

## **NLP META MODEL TO ENHANCE SOFT COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN MOBILE LEGENDS**

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### **Abstract**

This study explores the application of the Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) Meta Model to enhance soft communication skills in the context of online gaming, specifically Mobile Legends: Bang Bang. Miscommunication, toxic language, and ineffective collaboration are common issues among players in this competitive multiplayer game. By applying the NLP Meta Model—focusing on linguistic patterns of deletion, distortion, and generalization—this research aims to analyze and improve player interactions. Using a qualitative method involving interviews, observations, and conversation analysis, the study demonstrates how targeted questioning techniques can clarify ambiguous language, promote empathetic responses, and foster constructive dialogue. Findings suggest that the NLP Meta Model can significantly contribute to more effective and respectful communication in digital gaming environments, enhancing teamwork and reducing conflict..

**Keywords:** *NLP Meta Model, Soft Communication Skills, Mobile Legends, Solve Problems*

### **INTRODUCTION**

[1] In its most basic definition, communication consists of exchanging information to change the epistemic context of others.. Communication it self has a very important role in terms of interacting in everyday life. The term communication in English itself is “communication”, from the Latin “communicatus” which means sharing or belonging together, communication is defined as the process of sharing between the parties who carry out these communication activities. in the digital era like today, communication no longer has to be face to face with someone but can also via online, one of the media means that almost everyone communicates is through online games, especially Mobile Legend. However, in practice, it is not uncommon for various forms of unproductive communication to emerge. This can include misunderstandings between players due to

ambiguous messages, negative comments that demoralize teammates, and toxic behavior such as insults or hate speech. Therefore, in this study researchers will use the NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) approach in overcoming the problems that occur.

NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming) Mastering Communication with NLP: Unlocking the Power of Soft Skills, NLP is presented as a powerful technique that focuses on examining an individual's internal mental framework to understand how their thoughts, beliefs, and behaviors are organized. elaborates that NLP can be conceptualized into three integral components: Neurology, Linguistics, and Programming. The Neurology component serves as an analogy to illustrate how the human mind processes information, emphasizing the neurological basis of thoughts and emotions. Linguistics pertains to the language patterns used by individuals to structure and organize their thoughts internally, which in turn influence their perceptions and actions. Lastly, Programming refers to the technological analogy, representing the methods and techniques through which the internal mental processes can be restructured, or "programmed," to achieve more effective and positive outcomes.

NLP Meta Model is one in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) that plays an important role in improving communication effectiveness. This technique functions by examining unclear, over-generalized language patterns, thus allowing one to achieve a clearer and more accurate exchange of meaning. By helping to identify unclear meanings, the Meta Model opens the door to deeper understanding and more productive interactions. [2] the Meta Model consists of a series of structured questions specifically designed to inform, challenge, and expand the boundaries of one's internal representation of the world. These questions target three major distortions in language- omissions, generalizations, and distortions-allowing speakers and listeners to uncover hidden assumptions and retrieve missing information. [3] further explains that the Meta Model is a linguistic tool in NLP that serves to identify and question the unambiguous language often used in everyday conversation. By pointing out such generalizations, it can help a person get more specific information, which can prevent miscommunication. [4] emphasizes the transformative power of the NLP Meta Model, describing it as a key instrument in clarifying cryptic or ambiguous language and uncovering underlying meanings that may or may not be understood. the same will be practiced to analyze the Mobile Legend game.

Mobile Legends: Bang Bang is a multiplayer online battle arena (MOBA) game developed by Moonton and released in 2016 for Android and iOS platforms. In this game, two teams of five players each fight to destroy the opponent's base while defending their

own. Each player controls a character called a “hero” with unique abilities, making it suitable for play on mobile devices. Mobile Legends has become extremely popular in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, and has a thriving esports community with regional and international tournaments such as the Mobile Legends Professional League (MPL). Aside from entertainment, the game also has potential in education; a study [5] found that the majority of freshmen at STMIK Multicom Bolaang Mongondow found Mobile Legends to be an effective medium for learning English, with 67.7% of respondents stating that the game helped improve their pronunciation and speaking skills. To prove that the NLP Meta Model can be used in the context of the Mobile Legends game, we can see examples of conversations directly from the Lobby (hero selection place) that occur between players during play. These conversations can be analyzed using the NLP Meta Model theory, especially in the aspects of deletion, distortion, and generalization.

