



## Class VII Members' Actions Of Thankfulness And Gratitude In *The Legend Of Heroes Trail Of Cold Steel* Video Game

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### Abstract

This study explores the concept of gratitude, specifically focusing on the Action of Thankfulness expressed by Class VII members in *The Legend of Heroes: Trails of Cold Steel* video game. Using the Find-Remind-Bind theory by Sara B. Algoe, the study identifies expressions of gratitude that reinforce social bonds among characters. The qualitative analysis of in-game dialogues and interactions reveals that thankfulness manifests in various forms, such as verbal appreciation, acknowledgment of contributions, and reinforcement of interpersonal relationships. This study highlights how gratitude influences character development and strengthens emotional connections within the narrative. In conclusion, this research contributes to the study of digital drama and psychology of literature in video game by showing how psychological elements, especially action of thankfulness, can be analyzed through interactive narratives.

**Keywords:** Action of Thankfulness, Find-Remind-Bind, Gratitude, The Legends of Heroes Trails of Cold Steel

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### INTRODUCTION

Gratitude is a powerful social emotion that enhances interpersonal relationships and emotional well-being. In *The Legend of Heroes: Trails of Cold Steel*, members of Class VII exhibit gratitude in various forms, one of which is the Action of Thankfulness. This study examines how expressions of thankfulness contribute to character relationships and personal growth within the game. The analysis is guided by Sara B. Algoe's *Find-Remind-Bind* theory, which explains how gratitude strengthens social connections (Algoe, 2012).

This game talks about Class VII which has a different curriculum from the others. It is where they do Field Study in their country every month, so they know the current state of their country. During their Field Study, they faced a terrorist called the Imperial Liberation Front who wanted to destroy the government. This study aims to analyse how Class VII members express gratitude through actions of thankfulness in *The Legend of Heroes Trails of Cold Steel*. This story was written by Hisayoshi Takeiri, Game *The Legend of Heroes Trail of Cold Steel Trails of Cold Steel* is a role-playing video game developed by Nihon Falcom the video game was released in Japan in 2013 for the PlayStation 3 and PlayStation Vita, and later localized in English by Xseed Games in 2015, A Windows port was also released by Xseed in 2017, which included additional English voice acting.

By examining specific dialogues and events in the game, this research highlights how gratitude is reflected in character interactions and contributes to the emotional and social development of the characters. Understanding these expressions of gratitude can provide insights into how video games serve as a medium for portraying complex human emotions and reinforcing positive social behaviours.

### METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach by analysing dialogues and cutscenes. The researchers try to analyse how game *The Legend of Heroes Trails of Cold Steel* illustrates the thankfulness concept in gratitude of the Class VII members characters by focusing the research on the gratitude situation of the relationship between Class VII members. The aim of this research is to find out the benefits behind the Class VII members using gratitude in action of thankfulness through their relationships which will lead to happy and healthy relationships. By taking a close reading of the entire game and the dialogues between Class VII members, it also provides quotations from the video game and the sources that support the analysis.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this game, Rean is the main character. In addition to Rean, there are other members of Class VII, namely Gaius, Alisa, Eliot, Laura, Emma, Juis, Machias, Fie, Millium, Crow, and Instructor Sara. They join Class VII to find a third party who can save the country. They come from different backgrounds, some from nobility and some from

ordinary people. In the sequel, they support each other with intense interactions that surely comes into actions of thankfulness as shown in the data below.

**Data 1**

“**Rean:** Oh... No, no! If anything, it sounds like we owe you a huge debt of gratitude for putting so much time and effort into it.” (Takeiri, 2013)

Rean thanks Towa, the Student Council President, for making a student guidebook for Class VII. Class VII has a unique curriculum that includes a monthly Field Study, requiring them to travel across the country for several days of fieldwork. Towa spends extra time creating the guidebook because only Class VII participates in this activity (Takeiri, 2013). This part is where Rean first deals with the school student council and Towa as the student council president asks Rean to distribute guidebooks to his classmates, because Rean lives in the same dormitory as his classmates.

