

# A Motivating Social Robot to Help Achieve Cognitive Consonance During STEM Learning

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**Abstract** In this paper we show that cognitive consonance could be measured using the perceived cognitive consonance questionnaire that we present in this paper or using three different constructs which are the prospect of anxiety, learning helplessness, and using different motivating agents and we verify whether the student's motivation would increase too. In the second study we measure the cognitive consonance using the related questionnaire and the three constructs that we prove that the help on measuring the cognitive consonance using the first study. This method is called triangulation and helps us to assure that the cognitive consonance has truly increased or not when we manipulate the motivation construct. Finally, since cognitive consonance increases when we use a motivating agent we decide to investigate which of three agents (a teacher, a tablet, or a robot) leads to better motivation outcomes and thus helps the student to strive for answering and focusing on the difficult scientific questions. Results show that using a robot is the best solution that leads to an increase in the student's motivation and helps him/her to adopt a positive attitude change on a long-term basis while the student starts to concentrate on the difficult questions rather than turning to the easiness.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The field of social robots has grown into an extensive body of literature over the past years with a wide variety of approaches for extracting human patterns and modeling robots' skills. Robots operate as partners, peers, or assistants in a range of tasks such as with autistic children (Cannizzo and Oka, 2011; Ainer et al., 2014; Atkeson<sup>1</sup> in hospitals, Gilgen and Forlani (2008) or for having fun (e.g., the robotic toys from Wowwee<sup>2</sup> etc.). Another role that a robot can play is the role of a motivating agent to overcome difficult tasks (e.g., solving a difficult exercise). Motivating a student leads to an increase in the student's strive for cognitive closure<sup>3</sup> while solving difficult exercises. Many studies from HRI tackle the fact of how to afford the robot with the ability to motivate people in an application (e.g., at school). Saran and Mutlu (2012) as storytellers (Hart et al., 2015) or as inciters to conserve energy (Hart and Min, 2014) etc. Different points were investigated in other

HRI studies such as the design strategies to improve patient motivation during robot-aided rehabilitation (Colombo et al., 2007), the effect of robot appearance types on motivating motion (Jiet et al., 2014), the role of the socially assistive robot in motivating older adults to engage in physical exercise (Fasola and Mataric, 2013) etc.

However, to the best of our knowledge, no concern was paid to the serious conflicts that students encounter at schools while learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and the social robot's motivating role that can be played. The conflicts emerging from solving difficult STEM exercises lead to an increase in anxiety, learning helplessness (Fincham et al., 1989). Anxiety refers to the extent to which an exercise causes fear and reluctance from the student's behalf. Learning helplessness refers to a disruption in motivation effect and learning when the students feel they do not have any control of the outcome.

Consequently, it is important to give a serious attention to the issue of the dangerous consequences of cognitive conflict while solving a STEM difficult exercise. Cognitive conflict is a discomfort that one in general experiences when a student holds beliefs at-

<sup>1</sup>Roo-ba iRobot <http://www.irobot.com>

<sup>2</sup>Little Wowwee Group <http://www.wowwee.com>

<sup>3</sup>The cognitive closure can be defined as the human's desire to eliminate ambiguity and arrive at definite conclusions.

attitudes or behaviors that are at odds with one another. The ratio between dissonant and consonant preconceptions about a STEM notion. As a result, we need to grant the social robot with the ability to follow closely the student's engagement and use motivating strategies that can decrease the cognitive conflict students can get through while solving STEM exercises.

