A PHOTOVOICE STUDY INTO PRE-SERVICE EFL TEACHERS' EXPERIENCES IN DESIGNING LESSON PLAN DURING MICROTEACHING

A THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Pendidikan in English Education



ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI
K.H. ABDURRAHMAN WAHID PEKALONGAN
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By:

FARID HASAN SN. 2521090

ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI
K.H. ABDURRAHMAN WAHID PEKALONGAN
2025

SURAT PERNYATAAN KEASLIAN SKRIPSI

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Farid Hasan NIM : 2521090

Progarn Studi : Tadris Bahasa Inggris

Fakultas : Tarbiyah dan Ilmu Keguruan

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UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan

c/q. Ketua Program Studi Tadris Bahasa Inggris

di Pekalongan

Assalamu 'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Setelah diadakan penelitian dan perbaikan, maka bersama ini saya kirimkan naskah Skripsi:

Nama : FARID HASAN

NIM : 2521090

Jurusan : TADRIS BAHASA INGGRIS

Judul : A PHOTOVOICE STUDY INTO PRE-

SERVICE EFL TEACHERS' EXPERIENCES IN DESIGNING LESSON PLAN DURING

MICROTEACHING

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Wassalamu 'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Pekalongan, 23 Mei 2025

Pembimbing,

<u>Fachri Ali M.Pd</u>

NIP. 19890101 202012 1 013



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA REPUBLIK INDONESIA UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI KH. ABDURRAHMAN WAHID PEKALONGAN FAKULTAS TARBIYAH DAN ILMU KEGURUAN

Jl. Pahlawan Km. 5 Rowolaku, Kajen, Kabupaten Pekalongan 51161 Website: ftik@uingusdur.ac.id

APPROVAL SHEET

The Dean of Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan, confirms that the undergraduate thesis by:

Nama

: FARID HASAN

NIM

: 2521090

Judul

: A PHOTOVOICE STUDY INTO PRE-SERVICE EFL

TEACHERS' EXPERIENCES IN DESIGNING LESSON

PLAN DURING MICROTEACHING

Has been examined and approved by the panel of examiners on June 23th, 2025 as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Pendidikan (S.Pd.) in English Education.

The Examiners,

Examiner I

Examiner II

Chubbi Millatina Rokhuma, M.Pd.

NIP. 19900507 201503 2 005

Eros Meilina Sofa, M.Pd. NIP. 19860509 202321 2 043

Pekalongan, June 23th, 2025

TEAssigned by

The Dean of KITK UIN Pekalongan

Prof. Dr. H. Muhlisin, M.Ag

700706 199803 1 00

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MOTTO

"Great teaching begins not with perfect plans, but with honest reflection and the courage to grow."

(Farid Hasan)



ABSTRAK

Meskipun perancangan rencana pembelajaran telah banyak diteliti, pengalaman calon guru EFL dalam konteks microteaching masih mendapatkan perhatian yang terbatas. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menginvestigasi proses perancangan rencana pembelajaran oleh calon guru EFL selama kegiatan microteaching. Penelitian ini dirancang sebagai studi kualitatif dengan metode photovoice, melibatkan empat calon guru EFL sebagai partisipan. Pengalaman mereka dalam merancang rencana pembelajaran didokumentasikan melalui photovoice. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat empat komponen utama dalam perancangan rencana pembelajaran, yaitu (1) menetapkan tujuan pembelajaran, (2) memilih metode pengajaran, (3) menentukan media pembelajaran, dan (4) mengelola alokasi waktu. Temuan lainnya mengungkapkan bahwa calon guru mengalami beberapa tantangan, termasuk kesulitan dalam merumuskan tujuan pembelajaran yang jelas dan terukur, kesulitan dalam mengatur waktu selama microteaching, kebingungan dalam memilih metode pengajaran yang tepat, serta ketidakpastian dalam memilih <mark>media pembelaj</mark>aran yang efektif. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa pengal<mark>aman ca</mark>lon <mark>guru EFL</mark> dalam merancang rencana pembelajaran menunjukka<mark>n perlun</mark>ya dukungan dan pelatihan yang lebih terfokus untuk meningkatkan kepe<mark>rcayaa</mark>n diri dan efektivit<mark>as mere</mark>ka dalam microteaching.