**Data 2**

“**Alisa:** And you had your hands out like you were trying to catch me, right? So if anything, I should be thanking you” (Takeiri, 2013)

Alisa thanks Rean for helping her, even though they only met for the first time at the Old Schoolhouse during an incident where they fell through the open floor (Takeiri 2013). Alisa thanked and also apologized for the misunderstanding that occurred between Alisa and Rean, where when she fell into the basement of the old schoolhouse Rean tried to catch Alisa and Alisa landed in an uncomfortable place and instead slapped Rean who had just saved her. But thanks to Rean's initiative, Alisa was able to survive without being injured.

**Data 3**

“**Alisa:** Yeah. You're always there to help us when we need it most.” (Takeiri, 2013)

Rean and his friends defeat a strong enemy thanks to Rean's powerful attacks. His friends feel that Rean is a dependable leader in urgent situations (Takeiri 2013). Because the monster suddenly came out and was also strong, making cooperation between Rean and his group something that had to be maintained, but if not with the technique that Rean had just used it would have been a very difficult fight and thanks to Rean's newly perfected technique the fight became a little easier.

**Data 4**

“**Alisa:** Besides, it was only thanks to the RMP's involvement that we were able to catch the culprits in the end

**Laura:** ...Still, I suppose it would be rude not to accept your thanks.

**Alisa:** And, umm... we really appreciate you coming to our aid like that.” (Takeiri, 2013)

Rean's team thanks the RMP (Railway Military Police, a type of Imperial Army military police in the railway sector), especially Captain Calaire, who led the troops, for helping them. Rean and his friends were almost arrested by the Provincial Army (Noble Military Forces) after entering an area restricted by the Provincial Army (Takeiri 2013). The reason why the Provincial Army detained Rean and his group was because they had broken into an area prohibited by the Provincial Army, even though the place they entered was where the terrorists were hiding. Thanks to Captain Claire, they were able to be freed safely.

**Data 5**

“**Rean:** Our classes have really gotten harder since the start of the year, but I feel as though I'm keeping up.” (Takeiri, 2013)

Towa asks Rean about his experience during his first month in Class VII. Class VII has a unique curriculum with Field Studies that last several days. Rean feels confident he can handle it because he is with his friends during the Field Study (Takeiri 2013). Rean felt that during this 1 month they had been better in school activities and tried to just go with the flow for the time being, although the longer it went on the more difficult the challenges became for him and Class VII.

**Data 6**

“**Gaius:** Compliments like that make me feel like I'm improving.

**Gaius:** But don't hold back if you have any criticisms to make” (Takeiri, 2013)

Gaius shows his painting to Rean, and Rean is impressed by Gaius' work. Gaius is open to criticism, as he wants to improve and become better at painting (Takeiri 2013). Gaius, by accepting criticism from other people, can become better at painting and feels that criticism from his friends will make him even better.

#### Data 7

**Rean:** We're just lucky we had Alisa and Laura to help us out

**Gaius:** They're a nice reminder of how much more we can achieve by working together.

**Rean:** yeah. We'll have to make sure that we can get everyone together next month, too." (Takeiri, 2013)

After finishing the investigation of the basement of the Old Schoolhouse, they feel grateful for Alisa and Laura's help, which made the task easier. During the previous investigation, only Rean, Elliot, and Gaius were involved. They are thankful that, thanks to Alisa and Laura, the investigation became much more manageable (Takeiri 2013). When investigating, they do not just walk and observe, but they also have to deal with monsters, and the deeper they explore, the stronger the monsters become. Therefore, the help of Laura and Alisa is very valuable for the investigation.