In the current research, we investigate how cognitive consonance-related characteristics like motivation prospect<sup>4</sup> and learned helplessness affect people's appraisal of cognitive consonance. More specifically, our main focus is understanding the role of motivation in the cognitive consonance perception process. In the first study, exploring a large range of mathematical exercises, we test the relationship between cognitive consonance and the triplet prospect and learned helplessness. In the second study, we evaluate the role of appraisals of motivation as they relate to appraisals of prospect and learned helplessness and perceptions of cognitive consonance. More specifically, we test whether the effect of motivation on perceptions of cognitive consonance is mediated by appraisals of the cognitive consonance-related characteristics. In the third study, we complement the correlational approach used in the second study to understand the role of motivation by experimentally manipulating agent levels of agency and we verify whether it is better to use a human or a robot or a tablet to better increase the student's motivation. If the student's motivation increases, his performance during study would increase too. He/she will have better implicit and explicit attitudes, behaviors and would be pleased while doing difficult exercises without giving up from the difficult exercise to the easiest one.

## 2 BACKGROUND

In our modern-day society, education plays a vital role. Motivating the students while acquiring new knowledge is one of the most often used strategies aimed at redesigning the classroom environment in such a way as to reduce the poor academic performance, lack of motivation for school, loss of interest in work and poor relationships with peers or teachers.

When cognitive dissonance occurs, different counter-attitudinal actions can be chosen by the human, which are an active attitude change with a new attitude created<sup>5</sup>, a belief change by initiating

<sup>4</sup> Prospect is typically defined as the extent to which the exercise's easiness allows the student to continue resolving the exercise.

<sup>5</sup>The student thinks that he has to change his attitude of

the importance of the cognitive dissonance<sup>6</sup> or a perception change by getting a new information to support one's previous decision<sup>7</sup>. When the student experiences cognitive dissonance, he will strive to decrease the inconsistency by choosing one of the described counter-attitudinal actions. We want that students get rid of their bad attitudes of skipping the difficult STEM exercise. The new favorable attitude should be highly accessible so that it can be stored on a long-term basis on the student's cognitive miser<sup>8</sup>.

## 3 FIRST STUDY

### 3.1 Method

Different groups of participants independently tried to answer a set of mathematical questions included in a quiz and then evaluate exercises either on cognitive consonance-related characteristics like prospect and learned helplessness or on perceived cognitive consonance. We expect that appraisals of prospect would be positively associated with perceived cognitive consonance and that appraisals of learned helplessness and anxiety would be negatively associated with perceived cognitive consonance. We explore a within-subjects design in which participants evaluate a set of 100 mathematical questions. The dependent variables were prospect and anxiety and the learned helplessness. Our sample comprised 31 participants (15 males and 16 females). Mean age = 16.03, SD age = 2.45, with age range 13.5-19.5 years. The participants were students in Ibnou Sina College (Figure 2).

### 3.2 Materials and Measures

The current study comprised 100 mathematical questions set by an experienced teacher. The different components which are the prospect, the anxiety and the learned helplessness using slight adaptations of the items used in the literature. The different components were each measured using three seven-point response categories for all items ranging from a plethra from 1 (strongly disagree) through 3 (neutral) to 5 (strongly agree). We calculate the average of the different items for each measure and use these averages

avoiding difficult exercises.

<sup>6</sup>After all, science learning is not that important. Many other tasks could be done.

<sup>7</sup>The student thinks that the answer afforded by the book is incorrect.

<sup>8</sup>Measuring the implicit and explicit attitudes, we can verify whether it was established for a long-term basis.