Keywords: Rencana Pembelajaran, Microteaching, Calon Guru EFL

ABSTRACT

Despite extensive research on lesson planning, the experiences of pre-service EFL teachers in the context of microteaching have received limited attention. This study aims to investigate the process of lesson plan designed by pre-service EFL teachers during microteaching activities. The research is designed as a qualitative study using the photovoice method, involving four pre-service EFL teachers as participants. Their experiences in designing lesson plans were documented through photovoice. The findings reveal four main components in the lesson plan design process: (1) setting learning objectives, (2) selecting teaching methods, (3) choosing instructional media, and (4) managing time allocation. Additionally, the findings indicate that pre-service teachers faced several challenges, including difficulties in formulating clear and measurable learning objectives, managing time effectively during microteaching, confusion in selecting appropriate teaching methods, and uncertainty in choosing effective instructional media. This study concludes that the experiences of pre-service EFL teachers in lesson plan design highlight the need for more focused support and training to enhance their confidence and effectiveness in microteaching.

Keywords: Lesson Planns, Microteaching, EFL Pre-Service Teachers

PREFACE

All praises to Allah SWT for His grace and guidance that enabled me to complete this thesis, titled "A Photovoice Study into Pre-Service EFL Teachers' Experiences in Designing Lesson Plans During Microteaching" submitted to the English Education Department of UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid as part of the requirements for the undergraduate degree.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The practice of microteaching is an important course in educational programs, especially for aspiring teachers who obtain an education degree. Allen and Cooper (1970) define microteaching as a teaching arrangement with a limited amount of time and students. Lessons are shortened to reduce some of the intricacies of the teaching process, allowing the teacher to focus on certain parts of the instruction. Similarly, Kumari and Rao (2004) defined microteaching as a training strategy designed to reduce the complications of traditional teaching methods. Despite being a staged educational situation, microteaching is real, with students and faculty collaborating in practical scenarios.

Research by Murphy et al. (2013) found that microteaching sessions play an important part in this process by giving pre-service teachers practical experience in simulated classroom settings. These sessions, which are supervised by academics in the Language Education department, allow preservice teachers to apply theoretical knowledge learned through coursework to controlled teaching circumstances. In the context of microteaching, one essential aspect that guides teaching practices is the lesson plan. A well-designed lesson plan serves as the foundation for effective teaching and learning, ensuring that all activities are systematically organized to achieve the set educational goals (Ghanaguru et al., 2017). According to Brewster et al.

(2004), a good lesson plan should have clear goals, specific skills for teaching, engaging activities, and appropriate teaching resources. These components not only aid in organizing instructional materials but also ensure that the educational objectives are consistently met in the classroom. A comprehensive lesson plan allows educators to anticipate challenges, align activities with learning goals, and provide flexibility to adjust teaching methods according to classroom dynamics (Harmer, 2001).

A well-designed lesson plan typically includes clear learning objectives, a sequence of instructional activities, appropriate teaching resources, assessment strategies, and methods for classroom management (Pal et al., 2022) The learning objectives clearly define the outcomes students should achieve by the end of the lesson. The sequence of instructional activities outlines the steps teachers will take to guide students toward these objectives, ensuring a logical and structured progression of content (Konrad et at., 2018). Assessment strategies, both formative and summative, help gauge student progress and provide feedback for improvement (Fook & Sidhu, 2016). Harmer (2001) emphasizes that a lesson plan serves as a framework that allows teachers to remain flexible and creative, adapting to dynamic classroom situations while staying aligned with the set objectives.

According to Ferrer (2021), a well-organized lesson plan helps educators determine how students will reach specific learning objectives. If teaching is conducted without careful preparation, it becomes ineffective for

students, as noted by Lestari (2022). Students who receive instruction with carefully planned teaching materials perform better than those without, according to Nwike and Catherine (2013). By formulating clear objectives and strategies beforehand, teachers can creatively respond to students' needs and unexpected developments during the learning process, ensuring the lesson remains engaging and productive.

