliability” (Richard
18 and Youjiae, 1988). The criterion to assess the CR specifies that its value should be equal to or
19 greater than 0.70 (Richard and Youjiae, 1988). In this study, all the CR values exceeded 0.7 and
20 ranged from 0.85 to 0.92 (see Table 3). The CR is considered as an appropriate approach to
21 evaluate the reliability. Furthermore, Dijkstra Henseler's rho (2015) was also used to measure
22 reliability. In this study, the rho values exceeded 0.7 and ranged from 0.75 to 0.88 (see Table 3).
23 Lastly, reliability was also analyzed by measuring the loadings of the items with the factors to
24 which they are hypothetically associated (see Table 4).

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The outer model was also assessed using additional methods, i.e., unidimensionality, convergent validity (CV), and discriminant validity (DV). First, it is crucial to analyze the unidimensionality of the scale. For this, we used a principal component analysis (i.e., factorial exploratory analysis) with varimax rotation. According to Kaiser's criterion (1960), unidimensionality holds if an eigenvalue above one is achieved for the first principal component (Faisal *et al.*, 2017). All the adopted constructs of this work meet the Kaiser's criterion; moreover, the first principal component extracted provides a significantly higher variance than the second component. Thus, the results obtained satisfy the suggested criteria (see Table 3).

Table 4 Discriminant validity: Combined loadings and cross-loadings (outer loadings)

| Constructs | Items | Loadings \ cross-loadings | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) | (8) | (9) |
| 1-Font quality | FQ1 | 0.857 | -0.328 | 0.002 | 0.056 | -0.093 | -0.058 | 0.043 | -0.111 | 0.028 | 0.051 |
| | FQ2 | 0.856 | -0.191 | 0.196 | -0.018 | 0.055 | 0.202 | -0.091 | -0.175 | -0.189 | -0.031 |
| | FQ3 | 0.774 | 0.575 | -0.218 | -0.042 | 0.042 | -0.160 | 0.052 | 0.317 | 0.179 | -0.022 |
| 2-Aesthetic quality | AQ1 | 0.071 | 0.828 | -0.053 | -0.147 | 0.176 | -0.254 | -0.109 | -0.087 | 0.510 | -0.019 |
| | AQ2 | -0.047 | 0.924 | 0.010 | -0.019 | 0.008 | 0.081 | 0.068 | -0.062 | -0.225 | 0.061 |
| | AQ3 | -0.017 | 0.894 | 0.039 | 0.155 | -0.172 | 0.152 | 0.031 | 0.145 | -0.241 | -0.046 |
| 3-Information quality | IQ1 | 0.328 | -0.217 | 0.867 | -0.014 | 0.168 | -0.073 | -0.068 | -0.232 | 0.039 | -0.020 |
| | IQ2 | -0.192 | -0.010 | 0.860 | 0.159 | -0.118 | 0.124 | 0.077 | -0.278 | -0.130 | 0.085 |
| | IQ3 | -0.149 | 0.246 | 0.799 | -0.156 | -0.056 | -0.054 | -0.009 | 0.551 | 0.098 | -0.070 |
| 4-Navigation quality | NQ1 | 0.288 | -0.057 | 0.057 | 0.849 | 0.004 | 0.110 | -0.089 | -0.280 | -0.125 | 0.016 |
| | NQ2 | 0.025 | -0.218 | 0.280 | 0.824 | 0.132 | -0.017 | -0.321 | -0.096 | 0.194 | -0.002 |
| | NQ3 | -0.347 | 0.298 | -0.365 | 0.766 | -0.147 | -0.103 | 0.443 | 0.414 | -0.070 | -0.015 |
| 5-Responsiveness | RS1 | -0.149 | -0.012 | 0.090 | 0.069 | 0.852 | 0.158 | 0.047 | -0.131 | -0.371 | -0.027 |
| | RS2 | 0.054 | -0.090 | -0.089 | 0.048 | 0.883 | 0.082 | 0.080 | 0.069 | -0.273 | 0.043 |
| | RS3 | 0.100 | 0.113 | 0.003 | -0.128 | 0.793 | -0.261 | -0.139 | 0.064 | 0.073 | -0.019 |
| 6-User control | UC1 | 0.129 | -0.117 | -0.069 | 0.018 | 0.256 | 0.876 | -0.023 | -0.240 | -0.089 | -0.013 |
| | UC2 | 0.027 | -0.060 | 0.095 | -0.068 | 0.135 | 0.855 | -0.021 | -0.350 | 0.136 | 0.018 |
| | UC3 | -0.168 | 0.190 | -0.025 | 0.052 | -0.419 | 0.810 | 0.048 | 0.629 | -0.048 | -0.005 |
| 7-Communication | CC1 | 0.104 | -0.149 | 0.211 | -0.331 | 0.204 | 0.094 | 0.867 | -0.229 | -0.067 | 0.018 |
| | CC2 | 0.063 | -0.077 | 0.117 | -0.132 | -0.023 | 0.022 | 0.896 | -0.203 | 0.248 | -0.006 |
| | CC3 | -0.192 | 0.259 | -0.377 | 0.531 | -0.205 | -0.132 | 0.763 | 0.498 | -0.216 | -0.013 |
| 8-Cognitive involvement | CI1 | 0.021 | -0.020 | -0.075 | 0.033 | 0.068 | -0.063 | -0.036 | 0.883 | 0.038 | -0.023 |
| | CI2 | -0.104 | 0.126 | 0.158 | -0.148 | 0.174 | -0.050 | -0.054 | 0.901 | -0.083 | 0.023 |
| | CI3 | 0.086 | -0.109 | -0.087 | 0.12 | -0.249 | 0.115 | 0.092 | 0.873 | 0.048 | 0.000 |
| 9-Affective involvement | AI1 | -0.008 | -0.136 | 0.251 | -0.389 | -0.022 | 0.123 | 0.442 | 0.012 | 0.832 | 0.024 |
| | AI2 | -0.050 | -0.281 | 0.049 | 0.209 | -0.127 | 0.066 | -0.066 | -0.021 | 0.871 | 0.002 |
| | AI3 | 0.036 | 0.016 | -0.142 | 0.134 | 0.000 | -0.03 | -0.061 | -0.044 | 0.877 | -0.015 |
| | AI4 | 0.022 | 0.407 | -0.151 | 0.029 | 0.152 | -0.158 | -0.304 | 0.056 | 0.843 | -0.011 |
| 10-Continued intention to use | CIU1 | -0.011 | 0.195 | 0.000 | -0.005 | -0.102 | 0.054 | -0.066 | -0.051 | -0.066 | 0.876 |
| | CIU2 | 0.098 | -0.039 | -0.005 | -0.006 | 0.01 | -0.045 | -0.003 | 0.001 | -0.002 | 0.885 |
| | CIU3 | -0.014 | -0.082 | 0.028 | 0.039 | 0.06 | -0.058 | 0.001 | 0.092 | -0.053 | 0.868 |
| | CIU4 | -0.089 | -0.089 | -0.027 | -0.034 | 0.039 | 0.059 | 0.082 | -0.051 | 0.144 | 0.730 |