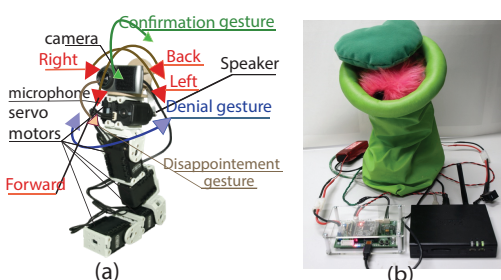


Figure 1 (a) A close-up picture of RO-OMO (b) RO-OMO overall design

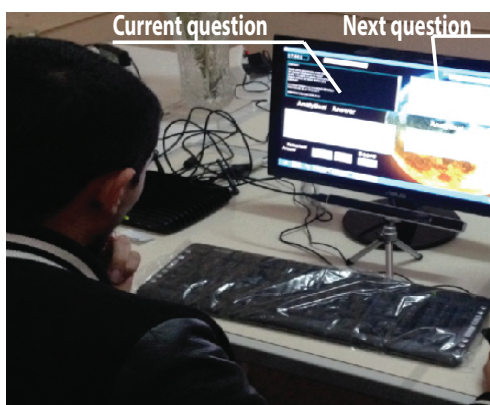


Figure 2 The first student's overall experiment setup

aggregate scores in our analyses  $\alpha_{cognitive\_consonance} = .91$ ,  $\alpha_{prospect} = .95$ ,  $\alpha_{anxiety} = .69$  and  $\alpha_{learned\_helplessness} = .79$

### 3.3 Results and Discussion

All of the reported analyses are performed on the aggregate measure scores for each thematic question across all participants. Descriptives for the measures of our dependent variables are presented in Table 1. The first set of correlations between cognitive consonance and the measures of the consonance-related characteristics prospect anxiety learned helplessness Table 2. As expected perceive cognitive consonance was positively correlated with prospect  $r = .71, p \leq .001$  and negatively correlated with anxiety  $r = -.65, p \leq .001$  and learned helplessness  $r = -.85, p \leq .001$ . These results show that appraisals of prospect anxiety and learned helplessness are highly associated with the perception of cognitive consonance even when the ratings of perceive cognitive consonance and the cognitive consonance-related situation characteristics are obtained independently from each other. Therefore, the correlations among the measures of the cognitive consonance-related characteristics Table 2. prospect was negatively correlated with an i-

Table 1 Descriptives for the measures of cognitive consonance prospect anxiety learned helplessness

	M	SD	Min	Max
Cognitive Consonance	3.16	0.70	1.25	4.31
prospect	2.84	0.71	1.25	4.22
Anxiety	3.12	0.55	1.98	4.56
Learned Helplessness	3.23	0.63	2.04	4.87

et  $r = -.83, p \leq .001$  and learned helplessness  $r = -.72, p \leq .001$  and anxiety was positively correlated with learned helplessness  $r = .73, p \leq .001$ .

Therefore, we use multiple regression analysis to test whether appraisals of the cognitive consonance-related situation characteristics prospect anxiety learned helplessness predicted appraisals of perceive cognitive consonance. We found that the three predictors accounted for approximately 75% of the variance in perceive cognitive consonance with  $F(3, 96) = 94.77, p \leq .001, R^2 = .75$  and  $R^2_{adj} = .74$ . As expected, appraisals of both anxiety and prospect significantly predicted perceive cognitive consonance Table 3. Anxiety was not found to predict perceive cognitive consonance to a significant extent Table 3.

One problem with multiple regression analysis is that it fails to appropriately partition the variance when the predictors in the model are highly correlated. Thus, an assessment of the relative contribution of the three predictors to cognitive consonance evaluation characteristics<sup>9</sup> was inappropriate because of the high multicollinearity between these predictor variables in our data Table 2. Hence, we employed the *reg2* package available for Stata that utilizes the Shapley value decomposition to decompose the overall model goodness-of-fit into the independent contributions of the predictor variables. While appraisals of anxiety were not found to significantly predict perceive cognitive consonance in our multiple regression analysis, the results from the  $R^2$  decomposition revealed that anxiety contributed only slightly less to the overall variance as compared to prospect Table 3. In line with the multiple regression analysis, the results of the  $R^2$  decomposition indicated that of the three predictors in our model, appraisals of learned helplessness contributed most strongly to the overall variance. We tested the robustness of our regression model by performing 100 split

<sup>9</sup>Cognitive consonance characteristics evaluation is accounted for by prospect perceive student's desire to continue with solving the thematic exercises, anxiety perceive student's anxiety after solving a thematic exercise, and learned helplessness a situation in which a student believes that his efforts are going for waste and that he got a problematic cognitive problem that prevents him from understanding the thematic exercises.

