

**EXPLORING RASTAFARIAN ENGLISH AND THE CULTURAL  
MEANINGS OF “LITTLE” JACOB HUGHES IN THE VIDEO GAMES  
GRAND THEFT AUTO IV (2008)**

A Research Paper

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for *Sarjana Sastra* Degree of  
English Language and Literature Study Program



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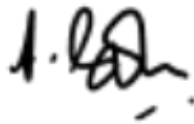
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# **Exploring Rastafarian English and the Cultural Meanings of “Little” Jacob Hughes in the Video Game Grand Theft Auto IV (2008)**

## **ABSTRACT**

Grand Theft Auto IV (2008) is a video game that portrays a side character named “Little” Jacob Hughes that speaks Rastafarian English. Since language and culture are closely intertwined, this study examines specifically the phonological features and cultural meanings enacted by Little Jacob in the video game. The data collection process was carried out by selecting the excerpts that indicate the language-culture nexus during the playthrough of the game. This study, however, only focuses on the verbal aspect of the game. Specifically, the study highlights the phonological characteristics of Rastafarian English, such as vowel shifts and the reduction of diphthongs, which help to show how these phonological characteristics also underlie some cultural meanings. The study confirms that the sounds of the language both reflect and shape the speakers' cultural identities and worldviews in the game. It was found that the use of Rastafarian English by Little Jacob is intertwined with an expression of his feelings and a strong connection to his particular cultural community.

**Keywords:** *Cultural meanings, Grand Theft Auto, Phonological features, Rastafarian English*

## **ABSTRAK**

Grand Theft Auto IV (2008) adalah sebuah video game yang menampilkan karakter sampingan bernama “Little” Jacob Hughes yang berbicara dalam bahasa Inggris Rastafarian. Karena bahasa dan budaya saling terkait erat, studi ini secara khusus mengkaji fitur-fitur *phonology* dan makna budaya yang diungkapkan oleh Little Jacob dalam video game tersebut. Proses pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan memilih kutipan-kutipan yang menunjukkan keterkaitan antara bahasa dan budaya selama permainan berlangsung. Namun, studi ini hanya berfokus pada aspek verbal dari game tersebut. Secara khusus, studi ini menyoroti karakteristik *phonology* dari bahasa Inggris Rastafarian, seperti perubahan vokal dan reduksi diftong, yang membantu menunjukkan bagaimana karakteristik *phonology* ini juga mendasari beberapa makna budaya. Studi ini menegaskan bahwa bunyi-bunyi bahasa tersebut mencerminkan dan membentuk identitas budaya serta pandangan hidup penutur dalam game. Ditemukan bahwa penggunaan bahasa Inggris Rastafarian oleh Little Jacob berkaitan erat dengan ekspresi perasaannya dan keterhubungannya yang kuat dengan komunitas budaya tertentu.

**Kata Kunci:** Bahasa Inggris Rastafarian, Fitur *phonology*, Grand Theft Auto, Makna budaya

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