

**TEACHERS' CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES OF TEACHING
SPEAKING IN VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS**

**A Thesis Presented as a Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements for the
Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* in the English Study Program**



by

Elfrida Oktaviani

18.J1.0001

ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM

FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS

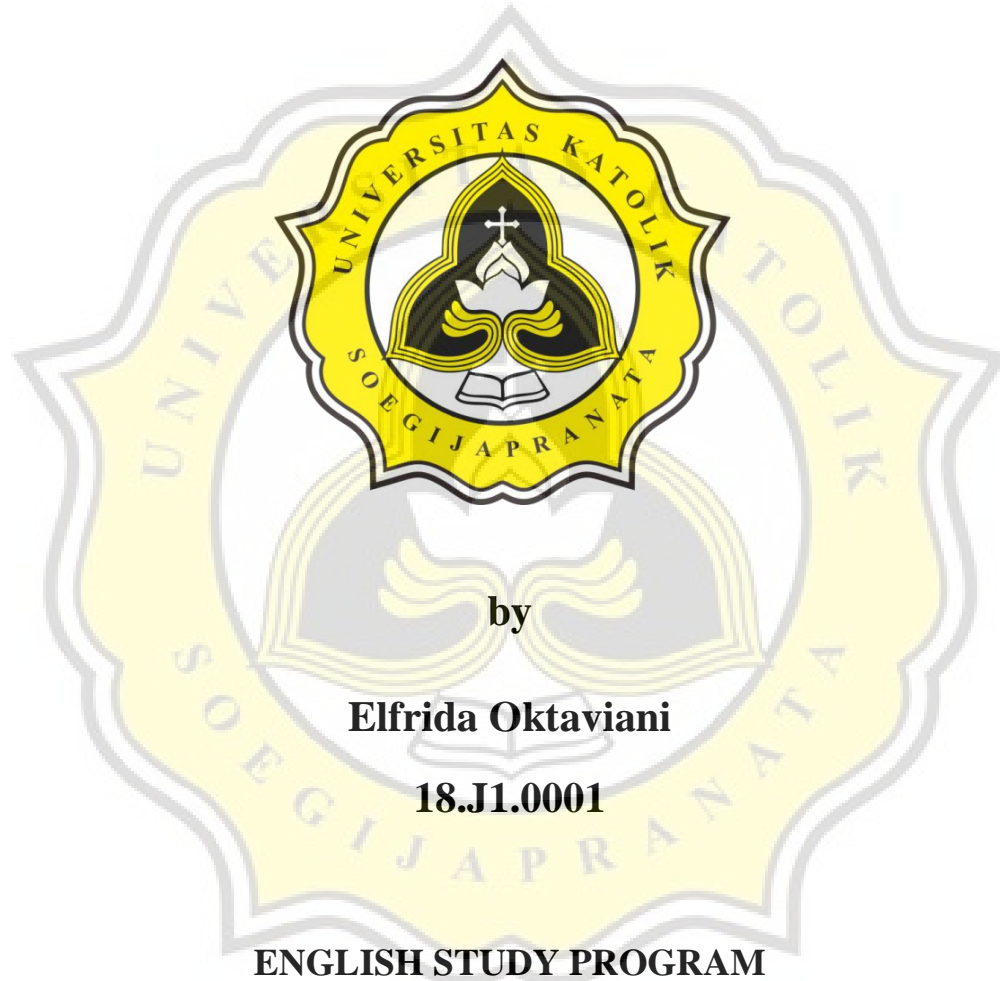
SOEGIJAPRANATA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

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Elfrida Oktaviani

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First and foremost, praises and deep gratitude to the Almighty God, for His blessings throughout my research work to complete this thesis.