Player A: **“We always lose when we play with you.”**

Player B: **“Why do you think I never help the team?”**

Player C: “Never mind, **all the enemies are too strong!**”

**“We always lose when we play with you.”** This is a generalization sentence, because the word “always” is an example of generalization, suggesting something happens every time without exception, which is unlikely to be objectively true. **“Why do you think I never help the team?”**, This sentence contains deletion, as it lacks information about *when* or *how* the speaker helps the team. **“all the enemies are too strong”**, This is a distortion, as the speaker exaggerates the strength of the opponents without concrete basis. It may reflect emotional frustration rather than factual assessment. With the NLP Meta Model technique we can apply several questions to the problem at hand such as **“Always? Can you remember a specific match where we lost?”** for generalization statements, **“Can you explain how you've helped the team?”** for deletion statements, and **“Are all of them strong or just one or two?”** for distortion statements. This example demonstrates that the NLP Meta Model is highly applicable within Mobile Legends. It allows us to identify unclear or emotionally reactive language and challenge it using targeted questions. This can lead to clearer, more constructive communication, even in fast-paced, high-pressure environments like online games. The model helps in transforming unproductive dialogue into opportunities for teamwork and understanding.

The NLP (Neurolinguistic Programming) meta model itself has been widely used by researchers to examine its relationship with effective communication. [6] how the strategy and application of the NLP Meta Model by the Indonesian Minister of Education,

Nadiem Makarim, in several of his English speeches in 2020-2022." [7] the results of the NLP Community Meta Survey. The survey reveals that the community greatly overestimates its own belief in the usefulness of benchmarks and the potential of scaling to solve real-world problems, while underestimating its belief in the importance of linguistic structure, inductive bias, and interdisciplinary science. [8] Examines an emerging learning meta model in machine learning that studies approaches for learning better learning algorithms. The approach aims to improve algorithms in various aspects, including data efficiency and generalization ability. In this study, researchers will use the same method, namely the Meta model, but what makes it different is that researchers will examine how the meta model solves problems and finds effective communication solutions in the Mobile Legends game.

## **METHODS**

The method used in this research is a qualitative method, which is an approach that focuses on the problem of miscommunication and in-depth understanding of communication phenomena in the context of the Mobile Legends online game. Through in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and content analysis of communication between players, this research aims to explore how the application of the NLP Meta Model can improve soft communication skills in player interactions. The data collected was then analyzed to identify communication patterns, challenges, and strategies used by players in delivering messages effectively and building productive teamwork. This qualitative approach allows researchers to capture nuances of communication that are not easily measured quantitatively, thus providing a richer and more contextualized understanding of communication dynamics in online games.

## **LITERATURE OF REVIEW**

### **NLP (Neurolinguistic Programming) Meta Model**

The NLP Meta Model is a structured set of linguistic patterns designed to identify and address common language distortions, such as deletions, distortions, and generalizations, which often lead to unclear or ineffective communication. This model serves as a powerful tool to clarify messages, uncover hidden assumptions, and ensure mutual understanding between communicators. Creative communication involves utilizing innovative and imaginative approaches to express messages effectively, something that aligns well with the goals of the NLP Meta Model. [9] applying the Meta Model can significantly enhance communication clarity, empathy, and mutual understanding by directly addressing vague or imprecise language structures. This results in more constructive and harmonious interactions, especially in environments

where clear communication is crucial. [10] NLP is divided into 3 categories: deletion, distortion, and generalization

### 1. Deletion

Definition:

Deletion occurs when important pieces of information are left out of communication. The speaker may omit details about who, what, when, where, or how, which can lead to misunderstandings or incomplete interpretations. It's to uncover the missing parts of a message and make communication more specific and informative. The positive add deletion is makes expectations and perceptions more explicit, prevents unnecessary conflict caused by vague accusations or requests, and Promotes clearer, more actionable communication.

