



THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING AND KNOWING ENGLISH IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDONESIA

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Abstract

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In this day and age of globalization, studying English is a critical skill that students must master. This is due to the fact that practically all scientific publications and information sources on the internet are written in English. Aside from that, practically all businesses in the world of work require English language abilities when hiring new employees. Higher education, as the final step from the school's perspective to entering the world of employment, must be able to produce students who, in addition to having expertise in their disciplines, can also communicate in English. As a result, the purpose of this research is to examine the significance of studying English to university students in Indonesia in order to develop superior human resources capable of competing in the workplace. This study employs a qualitative method with a descriptive approach by taking several universities in Jakarta. The study's findings indicate that learning English in addition to Indonesian is now required in tertiary institutions because students must be able to understand and be fluent in the field of science they are studying, as well as communicate effectively, because the majority of their scientific sources are derived from scientific sources that use English. However, although there is a growing desire in learning English, the researchers discovered four barriers: a lack of teachers, a lack of motivation as a result of being considered unconnected to the study program, a lack of infrastructure, and viewing it as a waste. According to the findings of this study, universities in Indonesia have begun to incorporate English language learning into their curricula as a preparation for students to compete in the global world of work, where they are not only experts in their fields but also fluent in communicating in English.

Keywords: English Education; Higher Education; Students

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INTRODUCTION

The English language arose decades ago as a result of the phenomena known internationally as globalization. More individuals are learning to speak this language, and more people are relying on it to find a job or succeed in it (Agustin, 2015). Similarly, Handayani (2016) says that the usage of foreign languages, particularly English, has progressed from a luxury to a need in a variety of productive sectors. English has become significant all across the world as a result of the globalization process; until recently, it was considered the worldwide language of business. In practice, it is the language of the modern world.

Globalization has resulted in free trade agreements with several countries, including the United States, where the vast majority of the negotiations take place, and therefore it has been established within our organization as a fundamental requirement

that professionals have a command of English in order for them to be employed in certain positions and have the opportunity to work internationally (Rahayu, 2020) The language of international communication has been defined as English by universal consensus. For international companies, their knowledge is a need (Syahputra, 2014).

English is used in the majority of published research results, thus having a strong command of the language is essential not only for the tools of social communication but also for the advancement of scientific knowledge (Rohayati, 2018). Students who are able to communicate well in English stand to gain a great deal from doing so, not just in terms of the advancement of science but also in terms of sociopolitical communication, economics, and cultural understanding, and even in day-to-day living. As a result, all students, regardless of their area of concentration, are required to take at least one English class during their time in higher education. This demonstrates how essential it is to have a strong command of the English language in order to achieve success in one's professional and academic endeavors (Iriance, 2016).

However, in fact on the ground, it was observed that there is an issue of students' low ability to master English, particularly at private universities. Indeed, people's levels of interest in the English language vary, and some even go so far as to publicly admit that they dislike the language (Afriazi, 2016). The fact that students have a poor command of the English language can also be deduced from the low exam scores they have maintained throughout their academic careers, from elementary school all the way through college, showing little sign of improvement (Megawati, 2016).

Therefore, the challenges that students face in properly accomplishing their English learning aims are problems that should always actually be researched in order to find solutions. Institutions serving as academic rule makers and instructors teaching English classes are required to constantly consider these challenges and choose the appropriate course of action to address them (Nashruddin, 2019). The effort that should be made to the greatest degree is to inspire kids to always be excited about learning. It is necessary to provide students with needs, encouragement, and learning goals in order to motivate them to learn English. Because if one does not have a knowledge of these three concepts, it will be impossible to attain success in educational activities (Rahman et al, 2019).

However, motivation on its own is not sufficient; the researcher is interested in learning more about the students' psychological backgrounds in relation to learning English. As a result, it is strongly recommended that we look for the causes of learning difficulties before attempting to motivate students. It is not just the obligation and responsibility of lecturers, but also something that needs to be in sync with the efforts made by institutions regarding policies and the availability of learning facilities in order to comprehend the challenges that students face when attempting to study English (Bahri & Trisnawati, 2018). As a result, in order to get input for enhancing institutional norms regarding academic integrity and developing a campus climate that is conducive to learning, this study collected data on the significance of learning and being able to use English in higher education.