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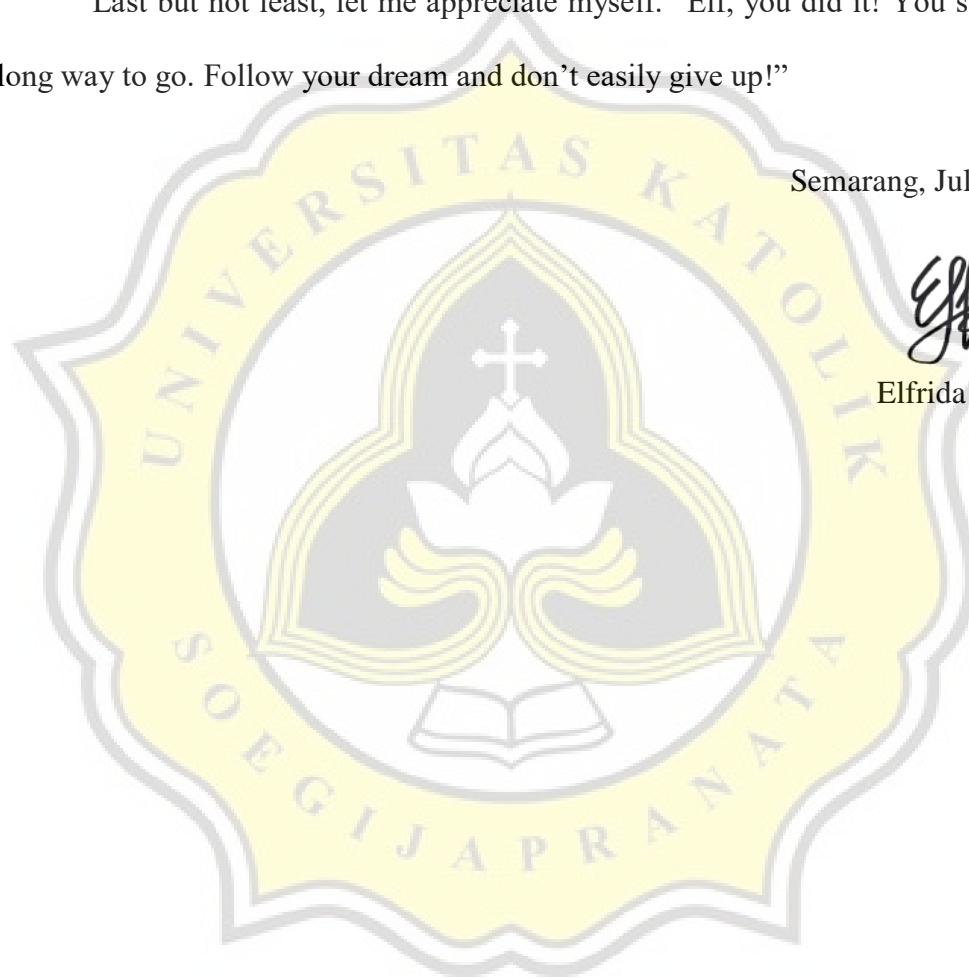
I am extremely grateful to my mom and all my family members, for their love, prayers, caring, and sacrifices for educating and preparing me for my future. Also I express my thanks to my loved one for his understanding, support, and prayers.

Last but not least, let me appreciate myself. “Elf, you did it! You still have a long way to go. Follow your dream and don’t easily give up!”