CV “shows the degree to which the items of a certain instrument are related (Ronnie and Doug, 2013).” The CV assessment criterion is related to the computation of the average variance extracted (AVE). The minimum suggested value for AVEs should be higher than or equal to 0.5 (Richard and Youjae, 1988). This means that all the indicators report for more than 50 percent of the variance of their construct. Table 3 shows that all the indicators fulfill the recommended requirement.

DV “is the extent to which the construct does not correlate with other measures that are different from it” (Richard and Youjae, 1988). In a model, it specifies the differences between adopted constructs (Chin, 1998). Its assessment depends on two critical elements, as mentioned in previous research. The first element is that the loadings of the items should be poorly associated with all constructs except the one to which they are hypothetically connected (Chin, 1998). As the “correlation of the latent variable scores on the measurement items needs to show an appropriate

pattern of loadings, one on which the measurement items load highly on their speculatively assigned factor and not high on other factors” (Gefen and Straub, 2005). In simple words, all items are loaded highly on their corresponding factors while lower on other factors (see Table 4). The second criterion is associated with AVE values. AVE illustrates the proportion of variance attained by a construct. Thus, to ensure and to measure this indicator, the \sqrt{AVE} for each construct should be higher than the correlation value between constructs (see Table 5) (Chin, 1998; Fornell and Larcker 1981; Gefen and Straub, 2005). Table 5 also shows that for each construct, the average \sqrt{AVE} is more significant than its correlation coefficient with other constructs. In addition to Fornell and Larcker (1981), Heterotrait–Monotrait Ratio of Correlations criterion was also employed to assess the discriminant validity and it shows that the computed values are ≤ 0.90 , as suggested in previous studies (Mohseni *et al.*, 2018). In conclusion, this survey has strong reliability and exhibits good convergent validity and discriminant validity; therefore, the results satisfy widely accepted validity standards.

Table 5: Discriminant validity: Fornell–Larcker (Inter-correlations and Sqrt of AVE of latent variables)

| Constructs | | Fornell-Larcker Criterion (FL) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | | |
| 1 | Font quality | 0.830 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Aesthetic quality | 0.777 | 0.883 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Information quality | 0.804 | 0.758 | 0.842 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Navigation quality | 0.763 | 0.764 | 0.809 | 0.814 | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Responsiveness | 0.743 | 0.755 | 0.763 | 0.783 | 0.844 | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | User control | 0.776 | 0.733 | 0.752 | 0.799 | 0.802 | 0.850 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Communication | 0.737 | 0.747 | 0.764 | 0.765 | 0.741 | 0.793 | 0.844 | | | | | | |
| 8 | Cognitive involvement | 0.742 | 0.798 | 0.751 | 0.739 | 0.717 | 0.749 | 0.777 | 0.886 | | | | | |
| 9 | Affective involvement | 0.753 | 0.814 | 0.797 | 0.752 | 0.814 | 0.764 | 0.800 | 0.769 | 0.856 | | | | |
| 10 | Continued intention to use | 0.543 | 0.458 | 0.500 | 0.506 | 0.540 | 0.506 | 0.475 | 0.464 | 0.473 | 0.842 | | | |

Note: Bold diagonal numbers are the square roots of AVE.

Lastly, the verification for the likely existence of multicollinearity between the variables was analyzed using the full variance inflation factor (VIF) statistic. This technique is used to identify the possibility of similarity. Thus, a higher VIF value between the two indicators suggests that they measure similar things. In such a case, one of the involved variables should be removed from the model. Therefore, a high VIF index can be a severe issue if the computed value is larger than the indicated value. Usually, it is recommended that the VIF value for variables should be less than 5, even the more relaxed criterion recommended in the prior study sets the threshold at 10 (Faisal *et al.*, 2017). In the current study, the computed results show that VIFs are far below the critical value. Hence, no variable had to be removed. The VIF values in this research are observed to be

beneath the significant threshold value = 5, while the average VIF (AVIF) = 1.98 (see Table 6). In prior studies, the ideal recommended value for AVIF is ≤ 3.3 (Hair *et al.*, 1987; Joseph, 2009).