#### Data 8

**Rean:** (...All right, we're counting on you. We'll start the battle as soon as you're ready.)

**Emma:** Yeh. But we still won.

**Fi:** ...Only just." (Takeiri, 2013)

Before completing the task of defeating dangerous monsters, Machias and Jusis ask for the opportunity to advance to the front lines and try using Combat Link, (an Arcus technology that allows two people to understand each other in battle). They manage to defeat the monster, but it is not easy for them. The thing that made the fight a little more difficult was the lack of cooperation between Machias and Jusis where they failed to perform Combat Link and made their cooperation chaotic (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 9

**Emma:** I'm so glad you're safe!

**Jusis:** though, I can't say I was expecting to be placed under house arrest the moment I returned to the mansion.

**Emma:** You were planning on saving him even if you had to do it alone, weren't you?" (Takeiri, 2013)

When Machias is captured by the Provincial Army, accused of trespassing into the Aurochs Fortress and Jusis is called by his father to return home, Rean and his group decide to free Machias. They use the underground water channel to reach the prison and meet up with Jusis there, all with the goal of rescuing Machias. They could have had the idea to go into the underground because someone mentioned it while they were in the café (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 10

**Laura:** I couldn't be more grateful for your assistance, Rean.

**Laura:** If it weren't for you, I never would have purchased something so nice.

**Rean:** You know, you don't have to force yourself to be like everyone else.

**Rean:** Because... you aren't like everyone else. You are who you are, and that's exactly why we like you.

**Laura:** Let me thank you once again. I'd like for us to go shopping again if you ever have the time." (Takeiri, 2013)

Rean accompanies Laura shopping to buy something feminine, as she feels she is less feminine than most of the other Thors students. While the other friends discuss something funny and cute, Laura instead talks about the art of swordsmanship. This all happens during a relaxed moment (Takeiri, 2013). Since childhood, Laura has been taught by her father who is a swordsman, this is also what makes Laura rarely discuss feminine things with her school friends, because all she knows is the art of swordsmanship.

#### Data 11

**Laura:** *It appears you've done much for us without us even realizing it.*

**Fi:** Thanks.

**Rean:** Haha. We could hardly believe we met her ourselves.

**Fi:** *She really does look kinda angelic.*" (Takeiri, 2013)

Towa, the Student Council President, assists Class VII in selecting the tasks to be completed during their Field Study. While doing so, she also expresses her concern about the potential danger posed by terrorists who might target this location, emphasizing the importance of caution during their activities. During their discussion, Towa learns that Class VII had met Princess Alfin, the daughter of the Emperor's family, during a previous event. Upon hearing this, Towa can not help but feel a twinge of jealousy, playfully wishing she could have had the chance to meet the princess herself because Princess Alfin who is considered an angel by the people of Erebonia is not only a princess herself but also her attitude and appearance. Despite this, she remains focused on ensuring Class VII is well-prepared for the challenges ahead (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 12

**Rean:** *You're happy about this. I can tell.*

**Jusis:** *And so, as much of a pain as it will be, I feel as though it'd be best to include a token of thanks along with my reply.*

**Rean:** *I'm sure your uncle will be happy about this.*" (Takeiri, 2013)

Jusis received a letter from his uncle in Bareahard, his hometown, expressing concern about the terrorist incident that occurred during the recent Field Study. The letter detailed his uncle's worries and how he had been indirectly affected by the situation. Feeling remorseful, Jusis reflected on how his involvement caused his uncle unnecessary anxiety. because his uncle was also one of those who had taken care of Jusis since he was little, he was worried about Jusis' condition, that's why his uncle sent the message (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 13

**Elliot:** *And I think that's thanks to last month's field study.*

**Rean:** *Good luck out there, Elliot. I'll be cheering you on with the rest of the audience.*" (Takeiri, 2013)

Elliot feels more confident after the incident during yesterday's Field Study. The experience strengthened his passion for music and made him appreciate his talent even more. He is grateful to have friends who always support and encourage him. Elliot was then able to play to his full potential in the performance he did at the church (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 14

**Laura:** *Thank you for being my assistant today, Rean.*

**Rean:** *I'm just happy to see that things are good between you and Monica again.*" (Takeiri, 2013)

Previously, Laura felt guilty for being too harsh with Monica, her friend in the swimming club, because she had been training her in the wrong way. However, after the experience during the recent Field Study, Laura was able to reflect and mend her approach. This led to her developing a better relationship with Monica who will be a trusted club mate (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 15

