



## The Use of Jargon in The Communication of The Bloods and Fire Department Groups in GTA V Roleplay

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### ABSTRACT

*This study examines the jargon used within the Bloods and Fire Department communities in GTA V Roleplay, drawing on the jargon theory of Brown and Attardo as cited in Altemen and Abbas (2021) and the jargon form classification proposed by Adawiyah, Murtadlo, and Purwanti (2021), which groups jargon into words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. Jargon use in a virtual environment is treated as a complex linguistic phenomenon that functions not merely as a communication tool but also as a means of constructing social identity and representing power relations. This study aims to identify the forms of jargon used by members of the Bloods and Fire Department communities in GTA V Roleplay and to describe how such jargon represents social identity and power relations within that virtual community. A qualitative approach with a descriptive method was applied. Data were collected purposively from GTA V roleplay forum interactions and in game chat logs, then analyzed using the jargon form theory and interpreted through the language and identity framework of Bucholtz and Hall (2005). The findings identified 40 jargon expressions, categorized into 12 words, 15 phrases, 5 clauses, and 8 sentences, with phrases as the dominant form. These findings indicate that jargon use within the Bloods and Fire Department communities facilitates internal communication, reinforces group identity, fosters cohesion among members, and establishes social boundaries between community members and outsiders within the virtual environment of GTA V Roleplay.*

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### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas jargon yang digunakan dalam komunitas Bloods dan Fire Department pada permainan GTA V Roleplay dengan merujuk pada teori jargon Brown dan Attardo sebagaimana dikutip dalam Altemen dan Abbas (2021) serta teori bentuk jargon menurut Adawiyah, Murtadlo, dan Purwanti (2021), yang mengelompokkan jargon ke dalam bentuk kata, frasa, klausa, dan kalimat. Penggunaan jargon dalam lingkungan virtual dipandang sebagai fenomena kebahasaan yang kompleks, yang tidak hanya

**Kata kunci:**

*GTA V roleplay, identitas sosial, jargon, komunitas virtual, relasi kekuasaan.*

berfungsi sebagai alat komunikasi, tetapi juga sebagai sarana pembentukan identitas sosial dan representasi relasi kekuasaan. Penelitian ini bertujuan mengidentifikasi bentuk-bentuk jargon yang digunakan oleh anggota komunitas Bloods dan Fire Department dalam GTA V Roleplay serta mendeskripsikan bagaimana penggunaan jargon tersebut merepresentasikan identitas sosial dan relasi kekuasaan dalam komunitas virtual tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Data dikumpulkan secara purposif dari interaksi forum roleplay GTA V dan log obrolan permainan, kemudian dianalisis menggunakan teori bentuk jargon dan ditafsirkan melalui kerangka bahasa dan identitas Bucholtz dan Hall (2005). Hasil penelitian mengidentifikasi 40 ungkapan jargon yang dikategorikan menjadi 12 kata, 15 frasa, 5 klausa, dan 8 kalimat, dengan frasa sebagai bentuk yang paling dominan. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan jargon dalam komunitas Bloods dan Fire Department memfasilitasi komunikasi internal, memperkuat identitas kelompok, menumbuhkan kohesi antaranggota, dan menetapkan batasan sosial antara anggota komunitas dan pihak luar dalam lingkungan virtual permainan GTA V Roleplay.

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**INTRODUCTION**

The development of information technology and the internet has changed online games from a mere entertainment tool into a space for social interaction that brings together millions of players across regions without being limited by geographical distance (Zakaria et al., 2022), while also driving the formation of virtual communities that demand cohesiveness, coordination, and cooperation among players (Rahmatiah et al., 2023). Ongoing interaction within such communities gives rise to shared symbols, terms, and communication patterns that mark group identity while strengthening members' sense of belonging (Rahmatiah et al., 2023). GTA V, an action-adventure game set in the fictional open world of Los Santos that has remained popular since 2013 (Bernathan Adiyatma, 2023), has a roleplay mode (GTA V RP) that emphasizes role, narrative, and intense interpersonal communication rather than mere technical playing skill (Arinal & Purnomo, 2023). In this mode, players build identities and social networks that resemble relationships in the real world, so communication becomes the main foundation for building social relationships and sustaining the game's storyline.