Example from Mobile Legends: Player says: **"You never help."**

This is a deletion. It lacks specifics about what kind of help, when, or how often.

NLP Meta Model question: **"Can you give an example of when I didn't help?"** or **"What kind of help do you expect?"**

### 2. Distortion

Definition:

Distortion refers to when the meaning of an experience is changed or exaggerated in the speaker's mind. People may interpret events in an emotionally driven or biased way, often assuming intent or attributing meaning without evidence. It's to challenge exaggerated or inaccurate beliefs, helping individuals think more clearly and objectively. The positive add distortion is reduces emotional reactivity and improves rational thinking, helps players distinguish between perception and reality, and encourages a problem-solving mindset rather than helplessness or blame.

Example from Mobile Legends: Player says : **"All the enemies are too strong!"**

This is a distortion. It's likely based on emotion rather than objective game data.

NLP Meta Model question: **"Do you mean all five enemies, or just one or two?"** or **"What makes them seem stronger, damage, coordination, or something else?"**.

### 3. Generalization

Definition:

Generalization takes one experience and applies it too broadly. It often uses words like "always," "never," "everyone," or "nobody." The positive add generalization encourages balanced thinking, promotes reflection on actual performance, reduces blame and improves team morale.

Example in Mobile Legends:

Player A: **“We always lose when we play with you.”**

This statement generalizes one or a few matches into a broader claim that may not be entirely true. Using the Meta Model, you can respond with: **“Always? Can you remember a specific match where we actually won together?”**

In the context of online gaming, particularly in Mobile Legend, where communication between players often determines the success of team strategies, the NLP Meta Model can serve as a vital communication aid. [11] the model works through a sequence of targeted questions aimed at clarifying or expanding on incomplete or misleading statements commonly found in everyday conversations. By encouraging players to question ambiguous phrases and replace them with clearer, more specific expressions, the model helps reduce misunderstandings and potential conflicts. Implementing the NLP Meta Model in gaming scenarios enhances the quality of in-game communication, improves collaboration among players, and contributes to a more positive, inclusive, and productive digital gaming experience.

### **Soft Communication Skills and The Role in Social Interaction**

Soft communication skills refer to non-technical interpersonal communication abilities that reflect a person's capacity to interact effectively, empathetically, and mindfully with others in various social contexts. These skills are not merely concerned with *what* is communicated, but more importantly with *how* the message is conveyed. [12] Soft communication skills are essential for building healthy relationships in academic and professional environments, as they emphasize the emotional and social aspects of interpersonal communication. Soft communication skills encompass a variety of interpersonal abilities, including active listening, empathetic responses, appropriate use of body language, tone modulation, and the constructive exchange of feedback. These skills are especially critical in digital environments where non-verbal cues are minimal, such as in social media and online gaming. In these settings, communication often relies solely on text or voice, making it easier for messages to be misinterpreted or emotionally charged. [13] soft skills like empathetic communication and active listening significantly enhance collaboration and foster a positive atmosphere, particularly in virtual contexts. In online gaming, where players must coordinate, express emotions, and manage conflicts in real time, the lack of soft communication skills can result in toxic behavior and misunderstandings. Therefore, developing these skills is essential to improve the quality of interactions, strengthen teamwork, and create more inclusive and respectful digital communities.

## Mobile Legend game

[14] Mobile Legends is a Multiplayer Online Battle Arena (MOBA) game that serves not only as an entertainment platform but also as an effective medium for developing soft communication skills among the younger generation. The game requires players to collaborate, strategize, and communicate constantly to achieve common goals, making it an ideal environment for practicing interpersonal skills such as active listening, empathy, clear articulation, and constructive feedback. Through the dynamics of team play, players learn how to negotiate roles, manage conflicts, and motivate one another, all of which are essential components of soft communication skills that can be transferred to real-life social and professional interactions.