Table 6: Additional model fit and quality indicators

| Quality indices | Observed value | Acceptable | Ideal value | 95% | 99% |
|--|----------------|------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| SPR. | 1.000 | ≥ 0.7 | 1 | | |
| RSCR. | 1.000 | ≥ 0.9 | 1 | | |
| SSR. | 1.000 | ≥ 0.7 | | | |
| Nonlinear bivariate causality direction ratio. | 1.000 | ≥ 0.7 | | | |
| SRMR | 0.070 | | | 0.040 | 0.040 |
| d _{ULS} | 2.450 | | | 0.730 | 0.800 |
| d _G | 1.130 | | | 0.530 | 0.550 |
| AVIF | 1.98 | ≤ 10 | ≤ 3.3 | | |

Note: SPR = Sympton's paradox ratio; RSCR = R-squared contribution ratio; SSR = Statistical suppression ratio, SRMR = Standardized root mean square residua.

PLS-SEM also reported other quality indicators i.e. average $R^2 = 0.657$, $p \leq 0.001$, average adjusted $R^2 = 0.656$, ≤ 0.001 , and average path coefficient = 0.155, $p \leq 0.001$, respectively. Model Fit is computed using standardized root mean square residual (SRMR) and Tenenhaus GoF (Mohseni *et al.*, 2018; Tenenhaus *et al.*, 2005) criterion $GoF = \sqrt{(AVE) \times (ARS)}$ or $\sqrt{(\text{Communality}) \times (ARS)} = \sqrt{(0.721) \times (0.596)} = 0.65$. In recent studies (Wetzels *et al.*, 2009; Kock, 2014), the researchers recommended the GoF criteria as follows: small ≥ 0.1 , medium ≥ 0.25 , and large ≥ 0.36 . The value of SRMR is observed to be 0.08, below the recommended threshold of 0.10, which means a good model fitness (see table 6). In conclusion, all the computed values demonstrated a good quality fit. Thus, the current study implements all the conditions mentioned above to verify the model and hypotheses. For additional quality measures, see Table 6.

Table 7: Coefficient of determination R-squared (R^2) and Q-squared (Q^2) coefficients

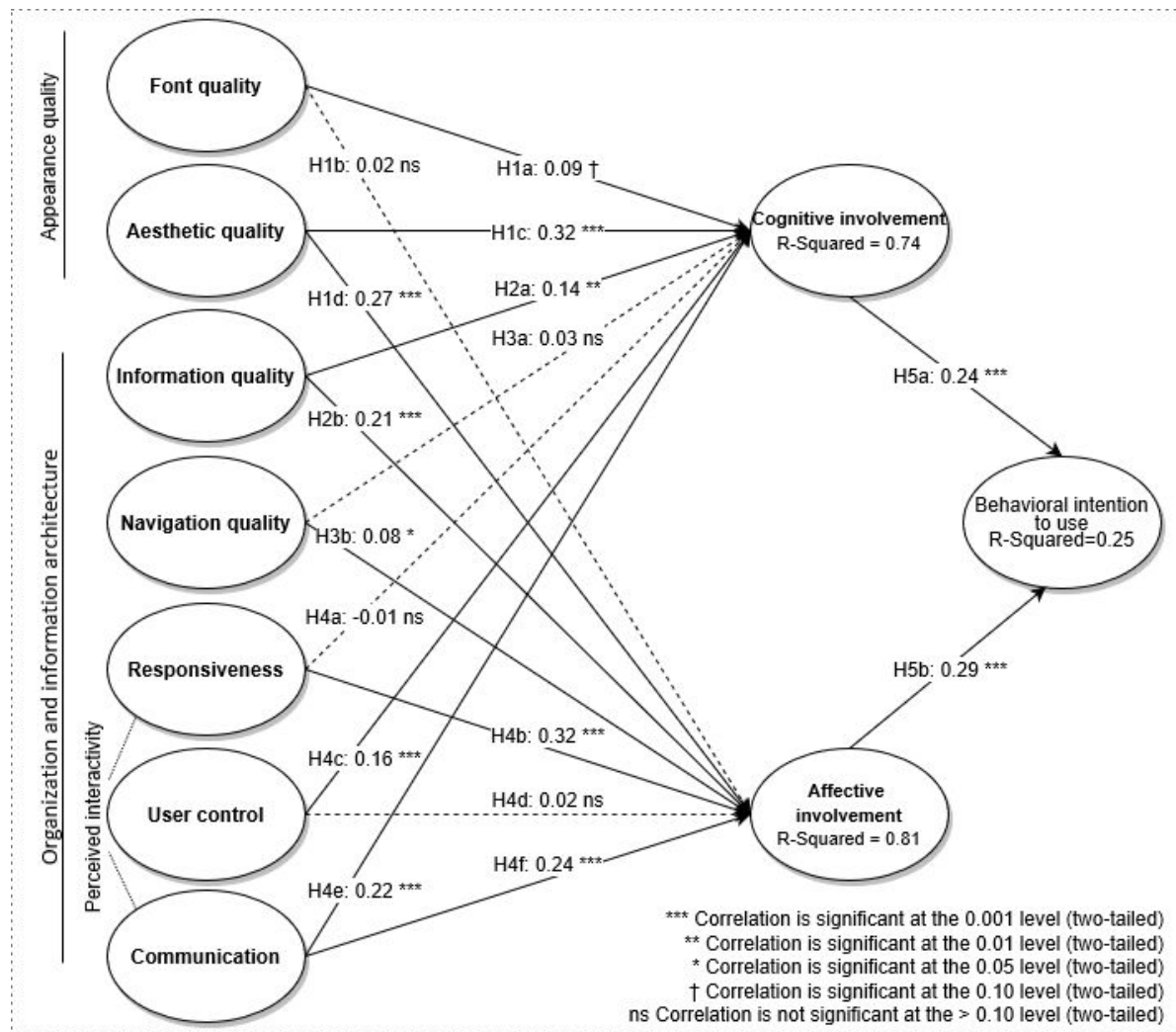
| Construct | The coefficient of determination R-squared | Adjusted R-squared | Stone-Geisser Q-squared |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Cognitive involvement | 0.74 | 0.74 | 0.737 |
| Affective involvement | 0.81 | 0.80 | 0.803 |
| Continued intention to use | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.252 |