One of the groups portrayed by players in GTA V Roleplay is the Bloods, a street group rooted in the African American community of Compton, Los Angeles, formed as a response to racial discrimination and also regarded as a symbol of solidarity and identity struggle amid social and economic pressure, as also represented in the film *Straight Outta Compton* (Elyasil, 2017). Unlike the Bloods, the Fire Department is represented as an emergency service organization that provides rapid response to fires, rescue operations, and pre-hospital medical care under strict occupational safety standards, divided into a firefighting division and a medical division led by a doctor with authority over patient care procedures (U.S. Fire Administration, 2013). These two communities represent two contrasting social poles, an exclusive street group that is informally hierarchical on one side, and a procedural professional organization that is formally hierarchical on the other, making them relevant to compare from the standpoint of linguistic practice.

The jargon that develops within these two communities is distinctive and exclusive, making it difficult for outsiders to understand and posing a challenge for new members before they are fully accepted as part of the group, which shows that jargon does not only function as a communication tool but also shapes social identity and power relations among members. This phenomenon is in line with a number of previous studies on jargon in digital communities, Novrianti et al. (2023) analyzed 26 jargon terms in *Mobile Legend* that ease team communication while also reflecting the group identity of players, Faydhullah et al. (2022) identified 25 military jargon terms in *Point Blank* that help shape social exclusivity among players, Lutfiah & Sudarwati (2021) found thirteen TikTok jargon terms that reflect the identity and solidarity of its user community, while Wibowo et al. (2022) found 26 English-language jargon terms in *MasterChef Indonesia* that serve as markers of the chefs' professional identity.

These studies confirm that jargon consistently functions as a marker of identity and group solidarity across various online communities, but they generally focus on only one type of community or one game genre, and comparative studies of jargon across two structurally different virtual communities remain scarce, namely a criminal street group that is informally hierarchical and a professional emergency service organization that is formally hierarchical, coexisting within a single open-world roleplay ecosystem such as *GTA V Roleplay*. Studies linking the linguistic form of jargon to the representation of social identity and power relations in such communities also remain limited. This gap is what underlies the present study, which aims to identify the forms of jargon used by members of the Bloods and Fire Department communities in *GTA V Roleplay* and to describe how the use of such jargon represents social identity and power relations within that virtual community.

## **METHOD**

This study used a qualitative approach with a descriptive method to gain an in-depth understanding of the linguistic phenomenon within its social context. The focus of the study is not on cause-and-effect relationships but on understanding how language is used to construct identity, signal membership, and regulate dynamics among individuals within a group. The object of this study is verbal utterances in the form of jargon found in the interactions of the *GTA V Roleplay* community, specifically in dialogue and narrative within the Bloods and Fire Department factions. The two communities were chosen because they explicitly display dynamics of power, solidarity, and social exclusion that resemble social reality in the real world, making them relevant to analyze from a jargon perspective.



Data were collected through documentation techniques, namely compiling chat log transcripts and other digital documents related to language use in community interactions. Data collection was carried out purposively, selecting the data that were most relevant and representative to illustrate language variation and to show how language is used to assert identity, solidarity, and social function within the community.

Data analysis was carried out systematically through five stages, namely (1) careful transcription of the documented data, covering utterances in text, chat logs, and excerpts of community conversations, (2) categorization of jargon terms based on frequency of occurrence, function, and context of use, (3) analysis of meaning based on the context of use, covering both lexical meaning (semantic) and contextual meaning (pragmatic), taking into account who is speaking, to whom, in what situation, and for what purpose, (4) interpretation of social function and identity using sociolinguistic theory to understand how jargon builds group identity, strengthens solidarity, and reveals power relations, and (5) descriptive-analytical conclusion of the findings that combines linguistic findings with sociocultural interpretation. The classification of jargon forms refers to the theory of Adawiyah et al. (2021), which distinguishes jargon into words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. In this study, jargon is understood as part of a language variety based on use, or *functiolect* (Chaer & Agustina, 2014), while the interpretation of the meaning and social function of jargon refers to the jargon theory of Brown and Attardo as cited in Altemen & Abbas (2021) and the language and identity framework of Bucholtz & Hall (2005). The data are presented through dialogue transcripts that display excerpts of communicative situations, beginning with a description of the context, the presentation of the utterance, and ending with an analysis of the meaning it contains. The research data were compiled from chat logs and roleplay forums of the Bloods and Fire Department factions over the period from 9 November 2024 to 28 May 2025, covering a range of interactional situations, from the coordination of criminal operations and gang conflicts in the Bloods community to firefighting and medical emergency response in the Fire Department community.