Further supporting this, [15] online games like Mobile Legends encourage real-time communication, which helps players improve their social interaction capabilities and emotional intelligence by navigating diverse personalities and perspectives. [16] the challenges inherent in MOBA games foster critical communication skills such as problem-solving dialogue and cooperative decision-making. These studies collectively suggest that Mobile Legends and similar online games have the potential to be valuable tools for enhancing soft communication skills in digital-native youth, helping them build stronger interpersonal relationships both inside and outside of the gaming environment.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

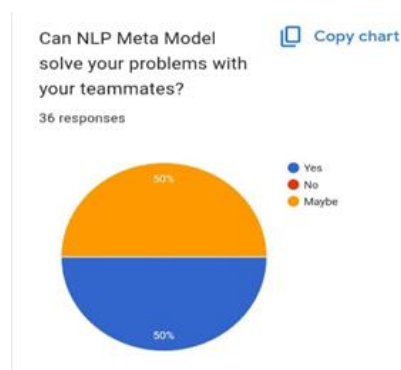
### Findings

**Table 1. Benefits of NLP Meta Model for Soft Communication Skills in Mobile Legends**

Aspect of Soft Communication	Description	Benefits from NLP Meta Model
Clarity in Message Delivery	The ability to deliver messages clearly and unambiguously	The Meta Model helps identify deletion, distortion, and generalization in language
Active Listening	Listening attentively to the content and meaning of communication	Specific questioning techniques encourage players to fully understand the context before responding
Empathetic Response	Responding with understanding of others' feelings and perspectives	The Meta Model promotes clarification before reacting, avoiding

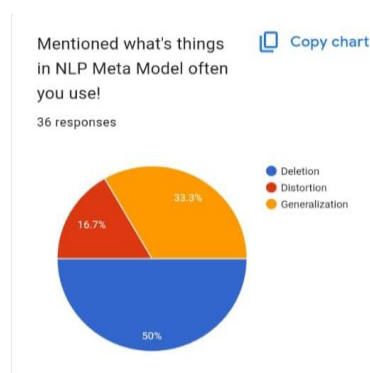
		emotional assumptions
Conflict Resolution	Managing differences and tensions constructively	Prevents misunderstandings through clarifying questions and neutralizing negative language
Constructive Feedback	Providing feedback in a supportive and positive manner	Trains players to turn vague criticism into specific, non-blaming suggestions
Reducing Miscommunication	Avoiding communication errors due to incomplete or overly general language	Meta Model questions extract detailed information from vague or broad statements
Team Coordination & Collaboration	The ability to work effectively with others through efficient communication	Helps clarify instructions in fast-paced team gameplay such as MOBA
Emotional Regulation in Communication	Controlling emotions during intense digital communication	By recognizing distortions, players learn to distinguish perception from objective reality
Understanding Intention	Interpreting teammates' intentions or purposes in communication	The model facilitates dialogue to understand the reasons behind others' behavior or speech

The following are visual pie chart data that we obtained from the google form data collection tool, this data is based on the answers of the respondents and a detailed explanation of each questions we presented to the respondents.



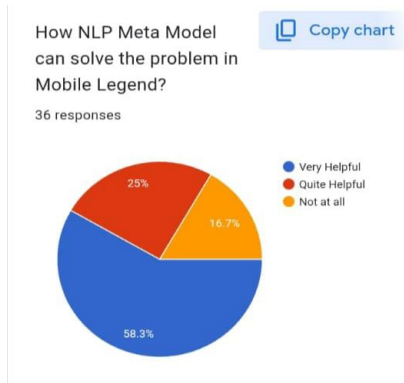


The pie chart in the figure presents the results of a survey involving 36 respondents with the main question: "Can the NLP Meta Model solve your problems with your teammates? ".The results of this survey show that as many as 50% of the respondents, depicted in blue in the diagram, stated "Yes", which means they believe that the use of the NLP Meta Model can help solve the problems they face in teamwork. Meanwhile, the remaining 50%, highlighted in orange, answered "Maybe", indicating some doubt or uncertainty, but leaving open the possibility that the model could be useful in this context. Interestingly, no respondents answered "No", as indicated by the absence of red in the diagram. This indicates that overall, the survey participants saw the positive potential of the NLP Meta Model in the context of team collaboration, both as a certainty and as a possibility worth considering.