After having confirmation of the outer model indicators such as unidimensionality, reliability, and validity, the next stage is to examine the inner model. The inner model describes the strength of the relationship among the hypothesized variables derived from substantive theory (Briz-Ponce *et al.*, 2017; Chin, 1998). We assess the explanatory power of the inner model (β) and the amount of variance (R^2) (Chin, 1998; Fornell and Cha, 1994), where independent factors explain dependent factors. Initially, it is crucial to compute the (β) and its significance. Figure 3 and Table 8

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3 demonstrate the β for each path along with its significant p-value. The R^2 examines the variance
4 for each construct. It is used to describe the model's explanatory power. Tables 7 and 8 depicts R^2
5 and t-value for each construct, respectively. Accordingly, the outer model explained 74% the
6 variance of cognitive involvement, 81% the variance of affective involvement, and 25 % in
7 continued intention to use, respectively (see Table 7). In other words, the construct affective
8 involvement has the highest value, 81%, followed by cognitive involvement, 74%. However, it is
9 difficult to establish the rule of thumb for the minimum acceptable variance value. Prior literature
10 described the R^2 value 0.75 as strong, 0.45 as moderate, and 0.25 as weak (Joseph *et al.*, 2011).
11 All the constructs in this study have strong and moderate levels of variance except the continued
12 intention to use, which demonstrated a weak level. It is also essential to compute the effect size in
13 order to “identify which one of the independent variables account for most of the variance in a
14 dependent variable” (Joseph *et al.*, 2011). Table 8 shows the effect size values. The values of 0.02,
15 0.15, and 0.35 suggested small, medium, and large effect sizes, respectively, as described in the
16 classic literature. Finally, all the Stone-Geisser Q^2 coefficients (resampling-analog of the R^2
17 coefficient) exceeded the minimum threshold of 0.00 value, providing a mark of satisfactory
18 predictive validity (see Table 7) (Joseph *et al.*, 2011). In summary, all indicators are observed to
19 be significant to support the proposed model (see Figure 3, and Table 7 and 8).
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34 4. Results

35 The results partially support the proposed hypotheses (see Figure 1) and indicate that the employed
36 quality design positively affects the continued intention to use via cognitive and affective
37 involvement. The underlying analysis section illustrates the essential findings related to design
38 aspects (see Figure 3 and Table 8). The results are also interesting because there is no evidence
39 available in prior literature that explains and analyzes the role of design attributes separately in
40 online settings.
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Notes: The straight lines represent significant relationships; the dotted lines non-significant relationships or unsupported hypotheses.

Figure 3 Results from Structural Model Analysis [Sample n = 662]

Hypotheses 1a-d: The quality of appearance refers to the use of appropriate graphics, color, font, and multimedia items to organize the visual design of a website (Al-Qeisi *et al.*, 2014). The precise organization and layout are also considered essential aspects of appearance, attractiveness, and appeal. Font quality refers to the appearance and the arrangement of text in order to improve legibility and information processing. The effect of font quality ($\beta = 0.09$, $p \leq 0.08$, $t = 1.73$) on cognitive involvement is observed to be positive (see Figure 3 and Table 8). However, no relationship is observed between font quality and affective involvement ($\beta = 0.02$, $p \leq 0.74$, $t = 0.33$). In this study, font quality (i.e., style, size, and layout) is related to cognitive involvement.

Table 8: Structural relationships and hypotheses testing: effects inference

| (H) | Construct | β | Indirect effects | f^2 | t-value | p-value 2-tailed |
|-----|--|---------|------------------|-------|---------|------------------|
| H1a | Font quality → Cognitive involvement | 0.09 | | 0.01 | 1.73 | 0.08 |
| H1b | Font quality → Affective involvement | 0.02 | | 0.00 | 0.33 | 0.74 |
| | Font quality → Behavioral intention to use | | 0.122 | | | |
| H1c | Aesthetic quality → Cognitive involvement | 0.32 | | 0.10 | 5.87 | 0.001 |
| H1d | Aesthetic quality → Affective involvement | 0.27 | | 0.10 | 6.42 | 0.001 |
| | Aesthetic quality → Behavioral intention to use | | 0.15 | | | |
| H2b | Information quality → Cognitive involvement | 0.14 | | 0.02 | 2.64 | 0.01 |
| H2a | Information quality → Affective involvement | 0.21 | | 0.05 | 4.19 | 0.001 |
| | Information quality → Behavioral intention to use | | 0.09 | | | |
| H3a | Navigation quality → Cognitive involvement | 0.03 | | 0.00 | 0.57 | 0.57 |
| H3b | Navigation quality → Affective involvement | 0.08 | | 0.01 | 2.00 | 0.05 |
| | Navigation quality → Behavioral intention to use | | 0.02 | | | |
| H4a | Responsiveness → Cognitive involvement | -0.01 | | 0.00 | 0.24 | 0.810 |
| H4b | Responsiveness → Affective involvement | 0.32 | | 0.14 | 7.76 | 0.001 |
| | Responsiveness → Behavioral intention to use | | 0.09 | | | |
| H4c | User control → Cognitive involvement | 0.16 | | 0.02 | 2.90 | 0.001 |
| H4d | User control → Affective involvement | 0.02 | | 0.00 | 0.38 | 0.70 |
| | User control → Behavioral intention to use | | 0.04 | | | |
| H4e | Communication → Cognitive involvement | 0.22 | | 0.05 | 5.00 | 0.001 |
| H4f | Communication → Affective involvement | 0.24 | | 0.08 | 5.68 | 0.001 |
| | Communication → Behavioral intention to use | | 0.12 | | | |
| H5a | Cognitive involvement → Continued intention to use | 0.24 | | 0.03 | 4.46 | 0.001 |
| H5b | Affective involvement → Continued intention to use | 0.29 | | 0.04 | 5.14 | 0.001 |

