UNVEILING STUDENT PERSPECTIVES: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF GAMIFICATION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract: This study examines the impact of gamification on English language teaching, focusing on student engagement, motivation, and overall learning experiences. To address a research gap in understanding the specific effects of gamified learning environments in this context, this qualitative research adopts a case study design, employing semi-structured interviews with ten students attending Islamic Senior High Schools. Thematic analysis reveals three main themes: Positive Impact on Engagement and Attitude, Motivation Through Competition, and Effective and Enjoyable Learning Activities. Participants have observed increased class attendance, a boost in their enthusiasm, and positive attitudes toward learning English, attributing these changes to gamification. The findings indicate that gamification not only positively has a beneficial impact on both student engagement and motivation but also enhances the overall learning environment. Implications for educators and policymakers involve the potential integration of gamified strategies to create dynamic, attractive language learning environments. The study provides new insights into the existing body of knowledge on the use of gamification in education, emphasizing the need for future investigation into its long-term effects on language competency and cultural contexts.

Keywords: English language teaching; gamification; motivation; student engagement.

INTRODUCTION
The utilization of gamification in the field of education has received significant recognition in recent times, indicating a more widespread trend toward progressive and student-centered teaching methodologies, with diverse effects on different aspects of education, such as student engagement, motivation, and learning outcomes (Ahmad et al., 2020; Smiderle et al., 2020). Numerous studies (Bouchrika et al., 2021; Duggal et al., 2021; Tsay et al., 2020; Q. Zhang & Yu, 2022) have repeatedly demonstrated that the integration of game components, including challenges, prizes, and interactive feedback systems, can greatly augment student engagement and active participation in the educational process. Moreover, there is a correlation between gamification and heightened motivation, especially in academic disciplines that are typically perceived as difficult or less engaging (CanMese, 2019; Thurairasu, 2022; Yildiz et al., 2021). The increase in motivation is frequently ascribed to the intrinsic pleasure and feeling of accomplishment that students obtain from gamified educational experiences. Gamification has emerged as a potent strategy to tackle the persistent problem of student disengagement, which can impede the efficacy of traditional instructional methods (Ensmann & Whiteside, 2022; Omar et al., 2022; Pendy, 2023).

In the field of gamification, studies continually highlight the capacity of this approach to generate favorable impacts on educational achievements. The strategic incorporation of gamification into the educational curriculum has been shown to enhance students' understanding, memory, and practical utilization of information (Asmolov & Ledentsov, 2023; Lutfi et al., 2023). The interactive aspect of gamified learning environments fosters active
involvement and the practical application of newly gained skills and knowledge. Furthermore, the integration of gamified features frequently results in an increased perception of autonomy and mastery, which are fundamental aspects of self-determined learning (Dichev et al., 2020; Bouchrika et al., 2021; Grabner-Hagen & Kingsley, 2023). These various aspects collectively contribute to an enriched learning experience and, as a result, lead to more positive learning outcomes.

The integration of gamification into educational discussions reflects a larger movement in educational approaches toward learner-centered pedagogies (Olugbenga, 2021), which aim to revitalize conventional instructional methods. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in scholarly investigations into the complex dynamics of gamification, which has shed light on its potential as a tool for transformative purposes in the field of education. Significantly, research has shed light on the various ways in which gamified learning environments, which incorporate aspects such as competition, challenges, and quick feedback, promote increased student engagement and participation (Adams & Du Preez, 2022; Alsubhi et al., 2019; Wulantari et al., 2023; Qiao et al., 2023). This phenomenon, frequently described as a state of deep involvement and personal empowerment, tackles a prevalent issue in the field of education, which is how to maintain learner engagement and active participation. In addition, the integration of gamification into educational interfaces aligns with the technological preferences of modern students, capitalizing on their inclination towards interactive and digital experiences. Therefore, the incorporation of gamification serves as a crucial solution to address the changing educational requirements in the era of digital advancements (Farooq et al., 2022; Pramesworo et al., 2023; Lampropoulos et al., 2022; Nikitina & Ishchenko, 2023).

