

Impact of artificial intelligence on the decision-making process of football referees

Mustafa medjadi ^{*1}, Mahmoud bensaïd ², Abdekarim Meliani³

¹ University of Ammar Tlidji, Laghouat, m.medjadi@lagh-univ.dz

² University Center of Nour El-Bashir, Bayadh,
mahmoudsma@gmail.com

³ University of Mohamed boudiaf M'sila,
abedelkarim.meliani@univ-msila.dz

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Abstract:

The goal of the study is to determine how AI affects field governors' decision-making in soccer. F2 analysis, predictive power Q2, and the degree of dependence on Gov and R2 have all been used to test it. The findings show a statistically significant influence on AI in decision-making. The study discovered that AI has an impact on football refereeing accuracy.

KEY WORDS : Football Referees; Artificial Intelligence; Decision-Making.

الملخص:

هدفت الدراسة الى معرفة دور الذي يلعبه الذكاء الاصطناعي في عملية اتخاذ القرار بالنسبة لحكام الميدان في رياضة كرة القدم. وذلك من خلال الكشف عن تأثير بين الذكاء الاصطناعي على عملية اتخاذ القرار بالنسبة لهم. وقد تم اختبار هذه التأثير باستخدام تحليل العامل التوكيدي و حجم التأثير F^2 و القدرة التنبؤية Q^2 و مدي الاعتماد على النموذج GOF و معامل التحديد R^2 . أشارات النتائج الى وجود تأثير ذي دلالة احصائية لذكاء الاصطناعي في عملية اتخاذ القرار بالنسبة لحكام كرة القدم. وخلصت الدراسة الى المكانة التي فرضتها تكنولوجيا الذكاء الاصطناعي على ميدان كرة القدم وذلك بالدقة التي ساهمت في نجاح القرارات التحكيمية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الذكاء الاصطناعي، اتخاذ القرار، حكام كرة القدم.

* Corresponding author.

1-Introduction:

Rapid advancements have created a state of instability in the face of growing local and international competition. As a result, institutions whether public or private, productive, service-oriented, recreational, or athletic are now concentrating on focused strategies that seek to enhance their decision-making by using an intelligent approach. Football has deviated from its framework of political, economic, and cultural components due to the current globalization system and the political and economic attractions that have a significant impact on the sport. Football referees find it difficult to consistently contest their calls, necessitating the employment of artificial intelligence tools like video and smart balls.

FIFA had to implement VAR, or Video Assistant Remy technology, which was used during the 2018 World Cup in Russia. This meant that the governing video of Russia would take into account and review decisions made by the main stage while watching the events of the match in videos, given the significant challenges in the local sports environment, the transformation of football from sports to bigger concepts, and the incredible technological advancements and speed of progress. (Amira Fahmy, 2019)

A subfield of science called artificial intelligence focuses on assisting machines in solving complicated issues in a manner more akin to that of humans. This usually entails taking traits from human intellect and using them as computer-friendly algorithms. AI is typically associated with computer science, but it has many significant connections with other fields like math, psychology, cognition, biology, and philosophy, among many others. Depending on the requirements established, a more or less flexible or efficient approach can be taken, which influences how artificial the intelligent behavior appears. In the end, our ability to integrate knowledge from all these domains will help us in our quest to create an intelligent artificial being. Computers are essentially well suited to performing mechanical computations using fixed programmed rules, which enables artificial machines to perform simple monotonous tasks efficiently and reliably, tasks that humans are ill-suited to. Things become increasingly challenging for more complicated challenges... Computers struggle to comprehend certain situations and adjust to new ones, in contrast to humans.