Note: H= Hypotheses; β = Path coefficient; f^2 = f-square.

Font quality heightens information processing and readability, which leads to continued intention to use via cognitive involvement. Aesthetic quality refers to the features of the stimulus, appeal, and attractiveness of a website expressed via graphics, color, and animation (Moshagen and Thielsch, 2010; Hoehle *et al.*, 2016). The effect of aesthetic quality ($\beta = 0.32$, $p \leq 0.001$, $t = 5.87$ and $\beta = 0.27$, $p \leq 0.001$, $t = 6.42$) on both cognitive and affective involvement is observed to be positive (see Figure 3 and Table 8). Graphics and multimedia items help to create an engaging environment that promotes the individual's active participation and involvement. Likewise, the appropriate color scheme not only attracts users but also draw their attention towards critical information. It is a vital property of objects and can arouse cognitive, physiological, and emotional reactions (Moshagen and Thielsch, 2010). Thus, look-and-feel quality increases the sense of pleasure (Koo and Ju, 2010; Lavie and Tractinsky, 2004; Liu *et al.*, 2013; Loureiro and Roschk, 2014) and information processing through instant recognition, creativity, and appealing artifacts (Moshagen and Thielsch, 2010). Moreover, arrangement and grouping of similar objects lead to instant perception and understanding, and reduce the complexity (Moshagen and Thielsch, 2010; Tuch *et al.*, 2010). The reduction of complexity facilitates users' information processing, which

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3 will result in a more positive aesthetic response toward the stimulus (Tuch *et al.*, 2010). The
4 findings suggest that online service providers should offer visual design having visual and sensory
5 features as a means of attracting users' attention. Coursaris and Van (Coursaris and van, 2015)
6 argue that look-and-feel related aspects increase motivation, focused attention, and involvement
7 with the website. As design with mass hedonic features is entertainment-oriented, it not only
8 promotes the user's imaginal and emotional responses (Zhou *et al.*, 2014) but it importantly
9 contributes to information processing, understanding, and intention to use (Moshagen and
10 Thielsch, 2010). According to Tarute *et al.*, (2017) continued intention to use can be increased via
11 engaging visual elements. In contrast, Cyr *et al.*, (2018) observed the weak effect of visual features
12 on involvement for commercial websites. Similarly, Éthier *et al.*, (2008) observed no relationship
13 between visual aspects and cognitive appraisal. They further argue that text and visual aspects are
14 not important elements of online shopping evaluation.

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16 **Hypotheses 2a-b:** Information quality refers to organization, relevance, accuracy, concurrency
17 and logical representation of information (Cyr and Head, 2013). The effect of information quality
18 ($\beta = 0.14$, $p \leq 0.01$, $t = 2.64$ and $\beta = 0.21$, $p \leq 0.001$, $t = 4.19$) on both cognitive and affective
19 involvement is observed to be positive (see Figure 3 and Table 8). However, the relationship
20 between information quality and affective involvement is observed to be stronger than between
21 information quality and cognitive involvement. Overall, information quality contributes to
22 promoting both cognitive and affective involvement and is observed as an influencing antecedent
23 factor compared to other design features. This involvement reduces the complexity and leads to
24 higher productivity due to engagement and information timeliness aspects. Thus, the presented
25 information should be relevant, useful, and concurrent to fulfill an individual's information needs.
26 Furthermore, relevant, simple, and useful information improves the user's understanding and
27 enables them to be more involved. Appropriate information and its precise organization not only
28 increases the consumer level of pleasure but also facilitates to process the information efficiently,
29 which results as a stimulus for a higher continued intention to use. Likewise, individuals who are
30 highly involved and engaged with an application are willing to search for more information (Kim
31 *et al.*, 2007; Tarute *et al.*, 2017). Richard (2005) observed a positive relationship between
32 information effectiveness and site involvement. In several studies (Cyr *et al.*, 2018; Éthier *et al.*,
33 2008; Loureiro and Roschk, 2014; Tarute *et al.*, 2017), it was discussed as a strong determinant of
34 involvement, emotions, engagement, and situational state. Thus, the continued intention to use can
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3 be increased via engaging information content (Hsu *et al.*, 2012; Tarute *et al.*, 2017). In contrast,
4 Richard (2005) observed the information as a weak determinant of involvement.

