

1 In design-ing to accommodate visibility, each function and
2 the method of ope-rat-ing it would be apparent (to most peo-
3 ple in the culture for which it is intended) by merely looking
4 at it. (Raskin ch. 3.4)

5 Raskin’s standard of visibility may not be applicable to certain pro-ducts
6 which absolutely require instruction or training (E.g. fly-ing an aero-
7 plane). But whitespace does have the kind of visibility he prefers. It
8 not only makes word boundaries visible but also pos-sesses visibility in
9 itself, i. e., readers need no instruction to under-stand and make use
10 of its function. Why? Because it is already a part of the reader model;
11 at the time most readers come to meet Romanized Pali texts, they have
12 already been familiar with English and/or other modern European lan-
13 guages, which use whitespace for the same function. When they meet
14 it again in Pali texts, they would be tempted to treat it similarly only
15 to succeed. This is a typical case of “a system behaving exactly as users
16 thought it would”.

17 On the contrary, word boundaries in manuscripts are not visible,
18 mak-ing it harder to read.

19 **0.0.1 Whitespace provides good mappings**

20 Mapping is “a relationship between controls and their movements or
21 effects” (Lidwell, et al. 128) and, in the case of texts, punctuation and
22 whitespace are controls that readers use for guidance through a text
23 being read. But how should we define a good mapping?

24 Good mapping is primarily a function of similarity of layout,
25 behavior, or meaning. When the layout of stovetop controls
26 corresponds to the layout of burners, this is similarity of lay-
27 out; when turning a steering wheel left turns the car left, this
28 is similarity of behavior; when an emergency shut-off but-
29 ton is colored red, this is similarity of meaning (e. g., most
30 people associate red with stop) (ibid)

31 In modern Pali texts, whitespace maps to a word boundary while a
32 continuous string of text maps to a word. Those mappings are natu-ral
33 in the sense that they are similar in layout to those in modern Euro-
34 pean language texts, which readers are already familiar with, and con-
35 sequently which they can readily understand.

36 On the contrary, manuscripts provide no useful mappings at all.