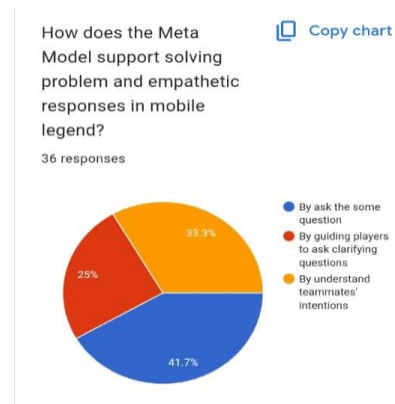


The pie chart illustrates the responses of 36 participants to the question: "Mentioned what's things in NLP Meta Model often you use!" The data represents the frequency of use of three core components within the NLP Meta Model: Deletion, Distortion, and Generalization. According to the pie chart, 50% of the respondents indicated that they most frequently use Deletion, shown in blue, suggesting that omitting certain pieces of information is a common strategy when applying the Meta Model in communication. Following this, 33.3% of respondents selected Generalization, represented in orange, which implies that a significant portion of users often make broad statements or assumptions based on limited data or experiences. Lastly, 16.7% of the respondents chose Distortion, marked in red, indicating that this is the least commonly used element, involving the alteration or misrepresentation of information. Overall, the

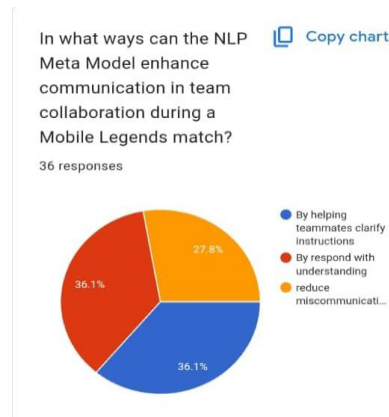
chart reveals that Deletion is the most frequently applied concept among the three, while Distortion is the least utilized by the participants in their practical use of the NLP Meta Model.



The pie chart presents the responses of 36 participants to the question: "How NLP Meta Model can solve the problem in Mobile Legend?" The chart displays how respondents perceive the usefulness of the NLP Meta Model in addressing issues within the context of the game Mobile Legends. The majority of respondents, 58.3%, represented by the color blue, believe that the NLP Meta Model is Very Helpful in solving problems related to the game. This suggests a strong confidence among more than half of the participants in the model's ability to improve communication, strategy, or teamwork in gameplay scenarios. Meanwhile, 25% of respondents, marked in red, answered Quite Helpful, indicating a moderate level of usefulness. These individuals acknowledge the model's benefits but may feel it's not always fully effective or applicable. Lastly, 16.7% of the respondents, shown in orange, selected Not at all, reflecting a skeptical view or the belief that the NLP Meta Model does not contribute significantly to resolving issues in Mobile Legends.