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6 **Hypotheses 3a-b:** Navigation quality refers to the features that support the convenient access to
7 the information. The effect of navigation quality ($\beta = 0.08$, $p \leq 0.05$, $t = 2.00$) on affective
8 involvement is observed to be positive, but no relationship was observed between navigation
9 quality and cognitive involvement ($\beta = 0.03$, $p \leq 0.57$, $t = 0.57$) (see Figure 3 and Table 8).
10 Accordingly, navigational features, including obviousness of buttons, structure, arrangement of
11 menus, hierarchical order, and logical road-map, reduce the utilization of excessive mental
12 resources. Additionally, navigational aids, clue, and search-related features make it easier for
13 individuals to easily find the relevant information, which gives the feeling of pleasure. So, users
14 who are effectively involved with learning applications are willing to search for more information.
15 Likewise, in a study, Kim *et al.*, (2007) and Éthier *et al.*, (2008) discussed that navigational features
16 of a system are positively related to cognitive appraisal and behavior. This is because they provide
17 easy and flexible ways for users to browse and post information. So, it will be easier to encourage
18 involvement, making participation interactive and enjoyable (Zheng *et al.*, 2013). Otherwise, hard
19 to navigate along with broken links, decreased the individual's level of involvement (Santosa *et*
20 *al.*, 2005).
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23 **Hypotheses 4a-f:** Interactivity is a multidimensional attribute of design quality and is valued as
24 an important feature of service quality. These dimensions were rarely studied in prior research
25 concerning cognitive and affective involvement. Among the three dimensions of interactivity, only
26 *communication* significantly influences both cognitive and affective involvement ($\beta = 0.22$, $p \leq$
27 0.001 , $t = 5.00$ and $\beta = 0.24$, $p \leq 0.001$, $t = 5.68$) (see Figure 3 and Table 8). Thus, the speed of
28 communication is considered as an important aspect to retain and engage users. Likewise, users
29 may feel irritated whenever the Internet speed decreases, which ultimately influences their level
30 of involvement (Santosa *et al.*, 2005). *Responsiveness* represents the level of user interaction via
31 instant response against their queries. Our results show the positive effect of responsiveness ($\beta =$
32 0.32 , $p \leq 0.001$, $t = 7.76$) on affective involvement but no relationship is observed between
33 responsiveness and cognitive involvement ($\beta = -0.01$, $p \leq 0.810$, $t = 0.24$) (see Figure 3 and Table
34 8). Thus, instantaneous information and feedback against user requests create a sense of pleasure,
35 which leads to continuous intention to use. Similarly, prompt services to solve users' queries prove
36 to be valuable in inspiring playfulness and perceived flow in customers (Hsu *et al.*, 2012).
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3 According to Fan *et al.*, (2017) quick response to users' requests is initially important in attracting
4 and involving users.
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6 Lastly, *user control* is related to cognitive involvement in this study and the results show the strong
7 influence of user control ($\beta = 0.16$, $p \leq 0.001$, $t = 2.90$) on cognitive involvement, but no
8 relationship was observed between user control and affective involvement ($\beta = 0.02$, $p \leq 0.70$, $t =$
9 0.38) (see **Figure 3** and Table 8). Consequently, the features that help users to search, manipulate,
10 and control the information contents lead to cognitive involvement. This result contrasts with the
11 work of Jiang *et al.*, (2010), who observed an equal role of control for both cognitive and affective
12 involvement. This is because user control can induce consumers to be acutely absorbed and
13 involved in their navigation of websites.
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15 The overall findings indicate that instant response to resolve the user's queries, ability to manage
16 the contents, and speed of communication lead to cognitive and affective motives. These features
17 induce a positive perception about the learning services and help individuals in effectively
18 achieving the desired goals. Fortin and Dholakia (2005) argue that, if the interactive features are
19 well balanced, the design of new media have the ability to impact favorably on involvement.
20 Previous studies also demonstrate the positive relationship between interactivity and involvement
21 (Jiang *et al.*, 2010; Cyr *et al.*, 2018). In the same way, Kang *et al.*, (2015) observed that interactivity
22 is an important antecedent factor that shaped consumers' affective involvement with mobile apps,
23 which in turn influenced their intention to use. In contrast, Rodríguez-torrico *et al.*, (2019)
24 observed no relationship between interactivity (e.g., user control and responsiveness) and
25 cognitive reaction.
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29 **Hypotheses 5a-b:** Both affective and cognitive involvement remain as important aspects in
30 determining continued intention to use. Results illustrate the positive effect of cognitive and
31 affective involvement ($\beta = 0.24$, $p \leq 0.001$, $t = 4.46$ and $\beta = 0.29$, $p \leq 0.001$, $t = 5.14$) on the
32 continued intention to use (see **Figure 3** and Table 8). It indicates that both cognitive and affective
33 involvements are basic constructs and act as key antecedent factors of continued intention to use.
34 Meanwhile, Reychav and Wu (2015) observed that cognitive involvement is an important factor
35 to determine the perceived learning. In contrast, Jiang *et al.*, (2010) and Kang *et al.*, (2015)
36 observed that the role of affective involvement for intention to use is larger than that of cognitive
37 involvement. Likewise, Rodríguez-torrico *et al.*, (2019) considered affective reaction more
38 important compared to the cognitive reaction in the mobile context. In the current study, both
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3 cognitive and affective involvement equally contribute to a continued intention to use. Therefore,
4 it is important to understand which design features can influence cognitive and affective
5 involvement to promote information processing and a sense of pleasure. Yang *et al.*, (2019) also
6 observed the positive impact of both cognitive and affective involvement on mobile learning
7 intent.
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13 **5. Implications**

