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SPEED READING AND LIMINAL TYPE: **ABSORBING CONTENT**

Sam Skinner and Nathan Jones

This text by Sam Skinner and Nathan Jones (torquetorque.net) describes and explores the implications of speed readers, and their intermixture with graphically reduced type faces. It is presented here in a form intended to evoke, and perhaps remediate, the speed reader form.



A 2014 Honda advert used speed reading to invoke the relation between our ability to "push harder" and evolve our reading ability, and Honda's innovative car-making. The advert was banned after only a short showing, because it is deamed irresponsible for a company to make "speed" the central theme of a car advert.

Speed reading applications isolate words from bodies text, and display sequentially, after other, with middle highlighted retain focus the this specific Rapid Serial Visual Presentation (RSVP) this order increase reading 100 1000 minute. does this part suppressing need for the visual system perform eye-saccades reading, among many

your eye

ahead

words

your

the

echoed

within

vision,

These physical components reading considered wasteful, furthermore present obstacles reading. example, reading disorders associated with failure perform efficient eye-saccades, issue character recognition poses question Although moderr trained concentration singular scanning focus, themselves retain parafoveal archaic distraction? Speed twitching like Spritz Spreade describe process subvocal twitching scanning forth across page

itself

less

like

and

more

like

the

text."

reading

absorbing

Speed (reading), incidentally, slow fast. merely refers to replacement spacial increased speed reading temporal only one difference possibilitingsk between afforded book billboard RSVP. Commercialon receipt. speed like arrives Spritz with and others might huge like amount Instead, it, appropriatevery latitude Stationary redirect replaced blurred science mark optimal viewing position toward evocative fluent, Right? fluid, immaterial_{You're} experiencereading raising interesting conceptual claiming questions, smooth speed reader asks disorders.line new Spritz things declares its bodies website and that minds "You'll find that against natural language able physical inhale content cognitive when directions capabilities, amplifying regain physical efficienci®%/P, responses, associated^{you} such blink reflexes moving your iris contractions, read. others. And such will subvocalisations longer move your eyes said unnatural a ways." rhythm, transformation then. frequency, "disorderly' Colin into Schultz "unnatural" writes regime the smithsoniathe**co**m blog, reading-watching? "the process this feels

text

to

rather

than

it?

happening

happening

There

a speed reader accentuates engages with the notion of text's evaporatio Perhaps neuronal recycling lack of materiality Stanislas similarly implies nature that brain architecture constrains the external read internal with networks liminal typeface reference This "natural fundamental encounters itself shapes. argues that which cortex deeply specifically evolve writing, relation rather, writing the evolved notion fit textual evolution cortex embodied easily speed learnable reading. Reducing their configuration massive selection process, typeface calligraphers, writers, designers developed areas evermore efficient lines notations fitted culturally organization brains. the kinds which the reduced scenes. Perhaps because that is what finest, lightest Hanging visually balance between consciousness consciousness liminality the evokes

readability within speed reading liminal afford possibilities typography finish this project physical-cognitive precipice with questions reading? this (more traversing than limits ever) legibility post-huma time, landscapes literature co-evolving with withering folding graphical into technics, vice hard-fork literature, reading, the type enticing, point particularly speed sense readers? 0ne we, with perhaps that somehow horizontal replicates the already temporal aspects vaporised furthest language orality, through "unnatural' the reading? conglomeration shifting visual field abilities fundamental speed conglomerations reader accentuates lines glitch already which suppressed their dissolve back into landscape waiting reading-beings? Or spring back tradition can speed archaic, typefaces reading unfocussed, fundamental efficiencies? machinic systems bare-life, accentuates $fundamentally \\^{\mbox{display}}$ subvocal involved physiology

reading?

potencies

temporal

deployed

re-engage

text

the

the

forest

underexplored does

affect

reading

with

the

world?

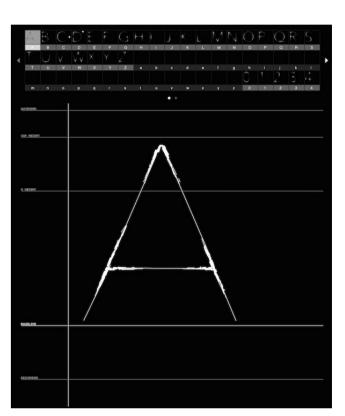
Can

Finally, machines learning read, will read to through with

surprising

conceptions

legibility





Some stills from Skinner's liminal Torque typeface, ver I

to
be
an
urge
to
politicize
these
questions,
this
new
medium.
Are
speed
readers
a
symptom
of
semiocapitalism,
for
example?
Perhaps
only
if
you
read
too
fast,
or
do
not
use
your
new-found
spare
time
to
sufficiently
free
your
mind?
Perhaps
also
they
are
a
cure
for
a
disorder
invoked invoked
by
semiocapital
machinations?
A
cthonic
pharmakon?
We
would
like
to
form
a
theory
and
practice
with
speed
readers
that
is
resistant
to to
narratives
of
continual
accelerations
and
efficiency,
even
as
they
appear
to
be
a
metonym
for
this
very
trajectory
in
the
contemporary
environment.

invoke between reader and writer? vertigo, nightmares or panic.