## RESULTS

Analysis of the interaction data of the Bloods and Fire Department communities in GTA V Roleplay identified 40 jargon expressions categorized into four linguistic forms based on the theory of Adawiyah et al. (2021), namely words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. The distribution of these findings is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Classification of Jargon in the Interactions of the Bloods and Fire Department Communities in GTA V Roleplay

| No.          | Type of Jargon | Number of Data | Percentage  |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1            | Word           | 12             | 30%         |
| 2            | Phrase         | 15             | 37,5%       |
| 3            | Clause         | 5              | 12,5%       |
| 4            | Sentence       | 8              | 20%         |
| <b>Total</b> |                | <b>40</b>      | <b>100%</b> |

In general, the jargon that appears in the Bloods community is largely related to criminal activity, such as weapons and drug trafficking, conflict with rival groups, and the assertion of



internal hierarchy between senior and regular members. In contrast, the jargon in the Fire Department community is more related to firefighting procedures, emergency patient care, and operational radio communication among officers. This difference in the domain of activity also influences the dominant jargon form in each community, Bloods jargon tends to be short and affectively charged, while Fire Department jargon tends to be precise and to follow technical naming conventions or standard operational codes.

Table 1 shows that the phrase is the most dominant jargon form with 15 data points (37,5%), followed by the word with 12 data points (30%), the sentence with 8 data points (20%), and the clause with 5 data points (12,5%). The dominance of word and phrase forms indicates that both communities tend to choose concise and practical language units for rapid communication needs during gameplay, while clauses and sentences are used in situations that require instruction, confirmation, or a more detailed description.

### Jargon in the Form of Words

In the Bloods community, word-form jargon is largely related to criminal activity and the group's internal hierarchy. The term OGs, short for Original Gangsters, is used by Rodrick Nazareth to refer to senior members who hold authority and high standing within the organization, as seen in the utterance "we need summ border between our OGs company and politickin' da streets". The use of this term asserts the position of senior members in decision-making while also serving as a marker of group identity understood only by fellow members. Other terms such as *Crack* dan *Oxy* underwent a shift in meaning from its literal sense to a reference to a specific type of illegal drug being traded, while *Yackameechie*, a word that developed organically within Los Angeles street culture and has no standard equivalent in standard English dictionaries, is used interchangeably with the word *issue* to describe conflict or hostility with another group that could escalate into physical confrontation. The jargon PK, short for Player Kill, underwent a shift in meaning from its general sense in the gaming world to a reference to the death of a rival group member in gang warfare, so that its use by Rodrick Nazareth functions simultaneously as a battle report and a statement of group dominance.

In the Fire Department community, word-form jargon is generally made up of medical and emergency operational terms, such as *Backdraft* referring to an explosion caused by oxygen entering an enclosed, oxygen-depleted space, *Anamnesis* referring to the process of gathering a patient's medical history through a series of structured questions, and *Tachycardia* and RTB (Return to Base), which respectively mark a particular clinical condition and an instruction to withdraw personnel once an operation is complete. The jargon *Liposuction* and *Triage* also appear in interactions within the medical division, used efficiently without further explanation because the speaker and listener already share the same understanding as part of the internal vocabulary of the medical community. The accuracy and speed of understanding such terms marks professional competence, while also showing that a single word is already enough to set an entire follow-up treatment procedure in motion in an emergency situation.



### **Jargon in the Form of Phrases**

As the form found most frequently, phrase-form jargon generally consists of a combination of two or more words that function as a unit of meaning without a predicate. In the Fire Department community, the phrase *Knock down* is used by Captain Luther Calvinston and Alejandro Ademar to mark the team's success in bringing a previously growing fire under control and extinguishing it, as seen in the utterance "we finally got the knock down on that fire", which is then confirmed with "knock down confirmed". A phrase like this does not merely function as a technical report but also as a statement of success that brings a sense of relief to the whole team once the operation is over, while also prompting a shared evaluation of the experience in the field.

### **Jargon in the Form of Clauses**

Clause-form jargon has both a subject and a predicate but does not stand as a complete utterance in terms of final intonation. In the Fire Department community, the expression "LOC without any warning signs is concerning", spoken by Dr. Amelia Rosemary, combines the jargon LOC (Loss of Consciousness) with a clause structure that asserts the severity of the patient's condition, while also showing how medical jargon is combined with clinical reasoning within a single dense unit of speech. A similar clause is also seen in James Morrow's utterance, "We have ROSC", which, although short, still has a complete subject-predicate structure to report that the patient's pulse has returned, a critical moment that the emergency medical team understands as a signal to move immediately to the next stage of treatment. This clause form occupies a middle ground between the efficiency of word- or phrase-form jargon and the completeness of information carried by sentence-form jargon, and is therefore used in situations that require more clarity than a single term alone while still needing to be delivered quickly under the pressure of an emergency situation.

