CREATING ENGLISH MATERIAL OF SHORT FUNCTIONAL TEXTS USING CANVA AS A SIMPLE GRAPHIC DESIGN

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Abstract

The increasing integration of digital design tools in language education highlights the need to examine their pedagogical value, particularly in developing English learning materials. However, previous studies have largely focused on Canva's technical features rather than its instructional potential in creating English short functional texts. This study aims to investigate the use of Canva as a learning medium for designing English materials for short functional texts. Employing a descriptive qualitative approach, the data were collected from observations of Canva-based material development and analysis of sample instructional designs created using the platform. The findings reveal that Canva is a user-friendly and accessible design tool that supports teachers, lecturers, and students—especially beginners and non-designers—in producing visually engaging English learning materials. Canva provides a wide range of free templates, layouts, images, and design elements that facilitate the creation of short functional texts such as brochures, announcements, banners, flyers, invitation cards, greeting cards, advertisements, application letters, and curriculum vitae. The study also finds that Canva enables teachers to design project-based learning activities in which students modify existing templates to produce their own texts, allowing teachers to analyze linguistic features and text structures directly from students' designs. This research contributes to English language teaching by demonstrating that Canva can function not only as a design tool but also as an effective learning medium that enhances students' creativity, participation, and communicative competence in producing short functional texts.

Keywords : Canva, English Material, Simple Graphic Design

INTRODUCTION

In this era, digital media has a major influence on every aspect of life, including education (Al-farizi & Suherman, 2019). Nowadays, teachers also have to be proficient and skilled in using technology. Therefore, teachers/lecturers must keep up with technological developments. One way to keep up with technological developments is to use digital media in the learning process. Technological developments in learning require teachers/lecturers to have the ability to sort and select the information that is presented so widely, not only in the form of printed books but also in other media, which are presented visually. This causes teachers/lecturers to be able to interpret the message conveyed intelligently.

The presence of the COVID-19 pandemic has also led to the emergence of many new technologies that make it easier for teachers/lecturers. Many teaching media are starting to emerge. One of them is Canva. Canva (http://www.canva.com) was founded in Australia in 2012. Canva is a simple graphic design program for amateurs and pros to create blog graphics, flyers, photos, posters, presentations, social media postings, and more (Yang & Li, 2015). Giddings (2022) states that Canva is a free-to-use cloud-based

graphic design program. Canva (https://www.canva.com) is the ultimate tool for the non-designer who wants to create great graphics (Moore, 2016). Canva is the best digital tool for creating a presentation using photos, animations, schemes, and, in general, any visual material selected by the teaching practitioner (Bin et al., 2022). Canva is an online graphic design application that offers access to free and paid design tools (Fitria, 2024). The free edition of Canva allows us to access several types of templates and design them according to our needs. We can also make posters, postcards, letterhead, and other printed materials. To get started, Canva has a large selection of styles and designs to choose from. You will also have access to several free stock images. However, since this is a free version, all templates and stock photos will, of course, be limited. Canva Pro is also known as the Canva premium version or Canva premium edition. Canva Pro includes all the features that the free version of Canva has to offer, as well as many additional features.

The presence of Canva has also become effective in responding to the demands of the times (Fitria, 2022b). Teachers and students must deliver learning. Canva is here to offer many conveniences for creating innovative and creative teaching materials (Fitria, 2023a). Canva can make project-based learning more effective for students. Students will get more real examples that make them more creative and innovative. In the end, the pandemic won't break creativity. Through the Canva application, we can learn a lot of things, such as creating videos, creating images, and creating presentations. This is certainly very easy to make English teaching materials that require the visualization of images and videos in delivering information. Learning English can be helped by using digital media because many applications are compatible with it. Learning English, which feels boring for some people, will be more fun because there are interesting videos and pictures. Learning does not only focus on listening skills but also on the ability to analyze and abstract the information obtained.

Canva can be used in any English material, such as making short functional texts. Short Functional Texts have certain social meanings and purposes to be used in everyday life. This text does not have a text structure in the form of paragraphs, as in text types/text genres. Functional text is used for everyday information. It is called functional because it helps us to do things in our daily lives (Fitria, 2022a). Slightly different from genre text, functional text is more applicable, written, and used in daily communication (Suryani & Fitria, 2022). There are many types of functional English texts, and they tend to develop because of their functional nature. There are many types of functional text in English. It is adapted for its functions such as instructions or warnings (caution, notice), announcements, advertising, invitations, short messages or memos, greeting cards, food or drug labels (food labels or medicine labels), posters, product reviews, food labels, medicine labels, manual guides, recipes, and many more.

There are several previous studies related to the use of Canva and its benefits in the teaching and learning process. First, Melinda & Saputra (2021) state that using Canva as a learning medium can make it easier for teachers in teaching and learning activities. Learning materials can be animated using the features available in Canva. Second, Mukti (2021) states that learning media created using the Canva tool is practical and simple to use. Other topics, in addition to English, can use the Canva program as a learning medium, both online and offline. Third, Paulia (2021) states that the Canva Application is a recently published public application that gives numerous digital templates for writing, such as making advertising, curriculum vitae, brief information, and so on, at the Junior

High School level. They are also motivated to practice writing skills using the Canva app. In brief, this medium is meant to address issues and improve the teaching and learning process. Canva Application is effectively used as a medium for the writing skill learning process of writing skills. Fourth, Salsabila (2022) states that Canva has numerous benefits: it is free, it is simple to use, it can boost instructors' creativity and make it easier for teachers to develop instructional media, teaching media made with Canva becomes more fascinating, and 6) students are more engaged in learning. The findings also demonstrate that instructors may produce five types of educational material using Canva: video learning, visual aids or presentations, charts, cards, and posters. Fitria & Afdaleni (2024) explore how Canva can be integrated into creating students' worksheets for English Language Teaching (ELT) to enhance visual appeal, interactivity, and overall engagement in language learning. The study found that Canva enables educators to design visually appealing and customizable worksheets for various ELT purposes, such as vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, listening, speaking, and integrated skills. Its user-friendly interface and ready-to-use templates make it easier for teachers to produce engaging, professional-quality materials that support diverse language learning needs effectively.