According to Sulandari (2019), prospective teachers often face challenges in developing teaching methods, understanding classroom conditions, creating learning resources, and allocating time when drawing up lesson plans. These challenges, if not properly addressed, can affect the effectiveness of learning activities carried out during microteaching. Similarly, Andani (2018) found that many prospective teachers have difficulty in compiling competency achievement indicators, designing teaching activities, preparing assessments, choosing learning media, and making clear instructions. In the context of microteaching, these challenges are more pronounced due to time constraints and the focus on certain elements of the teaching process that must be practiced in controlled situations. These difficulties highlight the need for targeted training and continuous guidance during teacher education programs. According to Dyson and Plunkett (2014), structured mentoring and reflective teaching practices can significantly improve the ability of prospective teachers to develop coherent and effective lesson plans, even within the limitations of microteaching environments.

For this reason, it is important for prospective teachers to have a wellstructured lesson plan. Hamid et al. (2018) confirmed that the development of a well-structured lesson plan can improve the quality of learning. Clearly designed lesson plans not only provide systematic direction for teaching, but also assist teachers in planning appropriate activities to achieve their desired learning goals. With a clear structure, the challenges faced during microteaching can be overcome more effectively, because a good lesson plan provides the right guidance for managing time, material, and interaction with students. As highlighted by Nugroho and Hafsari (2020), effective lesson planning equips teacher candidates with better classroom preparedness and enhances their confidence in delivering instructional content. Moreover, lesson plans serve as essential documentation of pedagogical intent, allowing both preservice and in-service teachers to reflect on their instructional decisions and improve their strategies to meet diverse student needs (Richards and Bohlke, 2016). These planning documents, when developed consistently, become a reference point not only for implementation in the classroom but also for ongoing improvement in teaching practices. As such, investigating how prospective teachers design and utilize lesson plans during the microteaching stage may reveal important aspects of their professional growth and instructional readiness.

Similarly, Nofiyanti and Ali (2022) also emphasized that when designing a lesson plan, prospective teachers must carefully consider what will be taught, how to teach it, and how to evaluate the teaching process. A good

lesson plan assists prospective teachers in organizing all learning activities, ensuring that learning objectives are effectively achieved, and facilitating interaction between teachers and students throughout the learning process. In line with this, Rolanda (2019) added that lesson plans provide a clear structure in the delivery of material, regulate teaching steps, and ensure that learning takes place in an orderly and focused manner. Thus, the lesson plan not only serves as a guideline for teaching but also as an important tool to improve the quality and effectiveness of the learning process, especially in microteaching. In addition, Liu et al, (2021) argued that a well-designed lesson plan also plays a critical role in reducing teacher stress by providing a clear roadmap for managing classroom dynamics and minimizing unforeseen challenges during instruction. Their study highlighted that teachers who consistently use structured lesson plans experience better classroom control and student engagement, which ultimately contributes to more successful learning outcomes.

However, most studies primarily focus on the technical and procedural aspects of lesson planning, neglecting the reflective and emotional dimensions that pre-service teachers experience during this process. Designing an effective lesson plan is not an easy task, as pre-service teachers need both knowledge and practical experience to create a plan that meets learning objectives and engages students. This challenge is further complicated by the need to balance various components such as setting clear learning goals, selecting appropriate teaching methods, and managing time effectively. These difficulties can make the

process of lesson plan design a complex and sometimes overwhelming task for pre-service teachers during their microteaching experience. This research investigates the process of designing lesson plans and the challenges experienced by pre-service teachers during their microteaching activities. To gather the necessary data, the photovoice method will be used. Photovoice is a photography technique that allows participants to document and express their experiences through photos (Wang & Burris, 1992). Wang and Pies (2004) explained that photovoice was created based on a theory of critical thinking awareness. Many studies have utilized photovoice to increase attention to and understand issues being researched (Wang & Burris, 1997). In this study, photovoice will serve as a tool to document and interpret the challenges preservice EFL teachers face when designing lesson plans, capturing their experiences through photography.

