

Contribution ID: 57

Type: Paper

Effectiveness of visual languages in the context of communications for safety and on-board orientation

Wednesday, 15 June 2022 12:00 (20 minutes)

The size and level of complexity of contemporary passenger ships are evolving in an ever increasing and ever faster way. Logistics and the possibility of allowing one to orient oneself independently, therefore, must deal with increasingly complex issues to be managed especially in terms of communication.

If, on one hand, it is necessary to provide all the information regarding the safeguards and useful practices in case of emergency, on the other hand, a communication system must be structured in order to guarantee not only a development of life on board as smooth as possible, but also a positive perception of the level of assistance.

Today Visual languages and new technologies can, through their integration, offer new possibilities for optimizing these design themes.

The work presented here reports the research developed by the authors starting from considerations of the state of the art to arrive at hypothetical methodological formulas and experimental applications to be implemented.

The first phase of the study focused on a series of logistic and sociological researches (also through an interview campaign) in order to identify the criticalities and potentialities of the communication systems currently active. The second phase defined a study methodology in order to identify areas of action and respective languages to be adopted. Finally, the possibilities of integration among new technologies for the development of 'on demand' visual languages were evaluated considering that these that can, in a transversal manner, fill and systematize a plurality of needs.

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Session Classification: 1A

Track Classification: Safety and security