Several previous studies have examined the use of Canva as a learning medium in ELT. Most of these studies emphasize Canva's role as a digital platform that supports classroom activities, student engagement, or media-based learning. However, these studies primarily focus on Canva as a tool for learning delivery rather than as a resource for systematic English material development. In particular, limited attention has been given to how Canva can be utilized to design instructional materials that target specific text types in ELT, especially short functional texts.

This study addresses this gap by focusing on the use of Canva in the development of English learning materials for short functional texts. Rather than examining Canva as a general teaching aid, this research investigates its pedagogical potential as a material design tool that supports the preparation of authentic, multimodal learning inputs. Short functional texts are a crucial component of English language instruction because they are designed to convey information clearly and efficiently, often through one-directional communication (Hanafi, 2019). Functional texts enable learners to interact with language in real-life contexts where clarity, purpose, and structure are essential.

In ELT contexts, short functional texts play an important role in developing learners' communicative competence and functional literacy. A functional text is a piece of writing intended to communicate information from one individual or group to another (Atiko & Taupik, 2019). Such texts are commonly encountered in daily life and are closely related to learners' social and professional needs (Napitupulu et al., 2020). The primary purpose of functional texts is to provide specific information or guide individuals in performing everyday tasks (Cameron & Myers, 2013). Examples of short functional texts include advertisements, announcements, brochures, invitations, memos, notices, signs, schedules, emails, and application-related documents.

Despite their importance in language teaching, short functional texts are often presented to students in decontextualized or text-only formats that do not reflect authentic communication practices. Therefore, there is a pedagogical need for learning materials that integrate linguistic elements with visual and layout features. Canva offers a design

environment that allows teachers to create visually structured and contextually relevant functional texts, which align with real-world language use. By focusing on this specific instructional context, the present study contributes to ELT research by clarifying Canva's role in supporting the development of short functional text materials rather than merely functioning as a general-purpose learning medium.

Those previous studies show that English learning material of short functional texts can be created by using Canva, as stated in the benefits of Canva from previous studies. It is supported by Virello (2022). Canva is a great resource for creating attractive signs, promotional materials, presentations, and other graphics-heavy work. Short functional texts such as flyers, banners, brochures, memos, announcements, advertisements, greeting cards, invitation cards, letters, and curriculum vitae (CV) can be created by using Canva as a graphic design application. Therefore, it simulates the use of Canva as a simple graphic design in creating English material for short functional texts. This research is descriptive qualitative research.

METHOD

This research uses qualitative research. The study does not employ numbers or the language of mathematics or statistics (Goodson, 2010). Qualitative research emphasizes meaning, context, and process, making it suitable for investigating the pedagogical use of digital tools in English language teaching. Although Canva has been widely discussed as a digital design platform, existing studies tend to emphasize its technical features or general usability, with limited attention to its pedagogical function in English Language Teaching (ELT), particularly in the development of short functional texts. Short functional texts—such as announcements, invitations, advertisements, and application letters—play a crucial role in ELT because they develop students' practical communicative competence and real-world language use. However, there is a lack of empirical discussion on how digital design tools like Canva can support teachers and students in producing these texts while integrating visual and linguistic elements. This study addresses this gap by examining Canva as a learning medium for creating English short functional text materials.

The primary data source of this study is the Canva application itself, focusing on its features, templates, and design tools used in the creation of English learning materials. The observation concentrates on Canva-based instructional materials designed for short functional texts. No direct student participants were involved; instead, the study analyzes the design process and outcomes of learning materials developed through Canva, making the research non-interventionist in nature.

Data were collected through digital observation, which involves systematically observing and documenting activities conducted in an online environment (Hair et al., 2019). The researcher observed the steps involved in creating English learning materials using Canva, including template selection, text insertion, visual element integration, and layout organization. The data collected were visual and narrative, consisting of screenshots of Canva designs and descriptive field notes recorded during the observation process. An observation guide was used to ensure consistency in documenting features, functions, and pedagogical relevance.

The data were analyzed using the interactive model proposed by Miles & Huberman (1994), which consists of three main stages. First, data reduction was conducted by selecting, simplifying, and focusing on relevant information related to Canva's pedagogical use, while eliminating irrelevant or repetitive data. Second, data display was carried out by organizing the data into visual forms (screenshots of Canva designs) and narrative descriptions to facilitate interpretation. Finally, conclusion drawing and verification involved interpreting the findings to identify patterns related to usability, instructional relevance, and potential learning benefits, while continuously reviewing the data to ensure consistency and credibility.

To ensure the credibility of the findings, this study applies methodological transparency by clearly documenting observation procedures and analysis steps. An audit trail is maintained through detailed field notes and visual documentation of the Canva design process. The use of screenshots as visual evidence strengthens the dependability of the data by allowing readers to verify interpretations directly from the observed materials.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Basic Steps in Creating English Materials with Canva