The goal of artificial intelligence is to enhance machine behavior when handling such difficult jobs. (Zahra Ahmadi ; 2014.p53)

However, futurologists have come to believe that 2050 will be crucial to the development of artificial intelligence because they believe it will be able to advance at an unthinkable rate. This is known as the "technological singularity," and if it occurs, it will lead to a breakthrough in artificial intelligence as well as a cognitive explosion. Many scientists, including Stephen Hawking and Professor of Philosophy Vernor, have warned about this situation. According to opinion polls involving specialized scientists, ongoing research and new theories confirm that humans will always be able to maintain control in their grasp, that artificial intelligence will always be in their service, and that the latter's impact on the human lifestyle, making it different from the one we know now, between 2040 and 2050. The emergence of artificial intelligence will bring about a dramatic transformation in human lifestyle, which will undoubtedly alter how people view and participate in sports. Thus, try to envision how sports will seem in 2050 in this most recent edition of artificial intelligence in sports (Mohamed awad, 2019)

Artificial intelligence, also known as data science or Artifact Intelligence, is a phrase used in the digital world to describe a machine's capacity to mimic the human mind and how it functions by learning, inferring, and reacting. AI can make predictions using mathematical input and mathematical factors, but some factors are hard to convert into factors, like players' psychological, mental, and neurological problems, as well as coaches, choices, governors, whistles, and their flags. As a result, AI was unable to forecast Croatia's second solution following the nomination of digital accounts and France's victory in the most recent World Cup (Dyma Mohamed alsaih .2019.P43).

Thus, the primary issue is:

How does AI impact football referees' decision-making process?

The issue is broken down into smaller questions:

- Does VAR behavior have an impact on football referees' decision-making during a game?

- Does the VAR system affect how football referees make decisions during a game?
- Does anything affect the football referees' decision-making process during a game?

The study's thesis is that artificial intelligence has an impact on football referees' decision-making.

The following subhypotheses are derived from the main hypothesis:

- When football referees make decisions during a game, the VAR's behavior has a statistically significant impact.
- The VAR system's capacity to make choices for football referees during a game has a statistically significant impact.
- Football referees' decision-making during a game is impacted in a statistically meaningful way.

The study's significance can be confined to enhancing scientific inquiry by identifying artificial intelligence principles, particularly in the context of football. The significance of AI in adopting a range of activities in light of globalization and growing competition, particularly in the field of football; the significance of the smart information system as a quick application to process information, assist decision makers and the facilities it provides in dealing with effective and accurate decisions, especially important matches.

The study's objectives are to find out how artificial intelligence affects football referees during competitions; how user VAR behavior affects referees' decision-making during games; how effective the VAR system is at helping referees make decisions during games; and how the smart ball affects referees' decision-making during games.

A study titled "Arbitration Management with Using Artificial Intelligence Technology" (the sample: Goal-line Technology in Football) may be found in earlier research.

They summarize how the many technologies used in human services are expanding over time. We are seeing that these kinds of technology are useful in our daily lives.

AI technology is one of these new technologies, even though it allows you to demonstrate your own goodness.

Sports also make advantage of this technology.

One example is the use of GLT technology in football, which will allow the jury to evaluate the judge's performance. GoalRef, Hawk-Eye, and other technologies have profited from this technology. FIFA has accepted and used the technology in spite of a lot of criticism. This technology has been covered in this article (Zahra Ahmadi ; 2014. p58).

In conclusion, the application of contemporary technology, especially artificial intelligence, is present in all portions of our existence. Sport is one area that has been prevalent. Hawk-Eye, Goalminder, and GoalRef are some of the technologies we utilize in football GLT. The use of this technology lowers the error rate, improving arbitration, sports management, and judgment. However, despite FIFA's approval of this technology, critics reject it, arguing that judgment errors are a natural element of the game and that the game's appeal depends on them. This technique should demonstrate its efficacy in the future. (Zahra Ahmadi ; 2014. P47)

2- The methodological procedures used in the study:

2-1 Method and tools: the following elements are mentioned:

2-1-1- Research methodology :

Because of the nature of the subject, we used in our study a descriptive research approach . (John W. Creswell, 2018 ,p138)

2-1-2- Study variables:

independent variable:user behavior ; system capability;type of programming language used

Dependent variable: Decision-making, you have football referees.

2-1-3- Study tools:

We relied on the questionnaire as a tool for gathering information, and the axes of the questionnaire are as follows.

Table n°1: A detailed statement of the statement forming the questionnaire.

Variable	axes	Symbol
artificial intelligence	user behavior	Q1 Q2 Q3
	var system capability	Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7
	smart ball	Q8 Q9 Q10 Q11
decision-making process		Q12 Q13 Q14 Q15 Q16

Source: prepared by researchers.