Semarang, July 11 2022



Elfrida Oktaviani



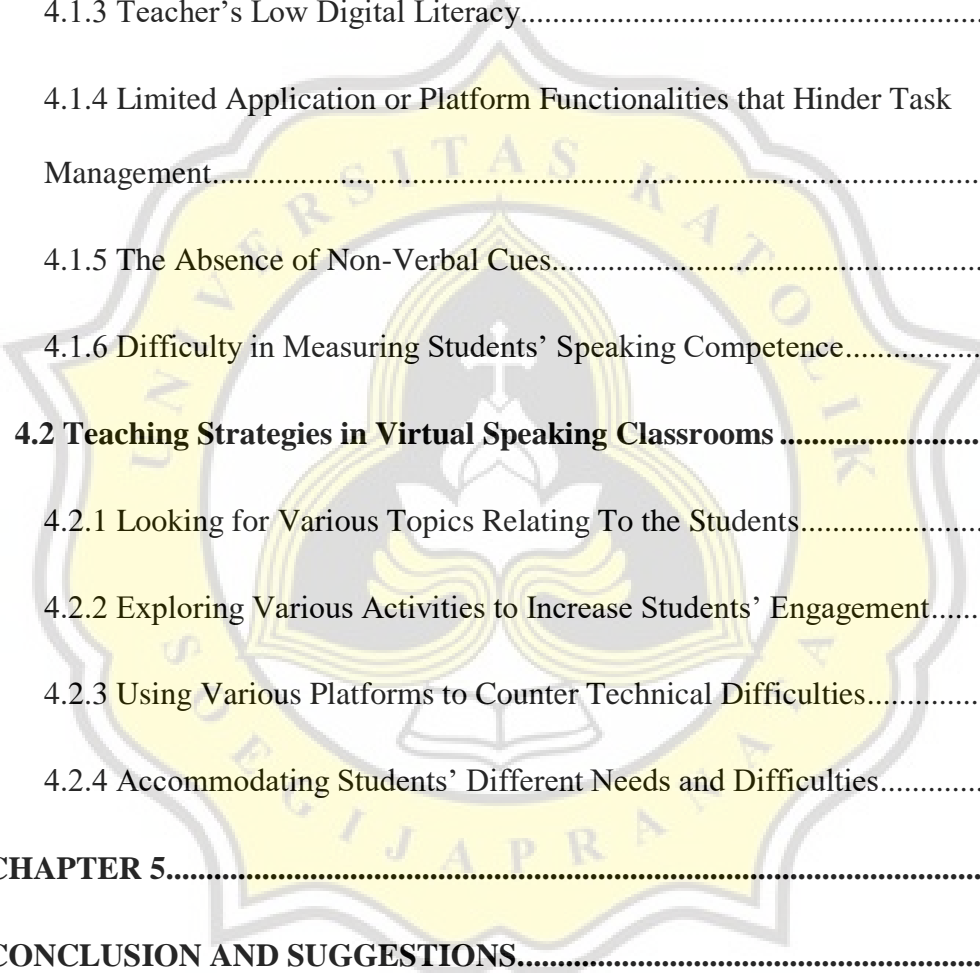
Lamentations 3:24

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore, I will hope in Him.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE OF TITLE.....	i
PAGE OF WORK'S ORIGINALITY.....	ii
PAGE OF APPROVAL.....	iii
A THESIS APPROVAL.....	iv
BOARD OF EXAMINERS.....	v
PAGE OF PUBLICATION.....	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	xiii
ABSTRAK.....	xiv
CHAPTER 1.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Background of the Study.....	1
1.2. Field of the Study.....	5
1.3. Scope of the Study.....	5
1.4. Research Questions.....	5
1.5. Objective of the Study.....	5

1.6. Significance of the Study.....	5
1.6. Definition of Terms	6
CHAPTER 2.....	8
REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....	8
2.1. Virtual Classrooms	8
2.2. Teaching Speaking Skills Offline.....	11
2.3. Teaching Speaking Skills Virtually.....	13
2.5 Teaching Strategies in Virtual Speaking Classes	17
CHAPTER 3.....	19
METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS.....	19
3.1 Research Design	19
3.2 Method of Data Collection.....	20
3.2.1 Participants.....	20
3.2.2 Instrument.....	21
3.2.3 Procedure.....	22
3.3 Method of Data Analysis.....	22
CHAPTER 4.....	24
DATA ANALYSIS.....	24