This research simulates the use of Canva as a simple graphic design in creating English material for short functional texts. The use of Canva in creating short functional texts can be described below:
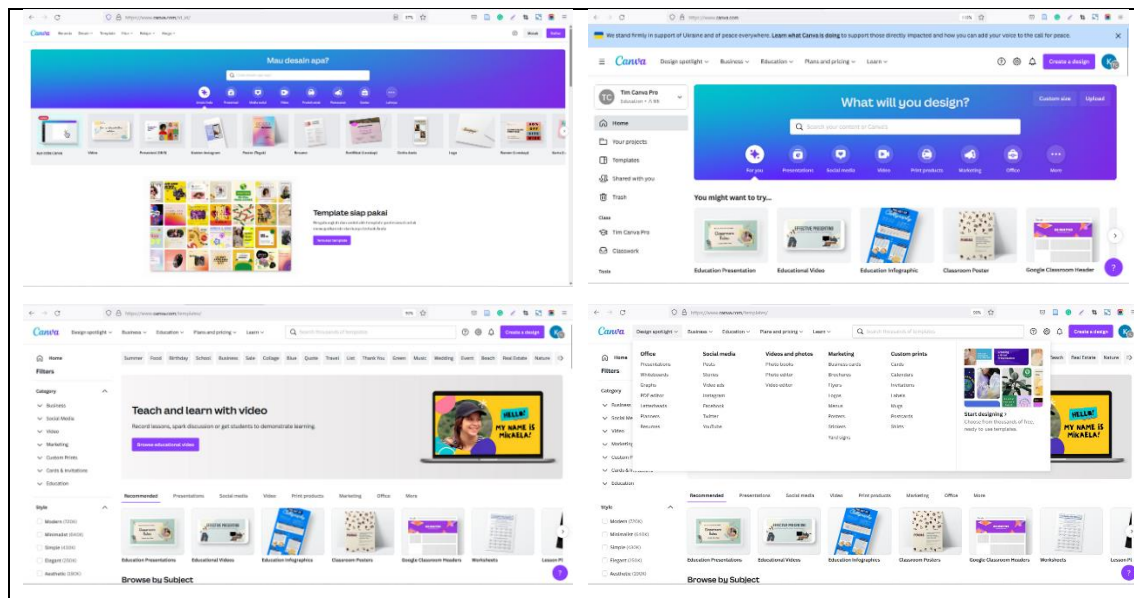

Figure 1. The View of The Canva Application

The figure above shows the basic steps for using Canva. The first step is for the teachers/lecturers to click the Canva website at www.canva.com, then register or create a Canva account first by clicking the "sign up" button, then register through Facebook, Google, or an email account. After creating an account, teachers/lecturers will be directed

to a page with a view and a guide for new users. To change the language in Canva, go to the "settings" section located at the top right with a symbol like a gear wheel, then select "language" and change to Indonesian. Canva has a large collection of templates that teachers/lecturers can use according to their needs. To start the design, teachers/lecturers can click "create a design" or just select the template they want on the front page of the dashboard. Teachers/lecturers will be directed to a page to start the design. There is a difference in the appearance of the web and the application. In the application, they directly select the template they want and then make changes. As for the web, they will be taken to a blank page to start the design, and on the left are available templates that they can use.

Besides, teachers/lecturers need to pay attention to the left side of the page, where there is a selection of features that they can choose from. Canva's editing features include 1) Templates: designs that are already available and can be used right away. 2) Upload images/photos that they want to include in the design. 3) Photos: A collection of photos provided by Canva. Teachers/lecturers can search in the top search bar for the photo they want. Some photos can be used for free, but some have a pro sign, which means they have to pay if they want to use the photo. 4) Element: A collection of icons, shapes, lines, frames, stickers, and more. 5) Text: words with different font types. 6) Music: audio or music when designing videos or animations. 7) Videos: videos provided by Canva. 8) Background: the background or design background. 9) Folder: stores downloaded or liked photos or elements. 10) Others: integration with other apps. Creating the English material by using Canva can be described below:

Creating Learning Material Through a Brochure in Canva

A brochure is a collection of brief information in the form of a pocketbook or folded paper, which usually serves as promotional media. The purpose of brochures is to make information comprehensible (Willoughby, 2006). Teachers/lecturers can create English learning materials or brochures, such as English courses or other topics. There are several ways to make a brochure using Canva, as stated below:
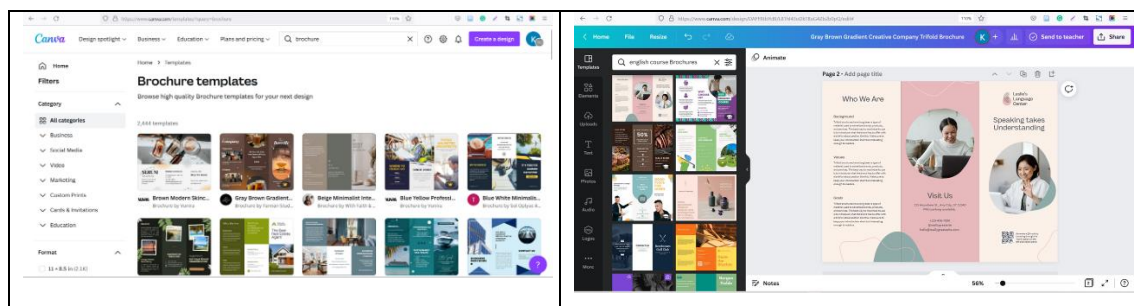

Figure 2. Creating an English Course Brochure Using Canva

The figure above shows how to make an online brochure using Canva. First, open Canva. Open Canva on our desktop or app to get started. Sign in or register using Google or Facebook, then search for "Brochure" to start designing. Second, browse templates. Start the process of making a brochure by choosing the most suitable template. Canva's range of professional templates is built around user needs, so we just have to find the best examples and apply them to the brochure itself. Third, edit and customize brochure

designs. We find the right brochure template, and we can easily change the layout to make it look like our personal preference. Upload our photos, rearrange text boxes and elements, and then change fonts and colors in just a few clicks. Fourth, add more design elements. Experiment with our brochure by involving various design elements such as layouts, creating stock images and illustrations, playing with color combinations, choosing fonts, and so on. Fifth, save the design in formats PNG, JPG, or PDF. The finished brochure can be printed in high quality or shared on social media.

