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EDITED AND REVIEWED BY Stamatios Papadakis, University of Crete, Greece

*CORRESPONDENCE Ching Chang chingtw2006@gmail.com

SPECIALTY SECTION This article was submitted to Educational Psychology, a section of the journal Frontiers in Psychology

RECEIVED 27 September 2022 ACCEPTED 18 October 2022 PUBLISHED 02 November 2022

CITATION

Hsu T-C, Chang C, Wu L-K and Looi C-K (2022) Corrigendum: Effects of a pair programming educational robot-based approach on students' interdisciplinary learning of computational thinking and language learning. *Front. Psychol.* 13:1054561. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2022.1054561

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Corrigendum: Effects of a pair programming educational robot-based approach on students' interdisciplinary learning of computational thinking and language learning

Ting-Chia Hsu ¹, Ching Chang ¹*, Long-Kai Wu² and Chee-Kit Looi ³

¹Department of Technology Application and Human Resource Development, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei City, Taiwan, ²Faculty of Artificial Intelligence in Education, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China, ³National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Singapore

KEYWORDS

interdisciplinary activities, educational robots, pair programming, language learning, trial-and-error loops

A corrigendum on

Effects of a pair programming educational robot-based approach on students' interdisciplinary learning of computational thinking and language learning

by Hsu, T.-C., Chang, C., Wu, L.-K., and Looi, C.-K. (2022). Front. Psychol. 13:888215. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2022.888215

In the published article, there was an error in Table 2 as published. The *N* value in the EFL column was stated as 15 but should be 16. The corrected Table 2 appears below.

In the published article, there was also an error in the abstract as published. The number of participants in each of the Grade 6 classes was stated as 15 but should be 16. The corrected abstract appears below.

Using educational robots (ERs) to integrate computational thinking (CT) with cross-disciplinary content has gone beyond Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), to include foreign-language learning (FL) and further cross-context target-language (TL) acquisition. Such integration must not solely emphasise CT problem-solving skills. Rather, it must provide students with interactive learning to support their target-language (TL) interaction while reducing potential TL anxiety. This study aimed to validate the effects of the proposed method of pair programming (PP) along with question-and-response interaction in a board-game activity on young learners' CT skills and TL learning across contexts. Two Grade 6 classes, one with 16 students who were studying English as a Foreign Language (EFL), participated in the activity. A series of instruments on achievement assessment, questionnaires on CT skills and TL anxiety, and sequential

learning behaviour analysis were used to critically examine the results. The main conclusion is that the EFL group showed better social skills of cooperation on CT and lower TL learning anxiety, while the CSL group demonstrated better problem-solving skills in CT, but presented more behaviours of trial-and-error loops. Results not only contribute suggestions for cross-disciplinary learning but also provide support for cross-context instruction beyond educational coursework.

In the published article, there was also an error in Research Method, Participants, Paragraph 1. The number of participants was wrongly stated as 30 but should be 32. Also the number of participants learning Chinese as a second language (CSL) and learning English as a Foreign Language (EFL) was stated as 15 when it should be 16. The corrected paragraph appears below:

A total of 32 Grade 6 students participated in this study, 16 of whom were learning Chinese as a second language (CSL) in Singapore, while 16 were learning English as a Foreign Language (EFL) in Taiwan. None of the students had any previous experience of accessing interdisciplinary activities. Both groups participated in a language classroom with several weeks tailored for interdisciplinary activities. They were all volunteers to participate in the task. Both groups' language proficiency was considered to be at an elementary level. The research team cooperated with both the CSL teachers in Singapore and the EFL teachers in Taiwan to conduct the study in each of their specific contexts.

In the published article, there was also an error in Results, Learning achievement, Paragraph 1. In sentence 2, the *p*-value was given as "p = 0.000 > 0.05" but should be "p > 0.05." The corrected paragraph appears below.