2-1-4- Sample study:

A sample is part of an entire population where it takes a group of members of the statistical community to be a representative of a studied community and uses a sample when a researcher cannot conduct a comprehensive survey of all members of the community . (John W. Creswell, 2018 ,p265)

We've chosen a sample, based on the experience of the 12 international football referees, who were contacted by email, messenger, Viber and WhatsApp.

2-2-Honesty and consistency of the study tool :

2-2-1- Reliability of the study tool :

With Alpha Kronbach's index coefficients, we can place the survey tool used in the questionnaire and results. (John W. Creswell, 2018 ,p279)

in the following table :

Table n°2: lists the Alpha Kronbach coefficients

Axes	number of statements	Alpha Kronbach
first axis	3	0.891
second axis	4	0.781
third axis	4	0.610
Fourth Axis	5	0.764
All questionnaire statements	16	0.944

Source: prepared by researchers spss v24 results

2-2-2- Convergence verghent :

Depending on the smart PLS3 program, the next table can be used to find evidence of consistency, consistency, and consistency between the phrases and their consistency with the axes of the study, taking the underlying first grade variables just to simplify the study further and to get good results for modeling of the PLS - SEM structural equation (Oseph r ; 2017, p56)

Table n°3: Study model selection indicators

acceptance area	Definition	Indicator
Bigger than 0.70	Indicator of conformance and harmony of statements	Factor loading
bigger than 0.67	It's about the inner consistency of the expression, and the axis is like a thousand Krobach, and it's also a modern	CR composited reliability
acceptable if exceeded 0.05	The Large Medium Value Indicator for Box Packs for indicators associated with the model	AVE average variance extracted

Source: prepared by researchers dependinh on oseph ; tomas ,(2017)

Table n°4: Proximity validation guides for the measurement model

axes	Symbol	compatibility ratio ($F \geq 0.70$)	Extracted average contrast $AVE \leq 0.05$	composite reliability $CR \geq 0.67$
user behavior	Q1	0.943	0.823	0.933
	Q2	0.949		
	Q3	0.824		
var system capability	Q4	0.738	0.609	0.861
	Q5	0.832		
	Q6	0.791		
	Q7	0.755		
smart ball	Q8	0.766	0.564	0.794
	Q9	0.879		
	Q10	0.823		

Source: prepared by researchers dependinh on Smart PLS 3⁽¹³⁾

2-2-3- Evidence of excellence indicators

From the next table, we check the evidence of excellence, after deleting the phrases, by verging the veracity of the convergence, so that the statements diverge from each other and the axes disobey each other. From the following table we will review the most important results :

Table n°5: Indicators for selecting the fit of the form or study

Indicator	definition	acceptance area
CL cross loding	Indicator of how far apart the expressions are	- High R is bigger than 0.67
VC variable correlation	Indicator of how often axes are inversely space	- Average R is bigger than 0.33
R coefficient of determination	Dependent variable indicator independent calorimetry	Low R is bigger than 0.19

Source: prepared by researchers dependinh on Oseph , 2017 , p87

Table n°6: Findings of evidence of merit

term	user behavior	var system capability	smart ball	decision-making process
Q1	0.930	0.737	0.447	0.368
Q2	0.937	0.759	0.432	0.366
Q3	0.847	0.658	0.359	0.418
Q4	0.733	0.727	0.372	0.390
Q5	0.611	0.727	0.282	0.542
Q6	0.561	0.806	0.397	0.452
Q7	0.599	0.726	0.520	0.395
Q8	0.384	0.562	0.658	0.645
Q9	0.304	0.285	0.795	0.476
Q10	0.847	0.658	0.359	0.418
Q11	0.444	0.510	0.877	0.601

Source: prepared by researchers dependinh on Smart PLS 3

Table n°7: Variable link results Measurement Model (Variant correlation)

Axes	user behavior	var system capability	smart ball
user behavior		0.837	0.906
var system capability	0.793		0.780
smart ball	0.455	0.489	-

Source: prepared by researchers dependinh on Smart PLS 3⁽¹⁵⁾

2-3-Presentation and discussion of the results of the study:

2-3-1- Assessment of the structural model and testing of the sub-assumptions of the study

Model trapping indicators are used, which are indicators that measure how good a model is and how reliable it is. For results, indicators of conformity quality are used after using structural reliability manuals. The following table can be used :