METHODS

This research method has a descriptive method as its foundation, and it makes reference to a qualitative approach in its methodology. The method's overarching objective is to acquire the meaning, essence, perception, and opinion of the individuals who serve as data sources in order to provide an accurate description of a phenomenon. Specifically, the method seeks to: This study makes an effort to present a methodical, factual, and correct general explanation of the impact that the construction of road

infrastructure can have in secluded locations to lower the number of students who drop out of school. According to Bogdan and Taylor's definition in Moleong, a qualitative design is a method of study that generates descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from individuals as well as data based on behavior that may be observed. When conducting qualitative research, data analysis is performed at several points throughout the project (Moleong, 2012). Since the beginning of the data collection process, continuous data analysis has been carried out up until the time when the study reports were prepared. The report is an analysis as well as a descriptive presentation of the data that has been collected in a methodical manner and then analyzed.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Learning more than just one language, including one's mother tongue, is something that every professional should strive to do. Learning English is not a luxury but an undeniable need due to its vastness and the fact that it has become one of the first languages spoken around the world. English's importance cannot be overstated. English is without a doubt the most commonly taught language in the world and is currently being taught as a second language in over a hundred different nations, including China, Russia, Germany, Spain, Egypt, Brazil, and Ecuador. Beginning in elementary school and continuing through high school, students in 14 nations or regions of the European Union are required to study English. In 2009, pupils in the European Union who were enrolled in elementary education were studying the English language at a rate of 73%. The proportion is higher than ninety percent. (Rintaningrum, 2015)

In today's world, instructing English in any corner of the globe is seen not only as desirable but also as a pressing necessity. It makes no difference where you are in the world or how old you are; the truth is that everyone should try their best to improve their command of the English language (Gusrayani, 2014).

Higher education is the last step and the last resort from the school's point of view to achieve a good level in this language. In universities around the world where students do not use English as a mother tongue, the structures and mechanisms for teaching this language have been strengthened and are continuously being developed. In college, fresh graduates are expected to be able to understand complex texts that fall within their field of knowledge and be able to express themselves with a certain degree of fluency when they communicate with others in English. To ensure this, higher education in some countries implements a strategy that may include some compulsory English subjects, as well as rigorous graduation examinations to earn a degree. On the other hand, you can make arrangements with institutions specialized in the teaching of these languages, and enroll students in courses (Wilches et al, 2018).

The Ministry of Education and Culture and other government agencies are now faced with the problem of implementing Bilingualism programs, a strategy for competitiveness, in order to meet the educational goals of students in primary, secondary, and tertiary educational institutions.. This is a language that many people have honed through official and informal learning experiences. To put it another way: "making sure that citizens are able to communicate effectively in English so that the country can participate in global communication systems, the global economy, and international cultural exchange on an equal footing To be clear, just because English is included as an elective in a student's course schedule does not fix the problem entirely "Foreign language studies that focus on just a few academic hours or on encouraging people to enroll in language schools are considered as insufficient measures. in this period of time (Kremer & Valcke, 2014)

For this reason, compulsory scholarships and courses were established that require knowledge of the English language, so that the student himself respects this need and learns on his own as well as in the classroom, and teaches himself for his own sake. It is an important way to excel in your profession and in life. However, considerable work needs to be done in terms of university education. According to Mardiana et al (2021), teaching and learning at least one language other than Indonesian is still a challenge in professional training in Indonesia, because there are still difficulties or slow progress in incorporating language teaching into study programs and ensuring that students have knowledge and mastery of at least one foreign language after graduation.

According to Syakur et al. (2020), "unlike in Europe, where English is considered a colloquial language, in Asia, despite progress in acknowledging the importance of language in the professional training process, to the extent that many higher education institutions consider it a compulsory subject in the curriculum, the desired results in the degree of knowledge and mastery have not been achieved." This author identifies four points or reasons of the problem:

- a. There is sometimes a scarcity of teachers with a linguistic profile who can successfully affect language learning.
- b. According to the dynamics of each school, there is still little interest and motivation to learn other languages, as they are seen as subjects unrelated to the academic program.
- c. The infrastructure required for language teaching is still missing (library, multimedia laboratory, internet, etc.).
- d. So this is a matter of financial resources, and it is definitely a structural problem because progress was made slowly or not at all at the prior level of research.

On the other hand, because of its bilingual qualities, it is typical to believe that a university is of high quality. And, while this component should not be overly severe or critical, it is undeniably crucial when evaluating a university because it measures its extent as well as the quality of its students on a global scale. According to scientific study, learning English or any language other than one's native tongue can produce brain stimuli that aid in the development of other skills such as creativity, problem solving, reasoning, or mental abilities (Bijami et al, 2013)

Another factor that emphasizes its significance is the requirement to know English in order to examine a specific bibliography. Except for university degrees, the majority of the scientific publications and documentary sources used are in English. Most fields of knowledge have discussion literature in languages other than Indonesian, particularly English; thus, the lack of these tools limits students' comprehensive training, as well as their potential academic mobility and access to the scientific community; and for certain disciplines or areas of training, access to the labor market is not possible (Tran, 2013).