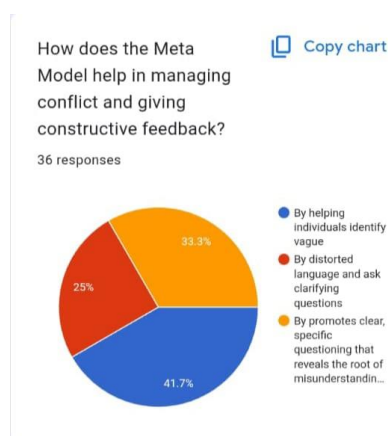


The pie chart displays the responses of 36 participants to the question: "How does the Meta Model support solving problems and empathetic responses in Mobile Legend?" The chart categorizes responses into three options, each representing a different way the Meta Model contributes to communication and teamwork in the game. The largest portion of respondents, 41.7%, represented in blue, believe that the Meta Model helps "By ask the some question". Next, 33.3% of participants, shown in orange, responded that the Meta Model supports problem-solving "By understand teammates' intentions", highlighting the importance of interpreting the motivations or perspectives of team members to foster better cooperation and empathy during gameplay. Lastly, 25% of the respondents, indicated in red, chose "By guiding players to ask clarifying questions", emphasizing the Meta Model's role in encouraging clear communication through seeking clarification, which can reduce misinterpretations and support more empathetic interactions.



The pie chart illustrates the responses of 36 participants to the question: "In what ways can the NLP Meta Model enhance communication in team collaboration during a Mobile Legends match?" It presents three different ways the NLP Meta Model might contribute to better communication and collaboration among teammates during gameplay. Two of the response options received equal support, each garnering 36.1% of the total responses. The first, represented in blue, is "By helping teammates clarify instructions." This indicates that many respondents believe the Meta Model is effective in ensuring that team members can convey their strategies and commands more clearly,

which is essential in fast-paced gaming environments like Mobile Legends. The second option, shown in red, is "By respond with understanding," reflecting an emphasis on empathetic and thoughtful replies, which can reduce conflict and improve team cohesion. The remaining 27.8% of respondents, illustrated in orange, chose "reduce miscommunication," suggesting that a significant portion of players also sees value in the Meta Model's ability to minimize misunderstandings that often arise during intense gameplay.



The pie chart presents the responses of 36 participants to the question: "How does the Meta Model help in managing conflict and giving constructive feedback?" The data is segmented into three categories that explain how the NLP Meta Model contributes to conflict resolution and feedback delivery. The pie chart shows how 36 respondents believe the NLP Meta Model helps manage conflict and give constructive feedback. The majority (41.7%) say it helps by identifying vague language, while 33.3% believe it promotes clear, specific questions to uncover misunderstandings. The remaining 25% think it helps by addressing distorted language and asking clarifying questions.

The study highlights that the NLP Meta Model is highly effective in enhancing soft communication skills within the dynamic and competitive environment of Mobile Legends. By addressing common language patterns such as deletion, distortion, and generalization, the model helps clarify vague messages, reduce misunderstandings, and improve team collaboration. Deletion emerged as the most frequently encountered issue,

indicating a strong need for message clarity in fast-paced gameplay. The use of structured questioning techniques fosters empathy, active listening, and constructive feedback, making the model not only a linguistic tool but also a means to develop emotional intelligence. Overall, the findings suggest that the NLP Meta Model has significant potential to be applied beyond gaming, offering valuable support for communication and teamwork in broader digital and professional contexts.

**Data Analysis**

This study involved 36 respondents who are active players of *Mobile Legends*. The survey aimed to examine their perceptions of the NLP Meta Model as a tool for improving soft communication skills. The data included responses related to communication patterns, the frequency of using NLP elements (deletion, distortion, generalization), and perceived usefulness of the Meta Model in resolving in-game collaboration issues.

The survey data revealed the following insights:

- 50% of respondents believed that the NLP Meta Model could solve team problems, while the other 50% considered it "maybe" helpful.
- Deletion was the most frequently used linguistic element (50%), followed by Generalization (33.3%), and Distortion (16.7%).
- 58.3% of players found the Meta Model very helpful, 25% quite helpful, and 16.7% found it not helpful.
- Most players supported the model’s effectiveness in promoting empathy and problem-solving, with 41.7% highlighting its value in asking questions.
- Collaboration benefits were observed in clarifying instructions (36.1%), empathic responses (36.1%), and reducing miscommunication (27.8%).
- Conflict resolution was most supported by identifying vague language (41.7%) and using specific questions (33.3%).