### **Jargon in the Form of Sentences**

Sentence-form jargon is a self-contained unit with complete meaning. In the Fire Department community, the radio report "This is RA-111 taking STATUS-6 reported scene 10-20 East Los Santos", spoken by Adriano Pousa, compresses unit identity, arrival status, and the location of the incident into a single standard operational sentence that must be understood without ambiguity by all personnel on duty. In the Bloods community, an utterance such as "we handle the yackameechie tonight", spoken by Bord, asserts the group's readiness to face conflict with a rival group while also serving as a statement of collective solidarity against outside threats.

Beyond single jargon terms, some data also show the use of more than one operational jargon term at once within a single utterance, such as the radio codes RA-111, STATUS-6, and 10-20 used together by Adriano Pousa to report unit identity, arrival status, and the location of an incident concisely over the radio. This pattern confirms that the Fire Department community has a structured, systematic operational language system designed to minimize ambiguity in emergency situations, in contrast to Bloods jargon, which grows more organically out of street culture and is then adapted into gameplay interaction.



Overall, these findings show that the two communities have different but equally functional linguistic characters, Bloods jargon centers on criminal activity, loyalty, and internal hierarchy, while Fire Department jargon centers on medical terminology, emergency procedures, and operational protocol.

## **DISCUSSION**

The forty jargon expressions identified in the interactions of the Bloods and Fire Department communities, distributed across 12 words, 15 phrases, 5 clauses, and 8 sentences, cannot be understood merely as a list of unique terms that happen to appear in the game. This number and distribution show that both communities have developed an established and consistent internal language system that can be systematically mapped into four linguistic categories. In other words, jargon is not a random linguistic symptom but the result of repeated, mutually agreed communication practice, as explained by Brown and Attardo as cited in Altemen & Abbas (2021) that jargon arises from the internal communication needs of a group that shares a relatively uniform field, interest, or activity. This section discusses the meaning of these findings further, connects them to the theory used, compares them with previous studies, and explains their implications for the study of jargon in virtual communities.

### **Jargon Form and Its Communicative Function**

The distribution of the four jargon forms in these findings reveals a close relationship between linguistic form and the communicative function it carries. Word-form jargon, such as OGs, *Backdraft*, and *Anamnesis*, appear in situations that demand maximum speed and efficiency, where a single word is already enough to carry a complex load of meaning without further explanation, as described in the Results section. Clause- and sentence-form jargon, by contrast, appear in situations that require a higher degree of informational completeness, as in the clause LOC without any warning signs is concerning and the radio code sentence This is RA-111 taking STATUS-6 reported scene 10-20 East Los Santos. The higher the level of risk and the need for accuracy in a situation, the greater the speaker's tendency to choose a longer language unit, while still staying within reasonable limits of conciseness. Jargon form is therefore not a value-free choice but the result of a balance between the need for efficiency and the need for precision in each speech context.

The dominance of the phrase as the most frequently found form, with 15 of the 40 data points, can be understood as the optimal balance point between two competing needs, conciseness and clarity of meaning. Unlike a single word, which depends entirely on the shared knowledge of the speaker and interlocutor, phrases such as *Knock down*, *Staging area*, and *Split-thickness graft* combine a modifying element and a core meaning within a single unit that remains concise, so that it is not easily misunderstood even when spoken quickly under high-pressure conditions. This tendency is consistent with the view of Brown and Attardo as cited in Altemen & Abbas (2021) that jargon arises from the need for fast and precise communication among members with a similar knowledge background, and that the phrase is structurally best suited to meet that need because of its position midway between the density of a word and the completeness of a sentence. The dominance of the phrase also reflects the character of the two domains of activity examined, both of which operate under high time pressure, so that the



language that develops within them naturally leans toward the most efficient form while still remaining informative.