This figure presents an English course brochure designed using Canva and utilized as instructional material for teaching short functional texts in an EFL context. The brochure integrates linguistic elements (headings, persuasive phrases, contact information, and calls to action) with visual components such as layout, color, typography, and images. As a short functional text, the brochure serves a clear communicative purpose: to inform and persuade a target audience. The use of Canva templates allows teachers to present authentic text models that reflect real-world communication practices. This figure is significant for the findings of the study because it demonstrates how Canva supports the development of multimodal instructional materials, enabling teachers to focus on text structure, language features, and communicative intent rather than on technical design skills. The figure illustrates Canva's role as a material development tool in English language teaching, addressing the gap in prior studies that have primarily emphasized Canva's technical features rather than its pedagogical function in teaching short functional texts.

Creating Learning Material Through Announcement in Canva

An announcement is a notification or information that is addressed to the public and is general (Putri, 2015). An announcement is an official notification about something, both written and oral, which is presented to the public. Teachers/lecturers can create English learning materials for announcements such as job vacancies or other topics. There are several ways to make an announcement using Canva, as stated below:
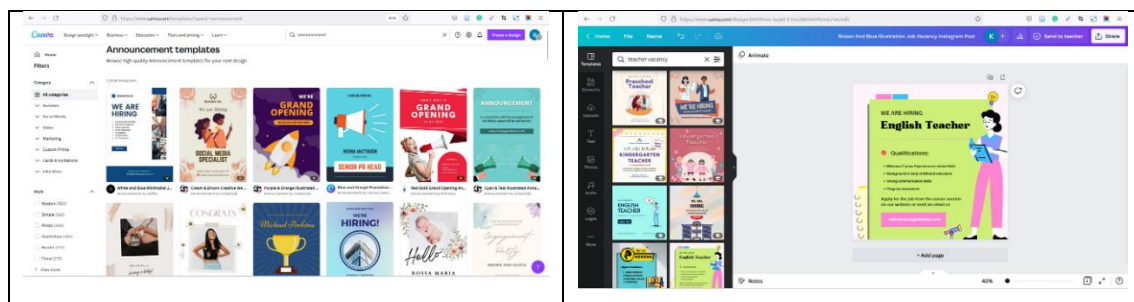

Figure 3. Creating Announcement (Job Vacancy) Using Canva

The figure above shows how to make an announcement using Canva. First, open Canva. Sign up, log in to our account, and search for "announcement templates" using the search tool to start our announcement design. Second, choose a template. Get inspired and take advantage of Canva's library of professionally designed announcement templates. Refine search results by adding keywords according to our style, theme, mood, and color scheme. Third, browse features. Create a different announcement display with millions of stock photos, illustrations, icons, images, stickers, shapes, and other graphics

from Canva. Animate digital designs, using the pan, rise, tumble, and more animation features. Fourth, give our designs a personal touch. Customize announcements by uploading our photos, images, brand elements, or artwork. Experiment with each template by changing the layout, positioning, and resizing icons, and applying photo filters. Fifth, share or print. The finished announcement design can be downloaded and saved as a PDF, PNG, or JPG. We can also print announcements in high quality or share announcements on social media or via email with just one click.

Creating Learning Material Through Banner in Canva

A banner is a form of advertisement that uses images or animated media in its advertisement content (Kurniawan, 2013). Teachers/lecturers can create English learning materials on banners, such as English course programs or other topics. There are several ways to make a banner using Canva, as stated below:
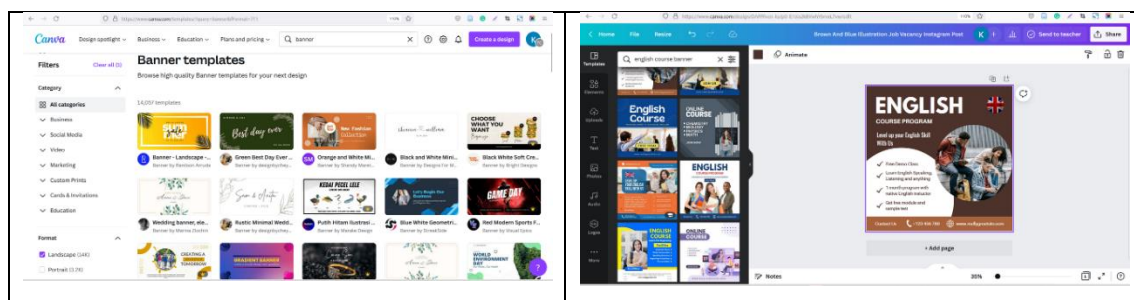

Figure 4. Creating an English Course Program Brochure Using Canva

The figure above shows how to make a banner using Canva. First, open Canva. Open Canva on your desktop or mobile, sign in, and search for "Banner" to get started. No need to register. Second, choose a layout. Explore Canva's wide range of banner layouts for every need in a variety of styles and themes. Click a template, then start creating a design. Third, customize banners in no time. Found the right template, but want to make a few changes. In just a few clicks, we can edit text, change fonts, and try different color combinations to create the perfect banner design. Fourth, get creative with design elements. We will find all the design elements needed to create the perfect banner. Explore images, illustrations, icons, logos, fonts, shapes, lines, graphics, and more. Fifth, save, download, or share. When we are done creating a save banner in PDF, JPG, or PNG format, we can also print or share it online on social media.