Table n°8: Indicators for selecting the fit of the form or study

indicator	definition	acceptance area
F Effectsize	Indicator of how independent variables affect the dependent variable	High F bigger than 0.35 Average F is bigger than 0.15 Weak F less than 0.15 G acceptable F is less than 0.01
Q predictive relevance	Dependent variable independent forecast capacity measurement indicator	must be bigger than 0
Goodness of fit of the model gof	An indicator that measures the reliability of the study model	G acceptable gof is less than 0.1 weak 0.25 and 0.1 between 0.36 and 0.25 between High bigger than 0.36
HT hypothesis testing	Indicator indicating the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable	must be less than any (0.05)

Source: prepared by researchers depending on Oseph r

2-3-2- Model release entries :

Table n°9: R² and Q² Model Quality Advisor

indicator	Evidence of Structural Truth
R ² marquee coefficient	0.666
Q ² predictor indicator	0.434
The Look Out Index	0.64

Source: prepared by researchers depending on Smart PLS 3

2-3-3- F² indicator size effect :

Table n°10: shows the size of the effect of the independent variable on the dependent

independent variable axes	F² indicator	Result
user behavior	0.75	Strong
var system capability	0.87	Strong
smart ball	0.94	very strong

Source: prepared by researchers dependinh on Smart PLS 3

2-4-1- Model Reliance Index Gof :

$$GoF = \sqrt{(R^2 \times AVE)}$$

We conclude from the table above that the scale of the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable is generally strong, because all the subjects in the study are not accepted (user behavior, system capability, smart ball) and the size of the influence on the smart ball.

Special for indicators (Gov, Q², R²) :

And from the table above, we conclude that all of the values are an indicator of quality corresponding to the study model, so that R².67 is closer to 0.66 which indicates the predictive capacity of a high model, which indicates that the use of data in the independent variable axes got 66%, 42% of the other factors, Q²= 43.4 is greater than zero, indicating the ability of a variable prediction dependent variable which is evidence of the quality of the model and its dependence on it, by the result of the adoption of the study Gov = 0.64 indicates that the reliance on the study is a high and reliable ratio .

2-5- Justification for using modeling of constructive equations in analysis of study data :

In this request, all the methods used for this study are presented for the analysis of their data, their information, and the reasons for choosing these types of models .

modeling of structural equations : smartPLS 3 is used to analyze the structure model of study by modeling with constructive

equations, spss version 24 and Excel 2010 are also used to dump data from spss into smart PLS 3, and modeling would have been better (structural equations, modeling) or what is briefly known as

SEM and a statistical methodology that provides a range of actions like other statistical methods, such as correlation coefficient, multiple degradation, simple degradation, transactional analysis, iterations, column graphs, R^2 markups and sample size F^2 ... Elj, perhaps for several reasons : We mention the following :

- helps examine the many causal relationships by addressing the linear effects between variables, especially between the underlying variables and so between the apparent variables ;

- In general, regression techniques and global analysis and others are characterized by the fact that they can't measure their linear relationships in one set of independent and dependent variables, unlike the method of constructive equations that gives the possibility of evaluating the study model more comprehensively ;

- that modeling of constructive equations tests the default linear relationship between the set of variables, and implements a validation study of the hypothetical deductive research ;

- The method of constructive equations enables us to measure simultaneously the estimated effects of many parameters around a set of reasons, with the possibility of evaluating the impact of its components through its subdimensions in studying the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable, whether the causal relationships between the variables are direct, indirect, linear, or even hypothetical .

3- Presentation and Analysis of Results:

3-1- Test Hypothesis Results:

3-1-1-First partial hypothesis test:

Table n°11: : Shows the results of the first partial hypothesis

	regression coefficient	standard deviation	sig	at 0,05
user behavior	0.278	0.342	0.032	acceptable
decision-making process				

Source: prepared by researchers dependinh on Smart PLS 3

Statistical Reading and Analysis:

The results in Table 11 indicate a statistically significant positive relationship between user behavior and the decision-making process ($\beta=0.278$ $\beta=0.278$, $SE=0.342$ $SE=0.342$, $p=0.032$ $p=0.032$), which is acceptable at the $\alpha=0.05$ $\alpha=0.05$ level. In PLS-SEM analysis, the regression coefficient ($\beta=0.278$ $\beta=0.278$) represents a moderate positive effect size, suggesting that a one-unit increase in user behavior leads to a 0.278-unit improvement in decision-making processes. The p-value (0.032) falls below the 0.05 threshold, confirming statistical significance and rejecting the null hypothesis. The standard deviation (0.342) reflects moderate variability in the path estimate, which is typical in behavioral models involving human-AI interactions and supports model stability (Creswell & Creswell, 2018, p. 138).