**Laura:** *...But... it's good to be back.*" (Takeiri, 2013)

When Rean and his group went to deliver their Field Study report to Toval, they were surprised to encounter Victor S. Arseid, Laura's father and the lord of the region. Known as one of the most skilled swordsmen in the Empire, Victor had been away from home for a significant period due to his duties. Laura was visibly relieved and overjoyed to see her father after such a long time. She expressed her desire to spend more time with him during their Field Study, feeling comforted by his presence. Victor, in turn, praised Laura's growth and dedication, mentioning how proud he was of her achievements in Class VII. The meeting served as a heartwarming moment for the group, as they witnessed the deep bond between Laura and her father. Victor also offered some words of encouragement and wisdom to the group, inspiring them to continue their journey of self-improvement and cooperation (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 16

**Rean:** Thank you for all you've done for us during our stay, Klaus.

**Laura:** On the contrary—I had ample time to enjoy soaking in the atmosphere of home.

**Emma:** And thanks to that wonderful, nutritious dinner after we returned from the castle so tired, I was able to sleep well, too.

**Gaius.** Indeed. For all that happened, I feel surprisingly well rested today." (Takeiri, 2013).

Before going to the next place where they will go to Garrelia Fortress (the border fortress of Erebonia and Crossbell) to continue the Field Study, Rean's group said goodbye to Klaus (Butler from Laura's house), because Klaus had taken care of them while doing Field Study in Legram (Laura's hometown). Thanks to him, they could rest comfortably after saving the little boy who got lost in the castle last night (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 17

**Rean:** Well... we're really honored to have been invited aboard.

**Laura:** I have my class to thank for that. Learning alongside them has been a constant source of insights." (Takeiri, 2013)

Different from the previous Field Study where Class VII went to the Field Study location by train, this time they went by plane owned by Prince Olivert. Rean talked with Laura's father Victor S. Arseid who led the plane. Worried about Laura, Victor S. Arseid asked Rean how Laura was doing while she was studying at Thors. (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 18

**Rean:** Thanks for all your help, Crow.

**Elliot:** If you're satisfied, I think our audience will be too.

**Elliot:** (Uh... I think Crow's more fired up about this than anyone else. Even me.)

**Rean:** (He's taking us on a ride one way or another, so we might as well just strap ourselves in.)" (Takeiri, 2013)

They have finished the rehearsal for the festival performance because they have finished in a very pressing time. The most important thing is that they enjoy the Exercise that has been done together. This is because the Joint Exercise is intended to strengthen good relationships with each other. All thanks to the dedication of Crow and Elliot who have planned this show (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 19

**Rean:** I'm glad to see you're all safe.

**Fi:** Yup. Seems like the right guy for the job.

**Rean:** ...Well, I guess you're right." (Takeiri, 2013)

They managed to find the captives of the mine workers and wanted to take them to a safe place. Crow offered to escort him to a safe place, because he was a year older than the others, therefore Crow was the best choice to escort the hostage out. They know that securing the hostage is the most important thing. The action is also supported by other personnel in Class VII. Thus, their actions are not from one party alone but mutual agreement. Crow offered to escort him to a safe place, because he was a year older than the others, therefore Crow was the best choice to escort the hostage out (Takeiri, 2013).

#### Data 20

**Crow:** Sure, I'll have moved outta the dorms, but I'll be sure to stop by once a week to steal some of Sharon's cooking.

**Rean:** You've done so much for me since then. Saving Elise, Helping with the concert...

**Rean:** Compared to all that, 50 mira is nothing." (Takeiri, 2013)

Less than one month left before Crow graduates, Rean thanks Crow for helping Class VII for the past few months. Crow returns 50 Mira (currency) because he once cheated Rean and did not return the money. Rean feels that 50 Mira is not comparable to what Crow has done for the past few months in Class VII. He felt cheated, but had been ignored because of Crow's kindness. Thanks to Crow's contributions over the months with Class VII, Crow has become a reliable person (Takeiri, 2013).

### Expressions of Gratitude Through Actions of Thankfulness in Class VII's Interactions

Gratitude is a feeling or attitude of appreciation and gratitude for the kindness, help, or positive experiences received from others or life in general. In psychology, gratitude is considered a positive emotion that can strengthen social relationships, improve emotional well-being, and encourage prosocial behavior (Emmons & McCullough, 2002).

