

## Hyun-Yeul Lee - Assignment #1

### 1) *Comparing 20 Minutes*

An activity that I felt engaged in this week was, looking on the net for how-to better design scripting style sheets. I want to compare this experience with shopping for a pair of socks at the mall to better exemplify why both experiences of about 20 minutes spent, felt different.

I have been working on designing a website based on a css (style sheet). I have a basic familiarity with style sheets; the functionalities in setting basic parameters. My boyfriend who knew about css issues in web design told me of capabilities that the it could do beyond what I was aware of. The next steps for me was to tap into the net using Google to further investigate resources regarding this topic. My search started with simply typing in "css" leading to searching css-based sites, that are sites that use advanced css scripting for their own sites to show and tell, and maintain communities and discussion forums.

I recall to my other experience of sock shopping at the mall. I had estimated about a 15 to 20 minute detour to the mall before returning home. There are few shops in the mall that match the quality, aesthetics, and budget for the type of socks I was looking for. I targeted three stores from the beginning, leaving the better of the three stores, as the last stop. I ended up buying a pair of socks from the last store.

Comparing these two experiences, searching for topics related to scripting style sheets versus shopping for a pair of socks, I felt more of an engagement with the open-ended quest; I had no immediate expectations nor did I know what the abundance and quality of resources were available on the net, and I felt challenged and an unconscious addiction/hook to look for more answers. At the same time I did not know which site was more reliable. I was continuously reading and learning. In the latter example, my sock shopping experience was mundane and that I would not consider it as engaging but fulfilling a basic living-related necessity task I set out. I knew what my goals were in the sense that the detour was already visualized before I had already done it. Therefore I was already aware of the environment of the mall, the three stores, and the object that I was to end up with - a pair of socks. This experience was rather an intellectually meaningless task compared to the searching and discovering of resources related to the topic at hand.

In both cases, it seemed that my feeling - the internal drive to do what I had to do - was different as well. The searching on the net was engaging in the sense that I was discovering new and unexpected search results, a new form of knowledge. This was something that I would have continued doing through the evening. The more I searched and read, the more I discovered and found resources. On the other hand, a mall and its material culture was pretty much predictable as I mentioned above: the environment and the branding, and styling of sales objects. These two experiences highlight that my definition and feeling of engagement in an activity that I experienced this week was pointing to what I relate to the process of learning. This engagement of the mind was not really a temporal based evaluation, but rather about the expectation level and discovering new-found knowledge.

### 2) *Engaging in, through my eyes*

This week I watched *Ghost in the Shell: Innocence* and *Loathing Las Vegas*. The first movie is a Japanese anime that I had no knowledge of and that a pre-quel existed as well. The second movie is a movie that we found in our cable program box, that is of the same director from *12 Monkeys*.

The context to how I came to watch the movies, was through being asked to watch a movie together with another person, more so socially-based than content-based, and the second comparison being that I was looking for a movie that was specifically a comedy, for the sake of wanting to watch a movie on a saturday night. The two scenarios show that it was holistically less content-driven and more activity-driven.

My verdict is that the animation movie was more engaging. I was not able to finish the latter movie for a couple of reasons. I have been exposed to the visual vocabulary used in featured anime's since I was younger. In the latter movie, there were new and interesting cinematography methods used (which I consciously look for in films). Content-wise - in comparing both films, I was able to follow the narrative in the animation film because of my familiarity with the visual style and the moral of the story as well as the idea of artificial intelligence, and how similar story ideas such as the Matrix was found in the animation. On the other hand, I was much distracted by the story that was hard to follow and that the visual effects were really peculiar and eccentric. Beyond content in both films, my friend who fell asleep during the first half of the anime, perhaps encouraged me to concentrate more? In the latter film, I was not able to finish the movie

perhaps because I **sufficed** the action of watching a movie, as opposed to having the attention span to follow a narrative in the middle of the night.

3)My list of attributes: [process, discovery, more, open-ended, exploration, challenged, expectation, learning, knowledge, memory, visual vocabulary, life morals, task, activity, familiarity, time, quality, balance, social]

More important attributes: [process, challenged, expectation, discovery, open-ended]

One attribute (since I have to pick one): expectation