Existing scholarly literature conducted by Ahmad et al. (2020), Smiderle et al. (2020), Bouchrika et al. (2021), Duggal et al. (2021), and Tsay et al. (2020) offer rich insights into the effects of gamification on student engagement and motivation in the field of education. However, there is a significant gap in the context of English language teaching, specifically within the educational framework of Indonesia, especially at the Islamic senior high school in Kabupaten Malang. Previous research as discussed in prior paragraphs, which includes investigations by CanMese (2019), Thurairasu (2022), and Yildiz et al. (2021), has primarily concentrated on wider educational settings or particular academic disciplines, resulting in a notable gap in the investigation of the effectiveness of gamification in the realm of English language teaching. This study aims to address the existing disparity by performing a customized inquiry that corresponds to the distinct linguistic and cultural factors involved in the teaching of English.

Furthermore, this qualitative study thoroughly investigates the perspectives of students on the implementation of gamification in English language teaching. This study is also aimed to reveal an extensive comprehension of how students engage with and comprehend gamification components, examining their experiences, preferences, and difficulties. This study seeks to explore the impact of gamification tactics on students' learning experiences by delving into the diverse range of opinions among students. This is achieved through the utilization of in-depth interviews, questionnaires, and observational methodologies. By employing these research techniques, the study provides a nuanced understanding of the diverse effects of gamification in the context of English language education. In light of this, the central question of this research is, “How do students perceive and engage with gamification in the context of English language teaching at an Islamic senior high school?”

**METHOD**

The subsequent sections provide a comprehensive account of the study design, the process of selecting participants and collecting data, the analytical methods employed, and the factors to be taken into account to ensure the reliability and credibility of qualitative research.

In this study, a qualitative research methodology was used to effectively correspond with the investigation of individual experiences and viewpoints (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The complex nature of comprehending the influence of gamification in the context of English language instruction required the use of qualitative approaches, especially semi-structured interviews. This research adopts a case study design to thoroughly explore students' experiences with gamification in English language teaching. The selection of a case study design is based on its appropriateness for examining individual viewpoints, allowing for a
A comprehensive investigation of gamification's influence on student motivation and engagement (Takahashi & Araujo, 2020). This methodology facilitates transparent and sincere dialogues, enabling participants to genuinely express their opinions within the specific context of the study (Ebneyamini & Sadeghi Moghadam, 2018).

Ten students from Islamic Senior High Schools in Kabupaten Malang, East Java, Indonesia, were chosen on purpose based on factors related to the study's goals. To give a holistic view of the impact of gamification, selection factors included differences in English skill levels. To keep things interesting, the participants had already been in gamified learning settings before. A wide range of English language learners in the specific setting of interest were in the group of participants.

