Leveling Up Game Characters, Leveling Up Language Skills: Investigating Indonesian Genshin Impact players' Extramural English

THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Magister Pendidikan



DANIEL KURNIAWAN 962022001

MASTER IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN SATYA WACANA SALATIGA 2023

APPROVAL PAGE

Leveling Up Game Characters, Leveling Up Language Skills:

Investigating Indonesian *Genshin Impact* players' Extramural English

THESIS Repositori Institusi | Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Magister Pendidikan DANIEL KURNIAWAN 962022001 Approved by: Meny Isharyanti, Ph.D. <u>Dian Toar Y. G. Sumakul, S.Pd, M.A.</u> Thesis Reviewer Thesis Supervisor

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

This thesis contains no such material as has been submitted for examination in any course or accepted for the fulfilment of any degree or diploma in any university. To the best of my knowledge and my belief, this contains no material previously published or written by any other person where due reference is made in the text.

Copyright@ 2023. Daniel Kurniawan.

All rights reserved. No part of this thesis may be reproduced by any means without the permission of at least one of the copyright owners or Master in English Language Education, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana, Salatiga.

Daniel Kurniawan.

Repositori Instit

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis would not have come together without the incredible support of many who played a crucial role in making it happen.

I cannot fully express my gratitude to The Holy Trinity for the constant blessings in my life that kept me going.

A huge shoutout to Ibu Neny, my thesis supervisor and fellow gamer, for having my back with her support and insights.

I want to express my gratitude to all the awesome teachers at MPBI-FBS, UKSW, who guided me and shared their wisdom. Big thanks to Bu Titik, Pak Josh, Pak Calvin, Bu Debora, Bu Listyani, Bu Martha, Pak Astika, and Bu Krismi.

And a special shoutout to my fellow 2022 MPBI crew—Meta, Lia, Kak Irma, Sanditya, Illona, Jose, Gwen, and Risdy—for the good times and shared memories.

Also, I am deeply thankful for the support of my very close friends, the ones I have included in my Instagram close friend list.

Last but absolutely not least, my heartfelt thanks go to my wife, parents, and brother for their nonstop support and love throughout my academic journey.

' I W

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL PAGE	i
COPYRIGHT STATEMENTi	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTii	i
TABLE OF CONTENTSiv	V
LIST OF TABLESv	V
LIST OF FIGURESv	i
ABSTRACTvi	i
Introduction 1	1
Literature Review	2
Extramural English	2
Digital games and online role-playing games	1
Game-based language learning	5
Previous studies on EE and online RPGs	7
Research Framework10	
Methodology12	2
Research Contexts	
Research Participants	5
Data collection and data analysis16	
Findings and Discussions18	3
Conclusion40)
REFERENCES 42	2
S I I I C	

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Research participants	16
Table 2 How GI players extramurally learned English.	19
Table 3 What GI players might have extramurally learned	32



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Gaming involvement and informal learning framework developed by Iacovides et al. (2014)
Figure 2 The present research framework
Figure 3 A screenshot of in-game text narration, part of a character's speech14
Figure 4 Screenshots of mobile HoYoLAB
Figure 5 A screenshot from Ika's journal entry, displaying a new game mechanic20
Figure 6 A screenshot in Ari's journal entry, showing interactive speech texts21
Figure 7 A screenshot from Ika's journal entry, showing a 'book' she read22
Figure 8 Screenshots submitted by Joe (journal entry #29), showing his in-game chatting with two different players
Figure 9 A screenshot of Ika's conversation with other GI players on Dicsord26
Figure 10 A screenshot of Ika's Instagram story post, resharing an Instagram reel29
Figure 11 A screenshot of Sinar's posting a WhatsApp status (journal entry #20), displaying a post related to a character in the game

ABSTRACT

Digital games have long been used to promote foreign language learning, including in their extramural contexts. One specific game genre is online role-playing games (RPGs). Motivated by my experience playing *Genshin Impact* (GI), an online fantasy RPG, this study investigated how five Indonesian university students extramurally learned English through gameplay engagement and what they might have learned. Data were collected from player journals, interviews, and online artifacts, then thematically analyzed. Four types of gaming interactions and several computer-assisted language learning themes emerged, showing that GI might have encouraged extramural English (EE) learning with informal digital affordances. Limitations of the study and future directions of research in EE and informal digital learning of English were further addressed.

Keywords: Extramural English, digital games, online role-playing games, informal digital learning of English, Genshin Impact

vii