Table 2 Correlations between measures of cognitive consonance prospect an iet an learne helplessness ote  $p \leq .001$

	Cognitive Consonance	rospect	An iet	Learne Helplessness
Cognitive Consonance	-			
rospect	.71	-		
An iet	-.65	-.83	-	
Learne Helplessness	-.85	-.73	-.73	-

Table 3 OLS multiple regression results with the decomposition of  $R^2$  in of total  $R^2$  Lower level LLCI an upper level LCI confidence intervals based on bootstrapping with 5000 resamples

	Multiple Regression			Decomposition of $R^2$		
	eta	t	p	Shaple $R^2$	LLCI	LCI
rospect	0.26	2.71	0.008	.2558	.1814	.323
An iet	0.12	1.26	0.211	.191	.1304	.272
Learne Helplessness	-0.75	-9.49	$p \leq .001$	.5532	.4364	.67
Observations	100					
Full model $R^2$	0.75					

sample valiations In each instance the original 100 stimuli were ran on 1 assigned to two groups of equal size The regression weights of prospect an iet an learne helplessness obtained from a multiple regression analysis on the first group were then used to calculate predicted scores for perceived cognitive consonance of the second group In the last step the correlation between the observed scores and the predicted scores for the second group was calculated The results show a high robustness of our regression model across the 100 split sample valiations  $M_r = .86$   $SD_r = .033$   $M_{R^2} = .74$

Across our large sample of representative environments our regression model predicting perceived cognitive consonance from appraisals of prospect an iet an learne helplessness accounted for approximately 75% of the variance in cognitive consonance ratings The model was found to be robust across 100 split sample valiations As expected both prospect an iet were identified as significant predictors of perceived cognitive consonance Moreover our findings are in line with previous findings indicating that appraisals of learner helplessness are most strongly associated with perceived cognitive consonance In contrast to previous findings an iet was not found to have a significant contribution to perceived cognitive consonance in our model

#### 4 SECOND STUDY

extend our investigation to the role of a motivating agent's presence in the cognitive consonance appraisal process including participants' appraisals of the agent in our regression model Our goal is to enhance the student's academic skills we assume that the presence of a motivating agent that a con-

vince the student to continue resolving the difficult STEM exercise even when he/she faces a cognitive dissonance situation to enhance the student's appreciation of the STEM science technology engineering and mathematics subjects The agent is supposed to encourage the student to achieve the task of answering the mathematical set of questions In general when a student faces a difficult STEM exercise and he/she notices that his/her answer is incorrect he/she will opt to the next exercise by adopting a belief change as a counter-attitudinal behavior If he/she opts for re-doing the exercise that was previously answered incorrectly without putting so much effort while re-doing it so that he/she gets to the correct answer we say that the student chooses a perception change as a counter-attitudinal behavior We want that the student chooses the attitude and behavior change as a counter-attitudinal behavior after being strictly in the cognitive dissonance so that he/she learns efficiently the STEM subjects use different types of agents that can help the student to overcome the cognitive dissonance which are a friend of the same age a teacher a robot RO OMO a tablet The different agents use three different interactive strategies to motivate the student which are the door in face<sup>10</sup> and labeling techniques

we expect that an enlightening motivating agent can empower the student to take an easy shortcut reduce the cognitive workload and follow the motivating messages guidelines consisting on re-doing the STEM question that was previously answered incorrectly rather than adopting a perception or belief

<sup>10</sup>Here we need to start by an initial request and then retreat to a smaller request After the first request is refused the human will feel that he/she needs to change his/her opinion since the initial request has changed a matter of reciprocity

change strategies

The general aim of the second study is to evaluate the path through which appraisals of the motivation affordance by the agent in a situation that leads to a cognitive dissonance affect people's appreciation and cognitive consonance. We explore a similar design as the previous study and ask participants to evaluate the different motivating agents that were combined with the set of atheoretical questions used in the previous study. We assign randomly for each question one of the 3 different agents. Following previous findings from the literature we expect to find that appraisals of the motivating agents would be positively associated with the appraisals of the cognitive consonance obtained in the previous study. We expect that this effect of perceived motivation affordance by the agent on perceived cognitive consonance would at least partially be mediated by the effect of perceived motivation affordance by the agent on the cognitive consonance-related characteristics, i.e. prospect anxiety and learned helplessness.