The study adhered carefully to ethical standards (Drolet et al., 2023). The researcher acquired express consent from the principals of schools, ensuring their approval. Participants actively participated in the ethical process by thoroughly reading, comprehending, and signing a permission form that emphasized the voluntary nature of their involvement and the freedom to leave without facing any negative repercussions. To ensure the protection of secrecy, pseudonyms were allocated to each participant and systematically employed in all paperwork. The students’ information is presented in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pseudonym</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Gender Identity</th>
<th>English Proficiency</th>
<th>Gamification Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dian</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Senior High School 11</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Gamification contributing to renewed interest in English learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aditya</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Senior High School 10</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Positive perception of gamified learning as refreshing and effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putri</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Senior High School 12</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Fun and interesting experience with gamified learning in English class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rizky</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Senior High School 11</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Positive response to learning through games in English class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunga</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Senior High School 10</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>View of playing video games as a fun method for learning English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andika</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Senior High School 12</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Enthusiastic response to gamification, considering it a fantastic idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siti</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Senior High School 11</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Acknowledgment of the fun and engaging twist gamification adds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fajar</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Senior High School 10</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Positive opinion on gamified learning, injecting excitement into the process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rina</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Senior High School 12</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Consideration of gamified learning as a cool idea, emphasizing enthusiasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galang</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Senior High School 11</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Recognition of learning through gaming as an enjoyable method, boosting enthusiasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dian</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Senior High School 11</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Gamification contributing to renewed interest in English learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semi-structured interviews were carried out between November 13th and November 17th, 2023. The interviews were conducted to elicit participants' perspectives on gamification, with a primary focus on motivation and engagement. The talks were directed by a series of 10 open-ended questions. Every interview, which was performed in Bahasa Indonesia, had a duration of around 15-
30 minutes to facilitate a thorough investigation. The interviews were systematically recorded, transcribed, and subsequently translated into English to facilitate further investigation (Rosenthal, 2016). To guarantee the precision of translations, participants were sent an invitation to offer comments and recommendations for enhancement. The example and focus of the questions are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Questions and their focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Question focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Can you describe your experience with gamified learning environments in your English language classes?</td>
<td>Reflection on personal experience with gamified learning in English classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>What aspects of gamification do you find most engaging or motivating in your English language learning?</td>
<td>Identification of engaging and motivating elements in gamification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>In your opinion, how has gamification influenced your level of participation and interaction during English language lessons?</td>
<td>Assessment of the impact of gamification on participation and interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Have you noticed any changes in your attitudes or feelings towards learning English due to the implementation of gamification? If so, could you elaborate on these changes?</td>
<td>Exploration of changes in attitudes or feelings toward learning English resulting from gamification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Can you recall a specific activity or instance within a gamified lesson that you found particularly effective or enjoyable for learning English? What made it stand out to you?</td>
<td>Identification of specific effective or enjoyable gamified activities and their characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Are there any challenges or difficulties you've encountered while engaging with gamification in English language classes? How have you addressed or overcome these challenges?</td>
<td>Discussion of challenges faced and strategies employed to overcome them in gamified learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>How do you perceive the relationship between gamification and your overall performance in learning English? Do you feel it has positively impacted your language proficiency?</td>
<td>Evaluation of the connection between gamification and overall language performance, considering positive impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Could you share any suggestions or ideas for improving the integration of gamification in English language teaching to enhance the learning experience?</td>
<td>Offering recommendations for enhancing the integration of gamification in English language teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Have you observed differences in your learning experiences between gamified and traditional teaching methods? If so, what are those differences?</td>
<td>Comparison of learning experiences between gamified and traditional teaching approaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Is there anything else you'd like to add regarding your experiences with gamification in English language learning?</td>
<td>Opportunity for additional comments or insights related to gamification experiences in English language learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed, and anonymized for analysis (Husband, 2020) ensuring confidentiality. Thematic analysis was employed to identify, analyze, and report patterns within the data. This involved a systematic process of familiarization, coding, theme development, and constant comparison (Adeoye-Olatunde & Olenik, 2021). In this study, the researcher did several actions using an inductive theme analysis. The first step was to get involved with the data by reading and rereading the interview records. After that, the researcher used a coding method to systematically find patterns and ideas that were related to the participants’ experiences. By comparing things over and over again, emerging themes were improved and proven to accurately capture the core of the data. This interactive and inductive method made it easier to dig deeper into the material by enabling themes come up naturally from the answers of the participants. After putting all the interview data into categories, three main themes were found. These themes encompass (1) Positive Impact on Engagement and Attitude, (2) Motivation Through Competition, and (3) Effective and Enjoyable Learning Activities. The example of data analysis is presented in Table 3.
Table 3. Example of data analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotes of Participants</th>
<th>Codes</th>
<th>Themes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Our English classes have seen a significant increase in attendance since our teacher started using a teaching method focused on playing games.&quot;</td>
<td>Increased attendance</td>
<td>Positive Impact on Engagement and Attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;What gets my attention is the competition part. I'm motivated to do better because of it.&quot;</td>
<td>Attention through competition</td>
<td>Motivation Through Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;This was a game in which we used English terms. It was entertaining, and it aided me in recalling details.&quot;</td>
<td>Engaging use of English terms</td>
<td>Effective and Enjoyable Learning Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rigor and trustworthiness