### **The Character of Bloods and Fire Department Jargon**

Although both are dominated by word and phrase forms, the character of the jargon in the two communities differs fundamentally because it is rooted in different domains of activity and different processes of formation. Bloods jargon, such as *Crack*, *Oxy*, *Yackameechie*, and PK, grew organically out of street culture and was later adapted into the virtual world, making it heavily charged with affective content such as loyalty, threat, and conflict, as also reflected in popular culture representations of African American street groups (Elyasil, 2017). In contrast, Fire Department jargon, such as *Anamnesis*, *Knock down*, *Tachycardia*, and RTB, mostly originate from standardized real-world medical and procedural terms that are then reused in the game context to build role-play realism, in line with the formal and tiered organizational structure of the Fire Department (U.S. Fire Administration, 2013). This difference in origin explains why Bloods jargon tends to be flexible and emotionally charged, while Fire Department jargon tends to be standardized and oriented toward technical accuracy.

### **Jargon as a Constructor of Social Identity**

The five principles of identity in Bucholtz & Hall (2005) provide an adequate framework for explaining how jargon shapes social identity in both communities. The principle of emergence is seen in how identity is continuously formed through repeated linguistic practice, such as the consistent use of OGs by Rodrick Nazareth to assert his position as part of the core group, or the repetition of the radio codes RA-111, STATUS-6, and 10-20 by Adriano Pousa and Addie Bievens to assert their identity as trained Fire Department personnel. The principle of positionality is seen when the term OGs asserts the hierarchical position of senior members within the Bloods structure, and when the instruction *Knock down* and RTB from Captain Luther Calvinston assert his command authority within the Fire Department structure. The principle of indexicality is reflected in how a single word such as *Crack* or *Oxy* is already enough to index specialized knowledge of illegal drug trafficking without literal explanation, while *Anamnesis* and *Tachycardia* index formal medical expertise. The principle of relationality emerges through opposition to outsiders, for example the use of *Yackameechie* to refer to conflict with the Yankton group, which in turn strengthens Bloods identity through confrontation. The principle of partialness, meanwhile, is seen in the contextual nature of jargon meaning, as with PK, which means the death of a rival member in the context of gang warfare but does not carry the same weight outside that context. These five principles show that the identity of Bloods and Fire Department members alike is not a status that is simply given, but the result of ongoing linguistic work continually negotiated through the jargon they use.

### **Solidarity, Cohesion, and Group Boundaries**

Jargon also functions to strengthen solidarity and internal cohesion in both communities through a mechanism of collective understanding that requires no repeated explanation. In the Bloods community, when Bord responds to a *Yackameechie* report from Rodrick Nazareth without needing to ask further about the meaning of the term, this shows that shared understanding of jargon serves as evidence of trust and social closeness among members, while



also speeding up coordination against threats from rival groups. In the Fire Department community, the pattern of repeated confirmation in radio communication, such as when Addie Bievens repeats the codes RA-111, STATUS-6, and 10-20 that Adriano Pousa has just given, shows that solidarity and cohesion here are built through standardized communication ritual, and every member who masters and follows this protocol shows themselves to be a reliable part of the team. Both patterns are consistent with the view of Brown and Attardo as cited in Altemen & Abbas (2021) that jargon eases communication among group members with a similar background while also strengthening internal solidarity. Behind this solidarity function, however, jargon also creates a firm boundary against outsiders. In the Bloods community, terms such as *Crack* and *Oxy* function to disguise talk about drugs behind ordinary-looking words, protecting the confidentiality of criminal activity from the authorities as well as from rival groups who do not understand the code. In the Fire Department community, a similar boundary functions to preserve the precision and speed of professional communication, anyone who has not yet mastered operational codes such as RTB or STATUS-6 will find it difficult to follow field instructions directly. The function of solidarity and the function of exclusion are therefore essentially two sides of the same mechanism, the jargon that unites members inside the group is the same jargon that sets apart those who are outside it.

### Power Relations and Differing Sources of Authority

Power relations in both communities are clearly represented through patterns of jargon use, although they stem from different bases of authority. In the Bloods community, power stems from seniority and informal reputation built through experience on the street, as reflected in the use of the term OGs by Rodrick Nazareth, who consistently positions himself as the decision-maker in both illegal business strategy and armed conflict with the Yankton group. This kind of power is not formalized through an official organizational structure but is socially recognized through command of jargon and narrative authority in everyday interaction. In the Fire Department community, power stems from formal command authority and institutionally recognized technical competence, as reflected in the way Captain Luther Calvinston gives the instruction *Knock down* and RTB, which are immediately followed and relayed by Alejandro Ademar to the entire team without question. This kind of instruction works because of the Fire Department's formal, tiered hierarchical structure, in which a rank such as Captain explicitly signals a position of authority recognized by the whole team. This difference in the source of power confirms that jargon is not merely a marker of membership but also a medium that represents and reproduces the distinct power structure of each community, power based on informal reputation in the Bloods and power based on institutional authority in the Fire Department. The ideological dimension of jargon mentioned by Brown and Attardo in Altemen & Abbas (2021), that jargon is not merely a collection of technical terms but also a means of building social structure and power relations, is clearly visible in this contrast, jargon that functions equally as instruction but operates through an entirely different logic of power in each community.