Meanwhile, being thankful is expressing your feelings of gratitude and appreciation for what you have received or experienced. It involves being appreciative of the things, people, or situations that bring comfort, happiness, or advantages. Recognizing the kindness one has received is a necessary part of being thankful, and it is frequently linked to good sentiments and sincere gratitude for the possessions or experiences one has (Tripp, 2022). It is an action that shows gratitude or can be gratitude for something received, either from other people, circumstances, or events.

Action of thankfulness can be a small or large action that shows appreciation for other people, places or circumstances. such as saying thank you directly to others, or giving gifts or assistance to other people or institutions. This action illustrates gratitude and often strengthens the relationship between humans, animals and nature. Saying thank you after someone opens the door for you, someone gives a chair to a pregnant person and then the pregnant person thanks the person is an example of expressing gratitude to someone. Feeling gratitude urges the grateful person to reciprocate and respond prosocial, thereby solidifying cooperation (Beeler-Duden et al., 2024).

### **Gratitude in Action of Thankfulness in Class VII**

This section examines how the conversations of Class VII members reveal the factor that leads to Action of Thankfulness. The factor is based on how they thank it through empathy. The aspect is explained further below:

In **Data 1**, referring to Algoe's theory, this statement can improve the social relationship between Rean and Towa whom he appreciates. By showing gratitude in the words "it sounds like we owe you a huge debt", it has shown Rean's gratitude to Towa. Rean not only validates the individual's efforts but also paves the way for a more solid and supportive relationship including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages. Emotionally, this action can create feelings of appreciation and increase relationship satisfaction for both parties (Algoe, 2012).

In **Data 2**, if associated with gratitude according to Sara B. Algoe, Alisa has realized Rean's action of trying to catch her is something positive (Algoe, 2012). Thanks to that, Alisa cares about what Rean does in building social relationships. Moreover, Alisa says "I should be thanking you" which is an action that reminds herself and also Rean where Alisa is grateful for helping her. This makes Alisa and Rean's relationship better because of that dialogue including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages.

In **Data 3**, Alisa realized several things that thanks to Rean, she and her other friends felt that he was always there when the situation was difficult, and thanks to Rean's presence, any problem could be resolved well. This statement shows that she has found someone who has made a significant contribution in a difficult situation, which is an important basis for meaningful social relationships including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages. This is not just an appreciation for one action, but an acknowledgement of the person's consistent nature or character, namely being reliable. This statement strengthens the relationship, and strengthens mutual trust. In addition, this kind of expression of gratitude can increase a sense of belonging in a group or relationship (Algoe, 2012).

In **Data 4**, this dialogue reflects how gratitude according to Sara B. Algoe can flow in complex social interactions, including acknowledging the contribution of others (in this case, the RMP) and appreciating the assistance provided. Alisa explicitly acknowledges the important role of the RMP in apprehending the perpetrator. She finds their contribution invaluable, especially in the context of the difficult situation she was in. By saying, "I suppose it would be rude not to accept your thanks," Laura also indirectly understands and acknowledges the importance of appreciation in social relationships. Alisa says, "We really appreciate you coming to our aid like that," reminding the helper of their contribution. This confirms that the positive action was remembered and appreciated, not only as an individual act but also in the context of team support. Although Laura's tone is formal, it helps to keep the relationship positive including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages. Even a brief response like this can strengthen the relationship by showing acceptance of the appreciation given (Algoe, 2012).

In **Data 5**, when associated with gratitude according to Sara B. Algoe. This shows personal reflection on the challenges faced and achievements in overcoming them, Rean realizes that as long as he and his classmates work together, they can face it well. Rean's reflection on how he managed to follow increasingly difficult classes serves as a reminder of the progress and effort he has made. Expressions like this can strengthen relationships with others including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages. He not only shows his personal achievements but can also trigger appreciation for the contributions of others. (Tripp, 2022)

In **Data 6**, Gaius's words reflect self-awareness, openness to feedback, and a balance between accepting appreciation and a desire to continue to grow. When connected to gratitude, Gaius finds positive value in the appreciation he receives. The compliment is seen as validation of his efforts and improvements, showing that others notice and value his development (Algoe, 2012). By asking for criticism, Gaius demonstrates an awareness that honest feedback, both positive and negative, is important for personal growth. He identifies constructive criticism as a source of learning including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages. The compliment received serves as a reminder to Gaius that he is on the right track in his efforts to grow. When Gaius acknowledges that the compliment makes him feel better, he creates an emotional connection with the person who gave the compliment. This shows indirect gratitude and strengthens their relationship (Algoe, 2012).