Ethics were the most important thing to think about during the whole study process. To enhance trustworthiness, all subjects gave their informed permission, confirming that they were aware of the study's objectives, their voluntary involvement, and confidentiality safeguards (Roshaidai & Arifin, 2018). Participants played an active role in reviewing and validating the findings, ensuring the accuracy of the researcher's interpretations of their experiences, and empowering their contribution to the study's credibility (Motulsky, 2021). Additionally, we conducted systematic discussions and consultations with fellow researchers or experts in the field to enrich perspectives and enhance methodological integrity (Stahl & King, 2020). We reinforced confidentiality during data collection by using pseudonyms, collectively fortifying the ethical framework and methodological rigor of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The investigation of the experiences of individuals engaged in gamified learning settings inside English language classrooms has yielded significant findings, providing light on the diverse effects of gamification on factors such as engagement, motivation, and the holistic learning experience. By exploring various topics, the voices of participants offer perspective on the profound impacts of gamification, providing nuanced insights on its influence. The findings of this study reveal a variety of ways in which gamification influences the field of English language education. These include beneficial changes in student involvement and attitudes, the incentive that arises from competition, and the effectiveness of incorporating varied learning activities. Overall, the research provides a comprehensive understanding of how gamification impacts the English language education landscape. As we explore these thematic elements, the tales shared by the participants offer a compelling account of the significant transformations resulting from the incorporation of gamification in their educational experiences.

Positive impact on engagement and attitude

The integration of gamification inside English language lessons had a lasting effect on the individuals involved, as demonstrated by the notably favorable influence on their levels of involvement and attitudes towards the learning process. Dian stated in an interview:

Our English classes have seen a significant increase in attendance since our teacher started using a teaching method focused on playing games. Not only should one make an effort to study, but one should also make an effort to find joy in the act of learning.

Through her statement, she saw a significant increase in class attendance, directly linking it to the use of teaching methods centered on gamification. This sentiment resonated across participants, Aditya. He described it in an interview:

The incorporation of game-like elements into educational settings is like a refreshing wind. It's like having fun and learning something new at the same time. It's quite awesome.

The statement showed blending enjoyment and learning seamlessly. He further described it as "having fun and learning something new at the same time," emphasizing the awe-inspiring nature of this innovative teaching method.

Moreover, the favorable trend persisted in Putri, who reported a heightened level of enjoyment in her English learning experience after the implementation of gamified components. She stated during the interview:

My experience in English class has been more fun for me since the introduction of gamified learning. It's an interesting take on things, and I like it.
As per her assertion, the implementation of gamification has introduced a captivating element to traditional approaches, hence fostering a novel sense of value and recognition for the educational journey.

The aforementioned change in perspective was mirrored by Rizky and Bunga, who both conveyed the notion that incorporating game-based learning introduced a sense of enthusiasm inside the English classroom. While Bunga emphasized the transformative power of gamification in making the learning process more enjoyable, Rizky stated in the following interview:

It's nice to learn through games. In the English course, it is something to look forward to doing.

While Bunga added:

Bunga: Yeah, playing video games is a fun way to learn. This makes the process of learning English more fun.

Expanding upon this point, Andika and Siti underscored the captivating element that gamification brought to the realm of education. Andika stated:

I think that learning that is based on games is a fantastic idea. Learning English becomes more engaging as a result of this addition.

Siti further emphasized the inherent enjoyment that the implementation of gamification provided to the English classroom. She expressed in the interview:

The twist that gamification adds to education is fun to experience. It is undeniable that it makes English class more interesting.

The prevailing agreement in this domain is that the implementation of gamification greatly enhances levels of engagement, resulting in a more dynamic, stimulating, and pleasurable English learning experience for the individuals involved.