1.2 Formulation of the Problems

The Problem to be discussed in this research are as follows:

- 1. How do the pre-service EFL teachers design lesson plans during microteaching?
- 2. What are challenges do pre-service EFL teachers face in designing lesson plans during microteaching?

1.3 Operational Definition

The researcher provides the following explanations for this study:

- 1. Microteaching: The practice of learning taught in terms of time and number of students, where pre-service teachers can focus on specific aspects of learning (Allen & Cooper, 1970).
- Pre-service teacher: An individual who is enrolled in a teacher education program and is actively pursuing teacher certification (Süral, 2019).
- 3. Lesson Planning: The process of designing a learning plan that includes learning objectives, teaching methods, teaching materials, assessments, and time allocation for learning activities (Brewster et al. 2004).

1.4 Aims of the Study

This study aims to investigate how pre-service EFL teachers design lesson plans and the challenges they encounter in the lesson planning process during microteaching.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The relevance of this work can be summarized as follows:

- Theoretical Use : This study contibutes to and supports the theory of Richards & Bholke (2011) about the importance of structured lesson planning in language teaching.
- 2. Empirical Use : This study provides additional knowledge for preservice EFL teachers about the process of designing lesson plans during

microteaching and how this process affects their ability to create effective learning experiences.

3. Practical Use : This research offers valuable insights for preservice EFL teachers in understanding the steps involved in designing lesson plans and navigating the process effectively.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary of the Findings

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that pre-service EFL teachers undergo a complex process in designing lesson plans during microteaching activities. There are four main components developed by the participants in this process, namely: (1) formulating learning objectives by referring to the curriculum and relevant core competencies; (2) selecting teaching methods that align with students' characteristics and the subject matter, such as group discussions and role-playing; (3) determining instructional media that support student understanding, including visual aids, digital tools, and conventional materials; and (4) organizing time allocation for each stage of the teaching and learning activities to ensure effective instruction. This finding contributes by showing the main steps pre-service teachers take when designing lesson plans, which can help teacher educators understand what pre-service teachers focus on and plan training that matches these needs.

However, throughout this process, pre-service EFL teachers face four major challenges, namely: (1) difficulties in formulating clear and operational learning objectives; (2) confusion in choosing appropriate methods that suit classroom dynamics; (3) limited ability to select and utilize suitable instructional media; and (4) obstacles in managing time allocation effectively to cover all planned activities. These challenges are

largely influenced by their lack of classroom teaching experience and limited pedagogical knowledge in practical settings. Thus, it can be restated that the process of designing lesson plans by pre-service EFL teachers reflects a pedagogically complex and layered effort. They are not only required to develop plans theoretically but also to adapt them to real teaching contexts, which demands flexibility and creativity. These challenges show the common problems pre-service teachers face because of limited experience and practical knowledge. Knowing these challenges can help supervisors and lecturers provide better guidance and support to improve pre-service teachers' lesson planning skills.

5.2 Recomendation

5.2.1 Pre-Service Teachers

From this study, pre-service teachers are expected to gain a better understanding of the steps and considerations involved in designing a lesson plan, including how to align learning goals with student needs and teaching strategies. Therefore, the researcher recommends that pre-service teachers actively seek out resources, collaborate with peers, and utilize available planning tools to enhance the quality of their lesson plans.

5.2.2 Supervisor Teachers

The researcher recommends that supervisor teachers provide guidance throughout the planning process. This includes offering feedback not only on the final product but also during the stages of development. With adequate support and reflection, pre-service teachers can gradually improve their ability to design effective and realistic lesson plans suited for classroom implementation.

5.2.3 Future Researchers

This research also has several limitations that need to be improved in future studies. Therefore, it is suggested that upcoming research involve a broader range of participants and more diverse references to gain deeper insights into the process of designing lesson plans during microteaching. Future studies are also encouraged to explore specific components of the lesson plan such as learning objectives, assessment methods, or learning media to provide more detailed and focused discussions.

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