

Conclusion

This study has explored the phonological features that is used by “Little” Jacob Hughes during the story of Grand Theft Auto IV (2008) and finds that there are connections between the phonological features and cultural meanings. The study showcases phonological features of Rastafarian English including diphthongs reduction and vowel shifts help to reveal the connection between phonological features and cultural meaning as the sounds of the language reflect and form the cultural identity and the view of its speakers.

Not only Rastafarian English has a function to shape Little Jacob’s character, but it also provides insight into the cultural identity and the experiences of a Jamaican immigrant living in Liberty City. Little Jacob also showcases his bilingual capacities, code-switching and cultural blending in a multicultural city like Liberty City, by having the ability to switch between languages indicating flexibility and adaptability. By keeping their own phonological patterns, the community can assert their cultural autonomy and resist outside pressure to adopt the language of the dominant culture. Little Jacob's Rastafarian English phonological features also convey his feelings and a strong connection to his cultural community, exemplified in his interactions with the main character in the game, whether it is in main story or in the hang out session.

This study provides evidence that video games can be a useful data source for research in academic context. Several limitations should be noted, however, such as the linguistic aspect of the research that only focuses on the phonological features and the limited cultural dimensions identified. Despite the limitations, findings from the present study can help us familiarize with Rastafarian English and better understand the connection between language and culture. It would be worthwhile to investigate the cultural impacts of Rastafarian English in this globalized world and to find more cultural and linguistic aspects that Grand Theft Auto IV (2008) has to offer.