Motivation through competition
The utilization of gamification in English language lessons has constantly demonstrated its effectiveness as a motivational tool, mostly through the implementation of competitive elements. The participants demonstrated an awareness of the motivating component inherent in gamified features, especially when competition was introduced. Dian expressed a strong connection to this theme in the interview.

What really gets my attention is the competition part. I'm motivated to do better because of it.

This acknowledgment signifies that the competitive nature of gamification serves as a driving force for participants to strive for improvement actively. Putri similarly emphasized the compelling nature of the competitive side of gamification. She noted in her interview, as follows:

A big thing that drives people is competition. To beat myself and do better every time is like a task.

The integration of competition as a motivational tool in gamification is exemplified by the acknowledgment of personal growth as an objective, prompting learners to actively participate in the learning process and exceed their previous accomplishments.

In addition to reinforcing the overall concept, Fajar and Rina had a favorable reaction to the competitive aspects implemented via gamification. In the interview, Fajar stated:

There's no doubt that I like the competitive side. It makes me want to do better and set bigger goals.

This statement indicates that competition is not only embraced but serves as an impetus for setting higher targets. Rina echoed this sentiment during the interview:

When you want to find a balance between working with others and doing things on your own, it's not always easy. But it's always worth it. Working on my own progress is still important to me, but one of my main goals is to improve our individual and group abilities to work together effectively.

She is aware of the challenges present in a competitive setting and highlights the realization that effectively managing competition is an important and fulfilling component of the gamified learning experience.

Effective and enjoyable learning activities
The participants' thoughts on the implementation of gamification in English language classrooms highlighted the noticeable emergence of effective
and fun learning activities. Dian observed that the utilization of interactive games using English terminology proved to be both engaging and efficacious in facilitating the retention of information. She stated in the following interview:

   This was a game in which we used English terms. It was entertaining, and it aided me in recalling details. The fact that it was interactive contributed greatly to its usefulness.

This suggests that gamified activities not only engage learners but also enhance the retention of information through interactive methods. Furthermore, Aditya emphasized the significance of narrative-based tasks. He stated in the interview:

   This was something that we did with English tales. I gained knowledge while also having a good time. It stood out because of the aspect of narrative.

The use of narrative elements in English language instruction has evolved as a distinct and efficacious pedagogical strategy aimed at enhancing the enjoyment and engagement of learners. Building on this, Galang highlighted the effectiveness of creative writing challenges.

   This was a challenge that required creative writing from us. It was enjoyable, and it helped me become a better writer. It was very successful due to the unique approach that was taken.

The incorporation of creative challenges not only appealed to participants' enjoyment but also contributed to the enhancement of their writing skills. Moreover, Siti emphasized the efficacy of discussing current topics. In the interview, she noted:

   We discussed a topic that is currently going on in the world. Although challenging, it worked wonders for my public speaking abilities. The structure of the debate was quite interesting and engaging.

This implies that the incorporation of pertinent and demanding tasks in gamification not only renders the educational experience pleasurable but also amplifies essential abilities like public speaking. Overall, the integration of interactive games, narrative-based activities, creative writing exercises, and conversations on contemporary subjects not only enhances the learning experience but also demonstrates efficacy in attaining educational goals. The diverse and stimulating character of these exercises implemented within a gamified structure enriches the educational experience for participants.

The results provide evidence of how gamification may significantly improve engagement, competition-based motivation, and the efficiency and fun of learning activities. We establish connections between these themes and previously published works of literature, which helps to contextualize our findings within the larger field of gamified education. The combination of established research and participant viewpoints underscores the diverse advantages of incorporating gamification into English language instruction. Expanding upon these realizations, the conversation not only summarizes the most important discoveries but also lays out a plan for further thought and suggestions about gamified language learning.