The main books that form the basic bibliographies of careers at various universities are presented in that language. Although it can be translated through advances in science and technology, or through human translators, consultation with primary sources has the added and pragmatic value as it allows understanding, analysis and evaluation of the main author's concepts, i.e. in translation. Certain implicit details that can only be seen in masterpieces can be lost. A bibliographic search for a new study project (especially when it comes to new and sparse research areas) yields substantially more information in this language than other languages, including Spanish. In a similar vein, several highly rated international indexed journals insist on the publication of scientific publications according to the findings of research projects in English (Taguchi et al, 2006).

An English language bibliography is usually available through this site. For an average of 80% of internet content is written in English, while only 1% is written in

Indonesian; this means that those who lack fluency in English may find it difficult to absorb new information (Karim et al, 2005)

Knowing English will allow you to stay abreast of the most recent advancements in science, academics, and technology because most of these publications are written in English. This is according to another study that has been conducted on the issue. Because 75% of scientific literature is published in English, any researcher or expert who wants the most up-to-date knowledge or access to specific volumes must be fluent in English (Widiyanto et al, 2020).

More and better quality jobs will be available to students who are able to study English correctly during their school years; this ability will also help them become more open to the rest of the world, as they will be able to open themselves up to the world through this language. Skills honed not only via formal education but also through exposure to a variety of languages, particularly English. There are many doors that will open for any professional in the realm of business if you are fluent in the language. As a result, universities are under pressure to provide their students with the best possible preparation for careers in their chosen disciplines. Foreign languages, notably English, because it is regarded as the universal language of the world (Sari, 2019).

Most of the companies, large corporations and corporations require English proficiency in the employee resume. This ability crosses the line between different professions, as whether a Mathematics graduate or journalist, auto engineer or social communicator, architect or philologist, needs English. Perhaps the most fundamental reason why learning English is so vital is that it is very important in the process of seeking a job. English is very crucial. Learning English will allow us access to higher educational opportunities, and as a result, better work opportunities. Because of our command of the language, we should have an easier time finding work in the not too distant future. No matter where you work, whether it's in the public sector or for a multinational corporation, you'll encounter language barriers. In terms of career advancement or access to new positions, the UK will always provide you an advantage (Ubaedillah et al, 2020)

In this way, the professional will be able to reach a broad culture because he will know the customs and traditions of the western world. By knowing their language, you will have the opportunity to interact better with others and thus learn unexplored stories and knowledge of unknown cultures. "It will show you other cultures, lifestyles and different ways of thinking. You will be able to meet new and interesting people and understand their habits. In this way, you will have the opportunity to see yourself with different eyes, and perhaps discover aspects about yourself or your culture that you never thought about before (Sprachcaffe, 2017)

Various international organizations have had English as the primary language from the very beginning, thus becoming the world's language of communication, the most superior language of communication between countries, and thanks to that, it is possible to reach consensus in international treaties as it acts as a mediator between different cultures and countries. English is the language of international communication, trade and finance. English is the lingua franca in many corners of the planet and the official language of many International Organizations such as the European Union, United Nations or UNESCO. This is due to historical and political reasons, to the importance of the British Empire in the past, when it spread its language across all continents, and the importance of the United States as a power today". (Iriance, 2018)

According to Handayani (2016), the language of international communication is English. It's a necessity if you want to work in an international organization. More than 120 countries out of the 189 UN members choose English as their preferred language for diplomatic correspondence.

According to Syahputra (2014), there are numerous benefits to learning to speak, read, and write in English:

- a. Scholarships are a great way to foster international collaboration between countries and universities.
- b. Access to foreign research programs, international conferences, and other opportunities
- c. As economic growth and tourism both soar.
- d. Be able to find material in this language in the form of articles, publications, books, videos, courses, and more.

According to a study conducted by Randstad Professionals, international consultant of the human resources services group, Randstad, mastery of this language is mandatory in about 75% of jobs with a managerial profile. In terms of offerings related to recently graduated professionals, it was found that 58% of them also required mastery, as well as 65% for mid-level executive positions.

CONCLUSION

Learning English or solidifying its scope is critical for students in higher education in Indonesia. Their understanding allows them to study significant bibliographies such as books, documents, and web information, the majority of which are in this language. Structures and instruments for better English learning have been built at various universities, through the inclusion of mandatory subjects and the acceptance of study abroad agreements and scholarships that permit learning. Knowing this language is critical to each student's professional future, as it is a necessity for many jobs in large corporations and multinational corporations. Similarly, it is possible to discover new cultures and customs, connect with the globe, and therefore enter a previously unknown realm. This provides an opportunity to better comprehend and study the surrounding community, including its traits, behaviors, and emotions.

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