#### 4.1 Method

We explore a within-subjects design in which participants evaluate the perceived motivation affordance by the agent while they are resolving the atheoretical questions. The sample comprises 46 participants (22 males and 24 females)  $M_{age} = 30.37$   $SD_{age} = 14.51$  age range 18 - 62 years. The participants were registered in Ibnu Sina College.

#### 4.2 Materials and Measures

We use the same set of atheoretical questions used in the previous study. Perceived motivation affordance by the agent was measured using different response categories for attitudes ranging from a pleasurable to one of interest through neutral to 5. Interest<sup>11</sup> We calculate the average of the items for each atheoretical question and use this aggregate score in our analysis.  $\alpha = .87$

#### 4.3 Procedure

The procedure and conditions of the second study were analogous to those of the previous one. We expect that while answering each question of the atheoretical questionnaire an agent speaks out loud a motivating message so that we can ensure that the student keeps on answering the questionnaire even if the questions are difficult. In fact, if the question is difficult and the student recognizes that his answer is incorrect, he/she feels

<sup>11</sup>[https://goo.gl/for\\_s](https://goo.gl/for_s) Tn Le44 IM 12

appointed. His atheoretical preconceptions are affected and he experiences a discrepancy between what he believes and the answer. In such a case, a successful motivated student would answer the same question that was previously answered incorrectly. All participants responded to the items of the perceived motivation questionnaire.

#### 4.4 Results and Discussion

We evaluate the aggregate perceived motivation affordance by the agent measure score as a new variable to the data set containing the prospect anxiety, learned helplessness, and perceived cognitive consonance obtained in the previous study. Descriptives for the measure of perceived motivation affordance by the agent measure are presented in Table 4. We first evaluate the correlations between the perceived motivation affordance by the agent's measure and the measures from the previous study. Table 5 shows that perceived motivation affordance by the agent was positively correlated with perceived cognitive consonance  $r = .47$   $p \leq .001$  and prospect anxiety  $r = .76$   $p \leq .001$  and negatively correlated with anxiety  $r = -.48$   $p \leq .001$  and learned helplessness  $r = -.49$   $p \leq .001$ .

To test whether appraisals of the perceived motivation affordance by the agent predicted appraisals of perceived cognitive consonance, we performed a regression analysis. The regression model accounted for approximately 20% of the variance in perceived cognitive consonance with  $F(1, 98) = 27.28$   $p \leq .001$   $R^2 = .22$  and  $R^2_{adj} = .21$ . As expected, perceived motivation affordance by the agent was significantly related to perceived cognitive consonance  $\beta = .48$   $t = 5.22$   $p \leq .001$ . The regression model was robust across 100 split sample validations  $M_r = .48$   $SD_r = .079$   $M_{R_2} = .22$ .

Next, a multiple regression analysis was conducted with both the perceived motivation affordance by the agent and the cognitive consonance-related characteristics, prospect anxiety, learned helplessness, as predictors. The combination of measures significantly predicted perceived cognitive consonance with  $F(4, 95) = 72.31$   $p \leq .001$   $R^2 = .75$  and  $R^2_{adj} = .74$ . However, while the measures of the cognitive consonance-related characteristics predicted significantly over and above the perceived motivation affordance by the agent measure with  $R^2$  change  $.54$   $F(3, 95) = 68.53$   $p \leq .001$ , the perceived motivation affordance by the agent measure did not predict significantly over and above the measures of the cognitive consonance-related characteristics with  $R^2$  change  $.01$   $F(3, 95) = 1.99$   $p = .161$ . Based on these results, perceived motivation affordance by the agent appears to