Positive impact on engagement and attitude

The findings reveal a unanimous agreement among participants regarding the positive influence of gamification on their engagement and overall attitude toward learning English. Most students observe the increase of class attendance echo the positive relationship between gamification and active participation, as noted in prior studies (Inayati & Waloyo, 2022; Zaric et al., 2020). The introduction of gamified teaching methods appears to have transformed the traditional classroom setting into a more dynamic and appealing environment, aligning with contemporary research that emphasizes the importance of innovative and interactive approaches in language education.

Furthermore, participants consistently expressed heightened enthusiasm and positive emotions associated with gamified learning activities. The participants highlight the emotional benefits introduced by gamification. These sentiments align with previous studies, emphasizing the positive affective impact of gamified approaches on language learners (López-Faican & Jaen, 2020; Rahayu et al., 2022). Furthermore, the unique and enjoyable aspects of gamification contribute to the creation of a positive and appealing learning atmosphere (Dian Anisa et al., 2020).

Confirming these findings with existing
literature, the positive correlation between gamification and attendance supports the idea that innovative teaching methods can enhance students’ willingness to actively participate in language learning (Jääskä & Aaltonen, 2022; Pinter et al., 2020). The emotional impact of gamified learning, as evidenced by the participants’ expressions of joy and excitement (Özhan & Kocadere, 2019), emphasizes on the affective benefits of gamification. Additionally, the unique and enjoyable twist identified by participants aligns with the idea of gamification adding a layer of engagement and interest (Mercer, 2019).

The findings underscore the potential of gamification to create a positive and engaging learning environment, fostering increased attendance, active participation, and positive emotions among English language learners.

**Motivation through competition**

The results associated with the implementation of gamification in English language learning highlight the enduring efficacy of competitive features as a means of motivating participants, manifests as a drive to enhance performance, is consistent with other scholarly investigations that highlight the motivational influence of competition within gamified environments (Li et al., 2022; Zainuddin et al., 2020). This acknowledgment indicates that the competitive aspect of gamification is crucial in motivating individuals to actively participate in the educational process and strive for ongoing development.

Participants also focus on self-improvement and striving for excellence within the context of competition serves as a prime illustration of the motivational influence of gamification. The incorporation of competition as a motivating factor not only fosters active engagement among learners but also cultivates a focus on individual performance as a central goal (Q. Zhang & Yu, 2022; X. Zhang, 2021). This is also consistent with the self-determination hypothesis, which claims that tasks that are seen as hard and offer autonomy have the potential to increase intrinsic motivation (Jones et al., 2022).

The favorable responses revealed by Fajar and Rina towards the competitive elements of gamification offer further perspectives on the motivating advantages associated with such features. That competition serves as a motivator for participants is recognized to establish more ambitious objectives is consistent with the notion that rivalry may elicit individuals’ drive to pursue greater effort for challenging accomplishments (Grant & Shandell, 2022; Stickels & Tranter, 2022). In addition, participants’ acknowledgment of the difficulties related to maintaining a balance between cooperation and individual work within a competitive environment underscores the intricate and rewarding elements of managing competition in the context of gamified learning.

The participants' favorable reactions to the competitive aspect of gamification align with previous research that highlights the motivating influence of competition on both engagement and performance (Bond et al., 2020). The inclusion of competitive components in gamified English language learning exercises seems to have a substantial impact on the motivation of players, as it cultivates a feeling of challenge, autonomy, and personal accomplishment.

The results indicate that the incorporation of competition in gamification acts as a potent incentive, prompting individuals to actively participate, establish more ambitious objectives, and view problems as prospects for personal development. The comprehensive comprehension of the many facets involved in the management of competition enhances the knowledge of how competitive components contribute to the motivating dynamics within contexts that employ gamified approaches to language acquisition.

**Effective and enjoyable learning activities**

The findings referring to the integration of gamification in English language schools have a notable influence on the development of effective and enjoyable learning experiences. Participants’ experience with interactive games with vocabulary in English underscores the concurrent advantages of active involvement and effectiveness. The incorporation of interactive elements within the games not only provided entertainment for learners but also facilitated the retention of knowledge. This aligns with the notion that gamified activities have the ability to improve learning outcomes by employing interactive approaches (Sailer & Sailer, 2021).