The purpose of this study was to examine if CSL and EFL had different learning outcomes when students were taking part in the interdisciplinary activities of language and CT integration. A significant difference was observed from the t-test results of the pre-test scores of the two groups (t =-4.991, p > 0.05), meaning that the homogeneous hypothesis of the two groups' achievements before the activity was violated. This implied that directly investigating the progress effects of dependent variables was reasonable. The result showed that no significant difference was found for language-learning progress in the independent sample t tests (t = 0.23; p =0.812 > 0.05) between CSL (M = 10.00) and EFL (M = 9.13). However, a significant effect was observed for CT progress (t = 3.02; p = 0.005 < 0.05) and post-test progress (t = 0.05)0.81; p = 0.009 < 0.05). The CSL group had significantly higher progress performance in CT progress (M = 19.75) and post-test progress (M = 29.75) in comparison with the EFL group in CT progress (M = 5.63) and post-test progress (M = 14.75), when participating in this learning activity (Table 2).

In addition, there was also an error in Results, Learning behaviours, Paragraph 1. The paragraph previously stated,

"Three loops were analysed based on the analysis of Chevalier et al. (2020) of the CCPS model (Loop 1 and 2) and the loop for FL interaction (Loop 3)." But should be, "Three loops were analysed based on the analysis of Chevalier et al. (2020) of the CCPS model (Loop 1 and 3) and the loop for FL interaction (Loop 2)." The corrected paragraph appears below.

In answering the fourth research question, sequential behaviour analysis was executed to examine the differences between the learning behaviours of the two groups. The behavioural sequence reaches a significant level (p < 0.05) when the Z value is more than 1.96 (Z > 1.96; Bakeman and Gottman, 1997). Figures 6, 7 present the behavioural transition diagrams of the students involved in two learning groups; the z-scores are shown on the middle line and each line's direction represents its transfer direction. Three loops were analysed based on the analysis of Chevalier et al. (2020) of the CCPS model (Loop 1 and 3) and the loop for FL interaction (Loop 2).

In addition, there was also an error in Results, Learning behaviours, Paragraph 4. This paragraph previously stated: "Otherwise, the ESL's three significant behaviour sequences are" but it should be "Otherwise, the EFL's three significant behaviour sequences are". The corrected paragraph appears below:

Otherwise, the EFL's three significant behaviour sequences are: AT \rightarrow CD, PM \rightarrow ID, and LI \rightarrow PLI. When aiming to reach the intended destination they demonstrated Loops 1 and 3. The EFL students collaboratively generated ideas by working on algorithms (AT \rightarrow CD), and they physically expressed their ideas using gestures individually to justify their CT concepts to their partners (PM \rightarrow ID). Such formulation fell into the essence of negotiation on problem-solving strategies, and thus the EFL students revealed their behaviours of significantly engaging in target-language interaction in Loop 2 (LI \rightarrow PLI). Following the PP task of coding and conversation practice, the EFL students frequently interacted with one another, kept concentrating on the robots' movements, and used assigned English sentences when it was their turn. If errors occurred, the teacher would come by and guide them to use the taught sentence in their interaction $(LI \rightarrow PLI).$

The authors apologize for these errors and state that this does not change the scientific conclusions of the article in any way. The original article has been updated.

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TABLE 2 Progress scores of the independent sample *t*-test results between the two groups.

| | CSL | | | EFL | | | t | p |
|--|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|------|--------|-------|
| | N | Mean | SD | N | Mean | SD | | |
| Language progress | 16 | 10.00 | 13.19 | 16 | 9.13 | 6.30 | 0.23 | 0.812 |
| CT progress | 16 | 19.75 | 17.71 | 16 | 5.63 | 5.88 | 3.02** | 0.005 |
| Total progress of learning achievement | 16 | 29.75 | 20.20 | 16 | 14.75 | 7.52 | 2.81** | 0.009 |

 $^{**}p < 0.01.$