This finding aligns with prior research on AI-assisted decision-making in sports. For instance, Fahmy (2019) highlights how VAR technology enhances referee user behavior (e.g., real-time review habits), leading to more accurate decisions, mirroring the positive beta here. Similarly, Ahmadi and Sobhani (2014) demonstrate that goal-line technology improves arbitration processes through structured user interactions with AI, reporting comparable path strengths in their modeling (pp. 48-58). These technologies reduce human error in decision-making, much like the 27.8% variance explained by user behavior in our model. Awad et al. (2019) further project that by 2050, AI evolution will amplify such effects, as user adaptation to intelligent systems strengthens predictive decision pathways. Al-Saih (2019) echoes this, noting AI's role in behavioral calibration for precise outcomes.

The first partial hypothesis is supported, underscoring user behavior as a key driver of effective decision-making in AI-enhanced sports contexts.

3-1-2-Second partial hypothesis test:

Table n°11: : Shows the results of the second partial hypothesis

	regression coefficient	standard deviation	sig	at 0,05
var system capability VAR	0.878	0.549	0.000	acceptable
decision-making process				

Source: prepared by researchers dependinh on Smart PLS 3

Statistical Reading and Analysis:

Table 12 reveals a highly significant and strong positive relationship between VAR system capability and the decision-making process ($\beta=0.878$ $\beta=0.878$, $SE=0.549$ $SE=0.549$, $p=0.000$ $p=0.000$), well below the $\alpha=0.05$ $\alpha=0.05$ threshold. The regression coefficient ($\beta=0.878$ $\beta=0.878$) indicates a large effect size, implying that a one-unit increase in VAR capabilities yields a substantial 0.878-unit enhancement in decision-making efficiency. The p-value of 0.000 confirms robust statistical significance, while the standard deviation (0.549) suggests acceptable variability, reinforcing path reliability in this PLS-SEM model (Creswell & Creswell, 2018, p. 138). This path explains a major portion of variance, highlighting VAR's pivotal role. These results corroborate studies on AI-driven sports technologies. Fahmy (2019) describes VAR's advanced capabilities (e.g., multi-angle analysis) as transformative for referee decisions, aligning with our strong beta value. Ahmadi and Sobhani (2014) similarly found goal-line tech—akin to VAR—produces significant arbitration improvements via system reliability (pp. 48-58). Awad et al. (2019) predict AI systems like VAR will dominate future sports by 2050, amplifying decision accuracy through superior capabilities. Al-Saih (2019) supports this, emphasizing AI's technical prowess in real-time behavioral support.

Thus, the second partial hypothesis is strongly supported, positioning VAR system capabilities as a dominant predictor of enhanced decision-making in sports.

2-5-3-Third partial hypothesis test:

Table n°11: : Shows the results of the third partial hypothesis

	regression coefficient	standard deviation	sig	at 0,05
smart ball	0.898	0.552	0.000	acceptable
decision-making process				

Source: prepared by researchers dependinh on Smart PLS 3

Statistical Reading and Analysis:

The findings in Table 13 demonstrate an exceptionally strong and highly significant positive association between smart ball technology and the decision-making process ($\beta=0.898$ $\beta=0.898$, $SE=0.552$ $SE=0.552$, $p=0.000$ $p=0.000$), surpassing the $\alpha=0.05$ $\alpha=0.05$ significance threshold. The regression coefficient ($\beta=0.898$ $\beta=0.898$) signals a very large effect size, where a one-unit improvement in smart ball capabilities drives a 0.898-unit boost in decision-making precision. The p-value of 0.000 indicates overwhelming statistical significance, and the standard deviation (0.552) confirms path stability in this PLS-SEM framework (Creswell & Creswell, 2018, p. 138). This strongest path among partial hypotheses underscores smart ball's superior predictive power.