**Tabel 2. Survey Insight Summary: NLP Meta Model and Soft Communication Skills in Mobile Legends**

Survey Focus	Response Options	Percentage
Effectiveness in solving team problems	Yes, Maybe	50%, 50%
Most frequently used NLP Meta Model element	Deletion	50%,
Perceived helpfulness of the Meta Model	Very Helpful	58.3%,
Support for empathy and problem-solving	By asking questions	41.7%
Contribution to team collaboration	Clarifying instructions,	36.1%,

Survey Focus	Response Options	Percentage
Support in conflict resolution	Identifying vague language,	41.7%

The most frequent linguistic issue was Deletion, indicating that players often omit crucial details in communication. This omission contributes to misunderstanding, emphasizing the need for clarification tools like the NLP Meta Model. Generalizations and distortions were also common, reflecting emotional expression and cognitive bias. The analysis confirms that players see real value in using the NLP Meta Model to improve communication. The findings suggest that this model is effective in enhancing communication and collaboration in online multiplayer environments.

## DISCUSSIONS

The findings from the survey data and qualitative analysis confirm the positive perception of the NLP Meta Model in enhancing soft communication skills within the Mobile Legends gaming environment. Across multiple pie charts representing different dimensions of communication—ranging from teamwork, problem-solving, empathy, to conflict management—respondents consistently recognized the value of the Meta Model techniques in improving interaction and reducing misunderstandings. A key observation is that 50% of respondents believed the NLP Meta Model can solve problems with teammates, while the remaining 50% saw it as potentially helpful. Importantly, none of the participants outright rejected its usefulness. This indicates a strong consensus around the relevance of the model in fostering better communication, even in the high-pressure context of competitive gaming. When asked about the most frequently used linguistic pattern in the Meta Model, Deletion was identified by 50% of the participants, followed by Generalization (33.3%) and Distortion (16.7%). This suggests that players often omit details in communication, which can lead to confusion, and that the Meta Model's ability to target and clarify such omissions is highly valuable in gameplay scenarios. In terms of practical application, 58.3% of respondents considered the Meta Model very helpful in solving in-game problems. This was further supported by specific feedback showing that players value its use for clarifying instructions (36.1%), responding with understanding (36.1%), and reducing miscommunication (27.8%). These results demonstrate the multifaceted benefits of applying structured questioning and empathetic dialogue in cooperative gameplay. Moreover, the model was also seen as a tool for managing conflict and delivering constructive feedback, with 41.7% of participants highlighting its ability to identify vague language, and others recognizing its role in promoting specific questioning (33.3%) and clarifying distorted messages (25%). These findings align with the theoretical basis of the NLP Meta Model, which focuses on

uncovering hidden assumptions and improving clarity through precise linguistic intervention. Overall, the discussion supports the conclusion that integrating the NLP Meta Model into the communication strategies of Mobile Legends players not only enhances gameplay performance but also cultivates soft skills such as empathy, active listening, and respectful dialogue. This suggests promising potential for broader applications of NLP techniques in other digital or collaborative environments where effective communication is critical.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the survey results and qualitative analysis conducted in this study, it can be concluded that the NLP Meta Model plays a significant role in enhancing soft communication skills within the context of online multiplayer games, particularly Mobile Legends. The majority of respondents expressed a positive perception of the model's effectiveness in addressing common communication challenges such as miscommunication, unclear instructions, and emotional misunderstandings. The core components of the Meta Model—deletion, distortion, and generalization—were identified as being particularly useful in helping players clarify vague statements, question assumptions, and respond more empathetically during team interactions. The responses also indicate that the NLP Meta Model contributes to conflict resolution, constructive feedback, and team collaboration, by promoting specific and clear questioning techniques. These strategies encourage players to engage in meaningful dialogue, uncover the root causes of problems, and support one another in achieving shared goals. Furthermore, the application of the Meta Model fosters a more respectful and emotionally intelligent communication style, which is crucial in high-pressure and competitive gaming environments.

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