RPGs to Enhance the Second Language Acquisition of Both Mandarin and English
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Abstract

Research Question: “To what degree can it be evidenced that interactive role playing games enhance the mutual second language acquisition of both Mandarin and English?”

- Small-scale side project to ascertain avatar interaction preferences based on perception.
- Pilot study will apply psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic research knowledge to specifically designed game.

Hypothesis Questions

- Can games and education be effectively combined; to provide mutual learning platform to enhance production and comprehension of the written languages?
- Does the Proteus effect of using an avatar negate the interference of ‘face’ for Chinese students?
- Does the choice of the interlocutor’s avatar affect interaction in the target language?
- Will the target language learners who are involved in the supplementary game based learning experience higher levels of motivation for learning language?

RPGs and L2 learning

- Provides deep immersion and motivation beneficial for second language learning (Cornillie et al., 2012).
- In game rewards system encourages both informal and implicit learning (Gee, 2003).
- Avatars can help negate the anxiety that a learner may feel within face-to-face conversation in the target language (Peterson, 2011).
- In game text second language learner can see and re-read their conversation, which can help identify errors and allow focus on speech (Peterson, 2011)

Serious Games

- Learning almost as by-product
- Balance between formal and informal learning
- Inclusion of both individual and social learning environments

References


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