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15 This study contributes to online learning on smartphones research by providing a comprehensive
16 understanding of individuals' experiences and perceptions related to design quality that lead to
17 continued intention to use. Although numerous studies are conducted related to mobile usability,
18 engagement, trust, and satisfaction (Hoehle *et al.*, 2016; Tarute *et al.*, 2017; Rodríguez-torrico *et*
19 *al.*, 2019), there is still a lack of research focusing on the causality and relations between design
20 quality and multidimensional construct involvement, and their potential consequences on
21 continued intention to use. Moreover, research into involvement remains scarce due to the
22 difficulty of conceptualizing it (DeFranco, 2016; Cyr *et al.*, 2018) but is considered as an important
23 concept in information and communication research (Reychav and Wu, 2015; DeFranco, 2016).
24 Therefore, considering the smartphone, this research identifies the key determinants of intention
25 to use. **The findings move forward on the understanding of design quality and its role in**
26 **heightening the level of involvement (cognitive and affective), which are conclusive to securing**
27 **the continued intention to use the smartphones while learning online.**
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38 Furthermore, the current study also validates involvement as an important determinant of
39 continued intention to use, as it establishes its role in the academic effort aimed at understanding
40 individuals' behavioral intentions. Moreover, the current study is built up from the S-O-R
41 framework considering its full scope and is an integrative work that has included the design
42 features as key determinants of continued intention to use as well as affective and cognitive
43 involvement. Therefore, this study offers better insight into both individuals' external stimuli and
44 internal state that impact the continued intention to use.
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50 **Regarding practical implications, these findings establish the foundations for user interface design**
51 **guidelines. Designers and practitioners have long been concerned about design issues. Such**
52 **recurring issues exist because few studies have attempted to point out how interaction and design**
53 **features may influence the success of smartphone utilization.** For designers and practitioners, this
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3 study reveals that continued intention to use may reside in the design quality. So, they can get the
4 benefits out of our research by adopting the appropriate design strategies to attract new users as
5 well as to retain existing ones. To heighten the level of cognitive involvement, there are few
6 guidelines concerning design quality, such as the precise selection of font style (sans-serif), size
7 (14 to 22 px), color scheme (i.e., blue-white, grey-black and blue), layout, spacing, graphics, and
8 grouping (Gestalt) of these elements to constitute the simplicity that enhances information
9 processing and individuals' understanding, which lead to continued intention to use. **These**
10 **grouping principles (i.e., proximity and similarity) help in arranging and organizing the**
11 **information so that individuals can easily read and use it.** In several studies (Seckler *et al.*, 2015;
12 Pušnik *et al.*, 2016; Faisal *et al.*, 2017), the employed visuals aspects evaluated in the current study
13 were also regarded as appropriate for design quality. The speed of communication to obtain useful
14 information and the ability to manage and manipulate that information –such as language change,
15 advanced search facilities, and customizable features– also increase cognitive involvement via
16 timeliness of the information aspects.

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18 Regarding affective involvement, visual look, information quality, and the arrangement of links,
19 menus, and buttons along with navigational clues, improve the user browsing convenience
20 (Rodríguez-torrico *et al.*, 2019). These aspects reduce the user's efforts while searching for relevant
21 information and ultimately leads to a feeling of pleasure (Loureiro and Roschk, 2014). Similarly,
22 a quick response to users' requests through chat, messaging and supportive services is helpful in
23 building an interactive setting. A quick response to users' requests is likely to increase arousal and
24 sense of pleasure. Overall, the provided guidelines are not only focused on usability features but
25 can also be helpful to evoke certain emotions and alter continued intention to use learning apps on
26 smartphones. These guidelines are relevant to reinforce continued intention to use smartphone
27 apps via cognitive and affective involvement. Lastly, the current study concludes that both
28 cognitive and affective involvement equally contributes to a continued intention to use.

29 30 31 **6. Conclusion, Limitations, and Future Study**

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33 Smartphone-based online learning has gained popularity among educational institutions for
34 delivering knowledge in a timely and effective fashion. Previous research in the online context
35 was primarily focused on the cognitive and utilization aspects to determine the effective
36 knowledge deliverance strategies. The deliverance of knowledge through online learning on
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3 smartphones is also considered an essential educational approach. In this context, the interface
4 plays a crucial role in adopting these technologies. The current study proposes a model to explore
5 the impact of design quality on the continued intention to use. Some interesting findings related to
6 the implications of design artifacts were obtained. These implications bring practical guidelines
7 for designing more interactive interfaces to meet individuals' positive attitudes or continued
8 intention to use.
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11 An experimental prototype was developed to test the proposed hypotheses. The study was
12 conducted in different educational institutions, and the data were collected from both
13 undergraduate and postgraduate students ($n = 662$). The large student sample was a conclusive
14 and reliable feature of this research. The results partially support the proposed model. The findings
15 indicate that design quality heightens the individual's involvement, which ultimately leads to
16 continued intention to use. The current study will draw the attention of practitioners towards the
17 perception of users for providing them with convenient and appropriate learning resources. This is
18 because convenience and precise procedures, along with understandable terminologies, heighten
19 the involvement, motivation, and excitement, which ultimately leads to continued intention to use.
20 Moreover, the utilization of suitable visual information and interactivity aspects enhance the level
21 of engagement and promote user involvement, i.e., pleasure and information processing, while
22 interacting with learning applications on smartphones. Academic institutions should consider
23 design quality as an essential aspect while developing learning resources. Developers should
24 include visual elements, such as font, graphics, color, and multimedia, in a way to increase
25 individuals' involvement. Moreover, navigation and information features, i.e., information
26 presentation and menus appearance, should be clear and easy to use to provide better experiences.
27 This is because a positive experience or deep involvement increases the overall satisfaction
28 (Maditinos and Theodoridis, 2010). Interactivity, i.e., responsiveness, user control, and
29 communication are also essential to establish effective communication. Other studies (Kang *et al.*,
30 2015; Tarute *et al.*, 2017; Nikou and Economides, 2018) also discuss the importance of interface
31 design for related technologies. Likewise, Reychav and Wu (2015) argue that a rich design
32 effectively engages individuals to explore informational content conveniently.
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35 Besides, this study also entails several limitations by default. First, the sample used was composed
36 of students from higher education institutions, which may not represent the overall population.
37 Thus, the use of higher education institution students may affect the generalizability of this
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3 research and decrease the applicability of findings into other settings. **Second, the age, experience,**
4 **and educational background of the students were likely to be homogenous.** Too many dispersions
5 with regards to this issue are not expectable. Third, only a single prototype with limited activities
6 was used in this work, although this way is consistent with past studies (Saade and Bahli, 2005).
7 This may also reduce the generalizability and transferability of the results. In terms of future scope,
8 previous studies that show the relationship between design attributes and cognitive and affective
9 involvement are limited. Thus, further studies are necessary to determine the relationship between
10 these variables. The environmental and individuals factors, such as **gender, experience,** traits,
11 culture, motivation, normative beliefs, and moods may impact cognitive and affective involvement
12 may also be good points for future research. We also want to investigate further the role of device
13 type and other visual aspects (i.e., classical vs. expressive, symmetry vs. asymmetry, complexity
14 vs. simplicity, and diversity) in determining the individual's involvement.
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Appendix A