In **Data 7**, when linked to gratitude according to Sara B. Algoe, Gaius demonstrates that he recognizes the value of teamwork as a critical factor in their success. He also emphasizes that collaboration magnifies individual achievement including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages. Rean's statement, "We're just lucky we had Alisa and Laura to help us out," reminds him and the group of the importance of Alisa and Laura's contributions to the situation. And when Rean says, "We'll have to make sure that we can get everyone together next month, too," he demonstrates a commitment to maintaining the relationship and ensuring that the collaboration continues. These are actions that strengthen the emotional bonds within the group (Juneja, 2022)

In **Data 8**, the analysis shows the dynamics of the group that will face the monster, when associated with the theory of gratitude according to Sara B. Algoe, what Rean said shows a sense of trust in his group mates, indirectly Rean feels grateful to his friends who he can trust. Emma and Fie said that they managed to defeat the monster and

thanked their teammates even though they won by a narrow margin. The recognition that they managed to win despite the difficulties teaches the importance of cooperation and hard work. This reflection helps the team prepare to face future challenges with more confidence including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages (Tram Thi Huyen Dinh, 2016).

In **Data 9**, according to Sara B. Algoe when connected to theory, Emma said "I'm so glad you're safe!" shows deep gratitude for Juisis' safety, even she praises Juisis for being willing to act alone to save Machias. This dialogue strengthens their relationship through gratitude and mutual respect including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages. Emma shows deep concern for Juisis, while her reflective question shows admiration for Juisis' determination (Park et al., 2021).

In **Data 10**, as stated by Sara B. Algoe In her statement, "I couldn't be more grateful for your assistance, Rean," Laura acknowledged the value of Rean's assistance that allowed her to get something special, and also Rean said "You are who you are, and that's exactly why we like you," considering this as your own uniqueness that is considered as something positive. Not only that, this event also strengthened the sense of mutual respect between them including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages. At the end, Laura not only expressed her gratitude, but also invited Rean to share experiences in the future (Park et al., 2023).

In **Data 11**, When related to Sara B. Algoe's theory, Laura's statement, "It appears you've done much for us without us even realizing it," and Fie's "Thanks" although brief, casually show her new awareness of Towa's contribution and gratitude for helping them. Rean's sentence that refers to Class VII meeting Prince Alfin makes them still surprised and grateful for the meeting, and Fie who responds that the residents' response is exactly as discussed. This dialogue strengthens the relationship through gratitude and admiration for Towa and gratitude for Class VII's meeting with Princes Alfin including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages (Powell, 2022).

In **Data 12**, Regarding the theory of Sara B. Algoe, Juisis' statement, "I feel as though it'd be best to include a token of thanks along with my reply," reflects his awareness and gratitude for his concern for his uncle. He finds that expressing gratitude is important to maintain a good relationship including reciprocal comfort, happiness and advantages. It also reduces his uncle's concern that he is okay. This dialogue is evidence that Rean shows his support for Juisis' decision, while Juisis expresses his sense of responsibility for his family relationship (Park et al., 2021).

In **Data 13**, In reference to Sara B. Algoe's theory, what Elliot said shows that the experience made him able to go further. Not only that, Elliot's statement also reminds Rean that he also develops which makes their relationship stronger. This dialogue strengthens their relationship through mutual respect and moral support. Elliot recognizes the positive impact of shared experiences including reciprocal comfort and happiness, while Rean shows empathy and commitment to continue supporting his friend (King et al., 2022).

