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The Joy of Learning English with RPG

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Abstract - As it is well known, English is a universal language. Business, cultural and social events, and any other International activities are usually carried out in English. In addition, a variety of news, magazines, books, media, and more advanced system like internet are mostly in English. From this derives the importance of having a good understanding and production level in English in all fields. Unfortunately, to achieve it, hard work is needed. Effort is required at every moment and it must be maintained over a long period of time. It sometimes can be frustrating.

Games could help encourage many learners in maintaining their interest. Although usually games just used as simple recreational activities, they are not that simple. They create a positive atmosphere while learning without thinking about learning. Well-chosen games give learners entertainment and at the same time allow them to practice their language skills[1]. Furthermore, they employ meaningful and useful language in real contexts. For that reason, we applied RPG (role playing game). The allured RPG is on the story game. To finish the game, players must follow many conversations on the story game. So that Player can learn English language with the joy of learning.

Keywords - English Language, Joy of Learning, Game, RPG

1. INTRODUCTION

English is a universal language. Recently, its role becomes more and more important. English is used in many International activity and media. Because of that, it's important to have a good understanding in English in all field. But, to achieve it, continuous and maintained effort is needed.

There are many ways to learn and practice English. One interesting way is through role-playing game[2]. Although until now, game just considered as a tool to entertain us, it have others benefit as a tool for studying. Besides most of them using English, it has an interesting storyline.

In games, there are many texts and conversations to help the players understand their role and finish the game. Through texts and conversations in the game, players could improve their vocabulary and understanding in English. This is far more helpful than reading dictionary without knowing the use of those words in the sentences. Besides, not just reading and choosing, RPG also require players to fight and solve problems so the players would not become bored.

2. ROLE-PLAYING GAMES

Role-playing games, often referred as RPG, are games that allow the players to act out various roles in a story and interact with each other within fictional setting. The action taken by players will decide the flow of story, whether they will succeed to finish the game or not[3][4].

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A. Single-player

Single-player RPG usually played with computer or console. It was a type of RPG where the players could experience a visual representation of the world that emphasizing character development with collaborative, interactive storytelling.

B. Multi-player

Multi-player RPG include many players around the world with internet online. This type of RPG played realtime and the players can interact with other players from around the world to form friendships and even to learn more about other culture and language through another player.

3. LEARNING WITH RPG

A. What can be learned through RPG?

1. Understanding

RPG enhance reading abilities in understanding a passage.

2. Vocabulary

RPG build vocabulary in all kinds of subject matters ranging from medieval history to modern science depending on the game genre, how to write it, and its use in sentences or real conversations.

3. Grammar

RPG hone the art of storytelling and writing skills, also how to write a sentence with the correct grammar.

4. Conversation

RPG show sentences that often used in conversation and its use in daily conversations. It even could sharpen listening skills if the game use character voices.

4. SYSTEMMODELING

Games for learning English programmed so that the players could finish quests that required the players to learn English. These quests can be related to grammar or vocabulary learning.



Fig 1. Past Continuous Sentence Example

In the quests, players could be given grammar related sentences, as in Fig. 1 that shows an example of a past continuous sentence.

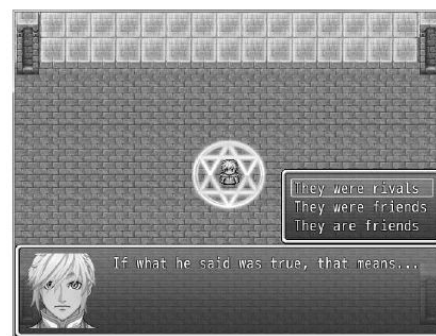


Fig 2. Grammar Related Question Example

Besides sentences, players could also be given quest questions related to grammar. (Fig 2)



Fig 3. Vocabulary Related Question Example

Besides grammar learning, vocabulary learning could also be included, as in Fig. 3 above that show vocabulary-related question example so that players understanding for a word unintentionally tested.

5. CONCLUSION

Besides entertaining, RPG could also used for learning English with entering conversations or questions in English related to grammar or vocabulary. With RPG, players can learn English without intending to learn. In other words, we can learn English joyfully.

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