Table 4 Descriptives for the measure of perceive motivation afford e b the agent

perceive motivation afford e b the agent	M		SD	Min	Ma
	perceive motivation afford e b the agent	2.91	0.69	1.26	

Table 5 Correlations between the measures of perceive perceive motivation afford e b the agent of the current student and the measures cognitive consonance prospect an iet an learne helplessness of the previous student  $p \leq .001$

perceive motivation afford e b the agent	perceive Consonance	prospect	An iet	Learne Helplessness
perceive motivation afford e b the agent	.47	.76	-.48	-.49

Table 6 Summary of mediation analysis results 95 confidence intervals based on bootstrapping with 5000 resamples. Reported confidence intervals are bias corrected  $p \leq .001$

In dependent variable	total effect	irect effect	ediator	a	b	irect effect	LLCI	LCI
perceive motivation afford e b the agent	.476	-.0127	prospect	.787	.41	.0322	.0103	.0593
			an iet	-.381	.0241	-.0092	-.024	.002
			learne helplessness	-.447	-.833	.0372	.0214	.0574

offer little additional predictive power beyond that contributed by appraisals of prospect an iet an learne helplessness

While our results show that appraisals of the perceive motivation afford e b the agent are indeed associated with perceive cognitive consonance, the lack of predictive power over the cognitive consonance-related characteristics and the failure to find high correlations between perceive motivation afford e b the agent and the cognitive consonance-related characteristics suggest that this association may be mediated by changes in appraisals of prospect an iet an learne helplessness. We use the bootstrapping method for multiple mediation proposed by Hayes and Preacher (2008) to test whether the effect of perceive motivation afford e b the agent on perceive cognitive consonance was mediated by appraisals of the cognitive consonance-related characteristics. See Table 5 for a summary of the results of our mediation analysis.

The results of the mediation analysis show that perceive motivation afford e b the agent is positively related to prospect and negatively related to an iet and learne helplessness. Our results also confirm the multiple regression analysis showing that perceive motivation afford e b the agent total effect on prospect and an iet were significantly related to perceive cognitive consonance. The bootstrapping method provides estimates and bias corrected confidence intervals for the indirect effects in the model. If the confidence intervals do not contain zero, the estimate of the indirect effect is significant. Following this criterion, the results show that both the indirect effect of prospect and an iet were significant. The indirect effect of an iet was not significant. Importantly, our results show that if we account for the relation between perceive motivation afford e b the agent and appraisals of the cognitive consonance-related characteristics, the effect of per-

ceive motivation afford e b the agent on perceive cognitive consonance indirect effect is no longer significant, suggesting that this effect is fully mediated by changes in appraisals of prospect an iet.

In summary, our results show that while perceive motivation afford e b the agent significantly affects the perceive cognitive consonance. These findings provide evidence for the idea that the motivation afford e b the agent (robot teacher tablet) influences cognitive consonance perceptions indirectly through its effect on those cognitive consonance characteristics (prospect an iet an learne helplessness) that are important for the cognitive consonance appraisal process.

### 5 THIRD STUDY

As motivation has a direct effect on the cognitive consonance and we have opted to use different agents in the previous study, we decided to verify which of the three different agents type would lead to the highest motivation perception.

#### 5.1 Method

66 Tunisian students participate in this experiment (17-19 years) from Farhat Hache College. Participants were briefed which would help us to evaluate their planned attitude<sup>12</sup>. Participants were told that they would resolve some exercises to help evaluate a new robot platform. Once a student enters the room, she was asked to do the calibration exercise and then starts answering the exercises before informing the student that he/she can choose to skip to the next exercise if the current one is difficult. When the

<sup>12</sup>This is to measure the student's explicit attitude and ask respondents to think about and report their attitudes.