Creating Learning Material Through a Flyer in Canva

Flyers contain information or explain a product, service, public facilities, company profile, or school, or are intended for advertising advice (Rozalena, 2020). Teachers/lecturers can create English learning materials, such as live webinars on learning English or other topics. There are several ways to make a flyer using Canva, as stated below:
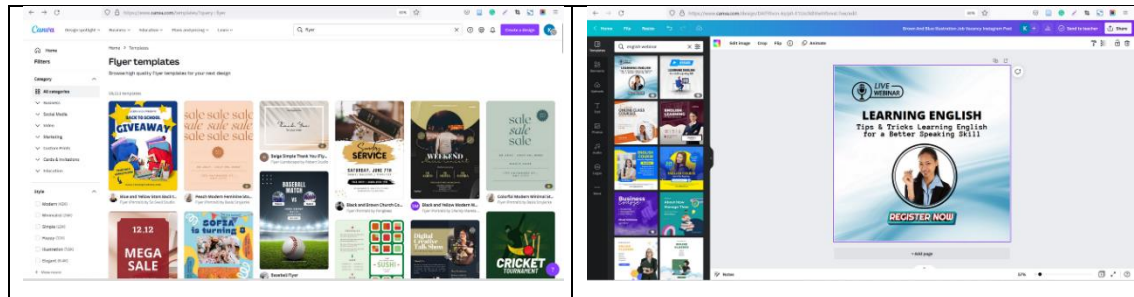
Figure 5. Creating an English Learning Webinar Flyer Using Canva

The figure above shows how to make a flyer using Canva. First, open Canva. Open Canva, then sign in or sign up for a new account using your email, Google profile, or Facebook. Search for "Flyerlet" to start designing. Second, find the best templates. Choose from a variety of flyer layouts in a variety of colors, styles, and themes. Find the perfect flyer template to edit and customize to our marketing needs. Third, customize our design. Customize flyers to have the look and feel of our needs and tastes using our handy drag-and-drop design tool. Change text, fonts, and colors in just a few clicks. Fourth, get creative with more design elements. Browse our image and graphics library of millions of photos, icons, illustrations, and vectors to add to our layouts. Add or remove text boxes and try different photo filters. Fifth, save our design in PDF, JPG, or PNG format. We can order a printout by ordering it at Canva Print.

Creating Learning Material Through an Invitation Card in Canva

Invitation cards are notification media, in the form of greetings or written invitations, given to people to do something or go somewhere. The purpose of an invitation card is to invite someone to attend a certain event. Teachers/lecturers can create English learning materials of invitation cards, such as invitation cards for a birthday party or other topics. There are several ways to make an invitation card using Canva, as stated below:
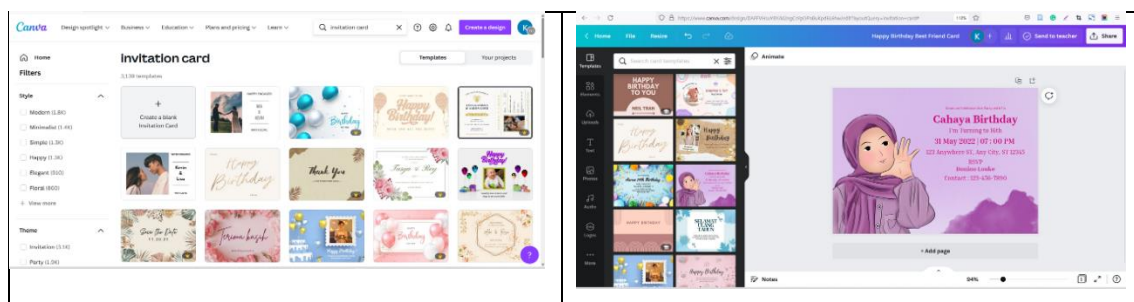

Figure 6. Creating an Invitation Party Using Canva

The figure above shows how to make a flyer using Canva. First, open Canva. Open Canva on our mobile or desktop, then sign in with your Facebook or Google account. If you already have an account, we can log in right away. After that, look for the design type "Party invitation" to start designing. Second, browse templates. Browse Canva's library and find beautiful, professionally designed party invitation templates just right for us. Just click on the template we like to add to our design. Third, experiment with features,

including photos, images, icons, stickers, illustrations, and other party-themed graphics from the Canva library. Use drag-and-drop tools, photo filters, and animation effects to wow recipients. Fourth, customize our invitation. Give our designs a personal touch by uploading our photos, images, and artwork to the editor. Choose our background, mix up font combinations, and experiment with different color schemes. Fifth, save the design in format PNG, JPG, or PDF. We can share it online or print it in high quality in Canva Print.

Creating Learning Material Through Memo in Canva

A memo is a short message that gives only the most important information in a small space (McCarthy, 2002). Although concise, memos are very informative and can even be arranged to follow absolute formatting guidelines. Memos are brief, concise, and clear, but that doesn't mean they have to be rigid. Teachers/lecturers can create a memo related to English learning materials, such as 'My Daily Routine', My Daily Activity', or other topics. There are several ways to make a memo using Canva, as stated below:
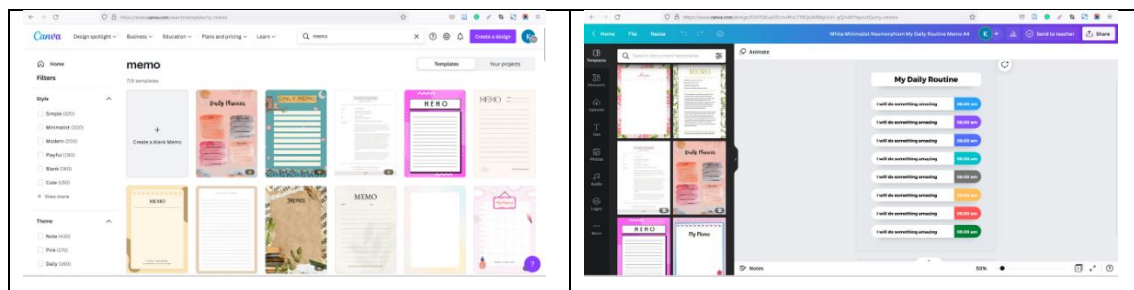