The alignment between participants’ focus on story-based tasks as instructive and pleasant and the increasing awareness of narrative aspects in language training is evident. The integration of stories into the process of learning a language has been recognized as a highly successful instructional approach (Rong & Noor, 2019). The excellent experience that participants had with narrative-based exercises indicates that
incorporating storytelling aspects into gamification enhances the learning process by making it more immersive and captivating.

The affirmative reaction exhibited by participants towards creative writing challenges highlights the efficacy of these activities in also enhancing writing proficiency. This idea is consistent with the notion that including creative activities in gamification has the potential to enhance the development of the skill. Moreover, participants’ engagement in talks pertaining to contemporary subjects, regardless of certain challenges, demonstrated notable advancements in their aptitude for public speaking. This statement is consistent with the concept that engaging in challenging activities via the use of gamification might facilitate English language skills (Redjeki & Muhajir, 2021). Siti’s observation highlights the captivating framework of the discourse, suggesting that gamification has the potential to effectively cultivate crucial abilities, such as public speaking, through well-crafted and interesting tasks.

The present study's results are consistent with previous research, which has highlighted the effectiveness of gamification in enhancing their enjoyment of learning activities (Borrás-Gené et al., 2019; Wang, 2023), and adding a sense of fun and playfulness as well (Pilkington, 2018). The experiences of the participants align with the notion that the integration of gaming aspects into educational activities can bolster motivation and interest, hence fostering more efficacious learning experiences.

**CONCLUSION**

The main objective of this study was to investigate the effects of gamification on English language education. Specifically, the focus was on examining the influence of gamified learning environments on student engagement, motivation, and the overall learning experience.

The study’s findings shed light on the significant effect of gamification in English language education. Participants regularly reported experiencing heightened engagement, motivation, and the growth of effective and enjoyable learning activities as a result of competition. The use of gamification not only had a beneficial impact on attendance but also enhanced the learning environment by creating a more dynamic and engaging atmosphere. This, in turn, fostered enthusiasm and enjoyment in the learning process as a whole.

The implications of our research extend the immediate boundaries of the classroom environment. Gamification in language education can improve student engagement, motivation, and the efficacy of learning activities. Education professionals and decision-makers could contemplate incorporating gamified strategies to enhance language teaching and provide a more favorable and attractive learning atmosphere.

This study adds to the expanding compilation of literature on the implementation of gamification in the field of education, particularly in the context of teaching English. This research highlights the importance of innovative teaching approaches in promoting positive attitudes toward learning by offering detailed insights into the experiences of students in gamified environments.

Although this study made careful and thorough attempts, it recognizes particular limitations. The exclusive emphasis on English language instruction within a particular cultural framework might restrict the applicability of the results. Moreover, the dependence on data provided by individuals themselves raises the potential for social desirability bias. Subsequent investigations should attempt to overcome these constraints by utilizing varied samples and employing mixed-methods methodologies.

Subsequent investigations might further examine the enduring impacts of gamification on language proficiency and retention, based on the existing studies. Conducting comparative research in various cultural contexts and educational levels will enhance our understanding of how gamified techniques might be applied and their efficacy. Furthermore, doing research on the viewpoints of educators and examining the most effective ways to include gamification in curriculum design are potential areas for further investigation.

The findings have practical relevance for educators and practitioners. Integrating gamification strategies in language training can act as a catalyst for heightened student engagement and motivation. The development of a variety of engaging educational tasks inside a game-based structure is in line with modern teaching methods that prioritize the use of dynamic and interactive instructional techniques.

To summarize, this research highlights the capacity of gamification to transform English language education by promoting favorable learning encounters. As educators and policymakers explore new methods, the incorporation of gamification appears as an achievable means to create dynamic, attractive, as well as effective language learning environments.
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