In **Data 14**, Concerning Algoe's theory, what Laura said made her realize that Rean's presence helped to strengthen her relationship with Monica or Fie. His gratitude reminded her that every help, no matter how small, is something to be appreciated including reciprocal comfort and happiness. Through expressions of gratitude and shared happiness. Laura appreciates Rean's role in helping, while Rean shows empathy and attention to the social dynamics around him (Willans, 2020).

In **Data 15**, Based on Sara B. Algoe theory, Laura shows that she finds value and comfort in returning to a place or situation that she cherishes. This moment shows an acknowledgment of the importance of a particular environment or relationship in her life. It also reflects how a temporary absence can increase appreciation for things that are often taken for granted. This simple expression makes her grateful for her father's return (Van Cappellen et al., 2024).

In **Data 16**, As Sara B. Algoe theory, This dialogue depicts Rean and his group's gratitude towards Klaus for his help during their stay. Rean's statement, "Thank you for all you've done for us during our stay, Klaus," shows Klaus' efforts in ensuring their comfort and gratitude for Klaus' treatment of Rean and his group. This also allows Laura to feel at home. Their expressions of gratitude not only show appreciation but also strengthen their relationship with Klaus. This creates a moment of deep emotional connection among his group mates including reciprocal comfort and happiness (Tripp, 2022).

In **Data 17**, According to Sara B. Algoe Theory, what Laura said, she recognized the collective contribution of her friends as an important part of her development. This also serves as a reminder that growth and learning often occur in a collective context, not just an individual one. Laura's gratitude for her classmates, and Rean's reflection on his role, create a stronger emotional bond within Class VII, including reciprocal comfort and happiness (King et al., 2022).

In **Data 18**, in relation to the Theory of Sara B. Algoe, Rean's Thank You indicates that Crow has contributed to Class VII in preparing for the show. This is Rean's recognition and gratitude for Crow's dedication. Elliot's response finds Crow's passion as a catalyst that drives the entire Class VII into reciprocal togetherness, comfort, and happiness. With the note that if Crow is satisfied then there is a possibility that the audience will be satisfied too (Juneja, 2022).

In **Data 19**, when connected to the Algoe theory, the statement "I'm glad to see you're all safe" shows that the hostages are fine, grateful for their safety. What Fie said became a sense of trust in Crow because he had the capability to escort the hostages to a safe place. This conversation reminded group members that trust in competent individuals is key in critical situations. Not only that, the trust built in this situation helps strengthen group dynamics including reciprocal togetherness, comfort, and happiness (Tram Thi Huyen Dinh, 2016).

In **Data 20**, when connected to the theory of Sara B. Algoe, Rean said "You've done so much for me since then. Saving Elise, helping with the concert..." that this identifies important actions that Crow has done to support him.

This reflects Rean's recognition of Crow's role in his life, how important Crow's help is. not only that Rean also said "...to be honest, it feels kind of lonely to think that everything between us is completely settled and done with." Rean reminisces about their relationship and the moments that have strengthened their bond. This reflects the sense of togetherness that they have built. then Crow's humorous response "Heh. The feeling's mutual... Besides, I never return the mira that I borrow. Makes that coin extra special." this strengthens their bond. He adds emotional value to a simple act like borrowing a coin, creating a meaningful memory for both of them, including reciprocal togetherness, comfort, and happiness. Crow shows that their relationship is still going on, even though Crow will graduate soon (Willans, 2020).

## CONCLUSION

This study highlights how acts of gratitude in the game *The Legend of Heroes Trails of Cold Steel* play a role in character development and strengthening social relationships. Using Sara B. Algoe's Find-Remind-Bind theory, this study analyzes various interactions in the game to show how expressions of gratitude strengthen emotional bonds between characters. The results of the analysis show that expressions of gratitude not only function as a form of appreciation for individual contributions, but also create closer and more harmonious relationships. Characters in the game express their gratitude in various forms, such as verbal appreciation, recognition of others' contributions, and efforts to strengthen interpersonal relationships. The conclusion of this study confirms that psychological elements such as gratitude can be analyzed in digital drama. This suggests that video games can be an effective medium for representing complex human emotions and encouraging positive social behavior.

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