assimilate - collaborative narrative construction

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Abstract

This demonstration presents the 'assimilate - collaborative narrative construction' project, that aims for a holistic system design with support for the creative possibilities of collaborative narrative construction.

Introduction

This demonstration presents the 'assimilate - collaborative narrative construction' project (Hills 2011) that aims for a holistic system design with support for the creative possibilities of collaborative narrative construction. By incorporating interface mechanics with a flexible model of narrative template representation, the system design emphasises how mental models and intentions are understood by participants, and represents its creative knowledge outcomes based on these metaphorical and conversational exchanges.

Using a touch table interface participants collaboratively narrate and visualise narrative sequences using online media obtained through a keyword search, or by words obtained from narrative templates. The search results are styled into generative behaviours that visually self-organise while participants make aesthetic choices about the narrative outcomes and their associated behaviours.

The playful interface supports collaboration through embedded mechanics that extend gestural actions commonly performed during casual conversations. By embedding metaphorical schemes associated with narrative comprehension, such as pointing, exchanging, enlarging or merging views, gestural action drives the experience and supports the conversational aspects associated with narrative exchange.

System Architecture

The system architecture models the narrative template events to allow a particular narrative perspective, globally or locally within the generated story world. This is done by modeling conversation relationships with the aim of self-organising and negotiating an agreement surrounding several themes. The system extends Conversation Theory (CT) (Pask, 1976), a theory of learning and social interaction, that outlines a formal method of conversation as a sense-making network. Based on CT entailment meshes with an added fitness metric, this develops a negotiated agreement surrounding several interrelated themes, that leads to eventual narrative coherence.

References