Figure 7. Creating a Memo Using Canva

The figure above shows how to make a flyer using Canva. First, open Canva. Sign up for Canva with a Facebook or Google account. You can download it from the App Store or the Play Store. If we are already a user, just log in to your account and search for the "Memo" design type to start designing. Second, find templates. Browse Canva's wide range of memo templates for all themes, from unique and organic to minimalist and classic. Use the search tool to filter by industry, color scheme, or style. Third, discover various features. There are millions of borders, frames, images, icons, illustrations, and other graphics in Canva to make our memos more interesting. Drag and drop the materials onto the design page and arrange them, resize them, and rotate them to achieve the desired effect. Keep customizing our designs. Fourth, upload images, artwork, or elements of our desire to add a more personal touch to the design. Mix and match elements from different templates or experiment with different font and color combinations. Fifth, save the design in format PNG, JPG, or PDF. We can share it online or print it in high quality in Canva Print.

Creating Learning Material Through a Greeting Card in Canva

Greeting cards are cards decorated with messages containing congratulations or prayers that are sent to someone on a special occasion. Canva's library of card templates includes layouts for birthday cards, Eid greeting cards, graduation cards, wedding greeting cards, wedding invitation cards, Valentine cards, and more. Teachers/lecturers can create English learning materials for greeting cards, such as graduation, school/study,

or other topics. There are several ways to make a greeting card using Canva, as stated below:
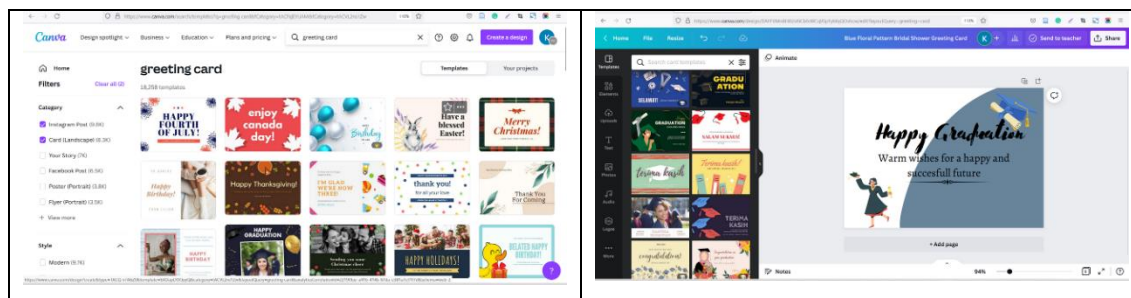

Figure 8. Creating a Greeting Card Using Canva

The figure above shows how to make a flyer using Canva. First, open Canva. Search for "Cards" to start designing. Second, choose a template. Choose one of Canva's professionally designed card templates. Choose from a variety of events and themes, as well as colors and styles. Next, just customize it with our personal touch. Third, give our cards a completely personal touch. Send a truly personalized card from the heart. In just a few clicks, we can change the text with your message, try out different colors and fonts, and even upload photos. Fourth, change the design with more elements. Create eye-catching cards using our design tools. Browse and use different backgrounds and frames. Add more illustrations and images. Try different photo filters, and experiment with cropping and resizing images. Fifth, save or order a printout. Save our design in PDF, JPG, or PNG format. We can print beautiful, high-quality cards by ordering them at Canva Print.

Creating Learning Material Through Advertisement in Canva

An advertisement is a text, picture, audio, or video that promotes a product or service. The information in the advertisement must be conveyed as clearly as possible so people know the product and service. The advertisement is honest and objective, short, concise, clear, and easy to understand, using the right words, interesting, logical, and polite. Teachers/lecturers can create English learning materials for advertisements, such as English courses or other topics. There are several ways to make an advertisement using Canva, as stated below:
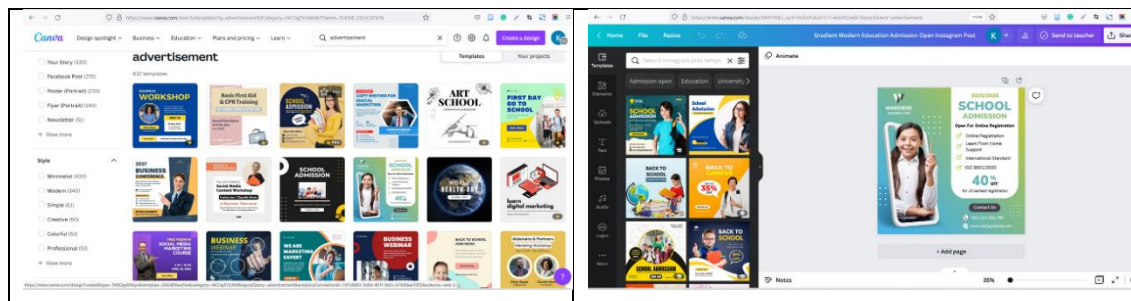

Figure 9. Creating an Advertisement Using Canva

The figure above shows how to make a flyer using Canva. First, open Canva. Canva is accessible on both desktop and mobile. After logging in or registering first, look for ad references that we want to create, such as ads for Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, and others. Second, choose an ad template. Check out our ad templates and choose the one that best suits our personal needs. We can also make ours from scratch. Third, upload personal assets or choose from Canva. Upload logos, photos, video clips, and other design elements that identify the brand. Drag and drop these assets into our ad design. If we do not have personal assets, look through Canva's library, which is completely free and available. Fourth, edit our ad design. Edit and move design elements as we see fit. Use our color picker tool to follow the brand's hex code. Add vectors or stickers from our library. We can provide persuasive text and choose the best font to include in the ad. Fifth, save the design in the format PNG, JPG, or PDF. We can share it online or print it in high quality in Canva Print.