Table 7 A table showing the second main effect investigation results tablet vs robot tablet vs human robot vs human

Factor	Comparison contrast (F, p-value)		
	Tablet vs robot	Tablet vs human	Robot vs human
pleasure	149.3 <0.001 R	16.34 0.06	83.58 <0.001 R
IAT	21.92 <0.001 R	37.54 0.003 H	2.29 0.013 R
Cog Diss	136.8 <0.001 R	17.9 <0.001 H	88.5 0.04 R
quotient	26.09 <0.001 R	5.17 0.049 H	2.6 0.009 R
Loss	84.4 <0.001 R	54.0 0.008 H	71.08 <0.001 R

student feels that he/she wants to leave the room when he/she finishes the exercises collection than his/her and he/she has to answer a post-experiment survey. We invite our participants within subjects design experiment in a way that we can guarantee that we have a counterbalance of the data thereby reducing the effect of the sequence of trials on the results.

ROMO generates the motivating speech that it is coordinate with the robot's convenient gestures both in head gestures and the right tone. The motivating speech uses both the different types of agents follows the technique labeling technique. As a result in the labeling technique involves assigning a label to the individual and then requests a favor that it is consistent with the label. For example telling to a student "I know you are striving to success and keep in mind you are hard worker. In such case the student has more tendency to live up with the positive label. Thus one way to achieve a human produce the desired behavior is to assign positive label to his/her so that you can give his/her to live up with that label and maintain that positive consistency that serves the public image of the person as well as his/her self-esteem. There are four conditions the student takes part in which are the baseline condition motivating message is after condition 1 the tablet affords the motivating message condition 2 the robot affords a motivating message and condition 3 the human affords a motivating message. Each two asks the student comes to the classroom to receive another set of questions with a new set of motivating messages while we change the motivating source.

### 5.2 Materials and Measures

After the experiment finishes the student has to answer questionnaires such as the explicit attitude and implicit attitude. In 2013 the implicit attitude implicit association test (IAT) and in 2013 the cognitive consonance (cog. diss.) Levin et al. (2013) and the perceived pleasure scale (Lang, 1994) we consider other dependent variables.

The quotient number of times the user receives incorrect question by the number of times the user makes an error. It gives an idea about when has

the student a tendency to receive incorrect questions to strive for science learning rather than jumping from one question to another.

Loss number of times the user wells with the edge between the 2 questions.

### 5.3 Results and Discussion

The motivating message source agent's level has a main effect in terms of all the constructs with a p-value <0.001. Table 7 shows that there were significant differences between the robot and tablet conditions with higher results in the robot's condition for all the constructs. Also Table 7 shows that using a robot as a motivating source in comparison to using a human increases cognitive diss. (F=88.5, p-value=0.04 <0.05 R) and loss (F=71.08, p-value <0.001 R). There were statistical differences in terms of pleasure with higher results in the robot's condition rather than in the human's condition (F=83.58, p-value <0.001 R). IAT (F=2.29, p-value=0.013 <0.05 R) and quotient (F=2.6, p-value=0.009 <0.01 R).

## 6 CONCLUSION

Motivating a student is commonly associated with a positive effect on the experience of cognitive consonance. Not much is known about the psychological processes through which perceived motivation affects its influence on people's cognitive consonance perceptions. We investigate the role of motivation in cognitive consonance perception using a wide range of different agents types. Across two studies we tested the idea that motivation influences appraisals of cognitive consonance through its effect on appraisals of cognitive consonance-related characteristics like prospect anxiety and learned helplessness. Therefore an agent motivates the student the more he/she gets clear ideas and scores high in terms of cognitive consonance. Finally we compare different agent types to verify which one of them is able to better motivate and thus higher cognitive consonance. Results show that using a robot is able to better results

in terms of perceived motivation. Thus, the students having a robot as a motivating source adopted a positive counter-attitudinal behavior attitude and behavior change while they strive to answer the STEM questions that were previously answered incorrectly.

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