THE CHALLENGES FACED BY ENGLISH TEACHERS IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO FIRST YEAR STUDENTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES

A Thesis Presented as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain the Bachelor Degree in the English Linguistics Study Program

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Isaiah 60:22
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ABSTRACT

This study describes the challenges faced by English teachers in teaching English to first year students in the primary schools and the strategies to overcome the challenges. This study was conducted in three private primary schools in Semarang. The respondents were four English teachers who teach first grade in the primary schools. The method used is qualitative. To collect data, the writer used a semi-structured interview and observation. Based on the interview, it has been found that there are five challenges and strategies done by teachers to overcome the challenges. The first challenge is students’ boredom. To deal with it, teachers teach students using songs, games, and pictures or visual things. The second is students’ different attention. To deal with this challenge, teachers give special attention to examine or identify the characteristics of the students in the classroom, and ask parents to pay more attention to their children. The third is students’ persistence in using their first language (Indonesian language). To deal with it, teachers do translation, familiarize the students to listen to English sentences, and use English to give commands or announcements to the students. The fourth is students’ difficulty in pronunciation. To overcome this challenge teachers ask the students to pronounce the word repeatedly until they remember how to pronounce it correctly, ask the students to listen to what the teachers pronounce, and ask them to repeat the words or sentences. The next challenge is students’ disruptive behavior. To overcome it, the teachers discipline, encourage, and are firmed to the students. Beside that, the teachers always manage and control the class during the lesson. However, not all respondents apply the strategies they mentioned.

Keywords: English teaching, teaching challenges, teaching strategies, first grade students
ABSTRAK


Kata kunci: pengajaran bahasa Inggris, tantangan mengajar, strategi mengajar, siswa kelas satu