### Comparison with Previous Studies

The findings of this study are consistent with previous research regarding the basic function of jargon as a marker of identity and group solidarity, but they also reveal a number of important



differences that highlight the distinctiveness of the context examined. Novrianti et al. (2023) found that 26 jargon terms in the game Mobile Legend ease team communication and reflect the group identity of players, consistent with the function of Bloods and Fire Department jargon in this study. The competitive, tactical jargon of Mobile Legend, however, does not display a dimension of power relations based on seniority hierarchy or formal command, because players within a single MOBA team generally hold a relatively equal standing. Faydhullah et al. (2022) found that military jargon in the game Point Blank also helps shape social exclusivity among players, a finding that comes closest to the pattern of Fire Department jargon, particularly in precise operational codes such as RA-111, STATUS-6, and 10-20. That study, however, focused on a single fictional military community within one game, whereas this study compares two communities with opposing social structures within the same game ecosystem. Lutfiah and Sudarwati (2021) found that TikTok jargon reflects the identity and solidarity of its user group while also distinguishing it from outside users, consistent with the group-boundary function of Bloods and Fire Department jargon. TikTok jargon, however, is casual and carries none of the safety consequences or explicit power hierarchy found in terms such as *Anamnesis* or *Knock down*. Wibowo et al. (2022) found that jargon in MasterChef Indonesia serves as a marker of the chefs' professional identity, similar to the function of *Anamnesis* and *Tachycardia* as a marker of medical personnel competence, but the judge-contestant relationship in MasterChef is evaluative and competitive rather than a relationship of command and compliance like that between a Captain and Fire Department team members.

This comparison confirms that previous studies consistently support the view that jargon functions to facilitate communication, assert group identity, and create social boundaries against outsiders, as also found in this study. Previous research, however, has generally focused on a single type of community or a single game genre and has rarely linked the linguistic form of jargon explicitly to the representation of power relations. The novelty of this study lies in combining three dimensions of analysis rarely examined together within a single virtual community, namely linguistic form, the construction of social identity, and the representation of power relations, across two structurally different virtual communities within the same roleplay game ecosystem.

### **Implications of the Findings**

Theoretically, these findings strengthen the relevance of the jargon framework of Brown and Attardo and the identity framework of Bucholtz & Hall (2005) for analyzing virtual communities built on game narrative, while also showing that the two frameworks can be used in a complementary way, the theory of Brown and Attardo explains why jargon emerges and functions pragmatically, while the five principles of Bucholtz and Hall explain in detail how the process of identity formation unfolds through linguistic practice. The findings on the relationship between jargon form and its communicative function also show that the classification of Adawiyah et al. (2021) is useful not only as a tool for descriptive categorization but also as an entry point for understanding the logic of efficiency and precision underlying the choice of language form in group communication. More broadly, these findings show that roleplay-based virtual communities such as GTA V Roleplay are able to replicate real-world social structures, including hierarchy, solidarity, and power relations, through linguistic



practices that players develop independently, so that sociolinguistic study of such virtual spaces remains relevant to pursue further as part of a broader understanding of how language and society shape each other in contemporary digital environments.

## CONCLUSION

This study identified 40 jargon terms in the interactions of the Bloods and Fire Department communities in GTA V Roleplay, consisting of 12 words, 15 phrases, 5 clauses, and 8 sentences, with the phrase as the most dominant form. The use of jargon shows that language plays a role in representing social identity, strengthening group cohesion, facilitating internal communication, and asserting hierarchy and social boundaries within a virtual community. Bloods jargon tends to be related to criminal activity, loyalty, and hierarchy, while Fire Department jargon is related to medical terminology, emergency procedures, and operational protocol.

Theoretically, this study enriches sociolinguistic and pragmatic research on language use in virtual communities, while practically it can help improve understanding of communication among players and provide input for server administrators. This study is limited to two GTA V Roleplay communities, so future research is recommended to examine other virtual communities with additional approaches or theories and to further explore the meaning, pragmatic function, and influence of jargon on the construction of social identity more broadly.

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