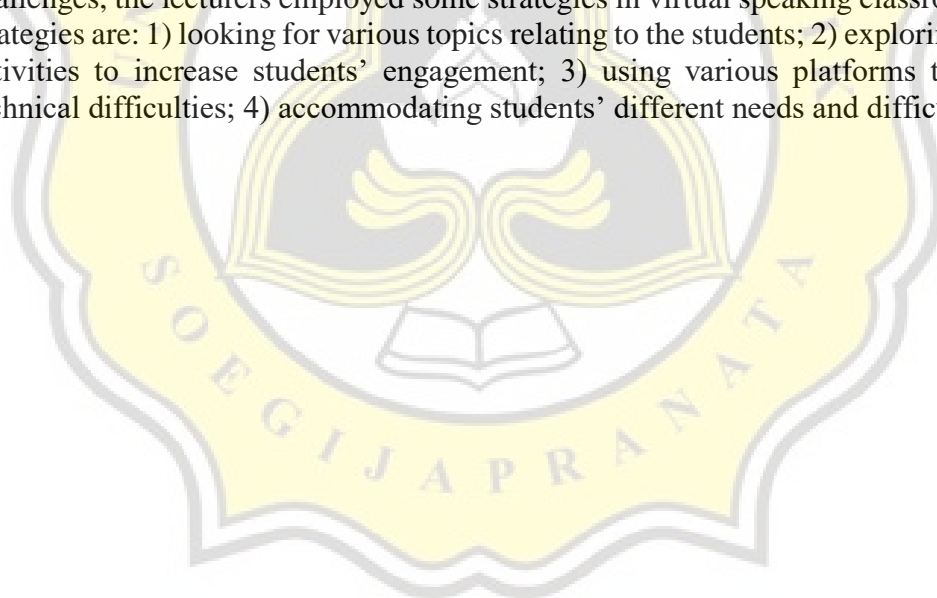


4.1 Teaching Challenges in Virtual Speaking Classrooms	24
4.1.1 A Challenge in Making Students Talk.....	25
4.1.2 Unstable Internet Connection.....	28
4.1.3 Teacher’s Low Digital Literacy.....	31
4.1.4 Limited Application or Platform Functionalities that Hinder Task Management.....	34
4.1.5 The Absence of Non-Verbal Cues.....	36
4.1.6 Difficulty in Measuring Students’ Speaking Competence.....	38
4.2 Teaching Strategies in Virtual Speaking Classrooms	41
4.2.1 Looking for Various Topics Relating To the Students.....	41
4.2.2 Exploring Various Activities to Increase Students’ Engagement.....	45
4.2.3 Using Various Platforms to Counter Technical Difficulties.....	46
4.2.4 Accommodating Students’ Different Needs and Difficulties.....	50
CHAPTER 5.....	54
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS.....	54
5.1 Conclusion.....	54
5.2 Suggestions.....	55
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	56



ABSTRACT

COVID-19 requires the education system to adapt with the inevitable situation. The teachers are obliged to conduct virtual classes to reduce the virus transmission. However, teaching in a virtual class can be a new thing for some teachers. A virtual class requires the mastery of technology in order that the teaching-learning process can run well. Thereby, some teachers might face difficulties and challenges in operating the platforms and managing the class during teaching in virtual classrooms. The present study aims to examine the challenges that teachers face during teaching speaking virtually in the pandemic era and the strategies to overcome those challenges. The participants in this qualitative study were lecturers of speaking classes in three universities in Central Java. The findings revealed six challenges that teachers encountered in virtual speaking classes and four strategies to navigate these challenges to attain the teaching objectives. The challenges are 1) a challenge in making students talk; 2) unstable internet connection; 3) teacher's low digital literacy; 4) limited application or platform functionalities that hinder task management; 5) the absence of non-verbal cues; 6) difficulty in measuring students' competence. Considering those challenges, the lecturers employed some strategies in virtual speaking classrooms. The strategies are: 1) looking for various topics relating to the students; 2) exploring various activities to increase students' engagement; 3) using various platforms to counter technical difficulties; 4) accommodating students' different needs and difficulties.



ABSTRAK

COVID-19 meminta sistem edukasi untuk beradaptasi dengan situasi yang tidak dapat dihindari. Guru-guru diharuskan untuk mengadakan kelas secara virtual untuk mengurangi penularan virus. Namun, mengajar di kelas online dapat menjadi hal baru bagi beberapa guru. Sebuah kelas virtual membutuhkan penguasaan teknologi agar proses mengajar dapat berjalan dengan lancar. Maka dari itu, beberapa guru dapat menemui beberapa kesulitan dan tantangan saat mengoperasikan platform dan mengatur kelas selama mengajar di kelas virtual. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi tantangan yang para guru hadapi saat mengajar di kelas *Speaking* virtual selama era pandemi dan strategi untuk mengatasi tantangan-tantangan tersebut. Partisipan dalam penelitian kualitatif ini adalah para dosen kelas *Speaking* dari tiga universitas di Jawa Tengah. Hasil yang diperoleh menunjukkan enam tantangan yang para dosen hadapi di kelas *Speaking* virtual dan empat strategi untuk mengatasi tantangan-tantangan tersebut untuk mencapai tujuan pembelajaran. Tantangan-tantangan tersebut antara lain: 1) tantangan untuk membuat murid berbicara; 2) koneksi internet yang tidak stabil; 3) literasi digital guru yang rendah; 4) aplikasi atau fungsi platform yang terbatas yang menghambat pengelolaan tugas; 5) tidak adanya isyarat non-verbal 6) kesulitan dalam mengukur kompetensi murid. Dengan mempertimbangkan beberapa tantangan tersebut, para dosen memikirkan beberapa strategi di dalam kelas *speaking* virtual. Strategi-strategi tersebut antara lain: 1) mencari beberapa topik yang berhubungan dengan murid; 2) menjelajah bermacam macam aktivitas untuk meningkatkan partisipasi murid; 3) memakai beberapa macam platform untuk mengatasi kesulitan teknis; 4) membantu kesulitan dan kebutuhan murid.S