| Constructs | Items | Mean | SD |
|----------------------------|--|------|-------|
| Font quality | (Shu-Hao <i>et al.</i> , 2014; Ali, 2016; Faisal <i>et al.</i> , 2017) | | |
| FQ1 | It is easy to read the text on this website with the used font type and size. | 4.79 | 1.668 |
| FQ2 | The font color is appealing on this website | 4.81 | 1.690 |
| FQ3 | The text alignment and spacing on this website make the text easy to read. | 5.13 | 1.663 |
| Aesthetic quality | (Mummalaneni, 2005; Koo and Ju, 2010; Cyr and Head, 2013; Ali, 2016; Hoehle <i>et al.</i> , 2016) | | |
| AQ1 | The mobile application groups elements together that are similar and belong together. | 5.33 | 1.609 |
| AQ2 | The mobile application uses animations appropriately. | 5.40 | 1.602 |
| AQ3 | The screen design of this mobile application (i.e. colors, images, layout etc.) is attractive. | 5.28 | 1.588 |
| Information quality | (Eroglu <i>et al.</i> , 2001; Hausman and Siekpe, 2009; Hsu <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Al-Qeisi <i>et al.</i> , 2014; Ali, 2016; Tarute <i>et al.</i> , 2017) | | |
| IQ1 | The information provided at this mobile application is useful. | 5.13 | 1.663 |
| IQ2 | The information provided at the mobile application is accurate and complete. | 5.41 | 1.647 |
| IQ3 | The information provided at this mobile application is relevant. | 5.28 | 1.559 |
| Navigation quality | (Koo and Ju, 2010; Hsu <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Cyr and Head, 2013; Ali, 2016; Hoehle <i>et al.</i> , 2016; Tarute <i>et al.</i> , 2017) | | |
| NQ1 | I can easily navigate this mobile application. | 5.03 | 1.643 |
| NQ2 | The mobile application uses a navigational hierarchy. | 5.17 | 1.536 |
| NQ3 | This mobile application provides good navigation facilities to information content. | 5.32 | 1.794 |
| Responsiveness | (Hsu <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Fan <i>et al.</i> , 2017; Rodríguez-Torrico <i>et al.</i> , 2019) | | |
| RS1 | I am able to obtain the information I want without any delay. | 4.86 | 1.658 |
| RS2 | The mobile application is very fast in responding to my request. | 4.98 | 1.598 |
| RS3 | When I use the mobile application, I felt I was getting instantaneous information. | 5.25 | 1.693 |
| User Control | (Jiang <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Fan <i>et al.</i> , 2017; Tarute <i>et al.</i> , 2017; Rodríguez-Torrico <i>et al.</i> , 2019; Wu, 2019) | | |
| UC1 | I feel that I have a great deal of control over my using experience. | 4.93 | 1.606 |
| UC2 | The mobile application is manageable. | 5.19 | 1.636 |
| UC3 | While I was using the mobile application, I could choose freely what I wanted to do. | 5.21 | 1.620 |
| Communication | (Jiang <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Fan <i>et al.</i> , 2017) | | |
| CC1 | The mobile application facilitates two-way communication. | 5.14 | 1.573 |
| CC2 | The mobile application facilitates concurrent communication. | 5.23 | 1.562 |
| CC3 | The mobile application gives me the opportunity to talk back. | 5.24 | 1.786 |
| Cognitive involvement | (Celuch and Slama, 1998; Reyachav and Wu, 2015) | | |
| CI1 | This mobile application is needed. | 5.32 | 1.630 |
| CI2 | This mobile application is valuable. | 5.30 | 1.593 |
| CI3 | This mobile application is relevant. | 5.30 | 1.595 |
| Affective involvement | (Celuch and Slama, 1998; Reyachav and Wu, 2015) | | |
| AI1 | This mobile application is fascinating. | 5.26 | 1.573 |
| AI2 | This mobile application is interesting. | 5.50 | 1.603 |
| AI3 | This mobile application is appealing. | 5.45 | 1.618 |
| AI4 | This mobile application is involving. | 5.31 | 1.612 |
| Continued intention to use | (Ahn <i>et al.</i> , 2007; Hoehle <i>et al.</i> , 2016; Tarute <i>et al.</i> , 2017) | | |
| CIU1 | I intend to continue using the mobile application. | 4.82 | 1.894 |
| CIU2 | I will use this mobile application on a regular basis in the future. | 4.94 | 1.724 |
| CIU3 | I predict I will continue using the mobile application. | 4.93 | 1.791 |
| CIU4 | I encourage friends and relatives to be the customers of the mobile application. | 4.94 | 1.815 |