

ABSTRACT

The 88 E-Sport Community is a group in the online game PUBG Mobile, where interactions within it initially only occurred online. This interaction forms a trust that is sometimes difficult to achieve through face-to-face meetings in real life. This study was carried out to understand how symbols are used in interactions between game players in this community, with the aim of building members' self-concept related to trust in friendly relationships that start from interactions in online games. The research method used is qualitative, by applying George H. Mead's concept of symbolic interactions related to thinking, self-concept and the social environment. Information was obtained through observation, interviews and document analysis. Findings from the research show that relationships between individuals in this community are formed through informal interpersonal interactions. There is an exchange of symbols both through words and nonverbal expressions, both in online contexts and in the real world, so that community members understand the same meaning and have a shared perception. The dynamics of this interaction have an impact on members' self-views, which initially considered friendship relationships in online games to be limited to just talking about games but changed to the view that friendship in online games has equal value to friendships, brotherly ties, and a family atmosphere.

Keyword: *Online games, Symbolic interactions, Community groups, Self-identity*