

ABSTRACT

Games have become a hobby for some people and a routine that can relieve fatigue from the busy activities undertaken. In today's digital era, gaming is one of the things that is growing rapidly. We can play games together with someone from all over the world. This study aims to explore the experience of discrimination experienced by female gamers in the "Horror" discord group with a phenomenological approach. This study uses Herbert Mead's symbolic interaction theory to understand how symbols in online interactions create discriminatory experiences towards women in gaming communities. This study uses a semi-structured interview method with several key informants of female gamers who are active in the "Horror" discord group as well as participatory observation of the interaction dynamics in the group. The results show that the experiences of female gamers do not only occur through explicit actions but also through symbols that develop in daily communication such as verbal harassment, gender stereotypes, social exclusion to intimidation and threats. Through the perspective of symbolic interaction, this research reveals how meanings are constructed in online interactions that contribute to the formation of discriminatory experiences of female gamers, besides that symbolic interaction also highlights the identity formation of female gamers in the "Horror" discord group. This research is expected to contribute to understanding gender equality issues in entertainment aspects such as gaming.

Keywords: Discrimination, Female Gamers, Symbolic Interaction, Discord Group