**Website Evaluation- Bad Website (by Chin Yee Teeng 102634)**

As English teacher-to-be, I always have to browse through different websites to find materials to plan my English lessons. From the point of view as a website’s user, personally I think the website − <http://globalwarmingkids.net/games/index.html> has poor website designs and development.

First of all, even though all users’ intended content appears on the website and the content of does support the site goal which is to allow kids to play global warming games and at the same time learn about global warming and climate change solutions in interesting ways. However, some of the animated cartoon or pictures are very distracting and the design of this website has failed to achieve the balance of simplicity due to the overuse of colour on the website. For example, it is hard for the users to read the dark brown and black text from the solid brown background. Moreover, the website developer should only use plain background for the website since any text placed on a wildly coloured background cannot be read easily. Besides that, the text written is hardly scanned for online reading as it is not concisely written, and does not have a clearly visible structure that takes full advantage of headings, bullet point lists, and so on. The font size of the text is too small for the users to read and there are more than three different font types used throughout the website which causes hardship for the users to identify the headlines or main titles.

Next, the information architecture for the website is not concise and systematic. The content is not displayed in proper sequence and locations, thus, users cannot follow the flow of the information effortlessly as the information is organized in a confusing manner throughout the site. For example, there are three pictures of “red thermometer” which are exactly the same in different locations but are linked to different webpages. The inappropriate use of graphic in the website will confuse the users.

A systematic navigation system is very important when a vast amount of information needs to be presented on a website. However, the navigation system of the website − <http://globalwarmingkids.net/games/index.html> is very confusing and not systematic. For example, the navigation system is presented as hypertext and graphic form in the website but there is not ALT text shown on the image which functions as a navigation to show the users where they can go by clicking on the navigation. Furthermore, a new window will be opened every time the users click on the navigation or link. A link should be a simple hypertext reference that replaces the current page with new content and users can back to the previous page by clicking the “BACK” button. Users hate unwarranted pop-up windows. When they want the destination to appear in a new page, they can use their browser's "open in new window" command. Additionally, some of the links have not been linked correctly to intended webpage where the page might be not found or no result shown for the users’ search.

The screen design for this website is not very consistent throughout the site because all screen elements (field captions, data, title, headings, text, types of control, etc.) are placed on one side of the website which is the left hand side without equal weight of screen elements. In addition, users need to scroll down some of the webpages in order to find the vital information, including navigation since the screen design of the webpage does not effectively employ principles of graphics design, audio design, motion graphics design, and/or interactivity design.

As a conclusion, personally I think that the website − <http://globalwarmingkids.net/games/index.html> can be considered as one of the website with poorer, weaker web designs because it does not fulfill all the requirements of different aspects such as content, information architecture, navigation design, and screen design.