Creating Learning Material Through Cover Letter (Application Letter) in Canva

A cover letter is described as an introductory letter that is sent in conjunction with another document (Fitria, 2023b). A cover letter is our opportunity to present ourselves to a firm and demonstrate how our unique blend of talents and experience matches the primary requirements of the position in the event of a job application (Whitmore, 2017). Teachers/lecturers can create English learning materials for cover letters (application letters). There are several ways to make a cover letter using Canva, as stated below:
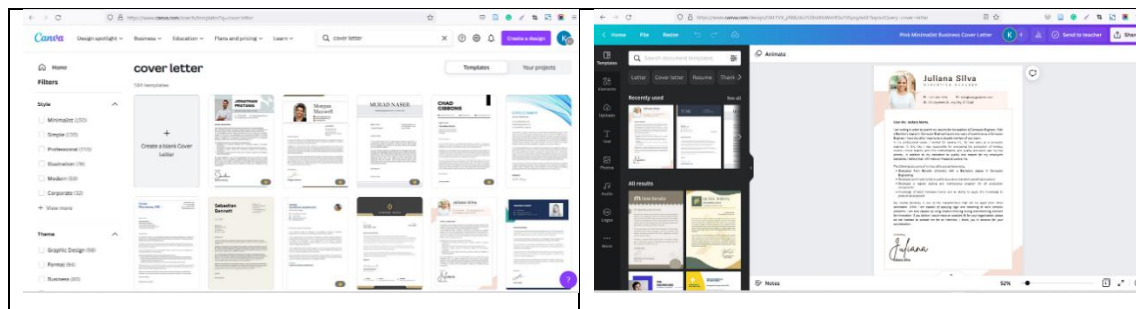

Figure 10. Creating a Cover Letter (Application Letter) Using Canva

The figure above shows how to make a flyer using Canva. First, open Canva. Access Canva via your desktop or smartphone app. Sign up and log in, then type "Letter of Cover" in the search field. At this point, we can choose a variety of examples of job application letters according to our needs. Second, choose the most suitable template. Choose a free cover letter template based on your preferences or a theme that matches the job vacancy. Apart from having a wide variety of job application letter formats and styles to choose from, we can also start from scratch with a blank layout. Third, discover various advanced features. Use the latest features in design, such as icons, illustrations, animated text, and more. Make our visual dreams come true with Canva's design tools. Fourth, edit the design to finish. Make sure we have optimally edited every aspect of the design, such as layout, text, and color scheme adjustments. We also do not forget the message in the form of intent and purpose in making a job application letter. Fifth, save the design results in various formats as needed, for example, PDF. We can also send our cover letter directly to the job vacancy online or print it in high quality.

Creating Learning Material Through Resume/Curriculum Vitae in Canva

A Curriculum vitae (CV) is a comprehensive biographical statement, typically three to ten pages, emphasizing professional qualifications and activities (Kennedy, 2007). By creating a free online CV with Canva, applying for our job is fast and easy. Choose from hundreds of designer-free resume samples and customize them with just a few clicks. We no longer need to spend hours tweaking CV formatting or choosing the best font for our cover letter. Creating an online CV using Canva's free CV builder will produce a beautiful CV for job applications. Teachers/lecturers can create English learning materials for CVs or resumes. There are several ways to make a CV or resume using Canva, as stated below:
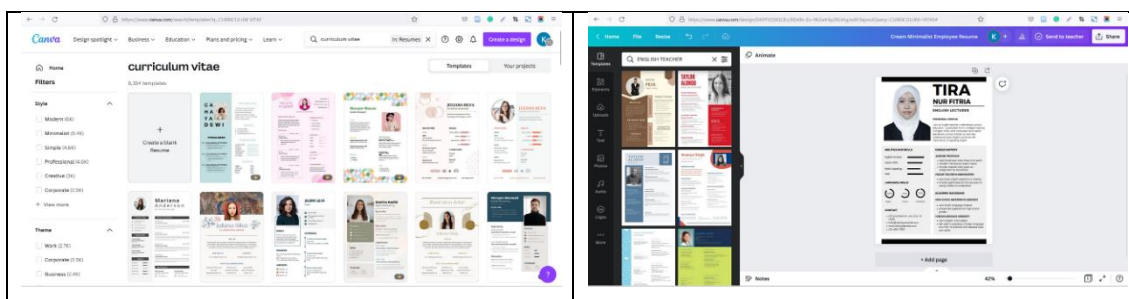

Figure 11. Creating a Curriculum Vitae (CV) Or Resume Using Canva

The figure above shows how to make a flyer using Canva. First, open Canva. Open Canva or open the app, then log in and search for "Curriculum Vitae" to start designing. Second, find the right template. Choose from thousands of professionally designed resume templates. Choose from styles like modern or simple layouts, or industrial ones like acting, graphic design, or other corporate layouts. Third, give our resume a personal touch. Once we have chosen a template, we use Canva's drag-and-drop design tool to customize our resume. Change fonts, text, and colors in just a few clicks. Upload our photos, then rearrange any elements however we like. Fourth, keep creating more design features. Crop, straighten, apply photo filters, and texture your images. Use our color scheme, font style, background, and text layout. Add borders, frames, and other elements to make your resume stand out. Fifth, save our design in PDF, JPG, or PNG format. We can also print our CV in high quality by ordering it on Canva Print.

This does not present empirical evidence of learning outcomes such as students' creativity or language competence. Instead, it focuses on describing and analyzing Canva as a tool for developing English learning materials, particularly for curriculum vitae (CV) writing. The result presents sample CV templates and explains the procedures for creating CVs using Canva to highlight its pedagogical potential. Therefore, the study emphasizes Canva's role in supporting material development and instructional design, rather than measuring or claiming improvements in learners' creativity or competence.