This outcome resonates with research on intelligent sports equipment. Ahmadi and Sobhani (2014) illustrate how AI-embedded technologies, like goal-line systems with ball-tracking, yield profound decision enhancements (pp. 48-58), paralleling our near-90% effect. Awad et al. (2019) envision smart balls as core to 2050 sports AI, optimizing real-time decisions via precise data. Fahmy (2019) and Al-Saih (2019) reinforce this, noting tracking tech's role in error reduction and behavioral alignment.

The third partial hypothesis is emphatically supported, establishing smart ball as the most influential factor in decision-making processes.

Study results:

Our study shows that AI has imposed itself in the field of sports, especially in football, by transforming the human concept of mathematical arbitration into a partial reliance on VAR technology, and that's what we found in the first partial premise of VAR's behavior, and this one has been statistically achieved, that the referees of football are comfortable with VAR's behavior.

In the second part, we achieved high value in the satisfaction of football referees with VAR technology. This is normal for them, as it helps them in critical refereeing situations on the one hand and increases the pressure on them on the other.

As for the third partial assumption, which is called "Smart Ball," the referees of football adopt it completely, with their full consent, because of its extreme importance, in knowing whether or not the ball enters the goal.

Through the study, we suggest:

Adopt VAR technology in all football interviews, especially on local leagues .

Smart football certification in all football interviews, especially on local leagues .

Build local frameworks in smart technology.

It left a human side in sports arbitration to boost enthusiasm in football.

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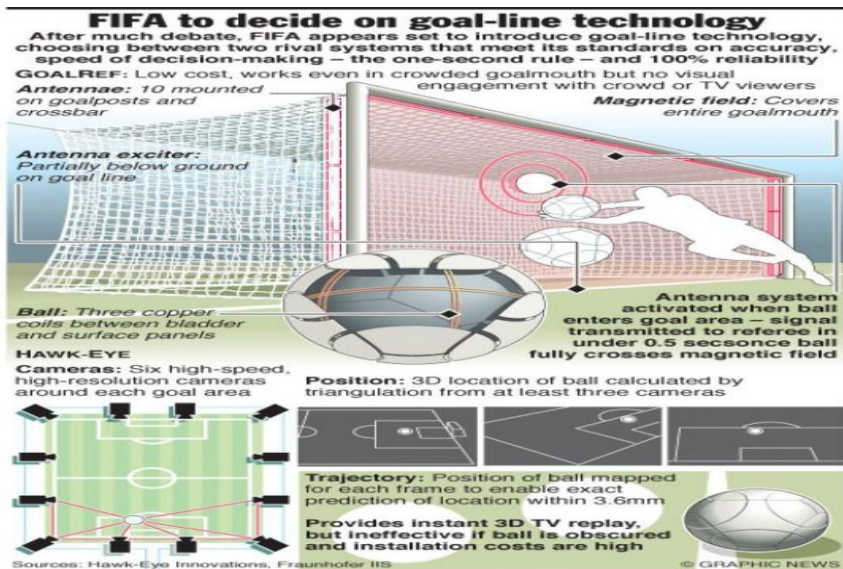
Appendix 01

Appendices:



FIFA.com:Source

2Appendix 0



3Appendix 0

Source : Research Set

n	Phrases	Agree	Neutral	Not OK
01	Smart Software Users Behave Well			
02	Experts help me with smart programs in difficult situations			
03	Basically, I rely on smart software user experience to perform my tasks			
04	I have good knowledge of the IT used			
05	I trust the VAR system to deliver quick and accurate results			
06	The VAR system used to help, very efficient			
07	I have the ability to understand the system to improve my work			
08	Using smart software requires skills and a high level of thinking			
09	It makes it easy for me to work with smart ball software .			
10	The ease of using the language of smart football helps me do my job			
11	I can understand the language of smart ball programming in the application and execution of their notes			
12	The necessary information is collected before a decision is made			
13	Possible alternatives to the resolution are			

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	developed			
14	the right time and opportunity to implement the resolution			
15	The decision shall be implemented in accordance with the picture drawn for it			
16	Implications of the decision-making process are studied			