From a pedagogical perspective, Canva facilitates the preparation of CV-writing materials by providing ready-made templates that can be adapted for instructional purposes. Teachers or lecturers can use these samples to explain CV structure, highlight appropriate language use, and demonstrate how visual layout supports textual clarity. However, this study does not measure students' creativity or language competence.

Instead, it emphasizes Canva's potential as a material development tool for teaching CV writing in English.

Discussion

This study does not aim to measure students' learning outcomes, creativity levels, or language achievement quantitatively. Instead, it focuses on examining Canva as a pedagogical tool for English material development and task design. Therefore, claims related to improved creativity or competence are interpreted as instructional potential supported by existing literature rather than as empirically measured outcomes. Future studies may extend this research by incorporating classroom observations, learner artifacts, or experimental designs to evaluate learning impact more directly.

Conceptually, the use of Canva in English teaching can be positioned within a framework that combines multimodal literacy and digital pedagogy. Canva serves as a mediating tool that enables teachers to design multimodal learning inputs, while students engage with language through visual, textual, and spatial representations. This framework highlights Canva's role as a facilitator of instructional design rather than a direct determinant of learning outcomes. Canva enables teachers to design open-ended tasks in which students adapt templates, modify language choices, and reorganize visual elements, thereby creating opportunities for creative language use within structured instructional contexts.

The findings of this study indicate that Canva functions primarily as a digital material development tool that supports the preparation of English learning materials, particularly short functional texts. Rather than focusing on procedural steps, this discussion interprets the findings in relation to relevant theoretical perspectives, including multimodal literacy, digital pedagogy, and design-based learning.

From a multimodal literacy perspective, Canva integrates text, images, layout, color, and visual hierarchy within a single platform. According to theories of multimodal learning, meaning is constructed not only through linguistic elements but also through visual and spatial modes. The availability of professionally designed templates in Canva supports teachers in presenting short functional texts—such as flyers, announcements, and CVs—in formats that reflect authentic real-world communication practices. This aligns with Chen (2021), who found that Canva facilitates the creation of visually meaningful short functional texts for instructional purposes.

In terms of digital pedagogy, Canva exemplifies a tool that lowers technical barriers in material design. Previous studies (Pacansky-Brock, 2017; Atti, 2019) suggest that user-friendly platforms enable educators with limited design expertise to develop instructional materials efficiently. The findings of this study support this view, as Canva provides ready-made templates, editable elements, and flexible formats that can be adapted for English teaching without requiring advanced technical skills. However, rather than claiming that Canva directly improves students' creativity or competence, this study emphasizes that Canva provides pedagogical affordances that support material preparation and task design.

The results can also be interpreted through the lens of design-based learning. Canva allows teachers to design task-oriented learning materials in which students analyze, modify, or adapt existing texts. When used as instructional input, Canva templates can function as model texts that help learners identify text structure, language features, and layout conventions of short functional texts. This supports Reynolds et al. (2021), who argue that teacher-created digital materials can enhance instructional clarity and learner engagement when integrated thoughtfully.

Several commonly cited advantages of Canva, such as saving time and increasing engagement, are not measured empirically in this study. Therefore, such claims are supported only through relevant literature rather than observational data. Studies by Martin (2016) and Imler and Eichelberger (2017) indicate that Canva offers a practical and efficient design environment for educational content creation. In this study, these advantages are interpreted as potential benefits for teachers and lecturers, not as proven learning outcomes.

Overall, the discussion demonstrates that Canva's contribution lies in its role as a material development platform that supports multimodal instructional design in English language teaching. The findings do not claim direct learning gains but instead highlight how Canva aligns with current theories of multimodal literacy and digital pedagogy by enabling teachers to design accessible, visually structured, and contextually relevant English learning materials.

The findings suggest that Canva can be effectively used by English teachers and lecturers as a material development platform, particularly for teaching short functional texts. By utilizing Canva templates as instructional input, educators can focus classroom activities on language analysis, text structure, and contextual appropriateness rather than on technical design skills. This approach supports time-efficient lesson preparation while maintaining alignment with communicative and multimodal teaching principles. While this study does not evaluate learning outcomes empirically, it contributes to English language teaching research by demonstrating how Canva aligns with multimodal and digital pedagogical principles in the development of short functional text materials.

CONCLUSION

Although Canva has been widely described as an easy-to-use online design application, existing studies tend to focus primarily on its general features and technical advantages rather than its pedagogical role in English language teaching. In particular, there is a lack of research that explicitly examines how Canva can be utilized for developing short functional text materials, which are a core component of English instruction, especially in EFL contexts. Short functional texts—such as announcements, flyers, invitations, advertisements, cover letters, and curriculum vitae—play a crucial role in language teaching because they expose learners to authentic, purpose-driven communication commonly encountered in academic, professional, and everyday contexts. However, teachers often face challenges in designing visually engaging and pedagogically appropriate materials for these text types.

This study addresses this gap by examining Canva not merely as a design tool, but as a material development platform for English short functional texts. Rather than

emphasizing procedural steps in using the application, the study focuses on how Canva's templates, visual elements, and layout features support teachers in preparing instructional materials that reflect real-world text conventions. Canva provides access to hundreds of editable templates and visual resources that enable teachers—particularly those with limited design expertise—to develop multimodal learning materials efficiently and systematically.

In the context of English language teaching, Canva supports the presentation of short functional texts by integrating linguistic content with visual and spatial design elements. This integration is pedagogically significant because learners engage with both language form and communicative purpose simultaneously. As such, Canva facilitates the development of teaching materials that emphasize text structure, language features, and contextual appropriateness rather than mere aesthetic design. Therefore, Canva's relevance in this study lies in its instructional potential for material preparation, not simply its technical ease of use.

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